

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD  
OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

*Serving an Unchanging God, in Changing Times*  
*"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Hebrews 13:8*

**Virtual Assembly**  
**April 24, 2021**

**Morning Session**

**Welcome**

Bishop Patricia A. Davenport welcomed the voting members and those watching as visitors to the thirty-third Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly at 9:00 a.m. She invited all to worship the Lord as she began a service of Prayer, Praise, and Preaching.

**Prayer, Praise and Preaching**

Two pastors of our Synod, the Reverend Joseph Klinger and the Reverend Jennifer Casey, along with musicians from our congregations, led the participants in worship.

Mr. Chris Holben from Christ, Ascension sang "Heaven is Singing for Joy" to lead into the preaching of the Word.

Pr. Klinger from Redemption, Philadelphia, preached on Mark 3:1 – 6, where Jesus enters synagogue and is challenged when he heals a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath.

Pr. Klinger shared that he has lived this gospel reading. He has been a part of the ELCA since his family joined the Lutheran Church in Butler PA when he was five years old. He was very active in his home congregation, attended Theil College, one of our ELCA colleges, through the ELCA he found God's love and grace was for him. He found a community that loved and supported him. He felt safe enough to come out of the closet and admit that he is gay, and he was embraced and was supported by his pastor and his congregation. He entered candidacy to enter the ministry of Word and Sacrament.

In the process of candidacy, he found a different experience than that which he had in his home church. One of the people in the interview process said to him, "You talk about being safe in your congregation. You would not be safe in my congregation. How do you respond to that?" Pr. Klinger heard in this statement "you are not welcome here; you are not what a leader should be." This is where he feels like Jesus in the passage. The Pharisees said to Jesus, "You are not the leader we want. We don't want your miracles or your teachings." He heard the same, "Joey, we do not want your gifts or heart for service."

It is hard, when all you want to do is serve, to tell people of the love and grace of God in Jesus, to create the Beloved Community of God, to be told no, we do not want you. You do not fit what we expect or want in this Church.

As we celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ordination of the first woman in the Lutheran Church, the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ordination of the first woman of Color, and the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ordination of LGBT persons, we are celebrating in the midst of a time and in a church that still struggles with women, Persons of Color, and LGBT persons. There are many barriers to these

leaders in our church, even as we say we welcome them into the life and ministry of this Church. Yet what we celebrate is Jesus, who brings all people close.

A changeless God in changing times. God hasn't changed, but the society has. God hasn't changed, but as we recognize God's call to the diversity of people that exist in this world and this Church, we are bringing the gospel to more and more people. As we proclaim God's grace, as we do the work of breaking down oppression, we get closer and closer to God's beautiful, beloved community.

Pr. Jenn Casey from Holy Trinity, Wallingford, preached on Ezekiel 37:1 – 14, “The Valley of Dry Bones.”

She noted we have heard from Pastor Joey about leaders in scripture who tried to control the Spirit of God, and we heard how they tried to limit who could speak for God. We also heard how the Church today strives to do the same, limiting the Spirit, limiting who can speak. But we do not worship and live by rules that divide the people. Rather we worship a God who is not bound by the rules, not even the rules of life and death.

In this passage, Ezekiel gives an image of the Spirit of God that can take old, brittle, bones, and breathe into them life. Sisters and brothers, sometimes it seems to me that the church is full of dry and brittle bones. When I see how we worship our buildings and our individual congregational identities, when the sin of systemic racism is allowed to continue, when the church seems more concerned with our bottom line than what we are doing to care for our neighbors, if God were to ask me, can these bones live? My answer would be “no, not on our own.” But the Spirit of God can breathe life into even these bones.

We have been struggling in this past year. Our spaces have been closed longer than we could imagine. We have experienced more change than we think we can handle. But God promises to be with us, and call us from death into life, to end divisions that we put on people. God says to us, “Oh, my people I will put my Spirit within you and you shall live!”

We have not been abandoned. Our God is a God of hope we can rely on. Do not fear death, do not fear change, do not fear leaving your comfort zones. God is with us in uncertainty. Life is always on the other side of death.

Ms. Dedra Florence-Johnson of Mediator, Philadelphia, a candidate for rostered ministry, sang “I'm so Glad Jesus Lifted Me” to conclude the preaching of the Word.

Vice President Tracey A. Beasley led the Assembly in prayer.

Bishop Davenport proclaimed the benediction.

The choir from Trinity, Perkasie, concluded the worship with “Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!”

### **Order for the Opening of the Assembly**

Bishop Davenport and Vice President Tracey A. Beasley opened the Assembly with the “Order for the Opening of an Assembly” at 9:35 a.m.

### **Words of instruction, thanks, and welcome**

#### **Instruction**

Bishop Davenport brought words of welcome, thanks, and instruction. As this year was a “virtual” assembly, held entirely on-line, Bishop reviewed the instructions needed to operate the LUMI platform so all voting members could participate fully and equitably.

Bishop Davenport welcomed those who are voting members for the first time. She noted that if we were in-person she would have them all stand to be recognized, and we would all applaud. She also thanked those who were visitors to the Assembly, viewing the work of the Synod via livestream.

### **Expressions of Thanks**

Thank you to the Rev. Dr. Jennifer Phelps and the members of the Assembly Worship Team for providing inspirational worship over a virtual platform.

Thank you to the Rev. Dr. Larry Smoose, a former Secretary our Synod and current chair of our Generosity Team, for serving as our Parliamentarian.

Thank you to our Director of Mobility, the Rev. Marcia Bell, our Director of Interim Ministry, the Rev. Dr. Christian McMullen, and our Conference Deans for their expanded role in caring for our congregations in transition during this pandemic. Conference Deans who served since our last Assembly in 2019 include:

- + The Rev. Regina Goodrich, Central Philadelphia Conference
- + The Rev. Ronald Weseman, Chester Conference
- + The Rev. Jennifer Casey, Delaware Conference, elected October 2020, and thanks to former Dean of Delaware Conference, the Rev. Leslie Richard, who completed her second term
- + The Rev. Norbert Hahn, Lower Bucks Conference
- + The Rev. Bryan Penman, Lower Montgomery Conference
- + The Rev. Jane Marston, Northeast/west Philadelphia Conference
- + The Rev. Erica Wesch, Upper Bucks Conference, elected March 2020, and thanks to former Dean the Rev. Carolann Hopcke who received and accepted a call to the Nebraska Synod
- + The Rev. Christopher McKinstry, Upper Montgomery Conference

Thank you to our Synod Officers and Synod Council, which is a working team, for their efforts on behalf of our Synod in these difficult times. Many of our Synod Council have agreed to serve extended terms since 2019 because of the pandemic.

#### **Our Synod Officers**

- + Ms. Tracey A. Beasley, Vice-President, Reformation, Philadelphia
- + The Rev. Karl M. Richard, Secretary, St. Matthew, Springfield
- + Ms. Janet Huber Neff, Treasurer, St. Luke, Devon

#### **Our Synod Council, Lay Members:**

- + Mr. Adam Clark, Zion Olney
- + Ms. Suwah Davies, Faith-Immanuel Lansdowne
- + Ms. Cheryl Detweiler, Grace Pottstown
- + Mr. Tyler Emig, Calvary West Chester

- + Mr. David Ehret, Grace Broomall
- + Mr. Henry Geyer, Christ Oreland
- + Mr. Albert Glenn, St. John Melrose
- + Mr. William Graham, Prince of Peace Philadelphia
- + Ms. Doreen Kinzler, St. John Philadelphia (Mayfair)
- + Ms. Hannah Malesich, Advent West Chester
- + Ms. Joyce Maloney, Trinity Philadelphia
- + Mr. Philip Tackett, St. Peter Hilltown
- + Mr. J. Everett Wick, St. Andrew Perkasie
- + Ms. Sandra Zimmermann, St. John Phoenixville

**Synod Council, Clergy Members:**

- + Rev. Gwendolyn King, St. Stephen's, Feasterville
- + Rev. Joseph F. Klinger, Redemption, Philadelphia
- + Rev. Dwight Mason, Spirit and Truth, Yeadon
- + Rev. Dr. Jennifer Phelps, Trinity, Perkasie
- + Rev. Serena Sellers, Christ, (Kulpsville) Harleysville
- + Rev. Matthew Staniz, St. Luke, Devon
- + Rev. Laura Tancredi, St. Paul's Ardmore

Times does not permit naming all of the following servants, but hearty thanks to our Synod Staff, our Communications Team, the Candidacy Committee, our Interim Pastors and Consultants, our Bridge Pastors, our Transitional Development Ministry Team, and our Synod Vitality Team, to name a few.

**Words of Welcome**

Bishop Davenport extended a warm welcome to the Rev. Philip Hirsch, Executive for Christian Community and Leadership of the ELCA, and our Churchwide representative for this year.

She also noted that we will welcome several of our ministry partners, such as Portico Benefits and United Lutheran Seminary, by means of video presentations submitted and available on our website under 2021 Synod Assembly. Please view these recordings, as well as presentations from other partners, in our virtual Mission Center.

Bishop also noted that we welcome those rostered ministers who are new to Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod by means of a slide presentation on the website. Ordinarily we would welcome them in person, but in these difficult times we wish to be sure you are aware of who has joined us in ministry. In particular, Bishop noted the presence of the Rev. Dr. William Flippin, who came on staff as Assistant to the Bishop, and Director for Evangelical Mission. Dr. Flippin joined the staff after the 2019 Synod Assembly, but since there was no 2020 Assembly, Bishop Davenport wants to make particular mention of his work among us. In addition to his other duties, Dr. Flippin also sits on the Committee of Deans.

**Report of the Registrar**

Ms. Cynta Outerbridge, Registrar, reported that the total number of voting members was 353, the total number of voting members registered was 347, and the number of voting members needed for a quorum was 177. Bishop Davenport declared a quorum.

### **United Lutheran Seminary**

Bishop Davenport invited the participants of the Assembly to view the video presentation from the Rev. Dr. Guy Erwin, president of the United Lutheran Seminary, as he shared an update on the Seminary, and gratitude for our ongoing partnership in the work of the Church.

### **Report of the Secretary**

The Rev. Karl M. Richard, Secretary, presented, and the Assembly adopted, the proposed program as printed in *The Bulletin of Reports*. He then presented as information the Rules of Procedure as printed in *The Bulletin of Reports*, highlighting in particular the limits on submission of items to Reference and Counsel. By common consent, the Assembly approved the following rule: "The Synod Assembly shall limit each speaker from the floor to two minutes, alternating *for* and *against* whenever possible, and allowing someone who has not spoken on a particular issue from the floor to speak before someone speaks a second or additional time."

He reported that the Synod Council approved the minutes of the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual assembly on December 12, 2019.

He presented as information the reports of the various committees, task forces, organizations, and institutions of the Synod.

### **Report on the Constitution Committee**

Secretary Richard presented as information the required provisions of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America which were adopted by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly. These provisions are included in the Bulletin of Reports, Report on the Constitution, Section A.

He then presented for approval the following amendments to revise the Synod's Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions, which were endorsed by the Synod Council.

From Section B of the Report on the Constitution:

#### **†S18.12. AMENDMENTS**

Secretary Richard explained these are recommended amendments to the Constitution for Synods adopted by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly. These amendments are in areas that are not required provisions, but are necessary to ensure our language is consistent within the document itself, and aligns with the Constitution Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. These amendments may be adopted by a **majority vote** by the Synod Assembly. (reference **†S18.12.**)

#### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION FOR SYNODS AS APPROVED BY THE 2019 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY Recommended Provisions**

Prepared by the Office of the Secretary  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
August 2019

Additions are underlined. Deletions are ~~struck through~~ in the text.

**CHAPTER 7: SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

- S7.22.** This synod may establish processes that permit retired rostered ministers, or those ~~designated as disabled~~ granted disability status, or on leave from call, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. If the synod does not establish processes to permit the rostered ministers specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.
- S7.26.** This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit representatives of ~~congregations under development and~~ authorized worshiping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw ~~10.02.03. 10.01.04.~~, to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.

**CHAPTER 8: OFFICERS**

- S8.11.01.** When authorized by the Synod Council in order to address special circumstances, the synod bishop may be compensated as an employee or contractor for specified services to another expression of this church. Such an arrangement may be terminated by the Synod Assembly or Synod Council if determined to be detrimental to the function of the office or if the special circumstances no longer apply.
- S8.14.** The ~~synodical~~ bishop may have such assistants as this synod shall from time to time authorize.

**CHAPTER 10: SYNOD COUNCIL**

- S10.08.** *Robert's Rules of Order*, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of all meetings of the Synod Council.
- S10.078.01.** To the extent permitted by state law, meetings of the Synod Council and its committees may be held electronically or by telephone conference, and notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.

**CHAPTER 13: CONGREGATIONS**

- S13.25.** This synod may temporarily assume administration of a congregation upon its request or with its concurrence. Such synod administration shall continue only so long as necessary to complete the purposes for which it was requested by the congregation or until the congregation withdraws consent to continued administration.

**S13.40. Synodically Authorized-Synod-authorized Worshiping Communities**

**CHAPTER 14: ROSTERED MINISTERS**

- S14.14.** Whenever members of a congregation move to such a distance that regular attendance at its services becomes impractical, it shall be the duty of the pastor to commend them, upon their consent, to the pastoral care of a ~~Lutheran~~ congregation nearer to their place of residence.
- S14.17.** No minister of Word and Sacrament shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. A minister of Word and Sacrament shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances with the approval of the bishop of this synod

and the chair-president of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.

**S14.42.** No minister of Word and Service shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. A minister of Word and Service shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the chair-president of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call

**CHAPTER 15: FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**S15.14.** Except when such procedure would jeopardize current operations, a reserve amounting to no more than 16 percent of the sum of the amounts scheduled in the next year's budget for regular distribution to synodical causes shall be carried forward annually for disbursement in the following year in the interest of making possible a more even flow of income to such causes. The exact number of dollars to be held in reserve shall be determined by the Synod Council.

Secretary Richard presented the following motion to the Assembly

**S.A.21.04.01. Therefore be it resolved that the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly adopts the proposed changes to the bylaws and continuing resolution of the Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America enumerated in Section B of the Report on the Constitution.**

*A simple majority is needed for this action.*

**The Synod Assembly adopted the motion, 259 yes, 2 no.**

From Section C of the Report on the Constitution:

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS  
UNIQUE TO SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD**

To comply with new designation of ministers of word and service as ordained, not lay, and designations of men and women instead of male and female:

**S7.22.11.** In establishing a formula pursuant to Chapter †7.21.c of this Constitution, the number of retired rostered ministers of Word and Sacrament permitted to vote at meetings of the Synod Assembly shall be a factor in determining the number of additional lay representatives necessary to comprise at least 60% of the membership of the Synod Assembly.

**S9.08.01.**

c. The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least one person for each rostered minister of Word and Sacrament and lay at-large position up for election. Geographic consideration shall be given in proposing nominees, as well as the need to assure an adequate number of persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English. Additional nominations may be made from the floor.

e. The election of conference lay positions shall be completed before balloting for at-large positions begins. Nominees not elected to conference lay positions shall be added to the at-large ballots. The election of young adult positions shall be completed before balloting for at-large positions begins. Nominees not elected to the young adult positions shall be added to the at-large ballots. Balloting for at-large lay positions shall be by male and female panels of men and women.

**S10.01.01.** General Membership.

a. With the exception of the officers, the youth members, and the young adult members, the general membership of the Synod Council shall consist of nine rostered ministers of Word and Sacrament, one layperson from each conference of this synod, and six at-large laypersons, three male men and three female women.

b. The terms for the general membership of the Synod Council shall be staggered so that the terms of three rostered ministers of Word and Sacrament, approximately one-third of conference lay positions, and two at-large lay positions, one male man and one female woman, expire each year. None of the general membership of the Synod Council shall be eligible to serve for more than two consecutive terms. The lay position assigned to each conference shall alternate every two terms between male man and female woman.

**S10.01.02.** The Synod Council shall include two youth members, one male man and one female woman, and two young adult members, one male man and one female woman. At least one of the youth or young adult members shall be a person of color and/or person whose primary language is other than English. The terms of the youth members shall be two years and shall expire at the same time. The youth members may serve two consecutive terms if eligible. The terms of the young adult members shall be three years and shall expire at the same time. The young adult members may serve two consecutive terms if eligible.

To reflect change in language from “synodical” to “synod”

**S6.04.C02.** *It is the additional intention of this synod to increase from 10 percent to 20 percent the representation of persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English who serve on the above mentioned synodical bodies.*

A. **S9.04.B17 Process for preparing the Synod for the election of a Bishop**  
*Stage One. A Transition Team shall develop a Synodical Mission Profile. Included in such a Mission Profile might be the latest demographics and vitality indicators of the congregations on the territory of the synod, updated demographic information on the rostered leaders serving in the synod, and an assessment of the hoped for direction of the synod and its ministry. This Synodical Mission Profile shall be completed by December 1<sup>st</sup> of the year prior to the election and made available upon completion.*

B. **Stage Two. A Discernment Team shall develop a prayer-filled process for conversation and discernment across the synod. This process shall include ways to discuss the gifts for ministry that might be helpful to advance the Synodical Mission Profile and how to identify persons who might possess**

*these gifts. The structure for this prayerful conversation shall include consideration of:*

*The process for these conversations shall be completed and shared by the time the Synodical Mission Profile is completed. These conversations shall begin after the completion of the Synodical Mission Profile and be completed at least one month prior to the election.*

- S12.01.02.** The synod shall be divided into conferences in accordance with Chapter 12 of the synod constitution in order to foster interdependent relationships among congregations, institutions and synodical and churchwide units for mission purposes.

To correct designations:

- S6.03.13.** The synod shall relate to Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and to Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg United Lutheran Seminary through financial support and election of board members.
- S9.08.04** The Synod Council shall elect members to the boards of the Gettysburg Seminary, the Philadelphia United Lutheran Seminary, Gettysburg College and Muhlenberg College according to procedures established with each of the institutions.

To change the following to reflect current social ministry organizations and relationships:

- S6.03.14.** The synod shall encourage support of all social ministry organizations on its territory, which are affiliated by the Division for Social Ministry Organizations of the ELCA. The synod shall serve the function of a corporate member for:  
Artman Lutheran Home  
Lutheran Children and Family Services of Eastern Pennsylvania  
Lutheran Home at Germantown  
Lutheran Housing and Development Corporation  
Lutheran Retirement Homes, Inc.  
Lutheran Social Mission Society of Philadelphia  
The Mary J. Drexel Home as long as these social ministry organizations are affiliated with the synod.

- S6.03.14.** The synod shall encourage support of all social ministry organizations on its territory, which have a history of or are currently affiliated by the Division for Social Ministry Organizations of the ELCA and Lutheran Services of America, including: The synod shall serve the function of a corporate member for:

Gemma Services;

KenCrest;

Liberty Lutheran affiliates: Artman, LCFS's West Philadelphia Senior center, The Hearth at Drexel, Paul's Run, The Manor at York Town, The Becoming Center at Artman, Lutheran Congregational Services and Liberty at Home;

Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries, including: Manatawny Manor, and Twining Village;

Diakon Child, Family and Community Ministries, including: Diakon Adoption and Foster Care, and Diakon Youth Services, and Diakon Family Reunification

and Family Preservation Services;  
Lutheran Settlement House.  
as long as these social ministry organizations are affiliated with the synod.

To clean up roster language missed from last round of changes:

**S11.01.B98.** *Committees on Ministry. Appropriate committees shall be established to fulfill the responsibilities entrusted to this synod in the areas of candidacy of persons for the ordained ministry and associates in rostered ministry according to procedures established by the Division for Ministry of the ELCA, and with regard to support of the ministries of the whole people of God, including recognition and support of the ministry of lay persons, ordained persons and associates in ministry and rostered ministers.*

To remove references that no longer exist:

**S12.01.11.** Each conference in assembly shall elect a dean who shall be a pastor under call serving within the territory of the conference. The quorum for the conference assembly at which the dean is to be elected shall consist of a majority of the congregations in the conference. The conference shall seek to assure that the representational principles stated in †S6.04., †S6.04.A01., †S6.04.B09., and S6.04.C02. are fulfilled. If there is no quorum for the conference assembly at which the dean is to be elected, the dean shall be appointed by the bishop of this synod in consultation with the Committee of Deans. If the conference does not call a conference assembly for the election of the dean, the bishop of this synod shall call the conference assembly.

Secretary Richard presented the following motion to the Assembly

**S.A.21.04.02. Therefore be it resolved that the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly adopts the proposed changes to the bylaws and continuing resolution of the Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America enumerated in Section C of the Report on the Constitution.**

*A 2/3rds Majority is needed for this action.*

**The Synod Assembly adopted the motion, 264 yes, 2 no**

From Section D of the Report on the Constitution:

Secretary Richard presented the following amendments from Section D for individual consideration:

Regarding the cancellation of an Assembly:

**S7.11.01.** A regular meeting of the Synod Assembly shall be held annually unless performance becomes impossible or impracticable, especially as a result of an event or effect that could not have been anticipated or controlled, such as a public health crisis; severe acts of nature or weather events including floods, fires, earthquakes, hurricanes, or explosions; war, acts of terrorism, and epidemics; acts

of governmental authorities such as expropriation, condemnation, confinement orders/recommendations; strikes and labor disputes; or other such events that make the meeting impossible or impracticable

**S.A.21.04.03. Therefore be it resolved that the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly adopts the following amendment by addition to bylaw S.7.11.01. of the Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, as enumerated in Section D of the report on the Constitution.**

*A 2/3rds Majority is needed for this action.*

**The Assembly adopted the resolution, 263 yes, 2 no**

Concerning the ability for the Assembly to meet Remotely or virtually

**S7.13.10.** Notice of the time and place of the regular meeting or of an adjourned meeting of the Synod Assembly shall be sent by the secretary not less than four weeks preceding the meeting. Notice of the time and place of a special meeting shall be sent by the secretary not less than two weeks preceding the meeting. To the extent permitted by state law, meetings of the Synod Assembly and its committees may be held electronically or by telephone conference, and notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.

**S.A.21.04.04. Therefore be it resolved that the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly adopts the following amend by addition bylaw S.7.13.10. of the Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, as enumerated in Section D of the report on the Constitution.**

*A 2/3rds Majority is needed for this action.*

**The Assembly adopted the resolution, 277 yes, 1 no**

Concerning the realignment of the Synod Council

**S10.01.01.** General Membership.

a. With the exception of the officers, the youth members, and the young adult members, the general membership of the Synod Council shall consist of nine six rostered ministers, one layperson from each conference of this synod, and six a sufficient number of at-large laypersons to ensure at least 60% of the Synod Council is laypersons, three men and three women. The number of conferences and at large members shall be enumerated in a continuing resolution.

b. The terms for the general membership of the Synod Council shall be staggered so that the terms of three two rostered ministers, and approximately one-third of the eonferenee lay positions, both the conference representatives and two the at-large lay position(s), one man and one woman, expire each year. None of the general membership of the Synod Council shall be eligible to serve for more than two consecutive terms. The lay position assigned to each conference shall

alternate every two terms between man and woman. The at-large position(s) shall also alternate, as needed, every two terms between man and woman to effect a membership with at least 45% men and 45% women.

- c. At least three members of the general membership of the Synod Council shall be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.
- d. The general membership of the Synod Council shall consist of no more than one member of the same congregation at the same time. Exceptions may be made to this requirement only if necessary to meet the requirements of S10.01.01.c.

**S10.01.A21.** There shall be eight (8) conference representatives, and one (1) at large member as lay positions in the general membership of the Synod Council.

**S10.01.02.** The Synod Council shall include two one youth members, one man and one woman, and two one young adult members, one man and one woman. At least one of the youth or young adult members shall be a person of color and or person whose primary language is other than English. The terms of the youth members shall be two years and shall expire at the same time. The youth members may serve two consecutive terms if eligible. The terms of the young adult members shall be three years and shall expire at the same time. The young adult members may serve two consecutive terms if eligible.

**Clean copy, if adopted:**

- S10.01.01.** General Membership.
- a. With the exception of the officers, the youth member, and the young adult member, the general membership of the Synod Council shall consist of six rostered ministers, one layperson from each conference of this synod, and a sufficient number of at-large laypersons to ensure at least 60% of the Synod Council is laypersons. The number of conferences and at large members shall be enumerated in a continuing resolution.
  - b. The terms for the general membership of the Synod Council shall be staggered so that the terms of two rostered ministers, and approximately one-third of the lay positions, both the conference representatives and the at-large lay position(s) expire each year. None of the general membership of the Synod Council shall be eligible to serve for more than two consecutive terms. The lay position assigned to each conference shall alternate every two terms between man and woman. The at-large position(s) shall also alternate, as needed, every two terms between man and woman to effect a membership with at least 45% men and 45% women.
  - c. At least three members of the general membership of the Synod Council shall be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.
  - d. The general membership of the Synod Council shall consist of no more than one member of the same congregation at the same time. Exceptions may be made to this requirement only if necessary to meet the requirements of S10.01.01.c.

**S10.01.A21.** *There shall be eight (8) conference representatives, and one (1) at large member as lay positions in the general membership of the Synod Council.*

**S10.01.02.** The Synod Council shall include one youth member and one young adult member. The term of the youth member shall be two years. The youth member may serve two consecutive terms if eligible. The term of the young adult member shall be three years. The young adult member may serve two consecutive terms if eligible.

**S.A.21.04.05. Therefore be it resolved that the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly adopts the amendments to bylaws S.10.01.01. and S.10.01.02. and add continuing resolution S.10.01.A21. to the Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, as enumerated in Section D of the Report on the Constitution.**

*A 2/3rds Majority is needed for this action.*

Secretary Richard described the rationale behind the proposal

The Synod Council as currently configured reflects a time when the synod demographics were significantly different than they are today. In 1995 the synod had 182 congregations, designated into 9 conferences. In 2021, the synod has 146 congregations, designated into 8 conferences.

Each year following the Synod Assembly there are seats that go unfilled, which Synod Council then fills as able. Filling a council that reflected the demographics of 25 years ago is difficult with the demographics of the present day.

In addition, the logistics of gathering and working with a council of 31 persons poses its own challenges, including finding ways for all to be able to participate in conversation and deliberation, rather than feeling they are simply filling a seat.

To that end, we propose realigning the council to more accurately reflect the demographics of our synod today. We can do this by lowering the number of clergy and at large positions in the general membership of the council by a total of eight seats, and by reducing the number of youth and young adult members to 1 each, rather than 2 each (the Model Constitution for Synods calls for 1 youth member, and 1 young adult member, in addition to the general membership of the council).

The desired result will be a council that is more agile, more participatory, and more complete with less chance of perennially unfilled positions, while continuing to have at least 60% lay persons and a representational balance of across the territory of the synod.

The Rev. Serena Sellers, Christ, Kulperville, spoke in favor of the proposal. While this will decrease the size of the Council, there are many council committees that do the work of the Synod. People who are not on serving on council may be asked to serve on these council committees. As a result, this will not diminish the ability of the Council to do its work, and will

give others not on the council, both lay and clergy, the opportunity to join in the work of the Synod.

**The Assembly adopted the resolution, 259 yes, 10 no**

Secretary Richard thanked the Assembly for their consideration.  
Bishop Davenport thanked Secretary Richard for his report.

**Report of the Nominating Committee**

Bishop Davenport welcomed the Reverend Joseph Klinger, Chair of the Nominating Committee, who presented the report.

Pastor Klinger noted that there are nearly twice as many tickets this year, as we need to elect people to seats that would have been considered last year if the pandemic had not forced the cancellation of the Assembly. There are also some open seats we need to fill, and we need to consider persons to attend the 2022 Churchwide Assembly in Columbus, Ohio.

**TICKETS FROM 2019 and 2020**  
**Synod Council**

**TICKET 1: SYNOD COUNCIL YOUNG ADULT, LAY MAN** (One to be elected for a term ending 2022)

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CONGREGATION</b>
Mr. Graeme Brown	Christ Ascension, Philadelphia

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor.*

As there were no nominations from the floor, Bishop Davenport declared **Mr. Graeme Brown ELECTED.**

**TICKET 2: SYNOD COUNCIL YOUNG ADULT, LAY WOMAN** (One to be elected for a term ending 2022)

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CONGREGATION</b>
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Pr. Klinger stated that no nominees came through the Committee.

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor.*

Nominated from the floor:

Ms. Emily Fowler	St. Luke's, Devon
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With no other nominees from the floor, Bishop Davenport declared Ticket 2 closed. She further declared **Ms. Emily Fowler ELECTED.**

**TICKET 3: SYNOD COUNCIL, CLERGY** (Three Rostered Ministers to be elected for terms ending 2023)

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CONGREGATION</b>
Rev. Julie DeWerth	Good Shepherd, King of Prussia
Rev. Joseph Klinger	Redemption, Philadelphia
Rev. Serena Sellers	Christ, Kulpsville

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor.*

As there were no nominations from the floor, Bishop Davenport declared **the Rev. Julie DeWerth, the Rev. Joseph Klinger, and the Rev. Serena Sellers, ELECTED.**

**TICKET 4: SYNOD COUNCIL, CHESTER CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE, LAY WOMAN** (One lay woman to be elected for a term ending 2023)

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CONGREGATION</b>
Ms. Doris Sterner	St. Peter, Chester Springs
Ms. Sandra Zimmermann	St. John, Phoenixville

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor.*

Pr. Klinger stated persons not elected on this ballot will be added to Ticket 7.

As there were no nominations from the floor, Bishop Davenport declared Ticket 4 closed.

**TICKET 5: SYNOD COUNCIL, LOWER BUCKS CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE,  
LAY WOMAN** (One lay woman to be elected for a term ending 2023)

**NAME** **CONGREGATION**  
Pr. Klinger stated that no nominees came through the Committee.

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor.*

As there were no nominations from the floor, Bishop Davenport declared Ticket 5 closed. She further noted that responsibility for filling this seat will revert to the Synod Council.

**TICKET 6: SYNOD COUNCIL, LOWER MONTGOMERY CONFERENCE  
REPRESENTATIVE, LAY MAN** (One lay man to be elected for a term ending 2023)

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CONGREGATION</b>
Mr. Richard Daniels	Christ, Oreland

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor.*

Pr. Klinger stated that persons not elected on this ballot will be added to Ticket 8.

As there were no nominations from the floor, Bishop Davenport declared Ticket 6 closed.

She further declared Mr. Richard Daniels ELECTED.

**TICKET 7: SYNOD COUNCIL, AT LARGE REPRESENTATIVE, LAY WOMAN** (One lay woman to be elected for a term ending 2023)

**NAME** **CONGREGATION**  
Ms. Doreen Kinzler St. John, Mayfair

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor.*

As there were no nominations from the floor, Bishop Davenport declared Ticket 7 closed.

**TICKET 8: SYNOD COUNCIL, AT LARGE REPRESENTATIVE, LAY MAN** (One lay man to be elected for a term ending 2023)

**NAME** Mr. Albert Glenn      **CONGREGATION** St. John Melrose Park

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor.*

Nominated from the floor:

Nominated from the floor.  
Mr. Thomas Salter Prince of Peace, Philadelphia

Mr. Thomas Salber, Prince of Peace, Philadelphia  
Mr. Salber declined the nomination, noting that another member of his congregation is already serving on Synod Council, thereby making him ineligible.

As there were no further nominations from the floor, Bishop Davenport declared Ticket 8 closed. She further declared **Mr. Albert (Bert) Glenn ELECTED**.

## **Committee on Discipline**

**TICKET 9: COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINE, CLERGY** (Two Ministers of Word and Sacrament to be elected for terms ending 2026)

NAME	CONGREGATION
Rev. Lauren Heywood Bruno	St. David's, Philadelphia
Rev. Timothy Ness	St. Mark, Clifton Heights
Rev. John Berntsen	Trinity, Perkasie

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor.*

As there were no nominations from the floor, Bishop Davenport declared Ticket 9 closed.

**TICKET 10: COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINE, LAY MAN** (One lay man to be elected for a term ending 2026)

NAME	CONGREGATION
Mr. Paul Kenner	Holy Trinity, Wallingford

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor.*

As there were no nominations from the floor, Bishop Davenport declared Ticket 10 closed.  
She further declared **Mr. Paul Kenner ELECTED.**

**TICKET 11: COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINE, LAY WOMAN** (One lay woman to be elected for a term ending 2026)

NAME	CONGREGATION
Ms. Fern Hagedorn	Tabernacle, Philadelphia

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor.*

As there were no nominations from the floor, Bishop Davenport declared Ticket 11 closed.  
She further declared **Ms. Fern Hagedorn ELECTED.**

**Consultation Committee**

**TICKET 12: CONSULTATION COMMITTEE, CLERGY** (Two Ministers of Word and Sacrament to be elected for terms ending 2024)

NAME	CONGREGATION
Rev. Axel Kaegler	St. John, Spinnerstown
Rev. Paul Hagedorn	Tabernacle, Philadelphia

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor.*

Pr. Klinger stated that persons not elected on this ballot will be added to Ticket 15.  
As there were no nominations from the floor, Bishop Davenport declared Ticket 12 closed.  
She further declared **the Rev. Axel Kaegler and the Rev. Paul Hagedorn ELECTED.**

**TICKET 13: CONSULTATION COMMITTEE, LAY MAN** (One lay man to be elected for a term ending 2024)

NAME	CONGREGATION
Mr. Thomas Salber	Prince of Peace, Philadelphia

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor.*

Pr. Klinger stated that persons not elected on this ballot will be added to Ticket 16.  
As there were no nominations from the floor, Bishop Davenport declared Ticket 13 closed.  
She further declared **Mr. Thomas Salber ELECTED.**

**TICKET 14: CONSULTATION COMMITTEE, LAY WOMAN** (One lay woman to be elected for a term ending 2024)

NAME	CONGREGATION
Ms. Catherine Carman	Trinity, Perkasie

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor.*

Pr. Klinger stated that persons not elected on this ballot will be added to Ticket 17.

As there were no nominations from the floor, Bishop Davenport declared Ticket 14 closed. She further declared **Ms. Catherine Carman ELECTED.**

**TICKET 15: CONSULTATION COMMITTEE, CLERGY** (Two Ministers of Word and Sacrament to be elected for terms ending 2022)

NAME	CONGREGATION
Rev. David Lutcher	Advent, Harleysville
Rev. Julie Bergdahl	St. Michael, Sellersville

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor.*

As there were no nominations from the floor, Bishop Davenport declared Ticket 15 closed.

She further declared **the Rev. David Lutcher and the Rev. Julie Bergdahl ELECTED.**

**TICKET 16: CONSULTATION COMMITTEE, LAY MAN** (One lay man to be elected for a term ending 2022)

NAME	CONGREGATION
Pr. Klinger	stated that no nominees came through the Committee.

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor.*

As there were no nominations from the floor, Bishop Davenport declared Ticket 16 closed.

She further noted that responsibility for filling this seat will revert to the Synod Council.

**TICKET 17: CONSULTATION COMMITTEE, LAY WOMAN** (One lay woman to be elected for a term ending 2022)

NAME	CONGREGATION
Ms. Carolyn Edwards	Faith, Philadelphia

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor.*

As there were no nominations from the floor, Bishop Davenport declared Ticket 17 closed.

She further declared **Ms. Carolyn Edwards ELECTED.**

**TICKETS FOR 2021**  
**Synod Vice President**

**TICKET 18: SYNOD VICE PRESIDENT** (one lay person to be elected for a term ending 2025)

NAME	CONGREGATION
Ms. Tracey A. Beasley	Reformation, Philadelphia

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor.*

As there were no nominations from the floor, Bishop Davenport declared Ticket 18 closed.

She further declared **Ms. Tracey Beasley ELECTED.**

**Synod Council**

**TICKET 19: SYNOD COUNCIL, CLERGY** (Three Ministers of Word and Sacrament to be elected for terms ending 2024)

NAME	CONGREGATION
Rev. Gary Costa	Peace, (Tohickon) Perkasie
Rev. John Heidgerd	Emmanuel, Souderton
Rev. Nathan Krause	Redeemer, Jamison
Rev. Wayne Shelor	St. John, Phoenixville

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor.*

As there were no nominations from the floor, Bishop Davenport declared Ticket 19 closed.

**TICKET 20: SYNOD COUNCIL, CENTRAL PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE, LAY MAN** (One lay man to be elected for a term ending 2024)

NAME	CONGREGATION
Pr. Klinger	stated that no nominees came through the Committee.

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor.*

As there were no nominations from the floor, Bishop Davenport declared Ticket 20 closed.

She further noted that responsibility for filling this seat will revert to the Synod Council.

**TICKET 21: SYNOD COUNCIL, UPPER BUCKS CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE, LAY WOMAN** (One lay woman to be elected for a term ending 2024)

NAME	CONGREGATION
Ms. Carol Dzurenda	St. John, Spinnerstown

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor.*

Pr. Klinger stated that persons not elected on this ballot will be added to Ticket 22.

As there were no nominations from the floor, Bishop Davenport declared Ticket 21 closed.

She further declared **Ms. Carol Dzurenda ELECTED**.

**TICKET 22: SYNOD COUNCIL, AT LARGE REPRESENTATIVE, LAY WOMAN** (One lay woman to be elected for a term ending 2024)

NAME	CONGREGATION
Ms. Cynthia Moultrie	Christ, Upper Darby
Ms. Gail Penman	St. Mark, Conshohocken

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor.*

As there were no nominations from the floor, Bishop Davenport declared Ticket 22 closed.

**TICKET 23: SYNOD COUNCIL, AT LARGE REPRESENTATIVE, LAY MAN** (One lay man to be elected for a term ending 2024)

NAME	CONGREGATION
Mr. Everett Wick	St. Andrew, Perkasie

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor.*

As there were no nominations from the floor, Bishop Davenport declared Ticket 23 closed.

She further declared **Mr. Everett Wick ELECTED**.

**TICKET 24: SYNOD COUNCIL, LAY WOMAN, YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE** (one youth woman to be elected for a term ending 2023)

NAME	CONGREGATION

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor.*

As there were no nominations from the floor, Bishop Davenport declared Ticket 24 closed.

She further declared Ms. Kendyl Ward ELECTED.

**TICKET 25: SYNOD COUNCIL, LAY MAN, YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE** (one youth man to be elected for a term ending 2023)

## NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CONGREGATION \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Damar Wilson Reformation, Philadelphia

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor.*

As there were no nominations from the floor, Bishop Davenport declared Ticket 25 closed.

As there were no nominations from the floor, Bishop A. She further declared **Ms. Damar Wilson ELECTED**.

## **Voting Member to Churchwide Assembly in Columbus, OH, August 8 – 12, 2022**

*The Bishop and the Vice President automatically attend as voting members. All others need to be elected by the Synod Assembly*

**TICKET 26: 2022 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER, CLERGY (4 to be elected)**

**NAME** **CONGREGATION**

**NAME** Rev Lauren Heywood Bruno **CONGREGATION** St David Philadelphia

Rev. Lauren Heywood Bruno  
Rev. Mukesh Cheedie

Rev. Julie Dewerth  
Rev. Axel Kaegler

Rev. Axel Raegler  
Rev. Joseph Klinger

Rev. Joseph Klingel  
Rev. Nathan Krause

athan Krause  
Jennifer Phelps  
Redeemer, Jamison  
Trinity, Perkasie

**Rev. Jennifer Phillips**                                    **Trinity, Perkasie**  
*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor.*  
Pr. Klinger stated that any person not elected on this ballot who is a person of color or whose

primary language is other than English.

Nominated from the floor:

**TICKET 27: 2022 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER, LAY WOMAN (4)**

to be ele

## NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CONGREGATION \_\_\_\_\_

Ms. Doreen Kinzler St. John, Mayfair

Ms. Cynthia Moultrie Christ, Upper Darby

Ms. Elizabeth Stewart

Andrea Zimmerman St. John, Phoenixville

Pr. Klinger stated that any person not elected on this ballot who is a youth or a young adult will be added to Ticket 30.

Nominated from the floor:

Dr. Ellen Conroy	Reformation, Media
Ms. Sue Massey	Trinity, Fort Washington

With no further nominations from the floor, Bishop Davenport declared Ticket 27 closed.

**TICKET 28: 2022 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER, LAY MAN** (4 to be elected)

NAME	CONGREGATION
Mr. Albert Glenn	St. John, Melrose Park
Mr. Candido Silva	St. David, Philadelphia

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor.*

Pr. Klinger stated that any person not elected on this ballot who is a youth or a young adult will be added to Ticket 30.

Nominated from the floor:

Mr. Thomas Salber	Prince of Peace Philadelphia
Mr. Thomas Conroy	Reformation Media

With no further nominations from the floor, Bishop Davenport declared Ticket 28 closed.

She further declared **Mr. Albert Glenn, Mr. Candido Sylva, Mr. Thomas Salber, and Mr. Thomas Conroy ELECTED.**

**TICKET 29: 2022 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER, ADDITIONAL CLERGY, PERSON OF COLOR OR WHOSE PRIMARY LANGUAGE IS OTHER THAN ENGLISH** (1 to be elected)

NAME	CONGREGATION
Rev. Regina Goodrich	Mediator, Philadelphia

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor.*

As there were no nominations from the floor, Bishop Davenport declared Ticket 29 closed.

**TICKET 30: 2022 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER, ADDITIONAL LAY PERSON, YOUTH OR YOUNG ADULT** (1 to be elected)

NAME	CONGREGATION
Ms. Kendyll Ward	Trinity, Havertown

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor.*

Nominated from the floor:

Mr. Damar Wilson	Reformation, Philadelphia
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With no further nominations from the floor, Bishop Davenport declared Ticket 30 closed.

**Nominees to stand for ELCA Church Council**

**TICKET 31: NOMINEES FOR ELCA CHURCH COUNCIL – CLERGY** (2 to be elected to stand in nomination for a term extending from 2022 – 2028)

NAME	CONGREGATION
Rev. Gwendolyn King	St. Stephen, Feasterville
Rev. Serena Sellers	Christ, Kulpsville
Rev. Wayne Shelor	St. John, Phoenixville
Rev. Laura Tancredi	St. Paul, Ardmore

*The Synod Assembly may make nominations from the floor.*

As there were no nominations from the floor, Bishop Davenport declared Ticket 31 closed. Bishop Davenport thanked Pastor Klinger for his bringing the Word in worship this morning, and for this report.

Pastor Klinger took a moment to thank the members of his committee for their dedication and hard work to enlist nominees for these numerous slates.

**Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel**

Bishop Davenport introduced Dr. Addie Butler, Chair of the Committee on Reference and Counsel, to bring the first report to the Assembly.

Dr. Butler shared these comments about the role of the Committee, and the process it followed. This year, with a one-day assembly, and with the Assembly being held virtually, we had to make some decisions on when resolutions were due, and how to handle resolutions submitted after that date. Reference and Counsel is responsible for assisting the Assembly in dealing with material that does not come to the Assembly through regular reports, committees, agencies, Synod Council, etc. We prepare responses so that memorials and resolutions are handled in an appropriate way by the church in light of its constitution, organization and previous history.

In order to have the time necessary to prepare our responses, this year we determined that resolutions or memorials would not be welcome on the day of the Assembly and set a second, final deadline for such proposals one week prior to the Assembly. Such resolutions, in order to be considered, require a 2/3's vote of the Assembly. This year we had three resolutions received after the original deadline, but before the second deadline.

The committee is able to exercise the following options as it deems appropriate:

1. Recommend adoption of the resolution.
2. Offer a substitute to the original resolution.
3. Recommend that the proposed matter not be adopted.
4. Refer the matter to the appropriate committee(s), boards, agencies, etc. for further consideration.
5. Offer a synodical or Church minute of previous action as a response.
6. Commend the resolution.
7. Recommend no action.

The committee decided to refer two of the resolutions. One is referred to the Synod Anti-Racism Team and the other to the Synod Council. This requires no action from the Assembly until or unless they are brought back to the Assembly next year.

The resolution which is being referred to the Anti-Racism Team is concerned with hate speech and violence which is being directed toward the Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in light of the Corona-virus pandemic. The Anti-Racism Team has drafted a statement regarding this issue, and the Team is granted a moment of privilege to read this statement.

Bishop Davenport called on the Rev. Gwendolyn King, co-chair of the Anti-Racism Team, to read the following statement to the Assembly.

I Corinthians 12:26 says: “If one member suffers, all suffer together with it, if one member is honored all rejoice together with it.”

We the members of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod in Assembly condemn the violence perpetrated against our Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) siblings and others of Asian descent. We denounce racism (at all levels), especially at the institutional and systemic level, as a sin against God’s order. Racism is an assault on the Gospel of Jesus Christ which calls us to be one. We call for this virulent disease and sin to be dismantled within the ELCA and the larger society. We lament where we find racism present within ourselves, as individuals and culturally. We commit ourselves to eradicating it, where possible, from our lives. Prejudice, racial profiling, bigotry, discrimination, race-baiting, verbal and physical harassment, hate speech and action, xenophobia, scapegoating and other micro-aggressions against the souls of the children of God, members of God’s human family, have no place in God’s Kingdom, where we are asked by the Living God to love one another, and have no place in our society. We stand with the Conference of Bishops-ELCA (March 4, 2021) in their affirmation of the Association of Asian and Pacific Islanders-ELCA, who calls the ELCA “to once again unequivocally denounce racism by taking immediate actions to defend, protect and uphold the safety and lives” (March 4, 2021) of persons of Asian descent; fight against racism and apathy; stand against violence and promote the way of Jesus.

As we, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, strive to become the “Beloved Community” God intends us to be, we ask God to help us and for God’s Spirit to direct and guide us in this endeavor. April 24, 2021

Following Pr. King’s presentation, Dr. Butler continued with the report of Reference and Counsel. She shared that the third resolution the Committee received will be shared with the Assembly if the Assembly so desires. The topic of this resolution is "**Resolution on Immigration and Unaccompanied Minors.**" It requires a 2/3 vote of the Assembly to be brought to the floor for consideration.

Bishop Davenport asked for the vote.

**The Assembly voted to allow the Resolution to come to the floor, 246 yes, 19 no.**

Dr. Butler continued, placing the following resolution before the Assembly:

**Resolution on Immigration and Unaccompanied Minors**

**WHEREAS**, the United States has seen an increase in the numbers of unaccompanied minors at the southern border and being housed in overcrowded living conditions;

**WHEREAS**, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services has been a champion for refugees and immigrants for over 80 years;

**WHEREAS**, our history reflects American Lutherans' immigrant roots and compassionate commitment to welcoming the newcomer;

**WHEREAS**, we are directed by faith and our national values to welcome the stranger;

**WHEREAS**, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services is welcoming and safely assisting unaccompanied minors into the United States;

**WHEREAS**, the church has welcomed and advocated for the stranger;

**S.A.21.04.06. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod** encourages its congregations to advocate for undocumented minors,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod recommits with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services to advocate for justice for unaccompanied minors,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod encourage its congregations to voice their concerns to elected leaders and provide safe housing facilities to unaccompanied minors,

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod continue to encourage its congregations to lift immigrants and migrant workers in prayer and lift up and promote World Refugee Day yearly on June 20.

The Committee on Reference and Counsel recommends the Assembly adopt this resolution.

Dr. Butler shared with the Assembly that this resolution will be considered "seriatim," that is, considering each of the resolved clauses individually, to provide time for careful consideration of each for possible amendment. Dr. Butler then asked for the first "resolved" clause to be placed on the screen for consideration.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod** encourages its congregations to advocate for undocumented minors,

The Assembly was asked if there were any comments or amendments to be presented.

With no amendments proposed, Bishop Davenport called for the vote.

**The Assembly adopted the clause, 248 yes, 14 no.**

The second clause was placed before the Assembly.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod recommits with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services to advocate for justice for unaccompanied minors,

With no amendments proposed, Bishop Davenport called for the vote.

**The Assembly adopted the clause, 259 yes, 8 no.**

The third clause was then presented.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod encourage its congregations to voice their concerns to elected leaders and provide safe housing facilities to unaccompanied minors,

With no amendments proposed, Bishop Davenport called for the vote.  
**The Assembly adopted the clause, 258 yes, 13 no.**

The fourth and final clause was then placed before the Assembly.  
**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod continue to encourage its congregations to lift immigrants and migrant workers in prayer and lift up and promote World Refugee Day yearly on June 20.

The Rev. Stephen Godsall-Myers, Christ Oreland, was recognized. He noted that this resolution calls for the promotion of World Refugee Day on June 20<sup>th</sup>, when June 17<sup>th</sup> is already set as a Commemoration of the Emmanuel 9, June 19<sup>th</sup> is the celebration of “Juneteenth.” This is adding one more date in quick succession on which we are asking our congregations to take some action.

There being no other discussion, Bishop Davenport called for the vote on this clause.  
**The Assembly adopted the clause, 246 yes, 21 no.**

Because each clause was passed, and none were amended, the entire resolution stands as adopted.

Bishop Davenport thanked Dr. Butler and the Committee on Reference and Counsel for their faithful service to the Synod.

### **Address of the Bishop**

Vice President Tracey A. Beasley introduced Bishop Patricia A. Davenport, who made the following address to the Assembly,

Greetings Beloved,  
Dear Synod! I greet you with deep gratitude for your faithfulness and profound partnership as we have endured together the joys and challenges of this pandemic together.  
We have experienced a year filled with anxiety, pain, change, challenges and death. And yet, there have also been times of opportunity, hope, healing, and joy. Yes, we have had 31, 400,026 COVID-19 cases, 569,000 deaths. And the reality is that the number of cases and deaths have increased since I researched the number for both.  
People have died from natural causes, other medical diseases, suicides and murders. The cases and deaths from COVID 19 are not restricted to one racial or ethnic group; socioeconomic group; age group or the sexual orientation of a certain group. It has included the health of and led to the death of young and old, Black, white, and brown, rich and poor, the famous and the unknown.  
Some of us have experienced the death of family, friends and associates from the virus, or we know of someone whose life was changed by the tragic death of a loved one from COVID. One of the many tragic aspects of this pandemic has been that many persons could not be with their loved ones as they took their last breath because of the isolation restrictions. Many have died without a beloved friend and/ or family member at their bedside to offer them a prayer, a warm smile or a time of hand holding. We are truly thankful to God for the hospital staff that tried to do their best, to connect the dying with their loved ones.

Some used Face Time to connect. Other families left written messages to be read to their loved one, because hearing is the last of our senses to leave us when we are dying. Yes, the efforts of hospital staff was greatly appreciated, but the pain of not being there for our loved ones may take a long time to cope with.

The pandemic has led to countless losses in the lives of many, there has been job loss, housing loss and loss of economic security. In person teaching has led to students who not only miss the benefits of an in-person classroom, but they miss seeing their friends. Fun school activities such as proms did not happen, and college sports were restricted for some time. And dare we talk about the loss of not being able to worship within the walls of our beautiful churches.

We not only missed being in our physical buildings, but we missed doing our various ministries, especially those where we went out into the community and shared the Gospel with others. It seemed extremely odd not to be in church for communion, confirmation, baptisms, weddings or funerals. In the midst of all the change we were experiencing, we saw other events that transformed our world before our eyes.

We watched as Mr. George Floyd died as a police officer, Derek Chauvin, placed his knee on Mr. Floyd's neck for over 9 minutes. The public outrage was evidenced by marches and rallies not only locally or domestically, but even internationally.

And then January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021, came, and most of us were hoping that a peaceful transition of power would happen as the electoral votes were being finalized. We watched in utter amazement when individuals stormed the Capitol building in protest about the results of the presidential election. 5 persons were killed, including a Capitol police officer. This event that showed the fragile nature of our government was seen across the world with questions asked like, "How could this happen in the United States?"

Let us not forget that even as all of these things are happening, the usual challenges of life continued such as the domestic violence. Statistics show that there was an increase in domestic violence cases during this pandemic. Natural disasters did not stop, we continued to have hurricanes, floods, fires and even snow in Texas that led to a breakdown in the electrical operations of many of the major cities. Residents of Texas were melting snow in order to have water. These natural disasters led to homelessness, which was already increasing because people were being evicted from their home.

I have mentioned the challenge of our buildings being closed, but there have been other issues that have affected us as a synod, for example, congregations in transition, longing to call a pastor or a deacon. Rostered ministers leaving their calls to move closer to family. Our Councils were concerned about the impact the pandemic would have on congregational giving. Will we be able to pay our ministry leaders? Will we have the money needed to offer effective virtual services? Will we be able to continue to offer our various ministries with financial support? Rostered leaders had to think fast and furious on how they would offer virtual services and the reality is that not everyone has the skillset to know how to do that.

In addition, ministry leaders wanted to continue to stay in contact with parishioners and had to develop creative strategies for keeping in touch not only with the sick and shut-in, but how to keep the congregation connected with each other.

And needless to say, family life certainly changed. If someone in the home had to work, the family feared getting the virus from them. How do you keep children entertained in the midst of a pandemic? Who is going to go to do the shopping? What if you are a parent and you need to go out to work. Who will keep the children? How do you stay in touch with an elderly parent who is home alone or in a nursing facility? Who gets to determine who is in charge of the tv

remote? What do you do if you cannot afford a computer? And remember, screen fatigue is real. There is such a thing as Zoom call burn out! Screen fatigue is real. Mental illness is real. Parents juggling working from home, schooling, and meeting family needs.

You know there is so much more, but as I reflect on this time of challenge, I am reminded of an old negro spiritual that gave people strength in the struggle. It says,

“We've come a long way, Lord, a mighty long way/  
We've borne our burdens in the heat of the day /  
But we know the Lord has made the way.  
We've been in the valley and prayed night and day/  
And we know the Lord has made the way.  
We've had hard trials each and ev' ry day/  
But we know the Lord has made the way.”

That's it beloved, despite the challenges we know that the Lord has made a way. The Psalmist writes of God in Psalm 73:23-26

Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me with honor. Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire other than you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

This is the Word turning us to our relationship with God, the great I am, is with us, as we are confronted with woes and distraction, I am reminded of Martin Luther's words to defend his belief, "Here I stand; I can do no other. God help me." What calms our anxiety, what has given us the fortitude to keep moving embracing change, challenge and opportunity that results in joy? Yes, God's help.

In spite of 31million COVID-19 cases, nevertheless, we can proclaim, 24 million have recovered while others are receiving care, the Lord made away in life and death! We have learned to say farewell, at graveside services, live streams and Facebook. Pr. Folks and Pr. King with our Anti-racism Team took this opportunity to use book studies, conversations and trainings to raise awareness of the ills of systemic racism and the need for racial equity in the current divisive climate of our country. The Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod celebrates, 11 congregational votes to call pastors of which 3 are first call candidates; 6 calls through Synod Council; with an additional 3 congregational calls to take place in the coming weeks all on digital platforms, praise God.

Yes, our Synod Council works very hard on our behalf. We have moved from a perspective of, “We have always done it this way!” to a perspective where we ask the question, “Considering the resources we have at this point in time, how can we do what we have to in new, creative and strategic ways so that all will benefit, and God will be proud?”

With all of the distractions thrown our way, The Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod has creatively stepped up to the challenge of maintaining the vital ministries that we offer. Hundreds of you have volunteered to make a difference in the lives of people we do not know, heeding the greatest commandment to “love your neighbor as yourself.” You have donated your time and resources to bless the least of these among us. We are the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod not only strong, but bright.

Look at the shining ministry we have done despite the darkness of this pandemic. Hear some of our amazing stories: John and Deb purchased two refrigerators to store the food for the E-Meal program at Emmanuel in Souderton. Marge drives in from Little Zion, Telford to pack and hand out food bags. Pr. Heidgerd, members and neighborhood volunteers have distributed 90,000

meals and counting. Pr. Neal and the awesome volunteers at Feast of Justice have distributed over 2 million pounds of food offerings in Northeast Philadelphia. St. Michael's, Kensington is a vital food bank in the community that has increased its outreach. Members of Grace in Mantua partnered with Holy Trinity, Narberth to provide for those food insecure in West Philadelphia. St. Mark's and St. Peter's care for those in West Oak Lane. Welcome Bread has made over 100,000 sandwiches feeding communities in the suburbs and the city. St. Paul's and Tabor partner to provide for the Olney and Nicetown-Tioga area.

Pr. Little and Pr. Steinnagle of the Welcome Church, founding partner of Sanctuary Village, which is a tiny home project for those experiencing homelessness, tell me their ministry is about more than sandwiches. This ministry also focuses on Jesus being at work in their midst. For example, a participant in the ministry, Brother Tyrone, found \$5 and wanted to know how the money could be used to help someone. His \$5 was used as the seed for the I Have A Dream Fund that now blesses anyone in need. Tabernacle, West Philadelphia is a COVID-19 testing and vaccination site. Trinity, Lansdale also, a vaccination site. These ministries are a small sampling of our 143 ministries making a difference in times like these. Beloved Synod, we have been forced to do things differently, taking into account our priorities in this moment, moving from the world of negativity and apathy, drawing people into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ! We are the Church, using digital platforms to proclaim the gospel, caring for those in need and seeking justice with our hands and hearts.

I pause for a point of personal privilege to offer a debt of gratitude to our Office of the Bishop Staff team for their agility and diligence in working remotely, and a hybrid as CDC permits. Ms. Yvonne Curtis, Director of Operation, who keeps me on task with our churchwide matters, in addition to coordinating congregational meetings with council presidents for Call votes, Mr. Martin Schwab our senior account who work with our treasurer, Ms. Janet Neff to assure all our financial responsibility are met. Ms. Cynta Outerbridge, database manager, communications assistant, and synod registrar. Pr. Bob Fisher, Assistant to the Bishop for Mission Interpretation and Director of Communication who meets weekly with our congregational communicators sharing tech tips to improve our on-line experiences, as well as ensuring our mission is clearly communicated, and critical information updated on our many digital platforms in these fast-paced times, especially, ministrylink.org. Dr. Bill Flippin, Director for Evangelical Mission, working with our Vitality Team and Pr. Penman in creating space for innovative Kingdom building ideas and works with several other teams to align us with the Future Church Design of being new, younger, and more diverse. As we deal with the increase in shootings and murders, Dr. Flippin is working more intently with Heeding God's Call to end gun violence, Pr. Bell, Director of Mobility; Dr. McMullan, Director of Interim Ministry; Pr. Sease, Assistant to the Bishop for Vocations and Leadership, and our Committee of Deans have innovatively provided leadership for and with congregations in transition to assure pastoral coverage. Along with Pr. Neff, our Candidacy Chair, Pr. Sease and our Candidacy Team accompany candidate in our candidacy process, to offer guidance and support.

Please know that in this pandemic we have needed to let some things go as we have taken on new responsibilities dictated by pandemic restrictions. We have decentralized out of necessity, and I have a new appreciation for equipping leaders to be ready when called to serve in any area. Lay members have shared a new understanding of vocation. There is an enhanced realization that we live out our faith not only on Sunday, but each day. The neighbor helping their neighbor with grocery shopping understands in new ways that they were living out their faith in daily life.

Some people have come to know that they are essential; they do a job that we cannot do without. They are front line workers of God who have tried to maintain some normalcy to some aspects of our lives, even in this pandemic. Where would we have been without the doctors and nurses and transit workers and teachers and grocery stores worker and all the other frontline workers who were willing to risk their health for our welfare? I am grateful for the saints willing to represent our synod in churchwide meetings with our companion synod, attending meetings related to ecumenical relations and youth ministry.

Beloved, we are people of faith, Hebrews 11: 1 tells us, “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” We are the faithful Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod; we truly walk together along this road of pandemic life. Not marking time, we are making a difference for the Kingdom of God.

Awesome Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, hold to God’s unchanging hands and strive to live out the ELCA tagline, God’s Work-Our Hands because that is how we make it through these difficult times: we reflect on the words of scripture that give us strength and we take our strength and continue to serve our neighbor, despite all the obstacles of this pandemic. St. Paul writes, “What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.” Romans 8:31-39

Hold to this Word, “we are more than conquerors in Christ Jesus.” Beloved, we are one day closer to the other side of this pandemic, praise God! We will hold to God's unchanging hand to gain strength and with that renewed strength, we will continue to show up to serve our neighbor. And thanks to our efforts, God's love for the world will show out through the Lutheran tribe in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties, causing a ripple effect that will transform lives around the corner and around the globe. Hallelujah! “Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you.” Deuteronomy 31:6. Like Martin Luther when he was confronted with things that challenged his faith, we too can proclaimed, "Here we stand; we can do no other. God help us."

God give us the strength we need to get to the other side of this pandemic. Give us the skills and desire to help our neighbor. And always know loving God that we are thankful for all you have done to help us through this pandemic, not only helping us as individuals, but blessing our synod with so many dedicated servants who are committed to serving their neighbor, no matter how difficult their lives may come. For these blessings and all the blessings you bestow on us each day, we say thank you and amen!

### **Portico Benefits Services**

Bishop Davenport invited the Assembly to view a video presentation from Ms. Barbara Debski, regional representative from Portico Benefit Services, and thanked Ms. Debski for all the assistance she brings to our Synod. In the video It was shared that Portico is not just an investment organization, it is a ministry. As such, they take a different approach to their work.

### **Recess**

As the Assembly prepared for a lunch break, Bishop Davenport thanked members of the Worship Team for their assistance. This Team is comprised of the Rev. Dr. Jennifer Phelps, the Rev. Bryan Penman, the Rev. Jay Mitchell, and the Rev. Lauren Bruno-Heywood.

Bishop Davenport called on Deacon Beth Barkau, who led the Assembly in prayer. The Assembly stood in recess for lunch.

### **Afternoon Session**

Bishop Davenport called the Assembly back into session, inviting Mr. Waverly Alston, Welcome Church, Philadelphia, to begin the session with prayer.

### **Report on the Committee on Elections**

Bishop Davenport called on the Rev. Rebecca Schanely, chair of the Committee on Elections, to lead the Assembly through the first round of balloting.

Ballots were presented for the following tickets. Results will be shared at the Second Report on Elections later this afternoon.

### **TICKET 4: SYNOD COUNCIL, CHESTER CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE, LAY WOMAN**

Ms. Doris Sterner

Ms. Sandra Zimmermann

Pr. Schanely instructed the Assembly they may vote for one (1) person on this ticket.

### **TICKET 9: COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINE, CLERGY**

Rev. John Berntsen

Rev. Timothy Ness

Rev. Lauren Heywood Bruno

Pr. Schanely asked the Assembly to vote for not more than two (2) persons on this ticket.

### **TICKET 22: SYNOD COUNCIL, AT LARGE REPRESENTATIVE, LAY WOMAN**

Ms. Cynthia Moultrie

Ms. Gail Penman

Pr. Schanely instructed the Assembly they may vote for one (1) person on this ticket.

### **TICKET 26: 2022 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER, CLERGY**

Rev. Joseph Klinger

Rev. Jennifer Phelps

Rev. Marie Sager

Rev. Lauren Heywood Bruno

Rev. Julie Dewerth

Rev. Gary Costa

Rev. Nathan Krause  
Rev. Axel Kaegler  
Rev. Mukesh Cheedie

Pr. Schanely instructed the Assembly they may vote for up to four (4) persons on this ticket.

**TICKET 27: 2022 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER, LAY WOMAN**

Ms. Doreen Kinzler  
Ms. Elizabeth Stewart  
Ms. Sue Massey  
Ms. Cynthia Moultrie  
Ms. Sandra Zimmerman

Pr. Schanely noted that Dr. Ellen Conroy, who was nominated from the floor, was deemed ineligible for this ticket as her husband, Mr. Tom Conroy, had already been elected a voting member of the Churchwide Assembly during the nomination process.

She instructed the Assembly they may vote for up to four (4) persons on this ticket.

**TICKET 30: 2022 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER, ADDITIONAL LAY PERSON, YOUTH OR YOUNG ADULT**

Ms. Kendyll Ward  
Mr. Damar Wilson

Pr. Schanely asked the Assembly to vote for one (1) person on this ticket.

**TICKET 31: NOMINEES FOR ELCA CHURCH COUNCIL – CLERGY**

Rev. Wayne Shelor  
Rev. Serena Sellers  
Rev. Gwendolyn King  
Rev. Laura Tancredi

Pr. Schanely instructed the Assembly to vote for not more than two (2) persons on this ticket.

Pr. Schanely noted that this concludes this round of balloting. Results of these elections, and another round of balloting, will be completed later this afternoon.  
Bishop Davenport thanked Pr. Schanely for her efforts in this matter.

**Report of the Treasurer and Audit Reports**

Ms. Janet Neff, Treasurer of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, was invited to present the Report on the Audit for the past two years, 2019 (Fiscal Year ending 1/31/2020), and 2020 (Fiscal Year ending 1/31/2021).

Ms. Neff began her presentation by noting much of the information had been shared in the pre-assembly session on finances, which is available on video at our Synod website.

The Audit Report is available in the Bulletin of Reports. A Summary of these numbers:

**AUDIT REPORT DETAILS**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**Highlights as of 01/21/2020 and 01/31/2021**

	1/31/2020	1/31/2021
Total Cash & Investments	\$ 7,407,329	\$ 9,816,378
Total Assets	\$11,735,790	\$13,515,235
Total Liabilities	\$ 130,688	\$ 142,222
Total Net Assets	\$11,605,102	\$13,373,013
Unrestricted	\$ 7,585,980	\$ 9,259,379
Temporarily Restricted	\$ 844,687	\$ 778,242
Permanently Restricted	\$ 3,174,435	\$ 3,335,392

**Statement of Activities: Revenue**  
02/01/19 – 01/31/20    02/01/20 – 01/31/21

	02/01/19 – 01/31/20	02/01/20 – 01/31/21
Mission Support	\$1,716,538	\$1,655,732
Other Contributions	\$ 640,453	\$ 542,673
Registration Fees	\$ 135,301	\$ 2,868
Investment Income	\$ 692,506	\$1,368,481
Beneficial interest in Trust	\$ 998,282	\$ 42,178
PPP SBA Grant	\$ 0	\$ 168,073
Proceeds from property sales	\$4,280,946	\$ 516,340
Total Revenue	\$8,464,026	\$4,296,345

**Statement of Activities: Expenses**  
02/01/19 – 01/31/20    02/01/20 – 01/31/21

	02/01/19 – 01/31/20	02/01/20 – 01/31/21
Operating Expense	\$1,309,246	\$1,141,137
ELCA Proportionate (50%)	\$ 858,269	\$ 827,866
Property Management	\$ 244,574	\$ 129,286
Distributions to other agencies	\$ 152,656	\$ 91,000
Remit to designated agency	\$ 19,940	\$ 24,932
Mission Expense	\$ 259,008	\$ 150,688
Grants to Organizations	\$ 20,999	\$ 163,525
Total Expenses	\$2,864,692	\$2,528,434

Ms. Neff shared that we have sold some of the properties the Synod has under management from former congregations. With these sales we are in good financial position. This money has strengthened our Fund for Mission, and we are using some of these resources for the Mission portion of our budget.

We are down significantly in Partnership Support from our congregations. We understand that Covid has had its effects on the resources our congregations have.

We have been blessed to receive support in several targeted funds that were part of our mission during the pandemic. Among these are the “Have a Heart” fund to assist with medical expenses of Bishop Stephen Munga of the North Eastern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, the “Blessed to Be a Blessing” fund to assist our fellow congregations struggling during the pandemic, and the “All the Saints” appeal, our annual drive to help the ministry of the Synod.

We received a grant from the federal Covid-19 “Paycheck Protection Program” which offered significant assistance.

We have experienced fewer expenses during the pandemic, particularly due to reduced travel costs and fewer expenses for meetings. We have also saved in expenses for maintaining the properties we hold under management. As we have sold them, we no longer have the expenses associated with them.

We have lowered the amount we have given to the seminary, but that amount has been redirected to assist our rostered ministers who struggle to pay the debts incurred from their education.

With that as a review, Ms. Neff asked if there were any questions for her regarding the expenses of the past two years. With no questions raised, she placed before the Assembly the following resolution:

**S.A.21.04.07. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly accepts the report of the auditors of the synod's financial statements for the fiscal years ending January 31, 2020 and January 32, 2021.**

Bishop Davenport called for the vote.

**The Assembly adopted the resolution 264 yes; 0 no**

The Bishop thanked Ms. Neff for her report, and called on Mr. Bert Glenn, chair of the Finance Committee, to bring the Report of the Finance Committee, and to present the budget.

**Report of the Finance Committee and Presentation of the Budget for 2021 and 2022**

Mr. Glenn reflected on Pr. Casey’s sermon from the morning. “We can all feel like dry bones.” But as we look at these numbers in the budget, let us remember that they represent people. They represent the ways in which the Spirit breathes life into the work of this Synod on behalf of people who feel dried up, so they might live.

The budget numbers are available in the Bulletin of Reports. A Summary of these numbers:

**2021 AND 2022 BUDGET INCOME**

	2020	2021	2022
	Audit	Budget	Budget
Mission Support	\$1,655,732	\$1,800,000	\$1,750,000
Other Contributions	\$ 542,673	\$ 316,750	\$ 303,000
Registration Fees	\$ 2,868	\$ 181,205	\$ 180,145
Investment Income	\$1,368,481	\$ 406,190	\$ 744,734
Beneficial interest in trust	\$ 42,178	\$ 0	\$ 60,000
PPP SBA Grant	\$ 168,073	\$ 0	\$ 0
Proceeds from Property Sales	\$ 516,340	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total Revenue	\$4,296,345	\$2,704,145	\$3,038,279

**2021 AND 2022 BUDGET EXPENSES**

	2020	2021	2022
	Audit	Budget	Budget

Operating Expense	\$1,141,137	\$1,363,099	\$1,349,682
ELCA Proportionate Share (50%)	\$ 827,866	\$ 900,000	\$ 875,000
Property Management	\$ 129,286	\$ 31,500	\$ 28,000
Distributions to other agencies	\$ 91,000	\$ 93,000	\$ 95,000
Remittance to Des. Agencies	\$ 24,932	\$ 17,000	\$ 17,000
Mission Expense	\$ 150,688	\$ 263,554	\$ 314,438
Grants to Organizations	\$ 163,525	\$ 68,000	\$ 68,000
Total Expenses	\$2,528,434	\$2,738,153	\$2,747,120

These budgets reflect the priorities we have had over the past several years. We support the work of the United Lutheran Seminary. We support Muhlenberg College. We share in the ministry of Bear Creek Camp. We also continue the practice of offering debt relief to our rostered ministers as they work to pay off the cost of their seminary education.

As Ms. Neff noted in her report, these numbers were discussed at the pre-assembly session on finance, which is available in the video on the website.

Mr. Glenn stated that we need to adopt each budget separately, first the budget for the current year, 2021 (Fiscal Year ending 1/31/2022), and then the budget for the coming year, 2022 (Fiscal Year ending 1/31/2023). He then put forward for consideration the following resolution the current year:

**S.A.21.04.08. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly adopts the budget for the current year, Fiscal Year ending January 31, 2022, as presented.**

Bishop Davenport called for the vote.

**The Assembly adopted the resolution 259 yes; 2 no**

Mr. Glenn then put forward for consideration the following resolution for the coming year:

**S.A.21.04.09. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly adopts the budget for the coming year, Fiscal Year ending January 31, 2023, as presented.**

Bishop Davenport called for the vote.

**The Assembly adopted the resolution 271 yes; 0 no**

Bishop Davenport expressed her sincere thanks to Ms. Janet Neff, Mr. Bert Glenn, and Mr. Martin Schwab, the Synod's Senior Accountant, for their hard work, many meetings, phone conversations, and email correspondence in preparing the proposed budgets. They put in countless hours to ensure we are faithful with our resources, and it is appreciated.

**Report of the Vice President**

Bishop Davenport welcomed Vice President Tracey A. Beasley to the podium to make her report to the Assembly.

Grace and Peace my Sisters and Brothers in Christ!

I hope you had a great lunch and are ready for part two of this Zoom Assembly. It has been good for my soul to see a lot of you on Zoom, because I have not seen some of your faces in a year and a half. You are looking mighty good to me!

For those of you attending for the first time, welcome, and what a way to attend your first one: virtually!

If you read the Bulletin of Reports, you can see that the Synod Council has been busy this year and a half. I thank you for your faithful service.

I want to let the Assembly know, since we have some open seats on the Council, that our meetings now start at 6:00 p.m. rather than 4:00, and that we are meeting on Zoom. Maybe that will help your decision to join us.

I would be remiss if I did not thank Bishop Davenport for her leadership during this year and a half, and her unwavering support of me as Vice President and of the Council. I know of the thousands of Zoom meetings she has been on, and she has been personally writing notes to our pastors, calling and checking in on them. It has not been easy, but she has been doing it with grace. I must also thank the Synod Staff for all their support, and for doing devotions for the Synod Council meetings. I especially need to say thank you to Sister Yvonne Curtis for making my job easier as Vice President, by helping me throughout the year. Thank you!

I want to recognize our Deans. They have not missed a beat during this pandemic. Even in the midst of the pandemic they find pastors to be called to churches, walk alongside our congregations in transition, and support congregations in difficult times. Which also means that our congregations in transition also keep it moving forward in a pandemic! To God be the Glory!

I know we remember clergy who have passed in the last two years, and recognize we have lost some of our church members, family members, co-workers, and loved ones in the last two years of this pandemic. In times like these I hold strong to the scripture that states “to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.”

I will pause for about 30 seconds of silent remembrance, and then, if you choose, you can call out the name of that person you have lost...

So I must tell you about a week and a half ago when I was praying and asking God “What should I say to the Saints at this Assembly?” I was feeling fearful, outraged, and frustrated over the Systemic Racism in the U.S.

My mind took me to April 11, when Daunte Demetrius Wright, a 20 year old African American man, was fatally shot by police officer Kimberly Ann Potter during a traffic stop in Minnesota, 10 miles from where George Floyd was killed. The following day police said Potter meant to use her taser, but accidentally grabbed her gun instead.

Then fast forward to Tuesday April 20. My stomach was tight as I awaited the verdict, and then as soon as I heard Derek Chauvin was guilty, I felt like it dropped, and then I just felt the tears just rolling down my face.

I say all this to say as an African American woman in this Synod, thank you SEPA Synod for continuing being on the front line for fighting Systemic Racism. The Anti-Racism Team of this Synod does a great job, but we cannot stop here; there is still much, much work to be done to end the ways of racism, injustice, and deadly biases.

Over this pandemic I have had 2 Zoom meetings with church council officers and some members of their councils. I wanted this to be a time for people to speak freely as to how they are doing as lay leaders, how their congregations are doing, their joys and frustrations.

I would like to share and lift up some of the great things our congregations are doing that came forth from those discussions.

**St. Mark, Conshohocken** – more people are attending online worship than their usual in-person attendance. They have received new members by Zoom. Younger members have been spreading the word via social media, helping teach how to have new local people worshipping with them by Zoom and Facebook. Great job, St. Mark!

**St. Peter's, West Oak Lane, Philly** – The average attendance with Zoom and Facebook is 72 to 75 people. They plan to remain hybrid as the pandemic ends. They have also had repairs and improvements made during the shutdown. Way to go, St. Peter's!

**Trinity, Havertown** – People who never came to church are joining online now. Way to go, Trinity!

**St. Paul's, Ardmore** – has installed a livestream system for Facebook and YouTube live. They have about 115 households in their virtual service every week. Virtual worship has given families that might have Sunday morning conflicts the opportunity to worship.

**Reformation, Philly** – who is in transition and doing pretty good without a pastor, had a good congregational meeting and is looking forward to burning their mortgage next year.

And lastly,

**Christ, Upper Darby** – They have been Zooming, but they have found that people seem to be more open during the sharing of the prayers. They have been getting to know each other better on Zoom. They have been doing some renovations, also. One of the things that they do that I love and I think is great evangelism piece is they put signs on their lawn for all to see when they walk by and change them once a month. Some of the signs say:

Hope Looks Forward, Be kind to Each Other

You are Loved, God Loves You, All are Welcome! You are Welcome!

This is so brilliant.

I wanted to share some of these churches' successes so you may get some ideas and be encouraged, and to let everyone know that in the midst of a pandemic SEPA is still doing ministry! This proves that the church is not the building, but the people are the church!

Lastly, I want to thank you for your generosity in these crucial times we are living in.

I know some of our churches are not doing so well financially, but you have managed to give to the COVID-19 relief fund, the All the Saints appeal, and the Blessed to be a Blessing fund in addition to your Mission Support.

And speaking of Mission Support, because of you the ELCA was only 3% short of their goal for 2020. That is excellent in a pandemic.

The World Hunger money you send to the ECA that helps millions of people was up by \$1 million from 2019. In a pandemic!

God is such an awesome God, and SEPA you are such a giving people.

We have done so much together and we will get through this together. Together we are SEPA Strong!

I am so proud to be your VP. I count it an honor and a privilege to represent you in so many different arenas.

SEPA Synod, we continue to Move Forward in this pandemic. Hold on; We are SEPA Strong; and we have Faith over Fear!

Thank you and God bless you.

**ELCA Churchwide Representative**

Bishop Davenport welcomed and introduced our Churchwide representative. The Rev. Dr. Philip Hirsch is the Executive Director for Christian Community and Leadership. Dr. Hirsch is working to bring about the revitalization of ELCA congregations in the United States by recruiting, training and supporting leaders. He has a passion for the Gospel of Jesus Christ and for helping new people find faith and Christian community. He believes the church can and will grow younger and more diverse and that there is nothing more powerful than God's love because it can transform first the human heart and then the world. He is a brother in Christ and a man of God, and I am glad to present him to you!

Dr. Hirsch began his presentation by sharing a video from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton who described how the Church has learned and grown in this past year, even in the midst of pandemic. She said the Churchwide organization has continued to walk alongside congregations and synods, and as we near the end of this pandemic, we see a future where God is still doing new things in us and through us, being Church together for the sake of the World. "We know that God has a plan. We are now convinced that God's plan has a Church."

### **Personal Connections**

Yes, God's plan has a Church. Early on I was a pastor in Camden, my wife went to West Chester University, I was confirmed by a former Bishop of yours, the Rev. Roy Almquist, and I worked alongside your current Bishop, Pat Davenport, when we were Directors of Evangelical Mission together. I have been a pastor for 31 years, and am now working in the part of the Church that shapes leaders, starts new ministries, and helps our existing ministries to flourish.

### **Thank You**

I want to start by saying "thank you." Together we have been able to serve Christ around the world. Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod has shared \$827,866 with the ELCA last year. This year was, of course, shaped by Covid, but still we as the Church received \$1.8 million.

### **Different ways to distribute funds**

We had a different approach this year as how this money would be distributed. We asked Synods to determine how this would be needed in their area, and then distributed as you saw a need. In SEPA Synod this has gone to food ministries and to support ministries to an among people of color.

### **World Hunger Challenge**

In 14 days we raised over \$300,000 for World Hunger. Several congregations and ministries in Southeastern Pennsylvania were direct recipients of this money, including Christ the King Deaf Church, Feast of Justice, The Welcome Church, Holy Communion, Mediator, and Tabor.

### **New Mission Partnerships**

The Churchwide organization partnered with Southeastern Pennsylvania to start two new missions, the Kairos Communities and The Well.

### **Mission Investment Fund**

The Mission Investment Fund has provided 21 loans to SEPA Ministries, totalling \$6,318,328, and SEPA individuals and congregations have invested \$11,234,013 in the Mission Investment Fund.

### **Churchwide Boards and Agencies**

SEPA provides persons who serve in various Churchwide positions. Those serving include:

- + Ms. Tracey Beasley, ELCA Church Council
- + Mr. Emanuel Alves, Committee on Appeals

- + Pr. Fritz Fowler, Committee on Appeals
- + Mr. Thomas Salber, Committee on Discipline
- + Pr. Raymond Miller, Hearing Officers
- + Pr. Sarah Anderson, Nominating Committee
- + Mr. Frank Roth, Portico Board

The Committee on Appeals is working on updating the document “Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline” which helps us make sure we have an environment that is safe for everyone, and that there is accountability.

Dr. William Flippin, DEM, is a colleague in the Gospel and shares his time between the Synod and the Churchwide organization.

### **Youth Gathering**

The ELCA Youth Gathering was postponed because of the pandemic, but it will take place this coming year in Minneapolis. Look for registration to open this fall.

### **Life of Faith Initiative**

Congratulations on being chosen to be part of the Life of Faith Initiative, which helps people live their faith in their daily lives, and then learn how to share this life with others.

### **Future Church: A Movement of God.**

We have been together for 30 years as a denomination. We need to continue to grow in how we bring the gospel in a rapidly changing world. We need systems and ministries that can address these changes. For instance, loneliness has increased dramatically, particularly during Covid. Mental health needs have increased, as has hunger. We are a polarized nation. But the church can make a difference in all these areas.

Our Purpose: to activate each of us so more people know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice, and love.

Our Goal: Share the story of Jesus and the ELCA with a million new people.

### **Open Doors**

To get this started we have a new grant initiative: Open Doors. This initiative is open to all ELCA congregations. We feel a good idea can come from anywhere, and while not all good ideas need money, no good idea should wither due to a lack of funds. There is no set of best practices; we are committed to learning together and from the experiences of congregations. Check the site <https://elca.org/opendoors> for more information.

Again, thank you for your partnership.

Bishop Davenport opened the floor for questions from the Assembly. As there were none, she told Dr. Hirsch that it is our tradition to give a gift to our speakers. Since he cannot be here in person, he should know “The gift is in the mail!”

Dr. Hirsch thanked the Bishop for such generosity, which is something for which SEPA Synod is well known. He concluded by echoing something Vice President Beasley said: “Don’t give up.” We are all tired. May God give us that extra burst of energy to keep going, and to find some rest. Don’t give up on the way God has called you. Keep the faith.

### **Second Report on Elections**

Bishop Davenport called on Pr. Rebecca Schanely to continue the Report on Elections.

Pr. Schanely shared the results of the first round of balloting.

**TICKET 4: SYNOD COUNCIL, CHESTER CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE, LAY WOMAN** 1 to be elected

There were 226 ballots, 114 votes needed to elect

Ms. Sandra Zimmerman	137
Ms. Doris Sterner	89

Bishop Davenport declared **Ms. Sandra Zimmerman ELECTED**

Pr. Schanely noted that Ms. Sterner's name will move forward to Ticket 7, Synod Council Lay Woman at Large

**TICKET 9: COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINE, CLERGY** 2 to be elected

There were 238 ballots, 120 votes needed to elect

Rev. Lauren Heywood Bruno	207
Rev. Timothy Ness	168
Rev. John Berntsen	87

Bishop Davenport declared **the Rev. Lauren Heywood Bruno and the Rev. Timothy Ness ELECTED**

**TICKET 22: SYNOD COUNCIL, AT LARGE REPRESENTATIVE, LAY WOMAN**

1 to be elected

There were 245 ballots, 123 votes needed to elect

Ms. Cynthia Moultrie	125
Ms. Gail Penman	120

Bishop Davenport declared **Ms. Cynthia Moultrie ELECTED**

**TICKET 26: 2022 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER, CLERGY**

4 to be elected

There were 253 ballots, 127 votes needed to elect

Rev. Joseph Klinger	166
Rev. Julie DeWerth	135
Rev. Mukesh Cheedie	133
Rev. Jennifer Phelps	124
Rev. Lauren Heywood Bruno	105
Rev. Axel Kaegler	93
Rev. Nathan Krause	97
Rev. Gary Costa	66
Rev. Marie Sager	63

Bishop Davenport declared **the Rev. Joseph Klinger, the Rev. Julie DeWerth, and the Rev. Mukesh Cheedie ELECTED**

Pr. Schanely stated that the Rev. Jennifer Phelps and the Rev. Lauren Heywood Bruno will move forward to a second ballot.

**TICKET 27: 2022 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER, LAY WOMAN**

4 to be elected

There were 243 ballots, 122 votes needed to elect

Ms. Doreen Kinzler	199
Ms. Elizabeth Stewart	189
Ms. Cynthia Moultrie	186
Ms. Sandra Zimmerman	172
Ms. Susan Massey	153

Bishop Davenport declared **Ms. Doreen Kinzler, Ms. Elizabeth Stewart, Ms. Cynthia Moultrie, and Ms. Sandra Zimmerman ELECTED**

**TICKET 30: 2022 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER, ADDITIONAL LAY PERSON, YOUTH OR YOUNG ADULT** 1 to be elected

There were 244 ballots, 123 votes needed to elect

Mr. Damar Wilson	148
Ms. Kendyll Ward	96

Bishop Davenport declared **Mr. Damar Wilson ELECTED**

**TICKET 31: NOMINEES FOR ELCA CHURCH COUNCIL – CLERGY**

2 to be elected

There were 260 ballots, 131 votes needed to elect

Rev. Gwendolyn King	157
Rev. Laura Tancredi	141
Rev. Serena Sellers	112
Rev. Wayne Shelor	93

Bishop Davenport declared **the Rev. Gwendolyn King and the Rev. Laura Tancredi ELECTED**

**New Balloting**

Pr. Schanely introduced the next round of balloting by first noting that the results of the balloting so far have impacted the results of Ticket 19, Synod Council, Clergy. As Ms. Zimmerman was elected to Synod Council on Ticket 4, and since she and Pr. Wayne Shelor are both from the same congregation, Pr. Shelor is no longer eligible for election. Therefore the three remaining candidates may be elected.

**TICKET 19: SYNOD COUNCIL, CLERGY** (Three Ministers of Word and Sacrament to be elected for terms ending 2024)

Rev. Gary Costa

Rev. John Heidgerd

Rev. Nathan Krause

Bishop Davenport declared **the Rev. Gary Costa, the Rev. John Heidgerd, and the Rev. Nathan Krause ELECTED**

Pr. Schanely then said that there are three Tickets which remain to be decided. She first placed Ticket 7 before the Assembly.

**TICKET 7: SYNOD COUNCIL, AT LARGE REPRESENTATIVE, LAY WOMAN**

Ms. Doreen Kinzler

Ms. Doris Sterner

Pr. Schanely instructed the Assembly to vote for one (1) person

There were 257 ballots, 129 votes needed to elect

Ms. Doreen Kinzler	137
Ms. Elizabeth Stewart	120

Bishop Davenport declared **Ms. Doreen Kinzler ELECTED**

Pr. Schanely then placed Ticket 26 before the Assembly

**TICKET 26: 2022 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER, CLERGY**

Rev. Jennifer Phelps

Rev. Lauren Heywood Bruno

Pr. Schanely instructed the Assembly to vote for one (1) person

There were 267 ballots, 134 votes needed to elect

Rev. Jennifer Phelps	146
Rev. Lauren Heywood Bruno	121

Bishop Davenport declared **the Rev. Jennifer Phelps ELECTED**

Pr. Schanely then placed Ticket 29 before the Assembly. She noted that Rev. Gary Costa has been moved forward from Ticket 26.

**TICKET 29: 2022 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBER, ADDITIONAL CLERGY, PERSON OF COLOR OR WHOSE PRIMARY LANGUAGE IS OTHER THAN ENGLISH** (1 to be elected)

Rev. Regina Goodrich

Rev. Gary Costa

Pr. Schanely instructed the Assembly to vote for one (1) person  
There were 260 ballots, 131 votes needed to elect

Rev. Regina Goodrich	165
Rev. Gary Costa	95

Bishop Davenport declared **the Rev. Regina Goodrich ELECTED**

Pr. Schanely stated that this concludes the balloting.

Bishop Davenport thanked Pr. Schanely for her hard work and dedication to this important process.

### **Break**

Bishop Davenport then called on Pr. Thomas Rusert, St. Paul's Doylestown to offer a prayer of thanksgiving before the Assembly took a 10-minute break.

During the break videos were shared, including the recognition of the **50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination** of the Rev. Albert Douglass, and a description of **Sanctuary Village**, a tiny house project in the Holmesburg section of Philadelphia. This project is focused on walking alongside those who are experiencing homelessness by creating a community with wrap around services to assist people to move to a permanent home. Sanctuary Village is the designated recipient of the Synod Assembly offering.

As the Assembly returned to session Bishop Davenport thanked the members of the Synod for their generous support of this important ministry to end homelessness in the City of Philadelphia.

Bishop called on Ms. Catherine Carman of Trinity, Perkasie, to resume our work in prayer. Dr. Addie Butler was then called on to make the final Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel. Dr. Butler brought forward the following Resolution of Thanks.

### **SEPA Synod Assembly Resolution of Thanks**

**WHEREAS** it is right at all times and in all places to give thanks for God's grace and mercy, and the extraordinary gifts of the Holy Spirit that bless the people of God to do God's work with our hands;

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** at the end of this thirty-third meeting of this Assembly, we offer our appreciation and thankful applause;

To our own Bishop Patricia Ann Curtis Davenport for her years of service and dedication to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and the people of God in this "beloved community" who are members of, and affiliated with, this church;

To our ELCA representative, Reverend Phil Hirsch, Executive Director, Christian Community and Leadership;

To the representatives of all organizations and agencies of the Southeastern Pennsylvania (SEPA) Synod present here at this Assembly;

To Reverend Jennifer Phelps and the members of SEPA's Worship Committee for the prayers, praise and preaching;  
To Reverend Joseph Klinger and members of the Nominating Committee, and Reverend Rebecca Schanely and members of the Elections Committee, for their tremendous work;  
To the officers, staff and volunteers of the SEPA Synod who worked tirelessly to make this 2021 Assembly a success. We sincerely appreciate your innovation and creativity used to make our FIRST digital assembly possible;  
To the United Lutheran Seminary for their unfailing hospitality;  
To the IT professionals who operated LUMI, the digital meeting platform used throughout this Assembly;  
To all participants from the SEPA Synod who offered their energy, skills and time to prepare for, plan, arrange and participate in this Assembly.

And permit me to extend a personal thank you to the Reference and Council Team members and our consultants:

R&C Team Members

Sis. Alice Bell  
Rev. Jenn Casey  
Rev. Lauren Heywood Bruno  
Rev. Karen Sease

And our consultants:

Rev. Karl Richard, Secretary of the SEPA Synod  
Rev. Dr. Larry Smoose, Assembly Parliamentarian

Bishop Davenport – And thank you Dr. Butler for your superb leadership again this year!

**Final Report of the Registrar**

Ms. Cynta Outerbridge presented the final report of the registrar.

**Total voting membership, 353;** total number of ministers of Word and Sacrament under call, 121; total number of retired ministers of Word and Sacrament voting, 26; total number of ministers of Word and Service under call, 9; total number of retired ministers of Word and Service voting, 4; total number of lay voting members certified, including council members, youth, and young adults, 191; total number of "persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English" in the previous total, 57; percent of "persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English" of total voting membership, 16%; number of lay women voting members, 111; number of lay men voting members, 56; number of lay Synod Council members, 11; number of youth/young adults members, 16.

**Total registered (actually in attendance) voting membership, 297;** number of ministers of Word and Sacrament under call registered, 106; number of retired ministers of Word and Sacrament registered, 20; number of ministers of Word and Service under call registered, 4; number of retired ministers of Word and Service registered, 2; number of lay voting members registered, including Lay Council members, youth and young adults, 165; total number of "persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English" in previous total,

57; percent of "persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English" of total voting membership, 19%; total number of visitors and guests registered, 9.

Bishop Davenport thanked Ms. Outerbridge, and announced that the thirty-fourth annual Assembly of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod will be held May 6 & 7, 2020.

Bishop Davenport called forward Ms. Carrie Schwab, our Assembly Coordinator, to be thanked for her incredible work in preparing the Synod for this online Assembly.

Bishop Davenport and Vice President Beasley recognized the outgoing members of the Synod Council: the Rev. Laura Tancredi, Ms. Joyce Maloney, Mr. Philip Tackett, Mr. Henry Geyer, the Rev. Matthew Staniz.

They then welcomed and installed the newly elected members of the Synod Council: Mr. Graeme Brown, Ms. Emily Fowler, the Rev. Julie DeWerth, the Rev. Joseph Klinger, the Rev. Serena Sellers, Ms. Sandra Zimmerman, Mr. Richard Daniels, Ms. Doreen Kinzler, Mr. Bert Glenn, the Rev. Gary Costa, the Rev. John Heidgerd, the Rev. Nathan Krause, Ms. Carol Dzurenda, Ms. Cynthia Moultrie, Mr. Everett Wick. Ms. Kendyll Ward, Mr. Damar Wilson.

### **Order for the Closing of the Assembly**

Bishop Davenport led the Order for the Closing of the Assembly. The thirty-third annual Assembly of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod adjourned at 3:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Reverend Karl M. Richard, Secretary  
Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

*Approved by Synod Council, September 23, 2021*