

**RESOLUTIONS/MEMORIALS FOR REFERENCE AND COUNSEL**  
**SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA**  
**2022 MEETING OF THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

	NAME	CONGREGATION/LOCATION
Names of Person(s) or Group submitting resolution/memorial (please include name of congregational membership)	Reverend Frank Sayford [Retired]	Family of God, Buckingham PA

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**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Please type or print legibly.
2. All background material should be listed prior to the resolution/memorial. Such information should begin with "Whereas".
3. The resolution/memorial should follow the "Whereas" clause, beginning with, "Therefore, be it resolved...".
4. Please keep a copy of the resolution/memorial for your reference.
5. Attach the resolution/memorial to this cover form and submit it by **March 30, 2022** to [couterbridge@sepa.org](mailto:couterbridge@sepa.org) or via US Mail:  

Committee on Reference and Counsel  
 Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod  
 Wiedemann Center  
 7241 Germantown Avenue  
 Philadelphia, PA 19119
6. Contact Rev. Jenn Casey (631-427-1575) or via email at [pastorjenncasey@comcast.net](mailto:pastorjenncasey@comcast.net) with any questions.

**PLEASE NOTE: All resolutions/memorials must be received by the committee by March 30, 2022 in order to guarantee consideration by the Assembly!**

## **A Resolution for Justice for The Rev. Nelson Rabell-Gonzalez (1)**

WHEREAS, Jesus tells us to love our neighbors as ourselves, and many people in our society are experiencing deep harm from institutional racism;

WHEREAS, the ELCA public statements including *How Strategic and Authentic is Our Diversity, A Call for Confession, Reflection, and Healing Action* [2019], and the Presiding Bishop's statements on the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Day and Black History Month denounces racism and white supremacy;

WHEREAS, The Reverend Nelson Rabell-González, a BIPOC minister of Word and Sacrament, was removed from the ELCA roster of ministers of Word and Sacrament using an unfair procedure which denied him a response, an investigation, or an appeal;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod commends the ELCA Presiding Bishop on her establishment of a Listening Panel, prays for a healthy and just resolution for all, and encourages the ELCA Presiding Bishop to utilize her authority under 20.22.03 f of the Constitution of the ELCA to bring charges against the sitting Bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod for the removal of The Reverend Nelson Rabell-Gonzalez from the ELCA roster of ministers of Word and Sacrament using an unfair procedure which denied him a response, investigation, or appeal.

Author: The Rev. Frank Sayford

NRSV Bible

ELCA Constitution\_Bylaws\_and Continuing Resolutions

[https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Constitutions\\_Bylaws\\_and\\_Continuing\\_Resolutions\\_of\\_the\\_ELCA.pdf](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Constitutions_Bylaws_and_Continuing_Resolutions_of_the_ELCA.pdf)