

SECTION G – REPORTS OF AGENCIES

1. Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania
 2. Lutheran Archives Center at Philadelphia
 3. Lutheran Historical Society of Eastern Pennsylvania
 4. Mission Investment Fund
 5. Religious Leaders Council of Greater Philadelphia
 6. Portico
 7. Thrivent
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LAMPA (LUTHERAN ADVOCACY MINISTRY IN PENNSYLVANIA)

LAMPa Report to Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod

In response to God’s love in Jesus Christ, we advocate for wise and just public policies in Pennsylvania that promote the common good. Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania is a shared ministry of seven Pennsylvania synods, ELCA Service and Justice, and Pennsylvania ELCA agencies and institutions. Through LAMPa, Lutherans who are working to eradicate hunger are supported to voice their faith convictions in the public square with and on behalf of our most vulnerable neighbors and the world we share, while seeking to create a more just Commonwealth.

Since last year’s assembly, LAMPa celebrated 42 years of advocacy ministry that supported and deepened your congregational efforts to address hunger, poverty, health care, education equity, civic engagement, immigration, housing and homelessness, criminal justice reform and care for creation. Our decades of advocacy on these issues have enabled us to lift up the needs of your ministries and communities to secure emergency food, shelter, access to medical care and other relief in response to COVID-19. Your advocacy through LAMPa helped secure millions in additional funding for the State Food Purchase Program, which supplies food to many of our congregational pantries. It also won an extra \$100 million targeted to the neediest school districts across the state and \$10 million in housing tax credits to promote affordable housing development and preservation.

In its work of equipping disciples, growing leaders and supporting vital congregations, LAMPa hosted both a United Lutheran Seminary intern and an ELCA Hunger Advocacy Fellow. In September, LAMPa hosted state, national and global partners in a sustainability summit to launch a churchwide pilot in Pennsylvania to help our ministries, from congregations to campuses and camps, reach the global climate change mitigation goals. In addition to helping advocates prepare testimony on a variety of issues related to their ministry, LAMPa staff participated in the ULS spring convocation and connected all PA synods in creation care advocacy through a statewide marking of rogation. LAMPa hosted webinars on accompaniment

models of ministry with those experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity, resulting in the adoption of new ministries in several congregations. LAMPa staff continues to serve in consultation to the ELCA task force developing the social statement on Government and Civic Engagement: Discipleship in Democracy, and continues to educate faithful advocates through our website, e-news and other resources. We are working with congregational leaders to prepare for God’s work. Our hands. Sunday in September and look forward with hope that we might be able to work side by side on that day.

We give thanks to God for you and for the support of our Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Policy Council representatives, Ms. Donna Skinner-Echols and Mr. Bruce McCullough.

With deep gratitude for all the ways in which you support LAMPa’s ministry,

Tracey DePasquale

LAMPa Director

LUTHERAN ARCHIVES CENTER AT PHILADELPHIA

See Section G, Addendum 1

MISSION INVESTMENT FUND

Section G, Addendum 2

THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS COUNCIL OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA & ZONES OF PEACE INITIATIVE



**ZONES
OF PEACE**

Religious Leaders Council
of Greater Philadelphia



Religious Leaders Council
of Greater Philadelphia



**ZONAS
DE PAZ**

Consejo de Lideres Religiosos,
Area Major de Filadelfia



Religious Leaders Council of Greater Philadelphia and its Zones of Peace Initiative
Report to the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

March 2022

Since its founding in 2006, the denominational leaders of this multi-faith table have honored their standing commitment to foster relationships of mutual support and solidarity with one another. The relationships within the Council enable it to fulfill its mission to be a moral and spiritual voice on the major issues facing our community. Even during the pandemic, the Council has allied with civic and religious organizations to be present for prayer in neighborhood spaces and online through vigils, prayer services, and non-partisan sacred listening sessions. Most recently, Council members have joined the Ukrainian Catholic community in Philadelphia for worship and prayers for peace.

In 2009, in order to be a force for good in Philadelphia and the surrounding region, the Council established *Zones of Peace*. The *Zones of Peace* initiative gives recognition and encouragement to houses of worship and community organizations that are exemplary, creative, and effective in addressing the root causes of violence. Over the past 13 years, 92 houses of worship and organizations have been nominated, vetted, and recognized. Several of the Synod's congregations have been honored as Zones of Peace, as well as the Lutheran Settlement House and The Village (one of the predecessor organizations combined to create GEMMA Services.) A new initiative is being piloted in the SEPA Synod, facilitating partnerships between congregations and recognized Zones of Peace. Partners will work together to find effective ways to reduce violence in specific neighborhoods. If your congregation is interested, contact John Hougen at jbh@interfaithphiladelphia.org

Bishop Patricia Davenport is an active member of the Council. This year her advocacy brought a generous grant to Zones of Peace from the ELCA's Deaconess Community. The Rev. Fritz Fowler represents the Bishop and our Synod on the Administrative Group of the Council. Both provide strong voices and wise counsel for their peers in multi-faith endeavors.

For more information go to <https://www.interfaithphiladelphia.org/council>

The Rev. Edward Livingston, Coordinator, The Religious Leaders Council
The Rev. John B. Hougen, Coordinator, Zones of Peace

PORTICO

See Section G, Addendum 3

thrivent

Helping churches, members and communities in Southeastern Pennsylvania **Thrive with Purpose!** We thrive when we make the most of all God has given us. Thrivent is committed to helping those we serve – individuals, churches, nonprofits, small businesses – make informed financial decisions based on Christian values. We believe money is a tool, not a goal. We're honored to offer churches unique resources to help you manage ongoing operations as you carry out your mission and strengthen our communities.

We're excited to report:

- Thrivent directed **\$291,955** in **Choice Dollars** to more than 450 churches and nonprofits in the five-county Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod district in 2021.
- **Thrivent Action Teams** continue to support church missions and outreach by engaging congregation members in service, educational and fundraising volunteer projects. In 2021, **5,200** Thrivent Action Teams were lead in our Mid-Atlantic Region with more than \$5.4 million in funds raised and Thrivent contributing \$1.3 million in project expense funding. More than 70% of our Thrivent Action Teams are associated with a church partner.
- Churches in the SEPA Synod district are invited to join us in our **Faith Builds** partnership with **Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery and Delaware Counties**. Join us in raising prayers, walls, and donations as we build a duplex home for a hard-working family on **Cowpath Road in Hatfield in 2022**. To learn more, visit: <https://habitatmontdelco.org/thrivent/>.
- **Financial education workshops and webinars** help strengthen congregations through *values-based* teaching on topics ranging from budgeting, saving, goal setting, and teaching our youth money concepts – to more advanced topics such as college saving, retirement planning, and legacy and *charitable giving strategies*. More than 40+ offerings are available at no cost to congregations. A new offering, **Money Canvas**, provides *free* online coaching to help individuals build healthier budgeting, saving, and spending habits. Learn more here: [Money Canvas](#)
- Our **Thrivent Member Network Mid-Atlantic** provides additional opportunities for fellowship, inspiration, education, and generosity. Highlights include monthly webinars geared toward church leaders, faith testimonies from athletes such as Tim Tebow and other public figures, as well as inspirational concerts from Christian recording artists such as Amy Grant, Matthew West & Mandisa. Visit: Thrivent.com/Mid-Atlantic for a complete listing of upcoming events. No products are sold at these events.

- Thrivent has been named one of the **World's Most Ethical Companies** by Ethisphere for ten years in a row! We're proud of our 100+-year history of strength and stability, and we're committed to continuing to provide practical **financial guidance**, investments, insurance, banking, church financing, endowment, and charitable giving solutions.

For more information, visit: <https://www.thrivent.com/> or contact:

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