

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)	The Rev. Carlton Rodgers The Rev. Paul A. Hagedorn	Tabernacle Ev. Lutheran Church Tabernacle Ev. Lutheran Church

CONTACT PERSON:	The Rev. Carlton Rodgers	
ADDRESS:	1103 Rock Creek Drive, Wyncote, PA 19095	
EMAIL ADDRESS:	rodgers1103@comcast.net	
TELEPHONE:	215-880-8579	DATE: 3/29/2022

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 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 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!
--

Resource Impact of Memorials and Resolutions

(Please attach this form to each memorial or resolution submitted)

Whenever we ask the churchwide organization to act, there will be both financial and personnel resource implications in order to carry out the action. Before you submit your memorial or resolution, we ask you to spend some time reflecting on the potential resource impact your request might require. For example, creating a social statement involves a years-long process of study, multiple drafts of a proposed statement, a listening process to allow congregations and individuals to react to drafts, meetings of an advisory panel, editorial development and publication, communication of the process to the various expressions of this church, and staff to coordinate the effort.

We do not expect you to be an expert in process, nor do we ask you to estimate dollar expenditures. Rather, we ask you to consider what might be necessary resource expenditures in order to carry out the action you are requesting.

Memorial Title Fortifying Ministries in Underserved Urban Areas

Anticipated financial implications of memorial if adopted for:

Churchwide Organization: travel expenses, standard task force funding, horizon fu

Synods: travel expenses

Congregations: none

Anticipated staff or personnel implications of memorial if adopted for:

Churchwide Organization: creation of task force, Fund for Leaders, Horizon, TEEM

Synods: SEPA Directors for Evangelical Mission engagement

Congregations: task force engagement as needed/ responding to data gathering tools

**Fortifying Ministries in Underserved Urban Areas
A Resolution to the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod (3A)**

WHEREAS, the Scriptures tell us that God has always had a special concern for the economically deprived (Micah 7:14, Amos 2:6-8; Jeremiah 5:28ff & 22:15ff; Leviticus 23:22; Deuteronomy 15:7-11) and that God's Son, Jesus, embodied such a concern (Matthew 25:31-46);

WHEREAS, the Scriptures tell of the early church having "everything they owned held in common" and "distributed to each as any had need" (Acts 4:32ff);

WHEREAS, St. Paul gathered from the various churches he founded an offering for the struggling church in Jerusalem (Romans 15:25-31; I Corinthians 16:1-6; II Corinthians 9:1-15; Galatians 2:10);

WHEREAS, many congregations across the ELCA strive to carry out our Lord's call to "minister to the least of these" (Matthew 25:31ff);

WHEREAS, the Church is one Body, the Body of Christ, and all members of the Body deserve respect and are needed, and when one member suffers, all suffer together (I Corinthians 12:12-26);

WHEREAS, Luther explains the Seventh Commandment in his Small Catechism that we are not only admonished not to take from our neighbor but "instead help them to improve and protect their property and income";

WHEREAS, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., famously quoted Amos, "Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream";

WHEREAS, the ELCA has approved social statements on the equitable sharing of resources, and furthering diversity and inclusivity, with "Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All" and "Freed In Christ: Race Ethnicity and Culture" and has claimed repentance of its history of racism within the Church;

WHEREAS, there exists within the Church a great inequality of financial support for called clergy, often based upon the affluence of the communities served;

WHEREAS, many urban congregations face painful decisions as they struggle to provide adequate compensation to their rostered leaders and to maintain their facilities;

WHEREAS, the greatest diversity of population is often within our cities, where frequently found are the most economically deprived and marginalized populations;

WHEREAS, many city congregations strive to carry out their ministry in facilities which are in dire condition;

WHEREAS, rostered leaders and lay people, often persons of color or language other than English, strive to maintain these ministries with insufficient financial support, serving marginalized communities unselfishly, and often at personal expense, including inadequate living wages, ultimately leading also to lack of resources in retirement;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod in assembly direct the synod council to immediately create an "Urban Ministry Task Force" to study and develop a strategy to address the inequalities experienced by our urban congregations. And be it further

RESOLVED that such a task force shall consider as part of its strategy (1) evaluating adequate compensation and benefits for urban rostered ministers, (2) examining the condition of urban church facilities, and (3) training future leaders for success in urban ministry contexts by reviving urban internships. The task force may consider additional topics as revealed during their study phase. And be it further

RESOLVED, that the task force be empowered to make proposal requests to the Fund for Mission for the implementation of their strategy, while seeking additional grant funding wherever possible. And be it further

RESOLVED, that the task force may request funding from the ELCA Church Council through the SEPA Synod Council as provided for by "How Strategic and Authentic is Our Diversity: A Call for Confession, Reflection and Healing Action" adopted at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly. And be it further

RESOLVED, that the SEPA Directors for Evangelical Mission submit an application to designate urban congregations in Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod as strategic ministries within the ELCA and oversee the grant funding associated with that program. And be it further

RESOLVED, that an initial report of the Urban Ministry Task Force be included in the Bulletin of Reports for Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod's 2023 assembly.

**Fortifying Ministries in Underserved Urban Areas
A Memorial to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (3B)**

WHEREAS, the Scriptures tell us that God has always had a special concern for the economically deprived (Micah 7:14, Amos 2:6-8; Jeremiah 5:28ff & 22:15ff; Leviticus 23:22; Deuteronomy 15:7-11) and that God's Son, Jesus, embodied such a concern (Matthew 25:31-46);

WHEREAS, there exists within the Church a great inequality of financial support for called clergy, often based upon the affluence of the communities served;

WHEREAS, the Scriptures tell of the early Church having "everything they owned held in common" and "distributed to each as any had need" (Acts 4:32ff); and that St. Paul gathered from the various churches he founded an offering for the struggling church in Jerusalem (Romans 15:25-31; I Corinthians 16:1-6; II Corinthians 9:1-15; Galatians 2:10);

WHEREAS, the Church is one Body, the Body of Christ, and all members of the Body deserve respect and are needed, and when one member suffers, all suffer together (II Corinthians 12:12-26);

WHEREAS, Luther explains the Seventh Commandment in his Small Catechism that we are not only admonished not to take from our neighbor but "instead help them to improve and protect their property and income";

WHEREAS, the ELCA has approved social statements on the equitable sharing of resources, and furthering diversity and inclusivity, with "Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All" and "Freed In Christ: Race Ethnicity and Culture" and has repented of its history of racism within the Church;

WHEREAS, many congregations across the ELCA strive to carry out our Lord's call to "minister to the least of these" (Matthew 25:31ff), many of them face painful decisions as they struggle to provide adequate compensation to their rostered leaders and to maintain their facilities;

WHEREAS, there exists within the Church a great inequality of financial support for called clergy, often based upon the affluence of the communities served;

WHEREAS, the greatest diversity of population is often within our cities and that the city is where frequently are found the most economically deprived and marginalized populations;

WHEREAS, many city congregations strive to carry out their ministry in facilities which are in dire condition;

WHEREAS, rostered leaders and lay people, often persons of color or language other than English, strive to maintain these ministries with insufficient financial support, serving marginalized communities unselfishly, and often at personal expense, including inadequate living wages, ultimately leading also to lack of resources in retirement.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod in assembly memorialize the ELCA to create an "Urban Ministry Task Force" to study the inequalities experienced by urban congregations, build a strategy to address those inequalities, and report on its work to be presented at the next Churchwide Assembly (2025). And be it further

RESOLVED that such a task force shall consider as part of its strategy (1) evaluating whether urban rostered ministers are adequately compensated, (2) examining the condition of urban church facilities, and (3) training future leaders for success in urban ministry contexts by reviving urban internships. The task force may consider additional topics as revealed during their study phase. And be it further

RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod in assembly memorialize "the churchwide organization [to] strategically disburse Fund for Leaders scholarships to enhance the capacity of people of color who are TEEM¹ candidates, non-English speakers, part-time students, or seminary students. [And] provide communities of color with opportunities for student leadership and reinstate the Horizon Internship Program. So that students of color can train in their own communities." ²

¹ Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) is a leadership formation process in the ELCA designed for those who meet established criteria. The TEEM process responds to ministry needs of the ELCA. <https://www.lstc.edu/academics/degrees/teem>

² Recommendation #11 of the recommendations for Theological Education and Leadership found within "How Strategic and Authentic is Our Diversity; A Call for Confession, Reflection and Healing Action," 10.