



Winter March 2022

Acting President's Message

Greetings to all Women of the ELCA in the Southeast PA Synod.

This summer and fall looked much different than I had envisioned. Our board president Phyllis Boyer, who had been debilitated and not able to perform her presidential duties, died on October 13, 2021. During our October board meeting we shared a time of remembering, honoring and mourning Phyllis. Bible focus verses were Romans 8: 37 -39. We know she is blessed to be with the Lord but will miss her knowledge and giving.

Our SE PA Women of the ELCA convention was canceled and is planned for this spring, Saturday June 4, 2022. Our Triennial convention was held virtually on August 3 – 5, 2021. The next Triennial convention and gathering will be held in Phoenix, AZ in September 19 – 21 and 21-24, 2023, respectively.

What has not changed is our board has been meeting, but virtually, May, June, August, October, November, and January. On September 18, 2021, we sponsored an in-person, outdoor gathering with the theme, 'Snack, chat and bring back.' Women of our synod have been at work providing food and meals for the homeless and those in need during the pandemic; meeting together virtually for Bible study; meeting outside to give support to each other; sending emails, calling each other on the telephone; and sending cards to support each other. So many prayers have been lifted-up by all of us.

We appreciate all the many ways you have been connecting with each other.

Now, we Need Your VOICES! As we pivot to a new way of doing things, we need your help to keep the Women of the ELCA mission and ministries moving forward.

How can you help:

- Communicate your ideas to us on how to reconnect with women.
- Support the Women of the ELCA churchwide mission and ministries by sharing them with other women, and financially supporting the organization.
- Volunteer to serve on the board.

To communicate with the Board, email Linda Garcia at jagls@comcast.net Share your programs, the service projects you have been working on, and your ideas for our future.

We thank you for your prayers. We also thank you for your synod and churchwide contributions through offerings and Thankofferings.

We ask for your continued prayers for the board members and the Women of the ELCA organization as we make decisions during this challenging time.

Linda Garcia, Women of the ELCA Synodical Board Acting President
Southeastern PA Synod



One of our Boldest Women
Remembering Phyllis Boyer

Phyllis Darleen Boyer, age 78, of Quakertown, PA passed away on October 13, 2021, at Phoebe Richland Health Care Center in Richlandtown, PA. She was the loving wife to the late Russell Boyer.

She graduated from Cedar Crest College, going back to finish her Bachelor's Degree in her 60's.

Phyllis had many hobbies, some of which included: traveling, historical sightseeing, bus trips, cooking for family, board games, puzzles, and reading.

She was a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Zion Hill. She had an immense love for God and was very involved with the church and choir. Phyllis was very much involved with the Lutheran and Milford Historical Societies. She was extremely active in both the Southeastern PA synodical board from its inception in the 1980's and the Upper Bucks Conference.

Phyllis will be greatly missed and will be remembered for her loving and caring ways, her dedication, hard work, and "her zest for life".

We plan to honor her at the 2022 convention. If you have stories to share, please send them to Linda Garcia at jagls@comcast.net

SEPA Synodical Women Convention Rescheduled June 4, 2022



Although we had to cancel the SEPA Synodical Women 2020 convention, we rescheduled it for June 4, 2022.

The theme will be “Reconnecting with hope for the future”

Bishop Patricia Davenport is still scheduled as a speaker.

It will be held at St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church, Springfield, PA

We need your help to move forward with the work of the Women of the ELCA in the Southeastern PA synod. We need women who are willing to serve in many ways. Our Board needs new members as the current members have served 4 years. However, because of COVID, constitutional changes were made by the voting members at the 11th Triennial convention in August 2021 to allow some of the board members to serve an additional term. So, while we do not need to replace the whole board, we do need new members, and we do need to replace our treasurer.

What do you need to be a Board member?

- Attend meetings approximately 6 times a year. We are currently meeting virtually using zoom meetings, so you do not even have to leave your home.
- A love for the mission of the Women of the ELCA.
- Willingness to work with others.

Snack, Chat, and Bring Back

A small but friendly group of Women of the ELCA SE PA SWO members met under the Tent at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lansdale for some fun and fellowship on Saturday, September 18th, 2021. We wore our masks and kept our distance; but still had plenty of talking, sharing, and singing. Most of us had not met during the summer but were planning to restart regular meetings in the fall. We collected paper towels for the local food bank. We also collected \$232.00 to send to churchwide.

Information about SEPA Synod WELCA Facebook page

Continue to access our Facebook page. You can find us at www.facebook.com/sepaWELCA or blogging into your Facebook account and searching for @sepawelca

We encourage churches, units, and groups to tag us as well with #sepawelca

Our churches, using their own church Facebook page accounts, should share and like the page, as well as individuals. If units/groups/conferences would like to share an event, they can do it through Facebook by making us a "co-host" or by emailing us the information to create a Facebook event. Please email all details to SWOsepaWELCA@gmail.com

Churchwide concerns

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES DURING THE 11TH TRIENNIAL CONVENTION, AUGUST 3 – 5, 2021

The convention approved updates to the organization's constitutions and bylaws. Highlights include:

- Participating in a congregational unit is encouraged but no longer required for leadership in either the synodical or churchwide expressions of Women of the ELCA; however, voting membership in an ELCA congregation is required.
- Reducing the number of churchwide executive board members from 21 to 15, including the four officers.
- Creating more flexibility for synodical women's organization boards: The board may number "3 or more" without requiring approval from the churchwide executive board to change the number of SWO board members.
- Allowing two members of the same congregational unit to serve as leaders of a SWO; one as an officer and the other as a board member.
- Offering more flexibility in SWO leaders' titles: leaders may be called presidents and vice-presidents, chairs or co-chairs, conveners or co-conveners, or coordinators.

The constitution had not originally provided for digital conventions. Voting members from the Tenth Triennial Convention (2017) were called into action and, in a mail-in ballot, approved a constitutional amendment to hold conventions remotely or virtually, provided participants are sufficient to constitute a quorum, thus paving the way for the historic first digital convention of Women of the ELCA.

Voting members adopted several memorials that included:

- continuing to fight human trafficking
- continuing to support solar energy in Liberia
- supporting and participating in Thursdays in Black
- encouraging the practice of using reusable bags

- encouraging immigration reform
- engaging in education against school violence and mass shootings
- focusing on unjust treatment of women and girls by providing education and prayers for those who have been victimized and giving voice and support to those who willingly acknowledge such treatment by saying #METOO.

Women of the ELCA Executive Board meeting report from October 23, 2021

- Decrease in regular offerings, increase in other offerings
- Feasibility study for capital campaign fundraising: board has specialty meeting on Nov 7 to review recommendations of study. Results: \$1 million campaign to support Katharina von Bora Luther Endowment fund that supports leadership development, global connections, and living theology.
- Staff to implement anti-racist three strategic objectives (adopted June 23, 2021, executive board meeting). These are anti-racism awareness-raising, accompaniment, and advocacy.
- Planning on changes for future, survey sent (October 2021) to sampling of churchwide and synodical women's leaders and some Facebook followers. Survey: Women were asked about their usage of Women of the ELCA resources and publications (for example: *welca.org*, *Gather* magazine, *Daily Grace* devotions, *Bold Café*), where they were participating, how the pandemic impacted their unit's ministries, how the organization could better provide them with resources and more. **“In 2022 the organization will celebrate 35 years since its constituting convention“**
- Bushkofsky said those who participated in the first survey were most interested in getting more women involved and building stronger communication between the synodical women's organization and the unit. They also embraced digital technology as a ministry tool.
- Use of current and develop more Spanish-language resources

Check the upcoming churchwide events on www.womenoftheelca.org/events

Churchwide Publications

Interchange and *Intercambio* have stopped publishing. Keep up to date with churchwide news by signing up for **Bold Connections**. It is free. Go to the www.womenoftheelca.org/publications to sign up.

Gather, the magazine of Women of the ELCA, web site, www.gathermagazine.org offers a Bible study and a mix of articles, theological reflections, devotions and stories of comfort and challenge that help readers grow in faith and engage in ministry and action. For more information, go to the website or to subscribe by phone, call 1-844-409-0576.

Boldcafe (boldcafe.org)

Café, an on-line magazine, shares stories written by bold young women who write about faith, relationships, advocacy and more. Readers and writers of *Café* include pastors, seminary and college students, and other young adult women who use *Café* as a Bible study resource individually or with a group.

Although many women in their 20s and 30s contribute in every issue, *Café* can be used and shared by women of all ages.

Officers & Board Members

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