

2023 Bishop's Synod Assembly Report

"Do not be conformed to this world, but *be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.*"

Romans 12:2

*Simply living Christian spirituality in 2023 +
(+Loving God +Loving Self + Loving and Serving Others)*

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:18. Thank you for your physical, financial, and spiritual support. We know that it is only by the prayers and actions of each of you that we are able to fulfill our fiduciary responsibilities and maintain the high standard of leadership. I must confess, in assessing the year in review, it has been interesting to see how the Holy Spirit faithfully guided us in managing orderly chaos, the chaos of moving our mission and ministry forward in this lingering pandemic fog.

In these times we have given special attention to assisting Rostered Ministers, staff, and our congregants to be transformers, as we move through the lingering desire to return to the way things were. The challenging questions of ministry in daily life continue: How have the saints in the Lutheran tribe of the Jesus movement, maneuvered through mass shootings, gun violence, inflation, food insecurity, and the ongoing effects of climate change happening in our midst? How have we avoided conforming to a world spiraling out of control with isms, namely, systemic racism, which bolsters white supremacy? This fog is a challenge, as people want to hold to the status quo of returning to things pre-pandemic while need necessitates change. Our task was and is to help us all be transformers for Christ, realizing the only constant we have is change. Beloved, praise God, we receive new mercies every day on purpose for a purpose, to love the Lord our God, love ourselves, and love and serve our neighbors.

Synodically, our overall purpose has been to offer care, keeping people safe, lowering anxieties, and offering encouragement because there is no returning to the way things were, we continue discerning God's will, doing what is good and acceptable for today. New relaxed mandates for worship caused concern for members, wear a mask, no mask, or go mask optional offering the assurance of no judgment for whichever way you desire to protect yourself. We know our pews will no longer be filled and it's okay, we have learned gratitude for God expanding our reach through a digital platform. We have a new appreciation for digital evangelism, we share the gospel in sacred cyber space, in our congregations, and communities of faith. We learned the generosity of our members is attached to ministry, not only a church building.

Our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as well as other mainline denominations are experiencing a shortage of pastors and deacons, our staff has managed to walk with congregations in transition by providing interims, bridge, and supply pastors. We have reached out to our *Enthusiastic Learners Delightfully Enjoying Retired Status* (E.L.D.E.R.S. [retired pastors and spouses]). Our lay preachers have been an additional blessing, especially given the

additional stress on our Rostered Ministers. We are currently working on a pilot program for synodically authorized ministers to bolster our support for congregations in transition.

Amid the renewed cry of, young families, young adults, teens, and children to enter our church buildings we are engaging differently. This year has created space for new venues to share God's message of love, grace, mercy, and service as found in the examples of Jesus Christ throughout scripture bringing youths into relationship before the building. We are continually finding ways to inform, educate, and inspire all people to be transformed, to lead with the mind of Christ, in ways that will build up the kingdom of God to be the beloved community in this lingering fog.

*“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interest of others.”
Philippians 2:3-4*

Giving Thanks for Our Kingdom Building Synodical Ministry and Mission

We are so grateful for the selfless service of our committed Office of the Bishop Staff. This team has learned to work smarter together to assure that the needs of our Rostered Ministers, Congregational Members, Congregations in Transition and Candidacy Candidates get the personal attention needed on their individual journeys. We are blessed to have an impressive group of Spiritual Transformers that accompany me in this Kingdom building work in the following ways:

Database Manager and Communications Assistant, Mrs. Cynta Outterbridge is a familiar face to those who have attended SEPA Synod Assembly, Stewardship, and Rostered Ministers Equipping Events. Her expertise in data collection and records management is an invaluable asset to the synod, as she meticulously tracks the participation of our Rostered Ministers in Healthy Boundaries Training in addition to the other events. Ms. Outterbridge explains, “My responsibilities continue to encompass a wide range of tasks, including maintaining our synod database, aligning our information with the ELCA Churchwide system, and collaborating with the ELCA Office of the Secretary. I also ensure the accuracy of our synod's parochial report data. Along with our Director of Operations, I assist with roster matters, keeping track of the anniversaries of rostered ministers and congregations, and maintaining contact information for congregation council officers. Serving as our in-house Blackbaud System Consultant, I oversee the software that helps us track synodical information, analytics, financial gifts, and grants. Working in close collaboration with our Senior Accountant, I also assist with financial reports. Additionally, I support our Assistant to the Bishop for Communications – Mission Interpretation by updating our Synod Website and compiling the bi-weekly SEPANews email and filming content for our social media platforms.”

Senior Accountant, Martin Schwab is responsible for recording all deposits, processing accounts payable checks, reconciling bank and investment accounts, preparing monthly financial reports and processing payroll. In January he sends out W2s, 1099s and year end donor statements. Every March he works with an audit firm to complete the annual audited financial statements. He worked with staff and completed the 2023 forecast and 2024 budget for the

Treasurer and Finance Committee to approve. He also manages properties and cemeteries of closed congregations. He works closely with the Director of Operations, Treasurer of the Synod and chairs of the Finance Committee, Investment Committee and Audit Committee. Martin would like to thank everyone for their Mission Support contributions.

Directors of Evangelical Mission – Rev. Dr. Moses Suah-Dennis and Rev. Bryan Penman

Directors of Evangelical Mission:

1. - *Relate and communicate CCL and other churchwide message and resources to other synod staff, Committee of Deans, Rostered leaders and congregations*
2. - Work with the Synod's Vitality Team
3. - Develop, train, and **resource** Mission Developers to serve our New Starts, Developing, Strategic and Anchor Congregations
4. - Identify and apply for grants for New Ministry Starts, Strategic Ministries, Ministry Explorations, Holy Innovation programs, and Synod Vitality Programs.
5. - Help deepen the missional leadership of our Rostered Leaders
6. - Equip our Lay Leaders to lead vital and vibrant congregations
7. - Assist the Fund for Mission Trustees consider various missional opportunities
8. - Provide resources for Mission Interpretation as we work to tell the story of what God is doing through us
9. - Partner with the Conference Deans to know what is happening in our congregations and communities
10. - Serve as a resource for missional planning for our Synod Council
11. - Provide consulting services for congregations in our synod
12. - Work with our Interim ministers to assist and assess congregations in transition
13. - Develop training resources and connect congregations to various learning opportunities
14. - Serve as advisor for Urban Ministry Task Force

Assistant to the Bishop for Vocations and Leadership / Mission Advancement – Pastor

Sease continues to support the discernment of those who are exploring a possible call to rostered ministry in the ELCA with 11 inquiry conversations and assisting the Candidacy Committee with 1 entrance decision interview, 2 endorsement interviews, and 2 approval interviews. Her work with the administrative functions of mobility assists the Committee of Deans with the call process. With the help of the First Call Planning Team and their chair Pastor Tim Ness, Pastor Sease coordinated the first in-person gathering since 2019 of first call leaders who are in their first three years of serving in the ELCA. She continues raising funds to support the SEPA mission through the annual All Saints campaign and other appeals.

Assistant to the Bishop for Youth and Young Adult Discipleship Report – Rev. Stacey-Kyle

Rea reports, SEPA Youth is growing back from the pandemic. In the fall, SEPA Youth held a backpack blessing by Bishop Davenport to welcome students back to school. As the fall progressed, we needed to pivot with the current trend: families with children and youth were slowly returning to worship and church activities. Pastor Rea and SEPA Youth joined with the Box City planning team, holding a spring conference youth event. It was a Spirit-led event, helping to raise money for the Beacon of Hope warming shelter in Pottstown, PA. Special thanks to Janet Hilsmier and the people of St. James, Limerick for hosting. Another great planning team came together to create the Tuscarora Retreat. It was a joy to see young people

together in worship and small groups on this weekend retreat. Many thanks to Kelsey Tomlinson and the rest of the planning team.

We are planning more conference youth events to help churches gather in a larger group together. A great example of what can happen when you work together is the West Chester Youth Collab. Several churches in West Chester gather their youth together once a month, alternating meeting places. Many thanks to Pastor Chris Franz and Interim Youth Director Jeff Kelty for your leadership. Look for SEPA Youth conference events in your area. We appreciate our youth leaders in SEPA Synod!

We are grateful for 11 SEPA Youth leaders who participated in this year's ELCA Youth Ministry Extravaganza. We encourage all youth leaders to participate in the 2024 ELCA Youth Ministry Extravaganza, January 18-21, 2024 in New Orleans. It's a great way to gather with colleagues, share ideas and check out the city for the ELCA Youth Gathering in July.

You can help SEPA Youth in many ways.

1. May 20 at 4pm – organize a trip to Lutheran Night at the Phillies. We would love to see record numbers of Lutherans in the stands after our COVID hiatus.
2. Call a young person you haven't seen in a while. Write them a note. Invite them to join a team, help in worship, be part of an event. One on one conversations are really important right now.
3. Donate to our Youth Scholarship Fund, to help youth experience Jesus

We have great opportunities for youth and young adults coming up in 2023/24

4. This summer, SEPA Youth will be sending 2 teams of youth/young adults, along with adult leaders to experience the Appalachia Service Project from July 1-8. Other churches in the area are sending teams on different weeks. Contact Pastor Rea if you are interested in finding a team.
5. We would like to start an ELCA Gather community in Philadelphia. Gather is a community of young adults created by young adults. Pastor Meagan Esterby from University Lutheran, Pastor Skyle Rea and Pastor Bryan Penman from synod staff would love to hear from young adults who would like to discern what this community could look like.
6. ELCA Youth Gathering AND ELCA Young Adult Gathering 2024 in New Orleans, LA – please let young adults (18-35yo) know that this is the first young adult gathering, and it will coincide with the ELCA Youth Gathering. Our Gathering Synod Champion is Kelsey Tomlinson. sepagsc@gmail.com

Directory of Operations and Executive Assistant to the Bishop – Mrs. Yvonne Curtis. In this position Ms. Curtis manages daily office operations and serves as our office human resource administrator with grace. She is your link to the Bishop, Synod Council, and the Executive Committee of Synod Council. If you have ever been part of a call process - either as a congregation or rostered leader - Ms. Curtis has been an invaluable member of your team.

Ms. Curtis reports: "I am honored to be called to this ministry of administration. I have the responsibility for constitutional administrative requirements in the Office of the Bishop. Working with congregations and rostered leaders include helping congregations schedule congregational meetings to call rostered ministers led by synodical deputies, coordinate with other synods throughout the ELCA transferring rostered leaders to and from SEPA Synod to reflect call

changes. When a rostered minister is planning retirement, I process retirement paperwork with Portico. Working closely with the Vice President and Secretary of SEPA Synod, Committee of Deans, and the Bishop's Advisor for Fitness for Ministry is a rewarding experience, along with collaborating with the ELCA Office of the Secretary, to process roster actions for the Report of the Secretary to SEPA Synod Assembly."

Committee of Deans; **Rev. Regina Goodrich**, Central Philadelphia; **Rev. Chris Franz**, Chester; **Rev. Jenn Casey**, Delaware; **Rev. Dr. Norbert Hahn**, Lower Bucks; **Rev. Sarah Aasheim**, Lower Montgomery; **Rev. Joey Klinger**, Northeast/Northwest Philadelphia (elected March 28, 2023 former dean Rev. Jane Marston); **Rev. Erika Wesch**, Upper Bucks; **Rev. Chris McKinstry**, Upper Montgomery; **Rev. Wayne Shelor**, Interim Ministry Director; and **Rev. Marcia Bell**, serves as the *Director of Mobility and the chair of the Committee of Deans*. Pastor Bell notes, "In these roles, I work closely with the Bishop, members of her staff, the Director of Interim Ministry, and the Conference Deans. As a team, we facilitate the process of finding rostered leader candidates for congregations and congregations for candidates interested in a call in SEPA. This involves reviewing Rostered Ministers Profiles and congregational Ministry Site Profiles, making recommendations to the Committee of Deans, and following up with candidates and congregations. It is a joy to see the Holy Spirit at work in our mobility process. I am grateful for all who share their gifts to enhance the mobility of rostered leaders in our Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod."

We are privileged to have on our team, **Rev. Dr. Dolores Littleton** as the *Bishop's Advisor for Fitness for Ministry*. Dr. Littleton sits with me in consultations with Rostered Ministers and/or congregations dealing with concerns or issues that disrupt ministry. In addition, Dr. Littleton leads our annual Healthy Boundaries Training.

Also serving on our team is **Rev. Percy Butiku**, *Interim Assistant for Global Vision*. Pastor Butiku writes: "With Bishop Davenport's permission, I continue communications with the Bishop of ELCT - North Eastern Diocese of Tanzania, Rev. Dr. Msafiri Joseph Mbilu. The North Eastern Diocese of Tanzania is SEPA Synod's Companion Synod. On October 22, 2023, I traveled to Tanzania to meet with Bishop Mbilu who explained how they have worked hard on their financial situation and some of their ministries have been revitalized. He is looking forward to strengthening this companion relationship with SEPA Synod.

My duties include interpreting and advising Bishop Davenport on what I think is needed to understand more about the cultural issues that come with the companion relationship. I am originally from Tanzania. I am ready and able to help the Synod strengthen this companion relationship so that brothers and sisters of both synod and diocese can continue to hold each other in prayers and more.

Rev. Paul Jann serves as the *Bishop's Deputy for Holy Closure*, Holy Closure is the process of walking with a congregation when they begin to think about selling their church building and/or dissolving their ministry as a congregation. It is a process of looking back at the history of their mission at that site and looking to future that which is in God's hands. This is an emotional process. Much like grieving the loss of a loved one. Ultimately, the process allows the people and congregation to say "good-bye" to their beloved church building. This process is a delicate

balance of patience, understanding, and love of God's people. There is no timeline in this process because each church is unique.

Rev. Patricia A. Davenport, as your Bishop I have shown up representing Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod on your behalf. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to artfully move to in person worship, meetings, and celebrations across our five-county area. Our team has been able to accompany nearly 300 Rostered Minister through this lingering pandemic fog. We continue working with our now 141 congregations and communities of faith in our five-county area to be in the world but not of the world. We continually encourage everyone to be transformers, renewed by the word of God to do the will of God. Transformers in the name of Jesus, making a difference in our families, in our workplaces, with our friends and in our communities exhibiting what it means to be a member of the Beloved Community of God. Please note below our year in review illustrating how we have shown up as a transformer, blessed by making a difference for the good of others.

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Bishop's Report Virtual Synod Council Meeting June 16, 2022

“And I heard a voice from heaven saying, ‘Write this: Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord.’ ‘Yes,’ says the Spirit, ‘they will rest from their labours, for their deeds follow them.’” Revelation 14:13

In Memoriam

I write this report with a heavy heart, saddened by the sudden death of Pastor Susan Lynch, beloved pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Coatesville.

The Reverend Susan P. Lynch of Coatesville, PA, passed away peacefully on May 27th. Born in Durango Colorado, she resided in Coatesville since 2013. Susan was raised in Fort Lupton, Colorado; and was the daughter of the late Thomas C. and Evelyn S. Lynch (nee Jansen) of Colorado. She enjoyed family vacations in Door County Wisconsin.

She attended the University of Colorado, Boulder. She was a 1989 graduate of the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley with a degree in Vocal Performance, and a 1996 graduate of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkely CA with a Master's of Divinity. Susan was ordained a Pastor by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in 1997. During her 25 years as a Pastor; she served at God's Love Lutheran Church in Newtown PA, New Hanover Lutheran Church, Gilbertsville, PA, Messiah Lutheran Church, Williamsport, PA, St. John's Lutheran Church in Sumneytown and Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Coatesville, PA.

Prior to attending seminary, Susan was an Opera singer. Singing was her joy. Music was important throughout her life. Susan had a love of all things beautiful but was just as

comfortable in cowgirl boots and jeans riding horseback as she was in a ballgown singing on stage.

She loved animals, nature, flowers and gardening. Her happy place to walk, and enjoy the world was Longwood Gardens. Susan was an avid knitter, making beautiful items of clothing for friends, afghans and shawls. Growing up in Colorado gave her a lifelong passion for the outdoors. She could be found running the hills of Coatesville, kayaking, and hiking. If there was a challenge to be faced, she would nail it with grace and panache.

Perspicacious and persnickety, Susan was tenaciously curious leading her to in depth research in all areas of her life facilitating her successes in music, her health, and her vocation. One of her best qualities was the depth of her ability to love, as was most evident in the care for her godchildren, her family, her friends, and the congregations she served.

Susan is survived by her cats, Cliona(Cleo) and Minerva(Minnie), her godchildren, Erik and Eva Ollikainen, her sister, Nancy Lynch of Colorado, her best friends Rev. Dr. Jennifer Phelps (Greg Pershyn) of Stroudsburg PA, Alison Richardson Nelson, Centennial Colorado and Rev. David Oppold (Dennis Cheega) of Swedesboro, NJ.

A Memorial Service will take place 3 PM on Saturday, June 25, 2022 at The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 107 S. 17th Avenue, Coatesville, 19320. In lieu of flowers donations to the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd or ELCA World Hunger would be greatly appreciated.

Please hold Susan's family, friends, members of Good Shepherd and colleagues in your prayers, thank you.

Newly elected to Synod Council

Join me in welcoming those newly elected to Synod Council: Pastor Marie Sager, St. Timothy's - Aston; Ms. Dorothy Wilson, Faith - Philadelphia; and Mrs. Abee L. Tabolo – Faith Immanuel – Lansdowne. We are blessed to have them join in this Kingdom building work of being the Beloved community of God. Let us celebrate Pastor Gwendolyn King's re-election.

SEPA Synod Assembly

We are grateful to say on April 30, 2022, we held the Thirty-fourth Annual Assembly on a digital platform with the assistance of an amazing Technology Team lead by Pr. Bob Fisher, Mr. Ken Selinger, members of Christ Lutheran Church in Orelan and members of the Thursday Communicators Team, supported by VPoll who handled our voting process. We are happy to announce that with 220 registered voting members and a quorum of 160, the business of Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod was successfully accomplished. We began our day with a great opening worship with diverse leadership, and wonderful music, which set the atmosphere for our assembly to flow smoothly. Deep appreciation for the staff and members of Christ, Orelan for hosting our assembly, their hospitality was awesome!

We hosted a ***Synod Assembly Service Day*** as a precursor to our gathering the week before assembly, which was well attended, we held various service projects across the five-county area. Please visit <https://ministrylink.org/assembly-day-of-service-2022/> to see the highlights.

Join me in appreciating Mrs. Carrie Schwab, Synod Assembly Coordinator, for her leadership and coordination of our Synod Assembly and Synod Assembly Service Day.

A hybrid ***Chrism Service*** was held at the Schaeffer-Ashmead Memorial Chapel on the United Lutheran Seminary campus. We were able to invite a few Rostered Ministers (pastors, deacons, and deaconesses) to gather in person. Great to have our staff participate in worship sharing the gift of music, assisting with the readings, technology and logistics.

Interim Ministers Meetings, at this year's annual meeting under the new leadership of Pr. Wayne Shelor, interesting discussion ensued about how we can do more with less staff. It was good to hear some of the joys, challenges, and innovative ideas of interim ministry. Ministry in motion, these leaders are constantly moving with our congregations in transition, we are blessed to have skilled interims in our synod.

Lutheran Settlement House fundraiser was a great opportunity to mix and mingle with our rostered ministers and lay leaders who have experienced and support the work of the Settlement House.

We were invited to ***Gemma Services*** (formerly Martin Luther Silver Spring) Fund Raiser. Gemma Services continues to do excellent work accompanying youth and young adults on their journey through their trauma/life challenges.

Synodical ***Women of the ELCA Convention*** was held after two years, in person at St. Matthew's in Springfield, PA. Special thanks to Pr. Karl Richard for a wonderful devotion to set the tone for our time together based on Isaiah 40:31, "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint." The theme was "Reconnecting with Hope for the Future." It was a hybrid, that afforded those in person to experience a lunch of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches like those provided by Bread Drop to those unhoused or experiencing homelessness. Also, Pr. Little and Pr. Steinnagel gave a presentation on their continuing mission and ministry.

Two-day ***Committee Deans' Retreat*** at ULS, with President Guy Erwin preaching, what a gift and a blessing. With a large number of our congregations still in transition, it was good to be in retreat, giving us an opportunity to worship together in person before delving into our committee work.

Bear Creek Camp Commissioning Service, what a joy to commission this new group of young leaders as summer counselors. Pr. Rea lead a great discussion on Lutheranism 101, the counselors where really engaged in conversation, asking curious questions for their journey.

A *Community Prayers for Peace in Ukraine* service was held at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Somerton in collaboration St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Feasterville and members of the Ukrainian community. The service was to raise funds to assist a staff member of St. Stephen's help 18 members of his extended family who have fled Odessa, Ukraine, to settle in our area. I was happy to offer greetings and reflections to this Spirit-filled group.

New offices, we have officially moved into the Brossman Center, my office is room 313 yes, I have an open-door policy.

ELCA

“Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son.”
Acts 20:28

Conference of Bishops (COB)

Conference of Bishops are now meeting bi-weekly for information, support and encouragement. *Conference of Bishops Executive Team* continues to meet dealing with the ongoing saga of Sierra Pacific Synod.

Region 7 Bishops continue weekly meetings of support, information and encouragement.

Lutheran Theological Center in Atlanta (LTCA) Advisory Committee. We continue our work of strategic planning for equipping leaders in this ecumenical setting to serve the church and world.

Ecumenism

“No longer will violence be heard in your land, nor ruin or destruction within your borders, but you will call your walls Salvation and your gates Praise.”
Isaiah 60:18

The *Presbytery of Philadelphia* held its Stated Meeting at Lower Providence Presbyterian Church. Invited by Presbyter Ruth Santana Grace to attend, I was blessed to preach at worship encouraging all to embody God's word and be courageous witnesses to the resurrection. I was joined by the Revs. Violet Little and Schaunel Steinnagel of The Welcome Church who presented their ministry initiatives during the Dream Tank Presentation: Glimpses Into Creative Ministries.

Religious Leaders Council (RLC)

On June 9th, The *Religious Leaders Council of Greater Philadelphia* and Heeding God's Call, in light of the ongoing rash of shootings in Philadelphia united for a service honoring those killed, consecrating the site of a recent murder and calling for action. We were blessed to have a good number of our Lutheran tribe present with our religious community united to say no to the

free flow of guns in our streets, and the blatant disregard for life. Click link to access flyer https://www.interfaithphiladelphia.org/_files/ugd/ecd551_3332e8bdc2c34fb181abc9c90a6bbc9b.pdf

Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity hosted a breakfast at Mt. Airy Church of God in Christ to present plaques to all of the honorees of the virtual Shero celebration. Again, I was honored to be recognized for the work we do here in SEPA Synod.

Give honor to whom honor is due, we were able to *celebrate the valuable ministry of Ms. Curtis* in the Church of God in Christ on May 7th at the Valley Forge Resort. It was a joy to show up to honor Ms. Curtis, the surprise was she did not have to make the arrangements for her ten guests.

ACTIONS ON THE ROSTER

Renewal of Invitation to UMC Minister to Serve ELCA Congregation in SEPA Synod

A minister of Word and Sacrament of a full communion partner church may be invited by the synod bishop to serve as pastor of an ELCA congregation, under contract with the congregation, for an extended period. Upon the recommendation of the synod bishop and approval by Synod Council, the synod bishop authorizes an extended service to ministry. With such authorization the minister of Word and Sacrament enters service in the ELCA through the entry rite, "Invitation to Extended Service," which acknowledges the service of the minister of Word and Sacrament as pastor in a congregation or ministry of the ELCA.

At the request of the congregation council of St. Paul's (Doylestown), I recommend the **Rev. Brendan Galvin**, a minister in good standing with the United Methodist Church (UMC), to the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council for entry rite renewal, Invitation to Extended Service, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Doylestown, PA beginning July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, to serve as pastor of youth and parish ministries. This call requires an annual report to the synodical bishop for the length of this call. Extended service is renewable annually by Synod Council.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council approve entry rite renewal, Invitation to Extended Service, for the **Rev. Brendan Galvin** at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Doylestown, PA beginning July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. This invitation is renewable annually by Synod Council.

On Leave from Call Request

Rev. Timothy Ness 1st year effective January 1, 2022

Rev. Janet Peterman 2nd year effective June 18, 2022

Rev. Susan Lang 1st year effective June 20, 2022

Requests to Move to Retired Roster

Rev. DeBorah A. Glod effective April 1, 2022

Deacon Karen S. Matthias-Long effective July 1, 2022

Rev. Wayne A. Matthias-Long effective July 1, 2022

Rev. Deborah A. Wolfe effective September 1, 2022

Removed from the Roster

Ms. Suzanne Rigg effective June 1, 2022

Death

The Rev. Carol Ann Steinhart – April 19, 2022

The Rev. Susan P. Lynch – May 27, 2022

Bishop's Activities

Ordinations: 1

Installations: 1

Worship Services: In-person: 9 on-line: 1

Celebrations: In-person: 3 (video or zoom): 0

Synod Meetings: 5

Individual Meetings with Staff: Zoom: 7

Rostered Leaders: Zoom: 3 Telephone calls: 28 In person: 2

Lay Leaders: In person: 2 Telephone calls: 7 Zoom: 3

Full Staff Meetings: 3 Staff Telephone calls: 59 In person: 3

Deans Meetings: 3

ELCA

- Region 7 Bishops Zoom: 8
- Stewardship of Life Institute Board: 1
- Conference Of Bishops (COB): 4 Formal: 2
- COB Exec. Committee: 4 ELCA Telephone calls: 18
- COB Ad Hoc Relational Agreement Team: 2
- Deaconess Community Board: 1 Executive Committee: 1
- Muhlenberg College Board: 0 Student Life Committee: 0
- Churchwide Staff: Zoom: 0 Telephone calls: 2 In person: 0

Ecumenical/Interfaith Meetings: 3 Zoom: 2 Telephone calls: 3

Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity: 1 Nominating Committee: 0
Confidential Meetings/Investigations: Zoom: 1 Telephone Calls: 1 In-person: 2
Hospital/Sick/Pastoral Contacts: 21
Funerals/Memorials: 3
Days Off: 12
Medical Days: 0
Vacation Days: 0

The Rev. Patricia A. Davenport, Bishop

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Bishop's Report Virtual Synod Council Meeting September 22, 2022

*“Everyone, then, who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall because it had been founded on rock.”
Matthew 7:24-25*

We continue to hold each Synod Council members, our Rostered Ministers, and congregational leaders and members in prayer as we continue to maneuver these ongoing pandemics. It continues to be a traumatic time for many, but we have resolved that we will stay the course, keeping our focus in SEPA Synod on Jesus, the great commandment, and the great commission. We have had many distractions in society and in our church, but thanks be to God who has given us the victory, we keep moving forward in mission!

An ongoing note of thanks to our Synod Council Executive Committee for their stellar job of steering us in the right direction. Also, to our Synod Staff who continue serving above and beyond the call of duty as we maintain our high standards in this new abnormal of living with multiple pandemics. Join me in welcoming Pastor Bob Fisher back from sabbatical. This week Pastor Karen Sease is scheduled to begin parental leave.

SEPA Synod

*“Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law, they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.”
Psalms 1:1-3*

Concern for and with our **Roster Ministers** diligently serving in these difficult almost post pandemic times remains a high priority. Many lives were forever changed by these

pandemics. Please visit the link below to help you better understand the quandary of how to support, accompany and assist in ministry.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/28/opinion/pastor-burnout-pandemic.html?smid=url-share>

Our Staff Retreat (September 6-7, 2022) led by Deacon Tammy Devine and Pr. Brenda Smith gave some solace and information on how we might better educate and equip ourselves to model leadership from within our positions.

Back to School Blessing (September 18, 2022) for all, it was great to have an opportunity to engage in conversation with some of our awesome, intelligent, articulate, well-mannered, and fun young people. Many thanks to Pr. Skyle Rea and her team for our scavenger hunt, games, and goodies.

Evangelical Lutheran Church America (ELCA)

ELCA Churchwide Assembly held in Columbus, Ohio

We were blessed to have our full complement of voting members attend the CWA given we had several cancellations, but God provided other great lay and rostered leaders for this important gathering. Our synod is allotted 16 voting members, and from that number 9 presently sit on Synod Council, and 4 are Executive Committee members.

SEPA Voting Member

Bishop Davenport

Ms. Veronica Britto – St. Peter’s Philadelphia

Rev. Lauren Bruno – St. John’s Ridge Valley

Rev. Julie DeWerth – Good Shepherd, King of Prussia

Mr. Bert Glen, St. John, Melrose Park

Rev. Regina Goodrich, Mediator, Philadelphia

Rev. Gwendolyn King, Trinity, Havertown

Ms. Doreen Kinzler, St. John’s Mayfair

Rev. Joseph Klinger, Redemption, Philadelphia

Mr. Ernest Knowlden, Faith-Immanuel

Ms. Cynthia London, St. Mark’s Philadelphia

Mr. Matthew Lovett, Mediator, Philadelphia

Ms. Elizabeth Stewart, Reformation, Mt. Airy

Mr. Henry Strobel, Trinity, Lansdale

Mr. Damar Wilson, Reformation, Mt. Airy

Ms. Sandra Zimmermann, St. John, Phoenixville

Vice President Beasley as an ELCA Church Council member is automatically a voting member to Churchwide Assembly. As you know Vice President Beasley allowed her name to go forward

for the election of ELCA Vice President. During the assembly from start to completion Vice President Beasley represented SEPA Synod well. We are blessed to have her serve our synod in various ways. She is known and respected across the ELCA.

Below are links for easy access to CWA Summary.

2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Summary

The 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly convened in Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 8-12, at the [Greater Columbus Convention Center](#). Gathering under the theme, Embody the Word, voting members participated in plenaries and worship while acting on key legislative business and hearing reports on the work of the church. Imran Siddiqui was elected to a six-year term as Vice President, the highest position a lay person can hold in the ELCA. Bishop Eaton led the assembly in a [public apology](#) to Iglesia Luterana Santa Maria Peregrina, Stockton, Calif. The assembly also received a presentation on the “[Declaration of the ELCA to American Indian and Alaska Native People](#)” adopted by the ELCA Church Council last September. Voting members acted on memorials related to the restructure of the governance of the church, called for reconsideration of the social statement, “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust,” and encouraged deeper engagement with Indigenous partners through the [Land Back movement](#). You can find all the actions of the 2022 Churchwide Assembly in the [Legislative Update](#).

Media Highlights from the Assembly

- Read [daily summaries of assembly actions](#) from Living Lutheran.
- Religion News Service shares [5 things you need to know from the ELCA Churchwide Assembly](#).
- View [photographs](#) from the event.
- View the Churchwide Assembly [YouTube playlist](#).

Conference of Bishops (COB)

We continue to meet bi-weekly. An Ad Hoc Team was formed to revise our COB Relational Agreement, a document that dictates how we work together for the good of the whole church. It will be presented at our COB meeting September 28-October 1 for discussion and prayerfully approval.

Region 7 Bishops

Weekly meetings continue to offer support, information and encouragement as we deal with the effects of the pandemic. [We meet monthly with Pr. Becky Resch, Candidacy and Leadership Manager, Regions 7 & 8 to discuss First Call Candidates available for upcoming calls in Region 7.](#)

Ecumenism

“No longer will violence be heard in your land, nor ruin or destruction within your borders, but you will call your walls Salvation and your gates Praise.” Isaiah 60:18

Religious Leaders Council (RLC)

This month our RLC resumed our meetings on a digital platform, we learned that as much as we love meeting in person regularly, it is more time efficient to meet on a digital platform. I have attached two article links that are the crux of our concerns. All our interfaith partners are experiencing a decline in members returning to the buildings. Deep discussion on how we lower pastoral expectations on members returning and how to work on increasing the number of volunteers to handle the basics of moving ministry forward.

<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2022/03/22/more-houses-of-worship-are-returning-to-normal-operations-but-in-person-attendance-is-unchanged-since-fall/>

<https://catholicphilly.com/2022/05/news/local-news/drop-in-mass-attendance-strong-cultural-diversity-seen/>

Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity

A number of in person events have been held over the last few months; however, my schedule would not permit me to attend, I am grateful that Dr. Suah Dennis has been able to represent SEPA Synod. Our joint efforts continue on stopping gun violence, getting the vote out, addressing poverty, and inequities in resources distributed in the 5-County area. The undergirding effort of building relationships and creating collaborations/partnership to accomplish our work is our strong foci.

ACTIONS ON THE ROSTER

Request to move from Active Roster to Retired Roster

Recently the Office of the Bishop followed up on the health status of **Pastor Arlene Greenwald**. In this conversation she indicated being retired since April 21, 2021. Unfortunately, there was no record of this retirement on file. All sponsored Rostered Ministers in Portico are required to process retirement paperwork from Portico through the Office of the Bishop. On occasion those who are not sponsored members tend to self-identify as retired without officially notifying or confirming a change in roster status with the Office of the Bishop, such is the case here. Subsequently, Pastor Greenwald has provided a written request to retire. Therefore, to correct the roster status of Pastor Arlene Greenwald, I recommend the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council approve her retirement status effective April 21, 2021.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council approve moving Pastor Arlene Greenwald to the retired roster effective April 21, 2021.

Renewal Request of Invitation to UCC Minister to Serve ELCA Congregation in SEPA Synod

A minister of Word and Sacrament of a full communion partner church may be invited by the synod bishop to serve as pastor of an ELCA congregation, under contract with the congregation, for an extended period of time. Upon the recommendation of the synod bishop and approval by Synod Council, the synod bishop authorizes an extended service ministry. With such authorization the minister of Word and Sacrament enters service in the ELCA through the entry rite, "Invitation to Extended Service," which acknowledges the service of the minister of Word and Sacrament as pastor in a congregation or ministry of the ELCA.

Upon the request of the congregation council of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (Huntingdon Valley, PA), I recommend the **Rev. Dr. Karyn L. Wiseman**, a minister in good standing with the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference - United Church of Christ (UCC), to the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council for entry rite renewal of an, Invitation to Extended Service, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Huntingdon Valley, PA beginning October 1, 2022 until September 30, 2023. This call requires an annual report to the synodical bishop for the length of this call. Extended Service is renewable annually by Synod Council.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council approve renewal of entry rite, Invitation to Extended Service, for the **Rev. Dr. Karyn L. Wiseman** at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Huntingdon Valley, PA beginning October 1, 2022 until September 30, 2023. This invitation is renewable annually by Synod Council.

Renewal - Call to Specialized Ministry

I recommend the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council extend a one-year renewable call to Specialized Ministry to the **Rev. Sabrina LaBelle** as Protestant Chaplain at Swarthmore College in Swarthmore, PA beginning August 1, 2022 to July 31, 2023. This call requires an annual report to the synodical bishop for the length of this call.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council extend a one-year renewable call to Specialized Ministry to the **Rev. Sabrina LaBelle** beginning August 1, 2022 to July 31, 2023.

Call to Interim Ministry

I recommend that the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council call the **Rev. Heidi M. Rodrick-Schnaath** to interim ministry at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (Coatesville) beginning August 1, 2022 and extending until a pastor is called by the congregation or until Pastor Rodrick-Schnaath resigns this call, whichever comes first.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council call the **Rev. Heidi M. Rodrick-Schnaath** to interim ministry at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (Coatesville) beginning August 1, 2022 and extending until a pastor is called by the congregation or until Pastor Rodrick-Schnaath resigns this call, whichever comes first.

Bishop's Activities

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship." Romans 12:1

Ordinations: (5) Praise God!

Installations: (1)

Worship Services: On-line: (6) In-person: (4)

Celebrations: In-person: (1) (video or zoom): 0

Synod Meetings: (1)

Individual Meetings with Staff: In-person (9) Zoom: 0

Rostered Leaders: Zoom: (4) Telephone calls: (4) In person: (4)

Lay Leaders: In person: (6) Telephone calls: (13) Zoom: (3)

Full Staff Meetings: In person: (4) Staff Telephone calls: (23)

Deans Meetings: 2

ELCA

- Region 7 Bishops Zoom: (4)
- Stewardship of Life Institute Board: 0
- Conference Of Bishops (COB): (2) Formal: (4)
- COB Exec. Committee: (4) ELCA Telephone calls: (8)
- COB Ad Hoc Relational Agreement Team: Zoom meetings: (2) Telephone calls: (3)
- Diaconess Community Board: 0 Executive Committee: 0
- Muhlenberg College Board: 0 Student Life Committee: (1)
- Churchwide Staff: Zoom: 0 Telephone calls: (3) In person: (1)

Ecumenical/Interfaith Meetings: Zoom: (1) Telephone calls: (3)

Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity: (1) Nominating Committee: 0

Confidential Meetings/Investigations: Zoom: (2) Telephone Calls: (4) In-person: (5)

Hospital/Sick/Pastoral Contacts: (3)

Funerals/Memorials: (2)

Days Off: (12)

Medical Days: 0

Vacation Days: (7)

The Rev. Patricia A. Davenport

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod
Bishop's Report
Virtual Synod Council Meeting December 8, 2022

“Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested[a] as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:14-16

SEPA Synod

Beloved, in these uncertain times as people of faith filled with hope, I encourage each of us “Go out into the world in peace; have courage; hold on to what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint hearted; support the weak and help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.”

The Office of Bishop has continued to do its work through our outstanding staff as noted in the following snapshot reports.

Business Office – Mr. Martin Schwab, Senior Accountant

Martin is responsible for recording all deposits, processing accounts payable checks, preparing monthly financial reports and processing payroll. In December and January, he collaborates with staff to develop the annual budget for the Treasure and Finance Committee to review. In January he sends out W2s, 1099s and year end donor statements. Every March he works with an audit firm to complete the annual audited financial statements. He also manages properties for sale and cemeteries of closed congregations. He works with Pr. Paul Jann and congregations in Holy Closure to make sure the Synod and Lutheran Archives Center at Philadelphia receive required documents. He works closely with the Director of Operations, Treasurer of the Synod and chairs of the Finance Committee, Investment Committee and Audit Committee. He would like to thank everyone for their Mission Support contributions in these challenging times.

Youth and Young Adult Discipleship – Pastor Stacey-Kyle Rea, Assistant to the Bishop

Pastor Rea began the program year with a student backpack blessing at ULS. Our leaders throughout the synod are noticing a slow return to church for children, youth, and families, and we are adapting to this trend as a synod. Talks are underway with the deans to plan conference youth events, which will help our youth serve closer to home and help invite youth and their friends to gather as church. Pastor Rea is meeting with leaders to discuss collaboration with other churches. There is great energy for planning spring events like Box City, Tuscarora Retreat, and

a new summer servant trip to Appalachia Service Project (ASP). We have several congregations who already participate in ASP, so Pastor Rea will be helping congregations with experience partner with congregations who are new to ASP.

Our young adults have some exciting opportunities as well. The first ELCA Youth Gathering will take place in New Orleans the same week as the ELCA Youth Gathering (July 16-20, 2024) The ELCA ABIDE online small group ministry has returned this fall. Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) applications are open. Pastor Rea and Pastor Esterby from University Lutheran Church are beginning to explore a young adult faith community that has been successful in Minnesota and Colorado.

Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM) – Dr. Moses S. Dennis and Pastor Bryan Penman
It's been a busy fall for chasing the Spirit as God continues to move our church outward and onward!! Projects we have been working on:

- A comprehensive Synodical Vitality Strategy
- Year End reviews for our ministry sites (Strategic, New Ministries, Anchor)
- Working to create a strategy to cultivate conversations about collaborative ministry with congregations who are looking at less than full time pastoral leadership.
- Getting to know leaders and congregations

Trainings this fall:

- Churchwide Vitality Trainings (6 congregations participating)
- GSB Consulting – Cultivating Generations of Generosity Trainings (18 congregations participating)
- Rostered Ministers Equipping Event
- Life of Faith – Congregations working to explore connections between faith and daily living (4 congregations participating)
- Financial Empowerment for Mission Leaders Trainings – 2 congregations participating
- SAWC Exploration Learning with Churchwide

Meetings/Events:

- Weekly DEM calls on Tuesdays
- Region 7 DEM Meeting x3
- Vitality Team Meeting x3
- DEM Gathering in Chicago 10/11-10/13
- Dean's Meeting x2
- Installation at Grace Broomall for Pastor Kayla Sadowy
- ELCA evangelism network calls X3
- Urban Ministry Task Force Meeting
- ELCA Coaching trainings – X6

Vitality Consults with Congregations:

- St. Peter's Pottstown
- St John's Folcroft
- Trinity, South Philadelphia

Holy Closure
- Bethany, Philadelphia

Strategic Consults with Congregations:
- Mediator, Philadelphia
- Tabernacle, Philadelphia

Communications and Technology – Pastor Bob Fisher, Assistant to the Bishop and Ms. Cynta Outterbridge, Database Manager/Communications Assistant

This fall the communications team has been engaged in a number of major projects. In collaboration with Pr. Sease, we produced print and video resources for the All Saints Appeal. We collaborated with the Rostered Ministers Equipping Event (RME2) team to facilitate an online experience for those who could not attend in person, including the Bishop’s keynote, workshops, and worship, along with an online-only “happy hour” for remote participants. We are currently in production for a pre-recorded Christmas Day worship service, featuring a sermon by the Rev. Dr. Robert Linders and music from several congregations. This service is our gift to rostered ministers, musicians, and tech teams who will have worked very hard through Advent and Christmas Eve. We also have two events in various stages of development, including the Generosity Team gathering in January and the upcoming 2023 Synod Assembly. The MinistryLink email newsletter has seen an increase of 9% in our open rate to 51%, which is higher than the average for religious organizations. We have redesigned the newsletter to make information more accessible and highlight time-sensitive events, resources, and deadlines. We have also focused on re-energizing our presence on Facebook with a more aggressive posting schedule.

Office of Administration – Ms. Yvonne Curtis, Director of Operations/Executive Assistant to the Bishop

The administrative work of the Office of the Bishop is consistent with the constitutional requirements which include but not limited to roster management (e.g., process transfer forms, report ordinations and retirements), maintain congregation and rostered ministers’ files, maintain staff personnel files, maintain bishop’s calendar, prepare all letters of call for rostered ministers. Daily oversight of office operations. Work closely with synod officers and executive committee regularly, and in preparation for all executive committee and Synod Council meetings. Collaborate regularly with ELCA Office of the Secretary.

Bishop – Pastor Patricia A. Davenport

Rostered Ministers Event

Held on the ULS Philadelphia campus, this year, the RME2 Team’s theme was “Reimagine. Renew. Rejoice.” Accordingly, they decided to reimagine, renew, and rejoice in their work together which led to a vastly different event this year.

I was asked to open our three days with a welcome to set the tone/atmosphere and end our time with a sermon at our Closing Eucharistic worship. Rostered Leaders were able to attend three workshops with Lena Glickman, Dale Selover, and Brandi Miller, offering online and in-person options. SEPA Synod provided at no cost to our Rostered Ministers an opportunity to “Choose

Your Own Adventure:” We offered the 60 registrants three breakfasts, and one dinner. We created space for participants to use prayer labyrinth, library, and chapel here on campus. After three long years, all much appreciated spending time with colleagues dining out, knitting, coloring, hiking, worshipping and a few even scheduled time with me.

The African Descent Lutheran Association honored The Reverend Jehu Jones, Jr. (1786-1852) Pastor Jones was the first African American Lutheran Pastor ordained in 1832. He established the first African American Lutheran Congregation, St. Paul, in 1834 here in Center City Philadelphia. Albeit bittersweet, it was a privilege to attend as recently deceased, Rev. Dr. Richard Stewart unearthed this history that allowed us to have a street marker erected at the historic site.

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.” Psalm 100:5

Evangelical Lutheran Church America (ELCA)

Sparkling the Movement Gathering

The opportunity to participate in a special event – the Think Tank/Presiding Bishop’s Advisory Council meeting at the ELCA churchwide office on October 28-29, 2022, was enlightening and encouraging.

Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and Rev. Louise Johnson, Executive for Administration, invited a select group of leaders from across the ELCA for this meeting of the minds of which Pr. Violet Little and I were apart. We were requested to read a book called Change: How to Make Big Things Happen, by Damon Centola, to garner insights. Dr. Kristen Krueger professionally facilitated the meeting.

I am grateful for the opportunity to join this important conversation about “sparkling change and creating a movement of disciples in our church and in our world!”

Deaconess Community Assembly, TX

“Beloved Expanse, expanding our hearts and minds as we cry out all of creation is beloved,” was their theme based on 1 Corinthians 2:6-13,16. The God’s beloved expanse is what was experienced by all those in attendance in the business sessions, worship, and workshops. The Holy Spirit’s anointing was falling afresh, to be in the presence of this formidable group of leaders (Chaplains, Christian Ed. Directors, Spiritual Directors, etc.) was a gift. The Deaconess’s ministries and generosity is shared across the world, with a few grants to our Welcome Church, Zones of Peace, and to Tanzania. The Community is truly the best kept secret in the ELCA.

Conference of Bishops (COB)

Regular monthly COB meeting continues on-line

Region 7 Bishops

We continue to meet weekly with a monthly meeting dedicated to handling First Call Consultations with The Rev. A. Rebecca Resch (she/her), Candidacy and Leadership Manager, Regions 7 & 8

“Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.” Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Ecumenism

Religious Leaders Council (RLC)

We continue to gather as interfaith leaders to deal with the issues that are plaguing us all in the five-county area.

Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity

The Black Clergy continue to meet, I was represented at the last meeting by Dr. Suah Dennis as I was out of town.

Actions on the Roster

Renewal Term Call

Renewal – Call to Specialized Ministry

I recommend the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council extend a renewable call to Specialized Ministry to **the Rev. Margaret J. Ainslie** as Director of Pastor Care at Doylestown Hospital effective February 27, 2023 to February 26, 2024. This call requires an annual report to and meeting with the synodical bishop for the length of this call.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council extend a renewable call to Specialized Ministry to the **Rev. Margaret J. Ainslie** as Director of Pastoral Care at Doylestown Hospital beginning February 27, 2023 to February 26, 2024. This call requires an annual report to and meeting with the synodical bishop for the length of this call.

Request to Move from On Leave (Disability) to Retired Roster

The Rev. Susan K. Ericsson effective January 1, 2023

Request to Move from On Leave to Retired Roster

The Rev. Tina L. Mackie effective February 1, 2023

Information Only No Action Required

Transfers

The Rev. Dr. Richard Mathisen to Northeastern PA Synod effective 02/08/2022

The Rev. Nelson Rivera from Northeastern PA Synod effective 09/19/2022

The Rev. Rick Elliott from Northeastern PA Synod to retired roster effective 10/31/2022

Deacon Jane Elliott from Northeastern PA Synod to retired roster effective 10/31/2022

The Rev. Dr. Richard Stewart from Upstate New York to retired roster effective 11/01/2022

Deaths

Mrs. Martha Reumann (honorable mention not to be included in official Report of the Secretary for Bulletin of Reports) death occurred November 13, 2022.

The Rev. Dr. Richard Stewart death occurred November 13, 2022.

The Rev. Kenneth Smith death occurred November 27, 2022.

The Rev. John Stevens Kerr death occurred November 30, 2022.

Bishop's Activities

SEPA SYNOD

Ordinations: **2**

Installations: **1**

Worship Services: In-person: **6**

Celebrations: In-person: **5** (video or zoom): **0**

Synod Meetings

Individual Meetings with Staff: Zoom: **1**

Rostered Leaders: Zoom: **2** Telephone calls: **21** In person: **15**

Lay Leaders: Zoom: **1** Telephone calls: **9** In person: **5**

Full Staff Meetings: **3**

Staff: Zoom: **2** Staff Telephone calls: **23** In person: **7**

Deans Meetings: **2**

Healthy Boundaries Training: **1**

Confidential Meetings/Investigations: Zoom: **0** Telephone Calls: **3** In-person: **6**

Hospital/Sick/Pastoral Contacts: **12**

Funerals/Memorials: **4**

Days Off: **10** Medical Days: **0** Vacation Days: **0**

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (ELCA)

· Region 7 Bishops Zoom: **6**

· Stewardship of Life Institute Board: **0**

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania (LAMPa):

Zoom: **1** Telephone calls: **1** In person: **1**

· Conference Of Bishops (COB): Zoom: **1** Formal in person: **1**

· COB Exec. Committee: **2** Telephone calls: **4** In person: **2**

· Deaconess Community Board: **1** Executive Committee: **1**

· Muhlenberg College Board: **1** Student Life Committee: **1**

· Churchwide Staff: Zoom: **0** Telephone calls: **15** In person: **6**

ECUMENISM

Ecumenical/Interfaith Meetings: Zoom: **2** Telephone calls: **2**

Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity: **1**

Black Clergy Nominating Committee: **0**

The Rev. Patricia A. Davenport

**Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod
Bishop's Report
Virtual Synod Council Meeting January 26, 2023**

*“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.”
Psalm 103:1-6*

SEPA Synod

SEPA Synod staff enters the new year with renewed energy for upbuilding the Kingdom of God in our five-county area, as the Psalmist reminds us, “Do not forget all His benefits...” Society continues to be spiraling out of control: healthcare, human rights, violence against LGBTQIA+ people, AAPI people, domestic violence, gender inequality and wealth inequality. Nonetheless, God is at work through our many congregational and social ministries, along with you, Synod Council giving administrative oversight. Our last meeting was a little over a month ago, and we are pleased how the Holy Spirit moved us forward at the end of year.

In the Office of the Bishop, we are blessed to enter a new year making strides in strengthening our team, so each office at its core draws people into a deeper relationship with Jesus. The hope is that our faith might inform how we serve others and live as Christians in an unchristian world.

Mr. Martin Schwab is working on the 2023 forecast, 2024 budget and mailing out yearend tax forms.

Pastor Stacey-Kyle Rea has been confirming Spring/Summer Youth events for 2023. Box City is March 11-12; Tuscarora Retreat is March 24-26; Lutheran Night at the Phillies - May 20 @ 4:05pm; Youth Servant Trip to Appalachia Service Project - July 1-8. For young adults, she is talking with Pastor Esterby from UniLu and Pastor Penman about bringing ELCA's Gather Program for young adults to our synod. She is also working on writing a Lilly Grant with Pastor Sease and Pastor Penman: Christian Parenting and Caregiving.

Pastor Karen Sease is following up with 4 new inquiring candidates since September (one Word and Service, one Word and Sacrament, and two to transfer from other denominations). She is also checking in with congregations behind on their mission support to see how we can strengthen our partnership.

Dr. Moses S. Dennis and Pastor Bryan Penman our DEM's have been working on the annual funding approvals for our seven missional communities. We are currently exploring new strategic ministries and new mission site possibilities for 2023. We continue to work on establishing a vitality process for our synod. We are rolling out the Congregational Vitality Survey for use with congregations in our synod.

In communications, *Pastor Bob Fisher* continues to streamline our MinistryLink newsletter and website to accommodate a growing flow of information from and for our Synod teams, congregations, and ministry partners. The weekly "office hours" for rostered and lay leaders continues to build relationships with key constituents and offer information and mutual support. Our Christmas Day video worship, provided so pastors, musicians, tech teams and other leaders could choose to offer online worship, was very well received. Volunteers helped test the feasibility of recording most sessions of last weekend's generosity and vitality event for additional use. *Ms. Cynta Outterbridge* just completed the Generosity Event registration and is working on registration for the following events: 2023 Appalachian Service Project Service Trip, and 2023 Synod Assembly. Other projects in process are the mailing to congregations regarding updating parochial reports and congregational leaders and monthly mailings to Rostered Leaders in celebration of their ministry anniversary.

Ms. Yvonne Curtis continues with the management of administrative responsibilities related to the Office of the Bishop, while beginning the detailed process of preparing various deliverables for the Bulletin of Reports.

Pr. Bell and our Committee of Deans are diligently working with our 34 congregations that are in various stages of transition.

The African Descent Lutheran Association and SEPA Synod honored The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a celebration at Christ's, Oreland. I am pleased that the majority of our staff participated in the service. The service was very well attended with a great cross-section of our synod. We have more work to do in the area of racism, it is very good to see our wide diversity on display. To view the service visit https://christs-oreland.org/boxcast/?fbclid=IwAR205pJQrtzKr41N_n5kk307oPrFmA53Kbe8zVZrHRhm4KIDw_rUsJn5Fjs and select MLK Memorial Service from the menu on the right.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." 1 Peter 2:9

Evangelical Lutheran Church America (ELCA)

Conference of Bishops (COB)

We have moved to continue our informal Zoom gathering twice a month as we move into the new abnormal. Bishops and rostered minister are resuming programs and events in better ways.

Region 7 Bishops

We continue to meet weekly for support, encouragement and collaboration in Kingdom building across synodical lines.

“That they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

John 17:21

Ecumenism

Religious Leaders Council (RLC)

We continue to gather as interfaith leaders to deal with the issues that are plaguing all communities in the five-county area.

Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity

The Black Clergy continues calling the community to First Friday Prayer for an end to gun violence. Recently, we launched into addressing the upcoming Philadelphia Mayoral election with a Zoom session for the Judicatory leaders to set a strategic way to address the growing number of candidates.

Actions on the Roster

Request to Move from Active to Retired Roster

The Rev. Janelle Kraus effective May 1, 2023

No Action Retired

Deaths

Mrs. Elizabeth Tiemeyer (honorable mention not to be included in official Report of the Secretary for Bulletin of Reports) death occurred January 1, 2023.

Bishop’s Activities

SEPA SYNOD

Ordinations: **1**

Installations: **0**

Worship Services: In-person: **5**

Celebrations: In-person: **1** (video or zoom): **0**

Synod Meetings

Individual Meetings with Staff: **3**

Rostered Leaders: Zoom: **1** Telephone calls: **9** In person: **5**
Lay Leaders: Zoom: **1** Telephone calls: **9** In person: **6**
Full Staff Meetings: **2**
Staff: Zoom: **2** Staff Telephone calls: **14** In person: **6**
Deans Meetings: **1**
Healthy Boundaries Training: **0**
Confidential Meetings/Investigations: Zoom: **1** Telephone Calls: **2** In-person: **0**
Hospital/Sick/Pastoral Contacts: **5**
Funerals/Memorials: **1**
Days Off: **6** Medical Days: **0** Vacation Days: **0**

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (ELCA)

· Region 7 Bishops Zoom: **4**
· Stewardship of Life Institute Board: **1**
Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania (LAMPa):
Zoom: **0** Telephone calls: **0** In person: **0**
· Conference Of Bishops (COB): Zoom: **1** Formal in person: **0** In person: **1**
· COB Exec. Committee: **1** Telephone calls: **1** In person: **0**
· Deaconess Community Board: **0** Executive Committee: **0**
· Muhlenberg College Board: **0** Student Life Committee: **0**
· Churchwide Staff: Zoom: **1** Telephone calls: **6** In person: **1**

ECUMENISM

Ecumenical/Interfaith Meetings: Zoom: **2** Telephone calls: **0** In person: **1**
Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity: **1**
Black Clergy Nominating Committee: **0**

The Rev. Patricia A. Davenport, Bishop

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Bishop's Report Virtual Synod Council Meeting March 30, 2023

“And we want each one of you to show the same diligence, so as to realize the full assurance of hope to the very end, so that you may not become sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”

Hebrews 6:11-12

SEPA Synod

God has been so faithful; the Holy Spirit has been very active, and we have been busy continuing to move forward in ministry and mission. On this Lenten journey when many of us fast from sweets, meats, drinking, shopping, etc., we are using the resources from our fast this season to bless people and places who are standing in need of a blessings.

Mr. Martin Schwab, Senior Accountant, since the last Synod Council meeting Martin has closed out fiscal year 2022. The week of February 27th Tait Weller completed field work for the annual audited financial statements. Martin mailed W2s to staff, 1099s to contractors and annual giving statements to donors by January 31st. He worked with the staff and completed the 2023 forecast and 2024 budget for the Treasurer and Finance Committee to approve. In addition to the normal work of the finance office Martin will work the Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee to create a PowerPoint for Synod Assembly.

Pastor Stacey-Kyle Rea, Youth and Young Adult Discipleship, reports two events scheduled in March: Box City, which is a homelessness and hunger awareness event. Youth build boxes to “live in” and they go to learning stations to try to imagine what it might be like to experience homeless. It is awesome to watch them build deeper compassion. Next, we have Tuscarora Retreat. “Tuscy” as it is affectionately called. The weekend involves youth in 6th – 12th grades. Many congregations come together to form the planning team.

After Easter, we will partner with Pastor Meagan Esterby from UniLu on creating Gather, an ELCA young adult ministry where young adults plan their own experience to Gather for worship and fellowship. Learn more here: <https://www.gathernetwork.org/>

Please get your tickets for Lutheran Night at the Phillies and print and post the poster in your churches! We want to get a big crowd of Lutherans this year on May 20 at 4pm as the Phillies play the Chicago Cubs. More information and poster can be found here: <https://ministrylink.org/events/lutheran-night-at-the-phillies-2/>

Pastor Karen Sease, Vocations and Leadership / Mission Advancement – On March 13-15, first call rostered leaders gathered with the Bishop and synod staff for their required First Call Theological Education event. This group is comprised of 16 pastors new to ordained ministry in the ELCA who have been ordained since January 2020. So far in 2023, 3 new leaders have been assigned to seek their first call in SEPA and the Committee of Deans is working to arrange interviews for them with congregations. We celebrate these leaders who have been raised up and know that the need is great for more leaders to serve in our churches. 36 people are somewhere in process with the candidacy committee (from first inquiry to waiting for first call) and we are working on strategies to better accompany inquirers in their discernment towards officially starting candidacy. In January and February, phone calls were made to congregations who were significantly behind on their 2022 mission support compared to 2021. While several of these phone calls resulted in checks being sent, most said that their decreased mission support was a function of decreased giving in their congregation. I continue to work with the generosity team to brainstorm additional ways of cultivating generosity among our congregations.

Dr. Moses S. Dennis and Pastor Bryan Penman, our DEM’s continue their contract work through the ELCA:

- Tuesdays DEMs weekly Check-ins
- Consultation with Naomi Sonne of LSA Children and Elders Endowment Grant 2/8
- Holy Innovation conversation with St. Luke, Devon 2/22
- Urban Ministry Task Force Meeting 2/21

- Consultations with Trinity South Philly: 2/21, 3/7
- Check In's with mission developers: 2/16, 3/1, 3/2,
- DEMs, Mission Developers, Strategic Ministries Quarterly Check-in February 28
- Generosity Team Meeting - March 1
- Mission Developer Training Chicago March 8-10
- Mission Developer Placement Meeting with Trinity, Germantown March 12
- Assistant to the Bishop Gathering Minneapolis, March 20-23
- Applied for two new Strategic Ministry Congregations (Grace, Broomall & Mediator, Philadelphia)
- Congregational Vitality Survey – Trinity, Havertown and Centennial are currently completing the survey and Little Zion is exploring using it in the near future as part of their 2030 visioning process.
- Working with Janet Peterman on a series of Vitality Training resources
- Attended a webinar by Partners for Sacred Places to learn about various resources they have to offer congregations looking to help preserve their buildings and grow as a resource for their communities
- Beginning to work on Lilly Grant for Vibrant Congregations this Spring

Pastor Bob Fisher, Communications and Mission Interpretation, has been engaged in technology planning for the Synod Assembly. We're excited that this will be the first time that we will provide in-house video and a live-stream on our own, without an outside vendor. Pastor Fisher will be working with synod staff to finalize a communications calendar for 2023-4. The team is also working on strengthening our presence on Facebook and considering how other social media fit in our priorities. **Mrs. Cynta Outterbridge, Database Manager** has been processing Synod Assembly Registrations and preparing documents and reports needed for our 2023 Bulletin of Reports. Mrs. Outterbridge has also been working on updating our database.

Ms. Yvonne Curtis, Director of Operations and Exec. Assistant, continues to work on roster matters, varying administrative tasks, as well as preparing reports for Synod Assembly.

Pr. Bell and our Committee of Deans reports, it is a privilege to serve as the Director of Mobility and the Chairperson for the Committee of Deans for our synod. At our March meeting, we recognized Pastor Jane Marston for her dedication and service as Dean of the Northeast/Northwest Philadelphia Conference. She has completed two three-year terms, and a new Dean will be elected later this month. Congratulations are extended to Pastor Erika Wesch who was re-elected to another term as the Dean of the Upper Bucks Conference.

The Committee of Deans continues to work diligently in our task of interviewing potential candidates to fill the needs of congregations who are searching for rostered leaders. It is often challenging work as the pool of candidates is smaller than in the past, and many congregations have part-time positions. We have been encouraged recently by several excellent first-call candidates who are well-qualified and eager to begin ministry.

From the Bishop

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR MINISTERS OF WORD AND SACRAMENT, WORD AND SERVICE, ON LEAVE FROM CALL, AND RETIRED MINISTERS. We continue making strides to reconnect or strengthen relationships with our Rostered Ministers. Gathering information annually helps us to ascertain basic information to update our records, in addition to direct comments for me, as well as the overall well-being of minister. Visit this link to view blank forms for each <https://www.elca.org/About/Churchwide/Office-of-the-Secretary/Rostered-Leaders> Over the late few month, I responded to over 100 reports from Rostered Ministers via telephone, emails, and in person meetings. It is very fulfilling to allow my pastoral care gifts to be utilized.

The African Descent Gathering in Atlanta, Rev. Nicolette Marie Peñaranda, Program Director of African Descent Ministries hosted a dinner meeting that allowed those of the Lutheran tribe attending the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Gathering to connect from across the country. We were able to share the joys and challenges of being people of color in our predominantly white church. Rev. Lamont Wells, Executive Director of Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities and Rev. Kimberly Vaughn, Sr. Director, Christian Community & Leadership Mission were present along with Dr. Derrick Rice, Director) Lutheran Theological Center, Atlanta (LTCA). There were laments, joys of God sightings and excitement of understanding vocation from the lay people. While it is true we have more work in dismantling racism, implicit bias, cultural sensitivity, etc. We have much to celebrate as we looked at who was around the table, praise God! Those gathered have a strong sense of call, and faithfully serve in drawing people into a deeper relationship with Jesus that makes a difference!

First Call Theological Education (FCTE) was a three-day life-giving learning event where our 16 first-call pastors gathered in person (2 on-line). Our FCTE Team did an excellent job of offering learning moments with our Synod Staff and a 45-minute conversation with me that turned into two hours. All of the team's efforts are helping first-call pastors thrive, develop greater resilience and build collegial relationships. Our hope is to accompany our new pastors on this first leg of their journey to assure synodical support and encouragement as a foundation for their ministries

We were blessed to have from *Southeast Michigan Synod, our Domestic Companion Synod* where, Reverend Dr. Donald P. Kreiss is bishop, Pr. Ben Adam, Campus Minister and six young beautiful African American women from Wayne State University. After our introductions, (Jocelyn, Logan, Shemaiah, Nya, Lauren, and Maddie) we spent over an hour sharing our joys, what keeps us up at night and our hopes. These young ladies are very aware of white supremacy, the social construct of racism and its effects on them and society. Their awareness and aspirations give me great confidence in our future.

Enthusiastic Learners Delightfully Enjoying Retired Status (E.L.D.E.R.S.). "Anticipating Holy Week" our retired pastors gathered for a PowerPoint presentation by Dr. John Hougen, he shared masterpieces of art and photos taken in Jerusalem depicting the places where the events and the episodes in Jesus' life between Palm Sunday and Easter morning took place. The visuals shown will truly enrich our Holy Week experiences. It is always an enriching adventure to be in the room with such wise church leaders and community activist. I think we may be able to coax a few more ELDERS into supply preaching, or becoming a bridge pastor, keep this and them in prayer.

*“The Lord is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation.
He is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him.
The Lord is a warrior; the Lord is his name.” Exodus 15:2-3*

Evangelical Lutheran Church America (ELCA)

Conference of Bishops (COB)

Land Acknowledgement and Affirmation of Relational Agreement are foundational now that we are back in person after a year. This was the first meeting for many new bishops, and we bid farewell to three. We had such wonderful lifegiving worships throughout the COB, lifting up the name of Jesus, supported with great music that set the atmosphere for a positive and productive gathering. We had an opportunity to hear from Mr. Imran Siddiqui, our new ELCA Vice-president. Mr. Siddiqui shared a little more in-depth on who he is and what he observed as he lives into his new position. The most enlightening was our lack of Churchwide opportunities for lay people to gather for listening, learning and sharing. He noted the Rostered Ministers Gathering, the COB, etc. We agreed that we need more intentional gatherings for our laity.

A small taste of our agenda:

- ELCA Advocacy and Bishops’ Ready Benches – The Rev. Amy Reumann
- Conversation/Training on Intersectionality –Ms. Jennifer DeLeon and Dr. Mary Streufert, note, she is our ELCA Synod Assembly Rep.
- Treasurer’s Report – Ms. Lori Fedyk
- Mission Support Conversation – Ms. Victoria Flood and Mr. Nick Kiger
- Small Group Conversations on synod finances
- Update on Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church
- Strategy Towards Authentic Diversity (STAD) Ms. Judith Roberts, DEI gave an update on the task force’s work. <https://youtu.be/JQ81KoRCPaA>
- Presiding Bishop Report
- Our Global family – Report from Bishops’ Visit to Palestine/Israel
- Conversation on Holy Communion in response to CWA memorial -TECC and Deacon John Weit
- Affinity Groups gave us space for a deeper dive in pertinent concerns/issues
- Roster update with Rev. Keith Fry
- Lutheran Immigration Refugee Service Update

Note, it was personally rewarding to attend the COB with Bishop Claire Burkat as a colleague.

Region 7 Bishops

Our bishops traveled to the Holy Land, I opted for family vacation; nonetheless, we continue meetings to assure that our first call candidates are placed, and congregations received care. We continually look for ways to be innovative and collaborative across synodical lines.

“That they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

John 17:21

Ecumenism

Religious Leaders Council (RLC)

Our February in person gathering was hosted by Archbishop Perez at the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, it was my first time in the building. It was great to be in person reconnecting with each other and discussing current events. I always consider my times with our interfaith partners as listening, learning, and sharing to lead better in the Kin-dom. Asked to serve on a panel with Rabbi David Strauss, The Rt. Rev. Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez about adapting to the post pandemic lockdowns, I was glad to report our congregations and communities of faith are moving forward. We encourage celebrating those who are in the pews and those in sacred cyber space, as there is no going back pre-pandemic. We will not linger in scarcity; we will lean into the abundance of God's blessings as presented daily.

Our March RLC *Administration Team* meeting was a hybrid with Mr. Brian Miller from Heeding God's Call presented a consideration for concrete actions on gun violence. We dove into discerning our efforts to address violence in advance of our next Council meeting in May. Please note denominations are responding to address gun violence in various ways. Our partners are addressing violence in many ways, the following approach, with specific call to address gun violence is from the Episcopal Diocese of PA:

[Episcopal Bishops Letter Addressing Violence](#)

Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity

The Black Clergy continues inviting all on a digital platform for programs that benefit the communities. Hosting a meet, the Candidates for Mayor of Philadelphia, an open conversation all 10. Black Clergy's Health Committee is sponsoring an important virtual Town Hall Multiple Sclerosis

[Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity Health Breath March 2023 Multiple Sclerosis](#)

Actions on the Roster

Move from Active Roster to Disability Roster

Rev. Dr. Jennifer Phelps effective March 13, 2023

No Action Required – For Information Only

Resigned from the Roster

Rev. Daniel Phelps effective March 16, 2023

Bishop's Activities ***SEPA SYNOD***

Ordinations: **2**

Installations: **0**

Worship Services: In-person: **8**

Celebrations: In-person: **1** (video or zoom): **0**

Synod Meetings

Individual Meetings with Staff: **6**
Rostered Leaders: Zoom: **2** Telephone calls: **14** In person: **5**
Lay Leaders: Zoom: **1** Telephone calls: **10** In person: **6**
Full Staff Meetings: **2**
Staff: Zoom: **0** Staff Telephone calls: **14** In person: **10**
Deans Meetings: **2**
Healthy Boundaries Training: **1**
Confidential Meetings/Investigations: Zoom: **0** Telephone Calls: **2** In-person: **1**
Hospital/Sick/Pastoral Contacts: **8**
Funerals/Memorials: **3**
Days Off: **9** Medical Days: **0** Vacation Days: **6**

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (ELCA)

· Region 7 Bishops Zoom: **6** In person: **1**

· Stewardship of Life Institute Board: **0**

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania (LAMPa):

Zoom: **0** Telephone calls: **0** In person: **0**

· Conference Of Bishops (COB): Zoom: **1** Formal in person: **4**

· COB Exec. Committee: **1** Telephone calls: **1** In person: **0**

· Deaconess Community Board: **0** Executive Committee: **0**

· Muhlenberg College Board: **1** Student Life Committee: **1**

· Churchwide Staff: Zoom: **1** Telephone calls: **2** In person: **2**

ECUMENISM

Ecumenical/Interfaith Meetings: Zoom: **1** Telephone calls: **1** In person: **1**

Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity: **0**

BC Nominating Committee: **0**

The Rev. Patricia A. Davenport, Bishop