

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod
35th ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
May 5 & 6, 2023
Franconia Mennonite Center, Souderton, PA
Transformed to Serve in a Where's the Faith World

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

Report on the Constitution

SA.23.05.01. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod retains provision S7.21.01., incorporating the language adopted at the 2022 Churchwide Assembly.

A simple majority is needed for this action.

Chapter 7: SYNOD ASSEMBLY

[Provision is no longer required]

†S7.21.01. Voting members shall begin serving with the opening of a regular Synod Assembly and shall continue serving until voting members are seated at the opening of the next regular Synod Assembly.

The Assembly adopted the resolution without objection.

SA.23.05.02. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod adopts the recommended amendments to the Constitution for Synods from Section 4 adopted by the 2022 Churchwide Assembly.

A simple majority is needed for this action.

Section 4: Amendments to Recommended Provisions

Chapter 7: SYNOD ASSEMBLY

S7.14. One-half One-third of the members of the Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum.

S7.22. This synod may establish processes that permit retired rostered ministers, or those granted disability status, or on leave from call, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, provided that such processes not result in fewer than 60% of the voting members of the Synod Assembly being laypersons in contravention of consistent with †S7.21.e. If the synod does not establish processes to permit the rostered ministers specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.

S7.24. Ministers under call on the rosters of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the rosters of this synod. Lay members of the Synod Assembly representing congregations shall continue as such until the opening of the next regular synod assembly, or unless replaced by the election of new members for a special synod assembly, or until they have been disqualified by termination of congregation

membership. Normally, congregations will hold elections prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

- S7.26. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit lay representatives of authorized worshiping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw 10.01.04., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.
- S7.27. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council to grant a minister of Word and Sacrament from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of that minister's service in a congregation of this church.

Chapter 8: OFFICERS

S8.42. The treasurer shall provide and be accountable for:

[...]

- c. Receipt and acknowledgment of offerings, contributions, and bequests made to this synod, collecting interest and income from its invested funds, and paying regular appropriations and orders on the several accounts as approved and directed by the Synod Council. The treasurer shall transmit each month to the treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the funds received by this synod for the general work of this church as well as any funds to support restricted programs of this church.

[...]

- ~~f. Obtaining a fidelity bond in the amount determined by the Synod Council for persons handling synod funds, which bond shall be in the custody of the secretary. The premium for the bond shall be paid by this synod. Fidelity coverage provided by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be deemed a fulfillment of this requirement.~~

Chapter 11: COMMITTEES (names of other organizational units)

~~S11.10. General Provisions~~

Chapter 14: ROSTERED MINISTERS

- S14.13. The pastor (a) shall keep accurate parochial records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from the congregation, (b) shall submit a summary of such statistics annually to this synod, and (c) shall become a member of the congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the pastor shall hold membership in one of the congregations.
- S14.15. Each minister of Word and Sacrament on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- S14.34. Each minister of Word and Service on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

The Assembly adopted the resolution without objection.

Action: changes have been incorporated into the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions, notification has been sent to the Secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and a copy of the revised constitution has been sent to the Synod office for posting on MinistryLink.

SA.22.05.03. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly directs the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council to take the necessary steps to encourage the reinstatement of the words “proclaiming God’s love to the world” to S14.12. and S14.32. of the Constitution for Synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The Assembly adopted the resolution without objection.

Action: Referred to Synod Council to submit this directive to the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Resolutions from the Treasurer and the Finance Committee

SA.22.05.04. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly accepts the Audit reports for the Fiscal Year January 31, 2023.

The Assembly adopted the resolution.

No further action needed

SA.22.05.05. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly adopts the budget for the coming year, Fiscal Year ending January 31, 2025.

The Assembly adopted the resolution.

No further action needed

Election of Synod Secretary

The Synod Assembly reelected the Rev. Karl M. Richard as secretary, term ending 2027.

Election of Synod Council Members

The Synod Assembly elected the following persons to serve on Synod Council:

Clergy members:

Rev. Heeralal Mukesh Cheedie – first term, ending 2026

Rev. Heidi Rodrick Schnaath – first term, ending 2026

Lay members:

Dr. John Connors – Lower Bucks Conference Representative – first term, ending 2026

Dr. Marcia Boraas – Lower Montgomery Conference Representative – first term, ending 2026

Mr. Tredon Stevenson – Youth Representative – term ending 2025
Referred to Synod Council – Lay Man – Chester Conference Representative

Election of members to Consultation Committee

The Synod Assembly elected the following persons to serve on the Committee on Discipline:

Lay members:

Ms. Joan Nagel – term ending 2026

Mr. Stephen Spry – term ending 2028

Referred to Synod Council - Lay Man – term ending 2024

Referred to Synod Council - Lay Man – term ending 2026

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Karl M. Richard, Secretary

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA