

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE *TWENTY-FIRST* ANNUAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD  
OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**  
*God's Work: Our Hands!*  
**May 2-3, 2008**  
**Franconia Mennonite Meetinghouse**  
**Telford, Pennsylvania**

**Friday Morning**

**The Service of Holy Communion**

The 21st annual assembly of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod began at 9:30 a.m. with the Service of Holy Communion. The Reverend Claire Burkat, Bishop of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, served as the presiding minister and preacher. The Reverends Patrick Seyler, Serena Sellers, and Patricia Davenport were assisting ministers. The lectors were the Reverend Shongchai Hang (Genesis 1:1, 31a; 2:2-3), the Reverend Moses Dennis and Ms. Beatriz Vieira (Psalm 8:1a, 3-6, 9), and Mr. Robert Bruns (1 Corinthians 3:1-9, 21-23). Ms. Regina Goodrich served as the master of ceremony, and Ms. Linda Furia, Ms. Henrietta Morgan, Mr. Bill Lafty, Ms. Justin Sekelewski, and Mr. Chris Eckert provided musical direction. The Reverend Sozinho Alves, Ms. Paula Kadel, Mr. Mathewos Shibo, Ms. Susan Pursch, and Mr. Lawrence House, AIM, led the assembly in the Prayers of the People.

The service included the installation of Pastor Davenport as the Assistant to the Bishop for Evangelical Outreach and Mission Director.

The following faithful departed rostered leaders were remembered in prayer: the Reverends Theodore L. Fischer, Willard I. Hackenberg, and Ralph L. Alderfer.

After reading the Gospel, Luke 4:14-22, Bishop Burkat preached the sermon.

“After his baptism by John, and after the temptation in the wilderness, the gospel writer Luke tells us Jesus first began to teach, and preach in the synagogues – the assembly of the people,” Bishop Burkat began. “Today he is in his home synagogue, probably with the blessings, prayers and pride of his hometown friends ...

“Today we also gather as a church, traveling from all over our Southeastern Pennsylvania territory, and two among us from Chicago. We come with the blessings of our congregations, conferences, agencies, and institutions of the Church. We come to gather as a synodical expression of the Church, knowing and believing that we here today *are* church.”

She described this church as larger than one’s personal faith, one’s church community, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, the ELCA, and the global Christian community, although the church *is* all of these.

Like Jesus in his hometown, Nazareth, attending his family’s synagogue, she continued, the people of this assembly have gathered to worship God and to hear the Word of God.

“In the Gospel of Luke,” she said, “Jesus surprises and amazes the people assembled in the synagogue, with his first public sermon, by declaring that the promise of God to bring release, healing and power to marginalized people has come ...

“As we listen to the Gospel at the beginning of our assembly ... let us, and proclaim, and celebrate what the Spirit is doing among us ...

“In our baptism, before we could even understand the enormity of this adoption into the Kingdom of God, the Spirit anoints us, blesses us, and guides us for God’s purpose. We are reminded that all, who are baptized into the Body of Christ, are anointed with the Spirit and sent to share God’s love. God does not give responsibility without also giving us the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish this work ...

“We share in the ministry that Jesus described in today’s Gospel. It is God’s work, our hands – God’s work, our hearts – God’s work, our heads – God’s work, our hope.”

She cited two examples in which Lutherans take on this incredible responsibility:

- The realization of Pastor Violet Little’s dream to create a safe haven for the homeless, called the *Welcome Place*, at Holy Communion, Philadelphia, and how that dream subsequently developed into a comprehensive interfaith movement, called *The City United*, to end homelessness in Philadelphia; and
- How the faith and witness of the people of Trinity, Pleasant Valley grew, as the consolation and prayers of many throughout the synod and the ELCA surrounded them, after a volunteer was murdered in the church office in January of this year.

“People need desperately to hear some good news and to be welcomed and embraced by a loving community,” Bishop Burkat said. “Marked with the cross of Christ forever, we are claimed, called and sent for the sake of the world ...

Quoting the Reverend Gregory Shreaves, she said, “The grace of God is not always as pretty, poetic or perfect as we might imagine it – sometimes it is hard and messy – but it is real and powerful in this broken world, and gives us strength and courage and forgiveness for our brokenness and hope for living.”

Citing Jesus’ promise “to bring good news to the poor ... release to the captives ... and recovery of sight to the blind ...[and] to let the prisoners go free,” she asked, “Do you believe that Jesus brings this promise of redemption today?”

She concluded by quoting the blessing given every Sunday at Trinity, Pleasant Valley, “Go out into the world in peace; have courage; hold on to what is good; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak and help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.”

### **The Order for the Opening of the Assembly**

Bishop Burkat led the order for the opening of the 21st annual assembly of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod at 10:55 a.m.

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Bishop Burkat welcomed those attending the assembly, especially those attending a synod assembly for the first time. She thanked the members of the worship committee for planning “a wonderful and inspiring service.”

She introduced the Reverend Doctor Russell Mitman, Conference Minister of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference, United Church of Christ, who offered greetings.

She welcomed the special guests: the Reverend Craig Settlage, Director of Mission Support, Synodical Relations section, and ELCA representative; Ms. Kelly Fryer, Executive Director of *A.R.E.: A Renewal Enterprise*, and keynote speaker; Ms. Barbara Depski and Ms. Laurie Sacchet, Board of Pensions representatives; the Reverend Heidi Rodrick-Schnaath and Ms. Linda Magill, Augsburg Fortress representatives; the Olan Mills representatives; and Ms. Lucille Bucks, parliamentarian.

Bishop Burkat introduced the synodical officers, Synod Council members, and the deans.

Bishop Burkat invited the rostered leaders, who were new to the synod since the last assembly, to introduce themselves. Doing so were the Reverends Julie Bergdahl, Michael McKillip, Patricia Neale, Lamont Wells, and Paul Xander; Ms. Rebecca Kolowe, Diaconal Minister; and Sister Margaret Thorne. She added that the Reverends Annette Freese, Sozinho Alves, and Andrew Evenson; Ms. Patsy Pollili, AIM, and Mr. Bruce Saylor, AIM, also new to the synod since the last assembly, were not able to be present.

Bishop Burkat recognized the following rostered leaders who were celebrating significant anniversaries this year:

- 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination: the Reverends Harvey Davis, William Fluck, Frederic Geehr, Fred Holst, and James Servey;
- 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination: the Reverends Leonard Ashford, Jr., Thomas Kochenderfer, Jr., John Smolik, and David Shaheen; and
- 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination or certification: the Reverends David Christensen, Stephen Godsall-Myers, Kim Guiser, Susan Lang, Cindy Ray, Dolores Littleton, and William Vanderslice; Mr. Thomas Snyder, AIM; Mr. John Charles, AIM; Ms. Barbara Hartenbauer, AIM; and Ms. Debra Detweiler, AIM.

She recognized the following congregations celebrating significant anniversaries of organization:

- 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary: St. John, Richlandtown;
- 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary: St. Luke, Frederick; Christ, Kulpville; and St. Matthew, Chester Springs;
- 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary: Emmanuel, Souderton; and St. John, Sumneytown;
- 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary: St. John, Ambler;
- 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary: Redeemer, Jamison.

### **The Report of the Registrar**

Ms. Virginia Bailey reported that 525 voting members were registered, that 471 were present, and that 365 were needed for a quorum. Bishop Burkat declared a quorum.

### **The Presentation of the Proposed Agenda**

The Reverend Raymond Miller, Secretary of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, presented the proposed agenda with revisions. The assembly approved the agenda as revised.

### **The Presentation of the Rules of Procedure**

Secretary Miller presented the Rules of Procedure for approval as a continuing resolution of the synod. The assembly approved the following resolution:

**S. A. 08.5.1 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly approves the following Rules of Procedure as a continuing resolution of the synod:**

**1. Rule Regarding Distribution**

**The distribution of any materials that do not come to the Assembly through regular reports, synod committees, agencies, institutions, or Synod Council must be approved by the Committee on Reference and Counsel. Therefore, no materials may be distributed to the Assembly without the prior approval of Reference and Counsel.**

**2. Rule Regarding Resolutions Not Meeting the Deadline for Reference and Counsel**

**The assembly, by a two-thirds vote, may grant permission for consideration of a resolution that a voting member wishes to bring to the floor, but which has not met the imposed deadline of the Reference and Counsel Committee.**

**3. Rules Regarding Floor Nominations**

- a. For all positions to be elected at this assembly, nominations from the floor shall be made at the time of the first report of the Nominating Committee during the first business session of the Synod Assembly. After the nominations have been closed no further nominations shall be accepted.**
- b. As nominations are made from the floor, the nominator must present a typed or printed biography to the synod secretary on the special form provided immediately after the report of the Nominating Committee.**
- c. In accordance with +S6.04 of the Synod Constitution, at least 10% of the representation on the Synod Council, ELCA Assembly voting membership, and other elected boards is required to be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English. In the event such representation is not accomplished through normal voting procedures, the nominated person of color or whose primary language is other than English and who has the next highest number of votes shall supersede the elected individual with the least number of votes.**

**4. Rules for Dealing with Memorials and/or Resolutions Submitted to the Committee on Reference and Counsel (S. C. 07.12.05)**

- (1) The deadline for submitting memorials and/or resolutions to the Committee on Reference and Counsel shall be one month before the opening of the Synod Assembly.**
- (2) The Committee on Reference and Counsel shall publish all memorials and/or resolutions, submitted by the deadline, at the synod website no later than two weeks before the opening of the Synod Assembly.**
- (3) The Committee on Reference and Counsel shall make available to Synod Assembly voting members when they register at the Synod Assembly hard copies of all memorials and/or resolutions, submitted to the committee by the deadline, and the committee's recommendations.**

**The Report of the Nominating Committee**

Mr. William Blean, the chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the report.

For **Ticket 1, Synod Council, Clergy** (Three to be elected for terms ending 2011), the committee nominated the Reverends Sandra Brown, Carol Ficken, Rosa Key, and Christopher Weidner. There were no nominations from the floor. The bishop declared the first ticket closed.

For **Ticket 2, Synod Council, Clergy** (One to be elected for a term ending 2010), the nominee is the one not elected on Ticket 1.

For **Ticket 3, Synod Council, Central Philadelphia Conference Representative, Female** (One to be elected for a term ending 2009), the committee nominated Ms. Queretha Travis. The bishop declared the third ticket closed.

For **Ticket 4, Synod Council, Chester Conference Representative, Female** (One to be elected for a term ending 2011), the committee received no nominations from the Chester Conference.

For **Ticket 5, Synod Council, Lower Montgomery Conference Representative, Male** (One to be elected for a term ending 2011), the committee nominated Mr. Barry Stock. The bishop declared the fifth ticket closed.

For **Ticket 6, Synod Council, Lower Bucks Conference Representative, Female** (One to be elected for a term ending 2011), the committee nominated Ms. Barbara Spencer. The bishop declared the sixth ticket closed.

For **Ticket 7, Synod Council, At Large Representative, Male** (One to be elected for a term ending 2011), the committee nominated Mr. Bert Glenn, Mr. Joshua Kelly, Mr. John Thebus, and Mr. Terrence Townsend. There were no nominations from the floor. The bishop declared the seventh ticket closed.

For **Ticket 8, Synod Council, At Large Representative, Female** (One to be elected for a term ending 2011), the committee nominated Ms. Tracey Beasley. There were no nominations from the floor. The bishop declared the eighth ticket closed.

For **Ticket 9, Synod Council, Youth Representative** (One to be elected for a term ending 2009), the committee, upon the recommendation of the Lutheran Youth Organization, nominated Ms. Haley Robbins. There were no nominations from the floor. The bishop declared the ninth ticket closed.

For **Ticket 10, Churchwide Assembly, Lay Young Adult (Age 18-30), Female** (One to be elected), the committee nominated Ms. Laura Kalemkarian. There were no nominations from the floor. The bishop declared the tenth ticket closed.

For **Ticket 11, Churchwide Assembly, Lay Youth (Confirmed, not graduated from high school at the time of election), Male** (One to be elected), the committee nominated Mr. Branden Lee McCall. The bishop declared the eleventh ticket closed.

For **Ticket 12, Churchwide Assembly, Clergy** (Six to be elected), the committee nominated the Reverends Paul Beck, Marcia Bell, Nancy Brown, Moses Dennis, Cornelius Eaddy, Susan Lang, Thomas Lang, Charles Leonard, Richard Mathisen, Lee Miller, Timothy Poston, Carlton Rodgers, Eric Shafer, Larry Smoose, and Bruce Todd. The Reverend Serena Sellers was nominated from the floor. The bishop declared the twelfth ticket closed.

For **Ticket 13, Churchwide Assembly, Lay Male** (Four to be elected), the committee nominated Mr. William Bleam, Mr. Bert Glenn, Mr. Robert Hensil, Mr. Charles Horn, Mr. Stephen Keiser, Mr. Joshua Kelly, Mr. Joe Kovatch, Mr. Mark Ristine, Mr. Thomas Salber, Mr. Terrence Townsend, and Mr. John

Ungerma. Mr. Alex Jenkins and Mr. Len Weiser were nominated from the floor. The bishop declared the thirteenth ticket closed.

For **Ticket 14, Churchwide Assembly, Lay Female** (Four to be elected), the committee nominated Ms. Tracey Beasley, Ms. Addie Butler, Ms. Mary Beth Jones, Ms. Sally Kerr, Ms. Doreen Kinzler, Ms. Patricia Kissinger, Ms. Rebecca Kolowe, Ms. Patricia Robinson, Ms. Karen Santiago, Ms. Jessica Smith, and Ms. Barbara Spencer. Ms. Molly Beck Dean was nominated from the floor. The bishop declared the fourteenth ticket closed.

For **Ticket 15, Churchwide Assembly, Lay Female or Male** (One to be elected), the nominees are those not elected on Tickets 13 and 14.

For **Ticket 16, Consultation Committee, Clergy** (Six to be elected to terms ending 2014), the committee nominated the Reverends Sandra Brown, Cornelius Eaddy, Cheryl Hensil, Cynthia Krommes, Thomas Lang, Dolores Littleton, Esther Rajashekar, and Larry Smoose. The Reverend Michael McKillip was nominated from the floor. The bishop declared the sixteenth ticket closed.

For **Ticket 17, Consultation Committee, Lay Female** (Three to be elected for terms ending 2014), the committee nominated Ms. Judith Brndjar, Ms. Addie Butler, Ms. Ramona Cecile-Daily, Ms. Kimerly Hinkelman, and Ms. Dawn Stewart. There were no nominations from the floor. The bishop declared the seventeenth ticket closed.

For **Ticket 18, Consultation Committee, Lay Male** (Three to be elected for terms ending 2014), the committee nominated Mr. Garry Brown, Mr. Bruce McCullough, Mr. Mark Sofio, Mr. Barry Stock, and Mr. John Ungerma. There were no nominations from the floor. The bishop declared the eighteenth ticket closed.

For **Ticket 19, Committee on Discipline, Clergy** (Two to be elected for terms ending 2014), the committee nominated the Reverends Paul Beck, Marcia Bell, Nancy Brown, Susan Ericsson, Thomas Kadel, Thomas Lang, and Karl Richard. There were no nominations from the floor. The bishop declared the nineteenth ticket closed.

For **Ticket 20, Committee on Discipline, Clergy** (Two to be elected for terms ending 2012), nominees are those not elected on Ticket 19.

For **Ticket 21, Committee on Discipline, Clergy** (Two to be elected for terms ending 2010), nominees are those not elected on Ticket 20.

For **Ticket 22, Committee on Discipline, Lay Female** (Two to be elected for terms ending 2014), the committee nominated Ms. Tracey Beasley, Ms. Sally Kerr, Ms. Janet Neff, Ms. Susan Pursch, and Ms. Annette Sample. There were no nominations from the floor. The bishop declared the twenty-second ticket closed.

For **Ticket 23, Committee on Discipline, Lay Male** (Two to be elected for terms ending 2014), the committee nominated Mr. William Bleam, Mr. Robert Hensil, Mr. Lawrence House, Mr. Al Hunter, Jr., and Mr. Thomas Salber. There were no nominations from the floor. The bishop declared the twenty-third ticket closed.

For **Ticket 24, Committee on Discipline, Lay Female** (Two to be elected for terms ending 2012), the nominees are those not elected on Ticket 22.

For **Ticket 25, Committee on Discipline, Lay Male** (Two to be elected for terms ending 2012), the nominees are those not elected on Ticket 23.

For **Ticket 26, Committee on Discipline, Lay Female** (Two to be elected for terms ending 2010), the nominees are those not elected on Ticket 24.

For **Ticket 27, Committee on Discipline, Lay Male** (Two to be elected for terms ending 2010), the nominees are those not elected on Ticket 25.

The Reverend John Carlson asked why the terms for the members of the Committee on Discipline were staggered but the terms for the members of the Consultation Committee were not.

Secretary Miller answered that the synod constitution requires that the terms for the members of the Committee on Discipline be staggered, but not the terms for the members of the Consultation Committee.

### **The Report of the Secretary**

#### *Approval of the 2007 Synod Assembly Minutes*

Secretary Miller reported that the Synod Council approved the minutes of the 2007 Synod Assembly on June 7, 2007 (**S. C. 07.6.6**).

#### *A Process for Dealing with Resolutions at Synod Assemblies*

Secretary Miller reported that, in regard to concerns about Synod Assembly voting members not having sufficient time to review resolutions and memorials submitted to the Committee on Reference and Counsel (**S. C. 07.5.10** and **S. C. 07.5.11**), the Synod Council approved a process for dealing with resolutions and memorials submitted to the Committee on Reference and Counsel, so that assembly voting members may have access to them no later than two weeks before the opening of the synod assembly (**S. C. 07.12.05**). This year the one resolution submitted to the Committee on Reference and Counsel before the deadline was made available to voting members both at the synod website and by hard copy.

#### *Proposed Bylaw Regarding Youth and Young Adult Representation at Synod Assemblies*

He reminded the voting members that the 2007 Synod Assembly referred the *Proposed Bylaw Regarding Youth and Young Adult Representation at Synod Assemblies* (**S. A. 07.5.6**) to the 2008 Synod Assembly. The discussion of the proposed bylaw would resume during the Synod Council report on Saturday morning.

#### *The Use of the Means of Grace*

He indicated that the 2007 Synod Assembly approved a resolution (**S. A. 07.5.2**) requesting that the Worship Committee develop a strategy for encouraging the practice of weekly communion and then present a report on the frequency of the practice of weekly communion in this synod's congregations to the 2008 Synod Assembly. He reported that Bishop Burkat appointed a task force to study the frequency of communion in the synod's congregations. The task force recently completed a survey in which 128 of the synod's 170 congregations responded. The survey found that 59 congregations offer communion weekly at all worship services. Most others offer communion at one of their weekly worship services.

### *Amendments to the Model Constitutions for Synods and Congregations*

Secretary Miller reported that the 2007 Churchwide Assembly approved a small number of amendments to the Model Constitutions for Synods and Congregations. The amendments to the synod constitution are minor and require no action by the assembly. The synod constitution has been subsequently amended and updated. The amendments to both model constitutions are available at the synod website.

### *Requests and Reminders for Voting Members*

He requested that voting members clearly identify themselves by name and congregation when speaking on the floor and that motions of significant length be submitted to him in writing. He reminded voting members that the times indicated in the agenda are estimates.

### **The Reception of Reports**

Secretary Miller presented as information the reports of the various committees, task forces, organizations, and institutions of the synod and asked for any questions. There were no questions.

### **The Report of the Treasurer**

Mr. Richard Reimet reviewed the *Financial Statements and Report of the Independent Certified Public Accountants*, dated January 31, 2008. He presented the following resolution, which was approved:

**S. A. 08.5.2 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly receives as information the report of the auditors of the synod's financial statements for the fiscal year ending 2007, subject to the receipt of the appropriate signatures.**

He encouraged voting members to attend *Lutheran Night at the Phillies* on May 30, 2008, the proceeds of the event benefiting the synod's youth ministry programs.

### **The First Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel**

#### *Continuing Education for Rostered Leaders*

Because the Reverend Larry Smoose, the chair of the Committee on Reference and Counsel, submitted and wished to speak on the floor of the assembly in favor of the first resolution, the Reverend Doctor Janet Corpus presented the first resolution:

**S. A. 08.5.3 Whereas many professions have continuing education requirements that link fulfillment of a minimum of continuing education units (CEUs) to continued practice of the profession; and**

**Whereas the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America encourages lifelong learning and professional growth for rostered leaders and requires congregations to provide time and financial resources for rostered leaders to pursue continuing education; and**

**Whereas there is no systematic oversight of continuing education or basic requirements for a minimum number of continuing education units on a periodic basis; and**

**Whereas there are no stated consequences for rostered leaders who do not engage in periodic continuing education;**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly memorialize the ELCA [Churchwide] Assembly to request that the Vocation and Education unit establish continuing education requirements for all rostered leaders; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT criteria for approved continuing education programs and courses be established as part of the requirements; and**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT consequences for failure to meet the minimum (CEU) requirements be established; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a system for maintaining records of completed educational requirements of rostered leaders be developed, including the possibility of synodical cooperation in this process; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT financial support for the administration of the continuing education requirements be provided by an annual fee from the rostered leaders' continuing education funds or by other means determined by the Vocation and Education unit.**

Pastor Smoose said that he submitted the resolution, recognizing that rostered leaders need the same self-expectations and accountability as other professions.

The Reverend George Keck urged support for the resolution, saying that it added strength to the expectation of continuing education for rostered leaders.

The Reverend Richard Mathisen asked whether the continuing education programs mentioned in the resolution were purely academic in nature.

Pastor Smoose replied that the resolution assumed a wide range of continuing education opportunities, not necessarily academic.

The Reverend Stacie Dougherty expressed a concern that the financial requirements of the resolution would create a financial burden for small congregations.

The Reverend Shirley Guider expressed a concern for rostered leaders serving in locations where continuing education opportunities are not easily accessible.

Mr. Keith Taylor, Zion, Spring City, asked whether the implementation of the resolution would require additional churchwide staff.

Pastor Sellers spoke in favor of the resolution, indicating that there were tremendous resources for continuing education both on-site and on-line.

While speaking in favor of the resolution, the Reverend David Stickley said that the resolution does not adequately address the situation of those in specialized ministries.

The Reverend Thomas Lang spoke against the resolution, preferring as an alternative the strengthening of mutual ministry committees in congregations.

The Reverend Susan Lynch expressed a concern about the handling and availability of funds as described by the resolution.

The Reverend Michael Tavella spoke against the resolution, preferring to let congregations determine the type of continuing education needed by rostered leaders.

The Reverend Susan Folks said that she did not know how the plan, described in the resolution, would work.

Mr. William Bleam, St. Paul, Applebachsville, called for the question. The assembly voted to end discussion.

The assembly then defeated the resolution – 174 voted yes; 266, no.

Since the Committee on Reference and Counsel received the next two resolutions after the deadline, Pastor Corpus requested the assembly's permission to present and consider them. The assembly approved for consideration the *Health Risk Assessment* resolution and the *Social Statement on Human Disability* resolution.

### ***Health Risk Assessment***

Pastor Corpus presented the second resolution:

**S. A. 08.5.4 Whereas the ELCA affirms the Word of God and its declaration that the “body is the temple of the Lord;” and**

**Whereas the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod wants to encourage the health and well-being of all of its rostered leaders; and**

**Whereas we are called as individuals, congregations and the synod to be good stewards of our resources; and**

**Whereas every rostered member and/or spouse who completes the ELCA health risk assessment receives an immediate \$100 credit to their out-of-pocket medical expense reimbursement account; and**

**Whereas every congregation can save 2% of its cost of health benefits from the ELCA health plan if 75% of our rostered leaders and (as appropriate) their spouses take the health risk assessment;**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the synod urge every rostered leader and their spouse to take the ELCA health risk assessment before June 1, 2008 ([www.elcaforwellness.org](http://www.elcaforwellness.org)); and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT voting members from each congregation ask their rostered leaders if they and their spouses have taken the ELCA health risk assessment and, if not, to strongly urge them to take the health risk assessment prior to June 1, 2008.**

After a discussion in which voting members asked mostly questions about the nature and implications of the assessment, the assembly approved the resolution.

Pastor Corpus indicated that the third resolution, *Social Statement on Disability*, would be considered at the time of the second report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel.

**Greetings from the Deaconess Community**

Sisters Sally Kerr, Katherine Homburg, Jane Roper, and Margaret Thorne brought greetings from the Deaconess Community. Sister Mary Julia McKenzie offered prayer.

*The assembly recessed for lunch.*

### **Friday Afternoon**

Bishop Burkat announced that, in upcoming floor discussions, there would be a two-minute time limit per person.

### **Companion Synod Partnerships**

The Reverend Michael Gutzler described various aspects of the synod's partnership with the Silesian Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Czech Republic, noting the development of church-based social services. He added that partnership with the Silesian synod raises the question – What is it like to be a religious community in a non-religious environment? He invited voting members to become *Friends of the Silesian Synod*.

The Reverend Mark Singh-Hueter reported that the dedication of SEKUCo, a college for the training of special needs teachers developed by the North Eastern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania, took place on October 28, 2007, adding that 107 students were enrolled. He thanked the synod's congregations for their support. He expressed special thanks to Ms. Susan Pursch, whose leadership made possible a great outpouring of synodical and congregational help for the SEKUCo project. He described SEKUCo as "Susan's dream."

### **The First Report of the Committee on Elections**

The Reverend William Shafer, the chair of the Committee on Elections, explained the election procedure. The assembly then proceeded to cast votes for the first ballots of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup> tickets.

Because they were the only ones nominated on their respective tickets, Bishop Burkat declared the following persons elected: **Ticket 3, Synod Council, Central Philadelphia Conference Representative**, Ms. Queretha Travis; **Ticket 5, Synod Council, Lower Montgomery Representative**, Mr. Barry Stock; **Ticket 6, Synod Council, Lower Bucks Representative**, Ms. Barbara Spencer; **Ticket 8, Synod Council, At Large Representative, Female**, Ms. Tracey Beasley; **Ticket 9, Synod Council, Youth**, Ms. Haley Robbins; **Ticket 10, Churchwide Assembly, Lay Young Adult**, Ms. Laura Kalemkarian; and **Ticket 11, Churchwide Assembly, Lay Youth**, Branden Lee McCall.

### **The Report of the ELCA Representative**

The Reverend Craig Settlage, Director of Mission Support, Synodical Relations, began by remarking that he grew up in Texas where there were few Lutherans but more Baptists than people. He recognized the churchwide staff present at the assembly, including the Reverend Mark Wimmer, Associate Vice President, Marketing, Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA.

Pastor Settlage then introduced a video message from the Reverend Mark Hanson, Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, where he highlighted several local ministries: Trinity Lutheran Church, Des Plaines, Illinois; Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota; and Shekinah Chapel, Chicago, Illinois.

After Bishop Hanson's video message, Pastor Settlage said that he was very excited about the ELCA's *Book of Faith* initiative, which seeks to bring Lutherans together "to do the Bible," not to argue about it.

He encouraged congregations to grow in their mission support from the churchwide average of 7% to 10%.

Noting that the ELCA is one church in three expressions (congregation, synod, and churchwide organization), he reminded the assembly that the ELCA is not "an association of congregations" nor "a federation of synods." The ELCA is "one church carrying out God's mission to the world."

On a global level, he reported, the ELCA, in partnership with the Lutheran World Federation and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, is participating in a malaria initiative, seeking to control and prevent malaria around the world.

He invited the assembly to imagine what the ELCA might do, since it is blessed with so many gifts and so much to offer the world. "Can we grow?" he asked.

He thanked the synod for its support, and generous and faithful giving.

### **Interim Ministry**

On behalf of the Transitional Ministry Development Team, the Reverend Ellen Meissgeier and Ms. Jill Meuser presented the best practices for transforming the future of transitional ministry in this synod:

- Equitable compensation to serve all of the synod's congregations,
- Message board for increased communications,
- Dean for interim ministry serving on staff,
- Refresher course,
- Quarterly consult meetings that focus on tools, and
- Best practices as benevolence to wider church.

They also presented a 5-Year vision for transitional ministry in this synod:

- Settled pastors and lay leaders trained in transitional processes,
- Congregations using transitional processes during settled times,
- Synod offering skills of transitional specialists to congregations seeking growth, mission and visioning processes, and conflict resolution,
- All congregations would receive excellent transitional ministry from excellent and healthy transitional pastors, and
- Processes and procedures for transitional ministry would be clear, shared, communicated, standard, and available for easy reference in a new Handbook for Transitional Ministry.

### **Strategic Planning Process – Phase II**

Ms. Kelly Fryer, Executive Director of *A.R.E.: A Renewal Enterprise*, entitled her presentation, "A Wake Up Call: Waking Up to Our Evangelical Identity."

After a few opening remarks, Ms. Fryer invited voting members to take six minutes and discuss with someone that they did not know – "What is the boldest thing that you've ever done?"

Noting that God's people are capable of doing bold things, she told those assembled, "You really are God's plan," adding that this is how God works. "We are blessed to be a blessing."

She then asked those assembled to discuss with someone near to them – "How has God's loving mission come to you?" and "How has God's loving mission come through you?"

Following that discussion, she noted, "God's loving mission comes to us and it comes through us to others."

Describing a profound insight that came to her in a seminary class, she stated, "God comes down to us to love, save, and set us free. God always comes down, so that we can love and serve our neighbors. That is what it means to be church.

"It is time for us to reclaim the 'E' word," she continued. "God is on a mission and God's mission has a church. Through Jesus Christ, God sets us free to love our neighbor and change the world. Church happens as we do what we are called to do." Citing the beginning of Jesus' ministry in Galilee, as described in Luke 4, she said, "The real action happens at the crossroads where Jesus is."

She then asked those assembled to consider – "If we really believed that being a part of God's loving mission in the world is the point of our lives as *church*, what would be different about our congregations?" She invited those assembled to respond.

Ms. Fryer then presented "five patterns found in *evangelical* congregations:

- They are awake to the "real deal."
- They are awake to a vital word.
- They are awake to a purposeful life.
- They are awake to a common call.
- They are awake to transformational power.

*The assembly recessed for dinner, visiting the display area, videos, and conversation.*

## **Friday Evening**

### **The Report on the Re-location of the Synod Office**

Mr. Richard Reimet reported on plans to re-locate the synod office on the campus of the Philadelphia seminary. He said, "It's not often that a synod changes the location of its headquarters and, with this decision to locate at the Lutheran seminary campus, we anticipate a long and strong partnership that will provide our permanent location for the foreseeable future. We are going *back to the future*, back to 1765 to a partnership that Henry Muhlenberg originally envisioned for the Lutheran seminary and a Church Center which was to be located in Philadelphia."

Seeking to answer the question why move, he offered several reasons:

- Creation of new partnerships,
- Re-invigoration of existing partnerships,
- Essential access for all people,
- Possibilities for guest meals and overnight lodging, and
- Shared maintenance, professional security, and ready access to the seminary library and the Augsburg Fortress store.

He reported that the official groundbreaking took place on April 11, 2008, noting that the proposed Gateway Plaza would provide street-level access for the Mount Airy community and that the office complex would consist of 5,400 square feet.

Making use of architectural drawings, Pastor Smoose reviewed key components of the plan. He shared the following timetable:

- June 2008: construction begins,
- November 2008: construction is completed,
- December 2008: synod office moves, and
- Spring 2009: dedication of the new office.

He added that the cost of construction would not exceed \$3 million, and that the synod's portion of that cost would be \$1.5 million, plus furnishings, moving expenses, and any cost overruns that would occur because of changes desired by the synod. The synod would pay the seminary its portion from invested funds. The seminary agrees to charge the synod no rent for 17 years. The synod will use its current rental payments to repay the loan from the invested funds, anticipating the loan would be repaid in 20 years.

Pastor Smoose said that congregations and individuals would be invited to make contributions to assist with the cost of construction and relocation.

Mr. Reimet expressed his expectation that the new synod office would be "a welcome center for all of God's people."

Bishop Burkat and the Reverend Dr. Philip Krey, President of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, proceeded to sign the lease.

President Krey and Dr. Addie Butler, President of the seminary board, offered remarks.

## **The Second Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel**

### *Social Statement on Human Disability*

Pastor Smoose presented the third resolution:

**S. A. 08.5.5 Whereas an estimated 54 million children and adults within the United States live with a disability; and**

**Whereas people who live with a disability have historically faced challenges in gaining equal access to education, employment, health care and accessibility and are more likely to live in poverty than people without disabilities; and**

**Whereas, because of ignorance, fear, and the perpetuation of myths, people with disabilities and their families have been stigmatized and discriminated against in church and society; and**

**Whereas persons who live with a disability are active members and leaders in congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, yet many congregations struggle with issues of accessibility, accommodation and welcome; and**

Whereas, in carrying out its mission, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America commits itself to “study social issues and trends, work to discover the causes of oppression and injustice, and develop programs of ministry and advocacy to further human dignity, freedom, justice, and peace in the world” (ELCA 4.03.1); and

Whereas neither the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America nor its predecessor bodies has a social statement addressing the theological and social implications of human disability; and

Whereas the *Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns* states that topics for social statements shall be approved by the Churchwide Assembly and development of a social statement shall be overseen by the Church is Society unit;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA, memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to direct the Church and Society program unit to develop a social statement concerning persons with disabilities to be presented for consideration by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the task force charged with the formation of this social statement pay special attention to the unique issues that face different types of disabilities, whether they be physical, sensory, psychiatric, or intellectual.

The Reverend Stephen Weisser expressed his hope that a social statement on human disability would address a larger, systemic issue – people’s attitudes toward those with disabilities. Behind this issue, he said, is a basic theological consideration of “who we are as the body of Christ.”

After further discussion, the assembly approved the resolution.

### **The Second Report of the Committee on Elections**

Pastor Shafer reported the results of the first ballot of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup> tickets.

#### **Ticket 1, Synod Council, Clergy** (Three to be elected for terms ending 2011)

456 total ballots cast, no invalid ballots cast, 456 valid ballots cast, 219 votes needed for election.

Christopher Weidner, 337; Sandra Brown, 328; Rose Key, 312; Carol Ficken, 304.

The bishop declared Pastors Weidner, S. Brown, and Key elected to the Synod Council for terms ending 2011.

Because she was the only one nominated on **Ticket 2, Synod Council, Clergy**, the bishop declared Pastor Ficken elected to the Synod Council for a term ending 2010.

#### **Ticket 12, Churchwide Assembly, Clergy** (Six to be elected)

455 total ballots cast, 2 invalid ballots cast, 453 valid ballots cast, 219 votes needed for election.

Serena Sellers, 251; Larry Smoose, 241; Timothy Poston, 233; Marcia Bell, 219; Paul Beck, 173; Charles Leonard, 170; Lee Miller, 162; Bruce Todd, 159; Eric Shafer, 158; Susan Lang, 158; Nancy Brown, 151; Cornelius Eaddy, 133; Moses Dennis, 120; Thomas Lang, 115; Carlton Rodgers, 100; and Richard Mathisen, 77.

The bishop declared Pastors Sellers, Smoose, Poston, and Bell elected to the synod's voting membership at the 2009 Churchwide Assembly. She also declared that the names of Pastors Beck, Leonard, L. Miller, and Todd would appear on the second ballot for Ticket 12.

**Ticket 19, Committee on Discipline, Clergy** (Two to be elected for terms ending 2014)

462 total ballots cast, 1 invalid ballot cast, 461 valid ballots cast, 226 votes needed for election.

Susan Ericsson, 202; Marcia Bell, 178; Paul Beck, 118; Thomas Kadel, 110; Nancy Brown, 106; Karl Richard, 95; Thomas Lang, 91.

The bishop declared that the names of Pastors Ericsson, Bell, Beck, and Kadel would appear on the second ballot for Ticket 19, and that the names of Pastors N. Brown, K. Richard, and T. Lang would appear on the first ballot for Ticket 20.

**Ticket 22, Committee on Discipline, Lay Female** (One to be elected for a term ending 2014)

463 total ballots cast, 18 invalid ballots cast, 445 valid ballots cast, 151 votes needed for election

Sally Kerr, 144; Susan Pursch, 118; Janet Neff, 103; Tracey Beasley, 55; Annette Sample, 25.

The bishop declared that the names of Ms. Kerr and Ms. Pursch would appear on the second ballot for Ticket 22, and that the names of Ms. Neff, Ms. Beasley, and Ms. Sample would appear on the first ballot for Ticket 24.

**Ticket 23, Committee on Discipline, Lay Male** (One to be elected for a term ending 2014)

356 total ballots cast, 7 invalid ballots cast, 349 valid ballots cast, 225 votes needed for election

Lawrence House, 158; William Bleam, 100; Robert Hensil, 81; Al Hunter, Jr., 56; Thomas Salber, 54

The bishop declared that the names of Mr. House and Mr. Bleam would appear on the second ballot for Ticket 23, and that the names of Mr. Hensil, Mr. Hunter, and Mr. Salber would appear on the first ballot for Ticket 25.

Voting members proceeded to cast votes for the first ballot of Tickets 7, 13, and 14, and for the second ballot of Tickets 12, 19, 22, and 23.

The Reverend Cornelius Eaddy expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of persons of color elected so far as clergy voting members from this synod to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

## **Worship**

The worship service took the form of Jazz Vespers. The jazz ensemble consisted of Mr. Larry McKenna, tenor saxophone; Mr. Bill Schilling, organ; and Mr. Jim Schade, drums.

The Reverend Leah Schade preached the sermon, based on Matthew 4:12-23. She began by asking, "How are your nets? Are they strong and sturdy like the nets of Peter and Andrew – or tattered and torn like the nets of James and John?" Regardless of the condition of their nets, she indicated, the disciples knew that they had to follow Jesus.

She reminded those in attendance that the church is the place for mending broken nets and broken lives. Jesus invites the church to become "an interconnected network" and, by so doing, "Jesus makes the net work."

*The assembly recessed until morning.*

## **Saturday Morning**

### **Worship**

The worship service was led by L.I.F.E. (Lutherans in Fellowship Exchange), a gospel chorus.

The Reverend Carlton Rodgers preached the sermon, based on John 1:35-51. He focused on Jesus' invitation to Philip to "follow me," and Philip's invitation to Nathanael to "come and see" Jesus. He noted Nathanael's sarcasm when he asked, "Can anything come good come out of Nazareth," Jesus' hometown? He compared Nazareth to Lutheran congregations in Philadelphia and invited those in attendance to "come and see."

### **The Reception of Emmaus Road Lutheran Church**

Bishop Burkat invited Pastors Patricia Davenport, Serena Sellers, Nancy Wiseman, and Eric Oxley, along with the members present from Emmaus Road Lutheran Church, Fairless Hills and Levittown, to come forward.

Pastor Davenport described Emmaus Road as two congregations (Christ, Levittown, and Trinity, Fairless Hills) that became one. Noting that the two congregations put both of their buildings up for sale in order to allow the Holy Spirit to decide which one to keep, she characterized the members of both congregations as people who are not attached to buildings but to Christ. "You are truly your mission statement," she told the Emmaus Road group. "You have a clear vision of kingdom building for God. You are a model for all of us for moving disciples from hearts broken to hearts burning for Jesus."

Bishop Burkat led the order for the reception of a new congregation.

Acknowledging the struggles in bringing these two congregations together, Pastor Wiseman described the formation of Emmaus Road as "a transforming experience." She then presented to Bishop Burkat a thank offering of \$5,000 from Emmaus Road to the synod.

### **The Third Report of the Committee on Elections**

Pastor Shafer reported the results of the first ballots for Tickets 7, 13, and 14, and the second ballots for Tickets 12, 19, 22, and 23.

#### **Ticket 7, Synod Council, Lay Male** (One to be elected for a term ending 2011)

319 total ballots cast, 3 invalid ballots cast, 316 total valid ballots cast, 159 votes needed for election.

Joshua Kelly, 141; Terrence Townsend, 81; Bert Glenn, 62; John Thebus, 32

The bishop declared that the names of Mr. Kelly and Mr. Townsend would appear on the second ballot for the Ticket 7.

#### **Ticket 12, Churchwide Assembly, Clergy** (Two to be elected)

322 total ballots cast, no invalid ballots cast, 322 valid ballots cast, 151 votes needed for election.

Lee Miller, 159; Paul Beck, 158; Bruce Todd, 145; Charles Leonard, 139.

The bishop declared Pastors L. Miller and Beck elected as voting members from this synod to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

**Ticket 13, Churchwide Assembly, Lay Male** (Four to be elected)

317 total ballots cast, 1 invalid ballot, 316 valid ballots cast, 146 votes needed for election.

Stephen Keiser, 142; Joshua Kelly, 141; William Bleam, 123; Robert Hensil, 112; Alex Jenkins, 85; Terrence Townsend, 83; Charles Horn, 82; Joe Kovatch, 80; John Ungerman, 80; Bert Glenn, 65; Len Weiser, 63; Thomas Salber, 59; and Mark Ristine, 45.

The bishop declared that the names of Mr. Keiser, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Bleam, Mr. Hensil, Mr. Jenkins, Mr. Townsend, Mr. Horn, Mr. Kovatch, and Mr. Ungerman would appear on the second ballot for Ticket 13.

**Ticket 14, Churchwide Assembly, Lay Female** (Four to be elected)

324 total ballots cast, no invalid ballots cast, 324 valid ballots cast, 153 votes needed for election

Addie Butler, 219; Sally Kerr, 217; Molly Beck Dean, 163; Patricia Robinson, 149; Tracey Beasley, 115; Karen Santiago, 88; Rebecca Kolowe, 63; Patricia Kissinger, 51; Mary Beth Jones, 44; Barbara Spencer, 44; Jessica Smith, 33; and Doreen Kinzler, 31.

The bishop declared Ms. Butler, Ms. Kerr, and Ms. Dean elected as voting members from this synod to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly. She also declared that the names of Ms. Robinson and Ms. Beasley would appear on the second ballot for Ticket 14.

**Ticket 19, Committee on Discipline, Clergy** (Two to be elected for terms ending 2014)

317 total ballots cast, no invalid ballots cast, 317 valid ballots cast, 153 votes needed for election

Marcia Bell, 193; Susan Ericsson, 177; Paul Beck, 148; Thomas Kadel, 91.

The bishop declared Pr. Bell and Pr. Ericsson elected to the Committee on Discipline for terms ending 2014.

**Ticket 22, Committee on Discipline, Lay Female** (One to be elected for a term ending 2014)

322 total ballots cast, no invalid ballots cast, 322 valid votes cast, 162 votes needed for election

Sally Kerr, 169; Susan Pursch, 153

The bishop declared Ms. Kerr elected to the Committee on Discipline for a term ending 2014.

**Ticket 23, Committee on Discipline, Lay Male** (One to be elected for a term ending 2014)

315 total ballots cast, 1 invalid ballot cast, 314 valid votes cast, 158 votes needed for election

Lawrence House, 188; William Bleam, 126

The bishop declared Mr. House elected to the Committee on Discipline for a term ending 2014.

Voting members proceeded to cast votes for the first ballots of Tickets 13, 16, 20, and 25, and the second ballots of the Tickets 7 and 14.

Secretary Miller asked for a moment of personal privilege. In response to Pastor Eaddy's concern expressed the previous evening regarding unsatisfactory representation of "persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English" among this synod's voting members to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly, he moved the following resolution:

**S. A. 08.5.6 RESOLVED THAT the 2008 Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly voluntarily declines to elect a 2009 Churchwide Assembly voting member on Ticket 15 (Churchwide Assembly, Lay Female or Male), and directs the Synod Council to elect a faithful and qualified "person of color and/or person whose primary language is other than English" to this open position.**

Pastor Ericsson spoke in favor of the resolution, urging that, for future elections, the Synod Council address institutional racism by changing the election process. She suggested that the clergy already elected as voting members to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly examine their consciences and consider what they might do.

Mr. Alex Jenkins stated that, while the synod tries intentionally to be diverse, it needs to do more.

Following further discussion, the assembly approved the resolution.

Pastor Sellers moved the following resolution:

**S. A. 08.5.7 RESOLVED THAT, should a member of the clergy be excused or recuse themselves from the ELCA Churchwide Assembly voting membership, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly directs the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council to elect a voting member who is a clergy woman of color and/or whose primary language is other than English.**

Pastor Sellers stated that, if none of the clergy from this synod elected as voting members of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly excuse themselves or resign, she would do so.

The assembly approved the resolution.

### **The Bishop's Address**

"Last November we embarked on a journey in the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, which will guide us as we discern God's mission in this five county Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod," Bishop Burkat began. "We are on this journey together ...

"Earlier this year more than 200 of the faithful participated in a process devoted to assessing the missional capacity of our synod for robust church development. We were led by two denominational consultants, Mike Regele and John Mueller Nowell, from a parachurch organization called *Church Innovations*. Together we assessed our capacity for synodical vitality as Mike and John helped us understand what makes a synod *robust*."

In response to those who predict the demise of denominations, she invited the assembly to imagine the revitalization of "our beloved ELCA," adding, "We can make a difference in our witness and in the mission to which we have been called by God."

She described Phase 1 of the strategic planning process as one where key leaders developed principles, values, and best practices to guide the participants in the process.

“At this assembly, we have launched Phase 2” of the strategic planning process, she said, citing the involvement of Ms. Kelly Fryer and the *A.R.E.* team. “Our goal is to involve as many ELCA Lutherans in the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod [as we can] in building capacity for missional imagination, theological vitality, biblical depth, and deepening missional leadership at every level of the church.” She said that she hoped to see at least 200 congregational leaders at each of the nine conference meetings this fall.

Bishop Burkat then presented and explained six principles “which will guide us in our planning and in our practice:”

- Principle 1 – It’s God’s mission. *We are embraced by God’s grace.*
- Principle 2 – It’s God’s mission: Jesus is Lord. *We are claimed, called, and sent by Christ.*
- Principle 3 – It’s God’s mission: Jesus is Lord. The Holy Spirit guides us. *God doesn’t play favorites.*
- Principle 4 – It’s God’s mission: Jesus is Lord. The Holy Spirit guides us. *Right here! Right now!*
- Principle 5 – It’s God’s mission: Jesus is Lord. The Holy Spirit guides us. *Tell it like it is!*
- Principle 6 – It’s God’s mission: Jesus is Lord. The Holy Spirit guide us. *Vision and leadership required.*

In conclusion, as part of a video clip, Bishop Burkat read, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

### **The Report of the Synod Council**

Ms. Patricia Robinson, Vice President of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, described the past year as one in which Synod Council members faced a number of challenges, requiring them to give extra time and effort. She noted some of the actions taken by the Synod Council over the past year:

- The approval of an agreement between the synod and the Philadelphia seminary regarding the relocation of the synod office to the seminary campus;
- Participation in and support for the strategic planning process;
- Recognition of Emmaus Road Lutheran Church, Fairless Hills and Levittown, as an example of a congregation “thinking outside of the box;” and
- The implementation of background checks for synodical officers, Executive Committee members, deans, and staff, as a model for congregations.

#### ***Proposed Bylaw Regarding Youth and Young Adult Representation at Synod Assemblies***

Because the 2007 Synod Assembly referred the *Proposed Bylaw Regarding Youth and Youth Adult Representation at Synod Assemblies* to the 2008 Synod Assembly for further discussion and action, Vice President Robinson opened discussion on the following resolution:

**S. A. 08.5.8 (S. A. 07.5.6) Whereas the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly has historically had a low number of voting members who were under the age of 25; and**

**Whereas in 2006 the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly passed a resolution calling for a study on how best to increase the number of youth and young adult voting members; and**

**Whereas young people are not just future leaders of the Church, but present leaders;**

**Whereas the Church is striving to become more missional and relevant with people of the 21<sup>st</sup> century;**

**Whereas participation in the Synod Assembly may affirm the gifts of this synod's youth and motivate young people to be a more active part of the church's mission; and**

**Whereas, on February 22, 2007, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council has unanimously recommended the following resolution for approval by the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly (S. C. 07.2.3);**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly adopts the following bylaw and adds it to the Constitution of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod:**

**S7.21.11 In addition to the congregation's election of voting member(s) of the Synod Assembly as established by S7.21.c, each congregation may elect one additional voting member of the Synod Assembly who shall be a voting member of the congregation up to the age of 25.**

Many voting members spoke in favor of the proposed bylaw, citing the need for generational diversity in the life of the church and for greater youth participation in synodical decision-making.

Mr. Barry Stock asked, "If we can send our youth on servant trips to Costa Rica, South Dakota, South Florida, and Tanzania, why can't we let them speak at the synod assembly?"

Pastor Mathisen expressed a reservation about youth participation in the entire assembly, citing his perception that youth might not be able to understand serious issues.

The assembly approved the proposed bylaw.

#### ***Redeemer, Philadelphia (East Falls)***

Vice President Robinson indicated that, on June 7, 2007, the Synod Council invoked **S13.24** of the synod constitution and placed Redeemer, Philadelphia (East Falls), under what is commonly known as "involuntary synodical administration." She added that the Synod Council appointed four trustees for the congregation: the Reverends Lee Miller and Raymond Miller, Ms. Tracey Beasley, and Mr. Lawrence House, AIM.

Pastor Lee Miller reported that, throughout the past year, the trustees have met with, or attempted to meet with, Redeemer's leadership and current and former members. He offered both a pastoral assessment and a constitutional assessment, citing many factors leading to the conclusion that Redeemer has become "scattered and diminished."

Ms. Beasley offered a financial assessment, citing poor financial management and decreasing income.

Pastor Lee Miller reported that, in February of this year, Redeemer, through an attorney, informed the synod's legal counsel of its intention to appeal to the Synod Assembly the Synod Council's decision to place the congregation under "involuntary synodical administration." Last week, he added, the same attorney informed the synod's legal counsel that the congregation did not intend to make an appeal at this assembly.

He added that Redeemer has filed a lawsuit against the synod.

Mr. Blead made a motion to affirm Synod Council's decision to place Redeemer under "involuntary synodical administration." The motion was seconded.

Secretary Miller explained that, while he recognized Mr. Blead's intention to be helpful, the motion to affirm would not be helpful because, without giving Redeemer the opportunity to respond, the motion might be construed as unfair.

Mr. Robert Werner, Good Shepherd, Southampton, asked, "What was Redeemer's intent?"

Bishop Burkat responded that the trustees were not in a position to discuss Redeemer's intent; the trustees could only present the synod's case.

Mr. Stanley Meena, Redeemer, Philadelphia (East Falls), reiterated that Redeemer was not in a position to make its appeal at this assembly and that the congregation intended to appeal next year, stating that the procedure for appeal was not presented to Redeemer with sufficient time for them to prepare.

Ms. Beasley responded that the trustees intended to explain the appeal process to Redeemer members at a meeting on February 24, 2008, but were locked out of the Redeemer building and threatened with arrest. She added that a subsequent letter mailed to Redeemer members invited them to contact Pastor Lee Miller about information on the appeal process.

Mr. Blead rescinded his motion to affirm Synod Council's decision to place the congregation under "involuntary synodical administration," and it was withdrawn by general consent.

The Reverend Christopher Weidner asked that the assembly offer a collective prayer for Redeemer. Bishop Burkat invited him to do so, and he graciously did.

### **The Consideration of the 2009 Budget**

Ms. Janet Neff reviewed the proposed budget for 2009, noting that projected income is down due to staff changes and a decrease in salary support from the ELCA.

*Note: Projected income in the proposed budget for 2009 is also down because budgeted income no longer includes the tithe from the sale of church buildings.*

Ms. Neff also noted that the synod's proportionate share to the ELCA for 2009 remains at 53.5% of partnership support from congregations.

She encouraged congregations to consider gathering a thank offering for the synod on one Sunday in the coming year, adding that, if each of the synod's congregation gave an additional \$2,000, the synod would meet its budget.

Ms. Neff presented the following resolution:

**S. A. 08.5.9 RESOLVED THAT the Synod Assembly approves the 2009 budget, in the amount of \$3,326,400, as recommended by the Synod Council.**

Pastor Settlage described the synod's percentage of 53.5% for proportionate share as a strong one – and one that is moving in the right direction.

Bishop Burkat noted that the report of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding (ELCA) recommends 55%.

Mr. Robert Werner, Good Shepherd, Southampton, asked how the synod planned to fund its deficit.

Ms. Neff noted that, in the past, the synod funded its deficits from the Fund for Mission. Reminding the assembly that “we are dependent on one another,” she expressed a hope that deficit funding would not be necessary.

Mr. Werner asked how “deep a pocket” did the Fund for Mission provide.

Ms. Neff replied that there is now \$1.3 million in the Fund for Mission.

Bishop Burkat indicated her expectation that Phase 3 of the strategic planning process would address some of the funding concerns.

Pastor Sellers indicated that, while congregational income has increased significantly over the past twenty years, annual mission support from this synod’s congregations has increased only by \$2,000, noting that the percentage of congregational giving to the synod has decreased. “The synod is worth supporting,” she added.

The Reverend David Deal suggested that, if congregations realize the 2% savings from the health risk assessment, they give that savings to the synod.

Pastor Smoose encouraged congregations to give first to the synod and then to other ministries. He suggested that the synod develop “a fair share formula” which would guide congregations in planning their giving to the synod.

Mr. Richard Reimet said that, while the synod does not have a development office, pastors and voting members are responsible for taking these concerns back to congregations.

Pastor Sellers added that there are a variety of mission and stewardship resources available at the synod website.

The assembly approved the resolution.

### *Special Offering Sunday*

The Reverend Patrick Seyler presented the following resolution:

**RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod designates one Sunday in the next year as a time when congregations may plan a special offering for the development initiative.**

The assembly tabled the resolution.

### **Greetings from 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination Celebrants**

The Reverend Frederic Geehr, accompanied by his spouse, Mrs. Lois Geehr, and the Reverend William Fluck brought greetings to the assembly in celebration of their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of ordination.

## **Greetings from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia**

Seminary President Krey said that he rejoiced in the lease agreement between the synod and the seminary. He welcomed to the synod to the campus. “We are your seminary,” he added, “preparing lay and ordained leaders for mission.”

Expressing a desire to complete the capital campaign for the Brossman Center, he introduced Mr. Adam Marles, the seminary’s Director of Development. Mr. Marles reported that the seminary has raised \$17 million toward its goal of \$20 million for the Brossman Center. He added that this synod’s phase of the capital campaign would soon begin and that he hoped that this synod would be able to raise \$1.5 million. These funds, of course, would be separate from any funds contributed toward the synod’s move to the seminary campus. He expressed thanks to those who had already supported the seminary’s capital campaign.

## **The Fourth Report of the Committee on Elections**

Pastor Shafer reported the results of the first ballots for Tickets 13, 16, 20, and 25, and the second ballots for Tickets 7 and 14.

### **Ticket 7, Synod Council, At Large Representative, Lay Male** (One to be elected for a term ending 2011)

454 total ballots cast, no invalid ballots cast, 454 valid ballots cast, 228 votes needed for election

Joshua Kelly, 288; Terrence Townsend, 166

The bishop declared Mr. Kelly elected to the Synod Council for a term ending 2011.

### **Ticket 13, Churchwide Assembly, Lay Male** (Four to be elected)

403 total ballots cast, 3 invalid ballots cast, 400 valid ballots cast, 188 votes needed for election

Joshua Kelly, 247; Stephen Keiser, 197; William Bleam, 184; Terrence Townsend, 181; Charles Horn, 158; Robert Hensil, 150

The bishop declared Mr. Kelly and Mr. Keiser elected as voting members from this synod to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly. She also declared that the names of Mr. Bleam, Mr. Townsend, Mr. Horn, and Mr. Hensil would appear on the second ballot for Ticket 13.

### **Ticket 14, Churchwide Assembly, Lay Female** (One to be elected)

388 total ballots cast, no invalid ballots cast, 388 valid ballots cast, 195 votes needed for election

Patricia Robinson, 216; Tracey Beasley, 172

The bishop declared Ms. Robinson elected as a voting member from this synod to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

### **Ticket 16, Consultation Committee, Clergy** (Six to be elected for terms ending 2014)

408 total ballots cast, no invalid ballots cast, 408 valid ballots cast, 176 votes needed for election

Larry Smoose, 282; Cynthia Krommes, 279; Sandra Brown, 254; Dolores Littleton, 245; Cornelius Eaddy, 230; Thomas Lang, 223; Esther Rajashekar, 218; Cheryl Hensil, 200; Michael McKillip, 169

The bishop declared Pastors Smoose, Krommes, S. Brown, Littleton, Eaddy, and T. Lang elected as members of the Consultation Committee for terms ending 2014.

**Ticket 20, Committee on Discipline, Clergy** (Two to be elected for terms ending 2012)  
402 total ballots cast, no invalid ballots cast, 402 valid ballots cast, 194 votes needed for election

Nancy Brown, 215; Paul Beck, 181; Karl Richard, 126; Thomas Kadel, 126; Thomas Lang, 125

The bishop declared Pr. N. Brown elected as a member of the Committee on Discipline for a term ending 2012.

**Ticket 25, Committee on Discipline, Lay Male** (One to be elected for a term ending 2012)  
389 total ballots cast, 3 invalid ballots cast, 386 valid ballots cast, 195 votes needed for election

William Bleam, 140; Robert Hensil, 101; Thomas Salber, 80; Al Hunter, Jr., 68

The bishop declared that the names of Mr. Bleam and Mr. Hensil would appear on the second ballot for Ticket 25.

Voting members proceeded to cast votes for the first ballots of Tickets 17, 18, and 24, the second ballots of Tickets 20 and 25, and the third ballot of Ticket 13.

Bishop Burkat offered prayer.

*The assembly recessed for lunch.*

### **Saturday Afternoon**

#### **The Report of the Lutheran Charities Appeal and Social Ministry Organizations**

The Reverend Paul Xander listed the recipients of this year's social ministry grants.

Ms. Carol Hammerburg expressed thanks for the support of the synod's congregations for the vital work of social ministry.

#### **The Report of Youth Ministries**

Ms. Jessica Smith, Secretary of the Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) Board, reported, "Youth ministry in this synod is led by a dedicated group of youth."

Ms. Molly Beck Dean described a number of recent youth events, including the South Dakota Servant Trip, Helping Hands Day, and Wonderfully Made Camp.

#### **Introduction of the Candidates for Ordination and Certification**

The Reverend David Hinkelman, chair of the Candidacy Committee, introduced the candidates for ordination and certification: Ms. Susan Sosnin, Ms. Jane Marston, Mr. Daniel Wollo, Ms. Erika Strobel Wesch, and Mr. Robert Myallis.

#### **The Fifth Report of the Committee on Elections**

Pastor Shafer reported the results of the first ballots for Tickets 17, 18, and 24, the second ballots for Tickets 20 and 25, and the third ballot for Ticket 13.

**Ticket 13, Churchwide Assembly, Lay Male** (Two to be elected)

392 total ballots cast, 2 invalid ballots cast, 390 valid ballots cast, 182 votes needed for election

Terrence Townsend, 232; William Bleam, 199; Robert Hensil, 185; Charles Horn, 110

The bishop declared Mr. Townsend and Mr. Bleam elected as voting members from this synod to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

**Ticket 17, Consultation Committee, Lay Female** (Three to be elected for terms ending 2014)

382 total ballots cast, no invalid ballots cast, 382 valid ballots cast, 179 votes needed to elect

Addie Butler, 316; Ramona Cecile-Daily, 200; Dawn Stewart, 197; Kimerly Hinkelman, 186; Judith Brndjar, 170

The bishop declared Ms. Butler, Ms. Cecile-Daily, and Ms. Stewart elected as members of the Consultation Committee for terms ending 2014.

**Ticket 18, Consultation Committee, Lay Male** (Three to be elected for terms ending 2014)

375 total ballots cast, 1 invalid ballot cast, 374 valid ballots cast, 166 votes needed for election

Barry Stock, 229; John Ungerman, 228; Garry Brown, 208; Bruce McCullough, 207; Mark Sofio, 122

The bishop declared Mr. Stock, Mr. Ungerman, and Mr. G. Brown elected as members of the Consultation Committee for terms ending 2014.

**Ticket 20, Committee on Discipline, Clergy** (One to be elected for a term ending 2012)

378 total ballots cast, 6 invalid ballots cast, 372 valid ballots cast, 187 votes needed for election

Paul Beck, 192; Thomas Kadel, 92; Karl Richard, 88

The bishop declared Pr. Beck elected to the Committee on Discipline for a term ending 2012.

**Ticket 24, Committee on Discipline, Lay Female** (One to be elected for a term ending 2012)

396 total ballots cast, 6 invalid ballots cast, 390 valid ballots cast, 196 votes needed for election

Susan Pursch, 131; Tracey Beasley, 121; Janet Neff, 105; Annette Sample, 33

The bishop declared that the names of Ms. Pursch and Ms. Beasley would appear on the second ballot for Ticket 24.

**Ticket 25, Committee on Discipline, Lay Male** (One to be elected for a term ending 2012)

390 total ballots cast, no invalid ballots cast, 390 valid ballots cast, 196 votes needed for election

William Bleam, 221; Robert Hensil, 169

The bishop declared Mr. Bleam elected as a member of the Committee on Discipline for a term ending 2012.

Voting members proceeded to cast votes for the first ballots of Tickets 21 and 27 and the second ballot of Ticket 24.

Having previously announced that he would no longer be available to serve as chair of the Committee on Elections and in recognition of his 14 years of service as chair of the Committee on Elections, Bishop Burkat and Ms. Joanne Carlson presented Pastor Shafer with a certificate of appreciation and a gift. The assembly expressed their thanks to Pastor Shafer with their applause.

## **Unfinished Business**

### *Special Offering Sunday (continued)*

The assembly voted to remove the resolution for a Special Offering Sunday from the table.

Pastor Keck offered the following substitute resolution:

**S. A. 08.5.10 RESOLVED THAT the Synod Council set a special day for an offering/gift by congregations to help defray the anticipated 2009 synod deficit of \$280,000, and that the Synod Council with the help of the Synod Finance Committee include a provision for synod resource development as part of the synod mission strategy that is currently being planned.**

Pastor Ericsson spoke in favor of the substitute resolution, admitting that it is upsetting to draw upon the Fund for Mission for deficit funding. “We are the development office,” she said. “The responsibility belongs with us.”

Pastor Mathisen spoke in favor of the substitute resolution, indicating a preference to raise funds for mission, not for a development office.

After further discussion, the assembly approved the substitution, making the substitute resolution the main resolution. The assembly then approved the new main resolution.

## **The Third Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel**

### *The Resolution of Thanks*

Pastor Smoose presented the ninth resolution, which was approved:

**S. A. 08.5.11 Whereas it is right at all times and in all places to give thanks for God’s grace and daily bread and the extraordinary gifts of the Holy Spirit which provide for a faithful servant church in a hungry world, and**

**Whereas the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod has found this 2008 Assembly a good time to be the church and has experienced the blessings of many gifted leaders, willing workers and volunteers, and**

**Whereas God continues to call the church to be irrepressibly thankful for the energy, skill, generosity of spirit, and commitment of all who have labored in love, both visibly and behind-the-scenes, to prosper the work of this year’s Assembly;**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT we offer our appreciation and thankful applause:**

**To all those who prepared for, planned and arranged the countless interconnecting details for this Assembly: Assistant to the Bishop for Global Vision and Events, Joanne Carlson, and all those at the epicenter of organization, youth from Helping Hands Day, Registrar Ginny Bailey, Floor Page Coordinator Barry Stock and all assembly floor pages, Parliamentarian Lucille Bucks, Ken Selinger and staff from CCI Communications, and Pr. Susan Lang for their efforts with communications, Franconia Mennonite Church whose gracious hospitality is a true blessing, our food service providers, prayer partners, and sign language interpreters;**

**To the Worship Committee, who planned the Service of Holy Communion, to Pr. Leah Schade for her leadership of Friday evening worship, to Pr. Derric Jackson and the L.I.F.E. group for Saturday morning worship leadership, and for all leaders, preachers and musicians who opened our lips and our minds to embrace God's Word and beckon God's Spirit; to the Committee of Elections and the Committee on Reference and Counsel;**

**To the ELCA representative, The Reverend Craig Settlage, Director for Mission Support, Synodical Relations;**

**To Ms. Kelly Fryer, C.O.O. of A Renewal Enterprise;**

**To the ELCA Board of Pensions representatives, Ms. Barbara Depski and Ms. Laurie Sacchet, and the Augsburg Fortress representatives, The Rev. Heidi Rodrick-Schnaath and Ms. Linda Magill;**

**To Bishop Claire S. Burkat, for her faithful service to the body of Christ in this Synod and in the ELCA and for her bold vision that for the greater glory of God "we can do more together than we can ever do alone;"**

**To the Synod Council and Officers of the Synod, Vice President Patricia Robinson, Secretary Pr. Raymond Miller, Treasurer Richard Reimet, the Pastoral staff: Pr. Patricia Davenport, Pr. Larry Hand, and Pr. Serena Sellers, Program staff, Robert Fisher, Molly Beck Dean, Peg Cameron; Administrative staff: Judy Koenig, Cynta Outterbridge, Ginny Bailey, Debbie Perez, James Gadsden, Jessica McAlister and the Bishop's inimitable Director of Operations, Janine Niwinski;**

**To all our partners and companions in Christ, especially in the North Eastern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania and the Silesian [Evangelical] Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Czech Republic;**

**For all these gifts of God and for all other random acts of kindness, and unplanned moments of reunion and renewal, reconciliation and resolve, that we experienced in these holy days together (including the Bishop's sermon as the Spirit of the Lord fell upon her and which TODAY is fulfilled in our hearing and doing), *solī Deo gloria!* God is good... all the time! All the time... God is good!**

### **The Installation of Newly Elected Synod Council Members**

Bishop Burkat and Vice President Robinson installed the newly elected members of the Synod Council, present at the assembly.

### **The Sixth Report of the Committee on Elections**

Pastor Shafer presented the results of the first ballots for Tickets 21 and 27 and the second ballot for Ticket 24.

**Ticket 21, Committee on Discipline, Clergy** (Two to be elected for terms ending 2010)  
388 total ballots cast, 2 invalid ballots cast, 386 valid ballots cast, 133 votes needed for election

Nancy Brown, 188; Thomas Kadel, 121; Thomas Lang, 115; Karl Richard, 105

*Note: The name of Pr. Nancy Brown was mistakenly placed on the first ballot of Ticket 21. The bishop previously declared her elected to the Committee on Discipline for a term ending 2012 based on the results of the first ballot for Ticket 20.*

The bishop declared that the names of Pastors Kadel and T. Lang would appear on the second ballot of Ticket 21.

**Ticket 24, Committee on Discipline, Lay Female** (One to be elected for a term ending 2012)  
284 total ballots cast, no invalid ballots cast, 284 valid ballots cast, 143 votes needed for election

Susan Pursch, 151; Tracey Beasley, 133

The bishop declared Ms. Pursch elected as a member of the Committee on Discipline for a term ending 2012.

**Ticket 27, Committee on Discipline, Lay Male** (One to be elected for a term ending 2010)  
301 total ballots cast, no invalid ballots cast, 301 valid ballots cast, 151 votes needed for election

Robert Hensil, 149; Thomas Salber, 79; Al Hunter, Jr., 73

The bishop declared that the names of Mr. Hensil and Mr. Salber would appear on the second ballot for Ticket 27.

Voting members proceeded to cast votes for the first ballot of Ticket 26 and the second ballots of Tickets 21 and 27.

Mr. Robert Werner, Good Shepherd, Southampton, moved the following resolution, which was approved:

**S. C. 08.5.12 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly directs the Synod Council to complete any elections unfinished by the Synod Assembly.**

### **The Report of the Registrar**

Ms. Virginia Bailey presented the final report of the registrar:

Total number of pastors under call	192
Total number of retired pastors voting	33
Total number of associates in ministry and deaconesses under call	19
Total number of retired associates in ministry and deaconesses voting	15
Total number of lay voting members certified, including lay Council members	325
<b>TOTAL VOTING MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>584</b>

Total number of persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English in the

previous total	67
Percent this total is of total voting membership	11.5%
Number of female lay voting members	154
Number of male lay voting members	154
<b>ACTUALLY IN ATTENDANCE</b>	
Number of pastors under call registered	176
Number of retired voting pastors registered	24
Number of associates in ministry and deaconesses under call registered	14
Number of retired voting associates in ministry and deaconesses registered	3
Number of lay voting members registered, including lay Council members	304
<b>TOTAL REGISTERED VOTING MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>521</b>
Total number of persons of color and/or persons whose Primary language is other than English in the Previous total	
	67
Percent this total is of total registered voting membership	13%
Total number of visitors and guests registered	78

### **.The Order for the Closing of the Assembly**

The twenty-first annual assembly of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod adjourned at 4:00 p.m. on May 3, 2008. Bishop Burkat led the order for the Closing of the Synod Assembly.

### ***Final Report of the Committee on Elections***

*The Committee on Elections made available the following election results after adjournment:*

***Ticket 21, Committee on Discipline, Clergy (Two to be elected for terms ending 2010)***  
*226 total ballots cast, no invalid ballots cast, 226 valid ballots cast, 57 votes needed for election*

*Thomas Kadel, 117; Thomas Lang, 109*

*The Committee on Elections determined that Pastors Kadel and T. Lang were elected as members of the Committee on Discipline for terms ending 2010.*

***Ticket 26, Committee on Discipline, Lay Female (One to be elected for a term ending 2010)***  
*218 total ballots cast, 1 invalid ballot cast, 217 valid ballots cast, 109 votes needed for election*

*Tracey Beasley, 111; Janet Neff, 70; Annette Sample, 36*

*The Committee on Elections determined that Ms. Beasley was elected as a member of the Committee on Discipline for a term ending 2010.*

***Ticket 27, Committee on Discipline, Lay Male (One to be elected for a term ending 2010)***  
*217 total ballots cast, no invalid ballots cast, 217 valid ballots cast, 109 votes needed for election*

*Robert Hensil, 128; Thomas Salber, 89*

*The Committee on Elections determined that Mr. Hensil was elected as a member of the Committee on Discipline for a term ending 2010.*

*The Committee on Elections reported that there was no need for further balloting.*

Raymond A. Miller  
Secretary  
Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

