

**THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
of the Upper Susquehanna Synod,
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

**Weber Chapel
Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, PA**

June 14-15, 2024

“Fed by Jesus to Feed the World”

Minutes

Friday, June 14, 2024

The assembly convened at 1:15pm in the Weber Chapel of Susquehanna University.

Plenary One

Opening Worship

Welcome from Susquehanna University

Orientation, Introductions & Welcome

Report of the Registrar – Amber Ellis reported that as of 1:30, 58 pastors, 3 deacons, 140 lay voting members had registered and were in attendance, for a total of 201 voting members. Without objection, the list of voting members registered in attendance was adopted as the official roll of members of the assembly.

Adoption of Agenda

Bishop Miller presented the Agenda on behalf of the synod council.

Plenary One

Weber Chapel

1:15pm

Opening Worship

Welcome from Susquehanna University

Orientation, Introductions & Welcome

Report of the Registrar

***Adoption of Agenda**

***Adoption of Rules of Procedure**

***Adoption of Minutes from the 2023 Synod Assembly**

Introduction of Assembly personnel and guests

Registrar – Amber Ellis

Chaplain – Rev. Ann Zimmerman

Parliamentarian – Mike Scholley

Elections Committee – Aly Wyland, Mike Haas, Rev. Harold Rinker

Committee on Reference and Counsel – Nancy Richart, Wendy Davis, MaryLou Byerly, Steve Keifer, Rick

Adams, Lynette Weisner

Stage Manager – Tim Gonzalez

Projection – Gary Schaeffer, Ty Turner

ELCA Representative – Marie Ann Sliwinski

Introduction to Reference and Counsel: Mary Lou Byerly and Lynette Weisner

***Report of the Nominating Committee**

- *Nominations may be made from the floor at this time. All nominees will need to complete a Candidate Identification Form available at the registration desk.*

Report of the Vice President: Mr. Noah Roux

Report of the Committee on Candidacy: Rev. Karla Leiby, Chair

Report of the Treasurer: Rev. Chad Hebrink

Report of the ELCA Foundation: Sister Marianne Brock

3:00-3:15 Break (stand and stretch)

3:15 Bible Study: Rev. Dr. Lisa Barnes

"Food, Faith, and the Sea"

	Report from Camp Mount Luther: Chad Hershberger, Director	
	• Installation of Camp Summer Staff	
	Report from Campus Ministries	
	Greeting from faith partners:	
	Elections Committee	
	• *First Ballot for Synod Council, Churchwide Assembly, Consultation Committee	
	Reference and Counsel	
	• *Resolution to amend the Constitution - ratification	
	Elections Committee report:	
5:15	Recess	
5:30	Dinner	Degenstein Campus Center
6:45	Evening Prayer	Weber Chapel
	Saturday, June 16, 2024	
7:00	Registration desk opens	Weber Chapel
7:30-8:30	Breakfast for those with meal tickets	Degenstein Dining Hall
	Plenary Two	
8:30	Morning Prayer	Weber Chapel
	Installation of Conference Deans and Secretaries	
9:00	Report of the Registrar	
	Greetings from Ecumenical Partners:	
	Report from the Churchwide Representative: Marie Ann Sliwinski	
	Video message from Presiding Bishop	
10:00-10:15		Break
10:15	Susquehanna Interfaith Network for Disaster Response	
	Report of Synod Council: Noah Roux, Vice President	
	• *Recommendation 1: Compensation Guidelines for Ministers of Word and Sacrament (salary and housing)	
	• *Recommendation 2: Compensation Guidelines for Ministers of Word and Service (salary)	
	• *Recommendation 3: Camp Mt Luther Campaign	
	• *Recommendation 4: Amendments to Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions	
	• *Recommendation 5: Budget for fiscal year end January 31, 2026	
	Report from the Synod Youth Ministry	
	Report of the Task Force to establish a process for congregation revitalization and dissolution	
	Report from Seafarers International House	
11:15	Recess	
11:30-12:45		Lunch
	Degenstein Campus Center	
	Plenary Three	Weber Chapel
1:00	Hymn and Prayer	
	Bishop's Report	
	Go Tell It In the Mountains	
	Reference and Counsel	
	Recognition of Congregation and Rostered Leader anniversaries	
	Introduction of Rostered Leaders New in the Synod	
	Second ballot, if needed	
	Unfinished Business	
2:30	Recess for Transition to Worship	
Closing	Worship	Weber Chapel
	Closing Worship with Holy Communion	
	The worship will include a blessing for those who will attend the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer.	

SA2024.06.01

The agenda was adopted

Adoption of Rules of Procedure

Bishop Miller presented the Rules of Procedure on behalf of the synod council.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

UPPER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD ASSEMBLY – 2024

1. The bar of the Assembly is the front section of the Weber Chapel auditorium. Voting members must be seated in this area for all votes during plenary sessions.
2. **ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER**, latest edition, shall be the governing parliamentary law of this assembly. (\$7.32.)
Note: the 12th edition of Roberts Rules of Order is the governing parliamentary law of this assembly except as otherwise provided. A parliamentarian may be appointed by the bishop.

3. Voting Procedure
 - a. Only voting members wearing official voting member name tags shall be eligible to vote.
 - b. Voting and elections at the assembly may use a voting application. In the event unforeseen issues arise, elections may be held by paper ballot or other means.
 - c. As directed by the chair, voting also may take place by voice, by show of hands, by standing, or by written ballot.
 - d. For electronic votes using the voting application, voting members must have an internet connected device. Voting members having difficulty connecting to the voting application should make their issues known to a page as soon as possible.
 - e. Only those voting members seated in the front section of the auditorium will receive assistance with the voting application, receive paper ballots, or be counted in hand counts.
 - f. At registration, voting members will be provided a passcode for the online voting application. The passcode must not be shared with anyone other than another registered voting member.
4. Speeches
 - a. When addressing the chair, speakers shall use a microphone provided. Voting members shall state plainly their name and congregation or, in the case of Rostered Ministers serving in specialized ministries, their place of call.
 - b. When there are many wishing to speak for or against a motion, the chair will recognize alternately persons making a statement for or against.
 - c. In all plenary sessions, speeches from the floor will be limited to one three-minute presentation per person. This rule shall not apply to persons presenting a report, nor when direct questions are posed to specific individuals for clarification.
 - d. Non-voting members may be permitted to speak on the floor of the assembly by a 2/3 vote of the assembly. This rule does not apply to those designated to present reports as part of the approved agenda.
 - e. In the give-and-take of debate on issues before the Assembly, members of the assembly and visitors shall refrain from audible responses.
5. Motions
 - a. All motions shall be written by the mover, signed, and presented to the Committee of Reference and Counsel, except those that are offered as germane motions, which must be written and presented to the Secretary before being discussed by the assembly. Motion forms are available at the pages' table located near the main entrance to the assembly hall.
 - b. Any motion that seeks to amend the proposed synod budget by increasing expenses shall also include adjustments in other income or expense categories to maintain a balanced budget proposal. (\$10.04.)
 - c. Resolutions and memorials concerning issues of the church may be developed for consideration at the annual Synod Assembly. The deadline for such resolutions and memorials to be received in the synod office is May 15. Any resolutions or memorials received after that date may be referred to Synod Council for consideration. The Committee on Reference and Counsel will meet prior to the assembly and will prepare an initial report concerning memorials and resolutions, including the text of all resolutions and memorials received, which will be available on the synod website in the Bulletin of Reports.
6. Nominations
 - a. Except for the election of a bishop, all nominations from the floor must have the prior approval of the person nominated. The person making the nomination will provide (a) the name of the nominee, (b) the nominee's occupation, and (c) the nominee's home congregation. All nominations must have a Candidate Identification Form which may be picked up at the pages' table.
7. Departing from Agenda
 - a. With the consent of a majority of the voting members, the chair shall have the authority to call items of business before the assembly in whatever order the chair considers most expedient for the conduct of the assembly's business.
 - b. A motion to alter the agenda shall require for adoption a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting.
8. After the adoption of the Rules of Procedure and any amendments thereto offered prior to the adoption of the Rules, any further amendment to, revision in, or suspension of the Rules shall always require for adoption a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting.
9. All questions related to resolutions and memorials are to be addressed to:
Lynette Weisner or Dcn Mary Lou Byerly, Chairs
Committee of Reference and Counsel
Other questions submit to:
Mr. Ray Huff
Secretary of the Synod

SA2024.06.02

The Rules of Procedure were adopted.

Minutes from the 2023 Synod Assembly

Bishop Miller presented the minutes from the 2023 Synod assembly which were approved by the synod council.

SA2024.06.03

The minutes were adopted.

Bishop Miller introduced some key assembly personnel and guests

Registrar – Amber Ellis

Chaplain – Rev. Ann Zimmerman

Parliamentarian – Mike Scholley

Elections Committee – Aly Wyland, Mike Haas, Rev. Harold Rinker

Stage Manager – Tim Gonzalez

Projection – Gary Schaeffer, Ty Turner

ELCA Representative – Maryn Olson, Director of Lutheran Disaster Response

Introduction to Reference and Counsel – Mary Lou Byerly and Lynette Weisner, gave a brief description of the committee responsibilities and resolutions that would come before the assembly.

Report of the Nominating Committee – Rev. Carol Johnson presented the slate of nominations for synod council, Consultation Committee, and Churchwide Assembly. No nominations were offered from the floor.

Synod Council Rostered Leader 3-year term

Synod Council Lay 3-year term

Synod Council Lay 3-year term

Synod Council Lay 1-year term

Consultation Committee (Juniata Valley)

Churchwide Assembly rostered

Churchwide Assembly rostered

Churchwide Assembly lay female

Churchwide Assembly lay male

Churchwide Assembly lay

Churchwide Assembly youth/young adult

Churchwide Assembly person of color

or language other than English

Rev. Justin Lingenfelter

Eileen Stauffer

Betty Pirnot

Mary Ann Landi

Mary Jane Snyder

Linda Everitt

Bruce Romanic

Kevin Cunningham

Rev. Erwin Roux

Rev. Chad Hebrink

Rev. Jeffrey LeCrone

Rev. Richard Adams

Rev. Karen Ward

Rev. Elizabeth George

Bev Hoffman

Lynette Weisner

Mark Giesen

Mary Ann Landi

Mary Jane Snyder

Jacob Craig

no nominees

Report of the Vice President: Mr. Noah Roux

Report of the Committee on Candidacy: Rev. Karla Leiby, Chair

Report of the Treasurer: Rev. Chad Hebrink

Video from the ELCA Foundation

Break: 2:47-3:07pm

Video from Global Refuge

Bible Study: Rev. Dr. Lisa Barnes *"Food, Faith, and the Sea"*

Report from Camp Mount Luther: Chad Hershberger, Director
With installation of Summer Camp Staff

Report from Campus Ministries:

Reference and Counsel – Mary Lou Byerly and Lynette Weisner presented a resolution to amend the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. This resolution was adopted by the 2023 synod assembly and requires ratification. The Committee on Reference and Counsel recommended adoption.

Bishop Miller noted that ratification requires 2/3 majority.

Resolution to amend the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Upper Susquehanna Synod

Whereas, preregistration for the 2023 Synod Assembly, as of June 12, 2023 is at 190 voting members; and

Whereas, quorum, as determined by the constitution of the synod and synod council is 192 voting members; and

Whereas, lack of quorum during preregistration leads to uncertainty leading up to synod assembly; and

Whereas, attendance at Synod assembly has been declining in recent years;

It is resolved, that the Upper Susquehanna Synod in assembly amends S7.14. of its Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions as follows:

~~One-half~~ Forty percent (40%) of members of the Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum.

182 votes cast, needed to adopt 136.

Votes in favor – 178

Votes opposed – 4

SA2024.06.04

The recommendation to ratify was adopted

Greeting from faith partners: Deacon Gregory Amarante brought greetings on behalf of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg. Rabbi Nina Mandel shared a greeting with the assembly.

Elections Committee

The first Ballot for Synod Council, Churchwide Assembly, Consultation Committee.

Voting by electronic ballots took place with Bishop Miller calling for each ticket. Where there was only one candidate on a ballot, Bishop Miller called for a vote of the assembly to approve the election of that candidate.

SA2024.06.05 - 09

Declared elected were

Synod Council Rostered Leader 3-year term	Rev. Justin Lingenfelter
Synod Council Lay 1-year term	Bruce Romanic
Consultation Committee (Juniata Valley)	Kevin Cunningham
Churchwide Assembly lay male	Mark Giesen
Churchwide Assembly youth/young adult	Jacob Craig

Recess 5:15pm

Saturday, June 16, 2024

Plenary Two 8:30am

Morning Prayer

Weber Chapel

Installation of Conference Deans and Secretaries

Report of the Registrar – Amber Ellis reported that as of 8:30, 60 pastors, 3 deacons, 141 lay voting members had registered and were in attendance, for a total of 204 voting members. Without objection, the list of voting members registered in attendance was adopted as the official roll of members of the assembly.

Greetings from Ecumenical Partners: Reverend Thomas Salsgiver brought greetings on behalf of Bishops Cynthia Moore Koi-koi and Sandra Steiner Ball from the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Report of the Elections Committee: Rev. Harold Rinker reported on behalf of the Elections Committee the results from the First Ballot.

Synod Council Lay 3-year term – number of ballots cast 175, needed to elect 88

Eileen Stauffer – 135

Betty Pirnot – 40

SA2024.06.10 Eileen Stauffer was elected

Synod Council Lay 3-year term – number of ballots cast 176, needed to elect 88

Mary Ann Landi – 26

Mary Jane Snyder – 56

Linda Everitt – 94

SA2024.06.11 Linda Everitt was elected

Churchwide Assembly rostered – number of ballots cast 179, needed to elect 90

Rev. Erwin Roux – 50

Rev. Chad Hebrink – 69

Rev. Jeffrey LeCrone – 29

Rev. Richard Adams – 31

There was no election. Rev. Erwin Roux and Rev. Chad Hebrink, as the highest vote getters, moved to a runoff election.

Churchwide Assembly rostered – number of votes cast 177, needed to elect 89

Rev. Karen Ward – 102

Rev. Elizabeth George – 75

SA2024.06.12 Rev. Karen Ward was elected

Churchwide Assembly lay female – number of votes cast 173, needed to elect 87

Beverly Hoffman – 87

Lynette Weisner – 86

SA2024.06.13 Beverly Hoffman was elected.

Churchwide Assembly lay – number of votes cast 175, needed to elect 88

Mary Ann Landi – 99

Mary Jane Snyder – 76

SA2024.06.14 Mary Ann Landi was elected

Report from the Churchwide Representative: Maryn Olson, Director, Lutheran Disaster Response

Video message from Presiding Bishop

Report of Synod Council: Noah Roux, Vice President

Noah Roux presented recommendations from the synod council for adoption by the assembly.

Recommendation 1: Compensation Guidelines for Ministers of Word and Sacrament

Resolved, the synod council recommends to the 2024 Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly the Salary and Housing Allowance Guidelines for Ministers of Word and Sacrament in 2025 as follows:

2025 CLERGY SALARY GUIDELINES			
FOR THE UPPER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD, ELCA			
<i>Recommended February 18, 2023 - Synod Council</i>			
Years Ordained	Year Of Ordination	2024 Minimum Salary Guidelines	2025 Minimum Salary Guidelines
0	2025	N/A	\$41,525
1	2024	\$40,232	\$41,950
2	2023	\$40,657	\$42,375
3	2022	\$41,082	\$42,800
4	2021	\$41,507	\$43,225
5	2020	\$41,932	\$43,650
6	2019	\$42,357	\$44,075
7	2018	\$42,782	\$44,500
8	2017	\$43,207	\$44,925
9	2016	\$43,632	\$45,350
10	2015	\$44,057	\$45,775
11	2014	\$44,482	\$46,200
12	2013	\$44,907	\$46,625
13	2012	\$45,332	\$47,050
14	2011	\$45,757	\$47,475
15	2010	\$46,182	\$47,900
16	2009	\$46,607	\$48,325
17	2008	\$47,032	\$48,750
18	2007	\$47,457	\$49,175
19	2006	\$47,882	\$49,600
20	2005	\$48,307	\$50,025
21	2004	\$48,732	\$50,450
22	2003	\$49,157	\$50,875
23	2002	\$49,582	\$51,300
24	2001	\$50,007	\$51,725
25	2000	\$50,432	\$52,150
26	1999	\$50,857	\$52,575
27	1998	\$51,282	\$53,000
28	1997	\$51,707	\$53,425
29	1996	\$52,132	\$53,850
30	1995	\$52,557	\$54,275
31	1994	\$52,982	\$54,700
32	1993	\$53,407	\$55,125
33	1992	\$53,832	\$55,550
34	1991	\$54,257	\$55,975
35	1990	\$54,682	\$56,400
36	1989	\$55,107	\$56,825
37	1988	\$55,532	\$57,250
38	1987	\$55,957	\$57,675
39	1986	\$56,382	\$58,100
40	1985	\$56,807	\$58,525

41	1984	\$57,232	\$58,950
42	1983	\$57,657	\$59,375
43	1982	\$58,082	\$59,800
44	1981	\$58,507	\$60,225
45	1980	\$58,932	\$60,650
46	1979	\$59,357	\$61,075
47	1978	\$59,782	\$61,500
48	1977	\$60,207	\$61,925
49	1976	\$60,632	\$62,350
50	1975	\$61,057	\$62,775

Recommended Minimum Housing Allowance
2025 \$17500-\$21,000

SA2024.06.15

The resolution was adopted.

Recommendation 2: Compensation Guidelines for Ministers of Word and Service (salary)

Resolved, the synod council recommends to the 2024 Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly the minimum salary guidelines for Ministers of Word and Service in 2025 as follows.

Ministers of Word and Service minimum salary recommendations for 2025*
for those with masters degrees or equivalent experience.

<u>Years of Experience</u>	<u>2025 Recommended Salaries</u>
0	\$45,975 - \$48,100
5	\$48,100 - \$50,225
10	\$50,225- \$52,350
15	52350%

Increase for each year of service approximately \$425

* Based on not receiving a housing allowance.

SA2024.06.16

The resolution was adopted.

Recommendation 3: Camp Mt Luther Campaign

RESOLVED, The Upper Susquehanna commits \$50,000.00 from synod funds to the Camp Mount Luther capital campaign.

SA2024.06.17

The resolution was adopted.

Recommendation 4: Amendments to Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions

To amend the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions S11.01.03 and S11.11.01 and to waive the requirement for 30 days notification for these amendments.

S11.01.03. ~~The A Committee on~~ Candidacy ~~Committee~~ shall be composed of up to 12 members chosen from among the members of the synod, including the bishop of this synod or a representative appointed by the bishop. A representative appointed by the seminary shall also serve on the committee in accordance with the ELCA Candidacy Manual. The purpose of this committee shall be to recruit persons for the professional ministry in the Church; to approve, guide, and assist them in the preparation for such service; and to examine and recommend persons for ordination. Members of the committee, except for the bishop or bishop's representative, shall serve for terms of four years and may serve up to two consecutive terms. Appointments shall be made at least six weeks prior to the assembly, and shall become effective following the Synod Assembly.

S11.11.01. General Provisions

[a. through c. remain unchanged]

d. With the exception of the Committee on Discipline, the Consultation Committee, the Candidacy Committee, and the Mutual Ministry Committee, all appointments shall be for three-year terms, arranged initially so that one-third of the terms expire each year.

Appointments shall be made at least six weeks prior to the assembly, and shall become effective following the Synod Assembly. No person shall serve more than two consecutive terms.

[e. through f. remain unchanged]

SA2024.06.18**By show of cards, the resolution was adopted.****Recommendation 5: Budget for fiscal year end January 31, 2026****Resolved, to adopt the budget for fiscal year end January 31, 2026**

Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA										
Actual & Budget for Fiscal Year Ending January 31, 2024 Budget & Amended Budget for Fiscal Year Ending January 31, 2025 Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year Ending January 31, 2026										
	Actual 2023 FYE 1/31/2024	Adopted Budget 2023 FYE 1/31/2024	Amended Budget 2023 FYE 1/31/2024	% of Amended Budget	Proposed Budget 2024 FYE 1/31/2025	Amended Budget 2024 FYE 1/31/2025	Proposed Budget 2025 FYE 1/31/2026	Change from 2024 Amended Budget	% Change from 2024 Amended Budget	
Revenues										
General Fund Revenue										
1-501-0000 - Mission Support - Congregation	724,957.25	740,000.00	740,000.00	97.97%	735,000.00	715,000.00	705,000.00	-10,000.00	-1.40%	
1-502-0000 - Mission Support - Cong Restricted to Synod	2,100.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	140.00%	1,500.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00%	
1-512-0000 - Contributions for Synod Ministries / Non-Congregation	3,776.48	6,000.00	6,000.00	62.94%	6,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00	0.00%	
1-515-0000 - Synod Assembly Fees	22,335.50	27,190.00	27,190.00	82.15%	27,190.00	27,190.00	27,190.00	0.00	0.00%	
1-521-0000 - Interest Income	19,367.11	500.00	3,500.00	553.35%	7,500.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00	0.00%	
1-524-0000 - Miscellaneous Income	0.00	250.00	250.00	0.00%	250.00	250.00	250.00	0.00	0.00%	
1-528-0000 - Gain (Loss) on Sale of Synod Assets	80,483.59							0.00		
1-532-0000 - Workshop/Program Fees	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00%	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00%	
1-532-0009 - Fees/Candidacy Application	0.00	300.00	300.00	0.00%	300.00	300.00	300.00	0.00	0.00%	
1-535-0000 - Reimbursement / Office Exp	49.32	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
1-537-1010 - Transfer from Restrictive Reserve : Insurance Dividend	0.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00%	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	0.00	0.00%	
1-537-1050 - Transfer -- Small Grants	3,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00	42.86%	7,000.00	11,000.00	11,000.00	0.00	0.00%	
1-537-1051 - Transfer -- DEM expenses (from restricted accounts)						2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00%	
1-537-1015 - Transfer -- Synod Minute Book							4,055.56	4,055.56		
1-537-1052 - Transfer -- Bishop Days						1,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	
Total General Fund Revenue	856,069.25	803,740.00	806,740.00	106.11%	815,740.00	809,240.00	803,295.56	-5,944.44	-0.73%	
Expenditures										
Churchwide Support										
Mission Support										
1-601-1000 - ELCA Churchwide Support	297,232.47	303,400.00	303,400.00	97.97%	301,350.00	293,150.00	289,050.00	-4,100.00	-1.40%	
Total Mission Support	297,232.47	303,400.00	303,400.00	97.97%	301,350.00	293,150.00	289,050.00	-4,100.00	-1.40%	
Region 8 Support										
1-602-1400 - Region 8 - Program Support	2,907.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	193.80%	1,500.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00%	
1-605-1400 - Region 8 - Support Archives	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00%	1,500.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00%	
1-606-1400 - Region 8 - First-Call Theological Education	122.99	0.00	2,800.00	4.39%	3,100.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00%	
1-673-1400 - Region 8 - Committee Travel	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00%	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00%	
1-674-1400 - Region 8 - Planned Giving Support	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	100.00%	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	0.00%	
Total Region 8 Support	5,529.99	5,600.00	8,400.00	65.83%	8,700.00	6,100.00	6,100.00	0.00	0.00%	
Total Churchwide Support	302,762.46	309,000.00	311,800.00	97.10%	310,050.00	299,250.00	295,150.00	-4,100.00	-1.37%	
Strengthening Congregations/ Missions										
Worship and Music										
1-725-2400 - Supplies - Worship & Music	410.28	0.00	750.00	54.70%	750.00	750.00	750.00	0.00	0.00%	
Total Worship and Music	410.28	0.00	750.00	54.70%	750.00	750.00	750.00	0.00	0.00%	
Small Church/Outreach										
1-606-2700 - Support - Small Church Grants	3,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00	42.86%	7,000.00	11,000.00	11,000.00	0.00	0.00%	
Total Small Church/Outreach	3,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00	42.86%	7,000.00	11,000.00	11,000.00	0.00	0.00%	
Synod Programs										
1-774-2400 - Program - Worship and Music	539.00	600.00	600.00	89.83%	600.00	600.00	600.00	0.00	0.00%	
Total Synod Programs	539.00	600.00	600.00	89.83%	600.00	600.00	600.00	0.00	0.00%	
Total Strengthening Congregations/ Missions	3,949.28	7,600.00	8,350.00	47.30%	8,350.00	12,350.00	12,350.00	0.00	0.00%	
Preparing/Supporting Leaders										
Theological Education										
1-610-3000 - Support - ELCA Seminaries	20,051.00	20,051.00	20,051.00	100.00%	20,051.00	20,051.00	20,051.00	0.00	0.00%	
Total Theological Education	20,051.00	20,051.00	20,051.00	100.00%	20,051.00	20,051.00	20,051.00	0.00	0.00%	
Candidacy										
1-603-3100 - Prof Career Consultative Service	1,003.49	1,800.00	1,800.00	55.75%	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	0.00	0.00%	
1-609-3100 - Support - Student Scholarships	2,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	40.00%	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	0.00%	
1-774-3200 - Program - Candidacy Committee	78.28	500.00	500.00	15.66%	500.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00%	
Total Candidacy	3,081.77	7,300.00	7,300.00	42.22%	7,300.00	7,300.00	7,300.00	0.00	0.00%	
Leadership Support/Development										
1-602-3300 - Support - Rostered Leadership	224.87	400.00	400.00	56.22%	400.00	400.00	400.00	0.00	0.00%	
1-602-3310 - Workshop / Event Expenses	50.00	800.00	800.00	6.25%	800.00	2,300.00	2,300.00	0.00	0.00%	
1-775-3300 - Business Lunches / Meetings w/ Rostered Leaders	151.33		1,100.00	13.76%	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	0.00	0.00%	
Total Leadership Support/Development	426.20	1,200.00	2,300.00	18.53%	2,300.00	3,800.00	3,800.00	0.00	0.00%	
Lay Leadership										
1-774-3400 - Lay Ministry Institute	0.00	0.00	1,200.00	0.00%	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00	0.00%	
Total Lay leadership	0.00	0.00	1,200.00	0.00%	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00	0.00%	

Support-Rostered Leaders									
1-602-3500 - Bishop Disc Fund - Support/Rostered	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00%	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00%
Total Support Rostered Leaders	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00%	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00%
Total Preparing/Supporting Leaders	23,558.97	29,551.00	31,851.00	73.97%	31,851.00	33,351.00	33,351.00	0.00	0.00%
Providing Service/Youth and Adults									
Camp Mount Luther									
1-602-4000 - Support - Camp Mount Luther	46,275.00	46,275.00	46,275.00	100.00%	46,275.00	46,275.00	46,275.00	0.00	0.00%
Total Camp Mount Luther	46,275.00	46,275.00	46,275.00	100.00%	46,275.00	46,275.00	46,275.00	0.00	0.00%
Campus Ministry									
1-602-4100 - Susquehanna University	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	100.00%	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00%
1-602-4200 - Penn College	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	100.00%	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00%
1-603-4200 - Penn State University	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	100.00%	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	0.00%
1-604-4200 - Mansfield University	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	100.00%	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00%
1-605-4200 - Bloomsburg University	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	100.00%	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	0.00%
1-606-4200 - Lock Haven University	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	100.00%	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	#DIV/0!
1-774-4200 - Campus Ministry Team	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00%	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00%
Total Campus Ministry	14,000.00	14,100.00	14,100.00	99.29%	14,100.00	13,100.00	13,100.00	0.00	0.00%
Total Providing Service/ Youth and Adults	60,275.00	60,375.00	60,375.00	99.83%	60,375.00	59,375.00	59,375.00	0.00	0.00%
Concern/Human Need									
Support-Related Agencies									
1-602-5100 - Support - Lutheran Advocacy in Pa	4,820.00	4,820.00	4,820.00	100.00%	4,820.00	4,820.00	4,820.00	0.00	0.00%
Total Support-Related Agencies	4,820.00	4,820.00	4,820.00	100.00%	4,820.00	4,820.00	4,820.00	0.00	0.00%
Total Concern/Human Need	4,820.00	4,820.00	4,820.00	100.00%	4,820.00	4,820.00	4,820.00	0.00	0.00%
Fostering/Main/Ecumenical Relations									
1-602-6000 - Support - PA Council of Churches	964.00	964.00	964.00	100.00%	964.00	964.00	964.00	0.00	0.00%
1-774-6200 - Program - Ecumenical Relations	0.00	300.00	300.00	0.00%	300.00	300.00	300.00	0.00	0.00%
Total Fostering/Main/Ecumenical Relation	964.00	1,264.00	1,264.00	76.27%	1,264.00	1,264.00	1,264.00	0.00	0.00%
Interpreting-Mission & Ministry of Church									
1-749-7000 - Synod Web Site	300.00	500.00	500.00	60.00%	500.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00%
1-774-7000 - Synod Communications	247.70	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	300.00	300.00	0.00	0.00%
Total Synod Web Site	547.70	500.00	500.00	109.54%	500.00	800.00	800.00	0.00	0.00%
Total Interpreting-Mission & Ministry of Church	547.70	500.00	500.00	109.54%	500.00	800.00	800.00	0.00	0.00%
Global Mission Education									
Global Mission									
1-602-8000 - Support - Global Mission	2,034.80	2,000.00	2,000.00	101.74%	3,000.00	3,000.00	5,000.00	2,000.00	66.67%
Total Global Mission Education	2,034.80	2,000.00	2,000.00	101.74%	3,000.00	3,000.00	5,000.00	2,000.00	66.67%
Total Global Mission Education	2,034.80	2,000.00	2,000.00	101.74%	3,000.00	3,000.00	5,000.00	2,000.00	66.67%
Providing/Effective Organization									
Administration									
1-701-9000 - Postage	2,866.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	95.53%	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00	0.00%
1-725-9000 - Office Supplies	1,361.98	1,500.00	1,500.00	90.80%	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	0.00%
1-729-9000 - Training/Instruction-Support Staff	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00%	500.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00%
1-737-9000 - Forms	690.00	500.00	500.00	138.00%	500.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00%
1-740-9000 - Payroll Services	780.86	1,012.00	1,012.00	77.16%	850.00	850.00	850.00	0.00	0.00%
1-741-9000 - Accounting/Auditing	9,250.00	8,250.00	9,000.00	102.78%	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,500.00	500.00	5.00%
1-742-9000 - Legal	111.08	1,500.00	1,500.00	7.41%	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	0.00%
1-743-9000 - ELCA Shared Risk Fund	0.00	650.00	650.00	0.00%	650.00	650.00	650.00	0.00	0.00%
1-747-9000 - Phone	3,124.05	2,750.00	2,750.00	113.60%	2,750.00	2,750.00	2,750.00	0.00	0.00%
1-748-9000 - E-mail/Internet	1,104.24	1,200.00	1,200.00	92.02%	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00	0.00%
1-775-9000 - Hospitality	230.06	400.00	400.00	57.52%	400.00	400.00	400.00	0.00	0.00%
1-793-9000 - Bank Fees	58.00	50.00	50.00	116.00%	50.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00%
1-794-9000 - Electronic Giving Fees	23.17	100.00	100.00	23.17%	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00%
1-801-9000 - Maintenance/Repair of Equipment	0.00	1,250.00	450.00	0.00%	450.00	450.00	450.00	0.00	0.00%
1-802-9000 - Technical Support/ Computers	8,260.21	10,000.00	10,000.00	82.60%	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	0.00%
1-804-9000 - Leasing/Office Equipment	983.52	1,000.00	1,000.00	98.35%	1,000.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00	0.00%
Total General Office	28,843.17	33,662.00	33,612.00	85.81%	34,450.00	34,650.00	35,150.00	500.00	1.44%
Building/Maintenance Expense									
1-722-9100 - Building Maintenance	3,545.54	24,000.00	24,000.00	14.77%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
1-751-9100 - Building & Liability Ins Package	4,947.78	5,000.00	5,000.00	98.96%	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	0.00%
1-832-9100 - Rent Office Space	13,500.00				21,600.00	21,600.00	22,680.00	1,080.00	5.00%
1-833-9100 - Relocation Expenses	6,191.77							0.00	
1-836-9100 - Utilities	6,272.08	5,000.00	5,000.00	125.44%	600.00	600.00	600.00	0.00	0.00%
1-837-9100 - Depreciation Building	5,853.39	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
1-838-9100 - Depreciation Equipment	6,287.72	3,500.00	3,500.00	179.65%	3,500.00	8,415.00	8,415.00	0.00	0.00%
Total Building/Maintenance Expense	46,598.28	37,500.00	37,500.00	124.26%	30,700.00	35,615.00	36,695.00	1,080.00	3.03%
Staff Salaries									
1-652-9204 - Bishop's Salary	41,860.08	58,314.00	41,850.00	100.02%	44,988.75	45,750.00	48,037.50	2,287.50	5.00%
1-652-9214 - Assistant to the Bishop -- Purchase of Service Agreements	31,704.00	24,137.69	31,752.00	99.85%	35,562.24	31,176.00	32,734.80	1,558.80	5.00%
1-652-9215 - Dean Stipends	0.00	20,609.33	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
1-652-9224 - Assistant for Administration	44,232.00	44,231.95	44,231.95	100.00%	47,549.35	46,500.00	48,825.00	2,325.00	5.00%
1-652-9245 - Bookkeeper	1,677.44	1,672.36	1,672.36	100.30%	1,797.79	1,750.00	1,837.50	87.50	5.00%
1-652-9247 - Communications Director	7,399.92	7,399.91	7,399.91	100.00%	7,954.90	7,716.00	8,101.80	385.80	5.00%
1-652-9253 - Youth & Young Adult POS	16,666.64		25,000.00	66.67%	26,875.00	26,875.00	28,218.75	1,343.75	5.00%
Amount Remaining for Staff & Benefits			9,722.11	0.00%				0.00	
Total Staff Salaries	143,540.08	156,365.24	161,628.33	88.81%	164,728.03	159,767.00	167,755.35	7,988.35	5.00%
Staff Benefits									
1-654-9300 - Staff Housing Allowance	36,000.00	28,039.87	36,000.00	100.00%	38,699.99	36,000.00	37,800.00	1,800.00	5.00%
1-655-9300 - Staff-FICA Contributions	4,070.50	4,077.77	4,077.77	99.82%	4,383.61	4,281.00	4,495.05	214.05	5.00%
1-656-9300 - Staff Pension & Health Benefits	68,621.47	80,000.00	68,550.00	100.10%	76,776.00	76,776.00	63,600.00	-13,176.00	-17.16%
1-657-9300 - Clergy Staff Education Benefits	1,282.49	1,125.00	750.00	171.00%	2,000.00	3,000.00	2,500.00	-500.00	-16.67%
1-659-9300 - Staff Work Comp Ins	513.05	1,000.00	1,000.00	51.31%	1,000.00	600.00	600.00	0.00	0.00%
1-661-9300 - Clergy-FICA Contributions	5,956.08	10,029.22	5,956.00	100.00%	6,402.19	6,250.00	6,562.50	312.50	5.00%
1-673-9300 - Staff Travel (Mileage Reimbursement)	9,127.92	14,000.00	14,000.00	65.20%	14,000.00	14,000.00	14,000.00	0.00	0.00%
Total Staff Benefits	125,571.51	138,271.86	130,333.77	96.35%	143,261.79	140,907.00	129,957.55	-11,349.45	-8.05%

Synod Assembly													
1-655-9400 - Non-employee Comp-Synod Assembly	800.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	32.00%	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	0.00%				
1-673-9400 - Travel -Assembly Planning Commit	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00%	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00%				
1-701-9400 - Postage-Assembly Planning Committee	11.40	50.00	50.00	22.80%	50.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00%				
1-725-9400 - Supplies-Assembly	1,884.39	500.00	500.00	376.88%	500.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00%				
1-743-9400 - Miscellaneous Services	0.00	200.00	200.00	0.00%	200.00	200.00	200.00	0.00	0.00%				
1-780-9400 - Refund Fees - Synod Assembly	66.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%				
1-832-9400 - Facility Rental - Synod Assembly	12,092.06	17,000.00	17,000.00	71.13%	17,000.00	17,000.00	17,000.00	0.00	0.00%				
Total Synod Assembly	14,853.85	20,350.00	20,350.00	72.99%	20,350.00	20,350.00	20,350.00	0.00	0.00%				
Synod Council													
1-602-9500 - Deans' Fund	642.28	250.00	1,000.00	64.23%	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00%				
1-673-9500 - Travel - Synod Council	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00%	500.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00%				
1-775-9500 - Hospitality - Synod Council	262.50	250.00	850.00	30.88%	850.00	850.00	850.00	0.00	0.00%				
1-775-9600 - Church Wide Assembly	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	600.00	600.00	0.00%				
1-778-9500 - Transfer Out - Designate Net Gain Sale of Bldg	74,291.82			0.00%				0.00					
Total Synod Council	75,196.60	1,000.00	2,350.00	3199.86%	2,350.00	2,350.00	2,950.00	600.00	25.53%				
Total Providing/Effective Organization	434,603.49	387,149.09	385,774.09	112.66%	395,839.82	393,639.00	392,457.90	-1,181.10	-0.30%				
Total Expenses	833,515.70	802,259.09	806,734.09	103.32%	816,049.82	807,849.00	804,567.90	-3,281.10	-0.41%				
Excess Revenues (Expenditures)	22,553.55	1,480.91	5.91	381687.79%	(309.82)	1,391.00	(1,272.34)	(2,663.34)					

SA2024.06.19

The resolution was adopted

Break 9:48-10:08

Susquehanna Interfaith Network for Disaster Response: Charlie Benner and Claire Cline

Second ballot – Pastor Rinker introduced the second ballot, a runoof for Churchwide Assembly rostered. Using the voting application: 170 votes cast, 86 needed to elect.

Rev. Erwin Roux – 68

Rev. Chad Hebrink – 102

SA2026.06.20 Rev. Chad Hebrink was elected.

Report from the Synod Youth Ministry

Report of the Task Force to establish a process for congregation revitalization and dissolution

Rev. Justin Lingenfelter reported on behalf of the Task Force.

Reference and Counsel – Mary Lou Byerly and Lynette Wiesner presented the following resolution and recommended adoption.

Resolution to establish a task force to review areas of the constitution regarding synod assembly quorum/voting membership expectations.

WHEREAS the Upper Susquehanna Synod has been having difficulty meeting quorum at the annual synod assembly for the past couple of years; And

WHEREAS the Synod Council adopted a motion on July 27th, 2023, to establish an ad hoc committee for the purpose of reviewing the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions; And

WHEREAS the Synod approved a continuing resolution at the 2023 Synod Assembly to change the amount of voting delegates to constitute a quorum from one half to 40%: Therefore be it RESOLVED that the synod council prioritizes the establishment of the forementioned ad hoc committee to be formed by the fall of 2024. And be it

RESOLVED that the ad hoc committee pay special attention to areas of the constitution, by-laws and continuing resolutions pertaining to quorum and voting membership. And be it RESOLVED that the ad hoc committee recommend changes to the constitution, by-laws, and continuing resolutions pertaining to quorum and voting membership in time for approval at the 2025 Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly.

SA2026.06.21

The resolution was adopted.

Report from Seafarers International House: Rev. Marsh Drege

Recess 11:15

Plenary Three 1:00
Hymn and Prayer

Weber Chapel

Bishop's Report: Bishop Miller noted his written report in the Bulletin of Reports, then spoke to the assembly.

Two days from now I will join a group of ELCA bishops and staff for a pilgrimage to the churches of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. These trips have been happening for many years now; we go at this time especially as a sign of our accompaniment during a particularly trying time in the lives of these people.

The churches of the ELCJHL are missions of peace and hope in a land suffering violence and despair made even worse since October 7, 2023. As a small minority among the peoples of the land, they serve as signs of God's presence with the persecuted and downtrodden.

During our trip, we will stay for a time in Bethlehem, a place whose name is interpreted "House of Bread". I will recall the theme of our assembly as we speak with our friends from Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, Church of the Reformation, Beit Jala, and Evangelical Lutheran Church in Beit Sahour, to hear how through their ministries they continue to feed the world.

I encourage you to share with me your prayers for the ELCJHL and for the people of that land we call 'Holy'. I will carry them on this journey and offer them to those with whom we meet. In fact, I asked our pastors if they had small gifts to send to our friends, and Evangelical Lutheran Church in Reedsville decided to make a prayer quilt that each of us here can tie as we add our prayers for them. You will find it in the ambulatory.

Meanwhile, please watch this video describing the ELCA plan of accompaniment with the ELCJHL.

[The assembly viewed a video from ELCA SUMUD]

In my written report I presented a somewhat grim picture of the challenges our synod faces, but I do not believe the numbers tell all the story. I would like to use this time to reflect on the nature of the church and our approach to the challenges of this time. I credit some of these thoughts to Andrew Root and Blair Bertrand, authors of *When Church Stops Working: A Future for Your Congregation beyond More Money, Programs, and Innovation* and Gil Rendle, author of *Countercultural: Subversive Resistance and the Neighborhood Congregation*.

In our discussions about the church, we often talk about "mission". We look at texts like The Great Commission (Matthew 28) or the theme text for this assembly – "Feed my sheep" – and hear the command of God to do something: Go, teach, baptize, feed. The actions words of scripture speak to us loud and clear, especially those spoken by Jesus to the apostles. Yet there is one word we do not often hear: "Wait".

Before his ascension, Jesus tells the apostles to wait in Jerusalem "for the promise of the Father" (Acts 1:4). This they did ... for a time; they devoted themselves to prayer, those apostles and many others totaling about 120 people. But Peter got bored waiting and decided he needed to do something (not unlike when the disciples were at the Sea of Galilee and Peter decided to go fishing); and so he stood up and spoke: "the scripture had to be fulfilled, [regarding Judas ...]. 'Let another take his position of overseer.'" (Acts 1:15-20) This led to the appointment of Matthias to fill out the number of apostles. Now they had done something, they had addressed a problem with a creative solution, and God would surely be pleased with them.

But, the funny thing is, we hear no more about Matthias after this brief story. Later in the story, beginning with hints in chapters 7 and 8, we hear of a young man named Saul, whom Jesus will choose to fill out the ranks of apostles. The first act of the Apostles in chapter one is long forgotten, lost in the story and overwhelmed by the act of Jesus who takes a persecutor of the Church and makes him one of the greatest apostles.

Indeed, the book titled *Acts of the Apostles* is filled with acts of God. God, having acted at the end of the gospels to raise Jesus from the dead, acts in the Ascension of Jesus; God sends the Holy Spirit on the Apostles on the feast of Pentecost; God acts through those Apostles to heal, and the Apostles remind the people, through their preaching and teaching, what God has done for them in history and in the coming of Jesus.

The story of the Church is not about the Apostles or their followers, it is about God's work in the world, working salvation from the beginning and culminating in the anointed one, Jesus. What the Apostles do is point to those acts, speak of those acts and, by the working of God's Spirit in them, become conduits for those acts, the hands and feet and mouths of God.

When we look at the challenges we face in our congregations and in our church today, we see them in light of our desire to preserve what we have – our congregations, our programs, our ministries – and we feel like we must do something. What if we, like the Apostles in the immediate aftermath of the Ascension, are called first to wait, and to watch?

We are accustomed in our Lutheran churches to the cycle of the liturgical calendar which moves us from Advent to Christmas, Lent to Easter, and back around to Advent once more. If we look at the life of the church, where we find ourselves today, perhaps we might see that we have come around once more to an Advent time. The themes of Advent are waiting, watching, listening, preparing. I wonder if that is the time in which find ourselves.

Rather than asking what we should **do** to get people to come to church, whatever our motivation to do so, we might ask, "What is **God doing** in our church?" It might take some time to discern answers to this question; but I believe that if we stop our frantic attempts to gain back what we once had God will be revealed to us in ways we might not imagine.

In the same way, we can turn our eyes and ears onto our communities and our neighbors, waiting and watching and listening for God to be revealed in them as well. In Acts chapter 8, the Apostle Philip, at the direction of God's Spirit, runs up alongside the chariot of the Ethiopian court official and, overhearing what the official is reading, he senses God at work in this individual. By listening first, he discovers the action he is to take, to teach this Ethiopian official about God's story which leads him to baptism.

There is much more I could say, but I want to give you a moment to practice waiting and watching. Take a couple minutes to think about what you have experienced so far during this assembly. What has God been doing during this time? Have you seen or felt God at work during these two days? If you'd like, open your Vevox app and type a brief response, or jot down some words on a slip of paper and drop it in the evaluation box before you leave.

Our theme for this assembly, Fed by Jesus to feed the world, at first appears to drive us to action: Feed the world. But let us not forget that first we are fed: we hear the word and we feast on the body and blood of our Savior. And like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we wait for our eyes to be opened to see Jesus, our ears to be opened to hear his voice, and our hearts to be opened by the Holy Spirit's breath that brings us abundant life. These will open for us, more

than any program or effort of our own, the way God calls us to act for the sake of the world God so loves.

So, I leave you with these words: Wait; Watch; Listen. Do not be afraid for God is with you.

Go Tell It In the Mountains: Rev. Jim Vitale reported on behalf of the steering committee for this collaborative initiative of the Upper Susquehanna, Northwest Pennsylvania, and Allegheny Synods funded by a Lilly Foundation Compelling Preaching Grant.

Reference and Counsel

The committee on Reference and Counsel recommended the following resolution:

A RESOLUTION OF GRATITUDE AT THE 2024 ASSEMBLY OF THE UPPER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD OF THE ELCA

Whereas, the Assembly of the Upper Susquehanna Synod convened on June 14 and 15th 2024, in Weber Chapel, Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, under the theme “Fed by Jesus to feed the world” and many have offered their time, God given gifts, and hard work to plan and run the Assembly and support the work of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. Therefore, be it:

Resolved, that we the members of the 2024 Assembly of the Upper Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America offer thanks and prayerful support to our Bishop, our officers, our synod staff, and our deans for their faithfulness in working for and with us, and for their loving support of us in our life together; and be it further

Resolved, that we offer thanks and prayers for everyone who guided the Assembly participants to be “fed by Jesus to feed the world”. We especially express appreciation for the ELCA Representative Maryn Olson, for the Rev. Dr. Lisa Barnes for the Bible Study, “Food, Faith and the Sea”, the Rev. Karl Runser, preaching minister, and for workshop leaders: Chaplain Scott Kershner, Susquehanna University, Michelle Mitchell, LAMPA, Pastor Jim Vitale, Youth Ministry, Sue Ellen Spotts, DEM, and Deacon Chelle Huth, ULS and Pastor Stina Schaeffer and Jonathan Moser; and be it further

Resolved, that we give thanks for representatives of the many other synod and churchwide ministries represented at the assembly, including Campus ministries, Diakon, Seafarers, Global Refuge, and Camp Mt. Luther; and be it further

Resolved, that we give thanks to all those who offered their service to this synod through the election process, to those who were elected, and to those who continue to serve; and be it further

Resolved, that we offer thanks to those who made this assembly possible in various ways: the Synod Assembly Planning Committee; our parliamentarian, Mike Sholley, registrar, Amber Ellis, Director Chad Hershberger and the communications team, Administrative Assistant, Ms Brenda K Krouse, the worship team, volunteers, musicians, technical crew, and Susquehanna University; and be it further

Resolved, that above all, we give thanks to God for feeding us with the presence of Jesus Christ and strengthening us with the Holy Spirit so that we may feed the world.

SA2024.06.22

The resolution was adopted

Recognition of Congregation and Rostered Leader anniversaries

Congregation anniversaries were recognized

225 years	St. Peter Lutheran Church, Kreamer
200 years	St. Paul Lutheran Church (Erdleys), Middleburg
	St. James Lutheran Church, Rauchtown

Anniversaries of rostered leaders were recognized

5 years	Rev. Curt A. Wingert Rev. James A. Vitale
10 years	Rev. Rick L. White Deacon MaryLou Byerly
15 years	Rev. Janice K. Moody Rev. Kristina Elna Schaeffer
20 years	Rev. Vickie L. Brown
45 years	Rev. Timothy W. Bingman
50 years	Rev. Theodore L. Cockley
55 years	Rev. A. Donald Main Rev. Gary W. Owens Rev. Kenneth C. Louder
60 years	Rev. Frederick H. Bigelow

Introduction of Rostered Leaders New in the Synod

Bishop Miller introduced rostered leaders new to the synod since the last assembly

The Rev. Mindelle Bartholomew, called to St Matthew Lutheran Church in Shamokin Dam and ordained October 8, 2023.

The Rev. Pamela Meilands, called by extended service from the Presbyterian Church USA to serve The Table – Bloomsburg.

The Rev. Kathryn Moran, called to Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lewisburg and ordained April 27.

The Rev. Elizabeth George, called to Zion Lutheran Church in Sunbury

The Rev. Hugo Schroeder, serving as interim pastor at United in Christ Parish in Mt Pleasant Mills & Richfield

Unfinished Business – There was no unfinished business. The assembly recessed until closing worship.

Recess for Transition to Worship 2:30

Closing Worship

Weber Chapel

Closing Worship with Holy Communion

The worship included a blessing for those who will attend the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans.