



Actions of the 2023 Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly

- **Re-elected** Barbara Nugent as Synod Vice President with a term ending in 2027
- **Re-elected** the Rev. William A. Schaefer as Synod Secretary with a term ending in 2027
- **Elected** Pamela Neale to the Synod Council as Conference 3 Lay Representative filling an unexpired term ending in 2025
- **Elected** Landon Dishart to the Synod Council as the Youth Representative with a term ending in 2025
- **Elected** the following persons to the Synod Council with terms ending in 2027:
Loran Bohman (At Large), Rebecca Brunetta (At Large), Rev. Eric Damon (Conf. 3), Emily Dazen (Young Adult), Rev. Susan Devine (Conf. 5), Kathe Houck (Conf. 4), Tom Hough (Conf. 2), Jen King (Conf. 6), Rev. Heather Lubold (at Large), and Rev. Michael Sourwine (Conf. 1)
- **Elected** the following persons to serve on the Consultation Committee with terms ending in 2029:
Rev. Brian Bennett, Rev. Brian Chaffee, Rev. Kerri Clark, R. Brandon James, Roberta Laciak, Dennis Lane, Holly Schmitt, and Rev. Kimberly van Driel,
- **Elected** the following persons to serve on the Committee on Discipline with terms ending in 2029:
Rev. Jocelyn Johnston, Judith Rogers, Rev. Bob Schaefer, and Ted Schroeder
- **Amended** Synod Bylaw B7.11.11. to read:
Each voting member, or those persons accorded the privilege of seat and/or voice, when recognized by the chair, shall state his or her name, and the name of the congregation, institution, or group he or she represents. Persons speaking from the floor of the Synod Assembly shall use the floor microphones (if they are provided) and shall address and speak to the chair. The time limits for each speaker shall be set in the rules of the Synod Assembly.
- **Adopted** the FIRST READING to create section **S9.07. Election Procedures** in the Synod Constitution
- **Adopted** the FIRST READING to create section **S11.06. There shall be Standing Committees of the Synod. These committees shall be outlined in the Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Synod.**
- **Adopted** the FIRST READING to create section **S11.07. The Synod Council shall form other committees to assist in the work and ministry of the Synod.**

- **Adopted** En Bloc the changes to the Synod Constitution as recommended by the actions of the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly (Group B). *These changes may be found in the 2023 Southwestern PA Synod Bulletin of Reports (Exhibit B)*
- **Adopted** En Bloc the changes to the Synod Bylaws (Group C). *These changes may be found in the 2023 Southwestern PA Synod Bulletin of Reports (Exhibit C)*
- **Adopted** the 2024 Budget
- **Adopted** the 2024 Mission Support Formula:

The faithful people who make up the congregations of our SWPA Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America endeavor to live lives of generosity and healthy stewardship. We believe that all we have is a gift from God - ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of God's gracious love for us. We aspire to give back a portion of every gift to God through the hands and feet of our local churches. We recognize that our Synod further extends the reach of the church into the lives of people both locally and globally. Our congregations are encouraged to give at least a tithe of gifts and offerings to Mission Support. We challenge each other to give a faithful measure of our congregation's gifts to the work of our Synod. Congregational leaders may request consultation with our Synod Council to assist in determining their proportionate share. We are called to live faithful lives to the bold witness of life-everlasting through our savior Jesus Christ, who sacrificed everything for us and calls us to follow in his footsteps and boldly sacrifice everything for our neighbor. May God work in our hearts and in our congregations to give faithfully so that God's hands and feet never stop serving our neighbors.
- **Adopted** the 2024 Compensation Guidelines for Ministers of Word and Sacrament
- **Adopted** the 2024 Compensation Guidelines for Ministers of Word and Service
- **Adopted** the 2024 Interim Ministry Guidelines
- **Amended** *Minimum Compensation Requirement for Placement of Pastors* Policy to read:

Minimum Compensation Requirement for Providing Candidates for Call
The Bishop of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod is precluded from providing candidates for call in congregations where minimum compensation cannot be met. [Minimum compensation shall consist of that year's cash salary, housing (if applicable), Social Security allowance, required pension and health benefits, mileage, continuing education allowance, four weeks vacation, and two weeks of continuing education time.]
- **Adopted** a memorial to expand the Mustard Seed Mission Initiative (adopted by the 2022 SWPA Synod Assembly) to include mission sites and programs, on a schedule and at a location that the host conference approves, which include activities beyond Bible study, prayer, and reading Luther's Small Catechism in order to connect people of diverse faith practices.