

## SUPPORT COMMITTEES

### ARCHIVES

This spring will mark the completion of the move of the archives to the spacious Brossman Learning Center on the campus of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. This has required gargantuan efforts of both the staff and financial resources. The large vault area provides, for the first time, all collections to be stored in one room, with significant space for added materials for years. In addition there are two smaller rooms, one for the archives office and the other for a reference library and a space for processing new materials.

To achieve the move, the already scanty service hours have had to be reduced further. A prime task is to restore and even increase hours. This will require additional financial resources.

With the newly available space, arrangements have been made to house the archives of both the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania and the Swedish Colonial Society with our operation. This collocation makes this location the premier archives for the earliest history of the Delaware Valley with materials from two and a half generations before Muhlenberg. We rejoice in both the historical and ecumenical significance of this development.

The Archives Board is looking at the potential to provide workshops “on the road” for congregations planning both for congregational archives and for the celebration of anniversaries.

Contributors to the “Moving Fund” of both affiliated synods and individuals are thanked for their financial and personal assistance. Currently our “Wish List” indicates needed equipment for the expanded program and operation. Check the publications of the Lutheran Archives Center (*Archives Advocate*, published twice annually, and *Profiles in Mission*, providing longer articles celebrating significant congregational and institutional anniversaries) or call the office for a copy.

Remember to contact the archives for aid with any archival concerns, and check with the staff before discarding congregation material. For helpful information on the Internet go to [www.ltsp.edu/krauth/archives.html](http://www.ltsp.edu/krauth/archives.html). The email address is [mtairyarchives@ltsp.edu](mailto:mtairyarchives@ltsp.edu). and the phone number is 215-248-6383. [Long distance phone calls are not returned due to limited funding.]

For too long the archives has fallen behind in needed work—arranging, sorting, creating aids to find material, and even proper boxing—due to insufficient funds. The financial support must be increased both by grants from supporting groups and gifts from students. A gift to the archives for their endowment will give annual income support and help insure the ongoing care of material which needs to be protected infinitely.

Also, feel free to contact me for archival concerns in our synod at [DJWartluft@aol.com](mailto:DJWartluft@aol.com) or calling 610-693-5073.

*David J. Wartluft, archivist*

### INTERIM MINISTRY COMMITTEE FOR CONGREGATIONS IN TRANSITION

Providing trained pastors to guide congregations through the transition between the terms of regularly called, settled pastors has been an integral part of the synod’s work. Assisting the synod staff, the Interim Ministry Committee for Congregations in Transition provides support and counsel regarding the selection of interim pastors and appropriate policy on how interim pastors will work with congregations in transition.

The committee has been intentional about encouraging interim pastors to be in constant contact with each other through consultation meetings and regional support groups. Consultation meetings occur in March, June, September, and December. Support group meetings are held eight times throughout the year in those months when there is no consultation meeting.

More formal continuing education for interim pastors is provided through an annual Interim Ministry Training Event held each September sponsored by two ELCA synods and three United Church of Christ conferences. This event, held September 24-25, 2006 at Mensch Mill Retreat Center and Campground (UCC), featured Anthony B. Robinson speaking on the topic of *Transforming Congregational Culture: Insights for Interim Ministry*.

The four consultation meetings held in 2006 included:

- March 8 – Pr. Richard Wolf shared his interim pastor experience in Billings, Montana. The

discussion focused on the issues of mobility and flexibility in serving as an interim pastor in other geographical and cultural environments.

- June 14 – Discussed the expectations and differences between “maintenance” and “intentional” interim ministry.
- September 13 – Discussed and shared items related to the process of “entry” for interim pastors as they establish relationships with congregations in transition.
- December 13 – Discussed the specific issues related to the interfacing of interim pastoral work with that of the synod staff persons as each seeks to assist congregations utilize transition time to the best results.

In 2006 the committee:

- Recommended to the Bishop a number of potential interim pastors to be considered for synodical call to interim ministry and approval for training as intentional interim pastors.
- Appointed John Deisinger and Kathryn “Kit” Hall as members of the Interim Pastor Candidacy Sub-Committee.
- Issued a letter to all newly recruited maintenance interim pastors reminding them of training opportunities and possible linkages with trained interim pastors as mentors.
- Issued a letter of solicitation to congregations that have experienced interim ministry seeking funding for a scholarship fund to help train future interim pastors.
- Approved the creation of a performance guideline document for maintenance interim pastors.
- Granted a scholarship for a person to be trained as an Intentional Interim Pastor.

*Henry K. Wohlgemuth, chair*

*Raymond C. Hittinger, interim ministry coordinator*