

## SUPPORT COMMITTEES

### ARCHIVES

This report must begin with the recognition that our long-serving, faithful archivist, the Reverend David J. Wartluft, passed away since our 2007 Assembly. We certainly wish that Pastor Wartluft were still here, writing these updates; but we also rejoice that he continues with a new wholeness as one of God's saints thanks to the redemption that is ours through Christ Jesus. Pastor Wartluft had been involved in Lutheran archives work since he joined the Krauth Memorial Library staff in 1966 and was the last remaining original member of the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Archives Center at Philadelphia.

Our synod's archives are maintained within the Lutheran Archives Center at Philadelphia, a regional archives used by most of the synods in Region 7 of the ELCA. This Archives Center is now housed in the new Brossman Learning Center on the campus of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. The move from the Krauth Memorial Library to the Brossman Center has given the archives an incredible increase in space both for holding the synods' collections and for an office and reading room. Efforts have been made to decorate these areas with informative displays and works of art gathered from various congregations. A dedication event for the new facilities will take place on Tuesday, April 29, at 4:30 p.m. at the Seminary.

Of the Center's entire holdings, roughly twenty percent are "ours." What does our synod collection include? Together with the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, we are responsible for the materials of the Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania and the former Eastern Pennsylvania Synod. Naturally, we hold the records of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, both in its LCA and ELCA manifestations.

In addition, we hold congregational and church-related institutional records. In some instances, the records are of congregations that have disbanded. But not always. We also hold records for some congregations that simply want their records maintained in safety and with maximum access by researchers. For example, a Berks County congregation with a history going back to the eighteenth century recently assigned some of their records to the archives for safe keeping.

The underlying agreement concerning the Archives Center is that the seminary will provide space for the archives (including utilities) and the

affiliated synods will provide the staff and other operating essentials. Unfortunately, the staff is not adequate for the task, not because of any lack of ability on the part of the curator, John E. Peterson, but because the funds available allow him to be hired for only fifteen hours a week. The Archives Center's Board of Directors would like to see his time increased to forty hours a week and his wage from the sub-standard twenty dollars an hour that he currently receives. Those goals are included in the "Goals—2008-2012" adopted by the Board at its meeting on January 24, 2008.

Progress is being made in cataloging the Archives Center's holdings and in making known the scope of those holdings. Much work is still needed in that regard, and the Board has sought grants to assist in that work. Much of the Center's work depends on receiving adequate funding, and donors include synods, congregations, individuals, the Commonwealth, and foundations.

Detailed reports from the Board's president, the Reverend George Handley, as well as the curator and treasurer are available upon request to me at 570-682-9834. Issues of the Center's *Archives Advocate* are available, too, which reports about the Center's activities. *Profiles in Mission* is issued less frequently but provides longer articles about churches and institutions.

If you wish to visit the Archives Center, please check first concerning the current operating hours (215-248-6383); because we have only a part-time curator, the center is not open at all times.

In addition to my presence on the Board as our synod's Affiliated Director, two other persons from Northeastern Pennsylvania are present as Non-affiliated Directors, the Reverend Richard B. Baumann and Mrs. Elizabeth H. Bagger.

Our records need to be preserved and be available for use in perpetuity. Please consider Dr. Wartluft's final plea in his last report: "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."

*Carl D. Shankweiler, archivist*

### CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

The Constitution Committee has not met since the last Synod Assembly since there have been no requests for modifications to the *Constitution and*

Bylaws of this Synod. The Committee reports the following items as matters of information:

### **I. Notice of Amendments to the Required Provisions of the *Constitution for Synods*.**

The 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly adopted two changes to the *Constitution for Synods* that have been introduced into the *Constitution and Bylaws* of the Synod under the provisions of \*S18.11. ELCA Secretary David D. Swartling has provided notice of these changes to the Synod Secretary. No action by the Assembly is required. (New wording is underscored; deletions are ~~struck through~~. Provisions with an asterisk [\*] are required provisions).

*The Churchwide Assembly amended provision*  
\*S8.12. e. in the Constitution for Synods  
to clarify the phrasing:

\*S8.12.e. Attest letters of call for persons called to serve congregations in the synod, letters of call for persons called by the Synod Council, and letters of call for persons on the rosters of this synod called by the Church Council ~~on the rosters of this synod~~.

*The Churchwide Assembly amended provision*  
\*S10.01. a. in the Constitution for Synods to provide for representation under the partner synod design for nominations to and service on the Church Council:

\*S10.01.a. (First part unchanged)... A member of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America from this synod, unless otherwise elected as a voting member of the Synod Council, may serve as an advisory member of the Synod Council with voice but not vote.

### **II. Notice of adoption of a Continuing Resolution.**

The Synod Council at its March 15, 2008 meeting adopted a new Continuing Resolution S9.01.A08. requiring background checks for those elected to synodical office. No action of the Assembly is required. The Committee with this report provides notice to the Assembly of the new Continuing Resolution. (New wording is underscored; deletions are ~~struck through~~.)

S9.01.A08. The Synod Council Executive Committee shall provide for background checks for persons nominated for synodical office prior to the Synod Assembly at which the election will take place or as soon as possible after the Synod Assembly for newly elected officers nominated from the floor who were not identified as nominees prior to the assembly. The process shall be as follows:

a. Prior to the Synod Assembly appropriate notice of the background check requirement and protocol will be provided to voting members, potential nominees, and others as directed by the Synod Council.

b. Nominees and newly elected officers are required to provide written consent to a background check and all information necessary to complete a background check, which should be completed prior to the Synod Assembly with respect to nominees and prior to installation for newly elected officers, if possible.

c. The Synod Council's Executive Committee shall designate one Executive Committee or Synod Council member to obtain the background checks.

d. All background checks for nominees and newly elected officers will entail a criminal background check. A financial background check will be completed for nominees for treasurer. The Executive Committee shall decide whether additional types of background checks are appropriate for each officer position.

e. The background check results shall be provided to that nominee or elected officer and to the Synod Council's Executive Committee, which shall then take action as deemed appropriate. Further disclosure of the results may be determined by the Executive Committee.

f. The Executive Committee may adopt other procedures or protocols as are necessary to provide for background checks for nominees and newly elected synodical officers and shall report such actions to the Synod Council.

### **III. Amendments to the *Model Constitution for Congregations*.**

The Constitution Committee reminds congregations that when amendments are made to their congregation constitutions, the secretary of the congregation should submit a copy of the amendments to the Synod consistent with \*C17.03. and \*17.04..

*John G. Pearson, Chair*

### **INTERIM MINISTRY COMMITTEE FOR CONGREGATIONS IN TRANSITION**

The Interim Ministry Committee for Congregations in Transition has the responsibility of providing educational support of interim pastors and advising the Bishop and synod staff on policy and procedure with regard to the work of interim pastors in congregations that experience times of

transition. The committee meets quarterly in March, June, September, and December.

Additionally, the committee promotes interim ministry as a viable resource for congregations in transition by providing promotional materials and media resources for use by synod staff and mission district deans.

In discharging its educational responsibility, the committee arranges quarterly consultation meetings for interim pastors in which they are informed of the latest developments in interim ministry programs and educational events. Additionally, various aspects of congregational life and ministry skills are examined and discussed. In the past year, these meetings addressed the issues of healthy exiting processes of an interim pastor, grief processes, power dynamics, and preparing for the arrival of a newly called pastor. In those months when there are no consultation meetings, two groups of interim pastors meet as support groups (one in the Lehigh Valley and one in the Reading area), sharing personal and professional concerns and reviewing Critical Incident Reports provided by members of the group.

The Interim Ministry Committee for Congregations in Transition joins three conferences of the United Church of Christ and the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod in sponsoring an annual training event for interim pastors. This event in 2007 was held at the Mensch Mill Conference and Retreat Center, Albury, PA. The featured presenter was The Rev. Stephen Treat who addressed the topic of "Diagnosing and Treating Congregational Trauma...Without Becoming Traumatized Yourself!"

Items considered by the committee in 2007 included:

- Discussing continuing budget restraints as financial resources dwindle
- Plans for display and promotional material for the 2008 annual assembly
- Orientation process for maintenance interim pastors, that is, those not formally trained for intentional processing in congregations in transition
- Approval of three candidates for training as intentional interim pastors
- Accepting suggested changes recommended by the ELCA lawyer regarding terminology and formatting of the model "Letter of Agreement" for establishing relationships between interim pastors, congregations, and the synod.

*Henry K. Wohlgemuth, chair*  
*Raymond C. Hittinger, interim ministry coordinator*