

MINUTES
Of the Special Meeting
Of the SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD COUNCIL
Of the EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
February 24, 2011
KenCrest, Plymouth Meeting, PA

Mr. William Nolan, Executive Director, KenCrest, welcomed Synod Council members.

Ms. Patricia Robinson, Vice President, called to order the Special Meeting of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council at 4:05 p.m.

The Reverend Claire Burkat, Bishop, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, led devotions.

ROSTER ACTIONS

Bishop Burkat presented the following resolutions, which Synod Council approved:

S. C. 11.02.01 Whereas the Congregation Council of St. John, Hatboro, voted to extend the call to the Reverend R. Don Wright for interim/bridge ministry;

RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council approve that extension until June 30, 2011.

S. C. 11.02.02 Whereas Mr. James Goodyear has been approved by the Candidacy Committee of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod to be ordained in the ELCA, and

Whereas the Congregation Council of Trinity, Fort Washington, has requested that the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council extend a call to Mr. Goodyear to serve Trinity;

RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council extends a three-year term call to Mr. James Goodyear to serve as the Pastor of Trinity, Fort Washington, effective February 24, 2011.

S. C. 11.02.03 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council grants *on leave from call* status to the Reverend Sozinho Alves for a third year, effective December 31, 2010; the Reverend Brian Cox for a second year, effective February 12, 2011; and the Reverend Jeffrey Ziegler for a second year, effective September 12, 2010.

The Reverend Raymond Miller, Secretary, presented the following resolution, which the Synod Council approved:

S. C. 11.02.04 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council affirms its approval of the following two resolutions, originally approved by email votes in January 2011:

RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council extends a call to the Reverend Stacie Dougherty to serve as the Interim Pastor of Little Zion, Telford, effective January 1, 2011, and extending until a pastor is called or Pastor Dougherty resigns this call, whichever comes first.

RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council extends a call to the Reverend Susan Lynch to serve as the Interim Pastor of St. John, Sumneytown, effective January 3, 2011, and extending until a pastor is called or Pastor Lynch resigns this call, whichever comes first.

FINANCIAL DISCUSSION

Noting that “budget time is also confession time” and acknowledging that “we [as a synod] have fallen short,” the Reverend Christopher Weidner, Chair, Finance Committee, stated that the goal of the Finance Committee has been to prepare a balanced adjusted spending plan for 2011 and a balanced proposed budget for 2012. He distributed summary copies of the adjusted spending plan for 2011 and the proposed budget for 2012 and invited discussion.

Bishop Burkat described 2011 as “a transition year” for financial planning in the synod.

Synod Council members then participated into an open and confidential discussion, facilitated by the Reverend Dr. Richard Stewart, Associate Professor of Communications and Parish Administration, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, who noted that, with the financial adjustments and plans under consideration, the synod would be entering a time when “it would be doing things differently but with less.”

The Synod Council adjourned at 7:50 p.m. Professor Stewart offered prayer.

The Reverend Raymond A. Miller
Secretary, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA