

EXECUTIVE REPORTS (Officers, Deans)

REPORT OF THE BISHOP

Now is the winter of our discontent
(William Shakespeare, **Richard III**, I, i, 1)

These familiar words of Richard of Gloucester, which begin the Tragedy of Richard III, have a peculiar currency today as I write this Bishop's Report for the year 2006. I am sitting at home on February 14, 2007. According to the liturgical calendar, it is the day of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Missionaries to the Slavic people. According to Hallmark Cards and FTD, it is Valentine's Day. According to the Weather Channel it is the day of the first significant winter weather event of the 2006-2007 season. The synod office, like just about everything else, is closed. On CSPAN, I am watching the House of Representatives' marathon debate over President Bush's "surge" in the war in Iraq. (I am a glutton for political punishment, *mea culpa!*)

Outside the enormous snowflakes mix with sleet and freezing rain. Yet, until today, the winter has been one of contentment, mostly warm and dry. And so, it is somewhat disingenuous to speak this late in the winter season of my homebound discontent. Similarly, I shall characterize the past year in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod as one of relative contentment.

To be sure, my staff and I dealt with our fair share of conflicts and frustrations in several congregations; however, we did not have to deal with allegations of sexual misconduct nor did we have any congregations threatening to leave the ELCA. Thanks be to God!

Again, it was a year when I did not travel internationally, and it was an in-between year for the churchwide assembly. The travel I did do carried me into stark meteorological contrasts. There were the normal trips to Chicago in January and February. Our Conference of Bishops meeting in March – normally held in a warmer clime – was in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, where they were still actively ice fishing. Then in July, Doris and I met many of you in San Antonio at the ELCA Youth Event. (While there, she kept reminding me that it was "dry heat." I kept responding that that is how we roast beef!) A week later we met others of you in Amherst, Massachusetts, at the Global Mission Event. There, the heat was not "dry." Outside it was insufferably tropical; inside, in the air-conditioned venues, the event was utterly fascinating. Finally, in November, I traveled with Pastor Arthur Wyse to Puerto Rico and ninety degree temperatures, there to ordain Pastor Lorenzo

Tirado-Carrasquillo, the newly installed director of the Latino Mission Center in Reading.

My travels and the weather: they illustrate in small scale the incredibly rich and complex network in which we are enmeshed through the communion of saints, particularly the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. For example, others of you have traveled to Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas to join with others from the ELCA in Katrina and Rita hurricane relief. Closer to home, our synod has been actively involved with the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod in flood relief along the Delaware River. My sincere thanks to all of you! Please take advantage of every opportunity to tell your inspiring stories, including your travel and weather.

Rich and complex, too, are the many ministries through which this synod fulfills its mission to make Christ known in northeastern Pennsylvania. The other reports in this bulletin describe them. It would be boringly redundant for me to rehearse them here. So, please read them carefully. They involve thousands of our baptized members – children, youth and adults of all ages, our 293 congregations, our Synod Council, our ministry teams, committees and task forces, our social ministry and educational institutions, the ELCA, and our ecumenical partners. My sincere thanks to all of you: my colleagues in mission and ministry. In so many places, in so many ways, with so many partners, in every weather condition (!), together we proclaim the gospel in our worship, our learning and in our compassionate service.

As always, permit me to take this opportunity to express my special thanks for the partnership in ministry I enjoy with my staff. I acknowledge my prejudice, but it is true: they are the best staff in the ELCA. They serve our synod with integrity, skill, energy and enthusiasm. The support staff provides the material and practical foundation for our many synodical ministries. The pastoral staff provides the expertise, the pastoral care and the leadership without which my ministry would be impossible. Please join me in expressing your thanks to them for all that they do on your behalf and for the mission of the church.

And now, on this day of Saints Cyril and Methodius, 2007, the winter weather event outside is winding down, and it is time for me to bring this to an end. There is no reason for discontent (my driveway notwithstanding), for, together, we have been blessed to be a blessing for Jesus' sake.

David R. Strobel, bishop

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Early in 2006 the Synod Council was faced with the difficult decision to grant the request of Alsace Lutheran Church, Reading to terminate its relationship with the ELCA, effective January 18, 2006. The request was granted but not without grave concern on the part of the council. The resolution also expressed our "dismay at the lack of a free and fair process and sorrow at the decision...and the pain it causes the body of Christ". We also assured the members of Alsace that the synod will continue to pray for them and will remain open to receiving them back into the ELCA.

As a result of the need for this action we have formed a task force which will set up guidelines for the procedures to follow when a congregation decides to explore leaving the ELCA.

We continued to receive progress reports in response to the Synod Governance Task Force report regarding the areas of stewardship and transition for rostered leaders. A support manual has been developed regarding call process follow-up and we have begun participation in the Mission Interpreter program which also addresses another area targeted by the report of communicating the mission of the synod. We also have reports at each meeting from each Mission District and liaisons to various organizations to keep us abreast of the scope of ministry.

I attended a synodical Vice President's meeting in Chicago in the fall dealing with a healthy transition when faced with the election of a new bishop. Since we will have an election for a new bishop in 2008 the synod council Program and Review Committee will be formulating our upcoming transition in 2008.

I continue to have opportunities to preside at pastoral elections in congregations and represent the synod at functions when assigned by the bishop. I represent the PA synodical vice presidents on the Pennsylvania Lutheran Network's Planning Committee. During 2006 I was nominated to the board of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and I continue to actively promote the relationship with our companion synod in Tanzania.

I thank God for the privilege of working with our synod council and am deeply grateful for their dedication and Christian spirit as we work together. I also want to thank Bishop Strobel and his staff, especially The Rev. Dr. Catherine Ziel, for their support as we further the kingdom of God in our little corner of the world!

Priscilla Schlenker Kinney, vice president

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

The following changes took place since the 2006 Assembly:

Roster of Ordained Ministers

Ordinations

Cheddie, Heeralal, June 24, 2006
Dietz, Rachael, June 17, 2006
Moore, Nancy L., November 5, 2006
Tirado-Carrasquillo, Lorenzo, November 12, 2006
Trump, Suzanne, March 10, 2007

Received from other Synods

Claycomb, Steven C., Allegheny Synod, February 5, 2007
Denton-Borhaug, Kelly, Delaware-Maryland Synod, August 25, 2005
Johnson, Louise, Southeastern Iowa Synod, January 1, 2006
Kemmerling, Kim A., New Jersey Synod, December 24, 2006
Lupole, Wayne T., Upper Susquehanna Synod, June 1, 2006
Milne, Martin A., Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod, September 10, 2006
Richards, Elton P., Allegheny Synod, January 1, 2007
Sassaman, Jeremiah A., Allegheny Synod, November 1, 2006
Summy, Richard H., Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, December 1, 2006
Thomforde, Christopher M., Southeastern Minnesota Synod, August 1, 2006
Walker, Jan C., Northeastern Ohio Synod, February 1, 2007
Wimmer, Mark A., Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, October 1, 2006

Transferred to other Synods

Beam, Thomas J., Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod, July 30, 2005
Quincey, Elaine C., Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, September 11, 2006

Removed from the Roster

Fatzinger, Robert E., August 1, 2006
Yoder, Keith D., March 1, 2007

Resigned from the Roster

Long, David D., November 29, 2006
Wetzel, Larry T., January 31, 2007

Deaths

Bonser, Richard J., August 10, 2006

Kerschmar, Charles K., March 20, 2007

Werner, Carl A., March 5, 2007

Wrede, Walter E., December 20, 2006

THE REV. RICHARD J. BONSER died on August 10, 2006. He was the son of the Rev. Clarence and Helen (Mervine) Bonser and was born in Bethlehem on July 26, 1942. He was a graduate of Muhlenberg College (1964) and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (1968). Ordained by the Eastern Pennsylvania Synod at St. John, Easton, on May 26, 1968, he served the following congregations: St. John, Hamburg (1968-1970); St. Paul, Summit Hill, and Zion, Nesquehoning (1970-1973); St. Matthew, Allentown (1973-1982); St. Paul, Fountain Hill (1982-1996); Christ, Easton (1996-1998). Following his retirement in 1998, he served as visitation pastor at St. John Windish, Bethlehem, until his death.

Pastor Bonser was married to Carolyn S. Waylo on August 17, 1968. They were the parents of two children, Mark Andrew and Stacy Sue.

THE REV. CHARLES K. KERSCHMAR died on March 20, 2007. The son of Peter and Theresa (Zakocs) Kerschmar, he was born in Bethlehem on September 11, 1911. He was a graduate of Moravian College (1937) and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (1944).

From 1912 to 1927 he lived with his grandparents and went to school in Slovenia, Austria. Ordained by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania in June of 1944, he served Ascension and Redeemer in Lancaster (1944-1949); St. Mark, Bethlehem (1949-1969); and Christ, Stone Church (1969-79). In retirement he served St. Stephen, Bethlehem, for eighteen months as interim pastor and later assisted with corporate and private communions at Holy Cross, Bethlehem.

He served formerly as secretary-treasurer of the Bethlehem Ministerial Association, president of Butztown Lions Club and Bethlehem Salvation Army and as chaplain of the MORA Club (Men of Retirement Age).

Pastor Kerschmar was married in 1944 to Ruth Carlson, who died in 1970. In 1978 he married Lavira Bachman, who died in 1989. On May 6, 1993, he was married to Anne S. Eisimont.

THE REV. CARL A. WERNER died on March 5, 2007. Born on September 11, 1931, in Brooklyn,

NY, he was the son of Lenard and Ruth (Persson) Werner. He attended Wagner College and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, from which he graduated in 1959. Ordained in that year by the New York and New England Synod of the ULCA, he was called to pastor of Emanuel, Philadelphia, where he served until 1966. He then accepted a position as the director of community relations with the Redevelopment Authority of Philadelphia and served in the area of housing and urban development for the next twenty years. During that time he also served as a hospital chaplain at Temple University Hospital, Hahnemann Hospital and Graduate Hospital, all in Philadelphia. He also served the following congregations: Christ, Schoenersville (1987-1990); interim, St. Joseph, Allentown (1991-1992); St. Luke, Archbald (1992-1999); Good Shepherd, Martins Creek (2000-2007).

Pastor Werner was active in civic affairs, serving as project director for the Mummerts Museum in Philadelphia as well as working on projects to celebrate the national bicentennial in that city. He was a certified grief counselor and served as president of the Delaware Valley chapter of the Association for Death Education and Counseling.

He was married to Kay Welsing, who died in 2005. They were the parents of two children, Carl Erik and Kristin Marie.

THE REV. WALTER E. WREDE died on December 20, 2006. The son of Albert C. and Wilhelmina (Koop) Wrede, he was born on September 3, 1925, in Ridgefield Park, NJ. From 1943 until 1946 he served in the U. S. Navy. He graduated from Wagner College in 1950 and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in 1953. He was ordained on January 25, 1953, by the New Jersey Synod, in Trinity Lutheran Church, Trenton.

During his ministry he served the following congregations: Holy Trinity, Magnolia NJ (1953-1962) and St. James, Phillipsburg NJ (1962-1990). Following his retirement he served as part-time chaplain for seven years at Country Meadows Assisted Living facility in Bethlehem PA. Both St. James and Country Meadows honored him with the title of Pastor Emeritus.

Pastor Wrede married Naomi Barndt Heebner on December 22, 1951. They were the parents of four children, Walter, Jr., Christine, Anita, and Annette.

2006-2007 Pastoral Changes

Bileck, Liddy J., assistant, Trinity, Pottsville, to associate, Trinity, Pottsville, June 12, 2006

Bowers, James W., interim, Friedens, Friedensville, to part-time interim associate, Holy Spirit, Emmaus, January 15, 2007

Boyer, Brenda J. interim, Grace, East Stroudsburg, to part-time, Grace, East Stroudsburg, February 11, 2007

Cheedie, Heeralal, newly ordained, to assistant pastor, St. Paul, Tannersville, June 24, 2006

Claycomb, Steven C. Allegheny Synod, to Reformation, Reiffton, February 5, 2007

Crawford, Fred T., Zion, Tamaqua, to retirement, September 1, 2006

Deal, Donna T., Jerusalem, Western Salisbury, to Redeemer, Allentown, January 16, 2007

Denton-Borhaug, Kelly, Delaware-Maryland Synod, to assistant professor, Moravian College, August 25, 2005

Dietz, Rachael, newly ordained, to pastor, St. James, Hobbie, June 17, 2006

Eichhorn, Christian D., Assoc. Prof., New Brunswick Theological Seminary, to Trinity, Hecktown, January 16, 2007

Fazio, Michael A., Hope, Bowers, to interim, Jerusalem, Western Salisbury, January 31, 2007

Feinour, Kenneth C., Exec. Vice President, Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries, to retirement, December 1, 2006

Fritch, Mark A., chaplain, U.S. Army, to retirement, June 1, 2006

Hansen, Paul D. on-leave-from-call, to Chaplain, Reading Hospital, October 10, 2006

Hazel, John F., Jerusalem, Trachsville, to Summit Hill-Nesquehoning Parish, July 1, 2006

Heffelfinger, Harry L., Friedens, Stony Run, to on-leave-from-call, July 31, 2006

Johnson, Louise, Southeastern Iowa Synod, to Assoc. Director of Admission, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, January 1, 2006

Kemmerling, Kim A., New Jersey Synod, to assistant, St. John, Sinking Spring, December 24, 2006

Knox, Rebecca W., part-time interim, Hope, Reading, to on-leave-from-call, October 1, 2006

Le Van, Eileen M., St. John, Effort, to Nativity, Reading, January 1, 2007

Long, David D., St. John, Fogelsville, resigned from the roster, November 29, 2006

Lupole, Wayne T., Upper Susquehanna Synod, to Christ, Hazleton, June 1, 2006

MacFadden, Suzanne S., associate, Holy Spirit, Emmaus, to retirement, February 1, 2007

Miller, Carey L., Holy Trinity, Northampton, to interim, Grace, Macungie, June 1, 2006

Milne, Martin A., Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod, to Zion, Old Zionsville, September 10, 2006

Moore, Nancy L., newly ordained, to assistant, St. John, Nazareth, November 5, 2006

Odgren, Jeffrey W., Faith United, Nescopeck, to St. Joseph (Hill), Boyertown, October 1, 2006

Peters, Michael J., Trinity, Robesonia, to on-leave-from-call, March 1, 2007

Pfeffer, Peggy Sue, chaplain, St. Luke Village, to chaplain, Hospice St. John, Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries, July 11, 2006

Reinsel, Thomas H., interim, Atonement, Wyomissing, to on-leave-from-call, December 1, 2006

Roulté, Luther H., associate, Atonement, Wyomissing, to retirement, January 7, 2007

Ruggles, Susan D., assistant, St. John, Nazareth, to pastor, St. John, Easton, June 12, 2006

Sassaman, Jeremiah A., Allegheny Synod, to St. Paul, Mertztown, November 1, 2006

Schaediger, Paul A., Minersville-Buck Run PC, to retirement, June 30, 2006

Smith, Philip K., Christ, Stouchsburg, to Nuremberg-Zion Grove P.C., February 1, 2007

Seifert, James W., St. Luke, Shoemakersville, to retirement (under contract to St. Luke, Shoemakersville), January 31, 2007

Summy Richard, H., Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, to Atonement, Wyomissing, December 1, 2007

Thomforde, Christopher M., Southeastern Minnesota Synod, to president, Moravian College and Seminary, August 1, 2006

Tirado-Carrasquillo, Lorenzo, newly ordained, to Mission Director, Reading/Berks Lutheran Mission Center for Latino/Hispanic Ministry, November 12, 2006

Trump, Suzanne, newly ordained, to Grace, Allentown, March 10, 2007

Wetzel, Larry T., continuing disability, resigned from roster, January 31, 2007

Wimmer, Mark A., Southeastern Pennsylvania, to Mission Investment Fund area representative, October 1, 2006

Wolfe, Mary, assistant, Reformation, Reiffton, to Hope, Reading, October 1, 2006

Roster of Associates in Ministry

Commissioning

Saylor, Bruce, June 4, 2006

Received from Other Synods

Elliott, Jane R.M., Southeastern Pennsylvania, July 1, 2006

Summy, Christine L., Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, December 1, 2007

2006-2007 Associate in Ministry Changes

Elliott, Jane R.M., on-leave-from-call, to interim Director for Faith Formation and Music Ministry for Youth/Young Adults, Holy Spirit, Emmaus, January 15, 2007

Saylor, Bruce, newly commissioned, to coordinator, Christian education and youth, St. John, Easton, June 4, 2006

Steltz, Nancy L., coordinator, Christian education and youth, Holy Trinity, Bethlehem, to on-leave-from-call, March 6, 2006

Summy, Christine L., Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, to director, Spiritual Growth and Caring, Atonement, Wyomissing, December 1, 2007

Yenser, Kathleen A., coordinator, Christian education, Trinity, Robesonia, to on-leave-from-call, June 30, 2006

Barbara-Anne G. Taylor, secretary

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Total receipts in 2006 were approximately 9% below 2005 primarily due to the significant (35%) decline in gifts designated for disaster relief. As shown below, Mission Support also decreased vs. the previous year.

	2006	2005	Change
Mission Support			
ELCA (53%)	\$ 1,658,443	\$1,669,642	
NEPS (47%)	<u>1,470,695</u>	<u>1,480,626</u>	
	3,129,138	3,150,268	-1%
Designated			
Hunger, Disaster Response, other	<u>615,838</u>	<u>950,562</u>	-35%
Total	<u>\$3,744,976</u>	<u>\$ 4,100,830</u>	<u>-9%</u>

244 congregations (83%) provided estimates of their Mission Support plans for the year, and 70% of those congregations (172) met or exceeded their projected support levels for 2006. The shortfall vs. planned giving was approximately \$70,000 or 2% of the total Mission Support budget.

	Mission Support	
Congregations		Support Received
Who provided commitments and:		
Met or exceeded commitments	172	
Support was below commitment	68	
Gave \$ 0 towards commitment	<u>4</u>	
Sub-totals	244	\$ 2,940,618
Congregations who did not provide a commitment	45	188,520
Congregations without commitments who gave \$0	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>
Totals	293	\$ 3,129,138

The reduction in overall Mission Support resulted in an \$85,005 decrease in funds available for our synod's programs. Spending for the year was approximately \$99,000 below planned levels which more than offset the decrease in receipts resulting in a lower than projected deficit for 2006.

NEPS	Budget Performance		
	<u>2006</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Receipts	\$1,470,695	\$ 1,555,700	\$1,480,626
Expenditures	<u>1,500,282</u>	<u>1,599,300</u>	<u>1,502,810</u>
Net (Deficit)	<u>\$ (29,587)</u>	<u>\$ (43,600)</u>	<u>\$ (22,184)</u>

The total "budget pie"

Total receipts of all 293 congregations in our synod were estimated to be approximately \$57 million for 2006. Our Mission Support as a share of that total pie would be approximately 5.5% (ELCA 2.9%, NEPS budget 2.6%).

David J. Hinrichs, treasurer

REPORT OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL

The Synod Council met four times since the last Assembly. Numbers preceding resolutions of the Council indicate the year, month, and sequence number of the resolution. Recommendations for Assembly action appear in **bold face type**. All items are presented for review by the Assembly.

Administration

(2006.6.7) Resolved, that the Administration Committee be authorized to review nominations and select a recipient of the 2006 Wilson

Touhsaent Award for Significant Social Ministry, on behalf of the Synod Council.

(2006.10.3) Resolved, that the 2007 Executive Staff compensation be set in accordance with the following schedule, reflecting 1) total compensation, and 2) for ordained staff members the amount of base salary, social security allowance, and housing allowance. The amounts designated as housing allowance shall apply to calendar year 2007 and all future years unless otherwise provided by this Synod Council. (Numbers are rounded to the nearest dollar.) This reflects an increase of 2% over 2006 figures.

Name	Base Salary	Housing	Social Security	Total
Strobel	\$50,856	\$25,000	\$6,284	\$82,140
Ziel	\$39,659	\$15,000	\$4,528	\$59,187
Bennethum	\$45,014	\$18,000	\$5,220	\$68,234
Meinschein	\$36,614	\$17,000	\$4,441	\$58,055
Handwerk	\$38,941	\$16,500	\$4,593	\$60,034
Simmons	\$40,990	\$16,000	\$4,721	\$61,711
Garbe	\$39,754	\$12,000	\$4,287	\$56,041
Matthias-Long	\$47,690		\$3,648 ¹	\$47,690
Weiser	\$53,154		\$4,066 ¹	\$53,154
Schelly	\$45,315		\$3,467 ¹	\$45,315

¹Employer's required share (7.65%)

(2006.10.4) Resolved, that Reading/Berks Lutheran Mission Center for Latino Hispanic Ministry be recognized as a synodically authorized worshipping community, in accordance with ELCA bylaw 10.02.03.

(2006.10.10) Resolved, that changes to the synod's personnel policy, detailed in the attached document, be adopted.

Assembly

(2006.6.8) Resolved, that the Synod Secretary be instructed to send a letter to those pastors residing on the territory of this synod who were absent from the synod assembly without submitting an excuse, reminding them of the constitutional responsibility in this regard.

(2006.6.9) Resolved, that the Synod Secretary be instructed to write to the secretaries of the congregations which had no registered lay voting members or only one lay voting member and presented no excuse for such absence, calling attention to the constitutional requirement in this regard, and to send copies of the letters to the respective deans; and that, in the case of congregations that had no voting members and did not present excuses, personal consultation as deemed appropriate by the Mission District dean be effected between Congregation Councils and pastors of those congregations and a representa-

tive or representatives of the Synod (Mission District deans, Synod staff persons, or Synod Council members), with arrangements for such consultation to be initiated by the Mission District deans.

(2007.1.10) Resolved, that Augsburg/Fortress be permitted to sell merchandise at the LIFT event on June 9, 2007.

(2007.3.11) The following resolution is recommended to the 2007 Synod Assembly:

Resolved, that the 2007 Assembly program (as printed in the Bulletin of Reports) be adopted.

Budget

(2007.1.2) Resolved, that the revised 2007 Spending Proposal of \$3,200,000 be approved as amended by the Finance Committee in light of the anticipated 2006 expenses and receipts from congregations in 2006.

(2007.3.2) Resolved, that the 2008 program proposal (February 1, 2008, to January 31, 2009) be adopted. The Synod Council is hereby authorized to establish the 2008 spending program no later than its January, 2008, meeting, making any necessary adjustments to the budget proposal in light of both realistic anticipation of receipts and synod priorities (in consultation with the ELCA Treasurer with respect to the ELCA portion thereof.)

(2007.3.3) Resolved, that the 2008 Spending Proposal line "Social Ministry Support" amount be increased to the 2007 level of \$70,000 and that the amount of \$70,000 be added to the line "Income from other Sources (if needed)" to balance the budget.

Calls, Appointments, and Roster Maintenance

(2006.6.2) Resolved, that a call to special service be extended to the Rev. Ned Drescher to serve as interim pastor of St. John, Tamaqua, effective April 25, 2005.

(2006.6.3) Resolved, that in accordance with sections 7.31.16. and 7.52.22. of the ELCA Constitution, "on leave from call" status be approved as follows:

Clergy (first year): William (Woody) Maxon

Associate in Ministry (first year): Nancy Steltz

(2006.10.1) Resolved, that a call to special service be issued to the Rev. Paul D. Hansen to serve as staff chaplain at Reading Hospital, effective October 10, 2006.

(2006.10.5) Resolved, that a call to special service be issued to the Rev. Christopher M. Thomforde to serve as president of Moravian College and Seminary, Bethlehem, effective August 1, 2006.

(2006.10.6) Resolved, that a call to special service be issued to the Rev. Peggy Sue Pfeffer, to serve as chaplain of Hospice Saint John's Hazleton office, Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries, effective July 11, 2006.

(2006.10.7) Resolved, that in accordance with sections 7.31.16. and 7.52.22. of the ELCA Constitution, a request for "on leave from call" status be approved as follows:

Associate in Ministry (first year): Kathleen Yenser
Joy V. Gerhart

(2006.10.11) Resolved that this Synod Council requests of the ELCA Conference of Bishops a waiver of the three-year parish rule for Lorenzo Tirado-Carrasquillo and, provided this waiver is granted, that he be called to the position of Mission Director of the Reading/Berks Lutheran Mission Center for Latino Hispanic Ministry.

(2007.1.3) Resolved, that Pastor Keith Yoder not be granted further time in the status "on leave from call."

(2007.1.5) Resolved, that in accordance with sections 7.31.16 and 7.52.22 of the ELCA Constitution, "on leave from call status" be approved as follows:

Clergy (third year): James Covert

Clergy (first year): Harry Heffelfinger
Rebecca Knox
Thomas Reinsel

(2007.1.6) Resolved, that the Synod Council requests of the Conference of Bishops approval to issue a call to non-stipendiary ministry for the Rev. William S. Maxon.

(2007.1.7) Resolved, that the Synod Council requests of the Conference of Bishops approval to issue a call to non-stipendiary ministry for the Rev. Gene A. Parker.

(2007.1.8) Resolved, that a call to special service be extended to the Rev. James Bowers to serve as part-time transitional associate pastor of Holy Spirit, Emmaus, effective January 15, 2007.

(2007.1.9) Resolved, that a call to special service be extended to Jane Elliott, AiM, to serve as transitional director for Faith Formation and Music Ministries for Youth and Young Adults of Holy Spirit, Emmaus, effective January 15, 2007.

(2007.3.5) Resolved, that in accordance with sections 7.31.16. and 7.52.22. of the ELCA Constitution, "on leave from call" status be approved as follows:

Clergy (first year): Michael Peters

Clergy (third year): Kim L. Lengert

AiM (second year): Nancy Steltz

(2007.3.6) Resolved, that a call to special service be extended to the Rev. Thomas Reinsel to serve as interim pastor of Hope, Bowers, effective February 1, 2007.

(2007.3.7) Resolved, that a call to special service be extended to the Rev. Michael A. Fazio to serve as interim pastor of Jerusalem, Western Salisbury, effective January 31, 2007.

Compensation

(2007.1.1) The following resolution is recommended to the 2007 Synod Assembly:

Resolved, that the Synod Council approve the Minimum Salary Guidelines for Pastors and Rostered Lay Leaders for recommendation to the Synod Assembly in June.

Elections

(2006.6.4) Resolved, that Sandra Jarva Weiss be elected to a term on the Board of Trustees of Good Shepherd Home.

(2006.6.5) Resolved, that Peggy Gumpert be elected to a term on the Board of the Eastern Pennsylvania Camp Corporation.

(2006.6.6) Resolved, that Kathy A Smith, Cathy A. Davis, the Rev. Laura A. Csellak, Scot Williams, and Cindy Zimmermann be elected to terms on the board of directors of Lutheran Congregational Services.

(2007.3.8) Resolved, that the Rev. Frank Stinner be elected to fill a vacant term on the board of directors of Lutheran Congregational Services, effective immediately and expiring May 31, 2009.

(2007.3.9) Resolved, that the Rev. John Kunkel be elected to fill a vacant term on the board of directors of Lutheran Congregational Services, effective immediately and expiring May 31, 2007, and then to a subsequent three-year term, expiring May 31, 2010.

(2007.3.10) Resolved, that Robert Gadowski be elected to a term on the Board of Trustees of Good Shepherd Home, expiring 2009.

Finance

(2006.6.1) Resolved, that Synod Council support the LIFT program with a grant of \$3,000 from the Prosser, Pahse Mission Fund.

(2006.10.2) Resolved, that \$1,000 be taken from the Prosser Pahse Mission Fund to be given to the Institute for Jewish Christian Understanding in support of the "Echoes from the Fog" program.

(2006.10.8) Resolved, that the 2007 Spending Policy be as follows:

Prosser-Pahse Mission Fund, 8% of assets,
\$40,750

Student Education Fund, 10% of assets,
\$25,383

Leadership Development Fund, 8% of assets,
\$3,012

Social Ministry, 8.5% of assets, \$65,746

and that the Witness and Service Team be asked to emphasize awarding grants to congregational projects rather than to institutions' projects.

(2006.10.9) Resolved, that in fiscal year 2006 the Candidacy Committee be permitted to use an additional \$7,000 from the Student Education Fund for financial aid to students in seminary and that additional money be taken as needed from the Prosser-Pahse Mission Fund so that the fall 2006 grants can be \$1,500 per student for those who need that level of assistance.

(2007.3.4) Resolved, that a grant of \$10,000 from the Prosser/Pahse Mission Fund be given to San Martin de Porres to help provide support for a part-time social worker.

Mission Districts

(2007.1.4) Resolved, that the 2007 budgets of the nine Mission Districts be approved as presented and that approval is given to solicit congregational support.

Barbara-Anne G. Taylor, Secretary

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF DEANS

The Committee of Deans met in June, September, November and February.

At the June meeting, the deans reviewed the recent synod assembly. The host district did a fine job, and the event at Bear Creek Camp was excellent. The dearth of resolutions and discussion may be due either to a societal tendency to avoid conflict or to the church's exhaustion after recent discussions of sexuality.

In September the deans welcomed Pastor Greg Kramer, who is the Regional Gift Planner for the ELCA in Central and Northeastern Pennsylvania. He presented information on his work and how he can be of service to our congregations. In discussion, concerns were raised about how information is disseminated when disaster strikes. Lutheran Congregational Services is developing a disaster response plan.

The November meeting was devoted primarily to conversation about activities in the mission districts. Several projects are under way in West Berks. Several districts continue to be involved in Gulf Coast disaster response. Collegiality is an ongoing issue and goal in most districts.

At the February meeting Duan McKee and John Richter shared information about the work of Dia-kon Lutheran Social Ministries. The deans heard about new programming and facilities in various locations. The first quarter of the new CPE program is concluding. The housing rehab program in Baltimore is exciting and has the possibility of being expanded into Pennsylvania, perhaps in Reading or Lancaster.

Anniversaries of Rostered Service

2007 marks the 25th anniversary of rostered service for the following leaders:

Michael A. Frost
Peter D. Kuritz
Terry M. Lieb
Wayne T. Lupole
Niels H. Nielsen
Carey L. Miller
Nancy L. Steltz

Observing their 40th anniversary of ordination are:

Edward W. Cloughen
Sterling R. Geiger
John J. Keiter, Jr.
F. Peter Muhr
James W. Seifert
Leon C. Zinkler

Celebrating their 50th anniversary of rostered service are:

Peter P. Grimes
David N. Kistler
Donald B. Landis
Charles E. Mertz
Durrell J. Seip
George F. Spieker
Henry K. Wohlgemuth

Celebrating his 60th anniversary of ordination is:

John V. Peters

Celebrating his 65th anniversary of ordination is:

Charles M. Kern

THE REV. PETER P. GRIMES, the son of Joseph and Esther (Wartluft) Grimes, was born on September 26, 1932, in Reading. He graduated from Muhlenberg College in 1954 and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in 1957.

Following his ordination on May 26, 1957, he served as pastor of Centerport Parish (1957-1962); St. John, Farmersville (1962-1970) and Grace, Bethlehem (1973-1995). From 1970-1973 he served as director of development for Good Shepherd Home in Allentown. Following his retirement, he served as part-time visitation pastor at New Jerusalem, Saucon Valley.

On June 26, 1954, Pastor Grimes married Ruth A. Kratzer. They are the parents of a daughter, Beth Lynn.

THE REV. DAVID N. KISTLER, the son of Daniel D. and Jessie D. (Peterson) Kistler, was born on November 13, 1932, in Everett, Washington. He graduated from Muhlenberg College in 1954 and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in 1957.

Pastor Kistler has served several congregations, all in Pennsylvania, as either pastor or stated supply pastor: Claysburg Charge, Claysburg (1957-1963); St. Matthew, Shamokin Dam (1963-1969); St. John, Snyderstown (1963-1967); St. Paul, Middlecreek Dam (1967-1969); St. Luke, Bainbridge (1969-1970). In 1970 he was called to serve as the Protestant chaplain at the Hamburg State School and Hospital, where he served until his retirement in 1996. In retirement he has continued to be involved in activities supporting accessibility and full inclusion of those with disabilities. He also has continued to provide chaplaincy services under the auspices of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches.

Pastor Kistler married Delores Elaine Miller on June 4, 1955. They are the parents of four children, Mary Jane, Catherine Anne Constance, Michael David, and Elizabeth Elaine.

THE REV. DONALD B. LANDIS was born on January 21, 1933, in Souderton, the son of Elmer F. and Lillian (Blank) Landis. He graduated from

Muhlenberg College (1954) and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (1957).

Ordained on May 26, 1957, Pastor Landis served the following calls: assistant pastor, St. Paul, Glenside (Reading) (1957-1960); pastor Trinity, Bechtelsville (1960-1965); pastor, St. John, Morrisville (1965-1967); book editor, Board of Publications, Lutheran Church in America (1967-1970); pastor, Moselem-Beckers Parish (1971-1998). Since retiring he has served as visitation pastor at Christ, Dryville, and St. John, Kutztown.

He was active in the Lutheran Inner Mission Society of Berks and Schuylkill, serving as a board member, secretary and president of the board. In addition, he has served on several synodical committees, including ecumenism and archives.

Pastor Landis was married to Madeline D. Bauer on July 13, 1963. They are the parents of two sons, Timothy Donald and Michael Joseph.

THE REV. CHARLES E. MERTZ was born on December 26, 1927, in Lehigh. His parents were Charles W. and Elizabeth S. (Walck) Mertz. A 1954 graduate of Muhlenberg College, he then graduated from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in 1957. He was ordained at St. John, Towamensing, in 1957 by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania.

Following his ordination, Pastor Mertz served these congregations: Zion, Spring City (1957-1962); Peace, Cornwells Heights (1962-1967); St. John, Tremon, and Zion, Donaldson (1967-1971); Christ's United, Ashland (1972-1977); and Reformation, Reiffton (1977-1992). In his retirement he has remained active in community activities.

On May 28, 1955, Pastor Mertz was married to Jean Ann Schoenberger. She died in 1990. They are the parents of four children, Elisa Ann, Katherine Louise, John Charles, and Eric Paul.

THE REV. DURRELL J. SEIP, the son of George V. and Alice C. (Snyder) Seip, was born on November 23, 1932, in Northampton. He graduated from Muhlenberg College in 1954 and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in 1957. He was ordained on May 26, 1957, in Palmyra.

Pastor Seip served the following congregations: Quakake Parish (1957-1960); St. Paul, White Haven (1960-1966); Holy Trinity, Kingston (1966-1974). From 1974 until 1989 he served Lutheran Welfare Services and the Lutheran Home at Hazleton, first as assistant administrator-chaplain

and later as pastor-administrator until 1983. From 1981 until 1989 he was also a vice president of Lutheran Welfare Service. In 1989 he returned to parish ministry, serving Zion, Frackville, until his retirement in 1998.

On August 21, 1954, Pastor Seip married Lois J. Fritz. They are the parents of three children, Lauren Lee, Donna Lyn and David John.

THE REV. GEORGE F. SPIEKER was born on May 9, 1930, in Emmaus. His parents were Paul F. and Marian M. (Stager) Spieker. In 1952 he graduated from Muhlenberg College, and in 1957 he completed his seminary education at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. He was ordained at St. John, Towamensing, on May 26, 1957, by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania.

Following his ordination, Pastor Spieker served the following congregations: St. Paul, Gordon (1957-1959); Robeson, Plowville (1959-1972); and St. John, Coplay (1972-1993). In his retirement he has served as dean to the retired in the Lehigh Valley as well as visitation pastor at St. Peter, Bethlehem. He has also been actively involved with the Boy Scouts, serving as chairperson of the advancement committee for the Minsi Trails Council.

On August 11, 1956, Pastor Spieker was married to Rebecca Ann Keller. They are the parents of two children, David and Jane Ann.

THE REV. HENRY K. WOHLGEMUTH, the son of Henry and Elizabeth L. (Zahn) Wohlgemuth, was born on September 18, 1931, in Harrisburg. He graduated from Gettysburg College in 1953 and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg in 1957. The Catholic University in Washington DC awarded him an MSW degree in 1959. He was ordained on July 19, 1957.

Following his ordination Pastor Wohlgemuth served as assistant pastor of St. Luke, Silver Spring, Maryland. In 1959 he was called to serve as the executive director of Lutheran Inner Mission in Lancaster. The rest of his career focused on social ministry, as he served as director, Lutheran Children's' Bureau, Philadelphia (1967-1975); deputy director, Children and Family Services, Philadelphia (1975-1981); executive director, Lutheran Ministries of Georgia, (1981-1994). Following his retirement he has remained active in ministry, serving often as an interim pastor, mentor and consultant.

Pastor Wohlgemuth married Dorothy A. Kline on May 28, 1955. They are the parents of two children, Kurt and Beth.

Catherine A. Ziel, executive associate of the bishop