

SUPPORT COMMITTEES

ARCHIVES

According to our synodical constitution, the Secretary of the Synod has the responsibility “in consultation with the Bishop,” to “classify and arrange all important papers and documents and deposit them in the archives of this Synod” (S8.32.c).

The way in which this task is carried out is through a synod-appointed archivist and through our synod’s participation in the Lutheran Archives Center at Philadelphia, where our “important papers and documents” are physically housed. The synod staff, pastors, and lay leaders of congregations are also involved in this task, especially when dealing with congregations that are disbanding and their records need to be safeguarded and conveyed to the archives.

During the last year we received or are in the process of receiving records from four disbanding or relocating congregations as well as from one very happy and healthy congregation that has chosen to deposit its records in the Archives Center. We are grateful for all of the individuals who have helped to make this work possible.

We are also grateful for financial assistance! Housing materials, cataloguing holdings, and assisting researchers all requires money; and for that purpose the synod’s budget includes a line item for the archives. Disbanding congregations are also asked to provide at least \$3,000 for the “perpetual care” of their papers. If the assets of the disbanding congregation come under the synod’s management (S13.24), this payment is made automatically.

The Archives Center also seeks contributions from individuals and congregations, either for general purposes or for specific projects. For example, the Archives Center applied for and received a grant for the preservation of the papers of the late Lutheran New Testament scholar, John H. P. Reumann. The project grew in terms of the amount of material to be processed and stored, and the grant was not adequate for the expanded task. Hence, several persons from our synod contributed approximately \$2,000 towards this project; roughly \$1,000 more is needed. If you want up-to-date figures and desire to assist, please contact me.

Another specific project now underway is preserving the journals of Henry M. Muhlenberg. These journals have been translated and published, so that work was done decades ago. The current

task is to have the original journals themselves professionally preserved. The Archives Center is making use of a grant for this purpose but also needs matching funds from donors. Again, feel free to contact me for more information. If your contribution is large enough, you may call 570-682-9834 at any hour of the day or night!

Visiting the Archives Center is another matter. Please call 215-248-6383 to find out the current operating hours; because we have only a part-time curator, the Center is not open at all times.

In addition to my presence on the Board of the Lutheran Archives Center as our synod’s Affiliated Director, three other persons from our synod are also present as Non-affiliated Directors: the Reverend Virginia Biniek (whose name should have appeared in last year’s report as well), Mrs. Elizabeth H. Bagger, and the Reverend Richard B. Baumann.

Thank you for your support of the synod’s archives and for taking care of your own congregation’s heritage of documents and records, significant physical items from the past, and ongoing ministry. Every congregation has its own “important papers and documents” that need protection as a way to honor the past and in order to inform the future.

Carl D. Shankweiler, archivist

With “The Move” Complete, We Now Have New Challenges

As reported last year, the good news was that “The Move” of our collections and operation to the undercroft of the seminary’s new Brossman Center was complete and a festive dedication was held last April. In addition, in early May, we dedicated the Anna Kalendova Computer and Scriptorium equipped with new software of museum quality and we are beginning to catalog our collections, making them available “on line”. The first collections, which should appear late spring or early summer, are those of John H. P. Reumann, Henry E. Horn and Charles Michael Jacobs. This is exciting! We had received funding for proper processing of these collections from friends, colleagues and benefactors. Our challenge now is to obtain additional funding for this task. This year we have hit “only the tip of the iceberg”, so to speak. We sincerely hope that our many “Friends of the Archives” will note this progress and, rejoicing in it, aid us in moving forward in this long-term goal.

Further, Restoration of the Muhlenberg Journals is on the Horizon

We are pleased to announce that recently we received word that we have been awarded the largest grant we have ever received. It promises to allow us to complete the restoration of the complete 30 Muhlenberg Journals which are the true treasure of our collection. A few years ago, we were able to restore the first volume. Now, the other 29! The grant provides \$93,000 to cover the cost of half the project. To receive it, we must now obtain the other half. Plans are underway, under the leadership of Pastor Gordon Simmons, to launch a campaign to secure \$100,000 over the next two years (which is the grant's life). The additional \$7,000 is to provide staff assistance to administer the overall project. Fortunately, for this service, we will have Mary Redline, who wrote the original grant proposal. Stay turned! Truly, this is a once in a lifetime opportunity ... and we dare not fail.

More Needs Mentioning

We have also received a few smaller grants, one of which has allowed us to restore the first volume (from the 18th century!) of the Minutes of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania.

All year, we were able to maintain the new hours, when we are open four afternoons a week, even over the summer. This brings us more activity and we must not fail to neglect previously set goals to increase our staff hours for the service our region has a right to expect. Further, we are seeking to expand our visibility in synods.

Thank you for your continuing interest and support!

George E. Handley, president

**INTERIM MINISTRY COMMITTEE
FOR CONGREGATIONS IN TRANSITION**

The Interim Ministry Committee for Congregations in Transition takes seriously the work of providing training and guidance for interim pastors in order to assist the synod staff and congregations in the process of transition from one called pastor to another. The committee promotes training through Basic Education for the Practice of Intentional Interim Ministry events and Advanced Courses of the National Association of Lutheran Interim Pastors (NALIP) and the Interim Ministry Network, Inc (IMN). It seeks to reinforce and build on this specialized training through consultation meetings of interim pastors and interim pastor support groups. The Committee has been instrumental in prepar-

ing and sharing policy guidelines and procedures that enhance the practice of interim ministry.

In the past year, the Committee has joined efforts with the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod (ELCA), the Penn Northeast Conference (UCC), the Penn Southeast Conference (UCC), and the Penn Central Conference (UCC) to provide an Interim Ministry Training Event at Mensch Mill Retreat Center near Huffs Church, Pa. The Rev. Robert Williamson, Associate Director of the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, was the featured presenter on the topic of *Conflict Transformation Skills for Congregations*. On the first day of this event, Pr. Ray Hittinger, Interim Ministry Coordinator for NEPS, presented an introduction and orientation session entitled *Interim Ministry 101* for those who are exploring the possibility of serving in this specialty.

Significant work of the Committee through the last year included:

- Review of the role of Maintenance Interim Pastors and the initiation of guidelines for those serving in this capacity
- Presentation of three interim pastor consultation meeting discussions including:
 - Dr. Ralph Reeves, MD, on Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome
 - Dialogue with Bishop Samuel Zeiser on the role of Interim Ministry in the work of the synod.
 - The First Process Task for the Interim Pastor – “Joining the System”
- Interviewing of two candidates for service as intentional interim pastors by the candidacy sub-committee.

Members of the NEPS Interim Ministry Committee for Congregations in Transition in the past year included Pr. Henry Wohlgemuth, chairman; Pr. Donald Billeck; Pr. John Deisinger; Mrs. Kathryn “Kit” Hall; Pr. Raymond Hittinger; Pr. Denton Kees; Pr. Vicki Reeser; and Pr. George Zacharda. Pr. Gene Handwerk, associate of the bishop, served as the bishop's liaison to the committee. Pr. Ray Hittinger serves as the Interim Ministry Coordinator.

Henry K. Wohlgemuth, chair

Raymond C. Hittinger, interim ministry coordinator