



## NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD

### EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

April 28, 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Executive Committee of the NEPA Synod Council, including Bishop Christopher deForest in his role as president of the Synod, writes to inform you that Kristen Edelman-Weiner resigned as Vice President of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, effective April 15, 2023. We include her letter with the same email attachment.

After four years in office, Ms. Edelman-Weiner is finishing with a strong list of accomplishments. She encouraged many to serve, not only on Synod Council but also in their local congregations and mission districts. She has especially lifted up the work and the role of lay people to lead at all levels: in the congregation, in the synod, and in the national church. Under her leadership, our Synod Council has deeply embraced their duly appointed role of governance and goal-setting for the synod. She has also been a voice of inspiration, speaking at synod assemblies and traveling around the synod. She established an increased role for lay people to facilitate the congregational votes for clergy elections, while serving as election supervisor multiple times herself. While her work as VP has centered here in our synod, she took a leading role as a mentor for Synod Vice Presidents across the ELCA, encouraging those in this vital position – the highest authority given to lay persons in our synods – to find their voice and offer their talents to the whole church. She is respected and warmly regarded by many whose lives she has touched and whose leadership she has inspired, throughout our synod and all around our ELCA.

Since she is leaving office just prior to the end of her term, we are charged with addressing the vice president vacancy. According to the Synod Constitution, Article S8.55., states: *"Should the vice president, the secretary, or the treasurer die, resign, or be unable to serve, the bishop, with the approval of the Executive Committee of the Synod Council, shall arrange for the appropriate care of the responsibilities of the officer until an election of a new officer can be held..."*

When we met on April 22, 2023, Bishop deForest and the Executive Committee mutually agreed there appeared no immediate need to identify or appoint a temporary vice president, because 1) the already scheduled election for a new VP at Synod Assembly June 1-3, 2023; and, 2) there are no other meetings or anticipated actions that need to be taken prior to that election.

All of us listed below, along with the whole Synod Council, Bishop's Staff, and her many friends and colleagues in her community across the church and around the country, wish to express our great gratitude to Kristen for all her work, her wisdom, her passion and dedication, and her encouragement for the ministry of all the baptized, lay persons and clergy alike. Though she is no

longer in VP role, we look forward to continued work with her in any and all the roles she is called to serve this synod and this church she loves, God's people in all places, at this challenging, transformative, and auspicious time.

Thank you, Kristen Edelman-Weiner, for sharing so much of your time, your talents, your spirit and your very self, for the sake of the Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In God's Love,

Bishop Christopher deForest and the NEPS Executive Committee:

Mr. Donald Boyer, Treasurer

Pastor Carl Shankweiler, Secretary

Ms. Amy Mietelski, Chair, Program Committee

Ms. Louise McCloughan, Chair, Finance Committee

Mr. Andrew Hottenstein, Chair, Nominating Committee

Pastor Rachael Dietz, Executive Associate (staff liaison, non-voting)