



37th Northeastern PA Synod Assembly

HUNGRY FOR LIFE TOGETHER IN CHRIST

A Resolution Concerning 2025 Synod Assembly Include Rite of Deacon Ordination

WHEREAS this NEPA Synod has publicly stated intention to be a synod who actively welcomes and values Deacons and their varied gifts of the Spirit lived-out in Word & Service - past, present and future; and

WHEREAS there have been many generations, in the ELCA and predecessor bodies, of amalgamated roles and titles culminating with 'deacon;' and

WHEREAS when the 2020 Synod Assembly which was to include this rite of ordination and celebration was postponed due to Covid; some of these individuals have not been publicly lifted-up; therefore be it

RESOLVED that with intentionality and thanksgiving to God for these baptized children of God and their gifts, that the Bishop and appropriate Associate(s) of the Bishop establish a working group including Deacons on the roster of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod who have already been faithfully serving, but who have not yet been ordained according to the established rite of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for the Ordination to the Ministry of Word and Service, to plan the celebration of this rite for these Deacons as part of the 2025 Synod Assembly.

Signatures:

Pastor Rebecca Knox Zion (Spies) Ev Lutheran, Reading, PA

Deacon Joy Gerhart, St. Paul's Lutheran, Douglasville, PA

05/17/2024

*The Reference and Counsel Committee recommends "A Resolution Concerning 2025 Synod Assembly Include Rite of Deacon Ordination" **be adopted.***