

**SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Present

The Rev. William Baum  
The Rev. Dr. Stephen P. Bouman, Bishop  
Ms. Rene Chapman  
Mr. Alan Chen  
Ms. Elizabeth Hoffmann  
Mr. Paul Jensen, Treasurer  
The Rev. James G. Krauser, Secretary  
Mr. John Litke, Vice President  
The Rev. Abraham Lu  
The Rev. Barbara Lundblad  
Dcn. Paul Lumpkin  
The Rev. Stephen Marsh  
Mr. Kamy Moghbeli  
Ms. Joanne P. Means  
Dcn. Gayle Ruege

Dcn. Carol Straub  
Dcn. Edward Tatlian

Excused

The Rev. Christine Bohr  
The Rev. Amandus Derr  
The Rev. Paul Johnsen  
Ms. Joanne Means

Absent

Mr. Matthew Geiser

**AUXILIARY REPRESENTATIVES**  
Ms. Delores Gray, WELCA

**STAFF**

Ms. Joanne Strunck

I. CALL TO ORDER Vice-President John Litke

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President John Litke at 5:05 pm.

II. DEVOTIONS Deacon Ed Tatlian

Prayer was offered by the bishop for members of the synod staff who lost family members, Eileen Smith and Tony Aguilar. Deacon Tatlian led the meditation.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

**ACTION: That the agenda be approved with minor revisions.  
ADOPTED**

IV. MINUTES, 2002 September 17, consideration of

**ACTION: That the minutes be approved as presented.  
ADOPTED**

V. REPORT OF THE BISHOP

A. Remarks

1. The bishop highlighted three documents regarding the practice of communion in the absence of the pastor, and what options may be available. A committee, convened by Pr. Bill Hurst, has been working on this for a couple of years. These three documents will be mailed to council members.
2. Pr. Cherlyne Beck's staff team, which deals with services to congregations, is planning a conference in January on "congregations at risk". They intend to

- develop strategies in response to a motion at our last Synod Assembly.
3. Bishop Bouman shared with the Synod Council a letter of relational support from the bishop of the Lutheran Church in Australia, the Rev. Dr. David G. Stolz. The bishop had been in correspondence with Bishop Stolz following September 11, 2001 and the more recent attack in Bali. (**Attachment A**)
  4. A tenth case manager for Lutheran Disaster Response of New York (LDRNY) will be installed at *True Light* to assist the Fujianese population. The Bishop presented this as an example of how LDRNY is still very much engaged in the 9/11 aftermath when many other agencies are pulling back.
  5. The ELCA 2003 Assembly will take up an amendment to the ELCA Constitution 8.60 to initiate the formation of a Batak Special Interest Conference. The intention is to enable Batak ministries here to remain connected to the church in Indonesia. In addition to New York, there are Batak ministries in Denver, San Diego and Seattle. (**Attachment B**)
  6. Mrs. Anna Mkapa, the first lady of Tanzania and a Lutheran, will be with us on November 21. She has a heart for the poor, especially those with AIDS. Mr. Tony Aguilar is arranging for her to visit related ministries in New York.
  7. A letter was received from Prince of Peace in Brentwood (**Attachment C**) notifying the synod that they have called a new pastor, via the Word Alone Network, who is not on the ELCA roster. The letter included a resolve that if any punitive action were taken against Prince of Peace by MNYS or the ELCA, it would “actively and formally seek to sever its ties with the ELCA”. The candidate nominated by Bishop Bouman was not invited for an interview by Prince of Peace. The bishop will consult with ELCA leadership about what can and should be done. The candidate will be asked to meet with Bishop Bouman and will be invited to enter the synod’s candidacy process.

Pr. Bill Baum agreed with this plan as a first step, but added that as we look ahead to potential similar situations in the years ahead, especially as the work of the ELCA Task Force on Human Sexuality draws to a close in 2005, we need to examine how we are going to invoke our discipline process.

B. Center for Public Theology update

**ACTION: RESOLVED THAT Synod Council amend the Rev. H. Gaylon (SC02:11/1) Barker’s call to read that the call now resides with the synod, that**

**Pr. Barker is directly accountable to the bishop, and the call is contingent upon external funding. This call will be reviewed in six months.**

**ADOPTED**

Please refer to **Attachment D** for a draft of a statement summarizing the purpose for the Center for Public Theology.

C. Committee appointments

1. Constitution Committee

- a. Acknowledgement of committee appointments

**ACTION: RESOLVED THAT the Synod Council acknowledge Bishop (SC02:11/2) Bouman’s appointment of the following**



**issued under ELCA continuing resolution  
7.44.A96.b.1.43.**

**ADOPTED**

Bishop Bouman explained that the rubrics of the agreement with our full communion churches allow for a first-call pastor to serve a non-ELCA congregation. Formerly, the first three years had to be served in one of our own churches.

2. The Rev. Ann Tiemeyer

**ACTION: RESOLVED that Synod Council call the Rev. (SC02:11/7) Ann Tiemeyer to serve as Director of Koinonia NYC at Martin Luther Camp Corporation (Koinonia) effective November 25, 2002. This call is issued under ELCA continuing resolution 7.44.A96.b.5.1.**

**ADOPTED**

3. The Rev. Fritz Wendt

**ACTION: RESOLVED that Synod Council call the Rev. Fritz Wendt as (SC02:11/8) part-time Director of Worship and Music at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Manhattan, effective immediately. This is a renewable six-month term call.**

**ADOPTED**

4. The Rev. Dr. Russell Norris

**ACTION: RESOLVED that Synod Council call the Rev. Dr. Russell Norris (SC02:11/9) to serve as Director of Adult Services for the Department of Social Services for Families and Adults, a division of the Greater New York Division of The Salvation Army, effective August 5, 2002. This call is issued under ELCA continuing resolution 7.44.A96.b.5.1.**

**ADOPTED**

- E. Extension of Dr. John Scibilia's appointment

**ACTION: RESOLVED that Synod Council extend the appointment (SC02:11/10) Dr. John Scibilia as part-time Assistant to the Bishop for another six months.**

**ADOPTED**

For the council's information Dr. Scibilia provided a document explaining the expenditures of LDRNY (**Attachment E**)

- F. Mr. Litke addressed two upcoming items Synod Council will be asked to consider in the near future:

1. MNYS personnel policy. A draft will be circulated when it is ready.
2. MNYS committee structure. We are in the process of reviewing the number and composition of committees both active and inactive.

VI. REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Mr. Paul Jensen

Mr. Jensen reported that we are still in the process of conversion to our new computer software so he was unable to provide a financial report again this month.

Mr. Jensen provided three reports:

- Contribution Summary by Conference Report (**Attachment F**) Commitments to date are close to budget projections
- Comparison of Partnership Offerings Report, giving a four-year comparison (**Attachment G**)
- Parochial Report, identifying 64 congregations that have not filed congregational reports for a number of years. (**Attachment H**) Response rate from Metropolitan New York Synod is 72%, compared to Churchwide, which is about 90%.

VII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Itinerant Ministry resolution

Whereas SA 96.6.1.4 directed that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council and the bishop's staff explore the establishment of a specialized ministry of itinerant ministry, that a call to Itinerant Ministry be non-stipendiary, and that that the call be issued by the Synod Council; and

Whereas the Conference of Deans and the Office of the Bishop in consultation have determined that existing procedures within the MNYS can substantially meet the requirements of SA 96.6.14 and;

Whereas there are recent new initiatives by the Conference of Bishops to study methods for providing Word and Sacrament ministry in special situations, the results of which should inform any new strategies we may consider;

Therefore, be it resolved that

**ACTION: Ordained persons within the church who have felt called to vocations (SC02:11/11) as Christians in the world and who wish to continue to serve the church in the context of itinerant ministry, consult with the office of the synod bishop for the development of a non-stipendiary call to a congregation of this synod for the purpose of providing such a ministry to the synod.**

ADOPTED

B. ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust Fund A

A resolution from the Rev. Robert Wollenburg, Assistant to the Bishop for Resource Development and Planned Giving, recommended that the Metropolitan New York Synod open an investment account in the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust Fund A. (See **Attachment I**). This resolution was referred to the Investment Committee.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Lutheran Social Services of Metropolitan New York

Bishop Bouman reported that the board elections were deferred and a plan for new governance will be presented in April.

B. Sale of St. Paul, Kingston (See **Attachment J** for copy of "Certificate of Secretary")

**ACTION: RESOLVED that Synod Council approve resolutions stipulated in (SC02:11/12) "Certificate of Secretary", regarding the sale of St. Paul Lutheran ADOPTED**

Let the record show that of 23 Synod Council members, 17 were present; 17 votes were cast in

C. Congregations under synodical administration: Hope Lutheran Church, Scarsdale; Christ Lutheran Church, Yonkers; and Holy Trinity, Hollis.

T

D. Constitutions Mr. Paul Jensen for Mr. Ed Saunders

1. St. James Lutheran Church, Brooklyn: Constitution, bylaws and continuing resolutions submitted (2001) – approved
2. Immanuel Lutheran Church, Staten Island: Constitution and bylaws submitted (2001) – corrections needed.

Both congregations have been notified.

E. Congregation Visitations update (**Attachment K**)

Bishop Bouman reported that the visits are happening and that they are sparking helpful conversations. He emphasized the importance of strengthening relationships and the implications for mission support. Several council members shared their visitation experiences. For the most part visitors are welcomed and their listening ear is appreciated. Some congregations have elected not to have visits. All the executive staff are participating, as well as many synod council members and deans. It was the consensus of the council that these visits should be made annually, rather than every three years as previously considered.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Synod Assembly 2003

1. Approval of registration fee

Mr. Litke reported that, due to the problems with the software conversion, we have been unable to get the figures we need from last year's assembly to project an appropriate registration fee for the 2003 assembly. A mailing with this fee needs to go out prior to the next council meeting in January. Therefore the following resolution was presented:

**ACTION: RESOLVED that Synod Council authorize the Synod Assembly (SC02:11/13) Planning Committee to set the registration fee for the 2003**

**Synod Assembly.**

**ADOPTED**

2. Theme

Mr. Litke reported that we will, as we usually do, use the ELCA theme which for 2003 is "Making Christ Known for the Healing of the World". We will add a synodical emphasis: "Congregations in Partnership". He invited the Synod Council to submit suggestions for making this emphasis to the Assembly Planning Committee. Ms. Delores Gray suggested that we invite Ms. Judith Bukambu to our assembly. She will be visiting from Tanzania in April and May, returning the first week in June.

3. Synod Council attendance

Mr. Litke reminded lay council members that they all have voice and vote at the Synod Assembly and are expected to be there. Secretary Krauser advised that it would make sense for them to decline an offer to be a voting member from their congregations.

B. Approval of Minutes of 2002 Synod Assembly (**Attachment L**)

Minutes of the 2002 Synod Assembly were mailed several weeks ago to council members. Secretary James Krauser read the corrections submitted.

**ACTION: RESOLVED that Synod Council approve the Minutes of the 2002 (SC02:11/14) Synod Assembly, with the proviso that typo/grammatical corrections may be made prior to final publication.**  
**APPROVED.**

The Minutes, along with the constitution and the current roster, will be published in January and mailed to every rostered person and every congregation.

C. Resolution on Church-Related Agencies or Organizations Employing Rostered Persons Under Call. (**Attachment M**)

Secretary Krauser provided a draft policy statement on Synod Council calls to agencies. He invited comments from the council before submitting it to the synod attorney for review. It should be ready for Synod Council vote in January.

D. Elections Committee to report to Constitution Committee

Pr. William Baum, at the suggestion of Parliamentarian Dorothy Demarest-Ruchkdeschel, offered the following resolution:

**ACTION: RESOLVED that in order that proper governing documents be (SC02:11/15) amended we recommend that the Elections Committee submit all their recommendations to the Constitution Committee for proper formulation and presentation.**

**APPROVED**

E. Synod Council communications

Mr. John Litke

In order to improve Synod Council communications, we will begin posting all approved minutes on the website in PDF format. We will be putting as much communication on the website as possible.

F. Election of Youth Representative to Synod Council

Because she is away at school, Catherine Cognetto said she cannot be the youth representative on Synod Council. The runner up, Robert Besedin was contacted; he cannot serve because of his work schedule. Mr. Litke asked council members to submit other names to him, of a male or female youth, aged 16-19 at the time of the election.

G. Election of two members to the Discipline Committee

The Rev. Lauren Kirsh-Karr and Ms. Maria Prudencio were elected to the Discipline Committee at the 2002 Assembly. Both have moved from the synod. Mr. Litke asked council members to think about other names to submit in nomination. The two runners-up were, the Rev. Joanne Bond and Mr. Wayman Young. Pr. Bond has expressed willingness to serve. So far, attempts to contact Mr. Young have been unsuccessful. Elections for 1 clergy and 1 lay person of color to four year terms on the Discipline Committee will be held at the January Synod Council meeting.

H. Housing Allowances

Housing Allowances will be considered at the January 2003 Synod Council meeting.

X. DEANS REPORT

No report

XI. YOUTH REPORT

No report

XII. AUXILLIARY ORGANIZATIONS

A. Women of the ELCA

Ms. Delores Gray

1. A Region 7 Retreat for the Women of the ELCA will be in March 2003
2. Ms. Gray submitted a written report on her recent trip, along with Ms. Judy Lorkowski from King of Kings in New Windsor and a delegation of 19 women, to Tanzania. They were attending a two-week Global Education and Advocacy Seminar, which was sponsored by Global Mission and Women of the ELCA. Please see **Attachment N** for her report.

B. Lutheran Men in Mission

No report

XIII. CLOSING PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm. The Rev. Barbara Lundblad closed with prayer.



\*\*Note: the June 17 Synod Council meeting has been changed to June 10.

Submitted by,

Joanne P. Strunck  
Administrative Assistant to the Bishop