

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

Present

The Rev. William Baum
The Rev. Chris Bohr
Mr. Alan Chen
The Rev. Amandus Derr
Dcn. Barbara Goetz
Ms. Mary Heller, Vice-president (Chair)
Ms. Elizabeth Hoffmann
Mr. Paul Jensen, Treasurer
The Rev. James G. Krauser, Secretary
Mr. John Litke
Ms. Louise Litke
The Rev. Abraham Lu
The Rev. Barbara Lundblad
The Rev. Stephen Marsh
Ms. Joanne Means
Mr. Kamy Moghbeli
Dcn. Gail Ruege

Ms. Dorothy Scholz
The Rev. Garry Squire
Dcn. Carol Straub
Dcn. Edward Tatlian

Excused

Bishop Stephen Bouman
Dcn. Paul Lumpkin
The Rev. Paul Johnsen

Absent

Ms. Rene Chapman
Ms. Catherine Coggnetta
Mr. Matthew Geiser
Dcn. Fran Hoyer
The Rev. Gary Mehl
Ms. Marissa Scott

STAFF

The Rev. Cherlyne Beck
Dr. John Scibilia
Ms. Joanne Strunck

- I. CALL TO ORDER Ms. Mary Heller
- II. DEVOTIONS The Rev. James Krauser
- III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
- MOTION: That the agenda be approved with minor adjustments.
M/S/P
- IV. MINUTES, 2002 April 16, consideration of
- MOTION: That the minutes be approved as written.
M/S/P
- Note that Mr. Alan Chen, who was listed as absent, was present.
- V. WELCOME/ORIENTATION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS The Rev. James Krauser
- A. Vice-President Heller welcomed new members and had all incoming and outgoing members introduce themselves.
- B. Orientation – James Krauser
1. Synod Council Composition and Duties (**Exhibit A**). Pr. Krauser reviewed Synod Council composition and duties. He emphasized that members do not represent

any constituency but serve as voting members in their own right. Members should be the ears of the synod and also take information back to the synod. Pr. Krauser also emphasized that no member of council has the authority to speak on behalf of the synod.

2. Parliamentary Procedures. Please refer to **Exhibit B**.

VI. REPORT OF THE BISHOP The Rev. Cherlyne Beck
(In Bishop Bouman's absence, due to his sabbatical, Pr. Cherlyne Beck gave the report of the Bishop)

A. Remarks

1. Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, regarding the suspension of Atlantic District President, Dr. David Benke. Pr. Beck passed out copies of the press release put out by our synod (**Exhibit C**) and encouraged Synod Council members to share it. Pr. Beck said that we need to lift up the close partnership we share with the Dr. Benke and the Atlantic District but at the same time clarify that the ELCA is different from the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. Copies of the press release were sent to all of our congregations and everyone on our roster.
2. Tanzania trip. A delegation of 16, led by Pr. Gary Mills, leaves for a trip to Tanzania on Sunday July 21 and returns on August 7. Those from staff going, in addition to Pr. Mills, are Ms. Mary Tennermann and Pr. Bob Wollenburg.

B. Pr. Beck introduced Dr. John Scibilia as the Interim Chief Operating Officer of Metropolitan New York Synod. He will be assuming the responsibilities of Mr. Paul Jensen, former Interim Assistant to the Bishop for Finance, as well as overseeing the operation of the synod office. He will serve for a period of six months, at which time the position will be evaluated. Dr. Scibilia also serves as Director of Lutheran Disaster Response of New York. He shared some reflections on victims of September 11, emphasizing the need for continued service and ministry to those affected by the disaster; the grieving will not end on September 11, 2002.

C. September 11, 2002.

1. So far, the following memorial services are being planned
 - a. On September 10 at Noon, there will be an interfaith service at The Interchurch Center (TIC). Mr. Tony Aguilar is convening a meeting of the leaders of various faith traditions in TIC to plan this service. Bishop Bouman will preach.
 - b. Pr. Mandy Derr reported that on September 8 Saint Peter's, Manhattan will hold a synodical healing service at 5 pm. Several religious and political leaders have been invited. Bishop Bouman will preach; Bishop Elisa Buberwa from the North West Diocese of Tanzania, will preside. Among the religious leaders, our full communion partners and Cardinal Egan have said they will be there unless an observance within their own tradition conflicts.
 - c. On September 15 a synodical service of remembrance will be incorporated into the Bach Cantata at Holy Trinity, Manhattan at 5 or 6 pm.
2. The July-August 2002 issue of *Seeds for the Parish* has several suggestions for how congregations might mark the anniversary.

3. LDRNY will be posting ideas on their website: www.ldrny.org

D. Strategic Staffing Plan

Using Bishop Bouman's *Report of the Bishop* from the recent Synod Assembly as a guide (**Exhibit D**), Pr. Beck highlighted how the strategic plan is taking shape with the staff.

This plan evolved from our consultant's conversations with key people throughout the synod who gave insight as to what we need to do to move forward in mission and strengthen the way the synod does ministry. It gives structure to what the synod said it wants. Three areas of focus emerged: Congregational Services, Synod Life, and Mission Zones. The staff has been organized in teams around these three areas. While there is much "crossover" in some of the staff responsibilities, it basically looks like this:

1. The Congregational Life team will consist of Pr. Cherlyne Beck (convener); Pr. Gary Mills (vacancies), Pr. David Anglada (Latino ministry), Pr. Gaylon Barker (theological education), Pr. Rip Hoffman (stewardship), Pr. Bill Hurst (deacons and the diaconate), Ms. Marlene Lund (Lutheran schools) and Pr. Jeff Kolbo (candidacy). Support staff will include Ms. Mary Tennermann and Ms. Jo Ann Tatlian. Their primary function is to provide for the care of our pastors and congregations.
2. Mission Zones. Possible mission zones are pointed out on page 7 of **Exhibit D**. Some are well on their way already (like Black Strategy, Latino Strategy, and Tanzania). Others need to be developed from the ground up. The plan is for each mission zone to eventually become institutionalized, making room for more mission zones to be initiated. The new ministries incubated in these mission zones will be surrounded by relationships that are prayerful, personal and powerful. They provide a way for our people and congregations to be involved in supporting new ministries. The convener for Mission Zones will be Pr. Bob Wollenburg. (He will also continue to do Planned Giving and Resource Development).
3. Synod Life will bring together resources that will increase our Lutheran presence in the public arena, attract and manage financial resources for ministry, and connect these resources to mission zones and congregational life. Mr. Tony Aguilar is the convener. He will work closely with Pr. Chris Mietlowski (communications), Pr. Bill Hurst (ecumenism), and Ms. Connie Duever (Director of Synod Resources). Ms. Duever will no longer be a part of the support staff.

In addition to these three areas, the plan calls for a Chief Operating Officer. (See VI. B.)

We are still in the initial stages of getting the strategic plan up and running. Teams have been meeting over the summer and as staff puts more and more flesh on this it will be reported back to Synod Council.

During the discussion Pr. Barbara Lundblad said it will be important to find a simple way of presenting this plan to make it understandable. She wondered if the term "zone" might be a little confusing. At first hearing, it seems as though it would be a geographical area. Pr. Beck said staff had also been wrestling with this and encouraged council members to be thinking of other terminology that might work better.

E. Approval of the Rev. Dr. Gary Mills' salary and housing allowance

The following resolution was presented to Synod Council:

RESOLVED that Synod Council approve the salary of the Rev. Dr. Gary Mills, who will become full-time Assistant to the Bishop effective 8/1/02: annual base salary of \$64,804.00, with a Social Security contribution of \$5,106.00, for a total of \$71,854.00

Mr. Alan Chen suggested that this resolution, as stated, did not include benefits and did not, therefore, give an accurate picture of Pr. Mills' full compensation. The following amended resolution was offered:

ACTION: Resolved that Synod Council approve an annual salary, (SC02:7/1) including social security contribution and housing allowance, effective 8/1/02 for The Rev. Dr. Gary Mills, Assistant to the Bishop, when he goes from part-time to full-time status, of \$71,854; and that pension and health benefits be provided in accordance with the approved synod personnel policy manual.

ADOPTED

ACTION: Resolved that of the total compensation paid to The Rev. Dr. (SC02:7/2) Gary Mills for calendar year 2002, \$12,500 be designated as housing allowance pursuant to section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code.

ADOPTED

Mr. Jensen clarified that Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code permits clergy to exclude from gross income (in computing federal and state income taxes) a synod-designated allowance paid as part of compensation to the extent used for actual expenses in owning or renting a home.

F. Calls

1. Call to the Rev. Michael Thomas

ACTION: RESOLVED that Synod Council call the Rev. Michael Thomas to serve (SC02:7/3) as pastor of New Hope Lutheran Church in the Bronx, effective May 31, 2002 This call is issued under continuing resolution 7.44.A96.b.1.11.

ADOPTED

2. Call to the Rev. Thomas Peterson

ACTION: RESOLVED that Synod Council call the Rev. Thomas Peterson to serve (SCO2:7/4) as part-time Interim Pastor at Messiah Lutheran Church and St. John Lutheran Church in Brooklyn, effective September 1, 2002. This call is issued under continuing resolution 7.44.A96.b.1.11.

ADOPTED

G. Appointments

1. Long Island ELCA/Roman Catholic Dialogue Team

ACTION: RESOLVED that Synod Council approve the following (SC02:7/5) appointments by the bishop to the Long Island ELCA/Roman

Catholic Dialogue Team: the Rev. Perry Kirschbaum, pastor of St. John Lutheran Church in Merrick; and the Rev. Paul Britton, pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Huntington Station.

ADOPTED

2. Brooklyn Lutheran/Roman Catholic Dialogue Team

ACTION: RESOLVED that Synod Council approve the appointment of (SC02:7/6) the Rev. Craig Miller, pastor of Our Saviour Lutheran Church,

Brooklyn to the Brooklyn Lutheran/Roman Catholic Dialogue Team.

ADOPTED

3. Lutheran Ministry in Higher Education

ACTION: RESOLVED that Synod Council approve the following (SC02:7/7) appointments by the bishop to the Board of Directors of Lutheran Ministry in Higher Education: Mr. Evan Jensen, a member of Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, Manhattan; the Rev. Leigh Pezet, pastor of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Chappaqua; the Rev. Andreas Thode, pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Cambria Heights; and Dr. Maria Perez y Gonzalez, a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Sunset Park.

ADOPTED

Please note: These appointments are for a period of three years and can be renewed one time.

H. Candidacy

1. Entrance approval: Mr. Ernst Mossel, a member of Redeemer Lutheran Church in New Paltz
2. Endorsement: Dr. Fred Wiedmann, a member of Advent Lutheran Church in Manhattan

Pr. Beck encouraged council members to share any thoughts and concerns they might have regarding candidacy with the Rev. Jeff Kolbo, who has taken over much of the responsibility for candidacy since Pr. Beck became involved with respite ministry after September 11.

I. Update on African American Strategy The Rev. Stephen Marsh

Pr. Marsh reported that the African American Strategy is a plan put together by the Black Pastors' Group, of which Pr. Marsh is the convener. Fifteen pastors participate in this group. The strategy aims at strengthening African American congregations and pastors in this synod. The hope is that it will eventually become a regional and national strategy. Most of our black congregations are using the wrong models, structured on white, Western European worship styles. This strategy offers training in new models and new paradigms while remaining Lutheran.

From July 24-27 there will be a three-day Urban Leader's Institute at Wagner College. The program will concentrate on leadership development and evangelism. This year it is synod wide; in the future they hope to reach out to Region 7 and the ELCA.

The strategy puts teams together to go into struggling congregations to help them stay alive, and into stronger congregations to help them get to the next level. They are also doing some things with the media for evangelism purposes so that members of our black congregations can get trained on how to do cable access for free. The aim of the African American Strategy is to double the number of black pastors in the synod and to double the number of black Lutherans. They are in the process of seeking a sizable grant from the AAL, which has the backing Bishop Mark Hanson.

The question was asked if white pastors of black congregations were included in the events of the African American Strategy. They are.

MOTION: That the report of the bishop be accepted.

M/S/A

VII. REPORT OF THE TREASURER Mr. Paul Jensen

Mr. Jensen reported that the synod is still in the throes of conversion to new software, which will enable better reporting. Because of this, there is no financial report for the fiscal period February 1, 2002 through June 30, 2002, as there would normally be. Hopefully the new system will be up and running by the next Synod Council meeting.

However, Mr. Jensen did distribute two reports. **Exhibit E** shows a comparison of Partnership Offerings (Mission Support) from 1998 through the current year. **Exhibit F** is a contribution summary of our congregations by conference so far this year. There are still 33 congregations that have not provided their commitment for 2002; Mr. Jensen intends to call them.

VIII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Pr. Amandus Derr reminded council that for some time we have been talking about taking a good look at our constitution and bylaws. He is eager to get moving on it so that we can be ready for action by the 2003 Synod Assembly. On behalf of the Executive Committee, Pr. Derr presented the following resolution:

ACTION: RESOLVED that the Synod Council instruct the Constitution Committee to (SC02:7/8) review and propose changes to:

1. Assembly Rules of Procedure

2. Constitution and Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Synod with respect to:

- Elections Procedures
- Deans and Conferences
- Synod Structure
- Related matters

and that the Synod Council engage our Assembly Parliamentarian to consult with the committee;

and that the committee prepare a report for action by the 2003 Synod Assembly.

ADOPTED

Pr. Derr explained that the Parliamentarian would cost money, but that she would be very valuable to the process. He further explained that we currently do not have a Constitution Committee but that one would be appointed by the Bishop and approved by Synod Council. Those with interest were asked to contact the Bishop's office. As synod secretary, Pr. Jim Krauser automatically sits on this committee. Prs. Derr and Bill Baum also offered to serve.

IX. OLD BUSINESS**A. Synod Assembly recap**

Ms. Louise Litke

Ms. Litke reported that she received 266 written evaluations, most of which were very favorable. The two main highlights were being a part of the election of the Bishop and the Friday evening festival worship with ordinations. The negatives revolved around the voting procedures. All in all people had a good time and left with very positive feelings.

Ms. Litke lifted up the excellent work of the committee. The 2003 assembly will be held in Suffern on May 16-17.

Louise does not yet know how we fared financially.

Comments from Synod Council members on the Assembly:

- The Distinguished Disciple Award was done at a rushed dinner in a space not conducive to seeing or hearing. It would still work well to have it at a dinner, if it were in more controlled space and not rushed.
- The audio/video technology was not good. Louise explained that we have not had good luck using hotel equipment or rented equipment. We are hoping to purchase our own, but it is very expensive. We do need equipment we can depend on.

B. Constitutions

Mr. Paul Jensen for Mr. Ed Saunders

Constitution and bylaws submitted 2001: Approved

Our Saviour's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brooklyn
1 bylaw to be submitted

Constitution and bylaws submitted 2001: conflicts

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Liberty
Congregation has been notified.

C. Congregation Visitations

In its February 2002 meeting, Synod Council passed the following resolution:

ACTION: RESOLVED that the Synod Council commit its members, the Bishop, the synod staff and the Deans to a program that will a) divide the list of synodical congregations so that b) each of the above can personally contact the pastor and/or chief lay officer of each congregation to discuss that congregation's support for the 2002 synod budget and to plan whatever meetings are necessary to gain support for the 2003 synod budget.

ADOPTED

To date only 19 people have been trained. There will be two more training sessions – August 13 at Holy Trinity, Bellerose, and September 5 at Christ, Newburg. We are going to talk with Pr. Rip Hoffman and see if he can schedule one more meeting, possibly at The Interchurch Center, since it is so centrally located. Time is of the essence since we want to get to the churches before they set their 2003 budgets. Pr. Beck indicated those who are trained will have to visit more churches if everyone does not attend these meetings. Pr. Chris Bohr suggested it would be difficult enough to get five visits in by November. Pr. Beck will find out from Pr. Hoffman when the assignments will be made. Those already trained could be getting started now.

Pr. Derr suggested that the fiscal year of some congregations begins in the spring or fall. We could postpone visits to those congregations until later. Mr. Jensen would know which congregations fit into this category. This information also needs to be given to Pr. Hoffman who is making the visitation assignments.

D. Keeping in Touch

Vice-president Heller briefly explained the Keeping in Touch program for those new on council. Deacon Carol Straub suggested that it be postponed until next year because of this year's visitation program and the quadrant meetings which will be scheduled in the spring. She said some members who are going off council have offered to continue making calls for Keeping in Touch when we resume the program.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Sale of church property (**Exhibit G**)

ACTION: RESOLVED that Synod Council take no exception to the sale of the (SC02:7/9) parsonage of Saint John's Lutheran Church in Richmond Hill to the

Rev. Robert G. Sonnenberg, pastor of Saint John's.

ADOPTED

While council passed this resolution, Pr. Krauser suggested that it is not wise for a congregation to sell a parsonage in this day and age. He suggested putting a general advisory out to our congregations, discouraging this practice as being short sighted. He suggested that Pr. Rip Hoffman write a piece for the Metroscope.

XI. DEANS REPORT

The Rev. Terrence Weber, STS

No report

XII. YOUTH REPORT

Ms. Melissa Scott

No report

XIII. AUXILLIARY ORGANIZATIONS

A. Women of the ELCA – no report

Ms. Delores Gray

B. Lutheran Men in Mission

Mr. Charles Kalhorn

Mr. Kamy Moghbeli reported for Mr. Kalhorn that the national men's gathering would be on July 26 in San Antonio, Texas.

XIV. Comments of outgoing council members – their joys and frustrations.

Ms. Louise Litke said one of her greatest joys has been to conduct call meetings. A frustration has been that council is often presented with information which they are asked to act upon with no or little time to assimilate it.

Dcn. Barb Goetz seconded this frustration. She also prefers meeting in the first floor lounge rather than in the synod office, where it is too crowded. She said the reason she did not run again was because of the lateness of the meeting coupled with her 2 _ hour commute. She has enjoyed serving on council.

Pr. Garry Squire expressed some frustration that a memorial resolution passed six years ago has still not been accomplished – regarding the use of non-ordained ministry to help with supply; another is the joint leadership retreat among staff, synod council, and the deans. It was called off because of September 11 and never rescheduled. We are calling on the deans to be co-leaders with synod council and there has been no opportunity for face-to-face conversation.

Mrs. Dee Schholz, AIM, has valued being part of Synod Council. Her frustration is personal – since September 11 her job with Lutheran Social Services has become much more demanding and has kept her from putting herself into Synod Council responsibilities. “You get out of it what you put in to it.”

XV. CLOSING PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT

Vice-president Heller welcomed the new vice president, Mr. John Litke, and adjourned the meeting. The next meeting is on September 17.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Strunck
Administrative Assistant to the Bishop