

July 10, 2007

Synod Council of the Metropolitan New York Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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***SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS***

Present

The Rev. Albert Ahlstrom  
Mr. William Anderson  
The Rev. Edward Barnett  
The Rev. William Baum  
Bishop Stephen P. Bouman  
Ms. Hope Card  
Mr. Robert Buescher, Treasurer  
Ms. Maria del Toro  
Mr. Gene Hiigel  
Ms. Elizabeth Hoffmann  
The Rev. Kathleen Koran  
Dr. Earl Marsan  
The Rev. Fred McElderry  
Ms. Minerva Melendez  
The Rev. Annemarie Noto, PhD  
The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Esq.  
Ms. Beverly Small  
Mr. Hans Vogel, Vice President  
Ms. Renee Wicklund, Esq.

Excused

Dcn. Alan Chen  
Ms. Christine Connell, DM  
Dcn. Charles Germain  
The Rev. Perry Kirschbaum  
The Rev. James Krauser  
Mr. Jonathan Westerlund

Absent

Mr. Gerald Erikson  
Mr. Patrick O'Brien

***STAFF***

The Rev. Dr. Gary Mills  
Ms. Gayle Ruege

***GUESTS***

Ms. Joanne Strunck

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. DEVOTIONS

Pastor Ed Barnett

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as presented.

IV. MINUTES, April 17, 2007 and Special Meeting May 19, 2007, consideration of  
The minutes were approved as written.

V. REPORT OF THE BISHOP

A. Comments on issues of the wider church, synod, congregations, and the public arena

1. Bishop Bouman spoke to the recent statement by the Pope that Protestant churches were not true churches. He thanked Pastor McElderry for his role in arranging a radio interview around this. Bishop has been getting calls about the Pope's statement and will be making a response.
2. Bishop talked about the indebtedness of Epiphany Hempstead, and the fact that they are not paying their pastor's health benefits. He will make

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- pastoral phone call to Pastor Oberkehr.
3. Bishop Bouman reported on the synod's progress in response to a resolution from the Western Suffolk conference asking for more intentional pastoral care in the synod.
    - a. We just had our first ever retreat for first-call pastors and plan to have one each year.
    - b. The staff has been wrestling with the whole area of pastoral care in general, for support in times of conflict, illness, etc. This has ramifications for how we structure the staff and our budget. He expressed a need for a succinct statement on pastoral care - how we do it and how we do it relationally.
    - c. He is starting an online meeting with the senior staff regarding pastoral care and has begun to set up monthly meetings to deal with this in addition to their weekly Monday morning meetings.
  4. He commented on the excellence of Pastor Chris Mietlowski's case study on his years in ministry and is looking at the possibility of having it published.
  5. He commented on his recent trip to Romania, our new companion synod. He plans to invite the Bishop Dezso Adjorani of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Romania Church and Bishop Buberwa from the North Western Diocese of Tanzania to our 2008 Synod Assembly.
    - a. Immigration: Bishop Mark Sisk of the Episcopal Diocese of New York and Bishop Bouman had a meeting of judicatory heads around issues of immigration. It was well attended and included Cardinal Egan. Fr. Kevin Sullivan of the Archdiocese of New York will work in cooperation with our immigration task force in trying to get everyone on the same page for an ecumenical effort. They will focus particularly on general theological principles put in the context of those immigrants who are already here.
  6. This fall Bishop Bouman will be at all the Town Hall Meetings.
  7. Bishop Bouman reviewed the situation at St. Peter's on Bedford Street in Brooklyn, where MNYS has been working with Lutheran Social Services (LSS) on a building plan. On May 29 MNYS representatives met with LSS, who presented a plan for St. Peter's. Bishop Bouman declined to sign it because it provided no permanent worship space and St. Peter's would not be able to display a sign with its name. LSS submitted the plan to HUD without Bishop's signature; Bishop sent them a letter asking that they cease and desist. He does want to continue to work with LSS on this – but said that we need more time.
  8. At the Churchwide Assembly in August there will be memorials asking the ELCA to change its policy on gay and lesbian pastors. Several pastors in our synod will join about 40 around the country saying they are gay and not called to life long celibacy.

B. Mission Development Board

1. Sale of Good Shepherd, Bayside, NY. (**Exhibit A**)

**ACTION SC07:7/1:**

**RESOLVED**, that the certain written Agreement of Purchase and Sale between **METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**, as Seller and **GRACE PRESBYTERIAN KOREAN CHURCH OF NY, INC.**, as Purchaser, for the sale of the real property known as and by street address 201-03 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Bayside, New York, in consideration of the sales price of \$2,400,000.00 to be paid by the Purchaser be and the same is hereby authorized, approved, ratified and adopted by the Synod council as the binding act and deed of the **METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that the Officers of the **METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**, acting solely and on behalf of the Synod be and hereby are authorized, empowered and directed to sign, verify and cause to be filed such Petition as may be required by law to obtain the approval of such sale by the Courts of the state of New York and the Attorney General of the State of New York; and, in the event that such approvals, shall be obtained, to thereafter execute, acknowledge and deliver a Deed of Conveyance and all such other documents as may be required to convey title to the Property, and to pay all customary and/or required closing costs, transfer taxes, brokerage, attorney and other professional fees incurred in connection with the sale of the Property; and otherwise do all such things as may, upon advice of Capell, Barnett, Matalon & Schoenfeld, LLP, counsel to the Synod, be reasonable, necessary, proper or convenient in order that the terms, provisions and agreements of such Agreement of Purchase and Sale be fulfilled and the transactions contemplated therein be effectuated; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that each and every officer of the Synod be and they hereby are authorized, empowered and directed to utilize the net proceeds from the sale of the Property, after payment of the customary and/or required closing costs, transfer taxes, attorney and other professional fees relating to the sales, in furtherance of the purposes for which the Synod was formed, in accordance with its Certificate of Incorporation and Constitution and By-Laws; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that the dissolution of the Synod is not contemplated following the transfer of the Property.

**ADOPTED**

C. Appointments

1. Lutheran Statewide Advocacy Executive Committee (**EXHIBIT B**)
  - a. The Rev. Rose Anne Vita / Ms. Sharon Wilson 2006-2007 Term
  - b. The Rev. Elise Brown / The Rev. David Rommereim 2007-2008 Term

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**ACTION SC07:7/2: RESOLVED, that synod council approve these four appointments to the Lutheran Statewide Advocacy Executive Committee. ADOPTED**

2. The Rev. John Jurik as Chair, Reference & Counsel (2008 Synod Assembly) – no objection
3. Mr. James Steipp as Chair, Elections Committee (2008 Synod Assembly) – no objection

D. Calls

1. The Rev. Rhonda Hoehn as “Parish Associate” at First Presbyterian Church of Red Bank, NJ, effective 1 May 2007 (**EXHIBIT C**)
2. The Rev. Stephen Hultgren as Professor of Theology at Fordham University for the academic year 2007-2008. (**EXHIBIT D**)

**ACTION SC07:7/3: RESOLVED, that the above two calls be approved. ADOPTED**

E. Staff reports - none

VI. REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Mr. Buescher reported that mission support shows small indications of encouragement. Please see the following for details:

- A. Mission Support Summary (**EXHIBIT E**)
- B. Operating Budget Performance (**EXHIBIT F**)
- C. Summary of Significant Items (**EXHIBIT G**)

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Constitutions – none

- B. Memorial Resolution to Churchwide Assembly on HIV/AIDS. (See **EXHIBIT H** for full resolution)

**ACTION SC07:7/4: RESOLVED, That the Metropolitan New York Synod memorialize that ELCA Churchwide Assembly to direct the Communications Office of the national church to engage in collaborative activities to raise awareness about the issues surrounding HIV disease through the use of a media campaign directed at members of this church as well as the broader population. ADOPTED**

C. Commission for Evangelical Outreach (CEO) budget line (**EXHIBIT I**)

**ACTION SC07:7/5:           RESOLVED, that the Commission for Evangelical Outreach be included in the 2008 budget for \$15,000.**

Mr. Buescher addressed the resolution, saying that the Financial Management Committee (FMC) presented this resolution and recommends its adoption.

**ADOPTED**

D. Synod Assembly report

Pastor Mills reported that we received evaluations from close to half of the voting members of the synod assembly and that 60% indicated that they liked being at St Peter's. They identified two highlights: the seven mission moments and the bishop's presentations.

Pastor Barnett asked about those pastors who do not show up at an assembly without asking to be excused. The bishop recognized that this needs to be addressed. Pr. Barnett is considering submitting a resolution regarding this for next year.

E. Holy Trinity, Hollis

Bishop Bouman reported that having secured funding from a philanthropist to keep the school open, it is incumbent upon us to continue our diligence as to the operation of the school. One way is appointing an administrator who can be a liaison between the bishop's office and the school. Executive Director, Marlene Lund, and other leaders agree. He recommended adoption of the following resolution.

**ACTION SC07:7/6:           RESOLVED, that the Metro New York Synod Council applaud the bishop's recommendation for the recruitment and engagement of an administrator for coordination between the Holy Trinity Ministry at Hollis and the Synod.**

**ADOPTED**

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Western Suffolk Ministerium Letter (**EXHIBIT J**)  
(adjust letter to include word council after synod)

B. Sale of house owned by Christ, Suffern (**EXHIBIT K**)

**ACTION SC07:7/7:           RESOLVED, that Synod Council take no exception to the sale of one of three parsonages at Christ Lutheran Church in Suffern.**

**ADOPTED**

C. 2008 Synod Assembly dates and location

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**ACTION SC07:7/8:**            *RESOLVED*, that the 2008 Synod Assembly be held on May 15-17 at the Holiday Inn in Suffern NY.  
*ADOPTED*

**ACTION SC07:7/9:**            *RESOLVED*, that Bishop Bouman extend an invitation to Bp. Dezso Adjorani of the Evangelical Luthran Church in Romania and Bp. Buberwa of the North Western Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzaniz to attend our 2008 synod assembly  
*ADOPTED*

IX. DEANS REPORT – No report

Bp. B reported that the deans retreat will be on Sept. 11-12 at Mt. Manressa on Staten Island. A September 11 memorial service will be held at Messiah Lutheran Church.

X. YOUTH REPORT – (**EXHIBIT L**)

A. Dcn. Charlie Germain, Chair Child, Youth & Family Ministry report (**EXHIBIT M**)

XI. AUXILLIARY ORGANIZATIONS

XII. OTHER

XIII. CLOSING PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gayle E. Ruege  
Administrative Assistant to the Bishop