

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

Present

The Rev. Albert Ahlstrom
The Rev. Edward Barnett
The Rev. William Baum
Ms. Hope Card
Mr. Robert Buescher, Treasurer
Mr. Gerald Erikson
Dcn Charles Germain
Mr. Gene Hiigel
Ms. Elizabeth Hoffmann
The Rev. Kathleen Koran
The Rev. James Krauser
Dr. Earl Marsan
The Rev. Fred McEdlerry
Ms. Minerva Melendez
The Rev. Annemarie Noto, PhD
Bishop David W. Olson
Thre Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Esq.

Ms. Beverly Small
Mr. Hans Vogel
Ms. Renee Wicklund

Excused

Mr. Alan Chen

Absent

Mr. William Anderson
The Rev. Perry Kirschbaum
Mr. Patrick O'Brien
Mr. Jonathan Westerlund

STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Gary Mills
Dcn. Gayle Ruege

AUXILIARY REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. Marion Steadman – Women of the ELCA

I. CALL TO ORDER

Hans opened the meeting at 5:08 p.m.

II. DEVOTIONS

Ms. Beverly Small

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as presented

IV. MINUTES, January 15, 2008, 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.

- Bishop Olson thanked the council for the interview and his appointment as the interim bishop. He views this as a renewal of call – and has been inspired by the ministry he has witnessed in Metro New York.
- Bishop Olson indicated that he believed the most important role of the interim bishop is to prepare the synod to receive the newly elected bishop.
- The Ministry review has been completed – a document will be published which will assist in the discerning process.

- Feed back from the “listening posts” has raised a call for pastoral care – synod staff and deans need to play an intentional role in pastoral care. It is important for rostered leaders to know there is a point person in the synod office. A proposal has been offered.
- Bishop Olson commented on the enormous challenge of closing congregations and the use of their assets for mission. This is currently one of the areas most misunderstood. There is much to learn about the reinvesting of church properties. Old church buildings are like nest eggs – will we be able to reinvest in future generations that will produce assets in the future? Metro New York has not begun a new congregation in far too many years.
- Bishop Olson will conduct the synod assembly. Suggestions as to how he might conduct or preside in a way that will enhance the facilitation of the assembly are welcome – please feel free to email.
- Bishop Olson just returned from the Conference of Bishops. He commented on the release of the draft of the document on human sexuality. There will be hearings in September 2008 – locations to be announced.

b. Calls (Non Stipendiary)

- Rev. Annemarie Noto, St. Peter’s Baldwin (**EXHIBIT A**)
- Rev. Fritz Wendt, St. Paul’s, (Parkchester) Bronx (**EXHIBIT B**)

ACTION SCO8:3/1

RESOLVED, that the non-stipendiary calls of the Rev. Annemarie Noto and the Rev. Fritz Wendt be approved.

ADOPTED

c. Leave from Call

- Rev. Hector Carrasquillo (extension through 2009) (**EXHIBIT C**)

ACTION SCO8:3/2

RESOLVED, that the on leave status of the Rev. Hector Carrasquillo be extended through December 2009.

ADOPTED

d. Annual Renewal of Call - MNYS Rostered Diaconate received to date:

Presented as a point of information:

Dcn. Joann Abrahamsen	Dcn. Klaus Jonietz, Sr.	Dcn. Christine Thompson
Dcn. Janet Bachmore	Dcn. Dorothy Kafalas	Dcn. Richard Thyden
Dcn. William Bello	Dcn. Penny Liles	Dcn. Louise Walters
Dcn. Cathy Boyce	Dcn. Robert Michaelis	Dcn. Helen Wernlund
Dcn. Gale Capone	Dcn. Karen Nurmi	
Dcn. Richard Ferolito	Dcn. Janet O’Mara	
Dcn. Charles Germain	Dcn. Florence Poeschke	
Dcn. Lynne Hansen	Dcn. Robert Rainis	
Dcn. Dorothy Hecker	Dcn. Carol Rios	
Dcn. Robert Hering	Dcn. Gayle Ruege	

IV. REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Mr. Buescher guided the council through the financial reports for the month ending 2/29/08. Several of the usual charts were omitted because the end of year audit is still in progress. Figures are being adjusted with end of year entries.

- Summary of Significant Items (**EXHIBIT D**)
- Balance Sheet: T-1 (**EXHIBIT E**)
- Operating Budget: T-2 (**EXHIBIT F**)
- Mission Support Summary: *MS-3/MS-4/MS-4/MS-4A* (**EXHIBIT G**)
- Contribution Summary by Conference (**EXHIBIT H**)

V. OLD BUSINESS

a. Synod Assembly update

- Pr. Mills noted that incoming registrations have included (37) separate requests for financial assistance. The first draft of a full length agenda is completed. Time has been scheduled for discussion/conversation with candidates nominated for the office of bishop.
- 3 pm will mark the opening session. The ELCA representative will explain the procedure for election of the bishop. The Rev. Wyvetta Bullock will conduct the entire process.
- Pr. Mills outlined the election process and then asked Pr. Krauser to introduce a resolution containing proposed rules for the election. Pr. Ahlstrom commented that there are some conversations which may lead to a resolution to ask the assembly to postpone the election. Pr. Krauser responded that such resolution would need to be offered at the time of the agenda, which would come before the rules, but that we must have rules to accompany the agenda as it is currently proposed. A resolution for the adoption of proposed rules pertaining to the election of bishop was presented.

ACTION SC08:3/3

***RESOLVED*, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council adopt
S7.32.01. SC2008.3**

E. Rules pertaining to the election of a Bishop**1) Biographical Information**

Biographical information on the seven nominees (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the second ballot, submitted on a form determined by the Synod Council, shall be distributed to voting members prior to the casting of the third ballot for bishop.

2) Speeches by Nominees

a. Prior to the third ballot for bishop, the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the second ballot will

be invited to address the assembly, with each speech limited to five minutes. If any such person is not present at the assembly, the individual, if possible, may designate an alternate to speak on her or his behalf.

- b. A time keeper shall indicate to the speaker when 30 seconds remain of the allocated time and when the allocated time has elapsed.**
- c. The sequence of the speeches shall be determined by lot.**

3) Questions

- a. Prior to the fourth ballot for bishop, the three persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the third ballot will be invited to participate in a question-and-answer period.**
- b. The period shall be moderated by the person designated to preside at the election.**
- c. The questions shall be asked in rotating order of the nominees, and the same questions will be asked to each nominee. Each nominee shall have a maximum of 90 seconds to respond to each question.**
- d. A time keeper shall indicate to the speaker when 30 seconds remain of the allotted time and when the allotted time has ended. The sequence of the questions to be asked shall be determined by the vice president and presiding officer.**
- e. The time for the question-and-answer period shall be a maximum of 45 minutes.**
- f. Questions may be submitted in writing to the secretary, or the secretary's designee, by any voting member of the assembly by 5:00 p.m. of the 15th day prior to the beginning of the synod assembly.**
- g. Questions will be compiled and distributed no fewer than seven days prior to the beginning of the synod assembly *via* the synod's usual electronic communications.**

ADOPTED

- b. Constitutions
 - St. John's, Poughkeepsie
 - St. John – St. Matthew – Emmanuel, Brooklyn
 - Epiphany, Laurelton
 - Our Saviour, Patchogue

All seems to be in good order with some corrections. Pr. Krauser will return to congregations with suggestions for correction and has offered assistance if necessary. Pr. Koran asked about the Trinity, Brewster constitution. Pr. Krauser confirmed receipt and will make recommendations.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

a. 2008 Budget: Revision C (**EXHIBIT I**)

Mr. Buescher reported adjustments made to the budget in light of changes in salary figures and other adjustments. He requested the synod authorize the adjustments.

ACTION SC08:3/4

RESOLVED, the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the changes made and adopt Revisions C as the current budget, as a basis for spending approval, and measurements of performance.

ADOPTED

b. 2009 Budget: Proposed Revision A (**EXHIBIT J**)

Mr. Buescher discussed the proposed 2009 Budget including an increase to the ELCA. He noted that the revenue is not changed significantly. He also noted that there has been some small diminishment of salaries based on this year's revisions.

ACTION SC08:3/5

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council adopt the 2009 budget, Revision A and recommend it for approval by the Synod Assembly.

ADOPTED

c. Resolution for approval of 2008 synod staff housing allowance:

- The Rev. David W. Olson \$1,000. per week of service

RESOLVED, that the 2008 housing allowance for Bishop David W. Olson be approved.

ADOPTED

d. Resolution on Parsonage Properties (**EXHIBIT K**)

Pr. Krauser indicated that congregations may voluntarily adopt this resolution. He strongly suggests providing a safeguard for these pieces of property. These are assets that should not be easily liquidated. Pr. Krauser presented a motion for the Synod Council to sponsor this resolution to the synod assembly.

ACTION SC08:3/6

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod urges congregations to consider the long term implications of the sale of real property, particularly parsonages; and be it,

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod make use of the parsonage properties of disbanded congregations whenever possible for housing to rostered persons within the synod; and be it

RESOLVED, that congregations are encouraged to adopt bylaws requiring consultation with the Synod concerning the sale of properties and that these bylaws also contain one of the following provisions in addition to

consultation:

- **That 75% of the voting members present and voting at a legally called meeting of the congregation be required for the sale of a parsonage**
- **That before the sale of parsonage properties by the congregation it request the Synod Council to review the proposed sale, and by majority vote, take no exception to the sale of the parsonage.**

ADOPTED

e. Report on Holy Trinity Church and School, Hollis

Mr. Buescher reported the ministry is still active and doing faithful work. Finances are still weak. Easter Sunday had 150 at worship. School has quality classes in a Christian atmosphere. Pr. Butiku is doing a fine job in ministry to the school and the congregation. Grants from a generous donor and the ELCA have been received by the school. Presently, the enrollment is unexplainably down. We have spent \$47,000. in synod funds to support this ministry. By the end of 2008 we could spend \$85,000. Pr. Wollenburg is doing an outstanding job in trying to bring success to both the school and the church. Work is in progress to help them develop a budget. Pr. Wollenburg called a meeting today with the Hollis Review Board. He told the council that a plan will be presented at the next meeting to address the coming year. This plan will include a 12% tuition increase, a change in school administrator/principal, an increase in enrollment to full capacity and initiating direct fundraising programs that include parental involvement. Mr. Buescher hopes to present a proposal by the next synod council meeting for review and comment.

VII. DEANS REPORT – NO REPORT

VIII. YOUTH REPORT

Dcn. Germain reported that the annual youth retreats were held at Koinonia. Ms. Connell promoted and provided information about the 2009 Youth Gathering in New Orleans. She indicated that the “service” participation portion will not merely be an option – but will be an integral part for all participants. This will be a very different gathering. Only one (1) gathering session instead of two (2), but plan to accommodate and receive the same number of participants as previous gatherings. Local transportation will be at the expense of the participants.

IX. AUXILLIARY ORGANIZATIONS

Ms. Marion Steadman, President of the MNYS chapter of the WELCA reported that the Super Saturday event on heart health – emotional, spiritual and physical well being – was held at the Wartburg – with fifteen participants braving the inclement weather. Ms. Steadman will be attending the Celebration of Women on May 31st She will be heading out to Salt Lake City, Utah for the 2008 Triennial projects which includes a new “fair trade” project begun with cooperating supermarkets.

March 25, 2008

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

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X. OTHER

Pr. Ahlstrom reported on behalf of the MNYS Hunger Committee. Metro New York is listed as fifth from bottom in Hunger Appeal support in the ELCA. He discussed the nationwide bike ride in 2009 in support of the annual appeal.

XI. CLOSING PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:53 with prayer by Bishop Olson.

Gayle E. Ruege
Administrative Assistant to the Bishop