

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Rev. Albert Ahlstrom	2012
<i>Mr. William Anderson</i>	2012
The Rev. Edward Barnett	2010
<i>The Rev. Rosalind Brathwaite</i>	2012
*Mr. Robert Buescher, Treasurer	2012
Ms. Hope Card	2010
Mr. Gerald Erikson	2010
<i>Dcn Charles Germain</i>	2010
Mr. Gene Hiigel	2010
Ms. Barbara Holm	2012
The Rev. Dr. Jack Horner	2012
<i>Ms. Barbara A. Johnson</i>	2012
The Rev. Scott Kershner (resigned)	2012
The Rev. Perry Kirschbaum	2010
*The Rev. James Krauser, Secretary	2010
*Dr. Earl Marsan	2010
Ms. Minerva Melendez	2010
The Rev. Annemarie Noto, PhD	2010
*The Rev. David W. Olson, Bishop	
Dcn. Robert Rainis	2012
Mr. Brian Reardon	2012
<i>The Rev. Dr. Robert Schoepflin</i>	2010
Ms. Janet Siry	2012
*Mr. Hans Vogel, AiM	2010
<i>*Ms. Renee Wicklund, Esq.</i>	2010
Mr. Jonathan Westerlund	2010
Ms. Grace Yukich	2012

AUXILLIARY MEMBERS

Conference of Deans
Lutheran Men in Mission
Ms. Marion Steadman, Women of the ELCA

STAFF

The Rev. David Anglada
Ms. Connie Duever
Ms. Sarah Gioe
The Rev. Diane Loufmann
The Rev. Dr. Gary Mills
Mr. John Litke
Dcn. Gayle Ruege
The Rev. Robert Wollenburg

GUESTS

The Rev. Robert A. Rimbo, Bishop-elect
Pr. Martha Jacobi, Stated Supply Pastor, Oceanside
Mr. John Maxwell, Council President
Ms. Priscella Braak

Boldface indicates present

Italics indicates excused

*Member Executive Committee

1. Call to Order

Mr. Vogel called the meeting to order at 5:20pm.

2. Devotions

Pr. Annmarie Noto led us in a commemoration of St. Mary Magdalene, the first witness of the resurrection.

3. Orientation to Synod Council

- Bp. David Olson continued an overview of the work of the council. This month relating to a discussion of the staff and administrative structure of the synod. He indicated that documentation and position descriptions of the current staff are being reviewed and updated. These will provide a basis for Bishop-elect Rimbo as he begins the work of assembling and structuring the staff in his administration.
- Bp. Olson noted that the council's function is to set policy. It is the "Board of Directors" to steward the operation of the synod.
- Bp. Olson urged us to think of mission first with regard to staff, before even thinking of specific tasks or persons. He discussed various methods of staffing

and highlighted several important missions/functions of the staff:

- a. Care of Congregations
- b. Call Process
- c. Pastoral Care of Souls
- d. Stewardship of Assets and Finances
- e. Transitions in Congregation Life: Closings, renewals, starts
- f. External Affairs

4. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda adopted as presented

5. Minutes (17 June 08)

Minutes were approved as printed

6. Interim Bishop's Report (EXHIBIT A)

- Bp. Olson commented briefly about current events in the wider church – Anglican Lambeth Conference; Roman Catholic World Youth Day. He commented that Lutherans are striving well to maintain “reconciled diversity.”
- Bp. Olson thanked the synod for the opportunity to serve and expressed the hope that the Synod Council will become more aware and tied into the work of the synod and staff.
- Bp. Olson reminded the council that mission support is not the primary engine of our synod, only comprising about one-third of the budget. It will be important that we focus on bequests and legacies to sustain our mission.

7. Bishop-elect's Report

- Bp. Rimbo commented that he is “riding the fence between panic and delight”. Mostly – more delight. He and Lois Rimbo became grandparents on July 12, welcoming Owen into the world.
- Bp. Rimbo shared that both Gayle Ruege and Gary Mills have been very helpful in the transition and he hopes to begin planning his promised visits with leaders and congregations right away. In preparation for his visit, he will ask pastors and lay leaders the following questions:
 - a. What is God doing here?
 - b. What can the conference do to help God do that?
 - c. What can the synod do to help you and God do that?
- Bp. Rimbo announced that his Installation will be at Central Synagogue on Sunday, October 12 at 3:00 pm. Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson will preach and preside. Central Synagogue's invitation was extended by Rabbi Peter Rubenstein to Bp. Rimbo two days after his election. There were some issues that developed at the previous planned site. The invitation by Central Synagogue to host the installation is one of gracious hospitality. The synagogue has had a long standing relationship with Saint Peter's, Lexington Avenue.
- Bp. Rimbo indicated he plans to make no staff changes until January. There may

be some variances. First, a staffing plan needs to be developed, followed with a search. Diversity in staff, including lay and rostered leaders is anticipated.

- Calls
 1. Rev. Kimberli Lile, Staff Chaplain
North Shore Community Hospital, Manhasset, New York (**EXHIBIT B**)

ACTION SCO8:7/1

RESOLVED, that the Rev. Kimberli Lile be called through the Metropolitan New York Synod Council as Staff Chaplain at North Shore Community Hospital, Manhasset, New York

ADOPTED

8. Financial Report

Mr. Buescher directed the council to his printed materials. He presented charts of property assets; non-property assets; net income and operations that would clarify the basic questions of how the synod is doing – the status of the synod’s wealth – and the status of the synod’s budget. Mr. Buescher provided a mission support “snap-shot”. Of every dollar of mission support received by the synod, \$.465 goes to ELCA. That figure will rise .5% each year until our benevolence to churchwide reaches 50%.

9. Mission Development Board

A. Oceanside Lutheran Church, Oceanside (**EXHIBIT C**)

Prior to the discussion of the grant proposal, Mr. Litke announced a ruling in the St. John’s Bronx legal suit in favor of the synod, and reviewed the next steps.

Mr. Litke then presented the Oceanside grant proposal and said that the Mission Development Board’s recommendation comes in part because of the energy and optimism present in the congregation in the wake of the congregation’s very weakened and demoralized state at the conclusion of the prior pastorate (28 yrs). Pr. Martha Jacobi, one of two pastoral leaders appointed to Oceanside, rehearsed the history of the situation and her observations over 20 months as the regular Sunday supply pastor at Oceanside. Mr. John Maxwell, church council president, reported on the ways in which the congregation has pulled together. He shared Oceanside’s new mission statement: *Accepting the gift of God’s grace through Christ we will spread the Word to our community and the world; by preaching, teaching, reaching out and serving*”. Mr. Maxwell reported that there has been increased opportunities for the congregation to gather with 2-3 events each month beyond the congregational worship schedule. They are a congregation in transition from surviving to thriving, working on evangelism and outreach.

Discussion ensued and Mr. Vogel thanked Pr. Jacobi and the members of the congregation for their enthusiasm and faithful witness to renewal in their congregational life. Mr. Vogel placed the motion before the council.

ACTION SCO8:7/2

Whereas, the Metropolitan New York Synod (MNYS) has offered to award mission support grants to proposals of merit and

Whereas, Oceanside Lutheran, Oceanside has submitted a proposal that is acceptable to the Metropolitan New York Synod, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that The Metropolitan New York Synod award a monetary grant to Oceanside from the Mission Reinvestment Fund, not to exceed \$126,000 during the interval from August 2008 to July 2012 and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod intends that that this award will partially support building renovations and newly called pastoral staff; and be it further

RESOLVED, that

- i. The award is subject to the following terms and conditions being accepted in writing by Oceanside Lutheran:
- ii. Oceanside affirms that the purpose of the grant is to support renewal of spiritual growth and building rehabilitation; and
- iii. The grant will be paid by check to Oceanside monthly installments; and
- iv. Oceanside representatives will meet bi-annually with the MNYS Mission Director to discuss the project progress and an assessment of risks to the project's successful completion; and
- v. Oceanside will provide a written annual report for each MNYS fiscal year during which funds are granted to the MNYS Mission Director by March 1 of the succeeding fiscal year. This report will include a statement of the proposed goals and a narrative of what was accomplished. It will include a balance sheet and revenue and expense report for the congregation's most recently completed fiscal year; and
- vi. Oceanside will nominate at least one person to participate in the MNYS mission interpreter program; and
- vii. Oceanside will register at least one person for a MNYS-sponsored training event each year of the grant; and be it further resolved that
- viii. At the termination of the grant period, Oceanside may make application to the Synod Council for release from Synod Administration; and

RESOLVED, that the Mission Director and the Bishop are authorized to make administrative adjustments to the terms and conditions of this award. Any such adjustments must be reported in writing to the next meeting of the Synod Council after the adjustments are made.

Mr. Buescher suggested that as this and other grants are under development, the Synod Council remain informed and that council members offer any relevant information they might have concerning the congregations involved. Pr. Horner reiterated his suggestion that a ministry review of grant recipients should be more frequent than one-year intervals. A brief discussion was held on procedure for considering such conversations under executive session.

10. Vacancy on Synod Council

Mr. Vogel read the letter from Pr. Scott Kershner resigning his elected seat on Synod Council. **(EXHIBIT D)**

Resignation accepted

11. Synod Council Retreat (22 Nov 2008)

The Synod Council retreat has been rescheduled for November 21-22 2008 at Mount St. Alphonsus in Esopus, New York. The retreat will begin at 6 pm with dinner on November 21 and end at 5pm on November 22. Mr. David Swartling (Secretary of the ELCA) will be the retreat leader/presenter and will assist the Council in defining their work. The council retreat will follow the annual Bishop's retreat whose theme will focus on the ELCA "Book of Faith" initiative. Prof. Diane Jacobson, Luther Seminary, will be the presenter.

12. Personnel Policy Amendments (EXHIBIT E)

Bishop Olson reviewed the proposed changes with the Council.

SC08:7/3

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the proposed Personnel Policy Amendments as printed.

ADOPTED

13. Other Committees and Groups Reports

A. Women of the ELCA

Ms. Steadman reported on the Triennial gathering in Salt Lake City, Utah. Pr. Heidi Neumark was one of the keynote speakers; Pr. Ann Tiemeyer participated on a panel and Ms. Lily Wu was the panel facilitator following one of the mass gathering presentations. Pr. Rosalind Brathwaite was re-elected to the national board.

Ms. Steadman spoke briefly about the *Clean Water and Good Deeds Foundation* and will personally spearhead this emphasis in MNYS. The WELCA newsletter is on-line at the synod website. St. David's Massapequa Park will host the MNYS WELCA convention on Sept. 20.

14. Committee Liaisons assignments

Bishop Olson encouraged synod council members to act as a liaison to any of the synod committees and commissions. Council members have been indicating which committees and commissions they will serve as a liaison to the synod council. Committee and Commission chairs will be notified of the names of their synod council liaisons.

15. Other

Pastor James Thomas has accepted a call to Southern Seminary. Pr. Thomas' appointment to the Mission Development Board will terminate upon the commencement of his new call. Bishop Rimbo will need to appointment two new members to the MDB, one to replace Pr. Thomas and one from the synod council.

Motion to adjourn at 7:44pm. Bp. Olson offered closing prayer and benediction.

July 22, 2008

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

MINUTES
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