

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Rev. Albert Ahlstrom	2012
Mr. William Anderson	2012
The Rev. Edward Barnett	2010
The Rev. Rosalind Brathwaite	2012
*Mr. Robert Buescher, Treasurer	2012
Ms. Hope Card	2010
Mr. Gerald Erikson	2010
Dcn Charles Germain	2010
Mr. Gene Hiigel	2010
Ms. Barbara Holm	2012
The Rev. Dr. Jack Horner	2012
Ms. Barbara A. Johnson	2012
The Rev. Scott Kershner (resigned)	2012
The Rev. Perry Kirschbaum	2010
*The Rev. James Krauser, Secretary	2010
*Dr. Earl Marsan	2010
<i>Ms. Minerva Melendez</i>	2010
The Rev. Annemarie Noto, PhD	2010
Dcn. Robert Rainis	2012
Mr. Brian Reardon	2012
*The Rev. Robert A. Rimbo, Bishop	2014
The Rev. Dr. Robert Schoepflin	2010
Ms. Janet Siry	2012
*Mr. Hans Vogel, AiM	2010
*Ms. Renee Wicklund, Esq.	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

Mr. Steve Lee, Director-Koinonia

Boldface indicates present

Italics indicates excused

*Member Executive Committee

1. Call to Order
Mr. Vogel called the meeting to order at 5:20 pm.
2. Devotions
Pr. Albert Ahlstrom's meditation focused on the commemoration of Dag Hammarsjold.
3. Adoption of Agenda
Adopted as presented.
4. Minutes (22 July 2008)
Approved as printed.
5. Bishop's Report
 - Comments of the bishop
 - a. Washington Briefing
ELCA bishops (28 of 66) met with The Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs in Washington, D.C. This is an amazing group who are doing some very difficult work on our behalf. The bishops had the opportunity to meet with government representatives. Bp. Rimbo met with four members of the House of Representatives and their staff and Senator Clinton's senior staff person.

- b. Conference Visits

Bp. Rimbo discussed his planned conference visits with pastors and lay leaders over the next year. He completed his first visit in Southwest Nassau and is scheduled to visit Staten Island at the end of this week. Bp. Rimbo travels to each parish and visits 30 minutes with the pastor and has a 30 minute tour of each campus. During each conference visit a meeting with the laity will be scheduled. Both the individual visits with pastors and the group meeting with lay leaders focus on three questions:

 - +What is God doing in and through your congregation”?
 - +What can neighboring congregations and rostered leaders do to participate in what God is doing?
 - +How can our synod participate in this mission with you?
 - c. Installation

SC will process as a group and sit together.
 - d. Retreats (Deans / Bishop’s/ Synod Council)

+Dean’s retreat begins 17 Sep 08 and will include an introduction to ELCA’s “Book of Faith” initiative -- and the preliminary development of a new job description for the Office of Dean in the MNYS.

+The Bishop’s retreat (November 19-21) will be at Mount St. Alphonsus in Esopus, New York. The presenter is Dr. Diane Jacobson from Luther Seminary, the director for the ELCA “Book of Faith” initiative.

+The Synod Council retreat will follow the Bishop’s retreat at Mount St. Alphonsus on November 21-22. ELCA Secretary David Swartling will be the presenter. A brief business meeting will be scheduled during the retreat.
 - e. SC meeting 11 Nov 08 will not be held, in deference to the retreat.
- Mission Development Board
 - a. Mr. Vogel presented nominations for the Leif Erikson School Board of Directors. Mr. Litke explained that the synod is legally the board of directors for the school. The nominees presented to the Synod Council have come to us from the Leif Erikson School and the Southwest Brooklyn Conference.

Nominations for the LEDS Board of Directors (**EXHIBIT A**) of are as follows:

 - +School: Ms. Gail Adamski, Ms. Josephine Beckman
 - +Conference: Rev. Donald Stiger, Rev. David Rommereim
 - +Current Board: Ms. Norma Hendrickson, Ms. Lisamarie Alba

Dcn. Bob Ranis objected to the procedure. Mr. Vogel called for any additional nominees. Hearing none, he called for a vote to elect the slate of nominations as the Board of Directors. Dcn. Rainis requested that it be noted that he takes exception to this action because he did not have enough prior information before asked to vote.

ACTION SCO8:9/1

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council elect the slate of nominees presented by the Leif Erikson Day School and the Southwest Brooklyn Conference to serve as the Leif Erikson Day School Board of Directors effective 14 September 2008.

ADOPTED

- b. Nominations to Mission Development Board (SC - lay male) to fill a vacancy in an unexpired three year term. Mr. Litke briefly described the duties of the MDB. Nominations to the MDB are as follows:
 - +Dr. Earl Marsan
 - +Mr. Gene HiigelMr. Vogel asked for additional nominees. There were none. Mr. Vogel asked the members to cast their ballots. The first ballot was a tie. Dr. Marsan withdrew his name. Mr. Gene Hiigel will fill the unexpired three term on the MDB. An additional clergy member will be appointed by the bishop.
- c. Howard Capell, Esq.
Mr. Capell presented the outcome of the lawsuits regarding St. Paul's, Richmond Hill and St. John's, Bronx. A brief discussion concerning the status of each congregation ensued.
- d. Letter / Our Saviour, Manhasset (**EXHIBIT B**)
Mr. Litke read the letter addressed to the Synod Council from Ms. Ellen Pelzer, President of the Board of Trustees of the Church of Our Saviour, Manhasset. Received as information.
- e. Mr. Litke offered information regarding a matter that may come before the Synod Council in January. At this point he anticipates 5 grant proposals for Mission Redevelopment funds.

The MDB is in the process of trying to develop the criteria for congregations requesting these funds. Pr. Barnett suggested the norms for this process be in consultation with the Synod Council.

ACTION SC08:9/3

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council direct the Mission Development Board (MDB) to begin a process of developing procedures and norms for assessing the needs of congregations seeking our funding, in consultation with the council liaison members of the Synod Council to the MDB.

ADOPTED

Due to the hour and the presence of guest waiting to speak on pending matters, Mr. Vogel requested we lay the remaining agenda items on the table and bring forward the resolution from Koinonia and the report on Holy Trinity, School. **Approved**

- 6. Resolution: To authorize Koinonia to approach MNYS congregations for fund raising. (EXHIBIT C)
Mr. Steve Lee, Executive Director of Koinonia, Pr. Robert Wollenberg and Mr. Erickson all spoke to the resolution. Ms. Siry also spoke of the asset in ministry that Koinoina has been in her congregation. Mr. Lee announced Koinonia's capital campaign. A large survey had been conducted with ministry partners asking how congregations and individuals could be better served by the ministry of Koinonia.

Whereas, Martin Luther Camp Corporation (Koinonia) has been a vital outdoor and urban ministry for over 40 years, and

Whereas, Koinonia has been an important ministry extension of many MNYS congregations, providing retreat programs, youth camp, environmental education, servant leadership events, and other programs during that time, and

Whereas, Koinonia has developed a detailed expansion plan to upgrade, expand and add additional facilities for improvements and expansion of its ministries, and

Whereas, Koinonia has established a fund raising goal of \$1.2 million for its Hearts on Fire campaign to fund these improvements, be it

RESOLVED, that the MNYS Council affirm God's blessing of Koinonia's ministry to MNYS congregations, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the MNYS Council authorize Koinonia to approach MNYS congregations to increase visibility and awareness of its ministries, and be it further

RESOLVED that the MNYS Council authorize Koinonia to ask MNYS congregations to seek financial support for the Hearts on Fire campaign, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the MNYS allow Koinonia to use this endorsement in any communications to MNYS congregations, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the MNYS Council pray for God's continued blessings upon Koinonia and its staff during this time of expansion and renewal.

ACTION SC08:9/4

RESOLVED, that the MNYS Council approve the resolution presented by Koinonia to approach MNYS congregations for the purpose of fund raising for the Hearts on Fire Campaign.

ADOPTED

7. Holy Trinity Church and School Report

Mr. Buescher and Pr. Wollenberg detailed the current status of Hollis. Last year still operated at a loss. A new principle is now on staff. New board members are in place. Recruitment goals and a tuition increase are in place. The donor has been advised of present standing, but remains committed and has sent the second part of the grant. Mr. Buescher will convene the *Hollis Performance Review Board* before the November Synod Council meeting and will provide a full report to the Council in November.

At 7:09 pm Mr. Vogel called a recess to last until 7:15pm. Following the break, Mr. Buescher gave his report.

8. Financial Report (**EXHIBIT D**)

- MNYS August financials were presented and explained by Mr. Buescher using the charts and other printed materials provided to the members. Mr. Buescher also reported on the payments made for legal services. He concluded that the fees over a period of five years were reasonable.

A question was raised regarding LDRNY and its status. In preparation for a final audit, a prior error was detected which means that the final grants to the synod and district will be substantially reduced to cover this error. A board meeting has been scheduled to determine the final numbers. LDRNY is scheduled to end operations at the end of October 2008.

- Mr. Buescher offered a presentation on the financial structure of the synod. Copies of the power point slides were distributed. He noted that the synod is a ministry that has many of the characteristics of a business, particularly embodied in his axiom that we cannot spend assets that we do not have. He identified the major areas of ministry supported by the synod's expenses. The largest part of our expenses returns to the congregations.

Following the treasurer's report we returned to the items remaining from the Bishop's report.

[5.] Bishop's Report [continued]

- Calls, Appointments, etc.
 - a. Ms. Christine Hauge, AiM (**EXHIBIT E**)
Principal, Leif Erikson Day School
 - b. Nominations for Performance Review Board / Hollis
*Minerva Melendez
The nominee must be a member of the Executive Committee.
No further nominations were made. Ms. Melendez was elected.
An additional member will be selected by the Black Pastor's group.
 - c. Synod Assembly Planning Committee: *Appointed by Bishop*
Pr. Paul Egensteiner, Pr. Paul Johnson, Dcn. Bobby Paulik, Dcn. Lynn Hansen,
Christine Connell, DM.
No objection taken

ACTION SCO8:9/5

RESOLVED, that Ms. Christine Hauge, AiM be called through the Metropolitan New York Synod Council as Principal at the Leif Erikson Day School, Brooklyn, New York
ADOPTED

9. Vacant Seat on Synod Council (EXHIBIT F)

- a. Nominations:
 - *Pr. Michael Church
 - *Pr. Kit Robison
 - *others

Mr. Vogel asked if there were additional nominees. Hearing none he asked the members to vote. Pr. Mills and Mr. Litke served as tellers. When the ballots had been counted, Mr. Vogel announced that Pr. Church had been elected to fill the vacant position on the Synod Council.

10. Synod Council Retreat (22 Nov 2008)

- a. Synod Council retreat will be held at Mount St. Alphonsus, Esopus, New York. Overnight accommodations / arrival for dinner Friday evening 6 pm.

Friday evening will focus on what constitutes a synod. Bishop Rimbo will lead us in discussion. Mr. David Swartling, Secretary of the ELCA, will guide us through discussion regarding the role and responsibility of the Synod Council on Saturday. A brief business meeting will be included on Saturday afternoon.

11. Synod Assembly Resolutions Reports on the progress of these items will be forwarded via email
- Clergy Emergency Need Treasury (CENT)
Provision how to best to review this
 - To Establish an Ad Hoc Commission to Review our Election Process for Bishop
 - Parsonage Properties
 - Forming a Strategic Planning Process
 - Environmental Stewardship Committee
 - To Enhance Community – Police Relations
 - Against Violence and Discrimination on the Basis of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
12. Other Committees and Groups Reports
- a. Women of the ELCA**
Ms. Steadman spoke of a new WELCA DVD. She hopes that it can be made available to each congregation. Registration for the synod WELCA convention is still open.
- b. Lutheran Youth Organization**
Mr. Westerlund indicated that his absence from previous synod council meetings was due to his summer employment at Koinonia. He announced that 15 new campers participated at Pinecrest Lutheran Leadership school this past August. The LYO's annual trip to Splish Splash on the east end of Long Island was well attended. Upcoming events include :
*Fright-fest at Six Flags Great Adventure, NJ in October 2008
*Senior High retreat Feb 20-22, 2009
* Jr. High retreat March 13-15, 2009 even in Oct. at Six Flags.
- c. Children, Youth and Family Committee's** Heart of Ministry nominations are due. Many MNYS congregations are preparing to attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering 2009 in New Orleans. There were 20,000 online registrations for the gathering day on the 1st day of registration.

Motion to adjourn at 8:06pm. Bishop Rimbo offered closing prayer and benediction.

Gayle E. Ruege
Administrative Assistant to the Bishop