

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
The Rev. Michael Church	[2012]
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. Perry Kirschbaum	2010
*The Rev. James Krauser, Secretary	2010
*Dr. Earl Marsan	2010
Ms. Minerva Melendez	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 Pr. Laurie Cline
Lutheran Men in Mission
Ms. Marion Steadman, Women of the ELCA

STAFF

Ms. Connie Duever
Ms. Sarah Gioe
The Rev. Diane Loufman
The Rev. Dr. Gary Mills
Mr. John Litke
Dcn. Gayle Ruege

GUESTS

Boldface indicates present
Italics indicates excused
*Member Executive Committee

1. **Call to Order**

Vice President Vogel called the meeting to order at 5:20 pm.
Ms. Grace Yukich offered devotions/prayer.

2. **Adoption of Agenda**

Adopted as presented with one addition

3. **Adoption of Minutes (22 November 2008)**

Approved as printed

4. **Report of the Bishop**

A. **Comments of the Bishop:**

- **Conference Visits:** Bishop Rimbo continues to visit with pastors and lay leaders in the Conferences of our synod. During the months of December and January, Bishop visited in the Eastern Nassau and Manhattan conferences.
- **Ecumenical/Interfaith events:** Bishop Rimbo is committed to his role as Chief Ecumenical Officer. The Bishop participated in The Rededication of the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine on 30 November 2008 and attended the Rededication of the Great Organ later that evening on the same date. Bishop Rimbo attended Mayor Bloomberg's Interfaith Breakfast on New Year's Eve day at Gracie Mansion and participated in the annual Huntington Sermon at Saint Peter's, Manhattan.
- **Ordinations:**
 - + The Rev. Danielle Miller, Oceanside
 - + The Rev. Khader Khalilia, St. Andrew's, San Mateo CA (currently assisting at Salam Arabic)

- Synod Staff:
Bishop Rimbo indicated that job descriptions for the three remaining open staff positions were posted on the website. Applications for the Director for Evangelism (EOCM) are to be sent directly to Chicago for review. Interviews will be scheduled in March.
 - + Assistant to the Bishop for Formation
 - +Assistant to the Bishop for Global and Multicultural Mission
 - +Assistant to the Bishop for CongregationsMs. Kathleen Schmidt, Assistant to the Bishop for Finance and Administration, was given authorization as a signatory on MNYS accounts.

B. Mission Development Board

1. Bethlehem, Brooklyn

John Litke presented the Trustees Authority Resolution (one for three). (EXHIBIT A)

ACTION (SC09:1/1)

RESOLVED, by the Metropolitan New York Synod Council that any and all actions to date hereof of the Trustees taken upon the signature of any one such Trustee in matters relating to the holding, managing and conveying of the property of Bethlehem and administering synodical administration to Bethlehem and its members is affirmed, ratified and binding upon all of the Trustees and of Synod Council as if such actions were taken upon the signature of all of the Trustees and the Synod Council; and it is further

RESOLVED, by the Metropolitan New York Synod Council that the signature of any one of the Trustees acting to hold, manage and convey the property of Bethlehem and to administer synodical administration to Bethlehem and its members shall be binding upon and considered as the act of all of the Trustees. No person or party acting in reliance of the signature of one such Trustee as binding upon all Trustees shall be charged with notice of any revocation or change of such authority unless he, she or it shall have received actual written notice thereof. No person or party shall be required to look behind the signature of such Trustee.

ADOPTED [One member arrived after this vote was taken]

2. Bethlehem, Brooklyn

Resolution: Authorized Fund Account Trustee Signatories

Motion to authorize signatories for:

Thrivent Account (**EXHIBIT B**)

Fidelity Investments (**EXHIBIT C**)

People's Alliance Federal Credit Union (**EXHIBIT D**)

ACTION SC09:1/2

RESOLVED, that any one of the following three trustees designated by Resolution, dated June 17, 2008, of the Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, copy annexed, pursuant to Synodical Administration as provided for pursuant to Section 13.24 of the Constitution of the Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, copy annexed, specifically: The Rev. Gary Mills (Trustee), The Rev. David Parsons (Trustee), Mr. John Litke (Trustee) are hereby authorized on behalf of the organization to execute documents and to conduct business with respect to such account(s) by giving instructions to Thrivent Investment Management, Inc.

ADOPTED

ACTION SC09:1/3

RESOLVED, that any one of the following three trustees designated by Resolution, dated June 17, 2008, of the Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, copy annexed, pursuant to Synodical Administration as provided for pursuant to Section 13.24 of the Constitution of the Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, copy annexed, specifically: The Rev. Gary Mills (Trustee), The Rev. David Parsons (Trustee), Mr. John Litke (Trustee) are hereby authorized on behalf of the organization to execute documents and to conduct business with respect to such account(s) by giving instructions to Fidelity Investments.

ADOPTED

ACTION SC09:1/4

RESOLVED, that any one of the following three trustees designated by Resolution, dated June 17, 2008, of the Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, copy annexed, pursuant to Synodical Administration as provided for pursuant to Section 13.24 of the Constitution of the Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, copy annexed, specifically: The Rev. Gary Mills (Trustee), The Rev. David Parsons (Trustee), Mr. John Litke (Trustee) are hereby authorized on behalf of the organization to execute documents and to conduct business with respect to such account(s) by giving instructions to People's Alliance Federal Credit Union.

ADOPTED

3. Sale of St. Paul's, Richmond Hill

Sale is in negotiating. May come to agreement before next meeting.

Email vote (requiring unanimous action) may be asked before next regular meeting.

Pr. Albert Ahlstrom asked about the status of Mt. Calvary, Ruby. Pr. Mills indicated that only one member remains.

C. Calls, Appointments, Resignations

1. Rev. Dr. George R. Muenich – resignation from ELCA/MNYS roster

(Zion German Congregation has taken first vote to leave ELCA) (**EXHIBIT E**)

2. Rev. J. Elise Brown – LTSP Board

3. Rev. Robert Wollenburg – Weill-Cornell Medical College*

Call to special service through the Synod Council

4. MNYS Audit Committee (EXHIBIT F**)**

1. Ms. Eileen Weber (term expires 1/31/2011)

2. Allan Rubinstein (term expires (1/31/2012)

5. MNYS Worship Committee

1. Rev. Tobias Anderson

2. Rev. William Clark, Jr.

3. Rev. Elizabeth Diver

4. Cr. Rick Erickson

5. Rev. Robert Modr

6. Rev. Frank Nelson

7. Rev. Robert Schoepflin

8. Rev. Jared Stahler

9. Rev. Griffin Thomas

6. Mission Development Board clergy appointee

Rev. Katrina Foster

ACTION SC09:1/5

RESOLVED, the Metropolitan New York Synod Council consent to the resignation of the Rev. Dr. George Muenich; the appointment of the Rev. J. Elise Brown to the Board of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia; Bishop Rimbo's appointments to the MNYS Audit Committee, Worship Committee and Mission Development Board; *that the Rev. Robert Wollenburg be called through the Metropolitan New York Synod Council to special service at Weill-Cornell Medical College(*omitted from original minutes in error – edit change approved June 2009)

ADOPTED en bloc

Financial Report (Report of the Treasurer)

A. MNYS financials

*Summary of Significant Items (**EXHIBIT G**)

*Contribution Summary by Conference (**EXHIBIT H**)

Mr. Buescher gave his report. We look to be about \$60K under budgeted receipts for FY 2008. Budget to 2010 is in first draft process. Pr. Ahlstrom asked a question regarding the Mission Support report. Are the conferences doing well because they are meeting their pledges, or is it because in many cases no pledges were made congregations and thus any receipts from them show as amount above that pledged. Mr. Buescher said that is the case and is an on-going problem. He urged members to see that their congregation's complete and submit their pledges in a timely way.

B. MNYS Partnership Grants (EXHIBIT I)

Pr. Mills introduced the grant list. He noted that the grant listed as #9 is removed from consideration at this meeting. Pr. Mills noted that grant payments will be held when reports from the receiving organizations/congregation are not submitted following the first month. Pr. Barnett asked about the timetable for "norms" in the awarding of these kinds of grants. Bp. Rimbo indicated the establishment of "norms" will be part of the conversation at the Mission Think Tank event to be held on February 7.

ACTION SC09:1/6)

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the Partnership Grants as recommended.

APPROVED

C. Bishop's Discretionary Fund

Motion to strike bylaw S8.12.01 from the Constitution (**EXHIBIT J**)

ACTION SC09:1/7

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council removes the aforementioned S8-12.01 bylaw from the Constitution, and seeks Assembly action (if deemed required).

APPROVED

5. Old Business

A. Holy Trinity Church and School, Hollis (EXHIBIT K)

School will retain its identity for remainder of the year and move to the facility of Grace Lutheran School, Queens Village. After June students will have the option of continuing with Grace Lutheran School.

B. Summary of Actions (Synod Assembly Resolutions - 2008)

Updates were provided to the Synod Council on the progress on 2008 Synod Assembly

Resolutions.

- **SA2008.05.04 To Establish an Ad Hoc Commission to Review Election Process for Bishop:**
Pr. Krauser reported that there has been some movement on gathering a committee and doing some research.
- **SA2008.05.05 Parsonage Properties:**
Mr. Vogel stated that this information is being shared with congregations.
- **SA2008.05.06 Forming a Strategic Planning Process:**
Bp. Rimbo reported that the “Mission Think Tank” is part of the process of developing the strategic plan

- **SA2008.05.10 To Create a Clergy Emergency Need Treasury (CENT): (EXHIBIT L)**
Mr. Buescher brought a resolution to facilitate the implementation of this resolution.

ACTION SC09:1/8

RESOLVED, that the Synod financial entities, in satisfaction of the assembly resolution SA2008.05.10. create a restricted CENT fund with the distribution available to all ELCA Rostered Personnel, and subject to the same requirements as in the assembly, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Synod encourage contribution to this fund, and include it as a Synod Designated Fund and identify it specifically as a line item on the Mission Support Contribution form.

ADOPTED

- **SA2008.05.11 Against Violence and Discrimination on the Basis of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity:**
Bishop Olsen fulfilled this and Bp. Rimbo continues to address it.
- **SA2008.05.12 Establishing an Environmental Stewardship Committee.**
Members of the committee have been identified, but no person has yet agreed to chair.
- **SA2008.05.13 To Enhance Community – Police Relations:**
Efforts are being made to involve the Councils of Churches (NYC and NYS) in this concern.

C. Bishop’s Staffing Plan/Salaries

Mr. Buescher reported that the new staffing plan falls within the current planned budget. The deans will be working with Pr. Sudbrock as staff on the ground working with congregations in the process of mobility.

6. New BusinessA. Proposed Synod Council / Exec. Committee meeting dates (EXHIBIT M)

Proposed less frequent – but longer meetings on Saturdays beginning in June. Meetings to move around the synod in various locations 2010 dates should be set by next meeting.

B. CWA alternate voting member

Pr. Paul Milholland has resigned as a voting member to the next assembly.

We will conduct a special election the Synod Assembly to fill the vacancy. There will also be an election for unexpired Synod Council term.

C. Housing Allowances Designation

1. Bp. Robert A. Rimbo \$60,000.
2. Rev. Gary Mills \$54,600.

3. Rev. Fabian Arias \$36,000.

ACTION SC09:1/9

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod approve the designated portions of housing allowances as presented.

APPROVED

7. Other Reports

A. Deans

Pr. Cline reported that the deans participated in training on the call manual.

B. Youth

Mr. Westerlund referred to the CYF report as furnished by Dcn . Germain.

- o Heart of Ministry Award, St. Philips, Brooklyn and St. Paul's LCMS Brooklyn were jointly recognized. Award ceremonies will be scheduled for both congregations.
- o Youth Leaders Extravaganza being held in New Orleans beginning Jan. 28.
- o National Youth Gathering upcoming in New Orleans. Twenty-seven (27) congregations are registered.
- o LYO Jr. High retreat: *New Testament: "You Gotta Believe"*
- o LYO Sr. High retreat: *Faith Under Construction*
- o LYO Jr. High Dance: *Gustavus Adolphus*

Pr. Mills reported that we will sponsor two young people from our companion synods to visit the synod and be participants in the national youth gathering.

Domestic partner synods will also have special joint activities in New Orleans as well.

C. Auxiliary Organizations

No reps present this meeting.

Bp. Rimbo reminded all of the Ministerium: 4 February 2009

St. James Episcopal Church, Madison Avenue, NYC

Presenter: Kelly Fryer

Motion to adjourn at 6:58pm.

Meeting closed with prayer by Bishop Rimbo.