

*SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS*

§The Rev. Albert Ahlstrom	2012
<b>Mr. William Anderson</b>	2012
<b>The Rev. Edward Barnett*</b>	2010
<b>The Rev. William Baum*</b>	2012
§The Rev. Rosalind Brathwaite	2012
<b>Mr. Robert Buescher, Treasurer*</b>	2012
Ms. Hope Card	2010
<b>Mr. Gerald Erikson</b>	2010
<b>Dcn Charles Germain</b>	2010
<b>Mr. Gene Hiigel</b>	2010
§Ms. Barbara Holm	2012
<b>Ms. Barbara A. Johnson</b>	2012
§The Rev. Perry Kirschbaum	2010
§The Rev. James Krauser, Secretary*	2010
<b>Dr. Earl Marsan*</b>	2010
<b>Ms. Minerva Melendez*</b>	2010
<b>The Rev. Paul B. Milholland</b>	2010
<b>The Rev. Annemarie Noto, PhD</b>	2010
<b>Dcn. Robert Rainis</b>	2012
<b>Mr. Brian Reardon</b>	2012
<b>The Rev. Robert A. Rimbo, Bishop*</b>	2014
§The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, J.D.	2010
<b>Ms. Janet Siry</b>	2014

<b>Mr. Hans Vogel, AiM*</b>	2010
<b>Ms. Renee Wicklund, Esq.</b>	2010
<b>Mr. Jonathan Westerlund</b>	2010
<b>Ms. Grace Yukich</b>	2012

*AUXILLIARY MEMBERS*

Pr. Leo Longan	Conference of Deans
The Hon. Daniel Joy	Lutheran Men in Mission
Rev. Jennifer Casey	Women of the ELCA

*STAFF*

<b>Ms. Sarah Gioe</b>
<b>The Rev. Dr. Jack Horner</b>
<b>Pr. Kathleen Koran</b>
<b>Pr. Jonathan Linman</b>
<b>Mr. John Litke</b>
<b>The Rev. Dr. Gary Mills</b>
<b>Dcn. Gayle Ruege</b>
<b>Ms. Kathleen Schmidt</b>

**Bold=Present**

\*Members of Executive Committee

§Excused absence

Devotions / Prayer

Pastor Jonathan Linman opened with Evening Prayer: In Lament for Those who Suffer

Call to Order

VP Hans Vogel called the meeting to order at 5:39pm.

1. Adoption of Agenda

**The agenda was adopted**

2. Adoption of the Minutes:

A. 15 December 2009 (*deferred until March 2010 meeting*)

3. Bishop's Report

A. Staff Quarterly Reports

Bishop Rimbo offered the opportunity for staff to offer highlights from their quarterly reports and invited member of the synod council to comment or ask questions concerning the staff reports.

B. ELCA Bishop's Academy

The Bishop's Academy that met in early January is continuing education for ELCA Bishops. The focus of the January academy was a presentation on "Power, Privilege and Difference". Bp. Rimbo stated it was informative and enlightening. The Conference of Bishops will include "observers" at all meetings to raise awareness when they may be slipping into a PP&D thinking. Bp. Rimbo reported that the Conference of Bishops is in

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discussion about congregations that have voted to sever their relationship with the ELCA. The ELCA Church Council will meet in April 2010 – when decisions regarding procedure and protocol will be determined.

C. Office Space Task Force

*\*Robert Buescher, Convener*

*\*Rev. Edward Barnett*

*\*Rev. Patt Kauffman*

*\*Dcn. Robert Rainis*

*\*Kathleen Schmidt*

*\*John Litke*

**Appointments approved as recommended**

D. Congregation Consultations

- Advent, Elmont has taken a second vote to leave the ELCA
- Holy Trinity, New Rochelle has taken a second vote to leave the ELCA
- St. James, Stewart Manor has taken a second vote to leave the ELCA
- Christ Chinese, Brooklyn has taken first vote to leave the ELCA: Bishop Rimbo, Pr. Edward Barnett and Eugene Hiigel met with the congregation council at Christ on January 15, 2010.

Bishop Rimbo asked for volunteers from the synod council to form a committee to discern next steps by the synod council in conjunction with the forthcoming Church Council decisions in April 2010. Pr. Edward Barnett, Pr. William Baum, and Pr. Annemarie Noto agreed to serve.

E. Appointments:

- Renee Wicklund: Co-Chair, Reference and Counsel
- Christine Connell / Livingston Crichlow: Co-Chairs, Nominating Committee
- Rev. Paul Egensteiner / Dcn. Nina Hunt: Co-Chairs, Election Committee

**ACTION (SC10:1/1)**

***RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the appointments as recommended.***

**ADOPTED**

F. Anti-racism Training:

The Bishop's office has contacted a local trainer to discuss the needs of the synod to schedule anti-racism and multicultural sensitivity training.

G. Conference Visits:

Bishop Rimbo completed his visits to all eighteen conferences this month. He and the executive staff will begin a second round of visits to the conferences beginning with Southwest Queens.

4. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Buescher reviewed his printed report and charts for the period ending December 31, 2009 and the Financial Management Committee's (FMC) revised Ten Year Plan. Discussion ensued over the Ten Year plan as presented. Concerns about a long range plan that shows dependence on the proceeds from property sales to fund the operating budget were expressed. Pr. Baum suggested that the FMC and Mr. Buescher draft a plan that will decrease the dependence on property sales.

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**ACTION (SC10:1/2)**

**RESOLVED**, that the Synod Council receive and accept the Treasurer's Ten Year Plan as a draft to use as a guide for the 2010-2011 budget, and that the Financial Management Committee work with the staff to develop a plan that will reduce dependence on property sales for the operating budget to 0% over the next ten years.

**ADOPTED**

5. Old Business

A. Saint Peter's, Manhattan:

Saint Peter's has requested the Synod Council write to the ELCA Board of Pensions on behalf of the retired pastors that are experiencing a reduction in their pension payments.

**ACTION (SC10:1/3)**

**RESOLVED**, that Bishop Rimbo write the ELCA Church Council and express that the Metropolitan New York Synod shares the same concerns as Saint Peter's, Manhattan regarding the reduction of pension payments by the Board of Pensions to retired pastors.

**ADOPTED**

B. Sunrise Development, Inc., Yonkers

Resolution for the termination of our lease and settlement agreement with Sunrise Development, Inc., Yonkers

**ACTION (SC10:1/4)**

**RESOLVED**, that the **METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA** enter into a Termination Of Lease and Settlement Agreement with Sunrise Yonkers SL, LLC and Sunrise Development, Inc pursuant to the term as and provisions therein contained, a true copy of which is annexed hereto, made a part hereof and designated as "Exhibit "A", and to pay to Sunrise Development, Inc the sum of Three Hundred Thousand (\$300,000.00) Dollars and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that any one of the Officers of the **METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**, acting solely and on behalf of the **METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA** be and hereby is authorized, empowered and directed to execute, acknowledge and deliver, on behalf of the **METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**, the Termination Of Lease and Settlement Agreement and all such other documents as therein required to be executed acknowledged and delivered, or as may be required to effectuate the understanding of the parties as contained in said Termination Of Lease and Settlement Agreement Termination Of Lease and Settlement Agreement, and to arrange for **METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA** to pay to Sunrise Development, Inc the sum of Three Hundred Thousand (\$300,000.00) Dollars; and to pay the all customary and/or required costs, transfer taxes, attorney and other professional fees incurred in connection with the such transaction; 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 Termination Of Lease and Settlement Agreement be fulfilled and the transactions contemplated therein be effectuated; and it is further

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

**ADOPTED**

C. Synod Properties:

Pastor Mills reported that the sale of St. Peter's, Brooklyn and Bethany,

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Brooklyn parsonages has been completed. St. Paul's, Richmond Hill has been listed again. We are in receipt of the down payment from the contract that went into default.

D. Synod Assembly:

Pr. Mills reported that the Synod Assembly Committee is moving forward with a timeline to send information to congregation voting members in a timely manner. Pr. Paul Milholland presented a motion on behalf of the Assembly Planning Committee.

**ACTION (SC10:1/5)**

**RESOLVED, that the deadline for submission of the minutes of the 2009 Synod Assembly to the Synod office be 15 March 2010 and the deadline for submission of synod council minutes and all other council, committee, commission and other reports to the synod office be 25 March 2010**

**ADOPTED**

6. New Business

A. Mission Strategy Document:

**ACTION (SC10:1/6)**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council withdraw the Mission Renewal Strategy document in order to allow the Mission Strategy Table to work through its current process to develop a synod strategy for mission.**

**ADOPTED**

B. Guidelines for Response to Congregational Debts (DRAFT)

Provided to the Synod Council for information only. The SC is asked to review for future discussion.

C. Mission/Outreach – Sustainability

Grace Yukich expressed the desire that synod leaders consider and explore other ministry options for some of our properties to determine if sale of the property is the best action. Bishop Rimbo noted that the charge to the Mission Strategy Table is to explore all the missional options for our properties.

7. Other Reports

A. Youth Report:

Jonathan Westerlund reported on upcoming retreats at Koinonia:

- Feb 19-21 Jr. High Retreat
- March 12-14 Sr. High Retreat

Mr. Westerlund's term will be ending in May – he asked the Council to think of other young adults that can be nominated and elected as a youth representative to the Synod Council.

Dcn. Charlie Germain informed the SC about upcoming training events including the Youth Workers Extravaganza (Chapel Hill, NC) February 4-6. Deadline for nominations for the Metro New York Synod Heart of Distinction Award is January 31, 2010.

The meeting adjourned with prayer at 8:20 pm.

*Dcn. Gayle E. Ruege*  
*Executive Assistant to the Bishop*