
SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Rev. Albert Ahlstrom 2012
Mr. William Anderson 2012
***The Rev. William Baum** 2012
The Rev. Rosalind Brathwaite 2012
Ms. Kesley Brown 2012
***Mr. Robert Buescher, Treas.** 2012
Ms. Christine Connell, DM 2014
**Ms. Maria Del Toro, Vice President* 2014
Dcn Charles Germain 2014
Ms. Barbara Hansen 2014
Mr. Gene Hügel 2014
Ms. Barbara Holm 2012
The Rev. Brenda Jack 2012
***Ms. Barbara Johnson** 2012
The Rev. Perry Kirschbaum 2014
Mr. Carlos Lopez 2014
Mr. John Malone 2014
***Ms. Minerva Melendez** 2014
The Rev. Craig Miller 2014
***The Rev. Paul Milholland** 2014
Mr. Brian Reardon 2012
***The Rev. Robert A. Rimbo, Bishop** 2014
The Rev. Kit Robison 2014
***The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Sect.** 2014
Ms. Janet Siry 2014
Dr. Grace Yukich 2012

26 Voting Members

AUXILLIARY MEMBERS

STAFF

The Rev. Perucy Butiku
Ms. Sarah Gioe
The Rev. Dr. Jack Horner
The Rev. Kathleen Koran
The Rev. Jonathan Linman
Mr. John Litke
The Rev. Dr. Gary Mills
Dcn. Gayle Ruege
Ms. Kathleen Schmidt

GUESTS

Bold = present
Italics = excused absence
*Member of Executive Committee

Call to Order Bp. Rimbo called meeting to order at 5:15pm.

Opening Devotions: *Rev. William Baum*

1. Adoption of Agenda
Adopted as presented.

2. Adoption of Minutes: 14 December 2010

Add: The Internal Revenue Code permits members of the clergy to designate a portion of their annual compensation as a housing allowance. This portion is not taxable as income. The IRS requires that such housing allowance be approved by and recorded in the minutes of the governing board of the church or other organization. The individual member of the clergy is responsible for

substantiating that the amount of the allowance is appropriate.
Adopted as amended.

3. Bishop's Report

A. Lutheran Leaders Immigration Summit, Washington DC

B. Lutheran-Anglican Dialog / Bp. Lawrence Provenzano

C. Synod Philanthropy Committee

Bp Rimbo reported that committee has been appointed.

C. Calls

- The Rev. Melinda Bjorkman: On leave from call status

ACTION SC11:01/01 to grant on leave from call status to The Rev. Melinda Bjorkman
APPROVED

At the conclusion of the Bishop's report Pr. Paul Milholland thanked the Bishop for his pastoral presence at the funeral of Stuart Miller, and noted that it was good to have Pr. Gary Mills back at synod council.

4. Treasurer's Report

A. December financials

Mr. Robert Buescher presented the financial reports and charts. He noted that approximately \$200,000 more is needed in January to make our projected income amount.

B. Spending Policy Proposal

Mr. Robert Buescher presented rationale for change in spending policy.

ACTION SC11:01/02

WHEREAS, the Treasurer has described in detail a change in the Asset Investment Objectives and Policies, specifically in the Spending Policies section, and

WHEREAS, the Synod Council expects that the wording of the new policy, recommended by the FMC, would be available for referencing in the Minutes of the February 15 meeting of the Synod Council.

BE IT RESOLVED that, on the condition that a replacement policy, as described by the Treasurer, is approved by the Financial Management Committee, the Synod Council adopt the new policy effective after the approval by the Financial Management Committee.

ADOPTED

C. Seafarers' and International House

After discussion and consideration of inclusion of SIH in the 2011 budget, Bp. Rimbo concluded that SIH should receive an annual contribution of \$1,000 from the SMO fund in the budget and will inform SIH of this decision.

5. Constitutions

- **Our Saviour's, Jamaica** *reviewed and comments sent to congregation.*
- **St. Paul's, East Northport** *being reviewed.*
- **Third, Rhinebeck** *being reviewed.*

6. Old Business

A. Commission for Election of the Bishop

+ *Rev. Amandus Derr* + *Ms. Christine Connell*
+ *Rev. Paul Milholland* + *Mr. Daniel Nigro*
+ *Rev. Daniel Ward* + *Ms. Cassandra Wilson*
+ *Rev. Brenda Jack* + *Mr. David Ehlers*
+ *Mr. Daniel Wingard* + *Ms. Renee Wicklund*

It was reported that these persons all indicated a willingness to serve on the commission, and Secretary Schoepflin requested that they be appointed.

ACTION SC11:01/03 to appoint these ten individuals to the Commission to Examine our Procedures for Election of Bishop.

APPROVED

D. Grace, North Branch (Jeffersonville) resolution

ACTION SC11:01/04

RESOLVED, that for the reasons set forth above, all of which are included and incorporated herein and made a part hereof as if fully set forth, the **Synod** pursuant to Section 13.24 of its constitution does hereby impose synodical administration over the property of **GRACE** to take charge and control of the property of **GRACE** and to hold, manage, and convey on behalf of the **Synod**, and it is further,

RESOLVED, that the following are hereby appointed as trustees, with the full power to hold and manage the property of **GRACE** on behalf of the **Synod** in all regards relating directly or indirectly to the taking charge and control of the property of **GRACE** and in holding, managing and conveying such property of **GRACE** on behalf of the **Synod**, to wit: John Litke, Charles Germain, and Pastor Ernst Mossl, and it is further,

RESOLVED, that the signature of any two of the Trustees acting to take charge and control of the property of **GRACE** and to hold, manage, and convey the property of **GRACE** on behalf of the Synod 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 18 in favor; 0 opposed; 1 abstention.

After vote, Ms. Christine Connell asked if synod will assume responsibility for social ministry (housing) being carried out by congregation. Bp. Rimbo noted that a neighboring congregation will be approached to take over the social ministry projects. Pr. Brenda Jack expressed concern that no one be displaced.

E. Congregations that have voted to separate from the ELCA

Pr. Gary Mills distributed letter that is proposed to be mailed to congregations. Bp. Rimbo asked all to read the letter in preparation for vote at February SC meeting.

Pr. Mills reminded members that contents of letter are confidential.

D. Congregations under synod administration *(monthly report)*

Ms. Kathy Schmidt reported .

E. Synod Council Culture and Process update

Dcn. John Malone reported on work of committee and results of survey taken at SC retreat in

F. Sale of Organ, St. Johns, Bronx to St. Mark Lutheran Church of Marion, Iowa.

ACTION SC11:01/05

Resolved that the Skinner Organ Company pipe organ Opus 695 (Organ), its console, its blowing apparatus, and all other equipment devoted exclusively to the Organ (Organ Components) all located at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1343 Fulton Avenue, Bronx, New York be sold to St Mark Lutheran Church of Marion, Iowa (Buyer) 'as is" at a price of \$45,000 upon terms, provisions and conditions as set forth in that certain agreement dated January 2011 by and between The Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America, as Seller, and St Mark Lutheran Church of Marion, Iowa, Buyer and that any officer of the Seller is authorized to execute the contract on its behalf, all other documents and papers required to consummate the sale to the Buyer.

ADOPTED Unanimous.

7. New Business

A. 2011 Synod Assembly update

Pr. Gary Mills reported, with input from Pr. Paul Milholland.

B. ELCA Churchwide Assembly 2011 (Orlando, FL)

Bp. Rimbo reported. Dcn. Gayle Ruege distributed list of voting members from MNYS.

F. St. Luke's, Bronx

After report by Pr. Gary Mills, the following action was taken.

ACTION SC11:01/06

RESOLVED, that for the reasons set forth above, all of which are included and incorporated herein and made a part hereof as if fully set forth, the **Synod Council**, pursuant to the authority granted to it by Section 13.24 of the **Synod's** Constitution, does hereby impose synodical administration upon **ST. LUKE'S**, to take charge and control of **ST. LUKE'S'** property to hold, manage and convey the same on behalf of the **Synod**, and it is further,

RESOLVED, that the following are hereby appointed as trustees, with the with full power and authority to hold, manage and convey the property of **ST. LUKE'S** on behalf of the **Synod** in all regards relating directly or indirectly to the furtherance of synodical administration, by taking charge and control of the property of **ST. LUKE'S** and holding, managing and conveying the same on behalf of the **Synod**, to wit: Pastor Paul Block, Pastor Jack Horner, and Ms. Minerva Melendez (Trustees), and it is further,

RESOLVED, that the signature of any two of the Trustees acting to take charge and control of the property of **ST. LUKE'S** and to hold, manage and convey the property of **ST. LUKE'S** on behalf of the Synod 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 any 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, and it is further,

RESOLVED, that any two of the Trustees be and is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to perform all acts and execute any and all documents required in order to obtain

APPROVED 2/15/2011

MINUTES

the approval of a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York and the Attorney General of the State of New York (including the filing of such Petition as may be required by law) for the transfer of the Premises, currently titled in the name of **ST. LUKE'S** (County of Bronx, Block 4016, Lots 44 and 45); and, thereafter to confirm that title to the Premises vests in the **Synod**, and in furtherance thereof, to execute, acknowledge and deliver a Deed of Conveyance from **ST. LUKE'S** to the **Synod**, and any and all such other documents required to confirm ownership of the Premises in the **Synod**, and to do all such things as may, on advice of Capell Barnett Matalon & Schoenfeld LLP, counsel to the **Synod**, be deemed reasonable, necessary, proper or convenient that said transfer be properly effectuated, and that the officers of the **Synod**, each and any of them, acting on behalf of the **Synod**, pay all such customary and/or required costs and fees relating to the transfer of the Premises.

ADOPTED 19 in favor; 0 opposed; 0 abstentions

G. St. John's, Bronx. Sale.

Pr. Gary Mills reported that revised contract will be sent to SC members for a possible email vote. Email vote has to be unanimous.

8. Other Reports

Dcn. Charles Germain reported on ELCA Extravaganza

9. Announcements/Events

A. The Rev. Canon Dr. Robin Greenwood: *January 24-30*

Bp. Rimbo called attention to visit of Canon Greenwood.

Meeting adjourned at 6:37pm.

Bp. Rimbo led singing of hymn 569 and benediction.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Secretary