

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Rev. Albert Ahlstrom	2012
Mr. William Anderson	2012
*The Rev. William Baum	2012
The Rev. Rosalind Brathwaite	2012
Ms. Kelsey 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 Hiigel	2014
Ms. Barbara Holm	2012
The Rev. Brenda Jack	2012
*Ms. Barbara Johnson	2012
The Rev. Perry Kirschbaum	2014
Dr. Carlos Lopez	2014
Dcn. John Malone	2014
*Ms. Minerva Melendez	2014
The Rev. Craig Miller	2014
*The Rev. Paul Milholland	2014
Dcn. Bobbi Paulik	2012
Mr. Brian Reardon	2012
*The Rev. Robert A. Rimbo, Bishop	2014
The Rev. Kit Robison	2014
<i>*The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Sect.</i>	<i>2014</i>
Ms. Janet Siry	2014
Mr. Jonathan Westerlund	2012

27 Voting Members

AUXILLIARY MEMBERS

STAFF

The Rev. Percy 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

Ms. Rita Fuerst Adams

Bold = present

Italics = excused absence

*Member of Executive Committee

Devotions: *Rev. Brenda Jack*

Call to Order by VP Maria Del Toro at 5:09 pm / Welcome of newly elected members Dcn. Bobbi Paulik and Jonathan Westerlund.

- 1. Adoption of Agenda**
Adopted
- 2. Adoption of Minutes: 9 April 2011**
Adopted

3. Bishop's Report

A. For Report

- Yom HaShoah: Saint Peter's & Central Synagogue (May 2)
25th commemoration of joint celebration.
- Retired pastors luncheon (May 19): 20 in attendance
- Eastern Nassau Conference visit (May 29-30)
- Manhattan Conference visit (June 5-6)
- Metro New York Synod /Episcopal Diocese of New York staffs meet and greet (May 26)
- Ministerium: Dr. Sayeed Sayid (May 24)
90 registered. Pr. Linman referenced the ELCA resources concerning Islam.
- LSNYA Mini Summit (May 24)
- Setting Apart of Synodical Deacons (May 7)
Dcn. Betty Cole: Resurrection, St. Albans
Dcn. Russell Carey: New Hope, Valley Stream
Dcn. Margaret Lindblom: Grace, Yorktown Heights
- Ordination (June 3)
Rev. Kevin O'Hara: Saint Peter's, Manhattan
- Commissioning AiM (June 5)
Julie Hagen: Advent, Manhattan
- Diakonia Graduation (June 11): Ascension, Franklin Square

B. Calls

- Rev. Robert Wollenburg: VP for Fund Raising, Spiritual Care and Church Relations, Eger Lutheran Homes and Services, Inc. (effective 3 April 2011)
- Rev. Dr. Daphne Burt: Intentional Interim, Trinity, Staten Island (effective 17 July 2011)

ACTION SC11:06/01

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council call the Rev. Robert Wollenburg to serve as VP for Fund Raising, Spiritual Care and Church Relations at Eger Lutheran Homes and Services, Inc., Staten Island effective 3 April 2011

ADOPTED

ACTION SC11:06/02

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council call the Rev. Dr. Daphne Burt to serve as Intentional Interim Pastor at Trinity, Staten Island effective 17 July 2011.

ADOPTED

C. Appointments

- Mr. Gerard Falco: Chair, Environmental Stewardship Committee
 - Ms. Barbara Johnson: Chair, Cultural Competence Planning Group
- Appointments approved *en bloc***

D. 2010 Synod Assembly Review

Bp. Rimbo directed council members to the Assembly Summary of Actions 2011 provided for their review. Pastor Gary Mills provided the Synod Council with his report from the Synod Assembly. Total registered: 505. Current registration fees do not cover the total cost of the Synod Assembly. Recommendation to raise the registration fee for 2012 will come to the Synod Council at the next meeting. Proposals for changes to the election process are currently being drafted for presentation to the SC in September. Discussion concerning the Appeals Process at the Synod Assembly was initiated/facilitated by Bishop

Rimbo. There was a positive response as to how that process worked.

E. Synod Philanthropy Committee (SPC): Rita Fuerst Adams

Ms. Adams conducted 31 interviews on behalf of the SPC. 15 interviews were conducted during the Synod Assembly – 16 others were conducted via visit in homes, offices and via telephone. The SPC received its first summary for review. The SPC is scheduled to meet August 30.

F. Synod Administration:

Draft documents regarding the following procedures for Synod Administration were distributed to the Synod Council (SC):

- Procedures for Permanent Synod Administration
- Procedures for Temporary Synod Administration
- Procedures for Permanent Synod Administration requested by the Congregation.

Bp. Rimbo facilitated discussion around the proposed documents. The Synod Council and staff will review, forward suggestions to Pr. Horner for final draft to be presented at the September SC meeting. Bp. Rimbo asked SC members to read the proposed drafts thoroughly and carefully.

G. Committee on Congregational Viability Norms

Pastor Bill Baum reported that the committee has not met since the Synod Assembly. Pr. Baum and Pr. Koran will meet to schedule future committee meeting dates.

4. Constitutions/ Bylaws:

A. Our Saviour's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brooklyn (*submitted for review*)

B. Seafarers & International House (SIH), Manhattan (*submitted for review*)

VP Del Toro read aloud a card recently received from Seafarers & International in gratitude for the synod's financial commitment to the mission and ministry of SIH.

5. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Buescher presented the following financial reports and charts to the Synod Council:

- Summary of Significant Items (through 31 May 2011)
- Property Assets
- Non-property Assets and Invested Portion
- Net Income & Operations Plan
- Fund 7 Results
- Mission support receipts and summary

6. Old Business

A. Strategic Planning Update: VP Del Toro was pleased by the support of the voting members at the Synod Assembly to develop a strategic plan. Consultant candidates have been contacted – materials are being reviewed. The Executive Committee plans to interview during August – and bring a recommendation to the Synod Council in September. Rita Fuerst Adams' report will prove helpful as consultants are interviewed. Materials and fact finding documents from previous Town Hall Meetings, Ministry Audit, Mission Think Tank, etc. will be gathered as a resource for the EC in the interviewing process.

B. Office Space Task Force (OSTF):

Mr. Buescher, Convener, presented a resolution to extend the charge of the task force for an additional year.

ACTION SC11:06/03

Whereas, the Synod Council established this task force at its meeting on November 21, 2009, and resolved that a report on its progress by the end of the first quarter of 2010, and

Whereas, the urgency of action was relieved by the Council encouragement for reduction of then current office size, and execution of a 5 year lease, and

Whereas, the authorizing resolution resolved that the task force continue its work for a period not to exceed one year (which has passed), and

Whereas, the Synod should be prepared for possible action at the end of the 5 year lease, therefore:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the OSTF continue its original character of activity, and report its activity to the Synod Council in one year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the membership of the original task force be continued from one year after date of adoption.

ADOPTED

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

- Sion, 119th Street update: all violations have been cleared.

Final design development plans were completed. To date we have 4 solid proposals to review with 2-3 more forthcoming. Motion for the Synod Council to extend the June 2011 ministry plan deadline to December 31, 2011.

ACTION SC11:06/04

RESOLVED, that the Bishop's working group present its plan to the Synod Council for accommodating the continuing ministry of Sion, 119th Street, Manhattan, be extended to December 31, 2011.

ADOPTED

7. New Business

A. Iglesia Luterana Resurrecion/ Uniondale:

Iglesia Luterana Resurrecion closed. Synod Council must take official action to remove from the roster and notify ELCA Office of the Secretary accordingly.

ACTION SC11:06/05

RESOLVED, that Iglesia Luterana Resurrecion, Uniondale be removed from the roster of congregations of the Metropolitan New York Synod, ELCA.

ADOPTED

B. A Call to Celebrate and Support Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education (resolution)

Changes in funding and the restructuring in the Churchwide expression suggests that campus ministry will become more of a synodical responsibility. The resolution comes during this period of transition. Pr. Kit Robison moved that we postpone discussion on this resolution until the September 2011. Second. **APPROVED**

C. Stability in Financial Commitment to Campus Ministry (memorial/as amended by EC)

This is ELCA Churchwide focused. The Executive Committee made editorial changes and recommends that this be forwarded as a resolution to the ELCA Church Council.

ACTION SC11:06/06

WHEREAS, young adults between the ages of 18 to 29 are among the most absent population in our worshiping Communities; and Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education serves alongside the colleges and universities where large numbers of young adults are engaged in higher education; and

WHEREAS, a significant number of professional leaders in the ELCA cite Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education as instrumental in assisting them in their call to professional ministry in this church; and

WHEREAS, longitudinal research regarding the factors that encourage young adults to remain committed to ministry in this church, by Dr. Roland Martinson, includes campus ministries in higher education as one of the key factors in sustaining a young adult's faith; and

WHEREAS, in its social statement on education, *Our Calling in Education* (adopted as amended by the 2007 Churchwide Assembly by a vote of 949–35), this church recalls that Martin Luther “taught that education served the common good of Church and society: In a move unusual for his day, he taught that schools for all—both those who were wealthy and those who were poor, both boys and girls—were necessary so that the Church would have learned and faithful pastors and the civil community would have wise and good rulers;” and

WHEREAS, in *Our Calling in Education*, the ELCA states that “the calling in education belongs to this whole church. Individuals, families, congregations, early childhood education centers and schools, colleges and universities, seminaries, outdoor ministries, campus ministries, lifelong learning centers, publishing ministry, social ministry organizations, synods, and the churchwide organization all participate in this calling;” and

WHEREAS, *Our Calling in Education* “calls the ELCA in light of our faith to engage, deliberate, and act with respect to four contexts: home and congregation, public education, this church’s educational institutions, and **public colleges and universities**. Our calling in relationship to the fourth context in education is to **support public higher education to serve the common good and rejoice in the faithful presence of campus ministry in public colleges and universities**” (emphasis added); and

WHEREAS, the ELCA has announced a 38 percent reduction in support (from fiscal year 2011 to fiscal year 2012) for campus ministries and encouraged greater involvement and support from synods, congregations, and individuals; and

WHEREAS, local campus ministry sites and Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education are already actively engaged in raising additional funds to sustain these vital ministries; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council recommend that the Church Council provide for a period of stability relative to its commitment to campus ministry in our church over a five-year period, with no further cuts from the fiscal year 2012 amounts already announced, while working with synods, state and regional campus ministry boards, local boards, and campus pastors to ensure and develop sustainable funding models.

ADOPTED

D. Trexler Grants (2)

- + Rev. Stephen Beyer \$1000
- + Rev. Dr. Richard Hill \$1000

ACTION SC11:06/07

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the Trexler Fund travel grant proposals submitted by the Rev. Stephen Beyer and the Rev. Dr. Richard Hill for \$1000 each.

ADOPTED

E. Executive Committee election:

In that the Executive Committee (EC) will be responsible for the strategic planning process for the synod, and continuity will be essential to the success of the process – the EC recommends that the current EC members be urged to continue serving on the EC and the Synod Council be offered the same slate of members for re-election.

ACTION SC11:06/07

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod re-elect the current Executive Committee (Rev. William Baum, Ms. Barbara Johnson, Ms. Minerva Melendez, Rev. Paul Milholland) for an additional term.

APPROVED (2 abstentions)

F. Synod Benevolence Committee

Bp. Rimbo proposed the formation of a Synod Benevolence Committee to work with the Bishop, the Assistant to the Bishop for Finance and Administration and the Treasurer to establish a formal application process for organizations to apply for grants from the 10% tithe of sales proceeds from properties, and make decisions regarding grant awards from this fund.

Synod Council authorized the formation of this committee.

G. St. Paul's, Red Hook:

St. Paul's, Red Hook requests that the Synod Council take no exception to the sale of a 1.2 acre parcel on Firehouse Lane.

ACTION SC11:06/08

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod takes no exception to St. Paul's, Red Hook sale of a 1.2 acre parcel located on Firehouse Lane, Red Hook, New York.

ADOPTED.

8. Other Reports:

A. Children, Youth and Family Ministry (CYFM):

Training of Youth Leaders for the 2012 Youth Gathering (New Orleans) scheduled for Saturday, June 18 at Hope, Selden. Dr. Rodger Nishioka's sessions on "How to Minister to Millennials" were filmed – Dcn. Charlie Germain will post the video link on the CYFM blog.

B. Project Connect held its first training on how to approach young people in your congregations concerning a call to rostered ministry at Advent, Manhattan. Additional training sessions will be scheduled on Long Island. A survey has been developed for congregational use.

9. Announcements/Events

A. Urban Leaders Institute (7/27 – 7/29 2011):

All congregations have been invited. Clergy track scheduled for July 27. Lay and clergy for 7/28-7/29. Presentations and workshops on Preaching, Church Growth, Immigration Issues and Community Organizing are planned. Institute will close with a Revival Worship Service on July 29 at St. Peter's, Springfield Gardens.

B. ELCA Churchwide Assembly, Orlando (8/15 - 8/20 2011)

C. Synod Council / Exec Committee meeting schedule

September 17 at Trinity, Long Island City (9am – 3:30 pm)

9 am: breakfast // 9:30 am Eucharist followed by business meeting

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm
Bishop Rimbo closed with prayer

Deacon Gayle Ruege
Executive Assistant to the Bishop