

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
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
The Rev. Robert Wollenburg

GUESTS

Boldface indicates present
Italics indicates excused
*Member Executive Committee

1. Call to Order:

Mr. Vogel called the meeting to order at 12:48 pm at the Mount St. Alphonsus Retreat Center, Esopus, New York. Devotions/prayer offered by Dcn. Robert Rainis.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Adopted as presented

3. Adoption of Minutes (16 Sep 2008)

Approved as printed

4. Bishop's Report

• **Comments of the Bishop**

- a. **Conference Visits:** Bishop Rimbo has completed visits with clergy and lay leaders within four conferences. From September thru November he visited with the Staten Island, Western Suffolk and Delaware Hudson Conferences.
- b. **Bishop's Retreat:** The Bishop indicated that he was pleased with the attendance and positive spirit. Prof. Diane Jacobson provided an outstanding introduction to the "book of faith" initiative.
- c. **Staffing Plan:** The council reviewed and discussed the proposed staffing plan document presented informally on 21 November. Pr. Ahlstrom recommended the Council affirm the staffing plan proposal in principle. Pr. Barnett indicated that the proposed practice of deployed staff will need to be given careful attention as the plan is implemented. Bp. Rimbo clarified that the "deployed" component of staffing will be achieved primarily in the revised responsibilities of the deans. A timeline was discussed. Job descriptions to

be prepared for next Council meeting. The Deans inclusion will be a separate action – and requires some further modifications and refinement, before going back to the deans for final approval prior to coming to the Synod Council. Discussion ensued as to whether to take immediate action on the authorization to fill the positions of:

- *Assistant for Finance and Administration
- *Director for Communication and Mission Interpretation
- *Assistant for Evangelical Mission & Outreach (EOCM)

Secretary Krauser moved to affirm the staffing plan proposal in principle and authorize the bishop to fill these positions at his earliest convenience.

ACTION SC08:11/1

***RESOLVED*, the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the Bishop's staffing proposal in principle, and grant authorization to the Bishop to fill the positions of Assistant for Finance and Administration; Director for Communication and Mission Interpretation; Assistant for Evangelical Mission & Outreach.**

ADOPTED

ACTION SC08:11/2

***RESOLVED*, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council refer the job description of the deans back to the Conference of the Deans and the Bishop for further refinement.**

ADOPTED

Dcn. Rainis moved that the Synod Council thank and applaud the current staff for their dedication and faithful service to the people and communities of our synod and our companion synods.

ACTION SC09:11/3

***RESOLVED*, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council express thanksgiving to God for the ministry of the Bishop's staff. Their individual and collective gifts have assisted the synod in our response to the Great Commission and the Great Commandment. May God continue to bless them and their loved ones as they continue to serve the Church. We offer our most sincere gratitude to each on the staff.**

ADOPTED

- **Mission Development Board**
 - a. Mount Calvary, Ruby, New York

WHEREAS, MOUNT CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH (Calvary) located on Church Street, Ruby, NY is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church Of America (ELCA) rostered with the Metropolitan New York Synod Of The Evangelical Lutheran Church In America (Metro Synod), and

WHEREAS, Section 13.24 of the Constitution of the Metro Synod provides that It may apply synodical administration when the membership of a congregation has become so scattered or so diminished in numbers as to make it impractical for such a congregation to fulfill the purposes for which it was organized and also provides that it may apply synodical administration when it is necessary for the Metro Synod to protect a congregation's property and assets from waste and deterioration, and

WHEREAS, Calvary leadership has stated to synod representatives that they do not believe they can continue as a congregation, and

WHEREAS, for good cause having been demonstrated the Metro Synod is willing to and has agreed to apply synodical administration upon Calvary and to take charge and control of Calvary property to hold, manage, and convey the same on behalf of the Metro Synod

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of all that has been stated above, be it:

RESOLVED that the Synod Council of the Metro Synod shall apply synodical administration to Calvary and shall take charge and control of the property of Calvary to hold, manage, and convey the same on behalf of the Metro Synod and shall administer synodical administration to Calvary and its members.

ACTION SC08:11/4

***RESOLVED* that the Synod Council of the Metro Synod shall apply synodical administration to Calvary and shall take charge and control of the property of Calvary to hold, manage, and convey the same on behalf of the Metro Synod and shall administer synodical administration to Calvary and its members.**

ADOPTED

- b. Tithe from sale of properties (Bishop's recommendations)
Pr. Mills and the Bishop gave brief descriptions of the work of the recipient organizations.
- +Lutheran Music Program (\$25,000.)
 - +Wagner College (\$25,000.)
 - +Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (\$50,000.)
 - +Romania Companion Synod Pastoral Support (\$250,000.)
 - +Llhuya Secondary School, Bukoba, Tanzania (\$50,000.)
 - +Mwangaza Partnership for Education [ELCT](\$30,000.)

ACTION SC08:11/5

***RESOLVED*, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve Bishop Rimbo's recommendations for distribution of the tithe from the sale of properties.**

ADOPTED

- Calls, Appointments, etc.
 - a. Rev. A. David Anglada: Call to special ministry
Visiting Nurse Services of New York
 - b. Rev. Joel Kuznik – retirement

ACTION SC08:11/6

RESOLVED, that the Rev. A. David Anglada be called through the Metropolitan New York Synod Council as chaplain to the Visiting Nurse Services of New York

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the retirement request for the Rev. Joel Kuznik in a non stipendiary call.

ADOPTED

5. Financial Report

- Mr. Buescher reviewed his prepared report for the period ending 31 Oct 2008.
- Presentation 10 yr plan: Mr. Buescher presented the Council with the ongoing progress of the synod's 10 year plan using charts and other documents to support the recommendations of the Financial Management Committee. Mr. Buescher presented a motion regarding the implementation of the 10 year plan.

ACTION SC08:11/7

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council acknowledge receipt of the 10 year plan; instruct the Financial Management Committee to use it as a guide for initial budget preparation efforts; and incorporate later refinements as Bishop Rimbo might require.

ADOPTED

Mr. Vogel requested the Council address items: 7, 8, 9 and then return to agenda item 6 (Holy Trinity Church and School Report). **Approved**

7. Trexler Grants

Pr. William Rusch	\$ 910.00
Pr. Samuel Silaban	\$1,500.00
Pr. Marvin Henk	\$1,000.00

ACTION SC08:11/8

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

ADOPTED

8. Synod Assembly: God's Work. Our Hands. Welcoming All.

- Location: Melville Marriott (Long Island), Melville, New York
- Registration fee: \$175.00

ACTION SC08:11/9

RESOLVED, the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the Melville Marriott, Melville, New York as the 2009 Synod Assembly site with a registration fee of \$175.00 per participant.

ADOPTED

9. Synod Assembly Resolutions (for information)

- Clergy Emergency Need Treasury (CENT)
- 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

6. Holy Trinity Church and School Report

Mr. Vogel introduced the subject and the material provided. Mr. Buescher reviewed some of the financial information. Ms. Melendez described an on-site visit she made. Discussion and concern for the continuance of the ministry of Pr. Perucy Butiku ensued. Bishop Rimbo concluded the discussion with prayer. Mr. Vogel read the prepared motion and called for a vote.

ACTION SC08:11/10

Whereas, the Synod had granted full authority for operational control under a Management Agreement (approved by SC 10/24/06) to Hollis personnel, and

Whereas, the resolution of the Council on 10/24/06, acknowledged the public promise of continued financial viability; such viability being guaranteed by a group of lay and clergy supporters, who approved a set of required benchmarks, and

Whereas, the benchmarks were not met, or only partially achieved, and subsidies of \$166,000. to the ministry were required for operating in the 2006-2007 year; and the Council declined to authorize continuance of the School, and,

Whereas, the Synod secured a grant from ELCA for the Hollis Ministry, and a substantial commitment from a generous gift extending for three years, but requiring that the gift be declined if the school had to close, and,

Whereas, even with the grant and gift, the 2007-2008 school year required subsidy from the Synod to the ministry in the amount of \$86,000, and,

Whereas, the Ministry strengthened its School Board, and engaged a new Principal, and presented a resolution for Council action that committed to a tuition increase of 12%, and an enrollment of 156 students, and,

Whereas, the Synod Council accepted that Resolution, and further required that the School will promptly announce its closing by June 30, 2009, if enrollment does not exceed 140 total students by December 1, 2008, and,

Whereas, the enrollment is below that threshold, and not expected to improve by December 1,

Whereas, the enrollment on October 31 is 106 students, and the net income of the ministry is \$23,000 over budget,

Whereas, no credible plan exists for financial independence for the current year, or for the period when the grants and unusual gifts are discontinued at the end of the next year; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that the Holy Trinity School announce its plan to close at the end of the current school year, June 2009; and

RESOLVED, that in accordance with the provisions of the Management Agreement of 2006, the Synod will issue a written notice of the termination of the Agreement, which will take place after 30 days from that notice; and be it further

RESOLVED, that if adopted at the November Synod Council meeting, a motion to reconsider this resolution will be submitted by the executive committee to the synod council in a ballot by e-mail no later than December 8, 2008 should the circumstances be materially different on December 1, 2008; and

RESOLVED, that if no such motion to reconsider is submitted by the executive committee to the synod council on or before December 8, 2008, the vote of the council on this present motion shall become final at 3:00 pm (EST) on December 8, 2008.

ADOPTED

10. Property of the former St. Marks.

Pr. Mills presented a request that the Synod Council take no exception to the sale of the property of the former St. Mark's congregation in Ridge, by Hope Lutheran Church, Selden.

ACTION SC08:11/11

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council takes no exception to the sale of the property of the former St. Mark's, Ridge, New York by Hope Lutheran Church, Selden, New York.

ADOPTED

The January 2009 Synod Council meeting has been moved from 20 January to 27 January. Executive Committee to meet on 16 December 2008.

Motion to adjourn.

Meeting closed with prayer by Bishop Rimbo at 3:00 pm.

Gayle E. Ruege
Administrative Assistant to the Bishop