
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, Treasurer** 2012
Ms. Christine Connell, DM 2014
***Ms. Maria Del Toro, Vice Pres.** 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. Robert Rainis 2012
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

27 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

**The Rev. Leo E. ("Jay") Longan, Dean NW
Queens**

Bold = present

Italics = excused absence

*Member of Executive Committee

Devotions: Bp. Rimbo led devotions reading Ezra 3 and with prayer.

Call to Order: by M. Del Toro at 5:36pm

1. **Adoption of Agenda:** motion by P. Milholland to amend agenda by adding a resolution. Amended agenda adopted.
2. **Adoption of Minutes: 11 September 2010:** Adopted as amended.
 - a. **Resolution on Communication of Synod Council**
 - i. P. Milholland moved: Seconded by W. Baum.

WHEREAS matters discussed at the Metro NY Synod Council are of a sensitive nature, and both timing and wording are important for the interpretation of these decisions, and

WHEREAS, when the communication is made by the officials of the synod, it prevents incorrect interpretations of the decisions; and

WHEREAS the rationale for this resolution in no way seeks to make the communication of the Metro NY Synod Council or its leadership a covert or secretive process

THEREFORE the Metro NY Synod Council makes the following covenant concerning discussions and actions by the Metro NY Synod Council pertaining to:

- Operations of congregations
- Congregations under synodical administration
- Closing of parishes
- Sale of parish property or facilities
- Personnel matters pertaining to any and all rostered persons;

that discussions and motions shall be kept in confidence until the posting of the minutes of the meeting in question on the MNYS website, and that actions of the synod council be communicated to those entities and individuals involved, the Ministerium and the general public, by the Bishop of this synod, in the Bishop's function as President and pastor; and/or the Vice President of this synod in that person's function as chief lay officer and Chairperson of the Synod Council.

ACTION SC10:10/01

ADOPTED

3. Bishop's Report

A. Synod Council Culture and Process update

J. Linman spoke of work being done by this committee. Presentation will be made at SC retreat in November.

Bp. Rimbo referred to his report about ELCA

B. Congregations and Ministries

• CYFM / Region 7 Youth Summit presentation

- C. Germain presented report.
- Examining ways to involve youth in Synod Assembly. 2012 Youth Gathering. There will be no more regional youth gatherings. Two \$1000. scholarships will be offered to enable people to attend RLCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza 2011 in Kansas City MO.
- G. Yukich spoke about study she has done on spiritual formation for 18-30 year olds. Study will be linked to synod website when available.

- **St. Luke's, Brooklyn**
 - J. Horner reported. Tony Aguilar is no longer serving his appointment at St. Luke's. J. Horner working closely with congregation during time of transition.
- **Ministry Reviews / Partnership Grants**
 - J. Horner referred to his written report.

C. Conference Visits

- **Staten Island (completed)**
 - Bp. Rimbo said visit was great, with over 70 lay people involved.
- **Western Suffolk (Oct 24-25)**
- **Hudson (Nov 7-8)**

D. Appointments

- **Lutheran/Roman Catholic Dialog**
 - + *Rev. Amandus Derr, Chair*
 - + *Ms. Jackie Mize-Baker, AiM*
 - + *Dcn. Gayle Ruege*
 - + *Rev. Jared Stahler*
 - + *Rev. Griffin Thomas*
- **Rev. Dr. Katrina Foster:** Interim Pastor, Incarnation, Bridgehampton
- **Rev. Karen Kuttler:** Interim Pastor (1/4 time), St. Luke's, Woodhaven
- **Rev. Griffin Thomas:** Interim Dean, Brooklyn Bridges Conference (Bp. Rimbo noted he has already been elected dean by conference, so does not need to be appointed).
- **Rev. Charles Oberkehr:** On leave from call status.

ACTION **SC10:10/02** **ADOPTED *en bloc*** (with exception of Rev. Griffin Thomas)
To be communicated by Bishop's letters of appointment.

E. Calls

- **Rev. Ben Stallings:** Metro New York Jewish Hospice, Pastoral Care Coordinator

ACTION **SC10:10/03** **ADOPTED**
To be communicated by Bishop's letter of appointment.

F. Staff Reports

J. Linman highlighted selected items in his report. He invited B. Jack to report on Project Connect and she spoke of \$10 thousand grant to MNYS. J. Linman invited SC members to dedication of Synod Chapel on November 1 at 12 noon.

G. Grant Recommendations: \$25K each to:

- + *Wagner College*
- + *LTSP*
- + *Lutheran Music Program (for high school musicians)*
- + *Mwangaza Partnership for Education in Tanzania*
- + *Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education (campus ministry in Metro NY)*

ACTION **SC10:10/04** **ADOPTED**

4. Treasurer's Report

A. September financials

R. Buescher walked council through his financial charts. P. Milholland spoke of need to reach out to congregations that have not made commitments or contribution. J. Horner asked to help us as SC members reach out to these congregations.

At this point SC elected to move to Item 6.A of Agenda to accommodate guests from Christ Chinese, Brooklyn.

B. FMC Presentation

R. Buescher moved resolution recommended by FMC.

WHEREAS, the Financial Management Committee ("FMC") has presented its response to the Synod Resolution (SC10:12) requiring "the FMC to 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", and

WHEREAS, the FMC presentation concluded that using a single percentage as a guide in that pursuit is not sufficient, and

WHEREAS, the FMC presented a list of initiatives for consideration as follows:

1. Increase revenue not related to sales.
2. Re-evaluate the existing 60/30/10.
3. Continue to allocate 30% of sales proceeds to operations for the near future (not to exceed \$1 million per year).
4. Develop a plan to re-examine the sources and uses of funds.
5. Develop a plan to reduce dependencies on sales by \$400,000.

The FMC concluded that the Synod should appoint a task force to address the initiatives, and commit to presenting its conclusions and recommendations to the Synod Council prior to the 2012 Synod Assembly.

THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Synod Council accept the report from the Financial Management Committee as the required response to their request, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Synod Council adopts the initiatives as presented, particularly in forming a task force with the objectives as presented. The task force would consist of the Bishop as Chairperson, and include the Treasurer, the Chair of the Financial Management Committee, and other staff members, as appointed by the Bishop, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Synod Council authorize the Financial Management Committee to proceed with the drafting of the revised 2011 budget and the proposed 2012 budget without review of a new 10 year plan, but to build on the 2009 plan, extending the 2010 budget experience and methodology.

Brenda Jack proposed amendment that non-staff members of Synod also be appointed to the task force. Amendment was seconded and adopted as included in the original resolves above.

ACTION SC10:10/05

ADOPTED, as amended

5. Old Business

A. Elections: Committee on Congregational Viability Norms

Bill Baum reported. Bill Baum, Bob Buescher, Kathleen Koran and Bob Schoepflin already on committee. Carlos Lopez replaces Grace Yukich as nominee. Deans nominated Dcn. Ingrid Compton and Muriel Davis. Motion to close nominations. Adopted. Slate to be elected: Gary Schulz, Muriel Davis, John Malone, Carlos Lopez, and Ingrid Compton.

ACTION SC10:10/06 ADOPTED, *en bloc*.
Bp. Rimbo to communicate to those elected.

B. Bishop's Advisory Committee on Philanthropic Management

Council members commented on the references for Rita Fuerst Adams they had contacted. All were very favorable. W. Baum moved, and R. Buescher seconded.

That Metropolitan New York Synod enter into contract with Charitable and Philanthropic Management Counsel (Rita Fuerst Adams, President).

ACTION SC10:10/07 ADOPTED, 15 yes, 3 no, 1 abstain

C. Eltingville, Staten Island: sale of parsonage

That Metropolitan New York Synod takes no exception to the sale of the listed property.

ACTION SC10:10/08 ADOPTED

D. Continuing Resolution amendment: Adjudication in a Congregation

Resolved that CR 10:09/13 be amended by substitution of the following:

If the Synod Council adopts a resolution pursuant to the authority of the constitutional provision S 13.24, the congregation may appeal that decision as follows. At a properly called and convened congregational meeting, within 45 days of the synod council action, and at which a representative of the Office of the Bishop is present with voice, the congregation by majority vote may contest one or more provisions of the synod council action. If a motion to contest a provision is adopted by a majority of those present and voting, a quorum being present, the congregation shall notify the Office of the Bishop in writing of the specifics of their appeal.

To resolve this appeal, the congregation shall have access to the synodical bishop for consultation. If the consultation fails to resolve the issue(s), the Consultation Committee of the synod shall consider the matter. If the Consultation Committee of this synod shall fail to resolve the issue(s), the matter shall be referred to the Synod Assembly, whose decision shall be final.

ACTION SC10:10/09 ADOPTED

**E. Synod Properties/Congregations under synod administration
Sion, Manhattan**

St. Peter's, 140th Street, Bronx
St. John's, Bronx
Kathy Schmidt's report in materials.

F. Congregations that have voted to leave ELCA
Motion made.

To defer to November SC meeting discussion on congregations that have voted to leave the ELCA.

ACTION SC10:10/10 ADOPTED

G. Grace, Astoria
J. Horner reported.

6. New Business

A. Consultation: Christ Chinese, Brooklyn

Bp. Rimbo welcomed 22 representatives of Christ Chinese to meeting and noted that he and SC members met with congregation. Congregation has taken the two required votes to leave ELCA. A motion was made to defer a decision on this matter to November SC meeting.

ACTION SC10:10/11 ADOPTED

B. First, Jeffersonville (resolution)

WHEREAS, FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF JEFFERSONVILLE (JEFFERSONVILLE) located at 4974 State Route 52, JEFFERSONVILLE, New York is a member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America (ELCA) rostered with the Synod, and

WHEREAS, the membership of JEFFERSONVILLE has declined and dwindled to so few, and become so scattered and diminished in numbers as to make it impractical for JEFFERSONVILLE to fulfill the purposes for which it was organized, and

WHEREAS, JEFFERSONVILLE has been suffering financially, operating in deficit, has and continues to suffer economic distress and as a result of which the Congregation is unable to maintain its properties in title and in proper repair and condition requiring the **Synod** to protect the property of JEFFERSONVILLE from waste and deterioration, and

WHEREAS, at a joint meeting of the Members and the Executive Committee of JEFFERSONVILLE duly called, held on September 25 2010 at which quorums of both the Executive Committee and the membership of JEFFERSONVILLE were present, a resolution was duly adopted for JEFFERSONVILLE to disband and pursuant to its Constitution turn over its assets to the Synod, and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the Synod, Section 13.24 provides in instances where a congregation's membership has diminished such that it is unable to fulfill its mission and

ministry for which it is organized and where economically it is unable to protect its property from waste and deterioration, the Synod may take charge and control of the property of such a congregation to hold, manage and convey the same on behalf of this Synod, and

WHEREAS, such charge and control of the property by the Synod, as provided in Section 13.24, may be through the appointment by Synod Council of trustees, and

WHEREAS, for good cause having been demonstrated the Synod has elected to apply synodical administration upon JEFFERSONVILLE and to take charge and control of JEFFERSONVILLE'S property to hold, manage, and convey the same on behalf of the Synod, and

WHEREAS, by virtue of the authority granted it by Section 13.24 of its Constitution, the Synod has requested Synod Council to consider applying synodical administration upon JEFFERSONVILLE pursuant to the terms and provisions of Section 13.24 and to take charge and control of the property of JEFFERSONVILLE, through the appointment of three trustees, and to hold, manage and convey such property on behalf of the Synod.

NOW THEREFORE, it is:

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 JEFFERSONVILLE to take charge and control of the property of JEFFERSONVILLE 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 with full power to hold and manage the property of JEFFERSONVILLE on behalf of the Synod in all regards relating directly or indirectly to the taking charge and control of the property of JEFFERSONVILLE and in holding, managing and conveying such property of **JEFFERSONVILLE** on behalf of the Synod, to wit: John Litke, Mary Heller, and Pastor Peter Rustico, and it is further,

RESOLVED, that the signature of any one of the Trustees acting to take charge and control of the property of JEFFERSONVILLE and to hold, manage, and convey the property of JEFFERSONVILLE 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.

ACTION **SC10:10/12** **ADOPTED**
(Bishop will communicate this action to congregation)

C. Reuse Document
Deferred to Nov SC meeting.

D. Hollis / Bethlehem, Baldwin organ.
Motion: **That the Synod facilitate the acquiring of this organ by Bethlehem Baldwin if all issues can be resolved.**

ACTION **10:10/13** **ADOPTED**

D. Salem Danish, Brooklyn

No contract yet. May have to take an email vote, which would require 100% participation and approval.

7. Other Reports

8. Announcements/Events

A. Bishop's Retreat: Nov 17-19, 2010

B. Synod Council Retreat: Nov 19-20, 2010

The 2010 Synod Council Retreat: An occasion to look at the big picture, seeing the forest for the trees of our life and ministry together as Synod Council. While there will be some business to attend to, the bulk of our time at this year's Synod Council Retreat will focus on board development and formation, getting to know one another and our gifts, exploring our roles as Synod Council members and looking at how best we undertake our work in the Spirit's power for God's mission in the world. And above all, we will have time to be gathered in Christ's presence in Word and Sacrament, prayer and devotion.

C. Ministerium: Feb 2011

D. Worship Day: 12 Feb 2011 (Good Shepherd, Plainview)

Motion to adjoin at 9:16pm.

Bp. Rimbo closed with prayer.