

***MINUTES OF THE
SEVENTEENTH REGULAR SYNOD ASSEMBLY OF THE
METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA***

**May 15-17, 2008
Westchester Marriott Hotel, Tarrytown, New York**

“LIVING IN GOD’S AMAZING GRACE: GOD’S WORK, OUR HANDS”

THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2008

Plenary Session I

Following a service of Holy Communion and the Order for the Opening of the Assembly, Vice president Hans Vogel called the seventeenth synod assembly of the Metropolitan New York Synod at 2:18 p.m. EDT on May 15, 2008 in the Grand Ballroom of the Westchester Marriott hotel in Tarrytown, New York. Mr. Vogel introduced the presiding officer Interim Bishop David Olson.

Bishop Olson thanked the synod for the opportunity to serve and acknowledged his wife Nancy and asked her to stand. He added that his son Jonathan will be present on Saturday. He thanked Deacon Elke Hekler and Redeemer, Kingston for the banner which stood on the dais.

He introduced Pr. Dennis O’Rourke as chaplain to the assembly. Pr. O’Rourke expressed his delight at serving as chaplain. He, in turn, introduced Pr. Wynemah Hinlicky who will serve as co-chaplain. Modeling team ministry, the chaplains announced that they would be available for needs and prayer requests throughout the assembly. Bishop Olson reported that Pr. Hinlicky and her husband Pr. William Wiecher will leave the synod to accept a joint call in Virginia in early summer.

Report of the Committee on Registration and Attendance

Pr. Rosalind Brathwaite was called upon to give the registration report. She reported the registered attendance as of 2:00 p.m.

Clergy	168		
Lay	268		
AiM	13	Total Voting Members	448
Visitors	62	Total Attendance	510

On the adoption of the report

APPROVED

Ms. Dorothy Demarest was welcomed once again to our assembly. Bp. Olson observed that she is probably better known to the assembly than himself.

The chair then turned the assembly’s attention to the standing rules and asked if there were any proposed amendments. Hearing none, he called upon Mr. Vogel to put before the assembly additional rules that specifically address the election of the bishop.

Mr. Vogel moved the rules previously adopted by the Synod Council concerning the election of the bishop. There was no debate and the chair asked the assembly to vote.

Adoption of the Rules and Agenda
On the adoption of the supplemental rules

APPROVED

S7.32.01. SC2008.3/SA08

- E. Rules pertaining to the election of a Bishop
 - 1) Biographical Information
 Biographical information on the seven nominees (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the second ballot, submitted on a form determined by the Synod Council, shall be distributed to voting members prior to the casting of the third ballot for bishop.
 - 2) Speeches by Nominees
 - a. Prior to the third ballot for bishop, the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the second ballot will be invited to address the assembly, with each speech limited to five minutes. If any such person is not present at the assembly, the individual, if possible, may designate an alternate to speak on her or his behalf.
 - b. A time keeper shall indicate to the speaker when 30 seconds remain of the allocated time and when the allocated time has elapsed.
 - c. The sequence of the speeches shall be determined by lot.
 - 3) Questions
 - a. Prior to the fourth ballot for bishop, the three persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the third ballot will be invited to participate in a question-and-answer period.
 - b. The period shall be moderated by the person designated to preside at the election.
 - c. The questions shall be asked in rotating order of the nominees, and the same questions will be asked to each nominee. Each nominee shall have a maximum of 90 seconds to respond to each question.
 - d. A time keeper shall indicate to the speaker when 30 seconds remain of the allotted time and when the allotted time has ended. The sequence of the questions to be asked shall be determined by the vice president and presiding officer.
 - e. The time for the question-and-answer period shall be a maximum of 45 minutes.
 - f. Questions may be submitted in writing to the secretary, or the secretary's designee, by any voting member of the assembly by 5:00 p.m. of the 15th day prior to the beginning of the synod assembly.
 - g. Questions will be compiled and distributed no fewer than seven days prior to the beginning of the synod assembly *via* the synod's usual electronic communications.

The proposed agenda came before the assembly. The chair asked if there were any amendments or changes proposed. There were none and the proposed agenda was put to a vote.

On the adoption of the agenda

APPROVED

Agenda

"God's Work, Our Hands"

Thursday, May 15, 2008

- 10:00 a.m. Registration
- 1:00 p.m. Eucharist and Order for Opening an Assembly
- 2:15: p.m. Plenary Session I
 Introduction of Interim Bishop

Welcome and Introduction of Chaplains
Report of Committee on Registration and Attendance
Introduction of Parliamentarian
Adoption of Agenda
Rules and Procedures
Report of Committee on Reference and Counsel
Introduction of ELCA Representative
Report of Committee on Elections
Report of Committee on Nominations and Floor Nominations
Bishop's Bible Study
Explanation of First Ballot for Bishop
First Ballot for Bishop
Introduction of Synod Officers
Report of the Synod Council
Introduction of Synod Staff
Report of the Treasurer
Report of Committee on Registration and Attendance
Announcements & Prayer

6:00 p.m.

Dinner

7:30 p.m.

Plenary Session II

Prayer
Report of Committee on Elections – First Ballot for Bishop (results)
Report of Tanzania Committee and Presentation
Evening Prayer

Friday, May 16, 2008

7:00 a.m.

Breakfast

8:00 a.m.

Morning Prayer

8:45 a.m.

Plenary Session III

Report of Committee on Registration and Attendance
Prayer and Second Ballot for Bishop
Report on *The Lutheran*
Report of Romania Companion Synod Committee and Presentation
Report of the ELCA Representative
Report of Committee on Reference and Counsel [Continued]
Introduction of Synod Assembly Planning Committee
First Common Ballot Instructions
Report on the Synod Ethics Dialog
Stewardship Award
Report of the Candidacy Committee
Report of Committee on Elections – Second Ballot for Bishop Results
Announcements & Prayer

12:15 p.m.

Lunch

1:15 p.m.

Plenary Session IV

Prayer
Report of Committee on Reference and Counsel [Continued]
Top Seven Candidates for Bishop Presentations
Bishop's Bible Study
Prayer and Third Ballot for Bishop
Introduction of Pastor's New to the Metropolitan New York Synod
Introduction of New MNYS Deacons
Anniversaries and Honors
Report of Committee on Elections – Collection of First Common Ballot
Mission Interpreters
Announcements & Prayer

6:00 p.m. Dinner
8:00 p.m. Festival Eucharist - Manhattanville College Chapel

Saturday, May 17, 2008

7:00 a.m. Breakfast
8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
8:45 a.m. Plenary Session V
Report of Committee on Elections – Third Ballot for Bishop Results
Report of Committee on Elections – First Common Ballot Results
Questions of Top Three Candidates
Prayer and Fourth Ballot for Bishop
Wartburg Seminary Honorary Doctor of Divinity to Bishop Buberwa
Adoption of 2009 Budget
Report of the ELCA Representative
Report of Children, Youth and Family Ministry Committee
Report of Lutheran Youth Organization
Report of Committee on Elections – Second Common Ballot
Report of Committee on Elections – Fourth Ballot for Bishop Results
Prayer and Fifth Ballot for Bishop
Ecumenical and Other Greetings
Report of Committee on Reference and Counsel [Continued]
Prayer
1:00 p.m. Lunch
2:00 p.m. Plenary Session VI
Report of Committee on Elections – Second Common Ballot Results
Report of Committee on Elections – Fifth Ballot for Bishop Results
Remarks by Bishop-elect
Report of Committee on Registration and Attendance
Announcements
Order for Closing of an Assembly
2:45 p.m. Eucharist

Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel

Bishop Olson recognized Pr. John Jurik to make a preliminary report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel. Also recognized was Pr. Scott Kershner, co-chair of this committee. Pr. Jurik directed the assembly to the printed report, noting that all the resolutions in the report carried a recommendation that they be adopted. He advised the assembly that it was the intention of the committee to present the resolutions in the following order beginning during plenary session three on Friday morning: Resolution 6, 5, 4, 2, 1, and 3. He announced that an additional resolution, Re-affirming our relationship with the North Western Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, will be brought forward in Session Two.

The assembly was advised that any additional resolutions would have to be submitted by the end of the first plenary session. He also asked that any substantive amendments to printed resolutions be submitted at that time to expedite their handling.

Bishop Olson next introduced Pastor A. Craig Settlage who assisted in synod in the conduct of the Ministry Audit. Pr. Settlage was appointed as the representative of the ELCA to our assembly and will conduct the election of the bishop. Pr. Settlage has served in the Churchwide offices since the beginning of the ELCA, first in the area of ministry and standards and now as Director for Mission Support in the Synodical Relations unit of the ELCA.

Report of the Committee on Elections

Mr. James Steipp, chair of the Elections committee, was called on to introduce the assembly to its work. Mr. Steipp noted that he would be supervising all the “other” elections. He thanked the members of his committee for their work and support.

Report of the Committee on Nominations

Mr. Livingston Chrichlow gave the report of the nominations Committee. He noted two changes to the printed pre-assembly report. He reported that Ms. Carolina Lopez was no longer a candidate for Synod Council and that Mr. Jeremy Posadas will be a candidate for the Churchwide Assembly. Mr. Posadas’ biographical information, along with the biographical information of any floor nominees will be distributed before the balloting takes place.

OFFICERS	Nominee	Nominee
Bishop Term 6 years		
Treasurer Term 4 years	Robert Buescher	
SYNOD COUNCIL		
Cycle A Term: 4 years	Nominee	Nominee
Clergy NW Queens	Rosalind Brathwaite	Michael Church
Clergy S Shore Bklyn	Scott Kershner	
Clergy Hudson	Albert Ahlstrom	Robert Harris
Clergy Tappan Zee	Jack Horner	Eric Swensson
Lay Female W Nassau	Susan Carentz	Barbara Holm
Lay Female Peconic	Sandra Reifel	Janet Siry
Lay Female Manhattan	Kimberly Suttell	Grace Yukich
Lay Male Staten Island	Brian Reardon	Donald Thorson
Lay Male At Large	Stuart Meade	Robert Rainis
Lay Male SW Queens	William Anderson	Scott Campbell
MCL – Female At Large	Barbara Johnson	Beverly Small
Youth At Large 2 years	Jonathan Westerlund	
CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBERS		
17 incl. Bishop and Vice President	Nominee	Nominee
Bishop (ex officio)	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
Vice President (ex officio)	Hans Vogel	XXXXXXXXXX
Clergy	William Baum	Mary Chang
5 to elect	Michael Church	Katrina Foster
	Martin Hauser	Richard Hill
	Marva Jenkins	James Krauser
	Paul Milholland	Craig Miller
	Annemarie Noto	Cathy Rosenholtz
	Paul Schmiede	Ann Tiemeyer
	Nominee	Nominee
Lay Male	Homer Alexander	Robert Busch
4 to elect	Dave Ehlers	Paul Lumpkin
	Earl Marsan	Jeremy Posadas
	John Prosen	Robert Rainis
	Richard Soper	
Lay Female	Gale Capone	Christine Connell
5 to elect	Connie Duever	Meg Fielding
	Allison Guttu	Lynne Hansen

	Louise Litke Beverly Small Joanne Westerlund	Karen Reardon Dorothy Scholz-Beyer Sharon Wilson
Multicultural 2 to elect	Homer Alexander Allison Guttu Earl Marsan Jeremy Posadas	Mary Chang Marva Jenkins Paul Lumpkin Beverly Small
COMMITTEES -- 6 yrs.	Nominee	Nominee
Consultation - Clergy Female	Perucy Butiku	Kathleen Koran
Consultation - Clergy Male	James Thomas	
Consultation - Lay Female	Mary Heller	
Consultation - Lay Male	Ralph Bardario	Arthur Isakson
	Gregory Pietrzak	
Discipline - Clergy Male	Robert Schoepflin	
Discipline - Clergy Male	Edward Barnett	
Discipline - Clergy Female	Brooke. Swertfager	Marva Jenkins
Discipline - Clergy Male	Raymond Ormand	
Discipline - Lay Female	Dorothy Scholz-Beyer	
Discipline - Lay Male	Robert Busch	
MISSION DEVELOPMENT BOARD.		
4 years	Nominee	Nominee
Clergy	Craig Miller	Albert Triolo

Bishop Olson then asked if there were any further nominations to be added to the report.

The following additional nominations were made:

Pr. Fred Schumacher nominated Pr. Eric Swensson for Churchwide Assembly Voting Member.

Pr. William Clarke nominated Pr. Brenda Jack for Synod Council.

Pr. Paul Block nominated Mr. Manuel Melendez for Churchwide Assembly Voting Member.

Pr. Barbara Lundblad nominated Pr. David Parsons for Churchwide Assembly Voting Member.

The bishop reminded members that each floor nomination requires the support of ten voting members of the assembly. Biographical forms were to be turned in by the end of the first plenary session.

Bishop's Bible Study

Living in God's Amazing Grace God's Work: Our Hands

Bishop Olson asked the assembly to consider the following passages from scripture.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. Acts 1:8-9

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.... Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad

and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. Acts 2:41-42

He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27

He invited the assembly to reflect and discuss with their neighbors the following questions:

1. Look over the verbs in the Bible passages (Don't forget the verbs about what God is doing.)
Which of them are happening in your congregations?
Which ones seem most needed?
2. What is the same and unique in congregations represented among those in your group?
3. How can we grow in discipleship and numerically at the same time?

Election of the Bishop - First Ballot

Pr. Craig Settlage was called upon to introduce the first ballot for bishop. Pr. Settlage called for an updated registration report. Pr. Brathwaite reported that as of 3:00 pm, there were 501 registered voting members.

Clergy	192		
Lay	295		
AiM	14	Total Voting Members	501

The assembly was instructed in how to complete their ballot. Prior to the ballot, Pr. Settlage offered a prayer

First ballot was declared closed at 4:13 pm.

Report of the Synod Council

The lesson from the second chapter of Acts for this past Sunday were truly timely

In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men (and your young women) shall see visions and your old men (and your old women) shall dream dreams

What are the visions that we shall see and what are the dreams that all of us will dream. We know that the Holy Spirit will be with us over these next few days as we make important decisions about the future of this Synod, most particularly as we elect a new chief pastor from one of more than 11,000 potential candidates. And you thought the Republican and Democratic primaries were a crowded field earlier this spring. At least we will know who our next bishop will be in about 48 hours.

We look with great anticipation to the future of this Synod but we should also reflect briefly about our most recent past. It's been about twelve months since we all gathered together at St. Peter's in Huntington Station. The official actions taken on your behalf by the Synod Council are documented beginning at page B-1 in your Bulletin of Reports. As you can see, the Council has worked hard on many serious issues over these past twelve months. Please acknowledge their hard work as I ask them to stand. In particular, I want to acknowledge the work of our officers, our Secretary Pastor James Krauser our Treasurer Mr. Bob Buescher, and our interim bishop, David Olson.

Last November, as I was about to get on a plane for the Philippines, I received a phone call from Gayle Ruege. She said to me that she hoped it was not too early in the day to call. I mentioned to her that it was almost too late, at least for the next three weeks. At that point she quickly connected me with Bishop Bouman who informed me that he had accepted a call to Chicago. At least I had something to think about for the next 23 hours to Manila. A few days after my return the Executive committee met to begin the interview process to find an interim bishop. Bishop Olson was one of three retired bishops that we

interviewed to fill the interim position. We also interviewed another retired bishop named Olson. I was told that originally there were going to be three Olsons that were going to be interviewed. We could have announced much earlier to the Synod that the interim bishop would be Bishop Olson, first name to be determined later. It seems that just because you retire from being bishop in one synod doesn't mean you won't be asked to serve again in another part of this church. After Bishop David Olson was appointed, I was requested by the churchwide offices for a brief statement about why the Executive Committee decided to appoint him. I had to smile for a moment about that request since I knew this would be in print for many people to read. I said there were several reasons for our decision. Bishop Olson had served for 14 years in a synod that was comparable in size to this Synod. It didn't take a mathematician to figure out that he was experienced at chairing Synod Assemblies since he had done so every year he was bishop. But most importantly we sensed that he had a warm and sensitive pastoral style. It turns out we were right. But the one thing that I did not say for the news release was what one of our committee members said "He looks like a bishop"

Our Assembly theme is most appropriate, God's Work, Our Hands. As you read the many reports in the Bulletin of Reports we discover the many facets of our synod.

The phenomenal growth of our Asian Immigration Outreach. Since Bishop Bouman is not here to say it, let me do the honors and say that we can minister in 54 languages and dialects on the territory of our synod. I didn't realize that we gone past 30 but maybe that's because Bishop Bouman forgot to count dialects.

We can marvel at the participation of young adults on college campuses throughout the country. Over 4,300 students worship in our ELCA campus ministries every week. 231 recent alumni of campus ministries are enrolled in seminary. Another 277 are in the candidacy process.

As for our synod 10 applicants were approved for Entrance to the Candidacy process, another 8 were approved for Endorsement and 7 Candidates were approved for ordination.

We serve the poor, the suffering and those who have not experienced the Gospel of Christ through the many ministries of the diaconate. Deacons throughout our synod are in Word and Service ministries in Nursing Homes, Prisons, Hospitals and wherever else opportunities arise to raise the name of Christ. These deacons are the face of the church to the homebound, those suffering from substance abuse, those that are separated from their families due our immigration laws, and to those whose life draws to an end.

The work of Lutheran Schools Association as it provides leadership to those that work in the 56 early childhood centers, 10 elementary schools and 2 high schools. I have personally seen the many challenges that are placed before these schools as they provide a Christ centered education for their students. These schools are served by dedicated hard working teachers, administrators and pastors in urban, suburban and rural settings that challenge their existence each and every day.

I want to commend the work of the Mission Development Board as it has worked through the challenges of struggling congregations facing major transitions in their ministry. The work of this board along with the valuable counsel of John Litke has helped the Synod Council in making important decisions during this past year. The end of one congregation has often times meant new life opportunities for another. Funds are being reinvested and enabling new and creative ministries to take shape throughout our synod. Make sure you read the report of the Board beginning on page B-33.

We are God's hands in doing his work. That work is caring for those that need it most. A wonderful example is explained by Pastor Marsh Luther Drege, the new pastor and executive director of Seafarers and International House. A retired seafarer needed to have out patient eye surgery but had no family to help him get to the hospital to have the surgery done. How was this problem solved? Seafarer's and International House was that family that took up that responsibility. When that chaplain was there to take care of this important need for that seafarer, we were all there because of that chaplain.

It has been a busy year, but a year filled with opportunities to be God's hands in many places. Every time you send the synod your mission support you are a participant in the ministries of the Metropolitan New York Synod. You enable people's lives to be touched by God's work. May it continue to grow and expand.

Members of the Synod Staff were introduced and acknowledged by the assembly.

Report of the Treasurer and Auditor's Report

Mr. Buescher gave his report on the results of the annual audit and on the financial position of the synod.

The financial health of the Synod is that the prognosis is much improved, but there is good news and bad. Mr. Buescher reminded the assembly last year of the old axiom: "If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is to stop digging". Last year we hope we stopped digging, but we have not filled the hole. So, with attention to frugality and better processes for spending money we still have that outlook today. The hole analogy still is appropriate, since the walls of the hole limits our view of whether or not we are really doing the best right things. That is the first step to "fill the hole" or climb out of it.

The 2007 Results and the Independent Audit

Our Treasurer presented the auditors report. The auditors report for 2007 is printed in the Bulletin of Reports pages C-2 to C-19.

We again received an unqualified "clean bill of health" for our record keeping and accounting. Basically, the auditor agrees with our records as to what we own, our assets; and that they are all there; and agrees that our records have correctly reported our revenue and expenses. Our assets are directly related to how well we can continue and expand our mission. But one must look at the elements, and critically consider what they are telling us. Our assets can be divided into our property assets, and non-property assets.

Our property assets can have wide swings with acquisitions or sales. There is a variance between the assessed value of our assets and their lower net values. The difference is caused by the expenditure of funds for maintenance, necessary repair prior to sale, insurance, and sometimes temporary funds for sustained operation. That difference is "borrowed" from our investment pool, and is repaid only on the sale of the related property. It's about \$2 million now, almost the same during the year, and we are constantly working to try to reduce that amount. The good news is that the total is larger now, and the \$2 million borrowed amount represents a smaller portion of the total. The rest of the assets are not related to properties we own or manage.

The total of all of the designated, temporarily restricted, and endowment funds represent where the Synod Council or the donor has specifically demanded their application to a specific purpose. Should those purposes require payment, our cash and investments are called upon to "pay up". We keep track of how much cash and investments we have that are invested with interest, currently this is not enough to cover all of the funds they are to support. Fortunately, the call for funds will never be required all at once. In simple language, the situation should remind us that if we want to spend any money for a different purpose, some purpose is NOT going to be fulfilled.

This chart also shows the recent trend. Although the total non-property assets have declined, the portion of that total that is invested is increasing. That is also good news. Thanks to Bishop Bouman and his staff for being frugal in spending.

The other major reported audit result is the Net Income from our Operations. Several years back we ran a rather high annual loss because we didn't know, or didn't wish to know, how much we were spending. For 2007 we showed a modest \$21,000 loss, almost identical to the shortfall of Mission Support. That result, although it could be better, is a good thing. The bad news as we will discuss again later is that: in order to have a balanced operating budget, we continue to use proceeds from sales, and other funds to make that happen.

The auditors report simply confirms that our books show that our Assets, Revenue and Expenses are correctly reported. The Auditors Report tells us nothing directly about whether or not we are doing the right things with our resources.

The Ten Year Plan

In recent years, the Bishop and senior staff have found it useful to make a 10 year financial plan, linked to the Synod's mission, and to the resources available to us. The 2007 plan is in the Bulletin of Reports as pages C-32 to C-34. Our operating history (p. C-24) emphasizes that the Mission Support, Grants and other sources, the bottom three segments, are decreasing. Even with holding our total revenue and expenses stable, more and more of our operating revenue must come from the top section, proceeds from sales.

Is that the best use of such funds? - Perhaps for long term survival, but not necessarily for growth. It is obvious that ever increasing use of proceeds is seriously limiting our ability to use our legacy to "invest" in areas with the best possibilities for expanding the church.

In 2007, the Bishop also faced some adjustments related to current realities. This year we found that we were still "in trouble" with the farther out years, partly of continued decline of grants and Mission Support, partly since some of the cost savings planned, did not materialize.

This year, the planners set some hard rules in developing the 2007 plan. There was a continuing requirement that a credible plan should lead to a break even or better each year. They also recognized that continued unlimited growth of the use of sale proceeds is counterproductive to our long term stewardship. The Synod is certainly not motivated to encourage sales just to have a balanced budget.

Looking at estimates of sale proceeds, it seemed prudent that the current \$650,000 should not grow to exceed \$1 million, even in the 10th year. A number of "what ifs" were analyzed during meetings and it became obvious that only a few line items highly impacted a credible 10 year plan.

Mission support, continues to be the largest single source of revenue. Mission Support has continued to drop, although it did not drop as much in 2007 as in prior years. And we send off 47% of that to ELCA. We cannot plan to operate on the remainder alone. The continual annual slide is a serious problem. It's a bigger problem when you consider that inflation makes the drop more severe. Mission Support is the most critical element in helping the Synod consider church expansion and make the wisest choices. Results so far this year are an improvement over the previous two years and might be showing that we have "turned the corner". If this trend continues we are on track to meet this year's budget.

He expressed thanks to those that are increasing your Mission Support, even in the face of financial burdens facing many of our congregations.

Statistical data on the Mission support, by congregation, is included in your Bulletin of Reports on pages C-26 to C31. But as large as the importance of increased Mission Support is to the future of the Synod, it is unrealistic to expect huge annual increases. The 2007 10 year plan calls for a modest at 2% per year. That's about equal to long term inflation. We should be able to do better than that, but the plan should be conservative.

Salaries and benefits constitute about 1/3 of all expenditures, so it's an important element in a 10 year plan. In the past few years, strong efforts have successfully been made to reduce salary and benefits cost. Other operating expenditures are also the subject of tight analysis and review. As important as Staff Costs are to the 10 year plan, there are limits as to how much can be saved, and still perform the basic functions we are mandated to provide. The plan calls for only modest increases in individual salaries. Efforts to improve staff efficiency are also continuing. Investment income is also critical in the 10 year plan.

Investment income is the one area that can be a major source of revenue to supplement many others and be instrumental in relieving the pressure on proceeds from sales. We must accumulate sufficient

investment assets, and be able to treat that pool as a kind of endowment. The plan calls for it to do that over the years, while we essentially grow it by limiting spending. In fact, the ten year plan is dependant on an increasing investment income, if our Mission support has only a modest growth and we want to limit use of sale proceeds. Investment income becomes very important, but it will not have to grow forever. In the plan investment income which is now about 6% of total revenue grows and levels off at 14%. If we are careful and creative, our invested assets will grow, and become a significant factor in support of a credible plan.

The use of proceeds in operations is the last high impact line in a ten year plan. We set a "standard" that it should never exceed \$1 million per year. The ten year plan maintains this through 2018. In 2013-2016 we can project that the investment income begins to make a serious difference.

In summary, the 10 Year Plan does predict a break even for the next 10 years. It is conservative in expectations for Mission Support, and meets the criteria of limiting use of property sales for operational expenses. That's good news for our financial health, and maintains our current goals and programs. However, it does not put our heads over the edge of the hole, and seriously consider what we could or should be doing with our assets of time and money. But it opens the door for that to be possible.

2009 Synodical Budget

The proposed budget for 2009 is presented in the Bulletin of Reports on C-35 and C-36). It has no surprises from the 2008 budget, and shows a break even, as did 2008. A comparison of 2009 budget categories with those of 2008 shows only minor differences. Our largest source of revenue continues to be Synod Funds, which includes revenue from the sale of properties applied to operating income. If we follow the 2007 Ten Year Plan, that will become less important. Our next largest source is Mission Support, however, this is a gross amount and 47.5% of that amount is regularly sent to ELCA. Grants continue their modest decline.

The largest expenditures are Outreach, which includes the part of Mission Support for the wider church. The next largest is Congregational Life, which are programs and services for congregations, including partnership grants, mission projects, and Synod activities to aid congregations such as assisting in the selection and call of pastors.

Mr. Buescher reiterated that next to efforts for the wider church, the largest expenditure function is for congregations. The budget which does not add to the depth of our hole, but doesn't help fill it either. Our financial health is good, but could be better.

Summarizing all that we have learned from the consideration of the 10 year plan, and looking toward the future, he said that we may not be as healthy as we would like, but there are some keys to financial health. To do "God's Work; Our Hands", we must follow a doctor's standard advice:

We must "Take our Medicine" – recognize the high impact that Mission Support has on our major source of Revenue. It may be a bitter pill to improve giving, but it's worth it. He reminded that synod can help congregations in this effort, and that Pastor Bob Wollenburg stands ready to meet with and provide help to congregations in improving their local financial support, which in turn will enable them have a healthier financial picture, and no doubt their Mission Support responsibility as well.

He expressed hope that congregations see the Synod as a useful tool in providing for the work beyond our congregations front doors, to the Synod, and the Wider Church. The Synod certainly should not be seen as responsible for the financial support of its congregations

We must "Exercise in Moderation" – We must remain frugal, and get smarter in where we spend time and effort. Many times our efforts are only re-active to problems, ones that are more expensive (in effort and money) to solve if we have not identified situations early enough to preclude difficult resolution. And we must realize that if we spend money in one area, another is certainly not going to receive it.

Mr. Buescher advised the assembly "We are not just recipients of funds; we must be good stewards in their application, and be objective in our financial support. To be good stewards, like good parents, we have to learn to say "no" to some requests, while saying "yes" to the best." We will face difficult decisions. He said, that we need to be more Pro-Active in working with congregations in transition, and say "no" to the application of our limited resources that only delays the appropriate resolution to a problem.

We must "Eat Healthy Food" – Good Health requires that our focus must be on spending most efficiently to accomplish the highest goals of the Synod. Are we supporting the past at the expense of investing in our future? What about the needs and opportunities that we have not considered? We must be Pro-Active in identifying and actively pursuing areas of growth outside of the temporarily solving the problems that have absorbed our resources.

He concluded his report saying, "If we follow the doctor's advice, our prognosis will be good; the financial health of the Synod can and will improve."

He noted that he and members of the Financial Management Committee would be present at the "Budget Breakfast" otherwise known as "Buescher for Breakfast" for questions related to the proposed budget.

Having finished his remarks Mr. Buescher asked moved the adoption of the Independent Auditors Report. The chair then put the question before the assembly. There was no discussion and the vote was taken.

On adopting the Auditor's Report

**APPROVED
SA2008.05.01**

The Auditor's Report is printed in Appendix III

Observing that our treasurer was marking another milestone, Bishop Olson led the assembly in singing "Happy Birthday" to Mr. Buescher.

The session concluded with announcements, and recessed for dinner at 5:13 p.m. following the prayer by the chaplain.

Plenary Session II

The second plenary session of the 17th Regular Assembly of the Metropolitan New York Synod was called to order at 7:20 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom of the Westchester Marriott hotel in Tarrytown, NY. Chaplain Hinlicky gave the opening prayer.

Bishop Olson reported that the Report of the First Ballot for Bishop would be delayed due to problems printing the report.

The bishop brought forward the next item of the agenda, the Report and Presentation of the Tanzania Committee.

Report of the Tanzania Committee

Members of the committee were invited to the dais. The presentation began with the singing of "Listen, God Is Calling," a Tanzanian hymn. An ensemble of rhythm instruments assisted in the leading of the hymn. Pr. Carol Fryer introduced the Rev. Faith Lugazia the song leader, one of the first two women ordained in the North Western Diocese of the ELCT. She is now pursuing a doctorate at Luther seminary. She then introduced Bishop Buberwa and his wife Grace, former Bishop Stephen Bouman, Pr. Gary Mills, Ms. Janet Gay, Pr. Rich. Miller, Mr. James Mark, Pr. Robert Wollenburg, Ms. Judith Ammerman, Ms. Karol Wollenburg, Ms. Lois Rimbo, Ms. Lynne Hansen, Ms. Connie Duever, Pr. Perucy Butiku, Mr. Jonathan Westerlund.

Mr. Jonathan Westerlund described his trip with a delegation of youth to Tanzania, accompanied by a photographic presentation. He described it as the most amazing event of his life. They visited the Kebeta English Medium Primary School, KEMPS. He recalled interacting with the children there teaching and learning games. They visited another school where they introduced the children to painting, and sharing in conversation about their homelands and experiences.

At an orphanage they were taken by the number of the children there. He said that the adoption process is sometimes long and difficult.

They reported that the group attended a church service with the Masai people where the community there presented them with a goat, a gift of high esteem!

His final picture was from a home where a young girl cares for her brothers, all of them AIDS orphans. He found it remarkable that she has dedicated her whole life to her family.

Pr. Fryer then announced that the Tanzanian Endowment Fund established in 2003 has reached its goal. Pr. Wollenburg was then introduced. Pr. Wollenburg worked on this project for the last 5 years. Pr. Wollenburg thanked the assembly for all the effort and contributions the synod has poured into this project. He described how this project began with sending two teachers to teach at the KEMPS school. In order to sustain this work, the idea of an endowment of \$1,000,000 was developed. He said that his work hasn't been about talking about the money, but talking about the ministry and mission of this project. He described it as a project of sharing and building enthusiasm for this work. The fund was begun with a \$100,000 gift from Judith Ammerman. She was introduced and asked to say a few words.

She read a short excerpt from a daily devotional booklet, inviting us to pray in response to the "WOW!" moments and she described the fulfillment of this goal as a "WOW!" moment for which we give a prayer of thanks. "WOW! May God be praised."

Pr. Wollenburg described several of the kinds of gifts which will sustain this fund. In approximately 10 years there will be \$1.3 million in the fund.

Mr. James Mark was then invited to join Pr. Wollenburg. He described how through consulting with Mr. Mark and his wife about planned giving their estate will benefit eight ministries of which the Tanzania Endowment is one.

He then identified some of the major contributors.

Albert Ahlstrom	Lynne Hansen	Emma Porter
Judith Ammerman	Phyllis Haynes	Paul Schmiege and Connie Duever
Karen Anderson	Maryellen Herbert	Robert Schurmann
Stephen and Janet Bouman	John Hinch	Joanne and Steve Strunck
Robert and Janet Buescher	Paul Jensen	Jung Tai
Joni Caggiano	Lorraine and William Keller	Greg and Mary Tennermann
Howard Capell	Kathleen and Greg Koran	Andreas Thode
Dale and Patricia Christiansen	John and Doris Krahn	Henry Timnick
Eugene Koene	David Leverenz	Jack Traugott
Michael Church and Terri Luper	Christina Lord-Barry	Daniel and Linda Tusi
The Eger Home	Boyd Lowery	Karol Wollenburg
Paul and Lisa Fancher	Lutheran Social Services of NY	James and Alice Woods
Catherine Fechner	Richard and Carolyn Miller	Howard Woodworth.
Marie Feldman	Gary Mills	Peggy and Fred Wuerette
Rose Anne Foege	Annemarie Noto	Ernest Vickroy
Fordham Lutheran Church	William & Marilyn Preuss	David Zimmermann

[Note: A listing of all donors is in Appendix IV]

He concluded his report by describing a recent anonymous gift of \$100,000.

Proceeds from the Endowment are to be used for Christian Education in the North Western Diocese. This is currently in the form of two teachers. The first two teachers were Tim and Erin Bouman, Gail Cleaver is there now. In all, 5 teachers have served there under MNYS sponsorship.

Ms. Connie Duever offered a word of encouragement from Tim and Erin Bouman in support of this teaching ministry and for the transforming power of this experience.

Ms. Duever told of how Bishop Buberwa spoke to an assembly of students at LuHi, encouraging them to value their education. She assured the assembly that the students at KEMPS do! She directed the members to the flier about the need for teachers.

Pr. Fryer recalled the anniversary of the companion covenant with the North Western Diocese and called upon former Bishop Bouman to speak to the forming of this partnership.

Pr. Fryer then introduced Bishop Elisa Buberwa who addressed the assembly. In his remarks he recalled how on the 5th of April 1998 on behalf of the MNYS Bishop Bouman and Bishop Samson Mushemba signed the covenant between the two sister churches. Bishop Buberwa extended his warm greeting and greetings from our sisters and brothers in the North Western

Diocese. He said that the North Western Diocese regards his invitation to this assembly with his wife as a sign of the close relationship between the two units. He once again thanked the leadership of the synod and Bp. Olson for arranging this visit. He described the ten years of our mutual covenant have been a time of sharing, of gifts, of talents and God's love. He thanked God for Bishop Stephen Bouman's ministry and wished him blessing in his new ministry.

Bishop Buberwa said that as we reaffirm the covenant, we look forward to a bright future in the next ten years. He thanked the members of the synod for their support for the accomplishment of the endowment fund. This fund is important for the ministry of the diocese, beginning with KEMPS, the only diocesan school. He noted that its students are drawn from many communities and religions. He briefly described a current project of the North Western Diocese which it has been working for 2 years in establishing a secondary school for boys and girls in Bukoba. The diocese is still working to put the infrastructure in place, including dormitories an administration building, dining room, kitchen and library. He concluded asking that we continue to pray for one another and to work together.

Pr. Fryer asked the assembly to locate the resolution distributed at the beginning of the session. She said that she was now acting on behalf of the R & C committee. She read the resolution:

**TO AFFIRM THE COMPANION COVENANT BETWEEN NORTH WESTERN DIOCESE OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN TANZANIA AND THE METROPOLITAN NEW YORK
SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

Whereas, Psalm 133, verse 1, reminds us of how good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters live together in unity, and

Whereas, God calls us "in humility [to] regard others as better ... and to look to the interest of others" as Christ Jesus emptied himself and took the form of a servant (Philippians 2), and

Whereas, the North Western Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and the Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America have prayed for, learned from and shared ministry in the name of Christ, and

Whereas, for the past ten years our Diocese and Synod have regarded each other and served each other in the name of Christ as companions, and

Whereas, the Diocese and the Synod signed a formal "Companion Covenant" on Palm Sunday, April 5, 1998, that has led the Diocese and Synod into a living, breathing and loving experience of mutual care and prayerful support, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Diocese and Synod now affirm the Companion Covenant of April 5, 1998, hereby recommitting Diocese and Synod to:

- ✦ Pray for, witness to and encourage one another as both bodies seek to serve Christ in our localities.
- ✦ Learn more about one another, as friends, partners and fellow members of the one body of Christ.
- ✦ Share our struggles, challenges, joys and new possibilities for the mutual upbuilding of the People of God.
- ✦ Provide opportunities for mutual exchange of lay people, clergy and judicatory staff in order for us to sincerely know one another as friends and Christians.

- ✘ Expand our understanding that the body of Christ has no geographical boundaries, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color or socio-economic status and seeks mutuality among partners.

It was noted that the items in the resolved paragraph are the actual text of the original covenant. Pr. Fryer moved the resolution on behalf of the Tanzania Committee. The Bishop called for its adoption by acclamation with applause

On the resolution

**APPROVED
SA2008.05.02**

Resolved, that the Diocese and Synod now affirm the Companion Covenant of April 5, 1998, hereby recommitting Diocese and Synod to:

- ✘ Pray for, witness to and encourage one another as both bodies seek to serve Christ in our localities.
- ✘ Learn more about one another, as friends, partners and fellow members of the one body of Christ.
- ✘ Share our struggles, challenges, joys and new possibilities for the mutual upbuilding of the People of God.
- ✘ Provide opportunities for mutual exchange of lay people, clergy and judicatory staff in order for us to sincerely know one another as friends and Christians.
- ✘ Expand our understanding that the body of Christ has no geographical boundaries, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color or socio-economic status and seeks mutuality among partners.

Pr. Fryer explained that the new covenant will be signed on Saturday by our bishop-elect.

Pr. Wollenburg described how Bishop Buberwa had contacted him asking if our synod might provide some vessels for Holy Communion as many of those in use in their diocese did not honor our Lord's presence as they should. Pr. Wollenburg let it be known that we were seeking communion chalices and patens that congregations were no longer using or donors for new one. He reported that several had been received from congregations and a few donated so that he came to the assembly with eleven of the fifteen requested ready for Bishop Buberwa to take with him. After arriving he received a set from one congregation and a promise of an additional three from another. With that he presented Bp. Buberwa with the chalice and paten brought to the assembly.

Pr. Gary Mills and Ms. Duever made a presentation of three banners, created by a Lutheran artist from Minnesota, to Bp. Buberwa. Pr. Mills described them as a gift from the 70,000 Lutheran Christians of the synod. The banners are intended for use in the offices or shared around the congregations of the diocese. Pr. Mills said that the design incorporated the color on the walls and clothing of the peoples of the diocese. The themes of the three banners are: Baptism, Eucharist, Unity in Christ.

Pr. Fryer concluded the presentation with words about the future and Bukoba secondary school spoken of by Bp. Bouman. She said that the request for this school came from the parents of the children who attended KEMPS so that they may continue to receive the same quality of education they have received at KEMPS. It is a witness to the value of the ministry we have been supporting for these ten years. The work is not finished. These will need continued support. There is always more work to do. The goal of the endowment is reached, but

contributions are still welcomed. This new school is a priority for which the people of the diocese have requested our support.

She said we need to continue exchanges and invited all those who have traveled to the companion diocese to stand. She announced the next trip is in 2009 and invited members of the synod to consider taking part in it.

The presentation concluded with the singing of “Now Thank We All Our God,” led again by the African percussion ensemble. Bishop Olson thanked all the presenters.

Report of the First Ballot for Bishop

Pr. Settlage reminded the assembly of the procedures for the subsequent ballot. He indicated that candidates who received votes on the first ballot who wished to withdraw from the election process should do so by 10pm.

Robert Wollenburg	96	John Jurik	3	Wynemah Hinlicky	1
Gary Mills	48	Kathleen Koran	3	Jeffrey Laustsen	1
Robert Rimbo	29	Jonathan Linman	3	Eric Mathsen	1
Jeffrey Kolbo	27	LeRoy Ness	3	Lyn Mehl	1
William Baum	21	Paul Schmiede	3	Glenn Miller	1
Dianne Loufman	16	Terrence Weber	3	Frank Nelson	1
Elise Brown	14	Rosalind Brathwaite	2	Heidi Neumark	1
Richard Hill	14	James Echols	2	Fred Opalinski	1
Ann Tiemeyer	12	Khader El-Yateem	2	Audrey Pedersen	1
Cherlyne Beck	10	Jack Horner	2	Robert Schoepflin	1
David Anglada	9	William Hurst	2	Frank Senn	1
Paul Milholland	9	Gary Mehl	2	Craig Settlage	1
Amandus Derr	8	Christopher Mietlowski	2	Elsie Smith	1
James Krauser	8	Richard A. Miller	2	Donald Stiger	1
Barbara Lundblad	8	Margaret Payne	2	Gregory Tennermann	1
Craig A. Miller	8	Robert Schaefer	2	Toby Tobias	1
Paul Britton	7	Mack Smith	2	Phillip Trzynka	1
Rodney Eberhardt	7	James Sudbrock	2	Paul Walley	1
David Olson	7	Brooke Swertfager	2	Daniel Ward	1
Sherman Hicks	6	Jerome Taylor	2	James Watrud	1
Dennis O'Rourke	6	James Thomas	2	William Wiecher	1
Garry Squire	6	Rose Ann Vita	2	Timothy Wengert	1
Robert Fritch	5	Lee Wesley	2	Michael Wilker	1
Gregory Fryer	5	Albert Ahlstrom	1		
Michael T. Ross	4	Perucy Butiku	1	Valid Ballots	484
Brenda Smith	4	David Daubert	1	Invalid Ballots	3
William Damrow	3	Michael Dickson	1	Total Votes Ballots	487
Paul Egensteiner	3	Kelly Freyer	1		
Marvin Henk	3	Gerard Gaeta	1	Total Needed for Election	363

Pr. Settlage announced that there was no election on the first ballot. All names not withdrawn will appear on the next ballot. The second ballot is scheduled for the third plenary session.

The session concluded with Evening Prayer at 9:22 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2008
Plenary Session III

Morning Prayer opened the day on Friday May 16, 2008. Following the liturgy, the plenary session was called to order at 8:43 a.m., by Bishop David Olson. After thanking the worship leaders he called for the Report on Registration and Attendance.

Pr. Brathwaite reported that as of 8:45 a.m. there were 529 registered voting members.

Clergy	202	
Lay	312	
AiM	15	Total Voting Members 529

Second Ballot for Bishop

Pr. Craig Settlage was called upon to conduct the second ballot for bishop. After a brief introduction, he called the assembly to prayer. Ballots were then distributed. The ballot contained, in random order, the 28 remaining names of persons reported on the results of the first ballot who had not withdrawn from the election. After determining that all ballots had been turned in, Pr. Settlage declared the second ballot for bishop closed.

Second Ballot for Bishop – 6 Year Term

Jeffrey Kolbo	William Baum	Gregory Fryer
Michael T. Ross	Glenn Miller	Robert Rimbo
Craig A. Miller	Donald Stiger	Rodney Eberhardt
Paul Milholland	Dianne Loufman	Richard Hill
Timothy Wengert	Margaret Payne	Sherman Hicks
Garry Squire	James Echols	Eric Mathsen
William Damrow	David Daubert	Ann Tiemeyer
Robert Schaefer	Gary Mills	Frank Senn
Cherlyne Beck	James Krauser	
Jack Horner	Robert Wollenburg	

Report from The Lutheran Magazine

Mr. Daniel Lehmann, the editor of our national magazine, was introduced to the assembly to describe the mission of this periodical. He began by acknowledging his own connections to the Metropolitan New York Synod. He is the cousin of Erin Bouman and his sister is wife of Thomas Schmidt.

The Lutheran traces its history back to 1831 in a publication called *The Lutheran Companion*. Throughout the years there have been many triumphs and challenges. He noted that subscriptions are in decline. Of our own 216 congregations he reported that only 68 (or 31%) of them have an every member subscription plan.

He briefly discussed a few things *The Lutheran* offers to congregations and their members.

- Each month a study guide focuses on the cover story. Online an expanded version is offered, plus another study guide on a second article in the issue.
- In addition to the substantive cover story, shorter pieces offer topics ranging from theology and faith practice, movie and book reviews to successful congregation programs that can be easily copied.

- Presiding Bishop authors a column every other month discussion our faith, our connections across Christianity and the interconnectedness of our congregations, synods and denomination. Pr. Robert Rimbo of the Metropolitan New York Synod also contributes a regular column.
- There are regular special inserts and promotions such as reprints of “Lutheranism 101” and a ready to frame “95 Theses.”

He invited members of the assembly to visit him in the display area and ask about their new publication *The Little Lutheran* for children 2-6.

Report of the Romania Companion Synod Committee

Pr. Richard Michael, chair of the committee, began his report with prayer. He invited Bishop Dezso Adorjani and his assistant Attila Feher to join him on the dais, he also called on the members of the committee to come forward.

A slide presentation began the report. It provided some background about the region and history of the Transylvania, and featured pictures of visit our synod’s delegation there last year to Sibiu, Bucharest and other towns and villages.

Pr. Gary Mills described how five years ago the ELCA requested that we consider entering into a relationship in eastern Europe. In June of 2006 the first visit to Transylvania to begin the process took place. A year and a half later the first group was organized to visit the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Augsburg Confession in Romania. He described the custom that “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” is a typical greeting of Lutherans to each other following worship. Pr. Mills introduced both Pr. Attila Feher, the counselor (chief of staff) of the Diocese.

Bishop Adorjani was born in 1964 and is a scholar in Luther studies. Serving as a pastor from 1989-1998, in 1998 he was named dean and in 2001 deputy bishop. He was elected bishop in 2004. Bp. Adorjani also serves as chair of inter-confessional bible society and as a member of the council of the Lutheran World Federation.

Bishop Adorjani brought greetings to the assembly. Pr. Feher then gave a brief review of the history of the ELCR.

Following the presentation of our guest from the ELCR, Pr. Michael read the Covenant:

RESOLVED, That the Metropolitan New York Synod adopt by acclamation the following covenant with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Romania :

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We join in this Covenant, Diocese and Synod, to:

- ✂ Provide opportunities for both Church bodies to reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ that will be mutually beneficial. As such, we will jointly work to begin an English-language Lutheran ministry in Cluj and a Lutheran outreach to Hungarian and Romanian-speaking peoples in New York;
- ✂ Work together to develop new models for Diaconal Ministry that will assist the Social Ministry programs for both Church bodies, with special emphasis upon assisting the Romanian Church in developing ways and models of ministry that will build up the Body of Christ in Transylvania and that will be sustainable;
- ✂ Provide opportunities that will enhance and strength the Youth and Family Ministry programs of both Church bodies, with special emphasis upon travel exchanges for young people and their leaders;

- ✘ Provide opportunities to strengthen theological education in both Church bodies, and look for ways in which to have travel and pedagogical exchanges for the clergy of both, especially to the seminary in Cluj. We would hope that this aspect of the Covenant would also include the German-speaking Church in Transylvania and its seminary in Sibiu;
- ✘ Develop Theological Ministeriums and Conferences using long-distance learning and other techniques, as well as be represented at one another's Ministeriums and Synodical Assemblies;
- ✘ Expand our understanding that the Body of Christ has no geographical boundaries through the development and establishment of Congregation to Congregation relationships;
- ✘ Commit ourselves to regular and fervent prayers for one another, and will designate one Sunday per year in which all congregations from both Church bodies will specifically lift one another up and remember our partnership in special ways during the Sunday worship services.

Motion to adopt covenant by acclamation

**APPROVED
SA2008.05.03**

Pr. Mills presented a gift of banners similar to those given to Bishop Buberwa to Bishop Adorjani and Pr. Feher.

Report of the ELCA Representative

Pr. Settlage came before the assembly to bring the report of the ELCA.

He noted that he had been involved in many of the most sensitive issues. He reported that 9 synods are meeting this weekend, 3 electing a new bishop. He spoke briefly about the ELCA Theme: God's Work Our Hands. He recalled Bishop Hanson's appearance in TV documentary *In God's Name*, telling the assembly that this documentary will be available on DVD.

As part of his report, he introduced a video greeting from Presiding Bishop Hanson which was shown to the assembly.

He challenged the members to think about this question: "What do you say when you have the opportunity the invitation to tell the story?" He then highlighted the Book of Faith Initiative saying that it has been brought forward because we spend too much time arguing about the Bible rather than immersing ourselves in the word. He urged us to think of mission as flowing from God's abundance and stressed the importance of Mission Support.

He reported on the new Lutheran Malaria Initiative Campaign, a global effort to address issue malaria and other poverty based diseases across the globe. United Nations Foundation came to the Lutherans and asked if we (the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the Lutheran World Federation) were interested in this endeavor because we are well suited to this challenge.

He concluded by encouraging participation in the 2009 Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel

Pr. Jurik asked leave to read only the "Resolved" portions of the resolutions. He began with Item 6. He asked the members to use the revised copy distributed that morning.

**ITEM 6 A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH AN *AD HOC* COMMISSION TO REVIEW
OUR ELECTION PROCESS FOR BISHOP**

Submitted by the Committee on Reference and Council in response to a resolution forwarded to it by the Synod Council.

Whereas, The rules governing the election of the bishop and the use of the ecclesiastical ballot as defined within the Model Constitution for Synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are not mandated provisions; and

Whereas, Some synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America have adopted different processes when conducting an election for bishop; and

Whereas, Some members of the Metropolitan New York Synod have asked for more deliberative process leading to the nomination and election of the bishop; be it

RESOLVED, That the Metropolitan New York Synod establish an *ad hoc* commission on the use of the ecclesiastical ballot as described in the governing documents of the synod for the election of the bishop of the synod; and that

- This commission shall be chaired by the Secretary of the Synod and consist of five additional persons, three of whom shall be lay persons, chosen by the Synod Council, and none of whom clergy or lay may be members of the Synod Council;
- This commission survey other synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as to their election processes for bishop and present an interim report of their findings to the 2010 Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly;
- This commission lead a synod-wide study process leading to a final report, accompanied by recommended changes, if any, in governing documents to be acted to the 2012 Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly.

RECOMMENDATION: To adopt

Pr. Ahlstrom spoke to the resolution. Noting perennial questions raised about the ecclesiastical ballot this will enable a review apart from any pending election.

Pr. Michael Church offered an amendment.

Motion to amend.

To amend the first bullet

- This commission shall be chaired by the Secretary of the Synod and consist of ~~five additional~~ no more than 10 persons, four of whom shall be lay persons, six clergy chosen by the Synod Council, ~~and none of whom clergy or lay may be members of the Synod Council;~~

Secretary Krauser noted our constitutional requirement of at least 60% lay participation. At the suggestion of the chair, the amendment was corrected to **four clergy / six lay** by **unanimous consent**.

Pr. Paul Block cautioned against making the committee too big.

Pr. Paul Milholland noted that under the language the number could be smaller.

Pr. Albert Triolo made a secondary amendment.

Motion to amend. strike “no more than” 10 persons.

The chair asked the assembly if they agreed to the change.

On the Triolo amendment

Adopted

The Church amendment as amended was then put before the assembly:

On the Church amendment (as amended)

Adopted

- This commission shall be chaired by the Secretary of the Synod and consist of ten additional members, four of whom shall be clergy and six lay, chosen by the Synod Council,

Pr. Robert Harris offered an additional amendment:

Motion to amend

To add “and other church bodies” to the survey in the second bullet

- This commission survey other synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and other church bodies as to their election processes for bishop and present an interim report of their findings to the 2010 Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly;

On the Harris amendment

Adopted

Mr. Richard Soper expressed concern that the number of council members are not specified. He offered an amendment.

Motion to amend

To limit committee to two synod council members (not including the secretary)

On the Soper amendment

Defeated

Resuming debate on the main motion Mr. Dick Case, Pr. Paul Schmiede, and Pr. John McKenzie, spoke against proposal. Pr. Terri Luper said study should always be an option.

Bishop Olson read text as amended and called for the vote on the main motion.

On the motion to adopt Item 6

APPROVED
SA2008.05.04

RESOLVED, That the Metropolitan New York Synod establish an *ad hoc* commission on the use of the ecclesiastical ballot as described in the governing documents of the synod for the election of the bishop of the synod; and that

- **This commission shall be chaired by the Secretary of the Synod and consist of ten additional members, four of whom shall be clergy and six lay, chosen by the Synod Council,**
- **This commission survey other synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and other church bodies as to their election processes for bishop and present an interim report of their findings to the 2010 Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly;**
- **This commission lead a synod-wide study process leading to a final report, accompanied by recommended changes, if any, in governing documents to be acted to the 2012 Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly.**

Greetings from the Atlantic District

The bishop suspended the report of Reference and Counsel to welcome President David Benke of the Atlantic District of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, who had arrived to bring greetings.

Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel [continued]

ITEM 5 A RESOLUTION ON PARSONAGE PROPERTIES

Submitted by the Metropolitan New York Synod Council

Whereas, The real property held by congregations represents a stable and enduring asset for congregations, and

Whereas, Parsonages provide for congregations substantial protection against the increasing costs of housing in sometimes volatile markets and

Whereas, Congregations without parsonages may face significant challenges in providing for the housing needs of rostered ministers, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Metropolitan New York Synod urges congregations to consider the long-term implications of the sale of real property, particularly parsonages; and be it

RESOLVED, That the Metropolitan New York Synod make use of the parsonage properties of disbanded congregations whenever possible for housing to rostered persons within the synod; and be it

RESOLVED, That congregations are encouraged to adopt bylaws requiring consultation with the Synod concerning the sale of properties and that these bylaws also contain one or both of the following provisions in addition to consultation:

- That an affirmative vote of at least 75% of the voting members present and voting at a legally called meeting of the congregation be required for the sale of a parsonage.
- That before the sale of parsonage properties by the congregation it request the Synod Council to review the proposed sale and by majority vote take “no exception” to the sale of the parsonage.

RECOMMENDATION: To adopt

Pr. Krauser explained the genesis of the resolution.

Pr. Paul Nordeen spoke against resolution as it is coercive of congregations.

Pr. Roldano Auguste said that in the transition decisions sometimes move quickly, this might provide opportunity for intervention in a perceived time of crisis.

Pr. Paul Schmiede suggested that we also should give guidance on how to consider adequate compensation for Equity allowance.

Ms. Carla McKenzie offered an amendment:

Motion to Amend To strike third resolve

Pr. Katrina Foster spoke in favor of the original text and said she was against sale of properties in general.

Mr. Mark Hill noted that small congregations can be dominated by a few , a synodical “back-stop’ useful.

Pr. Paul Nordeen, spoke in support of amendment.

On the McKenzie amendment

Defeated

As the time allotted for this section of the report of the committee was approaching Pr. Jurik suggested that the assembly postpone further consideration until the committee’s next report.

The bishop invited the assembly to stand at ease for a moment to stretch.

Introduction of the Assembly Planning Committee

Ms. Litke acknowledged the work of those members of the committee and their roles in the assembly Deacon Bobbi Paulik, Floor Director; Pr. Brathwaite, Registration; Pr. Kipp Zimmermann, AV; Pr. Paul Milholland, Displays; Pr. Frank Nelson, Worship; Mr. Walter Schuffenhauer, Timer; Ms. Margaret Schuffenhauer, Volunteers; and Pat Lawrence, Mary Tennermann and John Litke, Staff Support.

Before resuming business the assembly sang the hymn “Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus.”

Elections Committee First Common Ballot

Mr. Steipp introduced the first common ballot. Instructions were given on obtaining the ballot and the deadline for turning it in.

SYNOD COUNCIL

Cycle A Term: 4 years

Clergy

Clergy

Clergy

Clergy

Lay Female

Lay Female

Lay Female

Lay Male

Lay Male

Lay Male

MCL – Female

Youth 2 years

Nominee

Rosalind. Brathwaite

Brenda Jack

Robert Harris

Jack Horner

Susan Carentz

Janet Siry

Grace Yukich

Donald Thorson

Stuart Meade

William Anderson

Barbara Johnson

Jonathan Westerlund

Nominee

Michael Church

Scott Kershner

Albert Ahlstrom

Eric Swensson

Barbara Holm

Sandra Reifel

Kimberly Suttell

Brian Reardon

Robert Rainis

Scott Campbell

Beverly Small

OFFICERS

Treasurer Term 4 years

Robert Buescher

COMMITTEES -- 6 yrs.

Consultation - Clergy Female

Nominee

Kathleen Koran

Nominee

Perucy Butiku

Consultation - Clergy Male

James Thomas

Consultation - Lay Female

Mary Heller

Consultation - Lay Male

Ralph Barbario

Arthur Isakson

Gregory Pietrzak

Discipline - Clergy Male

Robert Schoepflin

Discipline - Clergy Male

Edward Barnett

Discipline - Clergy Female

Marva Jenkins

Brooke. Swertfager

Discipline - Clergy Male

Raymond Ormand

Discipline - Lay Female

Dorothy Scholz-Beyer

Discipline - Lay Male

Robert Busch

MISSION DEVELOPMENT BOARD.

Clergy 4 years

Craig Miller

Albert Triolo

CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBERS

Clergy - Female Vote for 2 or less	Cathy Rosenholtz Annemarie Noto	Katrina Foster Ann Tiemeyer
Clergy - Male Vote for 2 or less	Paul Schmiede Eric Swensson Richard Hill Paul Milholland David Parsons	Michael Church Martin Hauser William Baum James Krauser Craig Miller
Clergy - Multicultural	Marva Jenkins	Mary Chang
Lay Female Vote for 4 or less	Gale Capone Karen Reardon Louise Litke Joanne Westerlund Meg Fielding	Christine Connell Dorothy Scholz-Beyer Sharon Wilson Connie Duever Lynne Hansen
Multicultural Lay Female	Allison Guttu	Beverly Small
Lay Male Vote for 5 or less	Dave Ehlers Jeremy Posadas John Prosen Manuel Melendez Paul Lumpkin	Homer Alexander Robert Rainis Earl Marsan Richard Soper Robert Busch

Greetings from the New Jersey Synod

Following the distribution of the ballots the assembly was greeted by Bishop Roy Riley from the New Jersey Synod.

Christian Ethics Dialog

Pr. William Baum, convener of the Dialog steering committee gave a summary of its work. A series of sessions of this Dialog was conducted in 2007 in response to a 2006 assembly resolution. Pr. Baum observed that the dialog uncovered “two significant surprises.” He noted that “[f]irst, it has not always been apparent to us that some of the words we use reflexively to talk about the Bible may mean different things to different people.” He said that this was particularly true of how we use the key terms of “Gospel” and “Law.” The second surprise he identified was in the different perceptions of the relative importance or hierarchical ranking of the various documents of the Lutheran Confessions. In both of these areas our ways of speaking he said were part of our “theological DNA...painstakingly fixed deep down inside of us through the faithful labor of beloved teachers, mentors and pastors, who clearly believed that nothing was of greater importance than getting these things right.”

He assured the assembly that they was still plenty to dialogue about, and that under our newly elected bishop we will begin planning for a second phase of this dialog.

Presentation of Stewardship Award

Pr. Wollenburg announced the stewardship award of \$500 to Our Savior’s Atonement and Pr. Barrie Lawless and Mr. Mark Hill.

Mr. Hill described how when he first came to the congregation it was under synod administration and the worshiping congregation consisted of “18 little old ladies.” The building was sold to the

synod for \$10. Pr. Barbara Lundblad was called and over 10 years the congregation built back up and the congregation also benefited from the stewardship leadership of the financial secretary, a retired ELCA pastor in the congregation, Pr. David Hurty.

Pr. Lawless said that the congregation's commitment to stewardship was exemplified when the present treasurer advised the congregation that their income was up but the tithing hadn't kept pace, they had to give more away. Pr. Lawless added, that by giving to the larger church you will never be short of money. In addition to their support for the synod's mission, they have been supporting two missionaries in Buenos Aries, a hospital in Tanzania (along with two members) and other project..

Pr. Wollenburg encouraged them to adopt the model of "Consecration Sundays" and since doing so this congregation of 66 has grown (doubled) its giving from \$56,000 to \$116,000. And Pr. Lawless assured the assembly, they continue to tithe that money.

In closing, Pr. Wollenburg reminded the assembly that stewardship is really about discipleship about living our faith in word and deed.

Candidacy Committee Report

Pr. Jeffrey Kolbo (Trinity, Rocky Point) Coordinator of the MNYS Candidacy Committee gave a report on those who were approved for ordination in the calendar year 2007 as those who were approved for entrance into candidacy.

Those approved for ordination were:

Christopher Wogaman, a member of Our Savior's Atonement, Manhattan graduated from Yale Divinity School and completed his Lutheran year at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. He is assigned to the Metropolitan New York Synod for placement.

Jonathan Wills, a member of St. John's Mamaroneck attended the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. He is assigned to the New Jersey Synod.

Judith Delgado, of Trinity, Brooklyn was approved after having met the requirements for Theological Education for Emerging Ministries. She was called to St. Peter's in the Bronx.

Franklyn Dassin, from Our Savior's, Staten Island is a graduate of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. He works as a chaplain at Norristown State Hospital in Norristown, Pennsylvania. He is awaiting a call as an ELCA mission developer.

Paul Benjamin comes from St. Paul's in West Camp. He is a member of the 2008 class of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. He is assigned to the Southeast Michigan Synod.

John Hickey is assigned to the Indiana Kentucky Synod. He comes from Christ in East Northport and is a member of the Trinity Lutheran Seminary's 2008 class.

Frederick Johnsen also graduates from the seminary at Gettysburg this year. He is a member of Trinity, Kingston and is assigned to the MNYS. He hopes for a call as military chaplain.

The committee also certified *Joel Kuznik* and *Arthur Pettersen* for reinstatement to the roster, and approved the reception of *Mark McIntyre* onto the roster of the ELCA from the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod.

The following persons were approved for entrance to candidacy in 2007:

Megan Olsen of Ascension, Deer Park is attending Luther Seminary as an AIM candidate.

Heidi Lembke, Advent, Manhattan; *George Dietrich*, Christ, Airmont; *Sarah Clausen*, Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Manhasset; and *Timothy Johansen*, St. Andrew's, West Hempstead are studying at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia.

Norma Malfatti, of Third, Rhinebeck attends the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg.

David Drysdale, of St. Matthew's, White Plains studies at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary.

Three students are at non-Lutheran seminaries:

Rebecca Pollicino from Holy Trinity, Rockville Center attends General Seminary in New York.

Georgiana Johnson of Trinity, Staten Island attends the New York Theological Seminary.

Melissa Lemons of Trinity (100th St.), Manhattan is at Union Seminary.

In all, our candidacy committee is caring for approximately 60 individuals in some phase of candidacy.

Elections Report on Second Ballot for Bishop

Pr. Settlege reported that there were 449 votes cast, with no invalid ballots. Under the rules 337 were needed to elect. There was no election.

Robert Wollenburg	164	Craig A. Miller	13	Garry Squire	4
Gary Mills	49	Richard Hill	12	Margaret Payne	4
Jeffrey Kolbo	33	Paul Milholland	12	Robert Schaefer	3
Robert Rimbo	31	James Echols	8	Frank Senn	3
William Baum	27	James Krauser	7	William Damrow	2
Dianne Loufmann	21	Gregory Fryer	7	Jack Horner	2
Ann Tiemeyer	17	Rodney Eberhardt	6	Eric Mathsen	1
Cherlyne Beck	17	Sherman Hicks	6		

Pr. Settlege explained that according to the procedures the top seven candidates plus ties will appear on the next ballot. There being a tie for the seven position means eight names will appear. Pr. Settlege explained however that Pr. Cherlyne Beck (not present) was not able to receive his message of nomination in time to officially withdraw, but asked him to convey that it was her wish to withdraw and that she asks the members of assembly not to vote for her on the next ballot.

The closing prayer was by Chaplain Dennis O'Rourke. Recess was at 12:20pm.

Plenary Session IV

The afternoon plenary session of Friday, May 16, 2008 was called to order at 1:33 p.m. with prayer by Chaplain Hinlicky.

Report Reference and Counsel Committee

Resuming the discussion of Item 5, Pr. Jurik clarified a statement he had earlier made concerning the meaning of the last bulleted provision.

ITEM 5 A RESOLUTION ON PARSONAGE PROPERTIES

Submitted by the Metropolitan New York Synod Council

Whereas, The real property held by congregations represents a stable and enduring asset for congregations, and

Whereas, Parsonages provide for congregations substantial protection against the increasing costs of housing in sometimes volatile markets and

Whereas, Congregations without parsonages may face significant challenges in providing for the housing needs of rostered ministers, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Metropolitan New York Synod urges congregations to consider the long-term implications of the sale of real property, particularly parsonages; and be it

RESOLVED, That the Metropolitan New York Synod make use of the parsonage properties of disbanded congregations whenever possible for housing to rostered persons within the synod; and be it

RESOLVED, That congregations are encouraged to adopt bylaws requiring consultation with the Synod concerning the sale of properties and that these bylaws also contain one or both of the following provisions in addition to consultation:

- That an affirmative vote of at least 75% of the voting members present and voting at a legally called meeting of the congregation be required for the sale of a parsonage.
- That before the sale of parsonage properties by the congregation it request the Synod Council to review the proposed sale and by majority vote take “no exception” to the sale of the parsonage.

Pr. Amandus Derr, previously in the queue to speak was recognized. He made a motion to refer this resolution to the synod council.

Motion to refer.

Pr. Derr reminded the assembly that parishes should depend upon each other. The resolution does not go far enough, we should address all property held by the church. He called for a comprehensive plan, in dealing with this our second greatest resource.

Pr. Rodney Eberhardt spoke in favor of referral, bishop-elect should have input in process.

Pr. Anthony Bateza against referral as a “bigger picture” is a poor reason to defer action now.

On the motion to refer

Failed

Pr. John McKenzie, in support of resolution, concern: that it is represented that it is the discretion of the pastor whether a parsonage or housing allowance is provided.

Mr. John Malone proposed an amendment.

Motion to Amend: one word change first bullet to third resolve change 75% to 2/3.

- That an affirmative vote of at least ~~75%~~ 2/3 of the voting members present and voting at a legally called meeting of the congregation be required for the sale of a parsonage.

On the Malone amendment

Adopted

Pr. Bill Munz rose to amend the resolution adding an additional resolve, but the chair ruled it not germane to the motion.

Dr. Steven O'Rourke supported the resolution, pointing out that the matter is still a congregation choice.

Pr. John Havrilla expressed concern about information about state supreme court requirements.

Pr. Jonathan Hopkins moved the **previous question**.

Hearing no objection to the motion, Bp. Olson put the resolution to a vote.

On the amended resolution

Approved
SA2008.05.05

***RESOLVED*, That the Metropolitan New York Synod urges congregations to consider the long-term implications of the sale of real property, particularly parsonages; and be it**

***RESOLVED*, That the Metropolitan New York Synod make use of the parsonage properties of disbanded congregations whenever possible for housing to rostered persons within the synod; and be it**

***RESOLVED*, That congregations are encouraged to adopt bylaws requiring consultation with the Synod concerning the sale of properties and that these bylaws also contain one or both of the following provisions in addition to consultation:**

- **That an affirmative vote of at least 2/3 of the voting members present and voting at a legally called meeting of the congregation be required for the sale of a parsonage.**
- **That before the sale of parsonage properties by the congregation it request the Synod Council to review the proposed sale and by majority vote take “no exception” to the sale of the parsonage.**

Pr. Scott Kershner, co-chair of the committee, presented Item 4.

**ITEM 4 A RESOLUTION ON FORMING A STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS
IMPLEMENTING TOTAL MINISTRY THROUGHOUT THE
METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD**

Submitted by the Commission for Evangelical Outreach

Whereas, the 2003 Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly publicly reaffirmed its commitment to “carrying out the Great Commission of our Lord in every missionary outpost of this synod ,” and established a Commission for Evangelical Outreach to lead the synod in carrying out that commitment, and

Whereas, the 2003 Synod Assembly directed the Commission to create “a Metropolitan New York Synod strategy for reclaiming the Great Commission,” and

Whereas, Many congregations are suffering because the synod still lacks a comprehensive strategic plan for mission that engages all the resources of our synod in assisting congregations in carrying out their ministries on a local level, and

Whereas, The Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly is electing a new bishop in 2008 who will provide leadership in fulfilling that commitment, and

Whereas, The Commission for Evangelical Outreach now has the experience and the ability to assist the bishop and the synod leadership in developing a comprehensive strategic planning process for the synod's mission, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this Synod Assembly

1. Affirm its commitment to the following core principles to be used in forming a strategic plan that addresses the needs of local ministries:
 - God is actively engaged in the mission of reconciling the world to God's Self.
 - ~~God established the church to carry out this mission (not vice versa), and God empowers and authorizes the priesthood of all believers to carry out ministry in God's name.~~
 - God provides the church with the gifts means needed to fulfill God's mission—the Gospel, church leaders, material resources, ~~and spiritual gifts to be used by the Holy Spirit~~ and empowers God's people with spiritual gifts.
 - God's mission is carried out locally, through individual disciples, through local congregations, ~~and~~ conferences, and other ministries, and through the synod, the churchwide expression, and ecumenical partners who are willing to work together collaboratively in the power of God's Spirit.
2. Reaffirm its commitment to being a Great Commission Synod by urging our ~~new~~ bishop, the Synod Council, and synod staff to begin drawing together the diverse resources of our synod to develop a strategic plan for the future of our synod as soon as feasible and to report on the progress of this planning process to the Synod Council and to succeeding Synod Assemblies.
3. ~~Direct the bishop to report regularly on the progress of this planning process to the Synod Council and to succeeding Synod Assemblies.~~
4. ~~Direct the synod Finance Committee to include the work of the Commission for Evangelical Outreach in the annual budget for the synod.~~

RECOMMENDATION: To adopt as amended

Pr. Hill chair offered an amendment to insert a new second bullet point

Motion to amend

- God established the Church to carry out this mission and authorizes the priesthood of all believers to carry it out.

On the Hill amendment

Adopted

Pr. Hill said we lack a strategic plan and have to deal with congregations on one by one process. This resolution would assist the Commission and the Mission Planning Team.

Pr. Paul Block made a motion.

Motion to refer:

To refer the resolution to the synod council

Pr. Block said he thought there is a lot of confusion about strategy, but this motion may not clarify it.

Pr. Remo Madsen said that we need a strategic plan, this is no time to defer.

Pr. Richard Hill also spoke against referral.

Ms. Antje Katcher asked if there is anything to prevent the CEO from developing and presenting a plan to the assembly.

Pr. Block said that he believed the commission has the mandate to develop a plan in coordination with the bishop, council and staff.

On the motion to refer:

Failed

On the main motion, John Heinrich also affirmed that strategic plan is needed.

Pr. Block offered another amendment:

To Amend

Strike “the synod council and synod staff” in point # 2.

2. Reaffirm its commitment to being a Great Commission Synod by urging our ~~new bishop, the Synod Council, and synod staff~~ to (the remainder unchanged)

Pr. Robert Gahagen spoke against the amendment, saying staff should be included in planning.

Ms. Regina Trombitas said that she was the resolution wasn’t clear about who is supposed to do what.

Pr. Vita spoke in favor of the Block amendment.

Pr. Derr and Pr. Zimmermann opposed the amendment.

Pr. Laurence McFarland favors amendment because of the bishop’s role as CEO of the synod.

Pr. Katrina Foster moved the **previous question** on all pending matters.

On previous question (2/3 required):

Approved

On the Block Amendment

Failed

On the motion to adopt Item 4 (as amended)

**ADOPTED
SA2008.05.06**

RESOLVED, That this Synod Assembly

- 1. Affirm its commitment to the following core principles to be used in forming a strategic plan that addresses the needs of local ministries:**

- God is actively engaged in the mission of reconciling the world to God’s Self.**
- God established the Church to carry out this mission and authorizes the priesthood of all believers to carry it out.**

- **God provides the church with the means to fulfill God’s mission—the Gospel, church leaders, material resources, and empowers God’s people with spiritual gifts.**
 - **God’s mission is carried out locally, through individual disciples, through local congregations, conferences, and other ministries, and through the synod, the churchwide expression, and ecumenical partners who are willing to work together collaboratively in the power of God’s Spirit.**
- 2. Reaffirm its commitment to being a Great Commission Synod by urging our bishop, the Synod Council, and synod staff to begin drawing together the diverse resources of our synod to develop a strategic plan for the future of our synod as soon as feasible and to report on the progress of this planning process to the Synod Council and to succeeding Synod Assemblies.**

Presentation by Nominees for Bishop

Pr. Settlage asked the seven nominees to come to the stage. Lots were drawn to determine the order of their speaking. Each person was allowed up to 5 minutes.

He announced that the third ballot will be held after the Bishop’s Bible Study as there was a delay in printing the biography sheets.

The first speaker was William Baum.

The second speaker was Jeffrey Kolbo.

The third speaker was Ann Tiemeyer.

The fourth speaker was Robert Rimbo.

The fifth speaker was Robert Wollenburg.

The sixth speaker was Dianne Loufman.

The seventh speaker was Gary Mills.

Greetings: Region 7 Coordinator; SE Pennsylvania Synod

Following the presentations the assembly received greetings from Pr. Peggy Wuertele our Region 7 Coordinator and from Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Bishop Claire Burkat who was the preacher for the evening Festival Eucharist

The bishop asked **unanimous consent** of the assembly to alter the agenda and delay the next ballot for bishop to provide for time to read the biographical statements of the nominees. No objection was heard.

Introducing Pastors New to Synod

Pr. Mills read the names of these pastors new to the synod in the past year who were asked to stand and be acknowledged.

Pr. Dianne Loufman, Synod Staff

Pr. Roldano Auguste, King of Kings New Windsor

Pr. Andy Feters, Grace Chinese, Elmhurst

Pr. Rebecca Feters, St John’s, Lynbrook

Pr. Jennifer Guelmami, Trinity, Staten Island

Pr. Stephanie Pope, St Stephen’s, Hickville

Pr. Nicole Schwalbe, Lutheran Ministry in Higher Education, Queens

Pr. Jared Stahler St. Peter’s, Manhattan

Pr. Marsh Drege, Seafarers and International House, Manhattan.

All were greeted with the applause of the assembly.

Introducing Deacons New to Synod

Pr. Mills called upon Deacon Meg Fielding to introduce two of our new deacons who were present, a third was on youth retreat at camp Koinonia.

Deacon Ingrid Compton, St. Stephen's Brooklyn
Deacon Barbara Faraca, Cross of Christ, Babylon.

Each described some aspects of their ministries.

Deacon Fielding gave a word of encouragement for persons to consider taking part in *diakonia* education.

Anniversary Report

Pr. Mills acknowledged the anniversaries of the synod's rostered leaders and congregations:

Rostered Leaders

Five Years

The Rev. Rosalind Brathwaite
The Rev. Rose Ann Foege
The Rev. Robert Harris
The Rev. Jonathan Hopkins
The Rev. Marva Jenkins
The Rev. Carol Kessler
The Rev. Annemarie Noto
The Rev. Albert Triolo

Ten Years

The Rev. Edward Barnett
The Rev. Laurie Cline
The Rev. Tarja Koskela
The Rev. Sonia Tillberg Maclary
The Rev. Norman White
Ms. Jacquelyn Mize Baker, AiM
Deacon Jo Elsener
Deacon Carol Fehleisen
Deacon Charles Germain
Deacon Barbara Goetz
Deacon Lynne Hansen
Deacon Daphne Helsop
Deacon Klaus Jonietz
Deacon Dorothy Kafalas
Deacon Donna Lange
Deacon Dennis Legg
Deacon Paul Lumpkin
Deacon Robert Michaelis
Deacon Thomas Robson

Fifteen Years

The Rev. J. Elise Brown

The Rev. William Clark, Jr.
The Rev. Rhonda Hoehn
The Rev. Perry Kirschbaum
The Rev. Kathleen Koran
The Rev. Ursula Scheike
The Rev. Eric Swensson

Twenty Years

The Rev. Mark Chen
The Rev. Estelle Coles-Lloyd
The Rev. John Graepel
The Rev. Virginia Kaada
The Rev. Brooke Swertfager
Ms. Mary-Elaine Leake, AiM

Twenty-Five Years

The Rev. Jeffrey Laustsen
The Rev. Heidi Neumark
The Rev. Kenneth Simurro
The Rev. Garry Squire
The Rev. Harriet Wieber
Ms. Virginia Puella, AiM
Ms. Carol Tabatt, AiM

Thirty Years

The Rev. Paul Hagen
The Rev. Martin Hauser
The Rev. Ronald Klose
The Rev. Clint Padgitt
The Rev. Daniel Ward
The Rev. Terrence Weber

Thirty-Five Years

The Rev. William Beljean
The Rev. Stephen Bouman

The Rev. William Eggers
The Rev. George Handzo
The Rev. John Havrilla
The Rev. Richard Hill
The Rev. Kum Ho Lai
The Rev. Randall Rottman
The Rev. Paul Schmiege
The Rev. Edward Schreiber

Forty Years

The Rev. George Brunjes
The Rev. Gerard Gaeta
The Rev. Douglas Haak
The Rev. Larry Johnson
The Rev. Robert Sonnenberg
The Rev. George Summers

Forty-Five Years

The Rev. Gary Santimire
The Rev. Paul Walley
Ms. Marilyn Benner, AiM

Fifty Years

The Rev. James Corgee
The Rev. Romaine Gardner
The Rev. John Heller
The Rev. John Huneke
The Rev. Edgar Oestreich
The Rev. Ernst Pflug
The Rev. E. Richard Urdahl
The Rev. Lee Wesley

Fifty-Five Years

The Rev. Maury Drum
The Rev. Harald Kuehne

<u>Sixty Years</u> The Rev. Helmut Dietrich The Rev. Walter Kortrey	Congregations <u>50 Years</u> Church of the Abiding Presence, Bronx	Holy Trinity, Hollis St. Luke's, Woodhaven St. Peter's, Huntington Station Zion (4 th Ave.), Brooklyn
<u>Sixty-Five Years</u> The Rev. Henry Ressimeyer	<u>100 Years</u> Epiphany (Lincoln Place), Brooklyn	<u>150 Years</u> United, Mt. Vernon
<u>Seventy Years</u> The Rev. David Gaise		

Pr. John Heller and Pr. John Huneke were present and gave brief greetings to the assembly and thanks to God for their years of service.

Following these recognitions the assembly recognized Ms. Louise Litke who has completed 12 years as Chair of the Assembly Planning Committee.

The assembly rose to sing “I Love to Tell the Story.”

Presentation: Mission Interpreters

Sarah Gioe introduced the assembly to some of the synods mission interpreter network, about 1/3 were present.

The goal is to have a mission interpreter in every parish to help our people understand where their offerings go, to help them be more connected to the synod and the assembly and to thank the members of the synod for their generosity and support.

They also serve to inform us about the activities of our sisters and brothers throughout the synod such as Our Savior’s ministry to three nursing homes and assisted living center in Patchogue; St. John’s adult day care center in Poughkeepsie; Emanuel’s (Pleasantville) support for the Fund for Leaders in Mission; Gloria Dei’s (Huntington Station) program for mothers with infants and children; Holy Trinity’s (Brooklyn) knitters for sick and shut-ins; Christ/Christo’s (Freeport) health fair; members of Trinity, Rocky Point serving at St. Mary’s in Jamaica; the Latino ministry at St. Luke’s in Woodhaven, the food pantry at St. Paul’s in Narrowsburg, the two trips the people at Dobbs Ferry made with another congregation to give assistance in Mississippi; the Lutheran Counseling Center satellite at New Hope in Jamaica; St. John’s (Lynbook) harvest festival scholarship to Pinecrest; St John’s Lindenhurst’s senior ministry; and Ascension’s work with domestic violence awareness in Deer Park just to name some.

Elections – Third Ballot for Bishop

The bishop called those in the halls to come in. Pr. Brathwaite was asked to update the registration report. She reported that 546 voting members had registered as of 4:30 p.m. on Friday.

Clergy	168	
Lay	268	
AiM	13	Total Voting Members 448

On the motion to adopt the report **Adopted**

Pr. Settlege described the third ballot for the assembly. He noted that a 2/3 majority would be required for election. The nominees with the three highest totals would proceed to the next vote. A question and answer period would be held before the next ballot (if needed).

Pr. Betsy Diver asked about the propriety of taking a ballot earlier than the previously announced time.

The chair noted the point was well taken. And conducted the Bible Study postponed from earlier in the agenda.

Bishop's Bible Study

Bishop David Olson led a consideration of the following texts:

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.... All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each....Cretans and Arabs — in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." Acts 2:1-2,4,6,11

All who believed were together and had all things in common; 45they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, 47praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. Acts 2:44-47

...[B]ut store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. Matthew 6:20

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Matthew 13:44

What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 2 Corinthians 6:16.

He then invited the members to form small groups for a time to consider the following questions:

4. Have you experienced mighty works of God in your life, in your congregation, or your world?
5. Work, our vacation, what we "do for a living" – as we say, must be related to works – mighty works or good works. How do you experience God's deeds for power in your daily work?
6. What is the greatest "asset" you would retain and what would you give away if your congregation closed or merged?
7. How might we spend the assets (treasures in a city field or neighborhood) wisely and according to Christ's great commission and greatest commandments?

Bp. Olson invited members to share some of their responses.

Pr. James Thomas, speaking of assets, urged the synod to take fonts and other architectural elements from closed churches to be used in new ones.

Pr. David Parsons suggest that the greatest asset for us to retain is the people.

Pr. Albert Triolo echoed that suggestion in that our relationships with our people are our greatest asset. "Loving relationships are essential," he said. "If congregations close and none of their [members] relationships continued: no wonder!"

Pr. Bob Splittgerber urged us not take assets out of community but give them over to someone who can use them.

The Bible study concluded with the hymn "Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life."

Elections – Third Ballot for Bishop

The previously announced time having arrived Pr. Settlage was called upon to lead the third ballot for bishop.

The candidate's names appeared on the ballot in the following order (by lot):

Cherlyne Beck
Dianne Loufman
Robert Rimbo
Jeffery Kolbo
William Baum
Ann Tiemeyer
Robert Wollenburg
Gary Mills

After all ballots had been collected Pr. Settlage declared the voting closed.

He reminded the assembly that results would be announced at 8:45 a.m. on Saturday morning.

If there is no election a question and answer period with the three remaining candidates would take place prior to the fourth ballot.

Returning to the chair Bp. Olson reminded the assembly that the common ballot had to be turned in at the close of the session.

Prayer by Chaplain Hinlicky concluded the session following the announcements. The assembly recessed at 5:28 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2008
Plenary Session V

The morning session was called to order at 8:40 a.m. by Interim Bishop David Olson, following the order of Morning Prayer.

The chair reviewed a few minor adjustments to the agenda.

Report of the Third Ballot for Bishop.

Pr. Settlage reported the results of the third ballot. The required threshold for election was 66% or 339 of the 509 votes cast. There was no election. The results were as follows:

Robert Wollenburg	170	Dianne Loufman	51
Robert Rimbo	79	William Baum	50
Gary Mills	73	Ann Tiemeyer	22
Jeffrey Kolbo	64	Cherlyne Beck	0

Pr. Settlage announced that there was no election and that the names of Robert Wollenburg, Robert Rimbo and Gary Mills would appear on the subsequent ballot.

Before the next ballot a period of question and answer with the remaining nominees will take place.

Report of the First Common Ballot

Mr. Steipp reported the results of the First Common Ballot.

SYNOD COUNCIL

Cycle A Term: 4 years

Clergy	Rosalind. Brathwaite	259	Michael Church	189
Clergy	Brenda Jack	154	Scott Kershner	269
Clergy	Robert Harris	193	Albert Ahlstrom	220
Clergy	Jack Horner	283	Eric Swensson	141
Lay Female	Susan Carentz	139	Barbara Holm	218
Lay Female	Janet Siry	243	Sandra Reifel	123
Lay Female	Grace Yukich	184	Kimberly Suttell	169
Lay Male	Donald Thorson	141	Brian Reardon	213
Lay Male	Stuart Meade	167	Robert Rainis	186
Lay Male	William Anderson	247	Scott Campbell	110
MCL – Female	Barbara Johnson	208	Beverly Small	166
Youth 2 years	Jonathan Westerlund	384		

OFFICERS

Treasurer Term 4 years Robert Buescher 406

COMMITTEES -- 6 yrs.

Consultation - Clergy Female	Kathleen Koran	254	Perucy Butiku	157
Consultation - Clergy Male	James Thomas	386		
Consultation - Lay Female	Mary Heller	388		
Consultation - Lay Male	Ralph Bardario	140	Arthur Isakson	113
	Gregory Pietrzak	87		
Discipline - Clergy Male	Robert Schoepflin	358		
Discipline - Clergy Male	Edward Barnett	355		
Discipline - Clergy Female	Marva Jenkins	222	Brooke. Swertfager	190
Discipline - Clergy Male	Raymond Ormand	339		

Discipline - Lay Female	Dorothy Scholz-Beyer	350		
Discipline - Lay Male	Robert Busch	345		
MISSION DEVELOPMENT BOARD.				
Clergy 4 years	Craig Miller	283	Albert Triolo	138
CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBERS				
Clergy - Female	Cathy Rosenholtz	190	Katrina Foster	231
	Annemarie Noto	149	Ann Tiemeyer	231
Clergy - Male	Paul Schmiede	89	Michael Church	88
	Eric Swensson	46	Martin Hauser	27
	Richard Hill	71	William Baum	154
	Paul Milholland	110	James Krauser	71
	David Parsons	58	Craig Miller	101
Clergy - Multicultural	Marva Jenkins	224	Mary Chang	206
Lay Female	Gale Capone	86	Christine Connell	131
	Karen Reardon	88	Dorothy Scholz-Beyer	114
	Louise Litke	131	Sharon Wilson	101
	Joanne Westerlund	96	Connie Duever	212
	Meg Fielding	157	Lynne Hansen	112
Multicultural Lay Female	Allison Guttu	252	Beverly Small	150
Lay Male	Dave Ehlers	160	Homer Alexander	128
	Jeremy Posadas	170	Robert Rainis	120
	John Prosen	133	Earl Marsan	126
	Manuel Melendez	140	Richard Soper	99
	Paul Lumpkin	191	Robert Busch	165

Upon the report Bishop Olson declared the following persons elected:

Synod Council	Rosalind Brathwaite	Scott Kershner
	Albert Ahlstrom	Jack Horner
	Barbara Holm	Janet Siry
	Grace Yukich	Brian Reardon
	Robert Rainis	Barbara Johnson
	Jonathan Westerlund	
Consultation	Kathleen Koran	James Thomas
	Mary Heller	
Discipline	Robert Schoepflin	Edward Barnett
	Marva Jenkins	Raymond Ormond
	Dorothy Scholz-Bayer	Robert Busch
Mission Development Bd.	Craig Miller	
Churchwide Assembly	Marva Jenkins	Louise Litke
	Allison Guttu	
On the adoption of the Election Report		SA2008.05.07

Question and Answers with the Nominees for Bishop

The top three candidates for bishop were each asked to respond to the following questions submitted by members of the synod in advance of the assembly.

1. The recent synod ministry review reported a sense of disconnection between geographic areas regions, pastors and rostered leaders and between congregations and the synod office, do you believe this is so and if it is so, how would you do to address the disconnect?
2. Presiding Bishop Hanson refers to the “elevator speech” meaning if someone asked you about your faith, how would you respond in 90 seconds?
3. List the 5 priorities you believe the next bishop should address. How do you determine how much of your time and synod staff time is given to each?
4. What is the greatest challenge facing the ELCA in the next 5 years?
5. The 2009 ELCA assembly will address the rostering of clergy in same-sex relationships, if the assembly decides to deny or approve the rostering of pastors in same-sex committed relationships, how will you deal with this issue on the territory of the Metropolitan New York Synod?
6. What approaches would you take as bishop to address the decline in membership in many congregations of the synod, and what would you do to provide these congregations with a sense of mission and purpose?
7. Comment on your abilities as a leader, including the importance of stewardship and administration and the relative importance you would place on these skills in your role as synodical bishop.

The assembly sang “I Love to Tell the Story,” then Pr. Settlege asked a final question.

8. Share with the assembly your own experience of dwelling in the Word and as a part of that how it has shaped your own faith and theology.

Pr. Settlege thanked the nominees for their eloquence and the witness to their faith.

Budget for Fiscal Year 2009

Mr. Buescher moved the budget be adopted as presented. The bishop said that the motion was on the floor for discussion

Pr. Paul Block asked how much spent on rent for synod office?

Answer: About \$200,000.

One member asked about the 10 year plan. How many more years to sell properties to balance budget?

Answer: The plan calls for the transfers from sales to be limited and most of those proceeds to go to new missions and projects and only a limited amount to operating expenses.

Mr. Jim Hillis noted that there have been 19 new starts but report doesn’t mention them, invited members to ask for the list they include a Russian ministry in Bayside, several Latino ministries, and a Taiwanese ministry.

Pr. Rose Ann Vita asked if when properties are sold, does this money go into endowment and is the money that is later dispersed from the interest?

Answer: When we support mission and current with money from the sale of properties, it is expended.

Ms. Joy Grady asked about the increase in bishop's office expenditures.

Answer: It was prepared against an unknown variable, that of the election of a new bishop pending

On the motion to adopt the F.Y. 2009 Budget

**APPROVED
SA2008.05.08**

**Metropolitan New York Synod
Draft 2009 Budget
ASSEMBLY MAY 15-17, 2008
(Expanded)**

REVENUE	2008 Budget Revision C	2009 Budget Proposed	2009 Notes
Contributions from Congregations			
Undesignated Mission Support	1,400,000	1,400,000	
Designated ELCA Projects	70,000	70,000	Paid Out as Directed
Designated MNYS Projects	70,000	70,000	Paid Out as Directed
Total Contributions from Congregations	1,540,000	1,540,000	
Grants & Other Contributions			
ELCA - Division for Outreach (EOCM)	107,442	110,000	
ELCA - Foundation	40,000	40,000	
ELCA - Div for Congregational Ministries	25,745	25,000	
Other grants & contributions	90,000	90,000	
Immanuel Grant for Part Time Achivist GL	4,800	4,800	
Sutter Memorial	1,000	1,000	
Ascension - Deer Park re: Pr. Plaza	16,046		
General Operating-IND	200,000	250,000	Applied as Designated
LDRNY - Immigrant Relief	36,667	0	
LDRNY - Vacancy, Pastoral Care, Crisis, Etc.	55,000	0	
Total Grants & Other Contributions	576,700	520,800	

Transfers from Other Funds

Bishops Retreat Fund (Fund #419)	5,000	5,000	
Students Retreat Fund (Fund#420)	3,000	3,000	
TZ Pilgrimage (Fund #430)	0	10,000	
Worship Day (Fund #433)	1,000	1,000	
Lutheran Theological Center (Fund #437)	500	500	
Group Term Life Insurance (New Fund # 446)	6,500	6,500	
Background Chks - Sem.Candidates (Fund #447)	5,000	5,000	
General Budget Support, MNYSF (Separate from Sales)	365,000	300,000	
Net Proceeds from Sales - Support of Operations	547,000	650,000	
Mission Re-Investment Funds			
Partnership Grants	205,910	212,000	
Special Non-Recurring Grants-MRF			
New Starts - Budget Estimate Only	630,000	649,000	10 Yr Plan New Starts
Urban Empowerment Fund			
General Support - Urban Emp Fnd Grts (Proj #308)	50,000	50,000	
Other Designated or Temporarily Restricted Funds			
Trexler (Inc from Fund #502; #301))	6,000	6,000	
Lutheran Identity/Ecumenical Initiative (Fund #320)	500	0	
Youth Ministry Fund (Fund #204)	10,000	10,000	
Christ Yonkers Construction Reserve (#270)	39,648	39,648	
New Start - Yonkers - Budget Estimate Only	70,000	72,000	10 Yr Plan New Starts
Bishop Graefe Income Fund Transfer (#307)	3,000	3,000	

Total Transfers from Other Funds	1,948,058	1,991,648
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Other Income

Investment Income	350,815	370,000
Rental Income - Lutheran Schools Assoc	11,446	12,018
Rental Income - Lutheran Counseling Services Assembly (Fund #407)	2,215	2,215
	110,000	110,000

Total Other Income	474,476	494,233
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Total Revenue	4,539,234	4,546,681
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EXPENSES

SYNOD OUTREACH (Programs Beyond Synod)

	47% of MS=v	47.5% of MS=v	
I. Synod Outreach - ELCA and Other Distribution			Portion to ELCA
ELCA Mission Support	658,000	665,000	
Designated ELCA Projects	70,000	70,000	Matches Receipts
Designated MNYS Projects	70,000	70,000	Matches Receipts
Region 7 Coordinating Council	7,808	8,198	
ELCA Shared Risk Assessment	3,500	3,500	
General Operating-IND	200,000	250,000	Matches Receipts
Total Synod Outreach - ELCA and Other Distr	1,009,308	1,066,698	

II. Synod Outreach - All Other Programs

Salaries ("mix" will change)	112,937	118,584	
Non-Staff Compensation (Plaza, Napolean)	29,046	30,063	
Non-Staff Compensation (Wu)	39,499	41,474	
Pension & Benefits (mix will change)	30,207	32,624	
Travel & Entertainment (Anglada)	9,000	9,000	
Travel & Entertainment (Tanzania)	20,000	12,000	
Travel & Entertainment (TZ Teacher Exchange)	10,000	10,000	
Travel & Entertainment (Roumania)	12,000	10,000	
Training & Professional Development	5,000	5,000	
Lutheran Statewide Advocacy	3,500	3,500	
Global Mission Event Scholarship	1,500	1,500	
NYS Council of Churches	500	500	
LI Council of Churches	200	0	
Companion Synod Teacher Salaries	33,587	35,266	TZ Teachers
Companion Synod Teacher Benefits	18,955	20,471	TZ Teachers
Lutheran Identity/Ecumenical Initiative (Fund #320)	500	0	
Companion Synod Other	2,000	2,000	
TZ Pilgrimage (Fund #430)	0	10,000	
Companion Synod (TZ) Committee Expense	1,000	1,000	
Total Other Synod Outreach - All Other	329,431	342,982	

Total Synod Outreach 1,338,739 1,409,680

SYNOD LIFE (Synod Programs for Entire Synod)

I. Synod Life - Education (Grants to Educational Activities by Synod)

Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education Grant	42,940	43,370
Lutheran Schools Association Grant	8,838	8,926
Student Christian Center at SUNY New Paltz Grant	13,225	13,225
Philadelphia Seminary Grant	60,000	62,000
Total Synod Life - Education	125,003	127,520

II. Synod Life - Other Programs

Commission for Gay & Lesbian Ministries	6,000	5,000
Commission for Multicultural Affairs	500	500
Worship Events & Ordinations	2,800	2,800
Youth Ministries (Supported by Fund #204)	10,000	10,000
Hunger Committee	1,000	1,000
Women/Children in Poverty (Sup'ted by Fund #311)	2,000	2,000
Coaching and Natural Church Development	12,000	15,000
Other Expense	1,000	1,000
Total Other Synod Life - Other Programs	35,300	37,300

Total Synod Life	160,303	164,820
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CONGREGATIONAL LIFE (Programs and Services to Synod Leaders and Individual Congregations)**I. Congregational Life - Shared Expenses**

Salaries	134,920	141,666
Non Staff Salaries	15,000	15,000
Pension & Benefit	38,332	41,398
Training & Professional Development	2,000	2,000
Travel & Entertainment (Loufman)	20,000	22,000
Other Expense	3,000	3,000
Total Congregational Life - Shared Expenses	213,252	225,064

II. Congregational Life - Programs & Services to Leaders**Candidacy**

Travel & Entertainment (Candidacy Committee)	2,000	2,000
Travel & Entertainment (Candidacy Staff)	3,500	3,500
Training and Professional Development	1,000	1,000
Background Checks - Seminary Candidates (#447)	5,000	5,000
Psych Evaluations	6,000	6,000
Hispanic Psych Evaluations	2,000	2,000
Students Retreat (#420)	3,000	3,000
Latino Diaconia (Fund #205)	7,000	7,000
Latino Outreach (Fund #314)	8,000	8,000
Bishop Graefe Income Fund Exp	3,000	3,000
Urban Leaders Institute (Fund # 318)	18,000	18,000
Asian Miniistries - Edcu and Traingin	2,000	2,000
Asian Miniistries Youth Prog	2,000	2,000
Group Term Life Insurance (New Fund # 446)	6,500	6,500
Lutheran Theological Center (Fund #437)	500	500
Orientation of New Pastors	1,000	1,000
Trexler Grants (Inc frm Fund # 502; #301)	6,000	6,000
Renewal and Boundary Workshop Fund (Fund#439)	1,200	1,200
Meeting Expense	750	750
Total Congregational Life - Programs & Services to Leaders	78,450	78,450

III. Congregational Life - Programs & Services to Congregations

Commission for Evangelical Outreach		
Travel and Entertainment (General)	0	0
Travel & Enter. (CEO Committee)	7,000	7,000
Traning & Professional Development	500	500
Other Expense	1,000	1,000
Evaluations	1,000	1,000
Counseling Services/Research	750	750
CEO Programs (new account name, adopted 2007)	7,500	7,500
CEO Coordinators	6,000	6,000
Bishop's Retreat Fund (Fund # 419)	8,000	8,000
Worship Day (Fund #433)	1,000	1,000
Congregational Resources	2,000	2,000
Horizon Internships	12,750	12,750
Latino Consultation Fund (#325) (was 435)	1,000	1,000
Partnership Grants to Congregations		212,000
First/Grace, Jeffersonville	5,000	
Espiritu Santo, Brooklyn	7,000	
Holy Redeemer, Brooklyn	10,000	
Huria Kristen, Brooklyn	13,000	
Good Shepherd Russian, Brooklyn	25,000	
Trinity - Healing Center, Brooklyn	5,000	
Eastern Nassau Conf, Hicksville	15,000	
Iglesia Resurrection Hemstead (Emilce Alguera)	5,000	
Koinonia/Koinonia NYC (Internship Program)	9,000	
Our Savior/Trinity - Staten Island	2,100	
Fordham - Fordham	6,310	
New Hope, Brox (PR Thomas)	20,000	
Grace Overflow/St. Jacobus - Elmhurst	8,000	
Salam Arabic Lutheran - 345 Ovington, Brooklyn	7,000	
Transfiguration, Bronx (Pr Pens & Health as billed)	20,000	
Trinity Lower East Side, New York	13,000	
News Starts (Budget Estimate Only)	700,000	721,000
Atonement-Jackson Heights	8,000	
St. Luke's Latino	2,500	
Trinity 100th Street	5,000	
Brewster Emergency Shelter	7,000	
Total Cong. Life - Programs and Services to Cong.	941,410	981,500
Total Congregational Life	1,233,112	1,059,950

10 Yr Plan Amount

Development (Fundraising for Synod and Beyond)

Salaries	227,011	238,362
Pension & Benefits	61,757	66,698
Travel & Entertainment (Wollenburg)	14,000	16,000
Travel & Entertainment (Duever)	6,000	6,000
Training & Professional Development	3,200	3,200
Printing	8,000	8,000
Special Fundraising Projects	2,000	2,000
SMO Agency Events	9,000	9,000
Stewardship (Includes #401)	5,500	5,500
Computer Equipment Expense	500	500

Total Development	336,969	355,260
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Bishop's Office

Salaries	258,501	271,426
Pension & Benefits	83,725	90,423
Travel & Entertainment (Mills)	20,000	24,000
Travel & Entertainment (Bishop)	10,000	12,000
Interim Bishop Expense	6,000	0
<u>Travel & Entertainment (Mills International)</u>	20,000	20,000
Training & Professional Development	5,000	5,000
Other Expense	2,500	2,500
Car Insurance	3,554	3,732
Bishop's Car Lease	4,800	4,800
Telephone	7,500	8,500

Total Bishop's Office	421,580	442,381
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Synod Governance (Expenses of Governing Entities within Synod)

Synod Assembly	150,000	150,000
Synod Council	3,500	3,500
Synod Council Committees (FMC & Audit Committee)	1,000	1,000
Committee Expense (Archives and Historian)	8,800	8,800
Non-Staff Compensation	4,000	4,000
Committee Expense (Worship Committee)	3,500	3,500

Total Synod Governance	170,800	170,800
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Communications and PR

Printing	1,500	1,500
Other Expense	200	200
Professional Services (Web)	15,000	15,000
Professional Services (Public Relations)	42,000	42,000
Lutheran New Yorker	20,000	20,000

Total Communications and PR	78,700	78,700
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Office Services (Shared Office Expenses)

Salaries	116,466	122,289
Pension & Benefits	41,456	44,772
Travel and Entertainment (General)	1,500	0
Travel & Entertainment (Business Office)	2,200	1,500
Training & Professional Development	0	2,200
Office Supplies	30,000	32,000
Postage & Shipping	17,000	30,000
Printing	5,000	17,000
Other Expense	5,000	5,000
Payroll Service Fees	3,200	5,000
Professional Services (Accounting)	0	3,200
Bank Fees	4,320	4,320
Vending Machine and Water Cooler	5,331	5,331
Insurance, FICA	3,000	3,000
Workmen's Comp Ins/State Unem Ins	5,600	5,800
D&O Insurance	3,600	3,888
Rent & Facility Management	193,748	209,248
Maintenacnce and Repair	10,000	10,000
Property & Liability Insurance	40,000	42,000
Christ Yonkers Construction Reserve Pmts(#270)	39,648	39,648
Telephone	15,000	18,000
Lease on Copiers (also purchase in 2005)	15,000	15,000
Professional Services - MIS	3,000	4,000
Computer Equipment Expense	2,000	2,000
Data Base Costs (Raizer's Edge)	2,500	2,500
Equipment Purchases	20,000	20,000
Internet Access fees	3,800	4,028
Lease on Postage Machine	6,000	6,000
Printing (Xerox Supplies)	2,000	4,000
Professional Services (Audit)	21,000	22,260
Miscellaneous, Contingencies	54,959	54,403
Depreciation Expense	122,004	122,004
Interest Expense	3,000	3,000
Admin Fees and Other Professional Services	1,700	1,700
Total Synod Offices Services	799,031	865,091
Total Expenses	4,539,233	4,546,681
Net Income (loss)	0	0

Report of the ELCA Resentative Part 2

Pr. Settlage invited Pr. Jonathan Linman, member of the Church Council to offer some comments to the assembly. He offered a prayer for power of the Spirit to act in counter intuitive ways, to resist impulse to hunker down, but to reconnect the synod in the bonds of affection, that we may know each other and Christ in each other.

Questions were then invited from the floor.

Pr. Milholland asked "Where will the recommendation to the 2009 CWA on rostering come from?"

Answer: After responses on the current draft are tabulated, the task force will finalize social statement, then implementing resolutions will also be developed. These will then come to Church Council.

Ms. Ginny Cummings said that Hip Hop music...is fine for the youth fine, but was concerned we are throwing away resources, our seniors. What about ministry for seniors?. How do we reach out to them when they come into a church where nothing is familiar any more? We should have outreach to them as well as other cultures.

Answer: Our centrality is in Word and Sacrament ... We care deeply about that. ELW doesn't skew off in one direction and can address the traditional needs as well. Another aspect of the ELCA's huge presence in lives of seniors is that 1 in 50 Americans is touched by Lutheran Social Ministry, many of these ministries are to seniors.

Pr. Rose Ann Vita asked, "Does each modern church have a spirit or angel and what would that be?" Each synod has a unique characteristic, have you noticed one here?

Answer: Spirit of mission, diversity unique in the ELCA.

Pr. Jeffrey Kolbo remarked on the candidacy costs for theological education; and asked "What is ELCA doing to reduce level of indebtedness of candidates?"

Answer: The Fund for Leaders in Mission. There is also a study group exploring the issue of student indebtedness. Pr. Glenn Miller, of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, offered his perspective as a member of the committee and described their commitment and their work. He said this problem is across denominational lines. It is early in their work and is a complicated issue. He noted that the Lily Foundation commended ELCA for work in beginning to address this issue.

Pr. Ed Schreiber reported that the United Methodist Church has approved full communion with the ELCA then asked when we will do so.

Answer: It is scheduled for action at the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

Ms. Regina Trombitas suggested that people are disturbed that religion in this country is hijacked by a religious right that doesn't reflect a majority of Christians. Are there any plans for the ELCA (in conjunction with other denominations) to make this case for the prevailing Christianity which is being lost in the public square.

Answer: Pr. Linman have great opportunity to use our name as an entrée to reclaim "evangelical" for the gospel. Presiding Bishop Hanson is taking some initiative on this, and it is being discussed at the meetings of the ELCA Church Council.

Ms. Barbara Kortrey commented that our predecessor bodies placed emphasis on education for young children. We need to provide more resources.

Pr. Settlage closed his report with a plea to go into our congregation to promote support for missions and increase our capacity for mission and ministry. Mission will happen only if we have the resources in congregations, synods and the churchwide organization.

He thanked the assembly their work and said that he plans to be with us for installation of our new bishop in October.

Report of Second Common Ballot

The results of the Second Common Ballot were reported by Mr. Steipp.

Committees				
Consultation - Lay Male	Ralph Bardario	203	Arthur Isakson	139
CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBERS				
Clergy				
	Paul Milholland	129	Michael Church	127
	Richard Hill	96	Paul Schmiede	88
	Cathy Rosenholtz	173	Katrina Foster	131
	David Parsons	74	Martin Hauser	56
	Ann Tiemeyer	216	Craig Miller	145
	James Krauser	85		
	William Baum	320	Annemarie Noto	84
	Eric Swensson	44		
Lay Female				
	Lynne Hansen	177	Karen Reardon	116
	Gale Capone	87		
	Meg Fielding	183	Joanne Westerlund	135
	Sharon Wilson	85		
	Connie Duever	237	Christine Connell	88
	Dorothy Scholz-Beyer	87		
Lay Male				
	Manuel Melendez	209	Robert Busch	182
	Paul Lumpkin	209	Jeremy Posadas	193
	Dave Ehlers	222	Earl Marsan	152
	John Prosen	217	Robert Rainis	170
	Homer Alexander	202	Richard Soper	180

On the basis of the report the chair declared the following persons elected.

Consultation	Ralph Barberio	
Churchwide Assembly	William Baum	Connie Duever
	Manuel Melendez	Paul Lumpkin
	Dave Ehlers	John Prosen
	Homer Alexander	

On the adoption of the Election Report **SA2008.05.09**

Child Youth and Family Ministry Report

Deacon Charles Germain directed assembly to the written report of the committee and invited the members to the next meeting of the committee which is open to all.

Pr. McElderry congratulated Deacon Germain for his recognition by the Putman County youth board as volunteer of the year.

They presented the annual Heart of Ministry Award, developed to provide motivation to get stories of ministries in congregations and communities. This year there were a number of nominee doing greatwork. So two winners were chosen: Gloria Dei in Huntington Station for their working with youth Grace and St. Paul's NY work with Green Chimney's a residence refuge for homeless youth. These awards were give for both the cooperativity and contextuality of these ministries.

They introduced Zack Segal baptized as a young adult at Pinecrest. His story was told by Bishop Bouman in many of the town hall meetings. Spoke briefly to assembly about the gift the church has been to him.

They also reported on the work of the Lutheran Youth Organization, acknowledging the work of Diane Gilroy advisor to our LYO. Jonathan Westerlund, the outgoing LYO president said that the LYO plans and run several events each year. In winter it offers both Jr. and Sr. High retreats, in April a Jr. Hi dance in Mahattan; in summer an outing at Splish Splash. Several conferences still have positions open for the board. The report concluded with a brief skit on the theme of being "stuck" in sin.

Presentation of Gifts

Bishop Adorjani and Pr. Feher presented a chalice veil and a Hungarian bible to the synod and an icon of St. George for the new bishop.

Pr. McElderry requested the printed copies of the Bishop Adorjani's sermon delivered at the morning prayer service on Friday be made available.

Report of LTSP

Pr. Glenn Miller reported on behalf of President Krey, who had to depart to preside at the commencement exercises later in the afternoon. In his report he thanked this synod for providing an internship site for this year and next year, and for the service of Earl Marsan, Bob Buescher and Emma Porter who serve on the seminary board.

He reported that 40 congregation and 80 individuals in the MNYS have helped raise \$1,100,000 dollars for the seminary's capital appeal over the last four years. He acknowledge Bob and Jane Buescher as their "lead gift donors." He said that a challenge remains before the synod, that of an additional \$400,000 which would complete our synodical goal of \$1,500,000.

The ministry of the seminary will become increasingly important in the coming years as more than half of all clergy on the roster will approach retirement in the next ten years.

Report of Fourth Ballot for Bishop and Fifth Ballot

Pr. Craig Settlage reported that on the fourth ballot for bishop there was no election. The results were:

Robert Rimbo	192
Robert Wollenburg	191
Gary Mills	91

Pr. Settlage asked the pages to distribute the fifth and final ballot.

The fifth ballot contained the following names:

Robert Rimbo
Robert Wollenburg

Members were instructed to wait to mark their ballots until after a time of prayer. After the prayer, members were instructed to mark their ballots. After allowing time for ballots to be marked and collected.

Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel

Pr. Kershner made a motion to suspend the rules and adopt a rule to limit speaking to 2 minutes; and limit consideration of each resolution for 10min for the remainder of the report.

On the motion to limit debate

**Adopted
2/3 required**

Pr. Kershner said that remaining items would be taken up in the following order: 3, 2, 1.

ITEM 3 TO CREATE A CLERGY EMERGENCY NEED TREASURY [CENT]

Submitted by Pastor Paul Block, Transfiguration Lutheran Church and the Bronx Conference

Whereas, Acts 2:43-45 reads, “Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.”

Whereas, A significant portion of the clergy in the Metropolitan New York Synod have accepted calls .in parishes and other settings in which they are compensated below Synod guidelines, and in some cases, well below guidelines;

Whereas, In cases of life and family emergencies, these clergy are financially vulnerable;

RESOLVED, The Metropolitan New York Synod of the ELCA create a specific fund to assist pastors in the Synod in cases of emergency, called the Clergy Emergency Need Treasury (CENT). Congregations are encouraged to contribute 1/8 of one percent (.00125) of their annual budget to CENT in addition to the congregation’s regular mission support. Clergy shall be eligible to apply for funds, renewable for up to three years. The evaluation of applications and distribution of funds shall be left to the discretion of the Bishop.

RECOMMENDATION: To adopt

Pr. Paul Block spoke to his resolution.

Pr. William Clark spoke of his experience when salary was reduced to part-time. Pastors do have families to take care of.

Seeing no further discussion Bp. Olson put the resolution to a vote.

On the motion to adopt Item 3

**ADOPTED
SA2008.05.10**

RESOLVED, The Metropolitan New York Synod of the ELCA create a specific fund to assist **pastors in the Synod in cases of emergency, called the Clergy Emergency Need Treasury (CENT). Congregations are encouraged to contribute 1/8 of one percent (.00125) of their annual budget to CENT in addition to the congregation’s regular mission support. Clergy shall be eligible to apply for funds, renewable for up to three years. The evaluation of applications and distribution of funds shall be left to the discretion of the Bishop.**

Pr. Kershner read the resolves of Item 2 putting it before the assembly.

**ITEM 2 A MEMORIAL AGAINST VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION ON THE
BASIS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY**

Submitted by the Metropolitan New York Synod Commission for Gay and Lesbian People

Whereas, The ELCA Church Council has expressed the ELCA's "strong opposition to all forms of verbal or physical harassment or assault of persons because of their sexual orientation" (Church Council Action CC93.03.37); and

Whereas, The Church Council (in the same action) has expressed the ELCA's "support for legislation, referendums, and policies to protect the civil rights of all persons, regardless of their sexual orientation, and to prohibit discrimination in housing, employment, and public services and accommodations" on account of the same; and

Whereas, Violence, crime, and discrimination are also perpetrated on many people on account of their gender identity - often but not always in conjunction with their sexual orientation; and

Whereas, Violence, crime, and discrimination against anyone on the basis of either sexual orientation or gender identity violate the personhood of beloved children of God, whom this church is bound by the Gospel to protect; and

Whereas, The federal and many state legislatures continue to consider (and some have passed) laws that include sexual orientation and gender identity among the categories by which a crime can be defined as a hate crime, as well as laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Synod, meeting in Assembly, deplore in the name of Jesus Christ all violence, crime, and discrimination perpetrated on account of a person's sexual orientation or gender identity; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Synod, meeting in Assembly, direct the Synod Council to submit a resolution to the Church Council to amend Church Council Action CC93.03.37 so that it incorporates gender identity along with sexual orientation in terms of the ELCA's (a) opposition to harassment or assault as well as (b) support for legislation protecting civil rights and prohibiting discrimination in housing, employment, and public services and accommodations; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Synod, meeting in Assembly, call upon federal and state legislatures to include sexual orientation and gender identity among the categories by which a crime can be defined as a hate crime; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Synod, meeting in Assembly, call upon federal and state legislatures to include sexual orientation and gender identity among the categories in which discrimination is forbidden in employment, housing, and public services and accommodations; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That this Synod, ~~meeting in Assembly, direct this~~ Synod's bishop ~~to~~ express the preceding positions, on behalf of the Synod, in writing or in person, to each federal and state legislator representing part of this Synod's territory.

RECOMMENDATION: To adopt as amended

Pr. David Parsons spoke on behalf of the resolution. This resolution is not about sex or ordination. This is not about sexual behavior. This is ministry to the least. Apologies for not seeking more diverse sponsors.

Ms. Jackie Smrek offered an amendment to the 5th resolve

Motion to amend: in the 5th resolved paragraph

RESOLVED, That this ~~Synod, meeting in Assembly, direct this~~ Synod's bishop ~~to~~ express the preceding positions, on behalf of the Synod, in writing or in person, to each federal and state legislator representing part of this Synod's territory **including the governor and president.**

On the amendment

Adopted

Pr. Fryer raised the issue if upholding the church's traditional teaching could make him guilty of a hate crime.

Answer: Religious exemptions are in place.

On the motion to adopt Item 2

**ADOPTED
SA2008.05.11**

RESOLVED, That this Synod, meeting in Assembly, deplore in the name of Jesus Christ all violence, crime, and discrimination perpetrated on account of a person's sexual orientation or gender identity; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Synod, meeting in Assembly, direct the Synod Council to submit a resolution to the Church Council to amend Church Council Action CC93.03.37 so that it incorporates gender identity along with sexual orientation in terms of the ELCA's (a) opposition to harassment or assault as well as (b) support for legislation protecting civil rights and prohibiting discrimination in housing, employment, and public services and accommodations; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Synod, meeting in Assembly, call upon federal and state legislatures to include sexual orientation and gender identity among the categories by which a crime can be defined as a hate crime; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Synod, meeting in Assembly, call upon federal and state legislatures to include sexual orientation and gender identity among the categories in which discrimination is forbidden in employment, housing, and public services and accommodations; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That this Synod's bishop ~~to~~ express the preceding positions, on behalf of the Synod, in writing or in person, to each federal and state legislator, including the governor and president representing part of this Synod's territory.

The assembly then took up Item 1 in the Reference and Counsel report.

ITEM 1 ESTABLISHING AN ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Submitted by the Tappan Zee Conference, St. Luke's (New Rochelle), St. John's (Mamaroneck), Our Redeemer (Chappaqua), Chapel of Christ (Yonkers), St. Paul's (Rye Brook), Trinity (New Rochelle), Grace (Yorktown Heights), Grace (Scarsdale), United Lutheran (Mt. Vernon), Ascension (Glendale), Trinity (Brewster)

Whereas, Scripture teaches us that “The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and guard it” (Genesis 2:15) and that “The earth and its fullness are the Lord's” (1 Corinthians 10:26); and

Whereas, The issues of climate change and threats to biodiversity and natural habitats are not simply scientific, economic, and social issues, but also fundamentally ethical and moral concerns; and

Whereas, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America’s social statement “Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice”

- Decries “the despoiling of the environment as nothing less than the degradation of God's gracious gift of creation,”
- Calls for “action to counter (environmental) degradation” and “pray(s)... for the creativity and dedication to live more gently with the earth,”
- Asks us to “commit ourselves to personal life styles that contribute to the health of the environment,” and,
- Calls on our church community to be “a center for exploring scriptural and theological foundations for caring for creation” and “to incorporate the principles of sufficiency and sustainability in our life,” therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Metropolitan New York Synod will ~~establish a new standing committee on environmental stewardship, financed out of the general budget. This Environmental Stewardship Committee will act to:~~

- Educate our churches and members on issues of environmental integrity and creation care,
- Facilitate Encourage celebrations commemorating, Earth Day/~~Earth Sunday~~, Rogation Days, Arbor Day and any other environmentally conscious events as may be appropriate for Christian churches.
- Promote and encourage specific actions each church community and its members can take to act with greater environmental responsibility, and
- Promote and encourage actions synod-wide to “green” our operations, including energy audits, adopting cleaner and renewable energy sources, increasing our commitment to recycling and using recycled materials, reducing the amount of waste we produce, and working to protect the precious shared environmental resources of land, air, and water.

RESOLVED, That the Metropolitan New York Synod, in support of the above ongoing efforts, will establish a standing committee on Environmental Stewardship. The Environmental Stewardship Committee may be formed immediately, but will be unfunded for the 2009 year. It will be financed out of the general budget beginning with the 2010 budget cycle.

RECOMMENDATION: To adopt as amended.

Dr. Steven O’Rourke, spoke on behalf of the resolution. We’ve asked in our weekly (celebrate) prayers. We need the will.

There was no other discussion.

On the motion to adopt Item 1

**ADOPTED
SA2008.05.12**

RESOLVED, That the Metropolitan New York Synod will:

- **Educate our churches and members on issues of environmental integrity and creation care,**
- **Encourage celebrations commemorating, Earth Day, Rogation Days, Arbor Day and any other environmentally conscious events as may be appropriate for Christian churches,**
- **Promote and encourage specific actions each church community and its members can take to act with greater environmental responsibility, and**
- **Promote and encourage actions synod-wide to “green” our operations, including energy audits, adopting cleaner and renewable energy sources, increasing our commitment to recycling and using recycled materials, reducing the amount of waste we produce, and working to protect the precious shared environmental resources of land, air, and water.**

RESOLVED, That the Metropolitan New York Synod, in support of the above ongoing efforts, will establish a standing committee on Environmental Stewardship. The Environmental Stewardship Committee may be formed immediately, but will be unfunded for the 2009 year. It will be financed out of the general budget beginning with the 2010 budget cycle.

An additional resolution was received during the assembly.

Under the rules a resolution calling for a task force shall specify funding.

Motion to suspend the rule

**Adopted
2/3 required.**

TO ENHANCE COMMUNITY-POLICE RELATIONS

Whereas, the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adopted the following resolution on racism at its April 11-13, 2008 meeting

WHEREAS, 2008 is the fifteenth anniversary of the ELCA social statement, “Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture”;

WHEREAS, the United States of America is embroiled in amplified conversations about racism;

WHEREAS, Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson in a news release on November 1, 2007, expressed “grave concern” for the “spiritual crisis concerning race relations in the United States” and called on members of this church to take specific actions to address the “sin of racism”;

WHEREAS, the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is committed to addressing racism through study, discussion, and prayer, seeking to become an increasingly anti-racist body;

WHEREAS, the churchwide organization, through two of the commitments for implementation in the Plan for Mission in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America commits itself to:

- Confront the scandalous realities of racial, ethnic, cultural, religious, age, gender, familial, sexual, physical, personal, and class barriers that often manifest themselves in exclusion, poverty, hunger, and violence; and
- Pursue ardently the ELCA’s commitment to becoming more diverse, multicultural, and multi-generational in an ever-changing and increasingly pluralistic context...

WHEREAS, this church has been called by ecumenical partners to dialogue about racism, including the call of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. to a “Sacred Day of Dialogue and Discussion” on May 18, 2008; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

- humbly seek God’s forgiveness for our complicity in perpetuating individual, cultural, and institutional racism and God’s grace to deepen our awareness of and increase our commitment to address racism;
- express gratitude to this church for the intentional and consistent call of its social statement, “Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture,” as a tool to address racism;
- reaffirm its commitment to becoming increasingly anti-racist;
- invite members of ELCA to join in this commitment and to sustained dialogue during 2008 and beyond that will lead this church to become anti-racist and multicultural;

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Church Council encourage the Church in Society and Multicultural Ministries program units, in consultation with the Office of the Presiding Bishop, to develop discussion materials to assist the congregations and members of this church to use the social statement to guide conversations about race.

RESOLVED, That the Metropolitan New York Synod, request the Synod Council of the Metropolitan New York Synod to organize an ‘ecumenical’ taskforce that will develop strategies to enhance community / Police relations in light of the Sean Bell case and other cases that suggest that racial profiling may be a factor in such cases.

Pr. Schrieber spoke to his motion. Call to be prophetic.

Pr. Tiemeyer Advent Member.

Motion to refer the resolution to the Commission on Multicultural Affairs.

Pr. Brenda Smith spoke against motion to refer because it calls for an ecumenical task force and is not necessarily “in house.”

On the motion to refer

Failed

Deacon Bob Rainis said that he supported the intent of the resolution but offered amendment to strike the concluding clause of the resolution.

Amendment to strike

RESOLVED, That the Metropolitan New York Synod, request the Synod Council of the Metropolitan New York Synod to organize an ‘ecumenical’ taskforce that will develop strategies to enhance community / Police relations ~~“in light of the Sean Bell cases and other cases that suggest that racial profiling may be a factor in such cases.”~~

Deacon Rainis observed that the court case ruled that there was no racial profiling in the case.

Pr. Katrina Foster said that she didn't believe racial profiling was issue in this case, but it is a real issue. We need better law enforcement and accountability and so said she was against the deletion.

The chair observed that time had expired. He asked the assembly if it wished to continue for an additional five minutes.

Motion to extend five minutes **Adopted**

Deacon Kamy Modbehli, Bethlehem Baldwin spoke against amendment and described his personal experiencing of racial profiling.

Mr. Orlando Torres spoke of his experience being profiled.

Pr. Triolo Our Savior Mineola rose to amend the amendment.

Motion to amend: to strike *only* the words "the Sean Bell cases and other" so that the amendment would read:

"in light of ~~the Sean Bell cases and other~~ cases that suggest that racial profiling may be a factor in such cases."

On the Triolo amendment **Adopted**

On the Rainis amendment as amended **Adopted**

The chair announced that time had again expired. Hearing no call to extend time he called for the vote on the resolution.

On the resolution as amended **ADOPTED SA2008.05.13**

***RESOLVED*, That the Metropolitan New York Synod, request the Synod Council of the Metropolitan New York Synod to organize an 'ecumenical' taskforce that will develop strategies to enhance community / Police relations in light of cases that suggest that racial profiling may be a factor in such cases.**

RESOLUTION OF THANKS TO INTERIM BISHOP DAVID OLSON

Whereas, God has provided the Metropolitan New York Synod with the gift of Interim Bishop David Olson, who has led us through the time of transition with grace, wisdom, courage, encouragement and a sense of joy in the Gospel, be it

RESOLVED, That the Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly express its deep thanksgiving to God for Bishop David Olson by rising in acclamation and applause.

The bishop relinquished the chair and asked the parliamentarian to preside during the consideration of the final resolution.

Ms. Demarest put the resolution before the assembly which rose as one in applause. She declared the resolution adopted by unanimous acclamation.

On the resolution

**ADOPTED
SA2008.05.14**

RESOLVED, That the Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly express its deep thanksgiving to God for Bishop David Olson by rising in acclamation and applause.

Results of the Third Common Ballot

Mr. Steipp reported the results of the third common ballot.

Clergy	Paul Milholland	223	Michael Church	215
	Cathy Rosenholtz	191	Katrina Foster	248
	Ann Tiemeyer	276	Craig Miller	165
Lay Female	Lynne Hansen	254	Karen Reardon	146
	Meg Fielding	249	Joanne Westerlund	168

The chair declared the following persons elected:

Churchwide Assembly	Paul Milholland	Katrina Foster
	Ann Tiemeyer	Lynne Hansen
	Meg Fielding	

On the adoption of the report

**ADOPTED
SA2008.05.15**

Mr. Steipp said that concluded all elections and he thanked his committee for hard work and long hours in a spirit of service to the church.

Results of the Fifth Ballot for Bishop

Pr. Settlage called for prayer before announcing the results at 12:55 p.m. Following the prayer, he reported that 468 ballots were cast, 235 required for election and there were 7 recorded abstentions. The results were:

Robert Rimbo	236
Robert Wollenburg	232

Pr. Settlage declared **Robert A. Rimbo** elected as the 4th Bishop of the Metropolitan New York Synod.

On the adoption of the report

**ADOPTED
SA2008.05.16**

Both candidates were invited to the platform to address the assembly.

Pr. Settlage invited the assembly to join in sing “Will You Let Me Your Servant” as the conclusion of the election process.

Following some announcements, Bishop Olson stated that all matters of business scheduled for after lunch had been completed. He stated that if there was no objection, printed reports will be attached to the minutes, and that the final registration report should be entered into the minutes when it was available. He offered a prayer for the congregation of Holy Trinity, Central Park West who will begin a pastoral search in the coming weeks.

Final Registration Report

Clergy	209		
Lay	327		
AiM	17	Total Voting Members	553
Visitors	91		
Staff	7	Total Attendance	644

Bishop David Olson declared the seventeenth synod assembly of the Metropolitan New York Synod adjourned at 1:03 p.m. Chaplain O’Rourke offered a prayer before the members went to lunch.

A Eucharist was celebrated after the lunch break. Bishop-elect Rimbo presided.

- ✘ Expand our understanding that the Body of Christ has no geographical boundaries through the development and establishment of Congregation to Congregation relationships;
- ✘ Commit ourselves to regular and fervent prayers for one another, and will designate one Sunday per year in which all congregations from both Church bodies will specifically lift one another up and remember our partnership in special ways during the Sunday worship services.

RESOLUTIONS

SA2008.05.04

To Establish an *Ad Hoc* Commission to Review Our Election Process for Bishop

RESOLVED, That the Metropolitan New York Synod establish an *ad hoc* commission on the use of the ecclesiastical ballot as described in the governing documents of the synod for the election of the bishop of the synod; and that

- This commission shall be chaired by the Secretary of the Synod and consist of ten additional members, four clergy and six lay, chosen by the Synod Council,
- This commission survey other synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and other church bodies as to their election processes for bishop and present an interim report of their findings to the 2010 Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly;
- This commission lead a synod-wide study process leading to a final report, accompanied by recommended changes, if any, in governing documents to be acted to the 2012 Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly.

SA2008.05.05

On Parsonage Properties

RESOLVED, That the Metropolitan New York Synod urges congregations to consider the long-term implications of the sale of real property, particularly parsonages; and be it

RESOLVED, That the Metropolitan New York Synod make use of the parsonage properties of disbanded congregations whenever possible for housing to rostered persons within the synod; and be it

RESOLVED, That congregations are encouraged to adopt bylaws requiring consultation with the Synod concerning the sale of properties and that these bylaws also contain one or both of the following provisions in addition to consultation:

- That an affirmative vote of at least 2/3 of the voting members present and voting at a legally called meeting of the congregation be required for the sale of a parsonage.
- That before the sale of parsonage properties by the congregation it request the Synod Council to review the proposed sale and by majority vote take “no exception” to the sale of the parsonage.

SA2008.05.06

On Forming a Strategic Planning Process

RESOLVED, That the Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly

1. Affirm its commitment to the following core principles to be used in forming a strategic plan that addresses the needs of local ministries:

- God is actively engaged in the mission of reconciling the world to God’s Self.
- God established the Church to carry out this mission and authorizes the priesthood of all believers to carry it out.
- God provides the church with the means to fulfill God’s mission—the Gospel, church leaders, material resources, and empowers God’s people with spiritual gifts.
- God’s mission is carried out locally, through individual disciples, through local congregations, conferences, and other ministries, and through the synod, the churchwide

- expression, and ecumenical partners who are willing to work together collaboratively in the power of God's Spirit.
2. Reaffirm its commitment to being a Great Commission Synod by urging our bishop, the Synod Council, and synod staff to begin drawing together the diverse resources of our synod to develop a strategic plan for the future of our synod as soon as feasible and to report on the progress of this planning process to the Synod Council and to succeeding Synod Assemblies.

SA2008.05.10 **To Create a Clergy Emergency Need Treasury [CENT]**

RESOLVED, The Metropolitan New York Synod of the ELCA create a specific fund to assist pastors in the Synod in cases of emergency, called the Clergy Emergency Need Treasury (CENT).

- Congregations are encouraged to contribute 1/8 of one percent (.00125) of their annual budget to CENT in addition to the congregation's regular mission support.
- Clergy shall be eligible to apply for funds, renewable for up to three years.
- The evaluation of applications and distribution of funds shall be left to the discretion of the Bishop.

SA2008.05.11 **Against Violence and Discrimination
on the Basis of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity**

RESOLVED, That this Synod, meeting in Assembly, deplore in the name of Jesus Christ all violence, crime, and discrimination perpetrated on account of a person's sexual orientation or gender identity; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Synod, meeting in Assembly, direct the Synod Council to submit a resolution to the Church Council to amend Church Council Action CC93.03.37 so that it incorporates gender identity along with sexual orientation in terms of the ELCA's (a) opposition to harassment or assault as well as (b) support for legislation protecting civil rights and prohibiting discrimination in housing, employment, and public services and accommodations; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Synod, meeting in Assembly, call upon federal and state legislatures to include sexual orientation and gender identity among the categories by which a crime can be defined as a hate crime; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Synod, meeting in Assembly, call upon federal and state legislatures to include sexual orientation and gender identity among the categories in which discrimination is forbidden in employment, housing, and public services and accommodations; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That this Synod's bishop express the preceding positions, on behalf of the Synod, in writing or in person, to each federal and state legislator, including the governor and president representing part of this Synod's territory.

SA2008.05.12 **Establishing an Environmental Stewardship Committee**

RESOLVED, That the Metropolitan New York Synod will:

- Educate our churches and members on issues of environmental integrity and creation care,
- Encourage celebrations commemorating, Earth Day, Rogation Days, Arbor Day and any other environmentally conscious events as may be appropriate for Christian churches,
- Promote and encourage specific actions each church community and its members can take to act with greater environmental responsibility, and
- Promote and encourage actions synod-wide to "green" our operations, including energy audits, adopting cleaner and renewable energy sources, increasing our commitment to recycling and using recycled materials, reducing the amount of waste we produce, and working to protect the precious shared environmental resources of land, air, and water.

RESOLVED, That the Metropolitan New York Synod, in support of the above ongoing efforts, will establish a standing committee on Environmental Stewardship. The Environmental Stewardship Committee may be formed immediately, but will be unfunded for the 2009 year. It will be financed out of the general budget beginning with the 2010 budget cycle.

SA2008.05.13

To Enhance Community-Police Relations

RESOLVED, That the Metropolitan New York Synod, request the Synod Council of the Metropolitan New York Synod to organize an 'ecumenical' taskforce that will develop strategies to enhance community / Police relations in light of cases that suggest that racial profiling may be a factor in such cases.

SA2008.05.14

To Express Thanks to God for Interim Bishop David Olson

RESOLVED, That the Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly express its deep thanksgiving to God for Bishop David Olson by rising in acclamation and applause.

OTHER ACTIONS

SA2008.05.01

Adopted the Auditor's Report for Fiscal Year 2007

SA2008.05.08

Approved a \$4,539,233 Budget for Fiscal Year 2009

ELECTED

SA2008.05.07.

First Common Ballot

Churchwide Assembly Voting Members

Pr. Marva Jenkins
Louise Litke
Allison Guttu

Consultation Committee [6 yrs.]

Pr. Kathleen Koran
Pr. James Thomas
Mary Heller

Discipline Committee [6 years]

Pr. Marva Jenkins
Pr. Raymond Ormond
Dorothy Scholz-Bayer
Robert Busch

Discipline Committee [4 years]

Pr. Edward Barnett

Discipline Committee [2 years]

Pr. Robert Schoepflin

Mission Development Board [4 years]

Pr. Craig Miller

Synod Council [4 years]

Pr. Rosalind Brathwaite
Pr. Scott Kershner
Pr. Albert Ahlstrom
Pr. Jack Horner
Barbara Holm
Janet Siry
Grace Yukich
Brian Reardon
Dcn. Robert Rainis
William Anderson
Barbara Johnson
Jonathan Westerlund [2 years]

Synod Treasurer [4 years]

Robert Buescher

SA2008.05.09.

Second Common Ballot

Churchwide Assembly Voting Members

Pr. William Baum

Dave Ehlers

Connie Duever

Dcn. John Prosen

Manuel Melendez

Homer Alexander

Dcn. Paul Lumpkin

Consultation Committee [6 yrs.]

Ralph Barberio

SA2008.05.15.

Third Common Ballot

Churchwide Assembly Voting Members

Pr. Paul Milholland

Dcn. Lynne Hansen

Pr. Katrina Foster

Dcn. Meg Fielding

Pr. Ann Tiemeyer

SA2008.05.16

Fifth Ballot

Bishop

Pr. Robert A. Rimbo

APPENDIX I -- ROSTER OF ATTENDEES

SA 2008 ATTENDEES

Clergy

	First Name	Last Name	Cong./Inst.Name	City	State
Pr.	Kristina	Ahlman	Calvary L. C.	Hauppauge	NY
Pr.	Al	Ahlstrom	(Ret'd)	Kingston	NY
Pr.	James	Anderson	Faith L. C.	Syosset	NY
Pr.	Tobias	Anderson	Ev. L. C. of the Good Shepherd	Pearl River	NY
Pr.	A. David	Anglada	MNYS	New York	NY
Pr.	Fabian	Arias	Sion L. C.	New York	NY
Pr.	Roldano	Auguste	King of Kings L. C.	New Windsor	NY
Pr.	Faith	Ballenger	Transfiguration L. C.	New York	NY
Pr.	Edward	Barnett	St. Peter's Ev. L. C.	Baldwin	NY
Pr.	Anthony	Bateza	Grace L. C.	Uniondale	NY
Pr.	William	Baum	St. Barnabas Church	Howard Beach	NY
Pr.	Haiko	Behrens	Ascension L. C.	Franklin Square	NY
Pr.	Mindy	Bjorkman	Immanuel L. C.	Staten Island	NY
Pr.	Paul	Block	Transfiguration L. C.	Bronx	NY
Pr.	Joanne	Bond	Cross of Christ L. C.	Babylon	NY
Pr.	Rosalind	Brathwaite	Augustana L. C.	East Elmhurst	NY
Pr.	Paul	Britton	Gloria Dei L. C.	Huntington Station	NY
Pr.	J. Elise	Brown	Ev. L. C. of the Advent	New York	NY
Pr.	Sarah	Brown	Grace L. C.	Scarsdale	NY
Pr.	Perucy	Butiku	Holy Trinity L. C.	Hollis	NY
Pr.	Serge	Castigliano	(Ret'd)	Putnam Valley	NY
Pr.	Mary	Chang	L. C. of the Incarnation	Cedarhurst	NY
Pr.	Michael	Church	Trinity L. C.	Long Island City	NY
Pr.	William	Clark, Jr.	Good Shepherd L. C.	Roosevelt	NY
Pr.	Joy	Clarke	St. Peter's L. C.	Springfield Gardens	NY
Pr.	Laurie	Cline	Saint John L. C.	Bellmore	NY
Pr.	Samuel	Cruz	Trinity L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Pr.	Romeo	Dabee	Our Saviour L. C.	Jamaica	NY
Pr.	William	Damrow	St. Luke's L. C.	New Rochelle	NY
Pr.	Amandus	Derr	Saint Peter's Church	New York	NY
Pr.	Michael	Dickson	Christ Ev. L. C. of Airmont	Suffern	NY
Pr.	Elizabeth	Diver	Zion L. C.	Staten Island	NY
Pr.	Marsh	Drege	Seafarers & Int'l House	New York	NY
Pr.	Rodney	Eberhardt	St. Luke's L. C.	Farmingdale	NY
Pr.	Paul	Egensteiner	Emanuel L. C.	Pleasantville	NY
Pr.	William	Eggers	Dobbs Ferry L. C.	Dobbs Ferry	NY
Pr.	Khader	El-Yateem	Salam Arabic L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Pr.	Emilce	Erato	Iglesia Resurreccion	Uniondale	NY
Pr.	William	Eschen	Saint Peter's Church	New York	NY
Pr.	Patricia	Evant	(Ret'd)	Flushing	NY
Pr.	D. Andrew	Fetters	Grace Chinese L. C.	Elmhurst	NY
Pr.	Rebecka	Fetters	St. John's L. C.	Lynbrook	NY
Pr.	Rose Ann	Foege	Ascension L. C.	Glendale	NY
Pr.	Katrina	Foster	Fordham L. C.	Bronx	NY
Pr.	Robert	Fritch	Our Saviour L. C.	Jamaica	NY
Pr.	Carol	Fryer	United L. C.	Mt. Vernon	NY
Pr.	Gregory	Fryer	Immanuel L. C.	New York	NY
Pr.	Gerard	Gaeta	(Ret'd)	Bethlehem	PA
Pr.	Jane	Gaeta	(Ret'd)	Bethlehem	PA
Pr.	Robert	Gahagen	Epiphany L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Pr.	Sarah	Geddada	(OLFC)	Floral Park	NY
Pr.	David	Gerber	St. Paul's Ev. L. C.	Richmond Hill	NY

APPENDIX I -- ROSTER OF ATTENDEES

	First Name	Last Name	Cong./Inst.Name	City	State
Pr.	John	Graepel	(OLFC)	Brooklyn	NY
Pr.	Jennifer	Guelmami	Trinity L. C.	Staten Island	NY
Pr.	Douglas	Haak	Grace L. C.	Forest Hills	NY
Pr.	Robert	Harris	Trinity Ev. L. C.	Kingston	NY
Pr.	Martin	Hauser	Grace & St. Paul's Church	New York	NY
Pr.	John	Havrilla	Ev. L. C. of the Good Shepherd	Pearl River	NY
Pr.	Phyllis	Haynes	St. Paul's L. C.	Narrowsburg	NY
Pr.	John	Heller	(Ret'd)	Poughkeepsie	NY
Pr.	Marvin	Henk	St. John's L. C.	Mamaroneck	NY
Pr.	Richard	Hill	Hope L. C.	Selden	NY
Pr.	Wynemah	Hinlicky	Redeemer L. C.	Kingston	NY
Pr.	Jonathan	Hopkins	New Hope L. C.	Valley Stream	NY
Pr.	Jack	Horner	L. C. of the Resurrection	Mt. Kisco	NY
Pr.	John	Huneke	Reformation L. C.	Ridgewood	NY
Pr.	Sharon	Israel	St. Paul's L. C.	Rye Brook	NY
Pr.	Brenda	Jack	Prince of Peace L. C.	Cambria Hts.	NY
Pr.	Martha	Jacobi		Forest Hills	NY
Pr.	Marva	Jenkins	Epiphany L. C.	Laurelton	NY
Pr.	Richard	Jeske	American Bible Society	New York	NY
Pr.	Paul	Johnsen	St. Andrew's L. C.	Yorktown Heights	NY
Pr.	John	Jurik	Good Shepherd L. C.	Plainview	NY
Pr.	Bruce	Kaifler	Trinity Ev. L. C.	Rocky Point	NY
Pr.	Patt	Kauffman	St. Peter's L. C.	Port Jervis	NY
Pr.	Timothy	Kennedy	Grace L. C.	Yorktown Heights	NY
Pr.	Scott	Kershner	St. Stephen's L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Pr.	Perry	Kirschbaum	St. John's L. C.	Merrick	NY
Pr.	James	Klockau	Grace L. C.	Malverne	NY
Pr.	Ronald	Klose	Our Redeemer L. C.	Seaford	NY
Pr.	Eugene	Koene	St. Thomas L. C.	Bronx	NY
Pr.	Jeffrey	Koenig	King of Kings L. C.	Melville	NY
Pr.	Jeffrey	Kolbo	Trinity Ev. L. C.	Rocky Point	NY
Pr.	Kathleen	Koran	Trinity L. C.	Brewster	NY
Pr.	Walter	Kortrey	(Ret'd)	Woodstock	NY
Pr.	Darryl	Kozak	Redeemer-St. John's L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Pr.	James	Krauser	St. Paul's L. C.	Port Jefferson Station	NY
Pr.	Karen	Kuttler	St. Philip's L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Pr.	Koel	Kuznik	Holy Trinity L. C.	New York	NY
Pr.	Jeffrey	Laustsen	Holy Trinity L. C.	Rockville Ctr.	NY
Pr.	J. Barrie	Lawless	Our Saviour's Atonement L. C.	New York	NY
Pr.	Dale	Lind	(Ret'd)	New York	NY
Pr.	Leo	Longan, Jr.	Trinity Ev. L. C.	Middle Village	NY
Pr.	Dianne	Loufman	MNYS	New York	NY
Pr.	Abraham	Lu	Grace Chinese L. C.	Elmhurst	NY
Pr.	Barbara	Lundblad	Ev. L. C. of the Advent	New York	NY
Pr.	Ulf	Lunow	First, Throggs Neck	Bronx	NY
Pr.	Terri	Luper		Long Island City	NY
Pr.	Remo	Madsen	Good Shepherd L. C.	Levittown	NY
Pr.	Eric	Mathsen	St. Matthew's L. C.	White Plains	NY
Pr.	Fred	McElderry	St. Andrew's L. C.	West Hempstead	NY
Pr.	Laurence	McFarland	Bethlehem L. C.	Bronx	NY
Pr.	John	McKenzie	Advent L. C.	Elmont	NY
Pr.	Gary	Mehl	St. Luke's L. C.	Woodhaven	NY
Pr.	Lyn	Mehl	St. Paul's L. C.	East Northport	NY
Pr.	David	Meyers	St. David's Ev. L. C.	Massapequa Park	NY
Pr.	Richard	Michael	Trinity L. C.	Staten Island	NY

APPENDIX I -- ROSTER OF ATTENDEES

	First Name	Last Name	Cong./Inst.Name	City	State
Pr.	Christopher	Mietlowski	Gustavus Adolphus L. C.	New York	NY
Pr.	Paul	Milholland	St. John's L. C.	Lindenhurst	NY
Pr.	Craig	Miller	Our Saviour's L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Pr.	Richard	Miller	(Ret'd)	Brooklyn	NY
Pr.	Gary	Mills	MNYS	New York	NY
Pr.	F. Robert	Modr	St. Andrew's L. C.	Smithtown	NY
Pr.	Ernst	Mossl	Christ L. C.	Newburgh	NY
Pr.	Richard	Mueller	Immanuel L. C.	Kingston	NY
Pr.	William	Munz	Christ L. C.	Islip Terrace	NY
Pr.	Martin	Nale	Christ L. C.	Wantagh	NY
Pr.	ElizaBeth	Nebraska	St. James L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Pr.	Frank	Nelson	St. Peter's Ev. L. C.	Huntington Station	NY
Pr.	LeRoy	Ness	(Ret'd)	Kingston	NY
Pr.	Paul	Nordeen	(Ret'd)	Elmwood Park	NJ
Pr.	Annemarie	Noto	St. Peter's Ev. L. C.	Baldwin	NY
Pr.	Charles	Oberkehr	Epiphany L. C.	Hempstead	NY
Pr.	James	O'Hanlon	Chapel of Christ Yonkers	Yonkers	NY
Bp.	David	Olson	MNYS	New York	NY
Pr.	Ray	Ormand	Church of Our Saviour	Manhasset	NY
Pr.	Dennis	O'Rourke	Ascension L. C.	Deer Park	NY
Pr.	Jorge	Ospina	St. Luke's L. C.	Woodhaven	NY
Pr.	Jonathan	Overvold	North Shore Univ. Hospital	Manhasset	NY
Pr.	Clint	Padgitt	German Seamen's Mission	New York	NY
Pr.	Marcia	Parkinson-Harrison	Resurrection L. C.	St. Albans	NY
Pr.	David	Parsons	St. John-St. Matthew-Emanuel	Brooklyn	NY
Pr.	William	Peacock	Christ L. C.	Staten Island	NY
Pr.	Audrey	Pedersen	Christ L. C.	Ellenville	NY
Pr.	Daniel	Peter	St. Paul's Int'l L. C.	Floral Park	NY
Pr.	Thomas	Peterson	(Ret'd)	New York	NY
Pr.	Leigh	Pezet	L. C. of Our Redeemer	Chappaqua	NY
Pr.	Napoleon	Plaza	Ascension L. C.	Deer Park	NY
Pr.	Stephanie	Pope	Ev. L. C. of St. Stephen	Hicksville	NY
Pr.	William	Purdy	(Special Call)	New York	NY
Pr.	Robert	Rimbo	Holy Trinity L. C.	New York	NY
Pr.	Kit	Robison	First-Grace Lutheran Parish	Jeffersonville	NY
Pr.	Robert	Rodriguez	Eltingville L. C.	Staten Island	NY
Pr.	David	Rommereim	L. C. of the Good Shepherd	Brooklyn	NY
Pr.	Cathy	Rosenholtz	St. Jacobus L. C.	Woodside	NY
Pr.	Michael	Ross	Covenant L. C.	Ridgewood	NY
Pr.	Randall	Rottman	St. Paul's Ev. L. C.	New City	NY
Pr.	Peter	Rustico	St. John's L. C.	Middletown	NY
Pr.	Laris	Salins	Latvian Ev. L. C. of NY	Melville	NY
Pr.	Giovanny	Sanchez	Iglesia / del Espiritu Santo	Brooklyn	NY
Pr.	Gary	Santmire	(Ret'd)	Scarsdale	NY
Pr.	Ursula	Scheike	L. C. of Our Savior	Patchogue	NY
Pr.	Paul	Schmiege	St. Luke's L. C.	New York	NY
Pr.	Yvette	Schock	St. Michael's L. C.	Amagansett	NY
Pr.	Robert	Schoepflin	Abiding Presence L. C.	Fort Salonga	NY
Pr.	Edward	Schreiber	Atonement L. C.	Saugerties	NY
Pr.	Gary	Schulz	Holy Trinity L. C.	Bellerose	NY
Pr.	Fred	Schumacher	(Ret'd)	Manchester	NJ
Pr.	Nicole	Schwalbe	LMHE	Flushing	NY
Pr.	Jonathan	Shin	Reformation L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Pr.	Samuel	Silaban	Huria Kristen Batak Protestan	Elmhurst	NY
Pr.	Kenneth	Simurro	St. Paul's L. C. in Flatlands	Brooklyn	NY

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	First Name	Last Name	Cong./Inst.Name	City	State
Pr.	Brenda	Smith	New Hope L. C.	Jamaica	NY
Pr.	Elsie	Smith	(Ret'd)	Brooklyn	NY
Pr.	Mack	Smith, Jr.	Trinity Ev. L. C.	Wyandanch	NY
Pr.	Robert	Sonnenberg	St. John's L. C.	Richmond Hill	NY
Pr.	Robert	Spittigerber	St. John's by the Sea	Long Beach	NY
Pr.	Garry	Squire	Messiah Ev. L. C.	Staten Island	NY
Pr.	Jared	Stahler	Saint Peter's Church	New York	NY
Pr.	Anthony	Stephens	Our Saviour L. C.	Croton-on-Hudson	NY
Pr.	Micah	Stumme	St. James-St. Matthew's	South Ozone Park	NY
Pr.	James	Sudbrock	(Ret'd)	Bronx	NY
Pr.	George	Summers	Advent L. C.	Mattituck	NY
Pr.	Gregory	Sutterlin	Christ L. C.	Flushing	NY
Pr.	Eric	Swensson	Holy Trinity L. C.	New Rochelle	NY
Pr.	Brooke	Swertfager	Christ L. C.	New York	NY
Pr.	Jerome	Taylor	Good Shepherd L. C.	Roosevelt	NY
Pr.	Thomas E.	Taylor	Grace Ev. L. C.	North Bellmore	NY
Pr.	Thomas S.	Taylor	Lutheran Counseling Center	Mineola	NY
Pr.	James	Thomas	St. Paul's Church	Bronx	NY
Pr.	Michael	Thomas	New Hope for All Saints L. C.	Bronx	NY
Pr.	R. Griffin	Thomas	L. C. of the Messiah	Brooklyn	NY
Pr.	Ann	Tiemeyer	NCC	New York	NY
Pr.	Sonja	Tillberg Maclary	Christ's L. C.	Woodstock	NY
Pr.	Toby	Tobias	Abiding Presence L. C.	Fort Salonga	NY
Pr.	Marianne	Tomecek	Christ/Cristo	Freeport	NY
Pr.	Jack	Traugott	Grace Ev. L. C.	Greenwood Lake	NY
Pr.	Albert	Triolo	L. C. of Our Saviour	Mineola	NY
Pr.	Philip	Trzynka	Trinity L.E.S. Lutheran Parish	New York	NY
Pr.	Rose Ann	Vita	Incarnation L. C.	Bridgehampton	NY
Pr.	Charles	Vogelej	L. C. of Our Savior	Port Washington	NY
Pr.	Harvey	vonHarten	St. Paul's Ev. L. C. of Coney Island	Brooklyn	NY
Pr.	Alex	Walbrodt	Atonement L. C.	Jackson Hts.	NY
Pr.	Dennis	Walker	Holy Cross L. C.	Commack	NY
Pr.	Paul	Walley	St. Paul Ev. L. C.	West Camp	NY
Pr.	Daniel	Ward	St. John's Ev. L. C.	Poughkeepsie	NY
Pr.	Jeanne	Warfield	Our Savior's L. C.	Glen Head	NY
Pr.	James	Watrud	Christ L. C.	East Northport	NY
Pr.	Terrence	Weber	Trinity-St. Andrew's Church	Maspeth	NY
Pr.	Fred	Weidmann	Auburn Theological Seminary	New York	NY
Pr.	Patti	Welch	Cath. of St. John the Divine	New York	NY
Pr.	Fritz	Wendt	(OLFC)	Bronx	NY
Pr.	Norman	White	Trinity L. C.	White Plains	NY
Pr.	Harriet	Wieber	Salem L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Pr.	William	Wiecher	Redeemer Ev. L. C.	New Paltz	NY
Pr.	Diane	Wildow	Zion L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Pr.	Kim	Wilson	Bethlehem L. C.	Baldwin	NY
Pr.	Robert	Wollenburg	MNYS	New York	NY
Pr.	Kipp	Zimmermann	Holy Trinity L. C.	Brooklyn	NY

AiMs/Diaconal Ministers

	First Name	Last Name	Cong./Inst.Name	City	State
Ms.	Marilyn	Benner	(Ret'd)	Plainview	NY
Mr.	Livingston	Chrichlow	(Ret'd)	Elmont	NY
Ms.	Christine	Connell	Synod Council	Staten Island	NY
Ms.	Nadine	Cordes	St. Paul's L. C. in Flatlands	Brooklyn	NY
Mr.	Richard	Erickson	Holy Trinity L. C.	New York	NY

APPENDIX I -- ROSTER OF ATTENDEES

	First Name	Last Name	Cong./Inst.Name	City	State
Ms.	Christine	Hauge	Bethany L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Mrs.	Judith	Hinsch	Good Shepherd L. C.	Plainview	NY
Ms.	Mary	Leake	Grace L. C.	Malverne	NY
Ms.	Marlene	Lund	Lutheran Schools Association	New York	NY
Ms.	Jacqueline	Mize-Baker	Saint Peter's L. C.	New York	NY
Ms.	Dorothy	Scholz-Beyer	(Ret'd)	New York	NY
Ms.	Margaret	Schuffenhauer	Faith L. C.	Syosset	NY
Ms.	Carol	Straub	Grace L. C.	Yorktown Hts.	NY
Ms.	Joanne	Strunck	(Ret'd)	Dagsboro	DE
Ms.	Carol	Tabatt	Trinity L.E.S. Lutheran Parish	New York	NY
Mr.	Hans	Vogel	Synod Council	Wantagh	NY
Sister	Cecilia	Wilson		Philadelphia	PA

Lay Voting Members

	First Name	Last Name	Cong./Inst.Name	City	State
Mr.	Craig	Aarseth	Our Redeemer L. C.	Seaford	NY
Ms.	Gail	Adamski	Bethany L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Mr.	Robert	Alberti	Faith L. C.	Syosset	NY
Mr.	Homer	Alexander	Abiding Presence L. C.	Bronx	NY
Ms.	Anne	Anderson	St. David's Ev. L. C.	Massapequa Park	NY
Mr.	William	Anderson	Synod Council	Howard Beach	NY
Mr.	Bruce	Artemchuck	Ev. L. C. of the Redeemer	Queens Village	NY
Ms.	Hayley	Bang	Reformation L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Mr.	Gary	Becker	Holy Cross L. C.	Commack	NY
Ms.	Joan	Becker	St. Paul's L. C.	East Northport	NY
Ms.	Janet	Behning	Our Saviour L. C.	Croton-on-Hudson	NY
Ms.	Carolee	Bentley	Dobbs Ferry L. C.	Dobbs Ferry	NY
Mr.	Andre	Berg	St. John's Ev. L. C.	Mamaroneck	NY
Ms.	Susane	Berg	Zion-St. Mark's L. C.	New York	NY
Ms.	Leslie	Bergbower	Christ L. C.	Islip Terrace	NY
Ms.	Joan	Best	Holy Trinity L. C.	Bellerose	NY
Mr.	Robert	Boening	Redeemer L. C.	Kingston	NY
Mr.	George	Bonn	St. John's L. C.	Lindenhurst	NY
Mrs.	Dorothy	Bonn	St. John's L. C.	Lindenhurst	NY
Mr.	Ronald	Bonnier	Grace Ev. L. C.	Greenwood Lake	NY
Mr.	Freddy	Borath	Christ L. C.	Newburgh	NY
Dcn.	Cathy	Boyce	Immanuel L. C.	Kingston	NY
Mr.	Clifton	Branch	Abiding Presence L. C.	Bronx	NY
Dr.	Robert	Brent	St. Luke's L. C.	New Rochelle	NY
Ms.	Edna	Brodersen	Grace Ev. L. C.	Greenwood Lake	NY
Ms.	Edythe	Budke	Hope L. C.	Selden	NY
Mr.	Robert	Buescher	Synod Council	Massapequa	NY
Mr.	Mark	Busch	Grace & St. Paul's Church	New York	NY
Mrs.	Susan	Cabrera	King of Kings L. C.	New Windsor	NY
Dcn.	David	Caesar-Dare	Dobbs Ferry L. C.	Dobbs Ferry	NY
Ms.	Vera	Caines	Epiphany L. C.	Laurelton	NY
Ms.	Donna	Calderone	Oceanside L. C.	Oceanside	NY
Mr.	Scott	Campbell	St. James-St. Matthew's	South Ozone Park	NY
Ms.	Hope	Card	New Hope for All Saints L. C.	Bronx	NY
Ms.	Susan	Carentz	Gloria Dei Ev. L. C.	New Hyde Park	NY
Ms.	Carmen	Carey	Holy Trinity L. C.	Hollis	NY
Mrs.	Anne-Marie	Carlson	Trinity L. C.	White Plains	NY
Ms.	Maria	Carlson	Our Saviour's L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Mr.	Richard	Case	St. Paul's L. C.	Rye Brook	NY
Mr.	Bob	Cederstrom	Cross of Christ L. C.	Babylon	NY

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	First Name	Last Name	Cong./Inst.Name	City	State
Mr.	Rob	Cederstrom	Cross of Christ L. C.	Babylon	NY
Ms.	Loretta	Cheong	Our Saviour L. C.	Jamaica	NY
Mr.	George	Clark	Ev. L. C. of the Good Shepherd	Pearl River	NY
Mrs.	Dorothy	Clavell	St. Andrew's L. C.	Smithtown	NY
Mr.	James	Clavell	St. Andrew's L. C.	Smithtown	NY
Ms.	Candace	Collins	St. Paul's L. C.	East Northport	NY
Dcn.	Ingrid	Compton	St. Stephen's L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Ms.	Penny	Conklin	Calvary L. C.	Hauppauge	NY
Ms.	Jessie	Conklin	Calvary L. C.	Hauppauge	NY
Ms.	Monica	Cotterell	St. Thomas L. C.	Bronx	NY
Mr.	Tom	Cowan	Incarnation L. C.	Bridgehampton	NY
Ms.	Ana	Crespo	Zion L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Ms.	Dorothy	Criscuolo	St. John's L. C.	Lynbrook	NY
Mr.	Bob	Cruickshank	Grace L. C.	Yorktown Heights	NY
Ms.	Ginny	Cummings	Salem L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Mr.	William	Currie	St. Matthew's L. C.	White Plains	NY
Ms.	Clara Aba	Dahoud	Salam Arabic L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Mr.	Tony	Deely	St. John's L. C.	Merrick	NY
Ms.	Jean	DeGennaro	Zion L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Ms.	Gerry	DeLeo	St. James L. C.	Stewart Manor	NY
Mr.	Neal	DeLeo	St. James L. C.	Stewart Manor	NY
Ms.	Maria	delToro	Synod Council	New York	NY
Ms.	Roberta	Detmers	St. Luke's L. C.	Woodhaven	NY
Ms.	Julie	DeVita	Immanuel L. C.	Staten Island	NY
Ms.	Joanne	Dietrich	Christ Ev. L. C. of Airmont	Suffern	NY
Ms.	Jasmine	Downer	St. Stephen's L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Ms.	Constance	Duever	St. Luke's L. C.	New York	NY
Vicar	Jeanine	Duncan	Resurrection L. C.	St. Albans	NY
Ms.	Bessie	Easley	Bethlehem L. C.	Bronx	NY
Mrs.	Dorothy	Eberhardt	Ev. L. C. of St. Stephen	Hicksville	NY
Mr.	Rudy	Eberhardt	Ev. L. C. of St. Stephen	Hicksville	NY
Mrs.	Edith	Ecklund	Messiah Ev. L. C.	Staten Island	NY
Mr.	Richard	Ecklund	Messiah Ev. L. C.	Staten Island	NY
Mr.	David	Ehlers	St. John's L. C.	Lindenhurst	NY
Ms.	Janet	El-Yateem	Salam Arabic L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Ms.	Christine	Engler	Covenant L. C.	Ridgewood	NY
Mr.	Gerry	Erickson	Synod Council	Brooklyn	NY
Mr.	Isaac	Everett	Transfiguration L. C.	Bronx	NY
Ms.	Lori	Fagan	Gloria Dei L. C.	Huntington Station	NY
Dcn.	Barbara	Faraca	Cross of Christ L. C.	Babylon	NY
Ms.	Clare	Feger	Reformation L. C.	Ridgewood	NY
Dcn.	Carol	Fehleisen	St. Luke's L. C.	Farmingdale	NY
Dcn.	Richard	Ferolito	St. John's Ev. L. C.	Poughkeepsie	NY
Mrs.	Carol	Ferolito	St. John's Ev. L. C.	Poughkeepsie	NY
Dcn.	Meg	Fielding	Holy Trinity L. C.	Rockville Ctr.	NY
	Gerry	Finck	St. John's L. C.	Merrick	NY
Ms.	Mary	Fitzpatrick	Holy Trinity L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Ms.	Patricia	Force	St. Paul's L. C.	Port Jefferson Station	NY
Mrs.	Donna	Frank	Ev. L. C. of the Redeemer	Queens Village	NY
Mr.	S. Cecil	Frank	Good Shepherd L. C.	Roosevelt	NY
Miss	Debbie	Frederick	Ev. L. C. of the Good Shepherd	Pearl River	NY
Ms.	Debbie	Fritzen	St. Andrew's L. C.	West Hempstead	NY
Mr.	George	Frost	St. Paul's Ev. L. C.	New City	NY
Ms.	Dorothy	Fyfe	L. C. of the Good Shepherd	Brooklyn	NY
Ms.	Catherine	Geisner	St. Paul's Int'l L. C.	Floral Park	NY

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	First Name	Last Name	Cong./Inst.Name	City	State
Mr.	Richard	Gerbe	Ascension L. C.	Franklin Square	NY
Dcn.	Charles	Germain	Synod Council	Carmel	NY
Ms.	Asta	Gibbs	Bethlehem L. C.	Bronx	NY
Ms.	Sheila	Gilliam	Church of Our Saviour	Manhasset	NY
Ms.	Diane	Gilroy	Holy Trinity L. C.	Bellerose	NY
Ms.	Hazel	Goldstein	St. John's L. C.	Middletown	NY
Mr.	John	Goldstein	St. John's L. C.	Middletown	NY
Mr.	Art	Gould (Fr-Sat.)	Redeemer L. C.	Kingston	NY
Ms.	Joyce	Grady	Trinity of Manhattan	New York	NY
Ms.	Joy	Granolini	Trinity of Manhattan	New York	NY
Mr.	Michael	Gray	All saints L. C.	Jamaica	NY
Mr.	Peter	Greene	Sion L. C.	New York	NY
Mr.	Bill	Hahn	St. John's L. C.	Mamaroneck	NY
Mr.	Ronald	Hahn	Holy Cross L. C.	Commack	NY
Mr.	Wolfgang	Hahn	Zion-St. Mark's L. C.	New York	NY
Mr.	Ken	Hansen	Zion L. C.	Staten Island	NY
Dcn.	Lynne	Hansen	Emanuel L. C.	Pleasantville	NY
Mrs.	Wilma	Harris	Christ L. C.	Newburgh	NY
Ms.	Wendy	Healy (Sat.)	Trinity L. C.	Brewster	NY
Mr.	John	Heidgerd	L. C. of the Resurrection	Mt. Kisco	NY
Dcn.	Elke	Hekler	Redeemer L. C.	Kingston	NY
Mr.	Brett	Henry	Trinity L.E.S.Lutheran Parish	New York	NY
Mr.	Mark	Hill	Our Saviour's Atonement L. C.	New York	NY
Ms.	Tracy	Hill	Epiphany L. C.	Laurelton	NY
Ms.	Dorothy	Hillis	United L. C.	Mt. Vernon	NY
Mr.	James	Hillis	St. Peter's L. C.	Greenport	NY
Dcn.	Iris	Hippner	St. Peter's L. C.	Greenport	NY
Ms.	Elizabeth	Hoffmann	Synod Council	Rocky Point	NY
Mr.	Herbert	Holl	L. C. of Our Savior	Patchogue	NY
Mrs.	Joan	Holl	L. C. of Our Savior	Patchogue	NY
Ms.	Barbara	Holm	L. C. of Our Saviour	Mineola	NY
Ms.	Patricia	Hosanah	Prince of Peace L. C.	Cambria Hts.	NY
Mr.	Donald	Hoyer	Christ L. C.	East Northport	NY
Dcn.	Frances	Hoyer	Christ L. C.	East Northport	NY
Ms.	Althea	Hudson	Church of the Holy Redeemer	Brooklyn	NY
Mr.	Jonathan	Hue	Prince of Peace L. C.	Cambria Hts.	NY
Ms.	Lorraine	Hughes	Trinity Ev. L. C.	Rocky Point	NY
Ms.	Nina	Hunt	Augustana L. C.	East Elmhurst	NY
Mr.	Arthur	Isakson	Abiding Presence L. C.	Fort Salonga	NY
Ms.	Betty	Jackson	Saint Peter's Church	New York	NY
Ms.	Evelyn	Jimenez	Trinity L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Ms.	Barabara	Johnson	Transfiguration L. C.	New York	NY
Mr.	Eric	Johnson	St. John-St. Matthew-Emanuel	Brooklyn	NY
Ms.	Lelia	Johnson	St. Jacobi L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Dcn.	Klaus	Jonietz	Redeemer Ev. L. C.	New Paltz	NY
Hon.	Daniel	Joy	New Hope L. C.	Jamaica	NY
Ms.	Lois	Kaelin	Trinity Ev. L. C.	Rocky Point	NY
Dcn.	Dorothy	Kafalas (Th-Fri.)	Trinity L. C.	Brewster	NY
Ms.	Antje	Katcher	Incarnation L. C.	Bridgehampton	NY
Ms.	Diane	Kelly (Th-Fri.)	Christ Ev. L. C.	Floral Park	NY
Ms.	Joan	Keville	Grace Ev. L. C.	North Bellmore	NY
Mr.	Jerry	Kishun, Sr.	St. Paul's Ev. L. C.	Richmond Hill	NY
Mr.	Robert	Klein	Christ L. C.	New York	NY
Ms.	Hilde	Koch	St. Paul's L. C.	Liberty	NY
Ms.	Barbara	Kortrey	Christ's L. C.	Woodstock	NY

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	First Name	Last Name	Cong./Inst.Name	City	State
Ms.	Ruth	Krauser	Trinity Ev. L. C.	Kingston	NY
Ms.	Joan	Kuhhorn	St. Andrew's L. C.	Yorktown Heights	NY
Ms.	Phyllis	Kull	Christ Ev. L. C.	Floral Park	NY
Rev.	Jose	LaBoy	Atonement L. C.	Jackson Hts.	NY
Ms.	Mara	Lakis	Latvian Ev. L. C. of NY	Melville	NY
Mr.	Martin	Lalsingh	Christ L. C.	New Hyde Park	NY
Ms.	Gretel	Langenbach	Christ L. C.	Ellenville	NY
Mr.	Theodore	Lay	Our Redeemer L. C.	Seaford	NY
Ms.	Linette	Lee	Grace Chinese L. C.	Elmhurst	NY
Ms.	Carol	Leidig	St. Luke's L. C.	Farmingdale	NY
Mr.	Hank	Lenz	St. John's L. C.	Lynbrook	NY
Ms.	Sonia	Lind	Grace L. C.	Malverne	NY
Ms.	Peg	Lindblom	Grace L. C.	Yorktown Heights	NY
	Kirkland	Lindsay	New Hope L. C.	Jamaica	NY
Ms.	Christina	Lord-Barry	St. Paul's Int'l L. C.	Floral Park	NY
Ms.	Gloria	Ma	Grace Chinese L. C.	Elmhurst	NY
Ms.	Elke	Maerz	St. Jacobus L. C.	Woodside	NY
Ms.	Barbara	Magyar	Ascension L. C.	Deer Park	NY
Ms.	Roxanne	Mahler	Christ Ev. L. C.	Floral Park	NY
Ms.	Roxanne	Mahler (Sat.)	Christ Ev. L. C.	Floral Park	NY
Ms.	M. Rosina	Major	Church of the Holy Redeemer	Brooklyn	NY
Ms.	Riitta	Mäkipää	NY Finnish L. C.	New York	NY
Mr.	Carmelo	Maldonado	Atonement L. C.	Jackson Hts.	NY
Mr.	John	Malone	Redeemer-St. John's L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Mrs.	Nancy	Malone	Redeemer-St. John's L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Mr.	John	Mark	St. Michael's L. C.	Amagansett	NY
Mrl.	Erich	Markert	Redeemer Ev. L. C.	New Paltz	NY
Ms.	Barbara	Markert	Trinity L. C.	Brewster	NY
Mr.	Richard	Marra	L. C. of Our Savior	Port Washington	NY
Ms.	Cyrlene	Mathurin	Grace L. C.	Uniondale	NY
Mr.	John	Maxwell	Oceanside L. C.	Oceanside	NY
Mr.	Lud	Mayleas	St. John's Ev. L. C.	New York	NY
Ms.	Evelyn	McCatty	St. Paul's Church	Bronx	NY
Dcn.	Delores	McKay	First Lutheran, Throggs Neck	Bronx	NY
Mrs.	Karla	McKenzie	Advent L. C.	Elmont	NY
Mr.	Stuart	Meade	St. Paul's L. C.	Port Jefferson Station	NY
Ms.	Eva	Medina	Fordham L. C.	Bronx	NY
Dcn.	Robert	Michaelis	St. David's Ev. L. C.	Massapequa Park	NY
Mr.	Alan	Middlemiss	Christ L. C.	Wantagh	NY
Ms.	Frances	Middlemiss	Christ L. C.	Wantagh	NY
Mr.	David	Mochu	St. Luke's L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Ms.	Ann	Mochu	St. Luke's L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Dcn.	Kamy	Moghbeli	Bethlehem L. C.	Baldwin	NY
Ms.	Sandra	Mohans	St. Philip's L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Ms.	Joan	Mohr	St. Matthew's L. C.	White Plains	NY
Ms.	Nancy	Montanez	Trinity L.E.S. Lutheran Parish	New York	NY
Mr.	Freddy	Moreno	Iglesia Resurreccion	Uniondale	NY
Ms.	Helen	Morton	St. Barnabas Church	Howard Beach	NY
Ms.	Irene	Motrie	Immanuel L. C.	Kingston	NY
Mr.	James	Mueller	Ascension L. C.	Deer Park	NY
Ms.	Joyce	Nadig	Christ L. C.	New York	NY
Mr.	John	Naudus	Christ Ev. L. C.	Ozone Park	NY
Ms.	Catherine	Naughton	First Lutheran, Throggs Neck	Bronx	NY
Mr.	Ira	Nebrasky	St. James L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Mr.	Robert	Neel	Ev. L. C. of the Advent	New York	NY

APPENDIX I -- ROSTER OF ATTENDEES

	First Name	Last Name	Cong./Inst.Name	City	State
Mr.	Drew	Neidig	Ascension L. C.	Deer Park	NY
Mrs.	Evelyn	Ness	Third L. C.	Rhinebeck	NY
Mr.	Dan	Nigro, Jr.	Church of Our Saviour	Manhasset	NY
Mr.	John	Nurmi	Emanuel L. C.	Pleasantville	NY
Mr.	Arthur	O'Donnell	Eltingville L. C.	Staten Island	NY
Dcn.	Margaret-Ann	O'Donnell	Eltingville L. C.	Staten Island	NY
Mr.	John	Ogren	Gustavus Adolphus L. C.	New York	NY
Ms.	Patricia	Olson	Trinity L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Dcn.	Janet	O'Mara	Christ L. C.	Islip Terrace	NY
Dr.	Stephen	O'Rourke	St. Luke's L. C.	New Rochelle	NY
Rev.	Fernando	Otero	Messiah L. C.	Flushing	NY
Mrs.	Meta	Ottway	King of Kings L. C.	New Windsor	Y
Mr.	Ray	Palermo	Bethlehem L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Ms.	Lulu	Paolini	Gustavus Adolphus L. C.	New York	NY
Mr.	William	Paulus	Trinity Ev. L. C.	Kingston	NY
Mrs.	Gretchen	Peacock	Christ L. C.	Staten Island	NY
Ms.	Cathy	Pearson	St. Andrew's L. C.	West Hempstead	NY
Ms.	Gail	Peck	Immanuel L. C.	Staten Island	NY
Ms.	Jill	Perrine	Covenant L. C.	Ridgewood	NY
Mr.	Rip	Persaud	Our Saviour L. C.	Jamaica	NY
Dcn.	Florence	Poeschke	St. David's Ev. L. C.	Massapequa Park	NY
Ms.	Linda	Polliizzi	L. C. of Our Savior	Port Washington	NY
Ms.	Olga	Porter-Perez	New Hope for All Saints L. C.	Bronx	NY
Dcn.	John	Prosen	L. C. of the Incarnation	Cedarhurst	NY
Mr.	Paul	Pysher	St. Paul Ev. L. C.	West Camp	NY
Mr.	Everett	Quinton	Grace & St. Paul's Church	New York	NY
Mr.	Reginald	Quintyne	Abiding Presence L. C.	Fort Salonga	NY
Mr.	Brian	Reardon	Trinity L. C.	Staten Island	NY
Ms.	Karen	Reardon	Gloria Dei Ev. L. C.	New Hyde Park	NY
Mr.	George	Reid	St. John's Ev. L. C.	New York	NY
Ms.	Joyce	Rivera	Trinity L. C.	Long Island City	NY
Ms.	Jeanne	Roberts-Turner	Resurrection L. C.	St. Albans	NY
Ms.	Virginia	Rose	Third L. C.	Rhinebeck	NY
Ms.	Rosemary	Rosenberger	First-Grace Lutheran Parish	Jeffersonville	NY
Ms.	Derry	Ruth	St. Paul's L. C.	Liberty	NY
Rev.	Juris	Saivars	Latvian Ev. L. C. of NY	Melville	NY
Ms.	Djamillah	Samad	Ev. L. C. of the Advent	New York	NY
Ms.	Lori	Scaffidi	Abiding Presence L. C.	Fort Salonga	NY
Ms.	Patricia	Schanstra	Holy Trinity L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Mr.	Paul	Schmelter	St. Peter's Ev. L. C.	Huntington Station	NY
Mr.	Charles	Schueler	Ascension L. C.	Glendale	NY
Mrs.	Elaine	Schueler	Ascension L. C.	Glendale	NY
Mr.	Luke	Schultheis	L. C. of the Resurrection	Mt. Kisco	NY
Mrs.	Audrey	Schurman	New Hope L. C.	Valley Stream	NY
Mr.	Bob	Schurman	New Hope L. C.	Valley Stream	NY
Mr.	John	Schwaninger	Good Shepherd L. C.	Plainview	NY
Dr.	John	Scibilia	Saint Peter's Church	New York	NY
Ms.	Jean	Shaljian	Hope L. C.	Selden	NY
Ms.	Carol	Sharp	Grace L. C.	Forest Hills	NY
Ms.	Mae	Sheppard	All saints L. C.	Jamaica	NY
Ms.	Anne	Sheppard	L. C. of the Incarnation	Cedarhurst	NY
Ms.	Angie	Simpkins	St. Paul's L. C. in Flatlands	Brooklyn	NY
Mr.	Rob	Sinanan	St. James-St. Matthew's	South Ozone Park	NY
Ms.	Janet	Siry	Trinity Ev. L. C.	Rocky Point	NY
Ms.	Beverly	Small	Synod Council	Uniondale	NY

APPENDIX I -- ROSTER OF ATTENDEES

	First Name	Last Name	Cong./Inst.Name	City	State
Ms.	Andrea	Smernoff	Bethlehem L. C.	Baldwin	NY
Mr.	James	Smith	Christ/Cristo	Freeport	NY
Mr.	Joe	Smith	Our Saviour's L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Ms.	Nancy	Smith	Holy Trinity L. C.	New Rochelle	NY
Mr.	William	Smith	Messiah L. C.	Flushing	NY
Ms.	Jackie	Smrek	Cross of Christ L. C.	Babylon	NY
Ms.	Grace	Songstad	St. John's L. C.	Lindenhurst	NY
Mr.	Richard	Soper	Hope L. C.	Selden	NY
Mrs.	Susan	Soper	Hope L. C.	Selden	NY
Ms.	Helen	Strobel	Trinity-St. Andrew's Church	Maspeth	NY
Mr.	Frank	Suttell	Holy Trinity L. C.	New York	NY
Ms.	Kimberly	Suttell	Holy Trinity L. C.	New York	NY
Mr.	Christian	Tamsunan	Huria Kristen Batak Protestan	Elmhurst	NY
Ms.	Louisa	Tango	Holy Trinity L. C.	New Rochelle	NY
Mr.	Donald	Thorsen	Zion L. C.	Staten Island	NY
Ms.	Kristen	Timpanaro	Third L. C.	Rhinebeck	NY
Ms.	Roxanne	Toomey	Christ L. C.	Wantagh	NY
Ms.	Barbara	Tormondson	St. Paul's L. C.	Rye Brook	NY
Mr.	Orlando	Torres	Fordham L. C.	Bronx	NY
Ms.	Regina	Trombitas	King of Kings L. C.	New Windsor	NY
Ms.	Lorraine	Tuccillo	Bethlehem L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Mr.	Thomas	Turner	Christ L. C.	East Northport	NY
Ms.	Louise	Valuck	Trinity L. C.	White Plains	NY
Ms.	Carol	Vandermosten	St. Peter's Ev. L. C.	Baldwin	NY
Mr.	Gene	Vandermosten	St. Peter's Ev. L. C.	Baldwin	NY
Mrs.	Pamela	Velastegui	Sion L. C.	New York	NY
Ms.	Dorothy	Vogel	Atonement L. C.	Saugerties	NY
Mr.	Louis	Vogel	Atonement L. C.	Saugerties	NY
Ms.	Barbara	Wagner	L. C. of Our Redeemer	Chappaqua	NY
Ms.	Eleanor	Wagner	St. Philip's L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Ms.	Kristin	Wahlberg	L. C. of the Messiah	Brooklyn	NY
Mr.	Richard	Walker	Trinity L. C.	Long Island City	NY
Dcn.	Louise	Walters	St. Michael's L. C.	Amagansett	NY
Ms.	Evelyn	Watson	St. Thomas L. C.	Bronx	NY
Mr.	Joseph	Waurlean	St. Paul's Church	Bronx	NY
Ms.	Eileen	Weber	Gloria Dei L. C.	Huntington Station	NY
Dcn.	Lynn	Weiler	Saint John L. C.	Bellmore	NY
Dcn.	Gary	Weiler	Saint John L. C.	Bellmore	NY
Mr.	Max	Wenzel	St. Paul's Ev. L. C.	New City	NY
Dcn.	Helen	Wernlund	Ascension L. C.	Deer Park	NY
Mr.	Charles	West	Transfiguration L. C.	New York	NY
Ms.	Joanne	Westerlund	Trinity Ev. L. C.	Rocky Point	NY
Mr.	Jonathan	Westerlund	Synod Council	Miller Place	NY
Ms.	Renée	Wicklund	Synod Council	Brooklyn	NY
Ms.	Karen	Wiking	St. Luke's L. C.	Farmingdale	NY
Ms.	Cassandra	Wilson	St. Luke's L. C.	New York	NY
Ms.	Karol	Wollenburg	Our Saviour's Atonement L. C.	New York	NY
Dcn.	Janice	Wunsch	Holy Trinity L. C.	Rockville Ctr.	NY
Mr.	Jeremiah	Zeltmann	St. Paul's L. C.	East Northport	NY
Mr.	Richard	Zubrod	St. Luke's L. C.	Farmingdale	NY

APPENDIX I -- ROSTER OF ATTENDEES

Visitors/Volunteers/Staff

	First Name	Last Name	Cong./Inst.Name	City	State
Bp.	Deszo	Adorjani	Ev. L. C. in Romania		
Mrs.	Judith	Ammerman	Visitor		FL
Ms.	Nancy	Beckwith	Trinity of Manhattan	New York	NY
Ms.	Linda	Bell	Volunteer	Rockville Ctr.	NY
Mr.	Richard	Beyer	Visitor	New York	NY
Ms.	Molly	Blanke	Lutheran Counseling Center	Mineola	NY
Ms.	Elizabeth	Bohrer	Bethlehem L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Rev.	Stephen	Bouman	ELCA	Chicago	IL
Dcn.	Sharon	Brennen	Dobbs Ferry L. C.	Dobbs Ferry	NY
Rev.	Pauline	Brndjar	LTSP	Philadelphia	PA
Bp.	Elisa	Buberwa	North Western Diocese/ELCT	Bukoba, Tanzania	
Mrs.	Grace	Buberwa	North Western Diocese/ELCT	Bukoba, Tanzania	
Bp.	Claire	Burkat	Southeastern PA Synod	Norristown	PA
Ms.	Cynthia	Chambers	Elections Committee	Jamaica	NY
Ms.	Cindy	Combs	Abiding Presence L. C.	Fort Salonga	NY
Ms.	Carol	Cruickshank	Grace L. C.	Yorktown Hts.	NY
Ms.	Barbara	Debski	Board of Pensions	Minneapolis	MN
Mrs.	Louise	Deely	St. John's L. C.	Merrick	NY
Ms.	Dorothy	Demarest	Parliamentarian	Naples	FL
Mr.	Branden	Dicks	MNYS Staff	New York	NY
Ms.	Judy	Diers	St. John-St. Matthew-Emanuel	Brooklyn	NY
Ms.	Beate	Dovach	Volunteer		
Mr.	Ekkehard	Dovach	Volunteer		
Mr.	Ronald	Drews	LSS	New York	NY
Mr.	Victor	Eichorn	Volunteer	Ossining	NY
Mrs.	Nancy	Eichorn	Volunteer	Ossining	NY
Mr.	Mark	Erson	Ev. L. C. of the Redeemer	Queens Village	NY
Ms.	Kristina	Farmer	L. C. of Our Savior	Patchogue	NY
Ms.	Linda	Farrington	Visitor		
Rev.	Attila	Feher	Ev. L. C. in Romania		
Mr.	Ken	Fosse	Eger Lutheran Home	Staten Island	NY
Ms.	Janet	Gay	St. Stephen's L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
	Chris	Geiger	Hope L. C.	Selden	NY
Ms.	Sarah	Gioe	MNYS Staff	New York	NY
Ms.	Delores	Gray	St. Peter's Ev. L. C.	Bronx	NY
Rev.	Daniel	Hahn	Lutheran Statewide Advocacy	Albany	NY
Ms.	Flora	Hartford	Hope L. C.	Selden	NY
Ms.	Wendy	Healy	Trinity L. C.	Brewster	NY
Ms.	Ardath	Heard	Volunteer	New York	NY
Mrs.	Mary	Heller	Visitor	Poughkeepsie	NY
Mr.	Marc	Herbst	Good Shepherd L. C.	Plainview	NY
Mr.	Paul	Jensen	Visitor	Staten Island	NY
Mr.	Fred	Johnsen	Volunteer / visitor		
Dr,	Louise	Johnson	LTSP	Philadelphia	PA
Mr.	Ed	Johnson	A-V		
Mr.	Ben	Johnson	Volunteer		
Ms.	Carol	Johnson	Volunteer		
Dr.	Philip	Krey	LTSP	Philadelphia	PA
Ms.	Nancy	Krisch	Gloria Dei L. C.	Huntington Station	NY
Ms.	Patricia	Lawrence	MNYS Staff	New York	NY
Mr.	Daniel	Lehmann	The Lutheran	Chicago	IL
Rev.	Jonathan	Linman	ELCA Church Council	New York	NY
Mr.	John	Litke	MNYS Staff	Huntington	NY
Mrs.	Louise	Litke	Assembly Committee	Huntington	NY

APPENDIX I -- ROSTER OF ATTENDEES

	First Name	Last Name	Cong./Inst.Name	City	State
Mr.	Jan	Lorenzen	Visitor	Brooklyn	NY
Rev.	Fath	Lugazia	Visitor from Tanzania	Minneapolis	MN
Dcn.	Paul	Lumpkin	St. John's L. C.	Poughkeepsie	NY
Ms.	Linda	Magill	Augsburg-Fortress	Minneapolis	MN
Ms.	Norma	Malfatti	Elections Committee	Gettysburg	PA
Mr.	James	Mark	Visitor	Greenport	NY
Mrs.	Dorothy	Meade	St. Paul's L. C.	Port Jefferson Station	NY
Ms.	Eva	Medina	Fordham L. C.	Bronx	NY
Ms.	Linda	Middleton	Good Shepherd L. C.	Roosevelt	NY
Pr.	Glenn	Miller	LTSP	Philadelphia	PA
Ms.	Leslee	Nestingen	Augsburg-Fortress	Minneapolis	MN
Dcn.	Karen	Nurmi	Emanuel L. C.	Pleasantville	NY
Ms.	Marie	Obst	St. John's L. C.	Lynbrook	NY
Mrs.	Nancy	Olson	MNYS (wife of Bp. Olson)	New York	NY
Mrs.	Elizabeth	O'Rourke	Ascension L. C.	Deer Park	NY
Ms.	Martha	Otero	St. John's by the Sea	Long Beach	NY
Ms.	Susan	Pate	Volunteer		
Ms.	Sandra	Paul	Volunteer	New York	NY
Dcn.	Roberta	Paulik	Assembly Planning Committee	Freeport	NY
Rev.	Janis	Pauliks	L. C. of the Good Shepherd	Brooklyn	NY
Ms.	Hephzibah	Peter	Volunteer	Floral Park	NY
Ms.	Rebecca	Pollicino	Holy Trinity L. C.	Rockville Ctr.	NY
Dcn.	Robert	Rainis	Church of the Epiphany	Bronx	NY
Bp.	Roy	Riley	New Jersey Synod		
Mrs.	Lois	Rimbo	Holy Trinity L. C.	New York	NY
Ms.	Nancy	Rivera	Atonement L. C.	Jackson Hts.	NY
Mr.	Christopher	Roerher	Seafarers & Int'l House	New York	NY
Dcn.	Gayle	Ruege	MNYS Staff	New York	NY
Rev.	Z. Ann	Schmidt	Holy Trinity L. C.	New York	NY
Mr.	Walter	Schuffenhauer	Assembly Committee	New York	NY
Mrs.	Joyce	Schumacher	Visitor	Manchester	NJ
Ms.	Gwen	Sefrhans	Redeemer L. C.	Kingston	NY
Rev.	Craig	Settlage	ELCA	Chicago	IL
Mr.	Adam	Sornchai	St. Paul's L. C.	Port Jefferson Station	NY
Mr.	James	Steipp	Elections Committee	Kingston	NY
Mr.	Walter	Straub	Grace L. C.	Yorktown Hts.	NY
Ms.	Rita	Swogger	King of Kings L. C.	New Windsor	NY
Mr.	Ed	Tatljan	Visitor		FL
Ms.	JoAnn	Tatljan	Visitor		FL
Ms.	Gloria	Taylor	St. John's Ev. L. C.	Poughkeepsie	NY
Ms.	Mary	Tennermann	MNYS Staff	New York	NY
Pr.	Greg	Tennermann	Visitor/Volunteer	Athens	NY
Ms.	Carolyn	Thorsen	Zion L. C.	Staten Island	NY
Mr.	William	Tuccillo	Bethlehem L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Ms.	Britt	Votne	St. Paul's Ev. L. C.	New City	NY
Mrs.	Carol-Ann	Walker	Holy Cross L. C.	Commack	NY
Mr.	Peter	Weeg	A-V		
Mr.	Steve	Wilson	Bethlehem L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Mr.	William	Wotten	Abiding Presence L. C.	Bronx	NY
Ms.	Lily	Wu	MNYS Staff	New York	NY
Rev.	Peggy	Wuertele	ELCA Region 7 Office	Philadelphia	PA
Rev.	John	Young	St. Jacobi Ev. L. C.	Brooklyn	NY

APPENDIX I -- ROSTER OF ATTENDEES

Excused/Unable to Attend

	First Name	Last Name	Cong./Inst.Name	City	State
Ms.	Melissa	Armak	St. John's by the Sea	Long Beach	NY
Ms.	Sarabeth	Beidinger	Christ L. C.	Ellenville	NY
Mr.	Richard	Biehl	Ev. L. C. of the Good Shepherd	Pearl River	NY
Mr.	Alan	Chen	Synod Council		
Pr.	Charles	Deitz	(Ret'd)	Hillsdale	NY
Ms.	Kelly	Downs	Christ's L. C.	Woodstock	NY
Mr.	Ernest	Gramlich	St. James L. C.	Brooklyn	NY
Ms.	Mary	Haas	Trinity L. C.	Staten Island	NY
Ms.	Hattie	Hunt	St. Peter's L. C.	Springfield Gardens	NY
Pr.	Kjell	Jordheim	(Ret'd)	Columbia	MO
Mr.	William	Kauffman	St. Peter's L. C.	Port Jervis	NY
Ms.	Annette	LaSalle	St. John's by the Sea	Long Beach	NY
Dr.	Earl	Marsan	Synod Council	Englewood	NJ
Mr.	Joseph	McDonough	Epiphany L. C.	Bronx	NY
Mrs.	Katherine	McDonough	Epiphany L. C.	Bronx	NY
Ms.	Norma	McGregeor	St. Peter's L. C.	Springfield Gardens	NY
Mr.	Manuel	Melendez	Transfiguration L. C.	Bronx	NY
Ms.	Minerva	Melendez	Synod Council	Yonkers	NY
Ms.	Evelyn	Meyer	Trinity Ev. L. C.	Middle Village	NY
Mr.	Mark	Middleton	Good Shepherd L. C.	Roosevelt	NY
Ms.	Corlyn	Nedwick	Abiding Presence L. C.	Fort Salonga	NY
Pr.	Robert	Neilssen	(Ret'd)	Cresco	PA
Ms.	Katherine	Neuendorf	Trinity Ev. L. C.	Middle Village	NY
Pr.	Heidi	Neumark	Trinity of Manhattan	New York	NY
Ms.	Monica	Orellana	St. Luke's L. C.	Woodhaven	NY
Mr.	Michael	Pagan	Iglesia/del Espiritu Santo	Brooklyn	NY
Pr.	Richard	Pankow	(Ret'd)	Hackensack	NJ
Mr.	Immanuel	Partahi	Huria Kristen Batak Protestan	Elmhurst	NY
Pr.	Elena	Perez	(Ret'd)	Bay Shore	NY
Ms.	Robin	Robin	Christ L. C.	New Hyde Park	NY
Mr.	Andrew	Russo	L. C. of Our Saviour	Mineola	NY
Mr.	Otto	Schmid	Advent L. C.	Mattituck	NY
Mr.	Jeff	Schmidt	St. Peter's Ev. L. C.	Huntington Station	NY
Pr.	Jack	Stouffer	(Ret'd)	Bristol	RI
Mr.	Eugene	Townsend	Trinity Ev. L. C.	Wyandanch	NY
Mr.	Art	Upright	St. John's Ev. L. C.	Poughkeepsie	NY
Ms.	Linda	Upright	St. John's Ev. L. C.	Poughkeepsie	NY
Mr.	Warren	Vandewater	Grace Ev. L. C.	North Bellmore	NY
Ms.	Mary Jean	Weber	Trinity-St. Andrew's Church	Maspeth	NY
Mr.	Milton	Werner	St. John's L. C.	Richmond Hill	NY
Ms.	Lovis	Williams	Fordham L. C.	Bronx	NY
Ms.	Karen	Woolley	Holy Trinity L. C.	Hollis	NY

Report of the Synod Council 2008

This annual report of the Synod Council to the 17th Synod Assembly is to provide you with a summary of the actions that have been taken on your behalf since the Synod met in Assembly on May 17th – 18th at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Huntington Station, New York. These actions are divided into appropriate sections as they relate to the work of the Synod Council.

Calls Issued

Rhonda Hoehn, "Parish Associate" First Presb. Church of Red Bank, NJ, effective 1 May 2007
Stephen Hultgren, Prof. of Theology at Fordham University for the academic year 2007-2008.
Ann Tiemeyer, National Council of Churches, Program Director for Women's Ministry
Nicole Schwalbe, Campus Pastor for Columbia University and Queens College
Dr. Carol L. Kessler, Staff Psychiatrist for The Mental Health Association of Westchester
Marsh Drege, Ex. Dir. for Seafarers and International House, New York, effective 01 Jan 08
Barbara Hosmer, Interim Pastor at Old First Presbyterian, Huntington, NY, effective 01 Sep 07
Annemarie Noto, St. Peter's Baldwin, non-stipendiary
Fritz Wendt, St. Paul's, (Parkchester) Bronx, non-stipendiary

Appointments

Lutheran Statewide Advocacy Executive Committee

- a. Rose Anne Vita / Ms. Sharon Wilson 2006-2007 Term
- b. Elise Brown / David Rommereim 2007-2008 Term

John Jurik as Chair, Reference & Counsel (2008 Synod Assembly)

Mr. James Steipp as Chair, Elections Committee (2008 Synod Assembly)

Scott Kershner, Co-Chair of Reference and Counsel (SA2008)

Rosalind Brathwaite, Synod Worship Committee

Ms. Candy Eng, Synod Financial Management Committee (3 yr term)

Mr. Donald B. O'Neil – Ministry Coordinator/Development Mgr., Holy Trinity Lutheran School, Hollis

Carol E. Fryer – Wartburg Adult Care Community, Mt. Vernon

James Thomas – Candidacy Committee MNYS

Fabian Arias – Candidacy Committee MNYS

Christopher Mietlowski – Candidacy Committee MNYS

Motions

ACTION: SC07.05.01:

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council commend the Bishop and members of the Synod Staff for the initiative in securing this gift; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council, subject to consummation of the grant in writing, authorize the continuation of operations of the Holy Trinity School for 2007-2008 School Year, and when the full extent of the gift conditions and Synodical responsibilities are known, consider ratifying and/or extending that authority for the full three year period of the gift; and be it further

APPENDIX II – PRE-ASSEMBLY BULLETIN OF REPORTS SECTION B

RESOLVED, that the School immediately take steps to improve its ability to become solvent, by significantly increasing tuition rates, and other rational and measurable measures, including an initial increase for the 2007-2008 school year; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council maintain its ability to monitor the operations of both Church and School, and regularly report financial status against its budgets; and be it further

RESOLVED, that all parties understand that the operation of the Holy Trinity Ministry must remain neutral to Synodical net costs, and that the future of the Ministry is dependent on that condition; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council continue its present efforts to define and establish the benchmarks required for, and conditions, for relinquishing Synodical Administration, as specified in its resolution of October 24, 2006.

RESOLVED, that the certain written Agreement of Purchase and Sale between METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA, as Seller and GRACE PRESBYTERIAN KOREAN CHURCH OF NY, INC., as Purchaser, for the sale of the real property known as and by street address 201-03 29th Avenue, Bayside, New York, in consideration of the sales price of \$2,400,000.00 to be paid by the Purchaser be and the same is hereby authorized, approved, ratified and adopted by the Synod council as the binding act and deed of the METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Officers of the METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA, acting solely and on behalf of the Synod be and hereby are authorized, empowered and directed to sign, verify and cause to be filed such Petition as may be required by law to obtain the approval of such sale by the Courts of the state of New York and the Attorney General of the State of New York; and, in the event that such approvals, shall be obtained, to thereafter execute, acknowledge and deliver a Deed of Conveyance and all such other documents as may be required to convey title to the Property, and to pay all customary and/or required closing costs, transfer taxes, brokerage, attorney and other professional fees incurred in connection with the sale of the Property; 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 Agreement of Purchase and Sale be fulfilled and the transactions contemplated therein be effectuated; and it is further

RESOLVED, that each and every officer of the Synod be and they hereby are authorized, empowered and directed to utilize the net proceeds from the sale of the Property, after payment of the customary and/or required closing costs, transfer taxes, attorney and other professional fees relating to the sales, in furtherance of the purposes for which the Synod was formed, in accordance with its Certificate of Incorporation and Constitution and By-Laws; and it is further

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

ACTION SC07:7/4

RESOLVED, That the Metropolitan New York Synod memorialize that ELCA Churchwide Assembly to direct the Communications Office of the national church to engage in collaborative activities to raise awareness about the issues surrounding HIV disease through the use of a media campaign directed at members of this church as well as the broader population.

ACTION SC07:7/5:

RESOLVED, that the Commission for Evangelical Outreach be included in the 2008 budget for \$15,000.

ACTION SC07:7/6:

RESOLVED, that the Metro New York Synod Council applaud the bishop's recommendation for the recruitment and engagement of an administrator for coordination between the Holy Trinity Ministry at Hollis and the Synod.

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ACTION SC07:7/7:

RESOLVED, that Synod Council take no exception to the sale of one of three parsonages at Christ Lutheran Church in Suffern.

ACTION SC07:7/8:

RESOLVED, that the 2008 Synod Assembly be held on May 15-17 at the Holiday Inn in Suffern NY.

ACTION SC07:7/9:

RESOLVED, that Bishop Bouman extend an invitation to Bp. Dezso Adjorani of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Romania and Bp. Buberwa of the North Western Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania to attend our 2008 synod assembly.

ACTION SC07:9/2:

RESOLVED, that Synod Council take no exception to the sale of house (caretaker residence) at Christ Lutheran Church in Wantagh.

ACTION SC07:9/3:

RESOLVED, that when the synod determines that a church facility is property no longer needed by the synod, consistent with †S13.23 any musical assets of significant value and in good working condition shall be made available to ministries of the synod for relocation at the expense of the receiving ministry, with any additional reconditioning or refurbishment also to be the responsibility of the receiving ministry; and be it

RESOLVED, that relocated musical assets may not be sold or otherwise disposed of by recipients without permission of the Metropolitan New York Synod; and be it further

RESOLVED, that an “Instrument Assessment Committee” of no more than five persons (at least 3 laypersons) comprising two members of the synod (preferably experienced church musicians), two Synod Council members, and one member of the Mission Development Board (“MDB”) or synod staff shall be appointed by the bishop consistent with S11.21.01; and be it

RESOLVED, that this committee shall

- evaluate the condition of redundant instruments;
- make recommendations concerning their disposition, including their suitability for relocation (in whole or in part) to other congregations preferencing congregations of the Metropolitan New York Synod;
- assist ministries within the synod to determine if one of these instruments will serve their needs;
- make recommendations to the synod for other opportunities to preserve instruments (in whole or in part) if they are not suitable for relocation within the synod ;
- determine the usefulness of creating and maintaining an inventory of the organs within the synod, and be it further

RESOLVED, that in the event that several ministries express interest in acquiring the same redundant musical instrument held by the synod, the MDB shall consider proposals for use by the interested congregations and award the instrument to that congregation whose mission and ministry it believes will be most enhanced by the awarded instrument based on the information contained in the proposal; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the assessment of such instruments should begin as soon as practicable following the decision by a congregation to close (or once it appears likely that the congregation will consider closing, if possible), so that the availability of the instruments may be announced in a timely manner; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the synod at its discretion may make other arrangements for the disposition of these instruments if no firm commitments or expressions of interest have been made within 90 days

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of the announcement of the instruments' availability or the closing of the congregation, whichever is later.

ACTION SC07:11/1

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod conduct its election for bishop as previously announced at the May assembly; and be it further

RESOLVED, that in the intervening months the MNYS conduct a ministry audit utilizing the resources and personnel of the Office of the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA.

ACTION SC07:11/2

RESOLVED, that the executive committee in consultation with the presiding bishop, recommend a candidate and contract for an interim bishop for the January synod council meeting, reporting all nominees of the presiding bishop to the synod council.

ACTION SC07:11/3

WHEREAS, the calls of rostered persons on the staff end with the tenure of Bishop Bouman,

RESOLVED, that these calls shall be extended until the end of 2008, subject to the normal terms of call and severance.

ACTION SC07:11/4

RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee be authorized to appoint a transition team of eight persons. The members of the transition team will serve until the installation of the new bishop.

ACTION SC07:11/6:

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council direct appropriate officers to execute such documents as required, attesting to the approval of such sale by the corporation.

ACTION SC07:11/7:

RESOLVED, that the synod council approve the synod assembly registration fees of \$175. per voting member, \$25. per visitor, \$150. per meal package.

ACTION SC07:11/6:

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council direct appropriate officers to execute such documents as required, attesting to the approval of such sale by the corporation.

ACTION SC07:11/8:

RESOLVED, that the synod council postpone consideration of the Archives Advisory Committee in regard to the MNYS archives until the Sutter family has been contacted and approves recommended name for the archives.

ACTION SC07:11/9:

RESOLVED: that the Officers of the Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America, acting solely and on behalf of the Synod be and hereby are authorized, empowered and directed to negotiate and sign a lease agreement with Messiah Lutheran Church, 42-15 165th Street, Flushing NY for the use of the property located at 202-16 23rd Avenue Bayside, NY, with terms substantially in accord with the following conditions:

1. The Synod will retain title to the property and will retain appropriate comprehensive insurance for the building.
2. The Synod will be responsible for major repairs (e.g. roof, boiler replacement, etc). (None are anticipated as of Nov 2007.)
3. Messiah will be responsible for all utilities and routine maintenance of the building and

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grounds, including minor repairs to appliances.

4. Messiah will be responsible for any insurance for the contents.
5. Messiah may only use the premise for housing for called pastoral staff unless the Synod agrees in writing to a change in this condition.
6. The lease is immediately terminated if the pastor accepts a call to another congregation.
7. When the lease is terminated, Messiah will return the parsonage to the care of the synod in broom-clean condition with all appropriate maintenance completed.

ACTION SC07:11/10:

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council of the Metropolitan New York Synod shall apply synodical administration of BETHANY and shall take charge and control of the property of BETHANY to hold, manage and convey the same on behalf of the Metropolitan New York Synod and shall administer synodical administration to BETHANY and its members upon their request.

Pastors' Compensation Guidelines for 2008

ADOPTED

ACTION SC08:1/1:

RESOLVED, The Metropolitan New York Synod, in partnership with Saint Peter's, Manhattan, provide the bank with a guarantee in the amount of \$2 million to support the development project at Sion, Manhattan.

ACTION SC08: 1/3:

RESOLVED, that the following staff housing allowances for the calendar year 2008 be approved (EXHIBIT I)

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| 1. David Anglada | \$27,668.00 |
| 2. Dr. Gary Mills | \$58,186.00 |
| 3. Robert Wollenburg | \$68,698.00 |
| 4. Dianne Loufman | \$ 9,600.00 |
| 5. Eduardo Arias | \$26,798.00 |
| 6. James O'Hanlon | \$20,823.82 |

ACTION SC08: 1/4:

RESOLVED, that the certain written Agreement of Purchase and Sale between METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA, as Seller, and Moses Gruenfeld as Purchaser, in consideration of the sales price of \$4,100,000.00 to be paid by the Purchaser be and the same is hereby authorized, approved, ratified and adopted by the Synod Council as the binding act and deed of the METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA; and it is further,

RESOLVED, that the Officers of the METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA, acting solely and on behalf of the Synod be and hereby are authorized, empowered and directed to sign, verify and cause to be filed such Petition as may be required by law to obtain the approval of such sale by the Courts of the State of New York and the Attorney General of the State of New York; and, in the event that such approvals, shall be obtained, to thereafter execute, acknowledge and deliver a Deed of Conveyance and all such other documents as may be required to convey title to the Property, and to pay all customary and/or required closing costs, transfer taxes, brokerage, attorney and other professional fees incurred in connection with the sale of the Property; 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 Agreement of Purchase and Sale be fulfilled and the transactions contemplated therein be effectuated; and it is further

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RESOLVED, that each and every officer of the Synod be and they hereby are authorized, empowered and directed to utilize the net proceeds from the sale of the Property, after payment of the customary and/or required closing costs, transfer taxes, attorney and other professional fees relating to the sale, in furtherance of the purposes for which the Synod was formed, in accordance with its Certificate of Incorporation and Constitution and By-Laws; and if is further

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

ACTION SC08: 1/5

RESOLVED, that the certain written Agreement of Purchase and Sale between METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA, as Seller, and FRANK McERLEAN, as Purchaser, in consideration of the sales price of \$1,800,000.00 to be paid by the Purchaser be and the same is hereby authorized, approved, ratified and adopted by the Synod Council as the binding act and deed of the METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA; and it is further,

RESOLVED, that the Officers of the METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA, acting solely and on behalf of the Synod be and hereby are authorized, empowered and directed to sign, verify and cause to be filed such Petition as may be required by law to obtain the approval of such sale by the Courts of the State of New York and the Attorney General of the State of New York; and, in the event that such approvals, shall be obtained, to thereafter execute, acknowledge and deliver a Deed of Conveyance and all such other documents as may be required to convey title to the Property , and to pay all customary and/or required closing costs, transfer taxes, brokerage, attorney and other professional fees incurred in connection with the sale of the Property; 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 Agreement of Purchase and Sale be fulfilled and the transactions contemplated therein be effectuated; and it is further

RESOLVED, that each and every officer of the Synod be and they hereby are authorized, empowered and directed to utilize the net proceeds from the sale of the Property, after payment of the customary and/or required closing costs, transfer taxes, attorney and other professional fees relating to the sale, in furtherance of the purposes for which the Synod was formed, in accordance with its Certificate of Incorporation and Constitution and By-Laws; and if is further

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

ACTION SC08:1/7:

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council appoint David W. Olson as interim bishop (part-time) of the Metropolitan New York Synod

ACTION: SC08:1/8:

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council request the *Conference of Deans* provide opportunities for reflection on the spiritual and constitutional role of the bishop by organizing prayer events or other appropriate venues in preparation for the election of the bishop using resources supplied by the synod worship committee.

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod in gratitude and thanksgiving for the ministry of Bishop Bouman present him a farewell gift of six weeks compensation consistent with the guidance of the Evangelical Church in America.

ACTION: SC08:1/9:

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council of the Metropolitan New York Synod approve the change in venue for the 2008 Synod Assembly from the Holiday Inn, Suffern, New York to The Westchester Marriott, Tarrytown, New York.

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ACTION SCO8:3/2

RESOLVED, that the on leave status of Hector Carrasquillo be extended through December 2009.

ACTION SC08:3/3

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council adopt S7.32.01. SC2008.3

E. Rules pertaining to the election of a Bishop

1) Biographical Information

Biographical information on the seven nominees (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the second ballot, submitted on a form determined by the Synod Council, shall be distributed to voting members prior to the casting of the third ballot for bishop.

2) Speeches by Nominees

- a. Prior to the third ballot for bishop, the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the second ballot will be invited to address the assembly, with each speech limited to five minutes. If any such person is not present at the assembly, the individual, if possible, may designate an alternate to speak on her or his behalf.
- b. A time keeper shall indicate to the speaker when 30 seconds remain of the allocated time and when the allocated time has elapsed.
- c. The sequence of the speeches shall be determined by lot.

3) Questions

- a. Prior to the fourth ballot for bishop, the three persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the third ballot will be invited to participate in a question-and-answer period.
- b. The period shall be moderated by the person designated to preside at the election.
- c. The questions shall be asked in rotating order of the nominees, and the same questions will be asked to each nominee. Each nominee shall have a maximum of 90 seconds to respond to each question.
- d. A time keeper shall indicate to the speaker when 30 seconds remain of the allotted time and when the allotted time has ended. The sequence of the questions to be asked shall be determined by the vice president and presiding officer.
- e. The time for the question-and-answer period shall be a maximum of 45 minutes.
- f. Questions may be submitted in writing to the secretary, or the secretary's designee, by any voting member of the assembly by 5:00 p.m. of the 15th day prior to the beginning of the synod assembly.
- g. Questions will be compiled and distributed no fewer than seven days prior to the beginning of the synod assembly *via* the synod's usual electronic communications.

ACTION SC08:3/4

RESOLVED, the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the changes made and adopt Revisions C as the current budget, as a basis for spending approval, and measurements of performance.

ACTION SC08:3/5

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council adopt the 2009 budget, Revision A and recommend it for approval by the Synod Assembly.

RESOLVED, that the 2008 housing allowance of \$1,000 per week of service for Bishop David W. Olson be approved.

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ACTION SC08:3/6

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod urges congregations to consider the long term implications of the sale of real property, particularly parsonages; and be it,

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod make use of the parsonage properties of disbanded congregations whenever possible for housing to rostered persons within the synod; and be it

RESOLVED, that congregations are encouraged to adopt bylaws requiring consultation with the Synod concerning the sale of properties and that these bylaws also contain one of the following provisions in addition to consultation:

- That 75% of the voting members present and voting at a legally called meeting of the congregation be required for the sale of a parsonage
- That before the sale of parsonage properties by the congregation it request the Synod Council to review the proposed sale, and by majority vote, take no exception to the sale of the parsonage.

The Days Ahead

It has been a challenging year as we continue to do ministry in the many urban, suburban and rural communities of our synod. In some cases we have had to make difficult and painful decisions to close some of our churches in the face of economic realities. It is rewarding to see, however, when some of these closings can bring about new beginnings in other parts of our synod. The Metropolitan New York Synod continues to face financial challenges just as our congregations do. Mission support from congregations has remained relatively flat over the last two years. In a way that is better news than what had been happening over the previous decade or more. I am happy to report that the synod continues to stabilize financially due in large part to the leadership of our treasurer, Robert Buescher. We continue to provide important funding for innovative ministry opportunities. The needs far exceed the Synod's ability to fund many of these ministries. We need to support these vital ministries but we must also be faithful stewards of the funds that have been entrusted to us for not only the present but well into the future as well. As our treasurer so aptly reminds us, we appear to have stopped digging a deep hole for ourselves financially. We have replaced our shovels with smaller spades, but we have not begun refilling the hole. The Synod's ten year plan seeks to reverse this trend because without doing so we will surely find ourselves in even more difficult circumstances in the not to distant future.

Communications among ourselves is vital to better understand the needs that we as a synod have. Since our last assembly, many of us have had the opportunity to share these needs, accomplishments and vision to the future through the Town Hall meetings held throughout our synod again. These meetings have been vital in getting to know who we are as a synod collectively. A common thread throughout these Town Hall meetings has been the diverse and creative ways congregations serve the people and needs of our many communities. We must continue to be visionary in our approach to ministry. This year's assembly theme, "God's Work, Many Hands" provides us with the appropriate imagery of what we must do to fulfill that plan. As congregations, synods and churchwide we are the hands of God doing his work locally, nationally and internationally.

This assembly brings with it the challenge of electing a new bishop. Over the past few months we have had the opportunity to reflect on the qualities we hope a new bishop will possess. Some of these processes have been more formal than others. Earlier this year, churchwide staff was present on our territory to listen to the opinions of rostered leaders and laity of our Synod. I urge you to read this report prior to coming to the assembly and continue to ask questions and raise concerns amongst each other. Surely we pray for the presence of the Holy Spirit among us these days leading up to the election and beyond. May it truly enrich all of our lives.

Addendum (after April 15 Meeting)

Calls Issued

Deacon Judith Delgado, as Pastor/Developer of a Spanish language ministry at St. Peter's, Bronx effective April 15, 2008

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Calls Concluded

Rose Ann Foege, Vice Pastor at Ascension, Glendale effective May 31, 2008

Roy Lloyd, resignation from serving The American Bible Society, effective April 9, 2008

Motions

Action SC08:4/2

RESOLVED, that synod council approve the following Trexler Grants:

The Rev John Havrilla Good Shepherd Pearl River	To support a study/travel program to Germany through the ELCA "Wittenberg Sampler" October 5-15, 2008	\$1,000
Abraham Lu Grace Chinese Elmhurst	To support participation in the 2008 Pan Am Conference on Evangelism hosted by the Chinese Coordination Center of World Evangelism, April 28 – May 2, 2008	\$ 700
Peter Rustico St. John's, Middletown	To support a study/travel program to Southern Italy and Sicily to explore the roots of the Lutheran faith in Roman Catholicism and the Sites of St. Paul's travels, July 18 – August 2, 2008	\$1,000
Scott Kershner St. Stephen's, Brooklyn	To support a study/travel program in the Holy Land, March 23 – April 2, 2008	\$ 750
Total to disburse		\$3,450

Action SC08:4/3

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ("Synod") having its principal offices at 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY, had at its Council meeting held on the 15th day of November, 2005, adopted a resolution to apply synodical administration and to take charge and control of the property of Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church (St. John's) and

WHEREAS, by decision dated the 8th of April, 2008, Honorable Paul G. Feinman, J.S.C. of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of New York, in the matter captioned "In the matter of the Application of METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA, individually and as administrator of the property of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Petitioner, For leave to transfer certain real property of ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTERAN CHURCH pursuant to section 12 of the Religious Corporation Law, against EILEEN SINGLETON, ROSE AUGUSTE, LORRAINE LETT and NELLIE SAUNDERS, individually and as members of the Congregation Council of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, WILFRED MORRIS and JOHN DOE 1 through 5 and JANE DOE 1 through 5, Respondents" Index No. 118731/2006 granted to the Synod its right, pursuant too synodical administration, to take charge and control of all of the property of St. John's and to hold, manage, or convey such property; and

WHEREAS the Synod seeks to enforce synodical administration and effectuate the decision of Justice Feinman;

NOW THEREFORE, it is *RESOLVED* that the Synod Council, for all of the reasons that have been stated above and which are incorporated by references herein, shall apply synodical administration and take charge and control of the property of St. John's; and it is further

RESOLVED that the Synod take all steps and actions necessary or desirable to transfer and convey all of the real estate and additional assets of St. John's to the Synod; and it is further

RESOLVED that the officers of the Synod, acting individually and on behalf of the Synod and St. John's be and hereby are authorized, empowered and directed to sign, verify and obtain the approval by the Courts of the State of New York and the Attorney General of the State of

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New York (including the filing of such Petition as may be requested by law) for the transfer of the real property currently titled in the name of St. John's, including, but not limited to the property located at 1343 Fulton Avenue, Bronx, NY (County of Bronx, Block 2928, Lots 68 and 70); and thereafter, to execute, acknowledge and deliver a Deed of Conveyance any and all such other documents required to transfer or otherwise confirm ownership of the real property to 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 real property.

Action SC08:4/4

WHEREAS the Audit Committee, having reviewed the Financial Statements and Report for the year ending January 31, 2008 prepared by Tait, Weller, & Baker, certified public accountants, and noting that in the opinion of the auditors the financial statements taken as a whole present fairly the financial position of the Metropolitan New York Synod in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles

RECOMMENDS adoption by the Synod Council of the report.

Action SC08:4/5

The Audit Committee recommends to the Synod Council retention of Tait, Weller & Baker as certified public accountants for the year ending January 31, 2009

Action SC08:4/7

RESOLVED that the agenda of the 2008 Synod Assembly be approved.

Action SC08:4/8

RESOLVED that the name of Robert Buescher be placed in nomination for the office of Treasurer of the Synod.

Action SC08:4/9

RESOLVED that the Metropolitan New York Synod Ministry Audit report prepared by the ELCA churchwide offices be accepted with thanks.

Action SC08:4/10

WHEREAS, the Ministry at Holy Trinity, Hollis, is seeking to be financially viable, and

WHEREAS, a core and expanding leadership group, including the pastor, school board chair and other board members, volunteers, synod staff and the Lutheran Schools Association executive director, has been meeting since December, 2007, to assess and plan for financial viability, and

WHEREAS, that leadership group has put into place concrete goals and steps to reach a balanced budget for the 2008-2009 school term, and

WHEREAS, the goals and steps include but are not limited to

1. A tuition increase of some 12% for the next three years and tiered tuition;
2. Cost saving measures identified within the existing expense budget as well as an evaluation of the teacher to student ratio;
3. Administrative changes that include the hiring of a principal as soon as feasible before the next school term, a professional development plan for the principal and an evaluation of all existing teachers and staff prior to the renewal of their contracts in the fall;
4. Increased enrollment up to 156 students;

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5. The development of a donor base, community appeals, fundraising events, grant opportunities and partnerships with area Lutheran schools;
6. A dynamic use of the professional “Church and School Planning Process”

WHEREAS, the goals and steps need to be tested and proven over the next 12 months, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council grants continued operation for the 2008-2009 School Year, subject to the following conditions and performance.

1. That a 12% tuition increase for all billable enrollees be initiated for the 2008-2009 year over the rates applicable to the 2007-2008 year.
2. That contract negotiations to increase the payment for UPK enrollment begin before September 1, 2008, with a view to increasing such payments both now and on expiration of the current contract.
3. That Holy Trinity Ministry abide by the terms of the Management Agreement, executed on/about January 2007.
4. That the usual monthly reports of school enrollment and outstanding tuition, and reports of church attendance and official acts be promptly sent to the Synod Treasurer at month end.
5. That if an enrollment of the billable K-8 students does not exceed 115 (140 including UPK students) by December 1, 2008 the Ministry will promptly announce its closing on or before June 30, 2009; and be it

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council continue its present efforts to define and establish the benchmarks required for, and conditions, for relinquishing Synodical Administration, as specified in its resolution of October 24, 2006, and reaffirmed by its resolution of May 19, 2007.

Hans Vogel, Vice President

Archives Advisory Committee

The Archives Advisory Committee is very pleased to announce that, due to the generosity of Dr. Frederic Koehler Sutter, there is now an endowment fund for the archives now. “The Sutter Family Memorial Endowment Fund” has been established with the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust. Income from the endowment will be distributed to the Synod as funds designated for the work of the Archives Advisory Committee.

Dr. Sutter is the grandson of Dr. Frederic Sutter, who was instrumental in bringing Wagner College to Staten Island in 1917, and Mr. Otto Frederic Koehler, who built the Main Hall at Wagner College in 1929. Dr. Sutter's grandfather was pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Staten Island from 1907 until his retirement in 1964. His father, Carl J. Sutter, was also pastor of Trinity, starting as an Assistant Pastor in 1933, and serving as Senior Pastor from 1964 to 1979. “Pastor Carl” also founded Trinity Lutheran Elementary School, which will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in 2010.

In gratitude to Dr. Sutter for his gift, and in recognition of the many contributions to the ministry of our Synod made by the Sutter family over the years, the archives have been named “The Sutter Memorial Archives.”

The following is a list of accessions made during the past year:

- Synod Assembly 2007 reports and photos
- Synod Assembly 2006 minutes
- Records of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Richmond Hill, Queens
- Records of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Brooklyn
- Papers for the March 26, 2007 Ministerium
- Minutes of 1977 AELC Assembly
- Records of St. Marks, Ridge, NY

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- Synod Council Minutes, July 2006 – Jan. 2007
- Grace All Around Us, Stephen Paul Bouman
- God's Time: Selected Sermons, 1963 – 1971, Lauri J. Anderson, ed. Michael Church
- Audio tape: Greetings from AELC by C. Thomas Spitz, given at the LCA Convention in Boston, July 24, 1976.
- Audio tape, interview with C. Thomas Spitz, undated.
- Histories of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Manhattan
 - 50th Anniversary, 1913 (in German)
 - 60th Anniversary, 1923
- “New at Ninety,” 90th Anniversary and Rededication of the Ev. Luth. Church of Christ, Rosedale, Queens
- Records of Bishop Stephen P. Bouman

The archivist and archival assistant processed these records during the past year:

- Atonement Lutheran Church, Staten Island, NY
- St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Richmond Hill, Queens
- St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Brooklyn
- Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Bayside, Queens
- St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Ridge, NY.

Congregations of the Synod are invited to contact the archivist (or any member of the Archives Advisory Committee) if they have any questions regarding record-keeping, anniversary celebrations, care for old records, etc. Also, chairpersons of Synod committees and commissions are requested to send copies of minutes and other relevant documents to the archivist, c/o the Horrmann Library, Wagner College, Staten Island, NY.

Respectfully submitted by the Archives Advisory Committee

*Mr. John Daggan, Chair and Archivist
Rev. Michael Church, Historian
Rev. Glenn Stone
Mr. Jack Martz*

*Mr. Alan Hoffman
Mr. Walter Jensen
Mr. Erik Sorensen
Ms. Diane Butler, Archival Assistant*

Asian Immigration Outreach 2008

Coworkers in the Gospel! That's what Asian ministry leaders are, in hands-on work to grow disciples and reach out for Christ with joy and intentionality. Yes, we can minister in 54 languages and dialects, mostly Asian. But we may be out in the world with neighbors and friends of many other backgrounds as well.

EVENTS

May 6, 2007 – **“We Are Not Alone,” first synodwide Ethnic Rally.** Pr. Jonathan Shin and Reformation Lutheran, Bay Ridge, organized and hosted this celebration of diverse oneness in Christ. Worship and performances by the Young Acolytes Symphonic Steel Orchestra of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Brooklyn; Huria Kristen Batak Protestan Lutheran Church, Elmhurst; Han Ool Korean Dancers, Brooklyn; St. Jacobi Lutheran Church Chinese Dancers, Sunset Park; and others made a joyful noise unto the Lord – culminating with a rousing intergenerational conga line!

June 23, 2007 – **Asian Youth Gospel Camp.** The Asian Leadership Roundtable (Asian pastors group) of the synod organized this discipleship training and fellowship day; 50 high school and junior high youth and 10 adult leaders gathered at St. Paul International Lutheran Church, Floral Park, Queens. The event was part of Asian Lutheran planning churchwide, in collaboration with the ELCA Asian Ministries Office in Chicago.

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September 8, 2007 – **Community Street Festival**. St. Paul International, led by Pr. Daniel Peter in Floral Park, invited neighbors far and wide to come celebrate God's diversity. They attracted about 1,000 participants with a variety of food, outdoor musical performances, children's activities, booth, and a raffle.

Reformation Day – **2nd Asian Gospel Song Contest**. Again organized by Pr. Shin and his assistant from Reformation, Hayley Bang, but with a change of venue: Faith Lutheran in Syosset, with Pr. James Anderson. Bishop Stephen Bouman attended to bring greetings to all. Several singers and musicians performed for the approximately 100 persons who came, and a Korean family team was named First Prize Winner.

November 11, 2007 – **New English Ministry Pastor at Grace Overflows**. David Andrew Fetters is the long-awaited new Asian English ministry pastor of Grace Overflows, the English speaking satellite congregation of Grace Chinese Lutheran Church, Elmhurst. This energetic group of youth and young adults has been exploring their identity in Christ and visioning for the Gospel while also working on an intensive outreach program to nurture youth.

CHANGES

July 1, 2007 – **Jonathan Shin began a new multicultural outreach at Faith, Syosset**. Pr. Shin also continues with Reformation, Bay Ridge, to search for a new church home in Queens or Long Island. Can your congregation be the partner in Christ that they have been praying for?

December 1, 2007 – **Mary Chang installed at Incarnation, Cedarhurst**. In addition to her new call, Pr. Chang continues her chaplaincy work at Lutheran Medical Center and her Cantonese web radio inspirational talks with the Chinese Christian Herald Crusades (www.cchc.org).

LOOKING AHEAD

- **Needed: Room to Grow**. Asian immigration congregations can grow rapidly. In fact, our greatest passion is growing disciples for Christ. But how can we do this, especially when affordable space is so hard to find? Our greatest hope is to grow the church, find facilities that can accommodate expansion, and find supportive coworkers from both within and beyond the Asian network.
- **Nurturing youth** is another high priority. Grace Overflows (Pr. D. Andrew Fetters) has teamed up with St. Jacobus, Woodside (Pr. Cathy Rosenholtz) to establish an every-other-Friday ministry to youth ages 10-17 in Elmhurst, Woodside and Jackson Heights. May 2 is the kick-off date. Do you know families with youth you can encourage to come?
- **Visit us on the web!** Our web section seeks to introduce, inform, inspire, and maybe even surprise you. For example, Jesus is our Rice of Life, but many people just getting to know us will start with our cuisines. We'll give you hints about that in our web section also. Please visit us at www.mnys.org, Ministries, Asian Ministries!

NEW YORK DISASTER INTERFAITH SERVICES (NYDIS)

The Bishop's Assistant also served as secretary of the board and chair of the communications committee of the New York Disaster Interfaith Services (NYDIS), a federation for faith-based disaster readiness, response, and recovery services in New York City. (Lutheran Disaster Response New York was a founding member of NYDIS.) You can download from www.nydis.org two free resources produced this year: the NYDIS Spiritual Care and Mental Health Manual, and NYDIS Disaster Tip Sheets for Religious Leaders.

Lily R. Wu, Assistant to the Bishop for Immigration Outreach (Asian)

Campus Ministry

The 26 Campus Ministry Agencies (CMAs) in Region 7 are stand-alone student centers or congregations located adjacent to a state or private university or college, with minimally a quarter-time staff commitment to outreach on the campus. These CMAs are an integral part of the network of almost 200 official ELCA CMAs across the United States. They represent a vital partnership between the local congregation or board of a campus center, the synod, and the churchwide organization. I thank the synods of Region 7 for their partnership in these important ministries.

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Each year, CMAs present a thorough report of their activities of the past year and goals for the next. Here are some highlights from the summary of these annual reports:

- In an average week, over 4,300 students are at worship in our ELCA campus ministries.
- CMAs made over 26,000 initial contacts with students as they arrived on campus.
- Over 2,400 students participated in Christian education
- Nearly 5,000 students participated in 1,415 service trips to work in shelters and food pantries, build or repair homes, or clean up the environment.
- There are 231 recent alumni/ae of ELCA campus ministries enrolled in seminaries, with another 277 in the candidacy process.
- Cooperative ministry with Episcopal and Roman Catholics ministries is quite typical, as is dialogue with Muslim and Jewish groups on campus.
- With churchwide and synodical staying level or slightly declining, 67% of the ministries report significant fundraising activity. (Many people in the church are not aware that, while thankful for the financial partnership of the synod and the churchwide organization, CMAs depend greatly on the generosity and commitment of neighboring congregations and individual donors. If your congregation is one of those that include a local campus ministry in the budget, or an individual donor, we say a heart-felt "Thank you!")

Last year, Lutheran Campus Ministry celebrated its centennial, including a special focus at many synod assemblies. We discovered just how many alums, friends, and active supporters of campus ministry there are out there in the church. The CMAs in your region feel encouraged and empowered by such support to launch into a second century of ministry on campuses. While at your synod's assembly, stop by the campus ministry display area and express your support as well.

Rev. Jack A. Saarela, Coordinator for Campus Ministry in Regions 7, 8 & 9

Candidacy Committee

Candidacy Committee Responsibilities

Persons seeking rostered vocations in the ELCA as ordained pastors, associates in ministry, consecrated deaconesses and diaconal ministers apply for Candidacy through the Candidacy Committee of the synod in which they hold congregational membership. The Synod Candidacy Committee, which acts on behalf of the Metropolitan New York Synod and the ELCA, is responsible for determining the readiness of persons to enter the candidacy process, for endorsing candidates for a specific roster of this church, and in the approval process, for determining an individual's qualifications and readiness to serve in rostered ministry.

Metropolitan New York Synod Candidates

Approximately 60 members of the Metropolitan New York Synod were involved in some phase of the candidacy process in 2007. Persons seeking rostered vocations in the ELCA are expected to participate in all steps of the candidacy process. The candidacy process is the shared responsibility of the candidate and the Candidacy Committee. The process includes three important points of decision:

- **Entrance** begins a journey of discernment that explores an individual's potential for rostered ministry and readiness to begin the process of theological study and candidacy in the ELCA. One year of active membership in the ELCA is required prior to entrance. The entrance process requires the completion of an application portfolio that includes: application form, biographical essay, congregational registration, initial interview, psychological evaluation/career counseling consultation, background check and entrance interview. Normally, a positive entrance decision is required before an applicant is admitted to an ELCA seminary.

10 applicants were approved for Entrance to Candidacy in 2007:

Olsen, Megan, Ascension Lutheran Church, Deer Park (AIM) (Luther)

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Lembke, Heidi, Advent Lutheran Church, Manhattan (LTSP)

Dietrich, George, Christ Lutheran Church, Airmont (LTSP)

Clausen, Sarah, Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, Manhasset (LTSP)

Malfatti, Norma, St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Rhinebeck (LTSG)

Pollicino, Rebecca, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Rockville Centre (General)

Drysdale, David, St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, White Plains (LTSS)

Johnson, Georgiana, Trinity Lutheran Church, Staten Island (NYTS)

Johansen, Timothy, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, W. Hempstead (LTSP)

Lemons, Melissa, Trinity Manhattan Lutheran Church, Manhattan (Union)

- **Endorsement** encourages and affirms those who clearly demonstrate gifts and qualities for a specific form of ministry in the ELCA, as well as identifies areas for growth and development. Before endorsement, a candidate must complete at least two semesters of seminary study, parish fieldwork, and a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education. Candidates for endorsement complete an endorsement essay, which is discussed with the Candidacy Committee during an endorsement interview. Only endorsed candidates may participate in an ELCA internship.

8 Candidates were approved for Endorsement in 2007:

Fey, Danielle, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Smithtown (Union)

Sornchai, Adam, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Port Jefferson Station (LTSG)

Bell, Linda, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Roosevelt (LTSP)

Heiserer, Dana, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Lake Ronkonkoma (LTSP)

Cederstrom, Robert, Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Babylon (NYTS)

Khalilia, Khader, Salam Arabic Lutheran Church, Brooklyn (LTSP)

Smith, James, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Wyandanch (LTSP)

Weber, Robert, Trinity-St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Maspeth (LTSS)

- **Approval** comes at the completion of all academic and practical requirements. The approval process includes the preparation of an Approval Essay and participation in the Approval Interview. A positive decision must be made in order to be available for assignment, ordination and first call for service to the whole church.

7 Candidates were approved for Ordination in 2007:

Wogaman, Christopher, Our Saviour Atonement Lutheran Church

Wills, Jonathan, St. John's Lutheran Church, Mamaroneck

Delgado, Judith, Trinity Lutheran Church, Brooklyn

Dassin, Franklyn, Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Staten Island

Benjamin, Paul, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, West Camp

Hickey, John, Christ Lutheran Church, East Northport

Johnsen, Frederick, Trinity Lutheran Church, Kingston

2 Candidates were approved for reinstatement to the ELCA Roster in 2007:

Kuznik, Joel, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Manhattan

Pettersen, Arthur, Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Staten Island

1 Candidate was approved for Admission to the ELCA Roster in 2007:

McIntyre, Mark, Trinity Lower Eastside Lutheran Church

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Metropolitan New York Synod Candidacy Committee

The Metropolitan New York Synod Candidacy Committee met six times in 2007. Meetings were held at the Synod Office on the second Saturday of the month. A Candidacy Retreat was held in October. Members of the Committee traveled to the ELCA seminaries to conduct endorsement interviews.

Sharon Israel, James O'Hanlon and James Thomas completed second terms of service on the Synod Candidacy Committee in 2007. Pat Lawrence, who served for many years as Administrative Assistant to the Candidacy Committee, was reassigned to other ministries within the synod in 2007. Mary Tennermann assumed Pat's duties beginning in August.

Eduardo Fabian Arias and Christopher Mietlowski were appointed to service on the Candidacy Committee beginning in the fall of 2007. James Thomas was appointed to a continuing term. Melinda Quivik, Professor of Christian Assembly at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, served as ELCA seminary faculty representative in 2007. Peggy Wuertele, ELCA Region Seven Coordinator, also attended the meetings.

As of December 2007, the Committee consisted of 15 persons. Jeffrey Kolbo continued to serve as Candidacy Coordinator and Chairperson of the Committee. Ms. Constance Duever, Assistant to the Bishop, served as the Bishop's representative.

Candidacy Committee Members as of December 2007

Rev. Eduardo Arias	Ms. Carolyn Brown	Ms. Constance Duever
Rev. Martha Jacobi	Ms. Ellen Jetto	Rev. Scott Kershner
Rev. Jeffrey Kolbo	Ms. Marlene Lund	Rev. Chris Mietlowski
Rev. Raymond Ormand	Rev. Daniel Penumaka	Dr. Ralph Peters
Rev. Melinda Quivik	Rev. James Thomas	Rev. Jeanne Warfield

The Committee gives special thanks to Synod assistants Pat Lawrence and Mary Tennermann, who assisted with the administrative details of the candidacy process in 2007.

New Candidates Encouraged

If you or someone you know would like to explore the possibility of a vocation in the ELCA as an ordained pastor, associate in ministry, diaconal minister or deaconess, the Candidacy Committee would be interested in speaking with you. For information, contact the Reverend Jeffrey Kolbo, Candidacy Coordinator, 631-744-9355 or jkolbo123@verizon.net.

Jeffrey Kolbo, Candidacy Coordinator

Child, Youth & Family Ministry Committee Report

For confirmation at Trinity, Brewster, where I'm a member, we have a couple of "required" retreats each year. In response to that requirement, I received an E-mail from one of the parents that went something like this:

"I have given this great thought all week long and despite the guilt I feel, I am comfortable with my decision. My child will not be going on the retreat for several reasons, the first being time constraints. I scheduled a scout function (for another child) specifically for Sunday because I didn't have to go to confirmation that night (because we would be on the retreat, there was no class that evening). Due to work schedules, I frequently do not have 'back up' for my other children and their needs. I believe that, given the opportunity, my child's focus will not be on the retreat program. I enjoyed the other events we've done, my child did not. I cannot imagine that my child would participate with a whole heart or mind. Additionally I am sure you are aware that this is an age when kids are self-centered. Unfortunately, many of us have to 'push' religion and church upon them to the point of threats. If I were to force him to attend this weekend, he would miss his soccer game and, create even more resentment towards church and God (he/she has shown up to games even when unable to play and in a wheelchair). I think I am trying to find a happy medium of what I feel is necessary and what I can give a little on. I know at times I have made the wrong choice but, when I add it all up, this is one that I am

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choosing to let go. I have spoken to other parents and I know that they are in the same boat as I. Thanks for your time and understanding.”

If I were to try to describe the struggles our parents have with their children’s faith development, I couldn’t have done a better job. This is a parent who really tries, and you can feel their pain and frustration as they describe how they try to make “church and religion” meaningful in her children’s lives. In their book, *Kid Stuff... Marketing Sex and Violence to America’s Children*, the authors, Diane Ravitch and Joseph Viteritti, co-chairs of the NYU School of Education, conclude, “...parents need to do something they’ve never been required to do before perhaps at any time in history: deliberately and consciously counter many of the dominant messages of their own culture.” Countering the dominant messages of our culture is no easy task. As congregations, we need to be counter cultural and supportive of these parents. We need to, and can if we decide that that’s what we want to do, provide a meaningful alternative to the culture of the 21st century. It won’t be easy, but it’s worth it.

Stories, like the one I just shared, are what can help shape our strategies for supporting congregations with their child, youth and family ministries. They tell it like it is. Please tell us the stories of your struggles and joys so we can share them with others. You can send those stories directly to the Child Youth & Family Ministry Committee, or through Mission Interpreters, and we will share them on the web page.

Actually, we know how to do effective child, youth and family ministries. Check out www.exemplarym.com. On the Child Youth & Family Ministry web page, we list resources and training that congregations can tap into. Opportunities include Youth Ministry Certification School and the Youth Workers Gathering in the East (www.gatheringeast.org). Abby Triebel at St John’s – Poughkeepsie, recently graduated from Youth Ministry Certification School at Gettysburg (go to www.ltsq.edu, click on Lifelong Learning, then Youth Ministry Certification School). If you really think that youth and family ministry is important, than you need to be investing in your volunteers so they can be effective in the culture of the 21st century.

To help provide training opportunities, the Committee cosponsored an event with Koinonia (who should get the credit for making all the arrangements) in February 2007 called Youth and Family Ministry – Professional Intensive. This was a 3 day seminar lead by Dr Rollie Martinson from Luther Seminary in Minnesota. The event was attended by 37 people from 22 congregations and organizations. Coming out of the event, the Committee adopted the following mission statement:

Mission Statement

To have a grace-filled impact on children, youth, emerging adults, and families throughout our synod which boldly empowers all of us to live out our baptismal call in the world.

Focus Areas for CYFM Committee:

1. **Baptismal Identity:** to articulate a shared common theological understanding for CYFM based in the baptismal covenant...CYFM is at the heart of ministry with every person equally valued from the infant to the elderly.
2. **Connectivity:** to strengthen the network of support for CYFM throughout our synod by connecting people, congregations, conferences, and communities.
3. **Equipping:** to provide training that empowers leadership development in CYFM throughout our synod.

In response to concerns voiced by attendees, we are developing a visiting team to help congregations start and develop their child, youth and family ministries. This is a work in progress, but is something we are giving priority to. Committee members, along with some others in the Synod, met with Diane Monroe from Churchwide in July to discuss the development of these teams. We are continuing to look for available training and assessment tools to help us in this endeavor.

At the 2007 Synod Assembly, the Committee announced the establishment of the Heart of Ministry – Award of Distinction. We believe it important to recognize congregations with outstanding child, youth and family ministries. Congregations were asked to make their nominations by September 30. We were gratified that 8 congregations submitted nominations. Since this is the first year that we are making the award, chose 2 congregations, Grace & St Paul’s in Manhattan, and Gloria Dei in Huntington Station. Grace & St Paul’s because they reached out to youth in the margins, Gloria Dei because they extended

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themselves to network with and encourage congregations beyond themselves. All of the nominations represented significant efforts by congregations and schools to reach out to our young people and their families. We will continue to make the Heart-of-Ministry Award of Distinction an annual event.

This was the 3rd year of the Synod-to-Synod Servant Event Exchange. The SSEE started in 2005 with servant events in the Metropolitan New York Synod and in our partner synod, the Arkansas – Oklahoma Synod. In 2006, the group had a reunion at the National Youth Gathering. Our dream was to do servant work in Tanzania in 2007 (July 15 – Aug 3). As the result of hard work, particularly by Pastor Ann Tiemeyer, to find grants to fund the program, this became a reality for 5 of our students. They were Jonathan Westerlund, Rebecca Ruckdashel, Sarah Crean, Jessica Barry and Aja Corley. Adults who accompanied them were Sarah Clausen, who is now attending seminary in Philadelphia, and Connie Duever from Synod staff. Grants that made the event a reality were:

Lutheran Disaster Relief New York	\$10,000
Lutheran Crusader Grant	\$5,000
Our Savior's – Port Washington	\$2,500
Saint Peter's – Manhattan	\$2,500

	\$20,000

In addition to the grants, Gloria Dei in Huntington Station took up a collection at their Liturgical Arts celebration in October, 2006 and contributed \$626. The collection of \$529 taken up at the Youth & Family Conference at the Wartburg in March, 2006, was applied toward the trip. And each participant contributed \$1000 of their own.

I attended the Youth Workers Gathering in the East, in 2007, in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The keynote speaker was Peggy Contos Hahn, the Youth & Family Ministry staff person for the Texas - Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod. Check out her web site at www.soggyshoes.org. Peggy emphasized the importance of family in the faith development of children. Child Youth and Family Ministry isn't just about kids, it's about adults too. Peggy would argue that doing ministry with adults is the most important part of Youth & Family Ministry. Growing mature adults is the first step in growing mature young people. Children primarily learn faith at home. As the saying goes, faith is more caught than taught.

On October 25, Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education (LMHE) celebrated the 100th anniversary of Lutheran Campus ministries in the United States with a dinner at St Peter's in Manhattan, and by honoring four people with the Bernice Fjellman Award. They were Drs Laura and Chuck Reynolds, managers at the Major Bowes Memorial Retreat, Rev Barbara Lundblad, past campus pastor at Columbia University & NYU, and Rev Dr David Benke, President of the Atlantic District. The Rev Nicole Schwalbe is the new Lutheran campus pastor for Columbia University and Queens College. In addition to other activities, she will be conducting services during the academic year at Columbia University at St Paul's Chapel, Sundays at 8:30PM, and at Queens College, Student Union #203 on Wednesdays at 12:30PM. For more information, contact Pastor Schwalbe at ns2502@columbia.edu.

The Child Youth & Family Ministry Committee is open to all persons in the Metropolitan New York Synod who may be interested in participating. For information about the Committee, resources, training events and happenings around the Synod, visit the Metropolitan New York Synod's web site at www.MNYS.org, and click on Youth & Family under Ministry. Please feel free to contact us with your questions and comments, and keep us in your prayers.

Dcn. Charlie Germain

Chair - Child Youth & Family Ministry Committee - MNYS

Commission for Evangelical Outreach

With the 2008 Synod Assembly, the Commission for Evangelical Outreach of the Metro New York Synod will begin its sixth year of existence. Over the past five years, with the full support of our bishop, Stephen Bouman and the active participation of Pastor David Anglada, Assistant to the bishop, the Commission has been providing support and leadership in this vital area of the life of our synod.

The mission statement adopted by the Commission says:

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“Empowered by the Holy Spirit, the Commission for Evangelical Outreach will equip and encourage all the members, leaders, congregations, conferences and other ministries of the Metropolitan NY Synod for the work of the Church: to know Christ and to make Christ known.”

In last year’s annual report we stated four goals for the year ahead. We saw our task as:

- to **initiate** ministry in the synod by developing plans and resources to assist in the work of strategic planning
- to **equip** leaders and congregations for the ongoing work of evangelical outreach on a local level
- to **renew** congregations throughout the synod by preparing coaches and offering training for Natural Church Development
- to **transform** congregations by offering the leaders of our congregations additional training and support

Throughout the year we organized and co-sponsored events to help us fulfill these goals. We are grateful to Mr. John Litke for providing several excellent administrative leadership training events for pastors and lay leaders on Saturdays throughout the year. We are also indebted to Pastor Robert Fritch for providing some well-attended “Evangelism 101” seminars which we co-sponsored.

In the spring members of Lutheran Church of our Saviour in Mineola hosted the annual Bishop’s Prayer Breakfast, and later in the spring Resurrection Lutheran Church in Mt. Kisco hosted an all-day Workshop on Discipleship led by Pastor John Herman of Peace Lutheran Church in Charlottesville, Virginia. A Coaches’ Dinner was hosted also by members of St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church in Hicksville.

During the year, several churches received introductions to Natural Church Development and some are completing their first full year of working on goals they set based on the results of the Natural Church Development surveys they took.

On October 27th, the Commission for Evangelical Outreach sponsored a Transformational Ministry event called “Standing On Holy Ground” at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church in Manhattan. The speaker for this all-day workshop was Canon Dr. Robin Greenwood, who is serving as Vicar of St. Mary’s Parish in Monkseaton, England (Church of England). Robin was the chaplain for our 2004 Synod Assembly held in Rye, NY.

In early 2008 the Commission for Evangelical Outreach provided training for coaches on two occasions. The first event drew trainees from within our synod, and the second drew Latino leaders from beyond the Metro New York Synod.

On March 15th, the Commission hosted two Prayer Breakfasts. One was held at Advent Lutheran Church in Manhattan, and the other was held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Brewster. I had the privilege of serving as keynoter at Advent with the assistance of our vicar, Flora Hartford, and Pastor Kathleen Koran serve as keynoter in Brewster.

As we enter another year of ministry and welcome the leadership of a new bishop, we will continue to use resources from our synod as well as the churchwide Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission program unit and the wider Christian community to expand our effectiveness in carrying out the Great Commission.

In 2008 our Commission will continue to train and support coaches who will serve churches around our synod. These coaches will also receive training in one or more “specialty areas” to enable them to relate more closely to the variety of needs of our pastors and lay leaders. These specialty area cover the entire span of a congregation’s life cycle: New church development, Discipleship Training, Natural Church Development, Re-development (Transformational) Ministry, and Crossroads Care for Clergy and Congregations facing major decline.

At the 2008 Synod Assembly voting members will be asked to consider a resolution of support for the Commission’s efforts to create a comprehensive strategic plan for our synod’s future. The Commission would rely upon the leadership and support of the newly elected bishop as well as the Synod Council, the

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Conference of Deans, and the commissions and committees serving the synod. We believe that now is an appropriate time to begin to formulate plans that will assist conferences, congregations, pastors and lay leaders in carrying out the Great Commission using commonly held values and working collaboratively with a unified, comprehensive strategic approach to ministry. We do not want to stand by as congregations struggle with life-and-death decisions or put off opportunities to expand their evangelical outreach efforts in isolation. Our synod has enormous, diverse resources and talents that can be used for ministry, and if we begin to think strategically and creatively about what we can do collaboratively, we may see many new expressions of the power of God's Holy Spirit in Metro New York.

The members of the Commission include:

Advisor– Pastor David Anglada Coordinators– myself, Pastor J. Barrie Lawless, and Ms. Karla McKenzie and pastors Annemarie Noto, Daniel Peter Penumaka, Kit Robison, Albert Triolo, Diane Wildow, Kipp Zimmermann, and Deacon-intern Richard Soper. Pastor Rose Ann Vita also served on the Commission and we were also ably assisted by Ms. Pat Lawrence and Deacon Gayle Ruege of our synod staff.

Respectfully submitted, Dr. Richard O. Hill, Chairperson

Commission for Gay and Lesbian People

The Commission for Gay and Lesbian People (CGLP) offers support and advocacy for the ministries and concerns of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities of the Metropolitan New York Synod. Activities during the 2007-2008 program year included:

- CGLP provided funding and volunteer support for a shelter for homeless lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth in cooperation with Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Manhattan, (100th Street), the Lutheran Church of Our Savior's Atonement and congregations of other denominations which served as hosts for this ministry. Over 130 individuals and groups were involved in supporting this ministry.
- November 15-18, 2007, CGLP sponsored and hosted a *Reconciling in Christ* Leadership Training event at Mt. Manresa Retreat Center, Staten Island. Ms. Emily Eastwood, Executive Director of the *Reconciling in Christ* program of Lutherans Concerned/North America and other national staff from the *Reconciling in Christ* program led the training.

Members of the CGLP:

Rev. Fabian Arias, Mr. David Ehlers (co-chair), Mr. Mark Erson, Ms. Kelly Kandler, Rev. Leo E. Longan, Rev. David Parsons (co-chair), Mr. John Prosen, Rev. Robert Rimbo, Rev. David Anglada (representative from Bishop's Staff)

Communications

www.MNYS.org

In 2007, the Synod embarked on a web redesign. More than three years had passed since the initial debut of www.mnys.org, which had started as a relaunch from a prior site in 2003. While the design was still fresh and clearly had come to be recognized as the "brand" of MNYS, the navigation had suffered. With more than 300 pages on the site, as documents, pages and info were added over the years, the weak navigation made the site hard to use. Drop-down menus weren't on the radar screen when the site was initially built, and now they were desperately needed. Synod staff also wanted a new Content Management System that would give them access to make changes to their own pages.

We began the project by asking all rostered leaders what they liked and disliked about the site. The overwhelming response was that the site was hard to navigate. Another overriding response was that visitors were using the site as a name-and number-reference, sort of like an online phone book, to find pastors, supply pastors, phone numbers etc. People said they liked the quality of information, number of available documents, and the overall visual appeal. Respondents also liked the site's effectiveness in

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keeping the broad Synod connected. The Online Giving section, which was new to the Synod with the original site, was found to be a less effective tool than we had hoped.

At the same time, we set up a Web Task Force, consisting of all staff members and several pastors, especially those who were savvy technology users. The Task Force discussed the ability of the site to serve two purposes – reach new members and, at the same time, provide members and churches with up-to-date information. It was decided that since the site was more of an internal “intranet” site, it would be built as such.

After meeting over several months, the navigation tree was established – a set-up that met most Task Force desires and wish-lists.

New features were added, such as a Forum for networking, blogging and chatting among rostered leaders and members. An easy Find-A-Person section was also initiated.

Response to the new site has been positive, with one pastor, who is a marketing enthusiast and strong critic of the old site, writing, “The new site is pretty close to perfect, especially in comparison to other synods’ sites.”

Changing the site was a huge undertaking; just archiving the Headlines pages alone took weeks, as we had accumulated more than 200 stories alone over the past few years – one a week.

In December, as the new site was unveiled, Synod staff members were trained on making their own content and graphic changes to the pages they oversee. If you have content to be added to the site, please contact the staff person most associated with that area of ministry.

For an electronic copy of the Web Task Force summary report, email me before May 31 at wendy@griffincommunications.biz.

I hope you have enjoyed using the new site and find it more accessible. Some people have said that it is infinity-and-beyond in cyberspace.

Sharing Our Stories

In 2007, we also shared many stories and photos on the Headlines page on the Web. To find the stories on the current Headlines page, go to www.mnys.org and click on Headlines (just to the right of the synod logo). To find archived stories that appeared on past Headlines pages, position your mouse over “Communications” on the menu bar at the top of the home page; then drag down to “Headlines” and then to “Archive” in the drop-down sub-menu. There are stories from 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008.

MEDIA LIST

Media calls were taken as needed, and news releases were done to support Bishop Bouman’s appointments/schedule, his requests, and on issues. An updated media list has been posted on the Web. It can be found under Communications, Newsroom. Tools for writing a news release and getting publicity for your church, are also there.

Publications

Lutheran New Yorker

The Synod produced three editions of the New Yorker in 2007:

- The Easter issue was on youth ministry
- Fall issue on the Synod’s new partnership ministries
- The Christmas issue focused on communications.

E-Letter

This was sent weekly. All past issues are archived on the website.

The Future

After the Assembly, I will be moving on as your communications consultant, a role that has brought me joy for the past five years. Synod budget cuts in February made it necessary to eliminate consultants.

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I've enjoyed getting to know you all, and hope my work here has helped us to establish the groundwork for a communications program, spreading the good news of the work we do for each other, for the community and for God. My work not only helped you, it helped me in my own faith journey. And I thank you for the opportunity to have served you in such a meaningful way.

Many of you only know me only as Wendy on your email. Thank you for accepting the Synod e-letter from my mail each week. I think we've all enjoyed sharing our successes and our challenges, and our spaghetti dinner fund-raisers and concerts.

If you'd like to stay in touch, I'd like to hear from you at wendy@griffincommunications.biz. Even if you're not sending me news of your Bible study or pancake supper, I'd enjoy hearing from you. Meantime, I can be found on Sundays at Trinity, Brewster.

Thank you for your support of communications, especially to Pr. Gary Mills, Connie Duever, Gayle Ruege, John Scibilia, Pr. Tom Taylor (Grace, Bellmore), Synod administrative assistants, and all the pastors and deacons who are communications enthusiasts (you know who you are).

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Healy, Communications Consultant

The Diaconate of Metropolitan New York Synod

Calling of the Diaconate

The church continues to be the self-giving servanthood of Jesus in the midst of the world. The presence of a diaconate in the world can help to remind, inspire, organize and lead the church in a renewal of its commitment to servant ministry. The primary area of service is within the congregations and other agencies of our synod. But the total calling and ministry of the deacon is formed by a combination of the needs of our congregations and community, and always with a diaconal focus on doing and enabling servant ministry. The synodical diaconate is also connected to the wider church with a ministry connected ecumenically.

The ultimate purpose for diaconate ministry is mission and outreach—to the poor, the suffering, and those without the Gospel. All of this is dedicated to the memory of the servant Jesus, whose self-giving diakonia is at the core of all ordered ministry. As the deacons witness and serve in daily life, the love and ministry of the risen Lord is brought to all that are touched by those ministries.

Mission of the Diaconate Council

The Synod Diaconate Council is established to organize and supervise the overall activities of the diaconate, including reviewing applications and evaluating candidates to be prospective deacons. The goal is to make available for the needs of the wider church a cadre of servants committed to the diaconal outreach throughout the synod and the communities the synod serves. The Council is also responsible for helping to keep the ministries of the deacons connected and serving actively and appropriately. In this regard, under the oversight of the Bishop and in consultation with the congregations they serve, the Council may support and recommend that deacons may be deployed from time to time, to service throughout the Synod.

Members of the Diaconate Council

Jeffrey Laustsen, Synod Rep
Dcn. Meg Fielding, Chairperson
Dcn. Cathy Boyce
Laurie Cline
Emilce Erato

Rose Ann Foege
Dcn. Elke Hekler
Dcn. Robert Hering
Dcn. John Prosen
Edna Zambo

Diaconate Roster

The ministries of the deacons include service in:

Youth
Nursing Home
Visitation/Homebound
Worship

Substance Abuse
Bible Study/Teaching
Prison
Immigration

Bereavement /Card
Hospital

Report of the Eastern Cluster of Seminaries

The Eastern Cluster of Lutheran Seminaries spent the last year developing and strengthening the major programs that it has launched. It was felt by the Eastern Cluster Board in the last year that we needed to sustain or many programs and not begin any new initiatives.

The Connect Program

The Connect program, directed by Don Johnson, has blossomed under his leadership. This program funded by the Lilly Endowment Inc. that is designed to raise up a whole new generation of pastors is breathtaking in its scope. Hundreds of college-age students have identified themselves as interested in the ministry and scores are being cultivated in their discernment. Connect has also developed an elaborate network of individuals and institutions that are committed to identifying, nurturing, and sustaining candidates for ministry. The three seminaries are already seeing those cultivated by both Theological Education with Youth and Connect in their prospective student visits. Theological Education with Youth is another program that cultivates theological study and vocations among High School youth. Our Directors of Admission collaborate closely in their work together to help all students in their discernment.

The collaborations among our Cluster faculty and staff are deep. In the Diaconal Ministry program centered at Gettysburg Seminary representatives of the three faculties regularly serve together as instructors. This is also true of The Theological Education with Youth Program that is sponsored by Philadelphia Seminary and Gettysburg. The Cluster DMin program at Philadelphia Seminary has had longstanding collaboration from all three deans and faculties. Thus the Cluster tries to steward the resources of the church by not duplicating administration of programs. This concept is also catching on among all eight seminaries. The faculties have also done serious work on the three common writing and lecture projects and are planning to meet in retreat in the fall of 2009.

The One Library in Three Locations

The One Library in Three locations has matured in amazing ways. Staffing, ordering and acquisitions, and sharing of volumes have been coordinated in a way that has resulted in substantial savings. Our Library Directors, Deans, and Faculties are collaborating with each other to maximize this model relationship. We are finding that it is not always easy to sustain such collaboration across miles and institutions, but it is withstanding the test of time. I am grateful to our Cluster Chair, Glenn Ludwig, the other officers of the Board and my two colleague presidents and the deans who make the Cluster work.

Beginning in July, Marcus Miller, President of Southern Seminary, will assume the role of Executive Director of the Cluster for two years. We have a strong and visionary board, and I am delighted to be a part of this wonderful collaborative effort. Of course, we must always thank Tricia Casto, our coordinator, and Lois LaCroix, the Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director, for their expert help and leadership.

An Emerging Eastern Network

What began as a limited vision for three seminaries working together has evolved quickly into a much broader "network" of educational providers. In the process of developing the foundation for *Project Connect*, an eastern network involving 5 colleges, 6 campus ministries, 6 camps, the Lutheran Volunteer Corps, Lutheran Services in America, and the largest eastern social ministry organization, *Diakon*, banded together. Building on the strong foundation laid by the most recent Teagle Foundation grant, a lifelong learning (continuing education) platform was organized and is poised to support a vast array of courses and educational offerings (for both classroom and online/distance delivery). A Network Coordinating Council for Lifelong Learning has been formed under the initial leadership of a highly regarded senior educational professional, Dr. Nelvin Vos. Its membership spans eastern Lutheran leadership and may be expanded ecumenically as opportunities arise. Thus we are taking the model of savings and expanded service to new levels of collaboration with colleges and other institutions through which we hope to model the collaboration we have developed over the past decade, thanks to the generosity and encouragement of the Luce and Teagle Foundations.

Respectfully submitted, Philip D. Krey, Executive Director

Eger Lutheran Homes and Services

The Eger family of corporations is affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Motivated by the love of God and the pressure of human need, we see as our particular mission a responsibility to bring comfort, healing and hospitality to all persons, especially the aging and persons with special care needs.

We manifest this mission by providing compassionate care and services to those persons needing the assistance to attain and/or maintain their physical, spiritual, emotional and psychological health and by utilizing our resources to foster human dignity and to promote an optimum quality of life.

As the President and CEO of Eger Lutheran Homes and Services, I will continue to fulfill Eger's mission to bring comfort, healing and hospitality to individuals who are aging or have special care needs; a calling that involves approximately 650 staff, 200 volunteers and the consistent support of donors and benefactors.

Eger Health Care and Rehabilitation Center strives to provide care and services to those in need. Eger has 378 skilled care beds, a Social Day Care program for those with mild to moderate dementia, a Respite Care program and an Assisted Living program facility for 75 persons. Services include short and long-term rehabilitation, respite care, wound care, dementia care, and respiratory care services. Hospice and pastoral care services, palliative care, and family support services assist residents and staff during their stay on the Eger campus.

Plans have been completed and the ground breaking will soon begin for the first free-standing Hospice Residence on Staten Island. This program in partnership with University Hospice will fill a gap that currently exists in the provision of end-of-life care in our community. The new Hospice Residence will be able to provide care for up to eight patients in private rooms with the ability for the patients and their families to access common areas in a home-like atmosphere.

The Eger Clinical Education Program is now an integral part of the Lutheran Services New York Alliance program. Classes are still held at Eger as well as at other sites. By joining together with other Lutheran social service organizations we are now able to offer the students a more varied experience for their introduction to clinical pastoral work.

Sincerely, Jack C. Pease, President and CEO

ELCA Region 7 Report to 2008 Synod Assemblies

Region 7 is the "meeting point" for the six synods of the ELCA located in the Northeast, and the non-geographical Slovak-Zion synod with the churchwide expression of the ELCA, based in Chicago. Located on the campus of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, the regional office seeks to enhance relationships and work among the partner synods, the seminary, the churchwide office of the ELCA and other ministries located on our territory. We do this by working with the bishops and other leaders to accomplish ministry across the synod lines.

In 2007 the Region 7 office supported the mission of the ELCA in the Northeast in the following areas:

- **Candidacy:** participation in 25 synod candidacy meetings (in six synods), facilitation of Theological Review Panels at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia for candidates coming to the ELCA from other traditions, convening the annual consultation for candidacy leaders, offering ongoing training and support to synod staff and candidacy committees, working with the staff at LTSP to educate students about the various steps of the candidacy process□
- Coordinating First Call Assignment for the region
- Coordinating and directing the Institute for Congregational Ministry (our regional continuing education event for first call leaders)
- Coordinating the annual regional gathering for bishops' staff
- Coordinating meetings of the regional Reconciling in Christ roundtable
- Coordinating gatherings of Christian Education and Lifelong Learning networks
- Facilitating the registration and arrangements for the Board of Pensions Pre-retirement meetings
- Providing support for the planning of the **regional youth ministry gathering.**

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- This year, the regional coordinator has also participated in activities to support synods who are anticipating the election of a new bishop. □ She anticipates working closely with the new bishops and their staff as they make these critical transitions.

Leadership in Region 7 is provided by the steering committee:

- Rev. Bruce Davidson, Chair
- Bp. David Strobel
- Rev. Mark Wimmer, Treasurer
- Rev. Beth Anderson
- Rev. Nancy Brown

Peggy Wuertele, Coordinator for Ministry Leadership—Region 7, ELCA

German Seamen's Mission of New York

Our German Seamen's Mission is now 100 years old! We have a new Web Site that contains our history and lots of photos: www.gsmny.org

In November 2007, we celebrated our 100th anniversary with a festive worship service at St. Paul's German Lutheran Church on West 22nd Street in Manhattan. Bishop Stephen P. Bouman was the preacher and celebrant. Among the many guests were Pastor Hero Feenders and Treasurer Heiner Radke from the German Seamen's Mission headquarters in Bremen, Germany, and Pastor Dr. Herbert Patzelt and his wife, who now live in Munich. Dr. Patzelt was the Pastor of the German Seamen's Mission of New York in the 1950s and has written a history of the Mission. A representative from the German Consulate brought greetings at the service.

The German Seamen's Mission of New York has been a ministry of the Metropolitan New York Synod since 1974. The Mission was founded in Hoboken, New Jersey in 1907 with a Seamen's House on Hudson Street to serve the many German merchant seamen whose ships docked there.

Today, we are based at Seafarers & International House, 123 East 15th Street in Manhattan.

Our main ministry takes place on board the many commercial ships (mostly container ships) that dock in the Port of New York and New Jersey. Each ship has a crew of about 23 seafarers, usually from a variety of countries, and stays in port for loading and unloading for around 18 hours

On board, we bring Bibles and a DVD featuring local church services and meditations, magazines and books in a variety of languages, and also phone cards to enable the seafarers to phone home at reasonable prices. If possible, we take the seafarers ashore to go shopping or sightseeing and return them to the ship in time to return to work or to sail to the next port. We take the Church and Christ's love to people who are normally unable to go to church or to come to our center in Manhattan.

Thanks are due to the Executive Director and staff of Seafarers & International House for their teamwork and help in countless ways, and to our Board of Directors, which provides advice and direction for this important ministry. We look forward to many more years in Christ's service in the Port of New York and New Jersey.

Clint Padgitt, Pastor and Executive Director

Healthy Congregations

There is growing interest among Metropolitan New York Synod congregations to use the resource **Healthy Congregations**, developed by Peter Steinke, an ELCA pastor. Pastor Steinke's work is based upon family systems theory, specifically the work of Murray Bowen and Rabbi Ed Freidman.

The basic premise of Healthy Congregations is the belief that **healthy congregations and healthy leaders are nearly inseparable.**

The six workshops, approximately hours duration apiece, are designed precisely for a time of rapid changes. They view the congregation as a whole, an organism, a system, "the body of Christ." Instead

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of seeing separate parts, they see interrelated parts and their interactions. No one part promotes health or illness. Everything contributes, The congregation is seen as a unit in need of care. Therefore, these workshops center around the stewardship of the congregation: how leaders care for, respond to, and oversee the congregation's life together:

1. Creating Healthy Congregations
2. Healthy Congregations Respond to Anxiety and Change
3. Leadership in a Healthy Congregation
4. Relationships in a Healthy Congregation
5. Healthy Congregations Develop Generous People
6. The Spiritual Care of Healthy Congregations.

These workshops enable participants to:

- Gain a renewed sense of purpose and mission
- Cultivate strong leadership capacities to challenge the congregation
- Learn how to develop healthy patterns of living together in community
- Learn to focus on strengths, resources, and options for the future
- Boost confidence in responding to challenges and opportunities
- Learn how to lead with calm and thoughtfulness
- Reflect theologically about relationships
- Move the congregation toward more healthy functioning

Perhaps one or more of these workshops may be useful for leaders your congregation. Contact Pr. Dianne Loufman, (212.665-0732) Assistant to the Bishop, or Rev. John Jurik (631.271-3581) for more information.

Koinonia

Dear Friends,

Koinonia is your ministry. **“Empowered by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Koinonia prepares people to create faith filled community in their daily lives.”** Koinonia strengthens congregations through building leaders who serve the Church. Thank you for your support and participation this year.

This is a very important and critical time in the life of Koinonia.

We are celebrating the last six years of unprecedented programmatic growth with the addition of the Koinonia NYC ministry. And now, we are boldly stepping into another six years of tremendous expansion through the efforts of The Hearts on Fire Capital Campaign.

While Koinonia NYC will continue to provide life changing programs for years to come, this ministry will take on a new shape in the future. These first six years were tied strongly to healing lives after 9-11. So we completed an era... a significant time in the life of Koinonia, and the world, when this ministry responded to human suffering with hope in the name of Christ. We commemorate the leadership that God provided and the lives that were healed.

And now Koinonia moves into another six years. We bring to the future, a new vitality that has been nurtured through the years...strengthened partnerships, empowered leaders, and expanding resources.

Yes, we are raising money and upgrading our facilities through the Hearts on Fire Campaign. But more than that, we are setting the stage for engaging more people, than ever before, in the life changing ministry of Koinonia.

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The Hearts on Fire Campaign was intentionally designed to raise awareness of this ministry and to provide facilities that will enhance the experience and increase participation.

Most importantly, the Hearts on Fire Campaign will benefit the congregations of the Metropolitan New York Synod. As the ministry assets of Koinonia increase consequently the ministry assets of your congregation will increase as well. God's gift of abundance multiplies and benefits the entire community.

Koinonia is an invitation to community. You are invited!! To find out more about the resources that Koinonia provides for your congregation, please visit www.KoinoniaNY.org or call 1-800-980-2267.

In the Peace of Koinonia,

Steve E. Lee, Executive Director

Lutheran Disaster Response—New York (LDRNY)

Moving on. It's a phrase I've heard countless times in my tenure at LDRNY, as other agencies "sunsetted," or closed their doors; as colleagues changed jobs; as the media and public questioned how survivors and victims' loved ones should be behaving.

LDRNY will be ceasing operations this fall. Our "moving on" is a natural outcome of our particular process. Having been founded specifically to respond to 9/11, our generous endowment has been well-spent in doing just that. * While many agencies closed shortly after the disaster, LDRNY was committed to being a presence in the community for as long as possible. In this respect, our mission has been accomplished. The Unmet Needs Roundtable, Faithful Response, Lutheran Counseling Center, Project LIFE, 9/11 Immigration legal services, domestic violence awareness, food pantries and hunger prevention, respite for caregivers... the list of programs we have created and supported is enormous for an agency that, at its largest, boasted three employees.

LDRNY has been deeply invested in the healing process so necessary for New York City after 9/11. Our programs and services to those in need have created real change in people's lives, in both tangible and intangible ways. I have been blessed with the opportunity to work here, for I have been both witness and collaborator in this healing.

Of course, I would be remiss to not include my own healing, since I have also survived the turmoil, trauma, and burnout so common to those who were present during the disaster and its aftermath. In assisting others, I have been allowed—and taught—to recover. I am grateful to every colleague and every client for sharing their stories, resilience, and expertise with me. I will be in our 22 Cortlandt Street office until November. I am not sure what career path will open up to me at that time, but I am certain that every lesson learned at LDRNY will serve me well in both my professional and personal life.

There are precious few grants available for 9/11-related work, and the need for federal intervention has never been greater. Small grass-roots agencies like ours, no matter how efficient, simply cannot meet the staggering unmet needs of survivors and recovery workers who are now sick or injured. I urge you to keep yourselves informed about this issue, and to write to your elected officials in support of comprehensive 9/11 healthcare legislation. If you would like to donate directly to an agency that offers direct services to clients, please consider [Faithful Response](#), a faith-based and trauma-specific mental health program founded by the American Red Cross, LDRNY, and Catholic Charities.

There is no prescribed formula for how one should heal or how long it should take. It simply happens in its own time, with whatever resources and insights are available. I've heard many people say that we should all have moved on, gotten over 9/11. I am glad that they seem to have done so themselves, but they fail to understand the depth and complexity of issues that emerged with the disaster. For many people, it simply isn't possible to move on yet, and it may never be.

I have been questioning the form that moving on will take in my own life. I am confident that whatever comes next professionally will be exciting and fulfilling. But on a deeply personal level, it's a much harder question to answer. Here at the Comfort and Renew Center, I have looked down, from 20 stories above the site, and watched the early stages of construction for almost five years. When I leave this office in November, the site will look much the same as it does now, and my final memory of my time at LDRNY

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will include a huge hole in the ground. To me, it represents all that is still undone, unfinished, and unresolved about this horrible tragedy. I look forward to the day I can walk across the newly constructed plaza at Ground Zero from Church Street to West Street, the day I can pray at the memorial, and then look up at where I used to work. Then, maybe, I will truly move on.

MIKKI Baloy, LDRNY

Lutheran HealthCare

“Living the Mission for 125 Years”

“What I can do with my hands, my heart and my spirit, I will gladly do in God’s service.”

Sister Elisabeth Fedde, Foundress, April 1883

Throughout 2008, Lutheran HealthCare (LHC) is celebrating 125 years of “living the mission” as the church in health care for south Brooklyn. Begun as The Norwegian Relief Society in just a few rented rooms on William Street, LHC is now an integrated system of health and social services, providing comprehensive care for the whole person - body, mind, and spirit. The LHC system of community health providers includes Lutheran Medical Center, the Lutheran Family Health Centers, Lutheran Augustana Center for Extended Care and Rehabilitation, Community Care Organization, Inc., Health Plus, senior housing programs, and much more.

Faith, compassion, dignity, integrity and service continue to ground our mission, as Lutheran seeks to be a faithful instrument of God’s healing love to/for the diverse and ever-changing urban communities we serve. The residents of those communities – many of whom are underserved and face significant health disparities – literally count on us to “be there” for them every day, meeting them at the point of their greatest needs. That might mean birthing a child, diagnosing and treating a serious illness, emergency care, senior housing, skilled nursing care, or learning English as a second language. Still following Sister Fedde’s lead and example, we remain relentlessly committed to “be there” for them, even as we continue to face some of the daunting and complex challenges affecting health care in the U.S. today.

As an integrated health care system, LHC is actually in the midst of intersecting anniversaries in that Lutheran Family Health Centers (outpatient clinics throughout southwest Brooklyn) recently marked 40 years of service to the community, and Lutheran Augustana Center (long term care/rehabilitation services) will celebrate its 100th anniversary later this year.

We are grateful to both Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson and former synod Bishop Stephen Bouman for their personal support and assistance as we celebrate this 125th anniversary and recommit ourselves to the church’s mission in health care. To quote Bishop Bouman, “Sister Fedde channeled the faith-fueled compassion of an immigrant people. Her devotion to those in need embodied the ways that Lutherans put legs on their prayers as an immigrant people.”

When Bishop Hanson recently visited us in the midst of “Mission Week 2008,” he inspired staff, board and community members with his keynote address. Referring to the ELCA’s Social Statement on Health, Healing and Healthcare, he shared, “LHC has persevered for 125 years with determination and distinction. How? Because as with Sister Fedde from the beginning, this has been a shared endeavor...We are not alone. As Christians, we believe that in Jesus Christ God has joined us in our flesh and bone, in our sorrows and our joys, in our fears and hopes, and in our living and our dying...our labor, the work of our hands, can serve the mystery of love and the longing for mercy...I am delighted to say that the ELCA continues to value our partnership in healthcare ministry, believing that in this shared endeavor what is occurring is God’s work through our hands.”

As LHC celebrates 125 years of “living the mission”, we give special thanks for the ongoing support of the ELCA and the Metropolitan New York Synod.

“...while our broken world can often seem weary and groaning in pain,
may we continue to take hope, find courage, and experience wholeness
in all that we lift up this year....” (125th Anniversary Prayer, Lutheran HealthCare)

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Respectfully submitted, Rev. Donald A. Stiger, Senior Vice President for Mission and Spiritual Care

Lutheran Men in Mission

Lutheran Men in Mission (LMM) has been living in God's Amazing Grace for most of its 20-year existence. When you consider that 5.5 million women in this country worship without their spouses, that only 38% of adults who worship in ELCA congregations are males and that number is declining, and that young men between the ages of 18 and 34 are the most un-churched group in America, God's grace has to be a vital part of a ministry whose mission is to help men grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ through effective men's ministries in every congregation. Without God's grace and the Holy Spirit it would be mission impossible. Among the many examples of God's amazing grace that could be cited, I recall that in 1994 the church wide LMM Board of Directors, faced with declining revenue and participation by men in its programs, seriously considered abandoning its mission. But God moved the heart and mind of a dedicated supporter to suggest and underwrite the cost of the first printing of a men's Bible called the Master Builder for Men. The sale and distribution of these Bibles that included a study guide on issues men face not only resulted in a significant rise in revenue since 1995 but, more importantly, provided a foundational element of LMM's mission and vision. To date, over 40,000 Master Bibles have been placed in the hands of men (and women) in this country and abroad and demand remains high, especially since the ELCA recently inaugurated its "Book of Faith: Lutherans Read the Bible" initiative. The Spanish language New Testament that LMM produced has been well received and widely distributed as well. Both are available for purchase at this Assembly.

God's amazing grace has also enabled LMM to effectively reach out to young men in the age category mentioned above. Thanks to a survey of 100 young men that LMM commissioned of that is chronicled in a book entitled "Coming of Age" (available at Augsburg Fortress), a Young Men's Council has been formed that engages their peers with annual spiritual retreats and other ministries designed to help them grow in their faith. That Council is now a vital partner in ministry with LMM.

This year LMM will be celebrating its 20th anniversary at its triennial Assembly and Gathering in Omaha, Nebraska on July 31- August 3rd. We will also be celebrating the successful culmination of a three-year capital campaign to become financially self-reliant by raising \$1.5 million and to become an incorporated Unit within the ELCA. Presently, LMM is part of the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission Unit of the ELCA which is now headed by our former Bishop, Stephen Bouman, who has been, and remains, a strong supporter of Lutheran Men in Mission. LMM will continue to invoke God's amazing grace as it pursues the daunting challenge of motivating men to become more active in the life of the church at every level.

If you would like to learn more about men's ministry at the synod level, e-mail us at lutheranmen@aol.com or visit our web site at www.mnys.org by clicking on Synod Partners-Other.

Judge Dan Joy, President, Metro NY Chapter

Lutheran Schools Association

This year the Lutheran Schools Association (LSA) celebrated its 31st year of service to schools and churches in the Metropolitan New York Synod. Our mission is to serve, support and represent the ministries of Lutheran schools assisting them to provide quality, Christ-centered education. MNYS churches operate 56 early childhood centers, 10 elementary schools, and 2 high schools.

While many urban Lutheran schools across the country are in jeopardy of closing, we strive through partnerships with the Synod and individual congregations to maintain the integrity and sustainability of all of our schools. When schools and churches work in partnership and there is intentionality in reaching out

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to school families, schools and churches grow. The LSA continues to pray for and assist in cultivating these partnerships.

LSA provides services to our schools, including:

- Coordination of conferences and professional development opportunities for teachers, administrators and pastors.
- Government advocacy and representation on the New York State Commissioners Advisory Council for Nonpublic Schools and the New York City Committee of Nonpublic School Leaders. Through LSA's efforts schools have received thousands of dollars in professional development services and materials.
- Publication of a monthly newsletter for administrators and dissemination of materials relevant to schools through print and computer technology.
- Consultation services including school evaluations, mediation, school board training and new school starts.
- School safety plans and sexual misconduct training
- Individual assistance and support of administrators, pastors, and staff members.
- Liaison with the local and national Lutheran judicatories.
- Strategic planning through the Lutheran School Planning document.

Our schools hold themselves up as “places of academic excellence in caring, Christian environments”. Our theme for this year continues to be “Seize the hope set before us” based on the verse from Hebrews 6:18. Our picture of hope is heritage, opportunity, promise and excellence—all qualities our schools embrace. Our schools give hope to many families by walking with them not only on their academic journeys, but also with them on their faith journeys. We appreciate all of the support that many of you were able to provide to LSA and to our schools in the past year. We ask that you would continue this support and particularly value your prayers for our schools, families and teachers.

Should you need any assistance in your desire to explore the opening of a school ministry or need support for an existing school ministry, please do not hesitate to call me.

Marlene Lund, Executive Director

Lutheran Services of New York Alliance

“Supporting one another to further the church’s servant mission”

At the outset we would note again that the network of services that is Lutheran Services New York Alliance is in a vital partnership with you, the member congregations of the Metropolitan New York Synod ELCA and the member congregations of the Atlantic District LCMS, as it brings the church’s servant mission to our communities across the region.

The development of Lutheran Services of New York Alliance moved forward apace in 2007.

During this first full year as Lutheran Services of New York Alliance, the corporate, financial and programmatic transitions of the corporation were accomplished. Finalizing and consolidating these elements set the corporation on a strong foundation for future development.

With the other noteworthy transitions of the year, the resignation of Rev. William Preuss on the occasion of his retirement from the Eger Home was met with sadness at the loss of his leadership and appreciation for his years of support in the development of Lutheran Services New York Alliance and its Clinical Pastoral Education program.

2008 was an important year for our Clinical Pastoral Education program. The final transition to LSNYA saw the program begin to address the next phase in its development, including issues of student recruitment and financial stability. In this regard the program director with the input of the advisory committee completed a five year plan for use in the board of directors continuing process of long term planning.

The board completed a mid-year retreat reviewing the current status of the transition, assessment of corporate goals, the possibility of shared staff leadership and preparations for an executive job search.

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Having concluded that independent staff leadership was in Lutheran Services New York Alliance's best interest the board moved forward with a job search. In recent months the board has expanded the search nation wide to secure appropriate staffing and prepared for finalizing long and short term planning.

In the year ahead the Lutheran Services New York Alliance looks forward with anticipation to the challenges that lie before us as we chart and initiate a course working with the congregation of the Metropolitan New York Synod and the Atlantic District that will secure, maintain and enhance our Lutheran presence in Lutheran institutions.

Lutheran Social Services of New York

I am happy to report to you on a very strong year for Lutheran Social Services of New York. What is most remarkable is that we have achieved this progress while fundamentally reshaping our agency. Whether you look at our services, strategy, processes or agency culture, Lutheran Social Services of New York is a very different concern today than it was ten years ago. We have prepared for growth and leadership in a radically different future, while continuing to deliver needed reliable services and create new opportunities for Building Community Ministries.

What we do is simple: together in collaboration with you, our members, we share Christ's blessings—strengthening one life, one family, one community at a time.

Like many things in life, Strengthening Lives, Families and Communities can be a race without a finish line. More than 120 years ago, a group of Lutherans joined together to care for a group of children orphaned by a severe outbreak of influenza. Just about everything in the agency and in our industry has changed since then—except the things that define victory for us:

- We succeed through satisfied clients and stakeholders
- We value and empower our employees
- We deliver quality and excellence in all we do
- We require sustainability in all areas of service
- We use technology to create efficiency in operations
- We behave and act responsibly as a corporate citizen

Our work together reaches over 4,000 people on a typical day. During the past year, we reached forward in faith to open The New LIFE School. This vital educational ministry for children with emotional disabilities was born out of a partnership between Trinity Lutheran Church in the Bronx, The NYC Department of Education and Lutheran Social Services of New York.

One challenge we face in the future is to grow our ministry across this great region. As great as we know the needs of the region to be, an even greater responsibility rests on us to bring these new ministries forward in a way that they are sustainable. We have seen 120 years of blessings in relationship with the congregations of eastern New York. We believe that continuing together to share these blessings with the marginalized in our society is an act of responsible stewardship. On behalf of Lutheran Social Services of New York, I invite each of you to continue in that relationship, affirming and growing it.

As we enter a new era of global society, I am grateful to you, our stakeholders, for your support in our journey. I hope and trust that you are pleased with how this agency is growing and evolving. My colleagues and I are excited by the possibilities for how, together with our clients, our partners and you, we can bring this remarkable enterprise into its next phase of leadership and discovery.

Sincerely yours, Ronald S. Drews, President/CEO

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia

A Seminary in Mission for a Church in Mission - Of the Spirit in the World

The Capital Campaign and Seminary Fundraising

The campaign is currently in full swing in Southeastern Pennsylvania and Metro New York, and New England. We are so grateful for the support of all our donors and friends. As of this writing we are approaching \$17 million towards our \$20 million goal. We are especially grateful for the increasing contributions to the Leadership Fund that directly supports our students and faculty. Despite the faithful support from synod budgets, LTSP is becoming increasingly dependent upon the regular giving of laypersons and congregations for the Leadership Fund. For example, in the current fiscal year, ending June 30, 2008 we have to raise \$650,000 to meet the budget. This is a significant campaign every year. Despite all the good efforts at sustaining our operations, we had to cut back the seminary's staff this year as a result of the recession. We are good stewards of the resources that the Church and individual donors provide to prepare leaders for congregations and the Church. We know that those who understand the value of theological education understand the need to support the seminary's Leadership Fund and other funds with generous gifts. Thank you for your support.

During the year, LTSP was pleasantly surprised by two developments. The SEPA Synod of the ELCA asked to move their offices into the undercroft of the seminary chapel and the Commonwealth of PA began to rebuild Germantown Avenue in front of the seminary campus. Part of the renovation of the avenue will be the creation of a plaza in front of the chapel. A part of the renovation of the chapel will be a handicapped accessible entrance to the Chapel from the campus and a baptistry. The seminary is in the process of raising \$500,000 towards the handicapped accessible entrance and the baptistry.

With the death of Dr. William Lazareth, a former Dean and Professor of LTSP, the Seminary hopes to establish a Lectureship in Theology and Ethics in his memory. We have a goal of \$450,000 for this lectureship.

Faculty Searches and Curriculum

We are delighted that the Faculty has re-nominated as LTSP Dean, Dr. J. Paul Rajashekar, to serve another four-year term. He will have begun his third four-year term after the Spring 2008 Board meeting. We conducted a successful search to fill the vacancy of Director of Graduate Studies with Dr. Margaret Krych's retirement. Dr. David Grafton, a specialist in Christian/Islamic Dialog, assumed this role on April 30. The Ph.D program has grown steadily and will have its first graduate in 2008. In fact, the whole graduate program, with increasing numbers in the DMin and STM programs, is stronger than ever. We were saddened to learn that Dr Pamela Cooper-White will be leaving LTSP for Columbia Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. LTSP has launched a search for her replacement in Pastoral Care and Theology.

The Urban Theological Institute

A new certificate program and program in Black Sacred Music have been launched. The campaign for the Jeremiah Wright Sr. Chair in African American Studies has surpassed the halfway mark, exceeding \$800,000 in gifts and pledges.

Enrollment

We had another strong enrollment this academic year, with 76 MDiv and MAR students from all over the nation and the world, and about 35 new graduate students. About 50% of the new students are in their 20's. This year we received a Carpenter Foundation Grant to advocate for students who cannot be ordained or do not wish to serve in Word and Sacrament ministry. We continue to be excited about the Connect: Calling Leaders for a Changing Church project, funded by Lilly Endowment. The project director, Don Johnson, has given order and strategy to this ambitious program. Over time, this should make our admissions process more systematic and consistent, with more applicants. As always, we encourage those who feel called to serve as leaders in the church to be in touch with their candidacy committees and our admissions team. Please feel free to call or write Louise Johnson, Director of Admissions at LTSP (ljohnson@ltsp.edu or 215-248-6321).

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An Invitation

We invite you to stay in touch with LTSP and learn more about your seminary. Visit our Web site – Ltsp.edu – regularly. Learn what’s going on by signing up for @PS, our eNewsletter: Ltsp.edu/enews.

Thank You

I thank God for you every time I reflect on all that God has accomplished at LTSP over the years. By God’s grace and your constant support, we are a vibrant and lively community of learning and worship. This could not happen without the support of the bishops, synod councils, pastors, congregations, our board of trustees with Dr. Addie Butler, Chair, and all of you, I am overcome with an enormous sense of thankfulness to God that I am privileged to serve as President of this wonderful school. Thank you for this opportunity. I am so grateful to the Dean and the senior staff, the faculty, and all the support staff who spend countless hours making sure that leaders are prepared with a theological education for a church in mission. God is good to us.

*Respectfully submitted,
Philip D. Krey, President*

Mission Development Board

This is the report of the Mission Development Board activities for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2008. The board is one component of a larger effort to reinvest in mission as part of our resolve to Reclaim the Great Commission. The Mission Development Board is primarily concerned with management of congregational properties for which the synod is responsible, sometimes as a result of a Synod Administration relationship. The board also provides technical expertise to congregations in the areas of finance, property and real estate management, building maintenance, legal and tax issues.

Congregations facing major transitions in their ministry engage in a process of study and reflection to determine how best to live out their calling as a congregation. For those that are economically fragile, this process usually includes consideration of whether or not to join their ministry to that of another congregation or whether or not to close as a congregation. In some cases, usually aided by the Synod Administration process, they have revived their ministry. Some congregations do not revive but close. In this case their assets are reinvested in the synod’s mission.

As another component of the mission reinvestment process, the Mission Planning Team is responsible for developing a strategic vision to guide the decisions of the Synod Council and the Office of the Bishop when evaluating opportunities for Mission Reinvestment. The reinvestment process itself is the responsibility of the Mission Director and the Office of the Bishop. These offices monitor the mission reinvestment and partnership grants to support the grantees and to help ensure that the process is as effective as possible for the synod. The reports from the Mission Planning Team and the Mission Director/Office of the Bishop should be consulted for additional information.

Mission Development Board Notable Actions in 2007

- Developed guidelines for financial expenditures during the early period of working with a congregation in distress before formal revitalization plans can be made.
- Developed an economic forecast study to assess the permissible pace of mission reinvestment. This forecast was integrated with the synod’s 10 year planning process to provide a more comprehensive analysis of our prospective resource use.
- Assisted congregations in Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx and Suffolk toward a vision for renewed ministry.
- This year marks the third year of the Mission Reinvestment Process. It is time to evaluate how the process has worked and develop a more strategic approach consistent with our experience. To assist conversations, the board developed several study papers for strategic planning and process evaluation.

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Property Administration

In all cases where a congregation closes, the synod will attempt to distribute the reusable assets to other synod congregations in need. Worship materials, books, furniture and other items are reused in this way. The synod archivist, John Daggan, assists in identifying items appropriate for the archives. The Synod Council has directed that artistic and musical resources be preserved wherever possible. Pr. Jay Longan has been very helpful for these tasks.

- Atonement, Staten Island: This property was offered for sale. An offer was accepted by the Synod Council and closing is expected in May.
- Bethlehem, Brooklyn: This congregation is under Synod Administration since the fall of 2007. The Synod is working to resolve some local contentious relationships.
- Christ, Yonkers: This ministry is in its fourth year. It is a unique experiment in chapel ministry in an assisted living context and we will be evaluating it for lessons to help our future decisions.
- Good Shepherd, Bayside: This congregation voted to close as of January 7, 2007. The Synod Council offered the property for sale and it was bought in September 2007 by Grace Presbyterian Church, a congregation that had been a long-term renter of space from Good Shepherd. The synod has retained the parsonage for use by other synod ministries.
- Holy Trinity, Hollis: This congregation has again been the focus of intensive effort during 2007. The synod very much desires that this site be a vital congregational and educational ministry but the financial and administration challenges are difficult. A very significant private donation has permitted the church and school to continue for another few years.
- Oceanside, Oceanside: The synod assisted the congregation with crisis management, discernment and modest facility rehabilitation. A Mission Reinvestment Proposal is being written for evaluation in spring of 2008.
- St. John's, Bronx: This congregation is under Synod Administration since the fall of 2005. Some congregation members have asked a civil court to intervene and the matter remains before the court.
- St. Luke's, Brooklyn: The synod assisted the congregation with crisis management and discernment. This facility required extensive building repairs. A Mission Reinvestment Plan will be developed in the summer of 2008.
- St. Paul's Richmond Hill: This congregation voted to close as of March 4, 2007. The Synod Council decided to offer this property for sale, but no offers have been tendered as of January 2008. The organ in this building was examined and found to be in excellent repair and a candidate for reinstallation in another synod congregation. It is our good fortune that Trinity, Middle Village had the need, the space and could afford the cost of the relocation. We anticipate a joyful re-dedication of this instrument in its new home in early 2008.
- St. Peter's, Bedford Ave. Brooklyn: This congregation voted to close in January of 2008 after a number of years of discernment and exploration of redevelopment opportunities. The church and adjacent education building were contracted for sale to a developer of housing. The church carillon, one of the few in Lutheran churches in our synod, will be reinstalled in St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Manhattan. The Parish House will be retained by the synod for use as a housing resource for synod ministries.

Mission Reinvestment

- New Hope, Valley Stream; This Mission Reinvestment Project had a major capital refurbishment phase that was complete in the summer of 2007. The new child care facility is doing well and the congregation growing. There was a report to the 2007 assembly on this project.
- Messiah, Flushing: This site was approved for a mission reinvestment project by the January 2007 Synod Council meeting.

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- Bethany, Brooklyn: worked with the congregation and the Leif Ericson Day School to develop a long term financial and management plan for the school.
- The Synod Council approved 21 projects for mission support in Partnership Grants from the Mission Reinvestment Fund for the 2008 fiscal year.

Congregation	Award	Focus
New Hope For All Saints Lutheran Church & St. Peters Lutheran Church (140 th St.)	20,000	Operational Support
Iglesia Luterana Resurreccion	5,000	Operational Support
Salam Arabic Lutheran Church	7,000	Youth and Young Adult
Iglesia Luterana de Espiritu Santo	7,000	Cell Ministries and ESL
St. Luke Lutheran Church-Latino Ministry	2,500	Latino Outreach
Trinity of Manhattan Lutheran Church	5,000	Leadership Training
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church	7,000	Brewster Emergency Shelter
Trinity Lower Eastside Lutheran Parish	13,000	Services to the Homeless
Koinonia NYC	9,000	Servant Leadership Development
Our Saviour Staten Island & Trinity Lutheran Church	2,100	Youth Program
Ascension-Deer Park	13,000	Latino Ministry
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	25,000	Russian evangelism
Huria Kristen Batak	13,000	Indonesian Mission
Atonement Lutheran Church	8,000	Latino Mission
Fordham Lutheran Church	6,310	Young Men's Outreach
Transfiguration Lutheran Church (Bronx)	20,000	Operational Support
First Grace Lutheran Parish	5,000	Operational Support
Church of the Holy Redeemer	10,000	Community Hunger
Eastern Nassau Conference	15,000	Youth Ministry
Grace Overflows & St. Jacobus Lutheran Church	8,000	Youth Leadership Development
Trinity Healing Center	5,000	Domestic Violence
TOTAL	205,910	
 <u>Mission Projects</u>		
Messiah, Flushing (continuing)	117,000	Restart - Latino mission

Mission Reinvestment Concerns

The Mission Development Board was chartered to care for legal and business issues of properties under Synod Administration. This responsibility and the skills it requires has provided additional benefits to the synod: skills in planning, project management, finance and business for the benefit of congregations in crisis and for congregations planning for renewal. In that broader scope, we are still learning a great deal about what needs to be done and how best to do it. There are two areas where our experience is developing rapidly.

Process of Discernment: This process requires a congregation to clearly and objectively examine its present mission and the people and financial resources for that mission. For congregations in crisis there is often insufficient leadership, internal strife, illusion and disillusion about the future and the past, resentment or discouragement about the present state of affairs, etc. All these make the normally stressful process of visioning and planning for renewal much more difficult. Further, the crisis is often marked by financial penury and this severely limits the possible options for renewal. The synod believes that this difficult process requires unique pastoral leadership skills and we are in the process of training a limited group of people to help congregations in this type of crisis.

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A common proposed solution for a congregation seeking renewal is to propose doing something new based on the observation that the present and recent past strategies 'have not worked'. Plans for new efforts (such as outreach to an ethnic community) often have substantial planning horizons that are rarely included in the traditional short-term renewal plans. To help improve the quality of our congregational and synodical planning for such renewals, the synod has developed planning aids and rules of thumb to help the process and a more critical and objective means for estimating the risk/reward of proposed activities.

If a congregation has limited resources, any plans for renewal are usually very risk averse, with little financial and human capital designated for the renewal effort. However, it is a well established principle in business that renewal requires substantial commitment, energy and resources if it is to succeed – timidity always foretells failure. We are learning how to develop bold plans with a greater chance of success so that, though fewer renewal efforts can be supported, many more will succeed.

Strategic Planning: The Metropolitan New York synod leadership is clearly aware of our very limited resources. We have reduced and declining income, a very limited supply of pastors, and too many congregations that are not economically or missionally viable. At the same time, because of our commitment to outreach and the nature of the metropolitan area, we have an unusually large number of mission commitments and mission opportunities and very inadequate resources to respond. This situation clearly calls for a strategic approach to selecting and nurturing new or regrowing missions: The issues are always wrenching:

- What areas of poverty or other social stress are strategically essential for the synod's mission and deserve support even though they are not likely to be independently viable? If there are more of this type of mission than funds support, how do we choose among them?
- Where can we obtain the key leaders for any new or renewed mission?
- Which new opportunities have limited potential and should not be begun?
- Which locations are not viable and should close?

The Mission Development Board and synod staff have developed 10 year economic forecasting tools to help us evaluate how much resource we will have available for renewal efforts. These economic models show that we can afford to begin about one major renewal project per year. We also now know that renewal is a 5-7 year process and it often takes 1-2 years of conversation with the congregation or agency before such a plan can be written and agreed. Not all initial one or two year conversation lead to a viable plan. Very limited experience suggests only about 1/5 do result in a viable plan. These characteristics mean that many planning discussions are active at once, in the certainty that resources limitations will ensure not all can be implemented even if viable plans can be formed.

Given the long project times, multiple opportunities, and limited resources, it is natural to hope that a strategic approach to renewal rather than congregation by congregation discussions would be a better solution. Such planning cannot be just a synod staff responsibility, but requires the sincere participation of conference leadership and congregational leadership. How shall we achieve this broad participation? Challenges include:

- Our history is to operate as congregational ministries with synodical oversight at moments of transition in congregational leadership. There is little incentive and reward for working on collaborative issues with uncertain time lines and uncertain results.
- Leaders by training and experience focus on congregational issues. Particularly if a locality is concerned with local viability, it is a major risk and major change in behavior to focus on collaborative issues.
- The strategic wisdom to clearly see the long term implications of tactical decisions is an uncommon gift.
- The analytical skills to understand the implications of coordinated conference wide or region-wide plans are not well developed.

We continue to advocate for and work for regional approaches to renewal of our mission and ministry. Such a process has been underway for several years in the Southwest Brooklyn Conference under the

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leadership of the Dean and with the strong encouragement of the synod. We hope it will result in an excellent plan with substantial local support. The Southwest Brooklyn experience has already taught us that coordinated planning among congregations is a very substantial cultural shift. It requires lay and ordained leadership to learn and advocate for new ideas and a willingness to value the community's witness as important as the individual congregation's witness.

Clearly we are anticipating a major change in our methods for planning, implementing, and evaluating mission endeavors. This will take quite a while. We will need to remember in prayer ourselves and our co-workers in Christ as we wrestle with new methods and new ideas, many of which will not achieve what we hope. Some will bear fruit and we will rejoice and thank God for that and use those hard-earned lessons as we continue to work together for the kingdom of God.

Mission Development Board: Rev. Stephen Bouman, Paul Jensen (Bishop's representative), Mary Heller, Rev. Craig Miller, Kamy Moghbeli, Rev. James Thomas, (Synod Council appointee is vacant)

Robert Buescher (Executive Committee Liaison), John Litke (Staff Liaison)

Mission Interpretation

"God's work, our hands" is not only the theme for our synod assembly this year, but also a fitting description of mission interpretation. Mission interpretation gives us a venue to describe all the work that is made possible through the giving of our gifts. It is your mission support dollars that provide the staff, networks, and relationships that carry out God's work locally, nationally, and globally.

A recent blue-ribbon panel of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America stated that "the engagement of ELCA members in mission interpretation is critical to the advancement of the church's mission." The Metropolitan New York Synod is a leader within the churchwide organization for its emphasis on the need for mission interpretation. We want to be intentional about

- Helping people be more connected to what goes on in the life of the synod, its congregations, and our churchwide body.
- Helping people understand where their offering goes and that it is making a difference.
- Thanking people for their support.
- We believe that the benefits of such actions include strengthened relationships, a culture of thankfulness, growth in giving, and greater awareness of the work we accomplish together.

How is the synod doing this?

- We established our Mission Interpreter Network in September 2006 with 25 volunteers. Now over a year and a half old, the network is made up of 65 people spread across 17 conferences and 39 congregations. Our mission interpreters make bimonthly presentations to their congregations, sharing stories of ministry.
- We offer regular trainings for those interested in becoming mission interpreters. Lay people, deacons, pastors—in short, anyone—can be mission interpreters. Mission interpreters receive regular resources and support from the synod office, as well as opportunities to gather together and share stories.
- We have held a series of town hall meetings throughout the synod for the past two years. In fall of 2007, the purpose of the meetings centered expressly on mission interpretation. The goals for the town hall meeting were to a) show people what their mission support funds, b) make people aware of the resources available to them, c) introduce people to the synod staff, and d) help people connect both with the wider church and with each other. Attended by over 700 people, the meetings were very positive.
- We promote resources that encourage the sharing of ministry stories. There are many materials on the mission interpretation website to help congregations share these stories. The synod also highlights its ministries through its website, e-letter, and newsletter. Through the synod, the ELCA distributes Stories of Faith in Action (formerly Making Christ Known), a magazine filled with

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stories of churchwide ministries funded by mission support. In addition, the synod has promoted *Stories to Tell & Gifts to Share*, a stewardship resource that uses mission interpretation to encourage congregational giving.

Going forward, the synod office is working to

- Recruit additional volunteers to join our network. Our lofty goal is to have at least one mission interpreter in every congregation eventually.
- Hold town hall meetings in fall 2008 to continue the dialogue and reconnect with participants.
- Solicit and make available more stories of ministry, as well as widen the communication networks through which we publicize them.

Telling the stories of what God is doing is a joyful ministry! Please join us in our efforts to make Christ known through the work of the Metropolitan New York Synod. For more information, please visit www.mnys.org/mi.

Sarah Gioe, Director of Mission Interpretation

Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA

The Mission Investment Fund (MIF) of the ELCA serves this synod by providing loans for capital projects to new mission congregations, established congregations, and ELCA-related ministries. Loans are made possible by investments in MIF by congregations and their members, synods and ELCA-related ministries.

More than **780 MIF** loans totaling **\$446 million** are at work today in ELCA ministries throughout the United States, the Virgin Islands and the Caribbean.

In the Metropolitan New York Synod, 13 congregations and ministries have received Mission Investment Fund loans totaling, \$ 2.4 million, while many individuals, congregations and the synod have investments in the Fund totaling \$ 3.8 million.

MIF serves ELCA ministries. In addition to the loans and investments that it offers, the Mission Investment Fund provides consulting services to ELCA congregations through its church building consultants and staff architects. The consultants help congregational leaders to explore options for church construction financing and plans for building projects. The staff architects provide initial schematic design proposals that congregations can take to local architects. The consultants' and architects' services are provided at no charge. The Fund's area representatives are available to meet with congregations and ELCA-related ministries related regarding loan and investment opportunities offered by MIF.

Has your congregation invested? Have members of your congregation invested? Join the thousands of individuals, ELCA congregations, ELCA-related ministries, and synods including the Metropolitan New York Synod – that are earning interest on their investments as they help to build the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Your participation enables MIF to continue this vital ministry. A variety of investment opportunities are available and may be opened with initial investments of as low as \$25. Information on investments and ministry loans is available at www.MissionInvestmentFund.org and through the MIF representatives listed below who serve this synod.

Thank you for your support of and participation in the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA. It is a joy for both of us to work in partnership with you for the advancement of God's kingdom.

<i>Pr. Mark Wimmer</i> <i>MIF Area Representative</i> <i>267-203-1137</i> <i>Mark.Wimmer@elca.org</i>	<i>Jeff Spann</i> <i>MIF Church Building Consultant</i> <i>973-625-2568</i> <i>jeff.spann@elca.org</i>
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Romania Companion Synod Committee

Through the work of the ELCA and Global Missions, the interest of Bishop Stephen Bouman and the efforts of Gary Mills, the Metropolitan New York Synod sought to undertake the necessary steps to become a companion synod with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Augsburg Confession in Romania, the ELCR. This process began in 2006 with Pastor Mills' visit to Romania to make the preparations for a 2007 trip by Bishop Bouman and a task force charged with oversight of the components and covenant for the Companion Synod relationship, which will formally begin with this synod assembly. We welcome to this assembly Dezso Zolan Adorjani, Bishop of the ELCR, and his Councilor, Attila Feher. Members of the task force are R. Griffin Thomas, Lee Pezet, Ms. Mary Tennermann, Mr. Brian Reardon, Richard F. Michael, and Dr. Gary Mills. (Dr. Stephen Bouman was a member of the task force before he accepted the call to the ELCA.).

Most of the congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Romania, ELCR, have a history that dates from the 1520s and the influence of students who studied in Wittenberg with Martin Luther and Melancthon. Foremost among the Hungarian reformers (this part of the world would only become Romania after World War I) was work of Johannes Honterus (1498-1549). Honterus is known not only for his theology but also for his work as a woodcarver, and with that, his skill as a printer. The history of the Reformation in Hungary was as stormy as in the rest of Europe as borders changed and countries were renamed. The Hungarian Lutherans of Transylvania found themselves part of a German-speaking church. Tension between German and Hungarian-speaking Lutherans led the Hungarian church to withdraw and form its own judicatory in 1896, joining the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary.

Today's church was founded in 1921. Following World War I, these Transylvanian congregations found themselves cut off from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary and living within the newly established borders of Romania. They have weathered Communism, Ceaucescu and the "revolution" that has brought the current government to power. As you talk with the pastors of the ELCACR, you will hear stories of the secret police and imprisonment for their and their parents' opposition to the inequities and oppression of their government prior to the revolution. While Hungarian is the primary language, the church has four official languages; Slovak, German and Romanian being the other three.

The ELCACR has roughly 32,000 members in 39 congregations and a 118 diaspora/preaching points. They are divided into three deaneries or dioceses: Brasov (Brasso/Kronstadt), Cluj (Kolozsvar/Klausenburg), and Nadiac (Hagylak/Nuhlberg). There are 45 pastors, whose average age is 36. Prior to Communism there were also 266 Lutheran schools. Today there are fewer than 20. The state claims to be seeking to restore property and offer restitution for the losses during the Communist era, but in reality the ELCR has received mostly only those properties that the Romanian Orthodox Church of the state does not want. There is a seminary -- the Protestant Theological Institute -- in Cluj, where Lutheran seminarians study along with Reformed and Unitarian students.

Some basic demographics as we meet our Romanian guests at this assembly:

1. 70% of the Romanian population is Romanian Orthodox, but the government distributes religious subsidies to that church body at 90%; Lutherans receive only about 1%.
2. The state is in the process of building 2,500 new buildings for the Romanian Orthodox church. There are none planned for the Lutheran congregations.
3. Unemployment is officially 8.9%, but unofficially is probably around 45% and most of the unemployed are under the age of 25.
4. The average income in 2005 was \$960.00/year/person.
5. Most of the Lutheran Churches are well over 500 years old and unheated. There are none with air conditioning and many lack other amenities we take for granted.

As we design the covenant for our relationship Bishop Adorjani proposed the following for consideration:

1. The 2007 visit by a delegation to begin the conversations with the ELCACR
2. An exchange of pastoral and diaconal leadership

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3. An exchange of Youth Ministries – the ELCACR has a very strong Youth Ministry. This would mostly be persons between the ages of 15 and 28.
4. An American pastor to establish a congregation in Cluj -- a growing university city.
5. An exchange of faculty and students with the seminary in Cluj.
6. Scholarships for pastors to study short term in the USA.

It is important to note that the ELCACR is a full member of the Lutheran World Federation and Bishop Adorjani is a highly respected voice in the work of the Federation throughout the world. It is a privilege to welcome him and Pastor Feher to this Assembly.

We are pleased that at this Assembly we will sign the final copy of the covenant with our new Companion Synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Romania. We look forward to years of shared ministry that will strengthen our life together in Christ.

Richard F. Michael, Chair

Seafarers & International House

K. H., an elderly, retired seafarer staying at the Seafarers & International House, was about to undergo out-patient eye surgery at New York-Presbyterian Hospital and wondered what was the best way to get to the hospital and back. For us, the answer was clear: a staff member would escort the seafarer to the hospital, get him admitted and make arrangements for the hospital to contact us when the eye surgery was completed so we pick him up, get his prescription filled, and return him to his guestroom to convalesce.

* * *

M.R., a Bulgarian seafarer, arrived in port experiencing shortness of breath and fatigue. Our port chaplain took him to the local hospital. The seafarer was diagnosed with acute diabetes. His insulin would have to be monitored continually, and therefore, he could not remain with the ship. The ship's captain refused to let the seafarer go: "Bulgarian seafarers are strong!" The port chaplain returned to the ship with the diagnostic records and after an extensive discussion with the captain and the ship agent, was able to get the seafarer a medical release and a flight back to Sofia.

* * *

Seafarers & International House is a Lutheran mission for seafarers and sojourners, providing pastoral care, hospitality, social assistance, advocacy and prayer in maritime ports in New York, New Jersey and New England, as well as in its 84-room guesthouse in Manhattan. Sometimes, our mission has little to do with maritime disasters and systemic injustice, and instead, just involves taking the time to help someone in need while they are away from home. Merchant ships are in port for only several hours before setting sail again, and getting anyone to stop in New York City, much less a taxi, can be daunting. At sea and ashore, even church missions pursue an intense schedule, but sometimes, it is necessary to put our appointment books and assigned tasks on hold, and take the time to reach out to someone in need. Ironically, it is during these unscheduled digressions, that we may capture the heart of our mission.

In 2007, our port chaplains boarded 745 ships and provided mission programs and services to approximately 16,000 seafarers, including the distribution of 3,700 Christmas-at-Sea gifts (many collected and wrapped by congregations in this Synod) and 8,100 international telephone cards. In 2007, we provided guestroom accommodations to more than 15,000 seafarers.

We are proud to serve as a mission partner of this Synod.

Marsh Luther Drege, Pastor and Executive Director

Tanzania Companionship Committee

On Palm Sunday, April 5, 1998, Bishop Samson Mushemba of the North Western Diocese of the ELCT and Bishop Stephen Bouman of our Metro NY Synod signed the Companion Covenant agreement between our two synods establishing a relationship that has grown and developed over these past 9 years. We are now approaching the 10th anniversary of that covenant and are looking forward to rededicating ourselves to working together for many more years to come. We give thanks to God for the gifts that have been shared between us and we ask God to prosper the work that we have done and will continue to do in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Here are the highlights from 2007.

Companion Synod “Udugu” Sunday

On Sunday, September 30, 2007, all congregations of our two synods were encouraged to celebrate and lift up our partnership. Here in the MNYS we suggested various ways to do that with special prayers, hymns and music, and with a Tanzanian style offering procession. All over our synod, congregations took on a Tanzanian flavor and collected special offerings to benefit the Tanzanian Endowment Fund.

Speaker’s Bureau

A Tanzanian Speaker’s Bureau has been established and is available to visit congregations and give presentations to help our companionship take on flesh and blood. Pictures, music, stories and experiences are shared so that the people of our synod may become more connected to our companions in Tanzania. If your congregation wishes to take advantage of our Tanzanian Speakers Bureau, please contact Lois Rimbo.

Trip to Tanzania in July

In July, a group of 15 people traveled to Bukoba. The trip had a three-fold purpose. The first was to again lead a group of pilgrims to visit the ministries of our companion diocese. Five members of our synod participated in this capacity. The second was to facilitate a servant event for five of our young people and their chaperone. This was the third and final year of a synod servant exchange program which began in 2005 with the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod. In Tanzania, the students worked together with students at Iluhya Secondary School to accomplish a large painting project. The third purpose was to accompany and introduce our new teacher for KEMPS, Ms. Clare Buckley and her husband, Mr. John Flack, who will do his internship for ministry in one of the congregations of the North Western Diocese. Both the internship and the servant event represent new initiatives which expand our companion relationship.

KEMPS

The KEMPS community and fellow MNYS teacher, Gayle Kliever, welcomed Clare Buckley and her husband John with open arms. The school continues to have excellent success in regional and national testing with all graduates accepted to secondary school. The school was proud to show off the completed Bread of Life chapel/dining hall and the cleared space for a playing field, both accomplished with the help of the MNYS. Due to its excellent reputation, the school continues to grow. Additional teachers, plans for a new girl’s dormitory and an expanded water supply system will enable the school to support the increased enrollment.

The Tanzanian Endowment Fund

The Synod’s permanent endowment for Christian education in the North Western Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania increased during 2007 by over \$200,000. At the end of 2007, the endowment was within \$30,000 of its 1 million – dollar goal. Begun by a synod assembly resolution in 2003, the endowment will give lasting support to two teachers sent by the synod to Kibeta English Medium Primary School. Distributions annually will total approximately \$50,000 and can only be used to benefit Christian education on the territory of the synod’s companion synod in Tanzania.

Looking Ahead

Having reached our goal for the Tanzanian Endowment Fund, it is our dream to begin establishing relationships between the congregations of our synod and those of the North Western Diocese. Our hope is to begin that process in 2008, God willing!

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Members of the Tanzanian Companionship Committee: Pr. Perucy Butiku, Pr. Carol Fryer (Chair), Janet Gay, Delores Gray, Deacon Lynne Hansen, John Hinsch, Pr. Richard Miller, Lois Rimbo, Karol Wollenburg, Mary Tennermann, Connie Duever, Pr. Robert Wollenburg

Ms. Constance Duever, Assistant to the Bishop for Candidacy, Synod Resources and Tanzanian Ministry

Wagner College

Wagner College will mark its 125th anniversary this October with events in the Rochester, N.Y. area — where the college was founded in 1883 — and on Grymes Hill in Staten Island, where the college moved in 1918.

Begun as a high school and junior college to prepare young men for a seminary education, all classes were taught in German — the better to prepare its students to minister to the German-speaking Lutheran congregations that proliferated throughout New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania in the mid-19th century. By the time the school moved to Staten Island, in 1918, the urgent need for German-speaking pastors had diminished, and Wagner College began its transformation into a four-year, American-style liberal arts college.

Several events connected to Wagner's 125th anniversary commemoration will focus on our historic Lutheran roots.

- We will have two special guests with us for our commencement exercise in June.
 - First, Stephen Bouman, former bishop of the ELCA's Metropolitan New York Synod, will be our baccalaureate speaker.
 - Second, the great-great-granddaughter of founding benefactor John George Wagner Jr., Margaret-Anne Milne, will be given a citation of thanks to her family for the initial gift that established the college in Rochester. The training school for Lutheran ministers was named in honor of her great-great-uncle, J. George Wagner III, whose own hopes of becoming a minister were cut short by typhus; Wagner Memorial Lutheran College was founded 10 years to the day after young George's death at the age of 19.
- This fall, the college's 125th anniversary celebration will go into high gear. One anniversary event will specifically highlight the circumstances of our founding as a Lutheran institution of higher learning. Sometime in October, a service of thanksgiving will be held in St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Pittsford, N.Y., outside Rochester, followed by a dedication ceremony at the parish's former parsonage across the street. St. Paul's was the parish led by one of Wagner's two co-founders, Dr. George H. Gompf. The apple tree that once stood in his front yard featured large in the college's creation myth, for it was under that tree that Gompf and his colleague, Alexander Richter of Zion Lutheran Church in Rochester, met over the summer of 1883 to formulate the plan that resulted in the opening of a new ministerial prep school that fall. Our hope is to plant a new apple tree in the Gompf House yard this year — and perhaps another of the same variety on the Grymes Hill campus — which would be dedicated in October to the memory of our founding fathers.
- The historic connection of Wagner College to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will also figure in the final commemoration of our 125th anniversary, the Founder's Day celebration on Oct. 15 in Staten Island. Representatives from the successor congregations of the four German Lutheran parishes that contributed to the college's creation will play prominent roles in those ceremonies.

The college's "Faith & Life" lecture series, reconstituted last year after an absence of more than three decades, continued this year, with two lectures scheduled in the fall semester and two more in the spring.

- In October we heard from astrophysicist Bernard Haisch, author of "The God Theory: Universes, Zero-Point Fields, and What's Behind It All" and over 130 scientific articles. Haisch has focused his work on "the reinsertion of God into the scientific equation."

APPENDIX II – PRE-ASSEMBLY BULLETIN OF REPORTS SECTION B

- In November, Chaplain Lyle Guttu delivered a lecture entitled, “The Questions Don’t Go Away.” A month later, Lyle died after being hit by a motorist while crossing the street. We are still learning about all Lyle did for the college community during his 35-year tenure here; his passing has been a tremendous loss to us all. Bishop Bouman presided over Lyle’s memorial service at Trinity–Staten Island in December.

The garden in front of Lyle’s home was recently dedicated to his memory. His house, one of the original cottages built on campus in the Twenties for college professors and their families, will be used starting next year as a focal point for spiritual life on campus, providing both formal and informal meeting space and offices for the college’s Lutheran, Catholic and Jewish chaplains.

- A third “Faith & Life” lecture by Peter Kingsley, titled “God’s Forgotten Face: The Sacred Origins of the Western World,” was scheduled for early March. It had to be postponed because of the lecturer’s illness.
- The final “Faith & Life” lecture of the academic year will be delivered on April 24 by Walter Kaelber in honor of Lyle Guttu. Kaelber, currently the only professor of religion at Wagner College, will speak on “Oprah, Atheism, and the Great American Paradox.”

Lastly, the college continues to prosper.

- Plans for a new residence hall, on the drawing board for six years, have finally cleared their last regulatory hurdle, winning approval from the New York City Planning Department. Another new building, expected to house the college’s business, education and nursing programs, is being planned for the site of the old Augustinian Academy, across Campus Road from the main campus.
- A \$50 million capital campaign was kicked off with a gala reception on Ellis Island Oct. 20. The campaign will raise funds to support our new building program, the restoration and maintenance of historic structures like Main Hall (1930) and Parker Hall (1923), faculty development, and merit scholarships.

The Wartburg Adult Care Community

The History

God’s Work, The Hands of our Lutheran Founders

The Wartburg opened in 1866 as an Orphan Farm School founded by Lutheran ministers on a 125-acre tract of land in Mount Vernon, NY. The land was purchased to create a home for neglected youth and orphans of the Civil War. Two of the major donors who made the purchase possible were Peter Moller and John A. Roebing, designer of the Brooklyn Bridge.

In 1899, while continuing to care for children, The Wartburg responded to the growing needs of the aged by opening The Marie Louise Heins Adult Home. This was followed by the opening of a skilled nursing home of 80 beds in 1968 and expanded to a second facility of 48 beds in 1972.

With the movement of children into foster care in 1968, the focus of services at The Wartburg became caring for older adults, including the construction of Lohman Village, 31 independent living one and two bedroom cottages in 1987, the construction of Waltemade Health Care Center, a 240 bed skilled nursing facility, in 1995, and the construction of the Meadowview Assisted Living residence in 2000. In 2006, The Wartburg opened a 15-unit Memory Care Assisted Living Center in a separate wing of Meadowview.

A New Chapter

God’s Work, Our Hands Joined in Partnership

In 2007, a new chapter was begun with the alliance of The Wartburg, Mt. Vernon, and Wartburg Lutheran Services, which operates residences and skilled nursing facilities throughout Westchester, Lower Hudson, Metropolitan New York and Long Island and Albany regions of New York. With the partnership of these two providers, will come an increased commitment to those who are in need of health care or who are seeking residential and community services.

APPENDIX II – PRE-ASSEMBLY BULLETIN OF REPORTS SECTION B

It is our intent to affirm our Lutheran heritage and with this partnership enhance our mission and ministries by creating a seamless network of health-related, social, spiritual and residential services that meet the changing needs of older adults, their families and caregivers. The programs and services provided by this alliance will include: Long term Skilled Nursing Care; Short-term Rehabilitation; Low-income Independent Housing; Independent and Assisted Living Residences; Memory Care, Adult Day Services, Home Care and Caregiver Support.

Caring is our shared Mission. When finalized, The Wartburg alliance will continue to support ministries of the New York Metropolitan Synod, and will maintain an Association of Lutheran Congregations and its affiliation with Lutheran Services in America.

The Wartburg Adult Care Community is a member of the Lutheran Services New York Alliance.

Women of the ELCA

As the recently elected President, I look forward to the opportunity of visiting with the women of the different congregations of the Synod. Visiting will allow me to see what we are doing for the Church and the surrounding communities. We will continue to have our Synodical Women's Board meetings at the churches of each of the Board members, as this affords us more opportunity to see the many ministries of the women of this Synod.

We have been celebrating our 20th Year, which will culminate with us gathering this July in Salt Lake City for the 7th Triennial. The theme of the Triennial is **Come To The Waters (John 7:37b, 38)**. The Gathering will be July 10-13, preceded by the convention July 8-10. We will celebrate our mission and purpose statement by remembering our baptism at the life giving waters.

Our Annual Synodical Convention will be on September 20 at St. David's Lutheran Church in Massapequa Park. The women of that congregation will serve as the hostesses for the Convention. The theme will be **Sisters Gathered at the Well (John 7: 37b, 38)**.

Our focus continues to be lifting up the ministries of women and to encourage each woman to see her gifts and talents. Our Super Saturday event at the Wartburg in March emphasized emotional, spiritual and physical health. We will raise up the women of our congregations at the Wartburg in our Celebrating Women, when we celebrate a joyous worship led by the dynamic worship team of women from one of our congregations.

While the number of active congregation units of the Women of the ELCA in Metro New York may not be large, we go forth Marching in the Light of God. We ask that we go to the waters seeking renewal that we may grow in the number of active units.

Marion L. Steadman-Dierking, President

World Hunger Committee

Mission: To raise awareness of the hunger issue and to serve as a resource to congregations, assisting them in responding to the needs of hungry people, locally and globally.

The theme of the 2008 Synod Assembly, *God's Work, Our Hands*, aptly describes those who labor to alleviate world hunger. God's clarion call to seek justice for the oppressed and help those in need resounds throughout Scripture. Christ's earthly ministry was filled with acts of compassionate love that fed the hungry, healed the sick, and brought hope to the despairing. As disciples we are called to continue Christ's ministry of serving others. This is the call clearly issued at the conclusion of the parable of the Good Samaritan, when Jesus calls the young lawyer—and us by extension—to "Go and do likewise."

In response to Christ's call, the implementation of *Ending Hunger as a Core Conviction*, a resolution passed at the 2005 Metro New York Synod Assembly committing the Synod and its congregations to action, with a similar resolution adopted that year at the Churchwide Assembly, continues to be the emphasis of the MNYS World Hunger Committee's activities. Bishop Bouman's fervent endorsement of

APPENDIX II – PRE-ASSEMBLY BULLETIN OF REPORTS SECTION B

this resolution in a pastoral letter distributed in the fall of 2005 has been an impetus as we raise awareness about hunger issues, especially the work of the ELCA World Hunger program, whose mission statement is “Go and do likewise.” The program was the focus of the April 2007 issue of the committee’s newsletter, *Bread and Justice*, and of its workshop and Mission Moment during the 2007 Synod Assembly. One of the committee’s goals in this focus has been to increase contributions from the Synod’s congregations to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

When the ELCA World Hunger program was established, a goal was set to raise \$25 million annually—achievable if every ELCA member contributed \$5 per year. Unfortunately this goal has yet to be realized. In 2006, the latest year for which figures are available, the per capita contribution to the World Hunger Appeal from MNYS was \$2.19. The committee presented this information to the Assembly, along with an urgent request that congregations increase their giving to the Appeal. We also pointed out that the Appeal is a very good steward of the gifts it receives, using all but 7 cents of every dollar received for relief, development, advocacy, and hunger awareness programs. The poignant story of the Huntington Lutheran Respite Center, one of eleven recipients in MNYS territory of an ELCA domestic hunger grant, was shared at the 2007 Assembly.

In other activities, the committee published an October 2007 issue of *Bread and Justice* that focused on what Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Office for World Community, Super Bowl of Caring, and MNYS congregations are doing to address hunger issues. It also discussed the changes Bread for the World’s *Offering of Letters 2007* hoped to achieve in the renewal of the farm bill. Two books, *World Hunger* by Frances Moore Lappe, et al and *End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time*, by Jeffrey Sachs were reviewed and recommended to those who want to learn more about world hunger. At the request of the committee, MNYS again co-sponsored Metro Bread for the World’s annual *Offering of Letters* workshop, held this year at St. James Episcopal Church, Manhattan, on March 8th. The goal of this year’s Offering is to secure an increase of at least \$5 billion in funding for poverty-focused development aid in the 2009 federal budget and passage of the Global Poverty Act. This proposed legislation would insure that the assistance would have maximum impact for those with the greatest need.

Dcn. Beverly Small and Pastor Alex Walbrodt represented the committee at the annual ELCA Synod Hunger Leaders Gathering. Robert Brent, Dcn. Karen Nurmi, and Sharon Wilson attended the Region 7 Global Mission Leaders and Hunger Leaders gathering. As always, the exchange of ideas with representatives from other synods was a very helpful part of these meetings.

In order to improve communication, the committee has been working with Mission Interpretation Director Sarah Goe to find ways to coordinate some aspects of the Mission Interpreter program with the tasks of congregational hunger contacts, and to help hunger contacts hone their presentation skills.

This has also been a year of transition. In June the committee said farewell and Godspeed to Martin Fergus, its chairperson for nearly a decade, who retired and moved to the Midwest. Marty has been a long-distance runner in the fight against hunger and we shall miss his inspiration and leadership. Fortunately, through the wonders of modern technology, Marty was able to serve as editor for the October issue of *Bread and Justice*. The committee is now co-chaired by Al Ahlstrom and Dcn Karen Nurmi. This year the committee welcomed Rosalind Braithwaite, James O’Hanlon, Dcn Beverly Small, and Mary Tennermann. **There is always plenty of room at the table and we invite you to become a member of the committee or a “hunger contact” for your congregation.** Just contact Dcn. Karen Nurmi at mnyeworldhunger@optonline.net.

The world has the resources to end the scandal of world hunger, but it will take the commitment of everyone to make it a reality. It is *God’s Work* through *Our Hands*.

In Christ, Al Ahlstrom and Dcn. Karen Nurmi—Co-Chairs

Tony Aguilar, Rosalind Braithwaite, Robert Brent, Jocelyn D’Antonio, Martin Fergus—Chair Emeritus, James O’Hanlon, Dcn Beverly Small, Mary Tennermann, Dcn Richard Thyden, Alex Walbrodt, Sharon Wilson

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2008 Report of Lutheran Counseling Center

“LIVING IN GODS AMAZING GRACE: GOD’S WORK, OUR HANDS”

The Lutheran Counseling Center is a healing ministry of the Church offering health, hope and wholeness by serving individuals, families, congregations and our community.

In order to fulfill its mission the Lutheran Counseling Center:

- Provides pastoral counseling in the spirit of the healing Christ by individuals who are credentialed in both theology and psychotherapy and who integrate faith-based commitments into the counseling services.
- Equips clergy, professional church workers, community organizations and others to address mental health issues through educational seminars and workshops.
- Offers consultation services to individuals, families, congregations and community organizations.
- Serves all people regardless of religious affiliation, personal conviction, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, gender, age or ability to pay.

This year’s theme is especially apropos to the work of the Lutheran Counseling Center (LCC). With a total of seven counseling sites located in Manhattan, Queens, Bronxville, Nassau and Suffolk Counties, the Center continues to be blessed with the work of many hands—those of pastors of our metropolitan New York community churches who refer most of our clients—individual adults, couples, children, teens and families in need of counseling for issues they can no longer handle alone or in need of increased personal growth or renewal of relationship bonds. Many hands of our dedicated board members, staff counselors, administrative staff members and volunteer all work together to make our ministry vital and reaching the needs of our Lutheran community.

Also important are the ‘hands on’ partnerships with congregations and Lutheran agencies that remain central to communicating and carrying out the Center’s ministry. LCC has forty-two Association Congregations that are at the heart of the agency’s ministries of hope and healing. We are grateful God’s amazing grace in working through so many dedicated hands to make LCC the viable, strong faith-based counseling center that it is today, helping hundreds of New Yorkers every year.

LCC also provides the following current special educational program initiatives for churches, schools and individuals:

- *Prevention of School Violence Initiative* provides in-service training and interventions for schools and counseling for at-risk children exhibiting bullying behaviors or who are victims of bullying
- *Strengthening Families Initiative* subsidizes couples’ counseling sessions and provides couple relationship seminars for churches
- *Healing to Wholeness Initiative for Women and Girls* provided grief and loss subsidized counseling sessions for women who have experienced premature birth complications, pre-natal or birth loss, post-partum depression or other complications related to child birth
- *Counseling Subsidy for Those People Directly and Indirectly Affected by the 9/11 Disaster:* many New Yorkers have already sought help for unresolved traumas resulting from 9/11. However, LCC is finding that there are many others who need help and are coming forward for the first time.

Advice is sought from congregations and other ministries in the Synod concerning how the Cnet may be helpful to these ministries in fulfilling its mental health mission to provide counseling and consultation services to the faith community and beyond. Thank you for your help in spreading the word of God’s work at the Lutheran Counseling Center.

On behalf of all of our Board and Staff, this report is respectfully submitted.

Molly W. Blancke, Executive Director

APPENDIX III -- AUDITOR'S REPORT

METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

**METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD
OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

JANUARY 31, 2008 AND 2007

TAIT, WELLER & BAKER LLP

**APPENDIX III -- AUDITOR'S REPORT
METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

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APPENDIX III -- AUDITOR'S REPORT

METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

TAIT, WELLER & BAKER LLP

Certified Public Accountants

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

**Metropolitan New York Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
New York, New York**

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as of January 31, 2008 and 2007, and the related statements of revenues, expenses and other changes in unrestricted net assets, changes in net assets, and of cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Synod's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as of January 31, 2008 and 2007, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

**New York, New York
April 23, 2008**

APPENDIX III -- AUDITOR'S REPORT**METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA****STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION****January 31, 2008 and 2007**

	Fiscal Year 2007	Fiscal Year 2006
ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 463,864	\$ 382,135
Investments, at value (<i>Note 2</i>)	4,501,928	3,542,030
Accounts receivable	201,744	61,553
Advances and other assets (net of \$300,000 allowance in 2007 and 2006)	167,426	77,878
Property, equipment and leasehold improvements (<i>Note 4</i>)	257,617	351,321
Property held by Synod (<i>Note 3</i>)	<u>11,965,000</u>	<u>9,885,000</u>
Total assets	<u>\$17,557,579</u>	<u>\$14,299,917</u>
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 222,466	\$ 330,159
Deferred revenue	4,095	-
Notes payable (<i>Note 7</i>)	<u>28,589</u>	<u>5,732</u>
Total liabilities	<u>255,150</u>	<u>335,891</u>
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted		
Undesignated	(33,551)	(128,176)
Designated	15,512,756	12,343,014
Net investment in property, equipment and leasehold improvements	<u>229,028</u>	<u>345,589</u>
Total unrestricted net assets	15,708,233	12,560,427
Temporarily restricted (<i>Note 5</i>)	441,929	542,589
Permanently restricted (<i>Note 5</i>)	<u>1,152,267</u>	<u>861,010</u>
Total net assets	<u>17,302,429</u>	<u>13,964,026</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$17,557,579</u>	<u>\$14,299,917</u>

APPENDIX III -- AUDITOR'S REPORT**METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA****STATEMENT OF UNRESTRICTED REVENUE, EXPENSES AND
CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS****Fiscal years ended January 31, 2008 and 2007**

	Fiscal Year 2007	Fiscal Year 2006
Revenue		
Contributions from congregations		
Congregational mission support	\$1,384,832	\$ 1,386,638
Designated mission support		
World Hunger	62,094	68,912
United Lutheran Appeal	-	6,549
Other designated gifts	<u>102,733</u>	<u>83,397</u>
Total from congregations	1,549,659	1,545,496
Other revenue		
Contributions from individuals and others	510,174	471,120
Investment income		
(including gain on sale of investments of \$219,770 in 2007 and \$419,243 in 2006)	307,734	594,744
Miscellaneous	<u>191,005</u>	<u>141,095</u>
Total contributions and other revenue	<u>2,558,572</u>	<u>2,752,455</u>
Net assets released from restrictions (Note 5)	<u>234,422</u>	<u>224,071</u>
Total revenue	<u>2,792,994</u>	<u>2,976,526</u>
Expenses		
Synod Services		
Synod Outreach		
(including \$643,947 in 2007 and \$602,853 in 2006 in Mission Support to ELCA)	1,361,212	1,347,938
Synod Life	249,266	230,682
Congregational Life	585,468	606,689
Development	307,233	285,171
Bishop's Office	435,067	398,206
Synod Governance	60,635	130,950
Communications & PR	94,603	68,990
Office services	<u>686,423</u>	<u>647,581</u>
Total expenses	<u>3,779,907</u>	<u>3,716,207</u>
Excess (deficit) of revenue over expenses	(986,913)	(739,681)
Other Changes		
Net unrealized losses on long-term investments	(553,365)	(244,313)
Mission Projects (New Starts)	(949,090)	(1,762,814)
Net proceeds from sale of churches (Note 9)	446,499	-
Congregations under synodical administration/agreement (Note 3)	<u>5,190,675</u>	<u>2,543,756</u>
Increase (decrease) in unrestricted net assets	<u>\$3,147,806</u>	<u>\$ (203,052)</u>

APPENDIX III -- AUDITOR'S REPORT**METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA****STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS****Fiscal years ended January 31, 2008 and 2007**

	Fiscal Year 2007	Fiscal Year 2006
Unrestricted net assets		
Total unrestricted revenue	\$ 2,815,336	\$ 2,752,455
Net assets released from restrictions (<i>Note 5</i>)	234,422	224,071
Total unrestricted expenses	(3,779,907)	(3,716,207)
Other changes	<u>3,877,955</u>	<u>536,629</u>
Increase (decrease) in unrestricted net assets	<u>3,147,806</u>	<u>(203,052)</u>
Temporarily restricted net assets		
Contributions	104,406	103,602
Investment income	29,356	39,495
Other income	-	2,876
Net assets released from restrictions (<i>Note 5</i>)	<u>(234,422)</u>	<u>(224,071)</u>
Decrease in temporarily restricted net assets	<u>(100,660)</u>	<u>(78,098)</u>
Permanently restricted net assets		
Contributions	229,469	147,937
Investment income	<u>61,788</u>	<u>22,512</u>
Increase in permanently restricted net assets	<u>291,257</u>	<u>170,449</u>
Increase (decrease) in net assets	3,338,403	(110,701)
Net assets		
Beginning of year	<u>13,964,026</u>	<u>14,074,727</u>
End of year	<u>\$17,302,429</u>	<u>\$13,964,026</u>

APPENDIX III -- AUDITOR'S REPORT

METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

Fiscal years ended January 31, 2008 and 2007

	<u>Fiscal Year</u> <u>2007</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u> <u>2006</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH		
<i>Net change in net assets</i>	\$ 3,338,403	\$ (110,701)
<i>Adjustments to reconcile the net change in net assets to net cash provided by (used for) operating activities</i>		
Depreciation	135,125	115,000
Gain on sale of investments	(219,770)	(419,243)
Net unrealized losses on long-term investments	553,365	244,313
Net proceeds from sale of churches	(446,499)	-
Mission Projects (New Starts)	949,090	1,762,814
Congregations under synodical administration/agreement	(5,190,675)	(2,543,756)
(Increase) decrease in		
Advances and other assets	(89,548)	17,919
Accounts receivable	(140,191)	57,732
Increase (decrease) in		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	(107,693)	27,401
Deferred revenue	<u>4,095</u>	<u>(16,000)</u>
Net cash used for operating activities	<u>(1,214,298)</u>	<u>(864,521)</u>
<i>Cash flows from investing activities</i>		
Purchase of equipment and leasehold improvements	(41,421)	(42,535)
Purchase of investments	(3,593,493)	(358,057)
Proceeds from sale of investments	2,300,000	3,838,324
Property held by Synod	(2,080,000)	(3,345,000)
Net proceeds from sale of churches	446,499	-
Mission Projects (New Starts)	(949,090)	(1,762,814)
Congregations under synodical administration/agreement	<u>5,190,675</u>	<u>2,543,756</u>
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>1,273,170</u>	<u>873,674</u>
<i>Cash flows from financing activities</i>		
Proceeds from issuance of notes payable	38,635	-
Repayments of notes payable	<u>(15,778)</u>	<u>(21,193)</u>
Net cash provided by (used for) financing activities	<u>22,857</u>	<u>(21,193)</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash	81,729	(12,040)
<i>Cash</i>		
Beginning of year	<u>382,135</u>	<u>394,175</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 463,864</u>	<u>\$ 382,135</u>

APPENDIX III -- AUDITOR'S REPORT

METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Fiscal Years 2007 and 2006

(1) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

ORGANIZATION

The Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ("*Synod*") is one of sixty-five geographical synodical units of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ("*ELCA*"). The Synod lies within Region 7 of the ELCA.

ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES

In preparing financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles management makes estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, as well as the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reported period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

CONCENTRATION OF CREDIT RISK

The Synod occasionally maintains deposits in excess of federally insured limits. Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 107 identifies these items as a concentration of credit risk requiring disclosure, regardless of the degree of risk. The risk is managed by maintaining all deposits in high quality financial institutions.

PROPERTY, EQUIPMENT AND LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS

Property, equipment and leasehold improvements are recorded at cost. Depreciation is provided for equipment and leasehold improvements on the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives, which are 2 to 10 years.

CONGREGATIONS UNDER SYNODICAL ADMINISTRATION/AGREEMENT

Congregations under synodical administration include property which has been transferred from a congregation generally due to a disbanded congregation or financial difficulties. In cases where the Synod intends to sell the property, the Synod records the property at the estimated fair value when the property is received. The Synod expenses costs incurred in connection with carrying the property until the property is sold. Also included are congregation expenses for those congregations operating under a support agreement with the Synod.

INVESTMENTS

The Synod applies SFAS No. 124, "*Accounting For Certain Investments Held By Not-For-Profit Organizations.*" SFAS No. 124 established standards for accounting for certain investments held by not-for-profit organizations and requires that investments in securities be recorded at fair value with the resulting gains and losses reported in the statement of activity.

APPENDIX III -- AUDITOR'S REPORT

METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

The fair value of investments traded on a securities exchange is determined based on quoted market prices for those investments.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions and grants that are restricted by the donor are reported as increases in unrestricted net assets if the restrictions expire in the fiscal year in which the contributions are recognized. All other donor-restricted contributions are reported as increases in temporarily or permanently restricted net assets. When a restriction expires, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets.

APPENDIX III -- AUDITOR'S REPORT
METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – (Continued)

Fiscal Years 2007 and 2006

(2) INVESTMENTS

Investments are composed of the following at January 31:

<u>Fiscal Year 2007</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Market</u>
ELCA Endowment Fund A	\$4,070,865	\$3,850,677
ELCA – Fund A CELC	<u>601,209</u>	<u>651,251</u>
	<u>\$4,672,074</u>	<u>\$4,501,928</u>

At January 31, 2008, the portfolio of investments had gross unrealized losses of \$170,146.

<u>Fiscal Year 2006</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Market</u>
Mission Certificates – Mission Investment Fund	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000
ELCA Endowment Fund A	2,334,092	2,630,876
ELCA – Fund A CELC	<u>574,719</u>	<u>661,154</u>
	<u>\$3,158,811</u>	<u>\$3,542,030</u>

At January 31, 2007, the portfolio of investments had gross of unrealized gains of \$383,219.

Total investment return on the investments for fiscal years 2007 and 2006 was as follows:

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Interest and Dividends	\$ 179,108	\$ 237,508
Realized Gains	219,770	419,243
Unrealized losses	<u>(553,365)</u>	<u>(244,313)</u>
	<u>\$(154,487)</u>	<u>\$ 412,438</u>

The Synod has pooled its investments, including designated net assets and permanently restricted net assets. The Synod uses the total return concept in accounting for its pooled investment funds. Under the total return method, investments are recorded at market value and the Board of Directors annually determines a spending percentage of the pooled investment funds by which the Synod can expend not only income but a prudent portion of the appreciation of the principal. During fiscal year 2007, the Synod implemented a new endowment spending policy. Under the new policy, annual distributions shall be no greater than the average of the total return of the previous five years. Spending from investments will not exceed the annual distribution ceiling without the approval of the Synod Council. Total distributable earnings for current operations was approximately \$275,700 and \$273,800 for the fiscal years 2007 and 2006, respectively.

APPENDIX III -- AUDITOR'S REPORT

METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – (Continued)

Fiscal Years 2007 and 2006

(3) PROPERTY HELD BY SYNOD

Property held by the Synod and under synodical administration consist of the following:

	<u>Fiscal Year</u> <u>2007</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u> <u>2006</u>
Hope Lutheran Church, Scarsdale, New York (1)	\$ -	\$1,900,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, Hollis, Queens (2)	2,200,000	2,200,000
St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Brooklyn (6)	5,080,000	-
Atonement Lutheran Church, Staten Island (3)	2,000,000	2,000,000
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Richmond Hill, Queens (4)	2,035,000	2,035,000
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Bayside, Queens (5)	<u>650,000</u>	<u>1,750,000</u>
	<u>\$11,965,000</u>	<u>\$9,885,000</u>

The Synod has taken title to property from the above congregations. The future of these congregations, including sales of property, is still under consideration.

- (1) For the fiscal year ended January 31, 2008, the Synod has recorded net expenses in the amount of \$227,000.
- (2) For the year ended January 31, 2008, the Synod has recorded net expenses in the amount of \$80,665 related to Hollis church and school.
- (3) For the year ended January 31, 2008, the Synod has recorded net expenses of \$23,539.
- (4) For the year ended January 31, 2008, the Synod has recorded net expenses of \$35,495.
- (5) For the year ended January 31, 2008, the Synod has recorded net income of \$615,865 reflecting the carrying value of the parsonage of \$650,000 less net expenses incurred on the church prior to the sale of \$34,135.
- (6) For the year ended January 31, 2008, the Synod has recorded net income in the amount of \$5,008,701 reflecting the carrying value of the property of \$5,080,080 less expenses incurred of \$71,299.

In addition, there are several other congregations under synodical administration or with a support agreement which the Synod has not taken title to the property. The Synod has recorded \$67,192 of expenses related to these congregations for the year ended January 31, 2008.

APPENDIX III -- AUDITOR'S REPORT
METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – (Continued)

Fiscal Years 2007 and 2006

(4) PROPERTY, EQUIPMENT AND LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS

The costs of such assets were as follows:

	<u>Fiscal Year</u> <u>2007</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u> <u>2006</u>
Equipment and furniture	\$ 380,165	\$ 399,907
Leasehold improvements	<u>639,384</u>	<u>639,384</u>
	1,019,549	1,039,291
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>761,932</u>	<u>687,970</u>
Net value	<u>\$ 257,617</u>	<u>\$ 351,321</u>

(5) NET ASSETS

TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Temporarily restricted net assets are available for the following purposes as of January 31:

	<u>Fiscal Year</u> <u>2007</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u> <u>2006</u>
Funds for Grants to Congregations and Ministries	\$ 70,491	\$ 51,612
Funds for Ministerial Student Aid	4,615	2,613
Women Leaders Fund	6,890	6,890
Women And Children In Poverty	10,594	15,463
Urban Empowerment Fund	327,646	455,125
Other	<u>21,093</u>	<u>10,886</u>
	<u>\$441,329</u>	<u>\$542,589</u>

Net assets released by satisfying the donor restrictions were as follows:

	<u>Fiscal Year</u> <u>2007</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u> <u>2006</u>
Funds for Grants to Congregations and Ministries	\$ 8,475	\$ 12,386
Urban Empowerment Fund	127,479	88,550
Women & Children in Poverty	4,869	-
Other	<u>93,599</u>	<u>123,135</u>
	<u>\$234,422</u>	<u>\$224,071</u>

APPENDIX III -- AUDITOR'S REPORT

METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – (Continued)

Fiscal Years 2007 and 2006

PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Permanently restricted net assets consist of the principal amounts of gifts and bequests accepted with the donor stipulation that the principal be retained intact. Income from such funds is available for spending or distribution as the terms of the individual fund provide and is classified as temporarily restricted net assets. When the restriction on income for spending or distribution expires, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets. Income on the Tanzania Teacher Endowment Fund is reinvested until the fund reaches a goal of \$1 million.

Permanently restricted net assets are available for the following purposes as of January 31:

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Funds for Grants to Congregations and Missions	\$ 292,868	\$292,868
Funds for Ministerial Student Aid	21,422	21,422
Tanzania Teacher Endowment Fund	<u>837,977</u>	<u>546,720</u>
	<u>\$1,152,267</u>	<u>\$861,010</u>

(6) PENSION PLAN

Substantially all employees of the Synod are enrolled in the contributory pension plans made available and administered by the Board of Pensions of the ELCA. The full current employer cost provided for under the plans was approximately \$122,400 and \$113,900 for fiscal years 2007 and 2006, respectively. No actuarial valuation is needed to determine the required reserves for future pension benefits because the contributions made on behalf of employees are carried on an accumulation basis. Upon retirement, pension benefits are provided by the money-purchase method. Consequently, such accumulations constitute the reserves from which benefits will be provided.

(7) COMMITMENTS

The Synod leases office equipment under various capital leases expiring in 2010. The related property is included at a cost of \$38,635 at January 31, 2008. Total accumulated depreciation at January 31, 2008 was \$10,732. The minimum lease payments as of

APPENDIX III -- AUDITOR'S REPORT

METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

January 31, 2008 under these leases, together with the present value of the net minimum

lease payments, are as follows:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	
2008	\$14,104
2009	14,104
2010	<u>2,351</u>
	30,559
Less amount representing interest	<u>1,970</u>
Present value of minimum lease payments	<u>\$28,589</u>

APPENDIX III -- AUDITOR'S REPORT

METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – (Continued)

Fiscal Years 2007 and 2006

The Synod leases approximately 10,000 square feet of office space in the Interchurch Center in New York City under a five-year lease expiring June 30, 2010 with monthly rent of \$16,146, exclusive of future escalations. Total rent expense for fiscal years 2007 and 2006 was approximately \$194,400 and \$187,200, respectively. Total minimum lease commitments are as follows:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	
2008	\$193,748
2009	193,748
2010	<u>80,728</u>
	<u>\$468,224</u>

(8) REAL ESTATE SALES

In connection with the sale of properties, the Synod records the net proceeds as follows: 60% to the Mission Redevelopment Fund; 10% to the Support for the Wider Church Fund; and 30% to the Support for Operations Fund.

During the year ended January 31, 2008, the Synod sold Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Bayside for a net sales price, after closing and administrative costs, of \$2,147,448 of which \$1,700,949 was recorded in prior years. Of the net proceeds, \$1,288,469 was recorded in the Mission Redevelopment Fund, \$214,745 was recorded in the Support for the Wider Church Fund and \$644,234 was recorded in the Support for Operations Fund.

In addition, during the year ended January 31, 2008, the Synod sold Hope Lutheran Church in Scarsdale for a net sales price, after closing and administrative costs of \$838,324, all of which was recorded in prior years. Of the net proceeds, \$502,994 was recorded in The Mission Redevelopment Fund, \$83,833 was recorded in the Support for The Wider Church Fund and \$251,497 was recorded in the Support for Operations Fund.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

APPENDIX III -- AUDITOR'S REPORT

METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

TAIT, WELLER & BAKER LLP

Certified Public Accountants

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

ON SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

**Metropolitan New York Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
New York, New York**

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements, taken as a whole, of Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as of and for the fiscal years ended January 31, 2008 and 2007, which are presented in the preceding section of this report. The accompanying supplemental information for program expenses, budgeted operation, changes in net assets, changes in temporarily and permanently restricted net assets and contributions from congregations, pages 13 to 20, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits of the basic financial statements, and, in our opinion, is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

**New York, New York
April 23, 2008**

APPENDIX III -- AUDITOR'S REPORT

METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

PROGRAM EXPENSES

Fiscal year ended January 31, 2008 and 2007

	Budget Provision	Actual Expenses Fiscal Year	
		2007	2006
SYNOD OUTREACH			
<u>ELCA and Other Distributions</u>			
ELCA Mission Support	\$ 651,000	\$ 643,947	\$ 602,853
ELCA Designated Projects	150,000	89,602	88,102
MNYS Designated Projects	50,000	77,210	73,341
Region 7 Coordinating Council	7,435	7,922	7,435
Flow Through Grants	66,250	174,800	306,101
Total ELCA and Other Distribution	924,685	993,481	1,077,832
<u>All Other Programs</u>			
Lutheran Statewide Advocacy	2,700	2,755	3,500
Global Mission Event Scholarship	1,000	-	-
NYS Council of Churches	500	-	-
Council of Churches of the City of New York	500	-	-
LI Council of Churches	200	-	-
Companion Synod – Tanzania	50,525	41,164	42,942
TZ Pilgrimage	15,000	57,471	-
Community of Hope (GZ)	-	-	5,321
Staff and Operating Costs	229,417	266,341	218,343
Total All Other Programs	299,842	367,731	270,106
Total Synod Outreach	\$1,224,527	\$1,361,212	\$1,347,938
SYNOD LIFE			
Education			
Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education Grant	\$ 42,515	\$ 43,985	\$ 42,554
Lutheran Schools Association Grant	8,750	8,750	8,750
Student Christian Center at SUNY New Paltz Grant	13,225	13,225	13,225
Philadelphia Seminary Grant	54,000	54,000	54,000
Flow Through Grants	-	-	14,300
Total Education	118,490	119,960	132,829
Other Programs			
Commission for Gay & Lesbian Ministries	5,000	6,590	4,655
Coaching & Natural Church Development	12,000	13,245	-
Worship Events & Ordinations	829	2,519	4,301
Youth Ministries	14,000	8,846	12,604
Commission for Multicultural Affairs	-	213	-
Bishop's Retreat Fund	2,431	771	-
Hunger Committee	770	863	1,027
Women/Children in Poverty	1,000	4,869	-
Latino Diakonia	-	193	-
Staff and Operating Costs	91,814	91,197	90,503
Other Expense	-	-	(15,237)
Total Other Programs	127,844	129,306	97,853
Total Synod Life	\$ 246,334	\$ 249,266	\$ 230,682

APPENDIX III -- AUDITOR'S REPORT

METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

PROGRAM EXPENSES – (Continued)

Fiscal year ended January 31, 2008 and 2007

	Budget	Actual Expenses	
		Fiscal Year	
	Provision	2007	2006
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE			
Shared Expenses			
Staff and Operating Costs	\$ 157,064	\$ 163,645	\$ 156,141
Total Shared Expenses	<u>157,064</u>	<u>163,645</u>	<u>156,141</u>
Programs & Services to Leaders			
Background Checks - Seminary Candidates	6,000	2,369	-
Psych Evaluations	8,500	5,130	8,489
Committee Expense (Candidacy)	786	15	1,236
Students Retreat	2,600	2,579	207
Ministerium Fund	200	1,723	-
Diakonia	-	951	361
Latino Diakonia	6,000	4,745	6,791
Latino Laity	7,965	3,239	8,135
Black Pastors	83	-	83
Urban Leaders Institute	30,000	17,159	25,941
Commission for Women	1,000	-	-
Group Term Life Insurance	6,000	6,297	-
Lutheran Theological Center	1,000	205	-
Orientation of New Pastors	-	740	-
Trexler Grants	6,000	4,750	4,250
Dean's Retreat Fund	3,000	1,352	-
Renewal & Boundary Workshops	1,000	1,100	-
Bishop Graefe Mission Fund	-	8,725	-
Hispanic Candidates Translation	68	-	-
Asian Ministries – Education Training	2,000	-	-
Asian Ministries Youth Program	2,200	-	-
Evangelism Grant	-	3,750	-
Ecumenical Affairs	-	3,384	-
Staff and Operating Costs	7,664	4,558	6,648
Special Non-Recurring Grants	-	-	1,255
Total Programs & Services to Leaders	<u>92,066</u>	<u>72,771</u>	<u>63,396</u>
Programs & Services to Congregations			
Evaluations	1,400	-	-
Communications/mailings	1,000	-	-
Counseling Services/Research	750	-	-
CEO Coordinators	6,000	2,250	5,676
Bishop's Retreat Fund	9,431	8,237	-
Church Days Fund	100	-	-
Congregational Resources	4,000	469	2,000
CEO Programs	-	14,982	-
Horizon Internships	12,660	12,000	12,000
Urban Empowerment Fund Grants	16,000	23,979	13,550
Worship Day	700	7,150	-
Partnership Grants	284,700	272,549	345,367
Staff and Operating Costs	11,250	7,436	8,559
Total Programs & Services to Congregations	<u>347,991</u>	<u>349,052</u>	<u>387,152</u>
Total Congregational Life	<u>\$ 597,121</u>	<u>\$ 585,468</u>	<u>\$ 606,689</u>

APPENDIX III -- AUDITOR'S REPORT
METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

PROGRAM EXPENSES – (Continued)

Fiscal year ended January 31, 2008 and 2007

	Budget	Actual Expenses	
		Fiscal Year	
	Provision	2007	2006
DEVELOPMENT			
Special Fundraising Projects	\$ 3,000	\$ 604	\$ 350
Capital Fund Feasibility Study	-	-	373
SMO Agency Events	9,000	7,250	3,550
Stewardship	5,500	2,554	2,950
Expanded Partnership in Ministry	-	-	39
Staff and Operating Costs	<u>313,914</u>	<u>296,825</u>	<u>277,909</u>
Total Development	<u>\$ 331,414</u>	<u>\$ 307,233</u>	<u>\$ 285,171</u>
BISHOP'S OFFICE			
Staff and Operating Costs	<u>\$ 394,839</u>	<u>\$ 435,067</u>	<u>\$ 398,206</u>
Total Bishop's Office	<u>\$ 394,839</u>	<u>\$ 435,067</u>	<u>\$ 398,206</u>
SYNOD GOVERNANCE			
Synod Assembly	\$ 75,000	\$ 52,743	\$ 125,083
Synod Council	3,500	1,768	4,044
Synod Council Committees (FMC and Audit Committee)	3,500	83	92
Committee Expense (Archives and Historian)	3,500	1,241	-
Committee Expense (Worship Committee)	3,500	178	1,702
Staff & Operating Costs	<u>2,400</u>	<u>4,622</u>	<u>29</u>
Total Synod Governance	<u>\$ 91,400</u>	<u>\$ 60,635</u>	<u>\$ 130,950</u>
COMMUNICATIONS AND PR			
Prof. Services (Web)	\$ 15,000	\$ 27,029	\$ 6,569
Prof. Services (Public Relations)	42,000	39,600	36,000
Lutheran New Yorker	20,000	26,924	22,474
Fees & PR	650	-	650
Staff and Operating Costs	<u>5,200</u>	<u>1,050</u>	<u>3,297</u>
Total Communications and PR	<u>\$ 82,850</u>	<u>\$ 94,603</u>	<u>\$ 68,990</u>
OFFICE SERVICES			
Christ Yonkers Construction Reserve Payments	\$ 39,648	\$ 36,386	\$ 26,132
Staff and Operating Costs	519,563	514,912	506,449
Depreciation Expense	<u>118,451</u>	<u>135,125</u>	<u>115,000</u>
Total Office Services	<u>\$ 677,662</u>	<u>\$ 686,423</u>	<u>\$ 647,581</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$3,646,147</u>	<u>\$3,779,907</u>	<u>\$3,716,207</u>

APPENDIX III -- AUDITOR'S REPORT**METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA****BUDGETED OPERATIONS****Fiscal years ended January 31, 2008 and 2007**

	Budget	Actual Fiscal Year	
	Provision	2007	2006
Income			
Congregational mission support	\$1,400,000	\$1,384,832	\$1,386,638
Designated ELCA Projects	150,000	80,829	88,102
Designated MNYS Projects	50,000	83,998	70,757
Grants – ELCA	167,313	194,726	178,373
Grants – LDRNY	100,000	110,690	96,333
Investment income	275,000	275,660	273,812
Contributions from individuals and others	125,924	278,145	148,441
Other income	88,131	74,327	145,477
Released from designations			
Metropolitan New York Synod Fund	270,000	270,000	440,000
Bishop's Mission Fund	-	-	224,700
Net Proceeds from Sales	500,000	500,000	-
Mission Redevelopment Fund	248,000	250,800	384,650
Urban Empowerment Fund	103,500	110,100	88,550
Other Funds	<u>168,279</u>	<u>201,395</u>	<u>61,219</u>
Total income	<u>3,646,147</u>	<u>3,815,502</u>	<u>3,587,052</u>
Expenses			
Synod Outreach	1,224,527	1,452,148	1,145,118
Synod Life	246,334	249,266	259,824
Congregational Life	597,121	560,956	636,371
Development	331,414	307,233	285,171
Bishop's Office	394,839	435,067	398,206
Synod Governance	91,400	60,635	130,950
Communications and PR	82,850	94,603	68,990
Office Services	<u>677,662</u>	<u>676,932</u>	<u>647,579</u>
Total expenses	<u>3,646,147</u>	<u>3,836,840</u>	<u>3,572,209</u>
Excess (deficit) of income over expenses	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (21,338)</u>	<u>\$ 14,843</u>

APPENDIX III -- AUDITOR'S REPORT

METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

SUMMARY OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

Fiscal year ended January 31, 2008

	Balance, January 31, 2007	Additions	Deductions	Balance, January 31, 2008
UNRESTRICTED				
Undesignated				
General operating	\$ (128,176)	\$ 3,439,070	\$ 3,344,445	\$ (33,551)
Designated				
Metropolitan New York Synod Fund – General	1,225,189	31,217	834,138	422,268
Funds functioning as endowment William and Helen Heinemann Memorial Fund	<u>364,969</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>364,969</u>
	1,590,158	31,217	834,138	787,237
Congregations Under Synodical Administration				
Property Value	9,885,000	5,730,000	3,650,000	11,965,000
Expenses	(2,686,609)	2,012,545	1,887,065	(2,561,129)
Youth Ministry Fund	47,616	4,210	7,452	44,374
Bishop's Mission Fund	(18,601)	41,708	-	23,107
Bishop Rudolph P. F. Ressmeyer	52,594	5,436	-	58,030
Winston Bone Scholarship Fund	28,545	2,772	-	31,317
Christ Yonkers Construction Reserve	543,784	-	36,386	507,398
Christ Yonkers Area Ministries	887,920	-	60,971	826,949
Mission Redevelopment Fund	1,984,435	1,791,463	662,716	3,113,182
Support for the Wider Church	18,436	298,577	100,000	217,013
Support for Operations	15,437	895,731	500,000	411,168
Grants to Hollis	-	193,700	102,500	91,200
Other	<u>(5,701)</u>	<u>6,281</u>	<u>2,670</u>	<u>(2,090)</u>
Total designated	<u>12,343,014</u>	<u>11,013,640</u>	<u>7,843,898</u>	<u>15,512,756</u>
Property and equipment fund	<u>345,589</u>	<u>18,563</u>	<u>135,124</u>	<u>229,028</u>
Total unrestricted	<u>12,560,427</u>	<u>14,471,273</u>	<u>11,323,467</u>	<u>15,708,233</u>
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED				
Endowment income	54,225	29,356	8,475	75,106
Women Leaders Fund	6,890	-	-	6,890
Women And Children In Poverty	15,463	-	4,869	10,594
Urban Empowerment	455,125	-	127,479	327,646
Other	<u>10,886</u>	<u>104,406</u>	<u>93,599</u>	<u>21,693</u>
Total temporarily restricted	<u>542,589</u>	<u>133,762</u>	<u>234,422</u>	<u>441,929</u>
PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED				
Total net assets	<u>861,010</u>	<u>291,257</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,152,267</u>
	<u>\$13,964,026</u>	<u>\$14,896,292</u>	<u>\$11,557,889</u>	<u>\$17,302,429</u>

APPENDIX III -- AUDITOR'S REPORT
METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

**APPENDIX III -- AUDITOR'S REPORT
METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

SUMMARY OF CHANGES IN TEMPORARILY AND PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS (ENDOWMENT)

Fiscal year ended January 31, 2008

	<u>PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED</u> <u>PRINCIPAL</u>				<u>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED</u> <u>INCOME</u>			
Expenses	<u>Beginning</u> <u>Balance</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deductions</u>	<u>Ending</u> <u>Balance</u>	<u>Beginning</u> <u>Balance</u>	<u>Allocated</u> <u>Income</u>	<u>And</u> <u>Transfers</u>	<u>Ending</u> <u>Balance</u>
<i>Funds for Grants to Congregations and Ministries</i>								
Samuel Trexler Fellowship Fund 12,167	\$124,272	\$ -	\$ -	\$124,272	\$9,642	\$7,275	\$4,750	\$ -
Kling/Kreider/Weiskotten Mission Support Fund	44,041	-	-	44,041	6,606	2,580	-	9,186
Bishop James Graefe Fund	59,458	-	-	59,458	24,844	3,482	3,725	24,601
Magda Bratland Fund	65,097	-	-	65,097	10,520	3,813	-	14,333
Funds for Ministerial Student Aid								
Stechman/Berwager Ministerial Education	21,422	-	-	21,422	2,613	1,255	-	3,868
Fund for Support of Companion Synod								
Tanzania Teacher Endowment Fund	<u>546,720</u>	<u>291,257</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>837,977</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$861,010</u>	<u>\$291,257</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$1,152,267</u>	<u>\$54,225</u>	<u>\$18,405</u>	<u>\$8,475</u>	<u>\$64,155</u>

	<u>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED</u> <u>CPI ALLOCATION</u>		
	<u>Beginning</u> <u>Balance</u>	<u>CPI</u> <u>Allocation</u>	<u>Ending</u> <u>Balance</u>
<i>Funds for Grants to Congregations and Ministries</i>			
Samuel Trexler Fellowship Fund 4,330	\$ -	\$ -	4,330 \$
Kling/Kreider/Weiskotten Mission Support Fund	-	1,534	1,534

APPENDIX III -- AUDITOR'S REPORT

METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Bishop James Graefe Fund	-	2,072	2,072
Magda Bratland Fund	-	2,268	2,268
Funds for Ministerial Student Aid			
Stechman/Berwager Ministerial Education	-	747	747
Fund for Support of Companion Synod			
Tanzania Teacher Endowment Fund	-	-	-
	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$10,951</u>	<u>\$10,951</u>

**APPENDIX III -- AUDITOR'S REPORT
METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM CONGREGATIONS SUMMARIZED BY CONFERENCE

Fiscal year ended January 31, 2008

<u>Conference</u>	<u>Total Contributions</u>	<u>MISSION SUPPORT</u>			<u>World Hunger</u>	<u>United Lutheran Appeal</u>	<u>Other Designated Gifts</u>
		<u>Commitment</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Over (Under) Commitment</u>			
Brooklyn							
Brooklyn Bridges	\$ 28,666	\$ 22,900	\$ 26,785	\$ 3,885	\$ 380	\$ -	\$ 1,501
South Shore	30,272	31,246	28,543	(2,703)	4	-	1,725
Southwest	74,965	71,765	66,586	(5,179)	3,751	-	4,628
Nassau							
Eastern	140,074	79,150	121,398	42,248	15,473	-	3,203
Western	104,132	81,210	98,345	17,135	717	-	5,070
Southwest	74,566	27,785	71,395	43,610	1,513	-	1,658
Queens							
Northeast	21,131	19,850	16,470	(3,380)	3,851	-	810
Northwest	31,317	37,365	27,708	(9,657)	2,222	-	1,387
Southeast	57,754	47,742	57,586	9,844	-	-	168
Southwest	42,521	32,167	32,330	163	6,300	-	3,891
Suffolk							
Peconic	108,203	52,340	102,691	50,351	1,444	-	4,068
Western	165,456	140,431	153,113	12,682	3,758	-	8,585
Bronx	38,519	17,314	31,283	13,969	1,707	-	5,529
Delaware Hudson	87,945	88,930	80,192	(8,738)	3,374	-	4,379
Hudson	126,991	116,220	117,715	1,495	6,483	-	2,793
Manhattan	149,918	85,080	127,258	42,178	2,443	-	20,217
Staten Island	55,864	43,356	44,758	1,402	3,853	-	7,253
Tappan Zee	<u>211,365</u>	<u>83,473</u>	<u>180,676</u>	<u>97,203</u>	<u>4,821</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,868</u>
	<u>\$1,549,659</u>	<u>\$1,078,324</u>	<u>\$1,384,832</u>	<u>\$306,508</u>	<u>\$62,094</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$102,733</u>

APPENDIX IV – DONORS TO THE TANZANIAN ENDOWMENT

Organization Name	Preferred City_ State
Abiding Presence Lutheran Church	Fort Salonga, NY
Advent Lutheran Church	New York, NY
Ascension Lutheran Church	Deer Park, NY
Ascension Lutheran Church	Franklin Square, NY
Ashirwad Lutheran Ministry	
Bethlehem Lutheran Church	Bronx, NY
Christ Luth. Church: Iglesia Luterana de Cristo	Freeport, NY
Christ Lutheran Church	Floral Park, NY
Christ Lutheran Church	Islip Terrace, NY
Christ Lutheran Church	Suffern
Christ Lutheran Ministries of Southern Westchester	Yonkers, NY
Christ's Lutheran Church	Woodstock, NY
Cross of Christ Lutheran Church	Babylon, NY
Dobbs Ferry Lutheran Church	Dobbs Ferry, NY
Epiphany Lutheran Church	Bronx, NY
First Lutheran Church	Jeffersonville, NY
Fordham Lutheran Church	Bronx, NY
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church	Huntington Station, NY
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	Brooklyn, NY
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	Plainview, NY
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	Roosevelt, NY
Grace Guild	Port Washington, NY
Grace Lutheran Church	Malverne, NY
Grace Lutheran Church	Uniondale, NY
Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church	Brooklyn, NY
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church	New York, NY
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church	Rockville Centre, NY
Immanuel Lutheran Church	Staten Island, NY
Immanuel Lutheran Church Ruth Guild, Kingston	Kingston, NY
Incarnation Lutheran Church	Cedarhurst, NY
King of Kings Lutheran Church	Melville, NY
King of Kings Lutheran Church	New Windsor, NY
Memorial Lutheran Church	Rhinebeck, NY
Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church	Staten Island, NY
Messiah Lutheran School, Fairview, OH	Fairview, OH
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church	Seaford, NY
Our Saviour Lutheran Church	Manhasset, NY
Our Saviour Lutheran Church	Mineola, NY
Our Saviour Lutheran Church	Port Washington, NY
Our Saviour's Atonement Lutheran Church	New York, NY
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church	Cambria Heights, NY

APPENDIX IV – DONORS TO THE TANZANIAN ENDOWMENT

Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church	New Paltz, NY
Redeemer Lutheran Church	Kingston, NY
Redeemer Lutheran Church	Queens Village, NY
Redeemer Lutheran Church	Hicksville, NY
Resurrection Lutheran Church	Mount Kisco, NY
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church	West Hempstead, NY
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church	Yorktown Hgts, NY
St. David's Lutheran Church	Massapequa Park, NY
St. John's Lutheran Church	Mamaroneck, NY
St. John's Lutheran Church	Poughkeepsie, NY
St. John-St. Matthew-Emmanuel Lutheran Church	Brooklyn, NY
St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church	Brooklyn, NY
St. Luke's Lutheran Church	Farmingdale, NY
St. Luke's Lutheran Church	New Rochelle, NY
St. Luke's Lutheran Church	New York, NY
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church	White Plains, NY
St. Michael's Lutheran Church	Amagansett, NY
St. Paul's - St. Luke's Lutheran Church	Staten Island, NY
St. Paul's Lutheran Church	East Northport, NY
St. Paul's Lutheran Church	Liberty, NY
St. Paul's Lutheran Church (129 St)	Richmond Hill, NY
St. Peter's Lutheran Church	Greenport, NY
St. Peter's Lutheran Church	Huntington Station, NY
St. Peter's Lutheran Church	Port Jervis, NY
St. Stephen's Lutheran Church	Brooklyn, NY
St. Stephen's Lutheran Church	Hicksville, NY
Trinity - St. Andrew's Lutheran Church	Maspeth, NY
Trinity Lutheran Church	Brooklyn, NY
Trinity Lutheran Church	Rocky Point, NY
Trinity Lutheran Church	White Plains, NY
Trinity of Manhattan Lutheran Church	New York, NY
Zion Lutheran Church	Staten Island, NY

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