

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

Present

The Rev. William Baum  
The Rev. Chris Bohr  
Bishop Stephen Bouman  
Ms. Rene Chapman  
Mr. Alan Chen  
The Rev. Amandus Derr  
Ms. Elizabeth Hoffmann  
Mr. Paul Jensen, Treasurer  
The Rev. Paul Johnsen  
The Rev. James G. Krauser, Secretary  
Mr. John Litke, Vice-President  
The Rev. Abraham Lu  
Dcn. Paul Lumpkin  
The Rev. Barbara Lundblad  
Ms. Joanne Means  
Mr. Kamy Moghbeli

Dcn. Gail Ruege  
Dcn. Edward Tatlian

Excused

The Rev. Stephen Marsh  
Dcn. Carol Straub

Absent

Ms. Catherine Cognetta  
Mr. Matthew Geiser

AUXILLIARY ORGANIZATIONS

Ms. Delores Gray – Women of the ELCA

STAFF

The Rev. Cherlyne Beck  
The Rev. Dr. Gary Mills  
Dr. John Scibilia  
Ms. Joanne Strunck

I. CALL TO ORDER Mr. John Litke

The meeting was called to order by Vice-president John Litke at 5:02 pm

II. DEVOTIONS The Rev. Chris Bohr

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

**ACTION: That the agenda be approved with minor revisions.  
ADOPTED**

IV. MINUTES, 2002 July 16, consideration of

**ACTION: That the minutes be approved as written.  
ADOPTED**

Mr. Litke noted a correction to the 2002 Synod Assembly Summary: the Rev. Paul Johnsen was elected to the Churchwide Assembly on ticket 36.

V. SPECIAL GUEST The Rev. Dr. David Benke, Atlantic District, Lutheran Church Missouri  
President, Lutheran Disaster Response of New York (LDRNY)  
Interim CEO of Lutheran Social Services of New York (LSSNY)

Bishop Bouman had met with the Atlantic District Board to share the mutual ministry of the Metropolitan New York Synod (MNYS) and the Atlantic District. Pr. Benke met with MNYS Synod Council at this meeting for the same purpose. He commented on our work together with

Lutheran Disaster Response of New York, on the fine work done by Dr. John Scibilia as director, and on LDRNY's methods to ensure that the disbursement of funds was clearly and accurately documented. He spoke of the need to care for the institutions that are caring for the individuals affected by 9/11. As we move into the next phase, stress on the institutions will affect their ability to do their mission. Dr. Benke noted that urban and ethnic ministries are particularly vulnerable.

Mr. Kamy Moghbeli shared how funding has been reduced for Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services since 9/11. It is losing its capacity to receive immigrants.

The Rev. Amandus Derr commented that it is also important to be clear about the process of allocating assistance. He believed there is a lack of understanding how the allocation decisions are made. He advocated for agreed criteria that both the Atlantic District and MNYS boards could commend to LDRNY. (Each judicatory has two members on the board of LDRNY.)

## VI. REPORT OF THE BISHOP

### A. Sabbatical Review

Bishop Bouman thanked Synod Council for his sabbatical. He will share the highlights in writing in the days to come. He has submitted a book proposal to two publishers. The book focuses on ethnic-specific ministries.

### B. September 11, 2002

Bishop Bouman briefly reviewed the many wonderful, thoughtful, and appropriate remembrances throughout our synod.

### C. Issue of the suspension of Dr. David Benke as President of the Atlantic District, LCMS.

Bishop Bouman informed Synod Council that a mailed appeal made on Pr. Benke's behalf may appear in congregations. We did not approve nor were we consulted about this appeal. Bishop Bouman expressed concern that the appeal not reflect on the work of LDRNY and he will speak with Dr. Benke.

### D. Center for Public Theology (**Attachment A**)

Attachment A provides an explanation of the situation in which Lutheran Social Services (LSS) terminated Pr. Gaylon Barker's salary and discontinued financial support for the Center for Public Theology. Bishop Bouman believed that Pr. Barker should not be made to suffer as a result of the strife between Mr. Harris (LSS Interim CEO who was recently terminated) and the LSS board.

Synod Council adopted the following amended resolution:

**ACTION: RESOLVED that Bishop Bouman and Synod Council appointees will (SC02:9/1) initiate a conversation with Pastor David Benke, Interim Chief**

**Executive Officer of Lutheran Social Services of Metropolitan New York (LSS-MNY), and the LSS-MNY Board as appropriate, no later than October 1, to review and evaluate the Center for Public Theology program and ministry based on its merits and**

**promise. Based on the evaluation, an appropriate plan will be crafted either for the continuance of the Center or transition for Pastor Barker. Should a transition be necessary, the Metropolitan New York Synod will seek the cooperation with LSS-MNY in developing and funding the transition plan.**

**ADOPTED**

Pr. Amandus Derr identified himself as a member of the LSS board. He noted that the annual meeting of LSS is on October 26, at which there will be board elections. He believes the current board is extremely dysfunctional and has failed in many areas. For the second year LSS has received the lowest rating as a foster care agency. This reflects badly on us as Lutherans. He noted the importance in clarifying LSS's relationship to both judicatories (AD and MNYS) so we can determine what role we can play in addressing concerns. Since there is not another Synod Council meeting before the October LSS annual meeting, Pr. Derr presented the following motion.

**ACTION: RESOLVED that Synod Council authorize the synod Executive (SC02:9/2) Committee to address issues raised with respect to LSS-MNY, its board,**

**and its relationships with the church.**

**ADOPTED**

Pr. Derr cautioned Synod Council members about listening to information about LSS from the current board, himself included. Only the Interim CEO could be depended upon to provide accurate information.

E. Calls

1. Mr. Scott Kershner

**ACTION: RESOLVED that Synod Council call Mr. Scott Kershner to serve as vice (SC02:9/3) pastor at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, effective November 2, 2002.**

**This call is issued under continuing resolution 7.44.A96.b.1.11.**

**ADOPTED**

2. Ms. Perucy Butiku

**ACTION: RESOLVED that Synod Council call Ms. Perucy Butiku as pastor of the (SC02:9/4) ministry at Holy Trinity in Hollis, NY, effective November 23, 2002.**

**This call is issued under continuing resolution 7.44.A96.b.1.11.**

**ADOPTED**

Ms. Butiku has been serving the Swahili and English ministry at Holy Trinity under appointment from the Bishop's office.

F. Appointments

Mr. Litke explained that there are two committees to which the bishop must make appointments in the near future: the Constitution Revision Committee and the Election Process Committee. He invited interested people to let the bishop know if they, or someone else, might be interested in serving on either one.

## G. Notice of disposition of actions referred to Synod Council by Synod Assemblies

1. 2002 Synod Assembly Resolution 2 (**Attachment B**) regarding “at risk” congregations – referred to the Rev. Cherlyne Beck
2. 2001 Synod Assembly: Resolution 3 regarding Synod Council’s charge to investigate alternatives to Board of Pensions for health benefits. The Rev. Robert Wollenburg has explored the issues, action has been taken (see Synod Council minutes from February and April 2002) and there is little more that we can do.
3. 1996 Synod Assembly: Resolution dealing with itinerate ministry – referred to the Conference of Deans
4. Synod Assembly (prior to 1996): Resolution dealing with guidelines for providing for the family of a pastor who dies in office – referred to the Compensation Guidelines Committee.

## H. Report on Tanzania – the Rev. Dr. Gary Mills

Pr. Mills reported on his recent trip, along with a delegation from our synod, to our sister synod, the North Western Diocese of Tanzania. The delegation included 8 clergy and 8 lay people. The Rev. Carol Fryer, pastor at Saint Peter’s Manhattan, remained for six weeks to initiate an exchange program between pastors from Bukoba and New York. Pr. Mills and Pr. Wollenburg are working on some funding for this project.

Metropolitan New York Synod has built two buildings in Bukoba: a cathedral, for which Bishop Bouman laid the cornerstone; and the Kibeta School dormitory. Tim and Erin Bouman have taught at the Kibeta School for almost two years and will remain there at least through 2003 and possibly 2004. They are limited to a total of four years. Pr. Mills will soon begin a search for two new teachers, as it takes approximately two years to do all the preliminary work.

The next synod delegation trip to Tanzania will be July 6-23, 2003. There is a limit of 16, including Pr. Mills. Nine are currently signed up.

## VII. REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Mr. Paul Jensen

- A. Mr. Jensen reported that the accounting software conversion is still underway and should be complete before the next Synod Council meeting, when he will once again be able to provide a full financial report. Mr. Jensen devoted attention to three printed documents:
  - a. Contributions Summary by Conference (**Attachment C**)
  - b. Benevolence Report by Congregation (**Attachment D**)
  - c. Comparison of Partnership Offerings (**Attachment E**): In this report Mr. Jensen pointed out that we are about the same as last year in partnership offerings received, but we are still behind budget by about \$100,000. Commitments are at 92%, a record high. They have been as low as 33%
- B. 2003 Compensation Guidelines Proposed (**Attachment F**)

The recommended 2.2% cost of living adjustment is found on page 3 line 2. Mr. Jensen explained on pg 14 of Attachment F that a change has been made in the way the recommended increase is implemented with regards to years of ordination. In effect, an increase slightly higher than 2.2 % is provided for those with added years of

service.

**ACTION: RESOLVED that Synod Council adopt line 2 on page three of the 2003 (SC02:9/5): Compensation Guidelines which reads: The Synod Council recommends a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) of 2.2%.  
ADOPTED**

Mr. Litke explained that Synod Council had delegated the determination of the document's contents to the Compensation Guidelines Committee so the remainder of the document did not require explicit Synod Council approval because of the delegation of authority.

#### VIII. NEW BUSINESS

##### A. Executive Committee elections

Mr. Litke outlined the responsibilities of the Executive Committee, stating that four persons were to be elected. Nominated were: the Rev. Amandus Derr, the Rev. William Baum, Deacon Ed Tatlian, and Deacon Paul Lumpkin. Mr. Kamy Moghbeli moved to close the nominations. Because there were only four candidates for four offices, the secretary was instructed to cast a single written ballot for members of the Executive committee and they were elected.

##### B. Congregations under synodical administration

1. Holy Trinity, Hollis. This is a suspended congregation, but there is a Word and Sacrament ministry going on here, as well as a flourishing school.

The Executive Committee presented the following resolution:

**ACTION: Resolved that the Synod Council of the Metropolitan New York Synod (SC02:9/6) request the Legal Counsel of the synod begin the process to take title  
and possession of all real property currently belonging to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Hollis, New York.  
ADOPTED**

Bishop Bouman explained that this will enable us to do much more than we are currently able to do with Holy Trinity. We must have clear legal authority since we will be responsible for it's maintenance and repair. Synod Council will be the decision-making body.

2. Christ Lutheran Church, Yonkers. (Suspended congregation). Bishop Bouman expressed the need for the synod to encourage the prompt settlement of this property and suggested the possibility of assigning Pr. Carla Meier the power of attorney.
3. Hope Lutheran Church, Scarsdale. (Pr. Carla Meier, pastor doing mission start).

Bishop Bouman explained that Synod Council previously authorized \$300,000 from the sale of Christ Lutheran Church in Yonkers to begin ministry in this prime location in Scarsdale. The synod has a signed contract with Christ Yonkers from

which the synod is to receive \$700,000. It was with this in mind that we began the ministry at the previous Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Scarsdale, now Hope Lutheran.

Bishop Bouman explained the ground-laying ministry that has already begun. Pr. Gary Mills listed the major work, in addition to what has already been completed, that still needs to be done to bring the building into usable shape for Word and Sacrament and social ministry.

- Basic foundation engineering work and redirection of flood plane - \$52,990.
- New dry wall - \$13,000.
- Crack injection in basement and 1<sup>st</sup> floor - \$28,000.
- Lead removal and other related work - \$40,000.
- Electrical work - \$75,000.

*The Center for Public Theology* and *Project Life* are already using the building, as well as other organizations.

Bishop Bouman added that we need to make every effort not to abandon our churches. Furthermore, support of this new ministry in Scarsdale is a sign of our commitment to ministry in the suburbs. He believes the future of this new ministry looks very bright.

Bishop Bouman clarified that the Division for Outreach is not involved in this mission start, but we are using their guidelines and Pr. Mills is supervising.

The Executive Committee presented the following resolution:

**ACTION: RESOLVED that the Synod Council of the Metropolitan New York (SC02:9/7) Synod give authorization for additional funding of up to \$300,000 from the sale and proceeds of Christ Lutheran Church in Yonkers, for the completion of building and grounds repairs at Hope Lutheran Church, Scarsdale, New York.**

**ADOPTED**

- C. Approval of Voting member apportionment for 2003 Synod Assembly

**ACTION: RESOLVED that the apportionment of voting members for the 2003 (SC02:9/8) Synod Assembly remain the same as last year:**

<b>Up to 699 baptized members</b>	<b>2 lay voting members</b>
<b>700-999 baptized members</b>	<b>3 lay voting members</b>
<b>1,000 and more baptized members</b>	<b>4 lay voting members</b>

**ADOPTED**

IX. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Boy Scouts of America (**Attachment G**)

Attachment G provides the responses from the Greater New York Councils of the Boy Scouts of (BSA) and the Westchester-Putnam Council, BSA to the letter Bishop Bouman

wrote regarding their policies in allowing gay leaders and members in the Boy Scouts.

B. Sale of St. Paul, Kingston.

This will be brought up at the November Synod Council meeting.

C. Constitutions.

No report

D. Stewardship-support Visitations update (**Attachment H**)

There have been five training sessions for stewardship-support visitations, but there are still a number of visitors to be trained. Those who have been trained have been assigned to their congregations. Out of a total of 225 congregations, 161 visits have been assigned. Another training meeting will be offered for those who have not yet been trained, at a date to be determined.

The Executive Committee submitted a resolution with was amended to read:

**ACTION: RESOLVED that, following the stewardship support visitations of (SC02:9/9) all congregations this year, visitations of all congregations by members**

**of the Synod Council, Executive Committee, Deans, Bishop and synod staff be continued, under the supervision of the Rev. Dr. Robert Hoffman, on a three-year cycle so that after this year each congregation receives a mission support visit by the above persons at least every three years.**

**ADOPTED**

E. Synod Assembly 2002

Pr. Krauser announced that the Synod Assembly minutes would be mailed well in advance of the next meeting. Mr. Litke urged council member to read them, especially the resolutions, prior to voting to accept them at the November meeting.

X. DEANS REPORT

No report

XI. YOUTH REPORT

Ms. Catherine Cognetta was not present to offer a report. However, Deacon Paul Lumpkin reported that there will be a Youth Event at Hope Lutheran Church, Scarsdale on Saturday October 19, in preparation for the national gathering in July in Atlanta.

Pinecrest Leadership Camp had the largest enrollment in recent years with 160 campers, some coming from as far away as Virginia.

XII. AUXILLIARY ORGANIZATIONS

A. Women of the ELCA

Ms. Delores Gray

- At their annual meeting on September 14, two new officers and seven new board members were elected.
- A retreat with the New England and New Jersey Synods is being planned
- The Women of the ELCA and Global Mission are sponsoring Ms. Judy Lukowski and Ms. Delores Gray on a study seminar to Tanzania in November. Ms. Gray offered thanks to the Office of the Bishop which sent \$1,000 in support.

B. Lutheran Men in Mission (LMM) Mr. Charles Kalhorn

Please refer to Mr. Kalhorn's written report – **Attachment I**  
It was noted that Judge Dan Joy was elected to be treasurer of the national LMM

XIII. CLOSING PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT

**ACTION: THAT the meeting be adjourned (7:18 pm).  
ADOPTED**

The Rev. Cherlyne Beck closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne P. Strunck  
Administrative Assistant to the Bishop