

***SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS***

Present

The Rev. Albert Ahlstrom  
Mr. William Anderson  
The Rev. Edward Barnett  
The Rev. William Baum  
Bishop Stephen Bouman  
Mr. Robert Buescher, Treasurer  
Ms. Hope Card  
Mr. Gerald Erikson  
Dcn. Charles Germain  
Mr. Gene Hiigel  
Ms. Elizabeth Hoffman  
The Rev. Perry Kirschbaum  
The Rev. Kathleen Koran  
The Rev. James Krauser, Secretary  
Dr. Earl Marsan  
The Rev. Annemarie Noto, PhD  
The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Esq.  
Ms. Beverly Small  
Mr. Hans Vogel, Vice President

Excused

Dcn. Alan Chen  
Ms. Christine Connell, DM  
Ms. Maria del Toro  
The Rev. Fred McElderry  
Ms. Minerva Melendez  
Mr. Jonathan Westerlund

Absent

Mr. Patrick O'Brien  
Ms. Renee Wicklund, Esq.

***GUESTS***

The Rev. Jonathan Linman  
Ms. Delores Gray, Pres – WELCA  
Ms. Marion Steadman, Pres-elec WELCA

***STAFF***

The Rev. Dr. Gary Mills  
Dcn. Gayle Ruege

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Vogel called the meeting to order at 5:09 p.m.

II. DEVOTIONS

Pr. Kathleen Koran

Following the devotion, Mr. Vogel thanked the council and the synod for their prayerful support following his stroke.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as presented.

IV. MINUTES, July 10, 2007, consideration of

The minutes were approved as written.

V. SPECIAL GUEST

Pr. Jonathan Linman

VI. REPORT OF THE BISHOP

A. Comments on issues of the wider church, synod, congregations, and the public arena

1. Bishop began with presenting some “snapshots” of our life together in ministry – each a sign of confidence that God is able:

a. The baptism of Zach Siegel by Pr. Fred McElderry in the lake at Pinecrest Lutheran Leadership Camp. Wet and new in Christ, it was a very public witness of belonging. Baptism will be the theme opening the 15 town hall meetings.

- b. Jonathan Westerlund's transforming experience in Tanzania
- c. Five ordinations in August – a synod event
2. Bishop spoke with Bp. Lazareth in his illness and will continue to be in contact and provide support.
3. Bishop Bouman reported on Churchwide Assembly:
  - a. Re-election of Bishop Mark Hanson.
  - b. Elected Mr. David Swartling, a lawyer from Seattle, as Secretary of the ELCA
  - c. Passed an education statement, Marlene Lund was part of the team that formulated the statement
  - d. Heard from Bp. Younan about the dwindling Christian community in Palestine
  - e. Sexuality issue. Several pastors who are partnered went public. The assembly rejected a change in policy. Adopted restraint – that we would continue under the spirit of Orlando's resolution to journey together in faithfulness. To date, one negative reaction. Bishop will be in consultation with this pastor. Bishop spoke at the Assembly encouragingly about the ministry of the congregation of one of our pastors that made public witness.
4. Public Ministry:
  - a. Bishop will host a dinner for the EKD delegation
  - b. Bishop attending a breakfast at Gracie Mansion for Archbishop Demetrios
  - c. Bishop invited to meet and honor Chancellor Angela Merkel
  - d. Follow-up meeting with Edward Cardinal Egan re: immigration and poverty issues
  - e. Invited to lead an interfaith delegation in Lisbon in cooperation with PRIO (Peace Research Institute, Oslo), the Iranian Institute of Philosophy and the Columbus School of Law at Catholic University (Washington,D.C)
5. Local Ministry:
  - a. St. Luke's, Clinton Hill, working with Pr. John Graepel in his transition
  - b. St. Paul's, Red Hook – separation agreement has been accomplished for Pr. Ken Jetto
  - c. Epiphany, Bronx and First, Bronx have notified synod that they are unable to meet payroll and Covenant, Ridgewood is in having difficulty
  - d. Conference of Deans had a good retreat. Commemoration at Messiah, SI. Dedication of flag pole
  - e. Celebration of Pr. Dale Lind's retirement
  - f. LDRNY had its annual dinner.

#### B. Appointments

1. The Rev. Scott Kerschner, Co-Chair of Reference and Counsel (SA2008)
2. The Rev. Rosalind Brathwaite, Synod Worship Committee

3. Ms. Christine Connell, Board of NYDIS
4. Ms. Candy Eng, Synod Financial Management Committee (3 yr term)
- 5.

Appointments with no objection

C. Calls

1. The Rev. Ann Tiemeyer, National Council of Churches, Program Director for Women's Ministry (**EXHIBIT A**)
2. The Rev. Nicole Schwalbe, Campus Pastor for Columbia University and Queens College (**EXHIBIT B**)
3. The Rev. Dr. Carol L. Kessler, Staff Psychiatrist for The Mental Health Association of Westchester (**EXHIBIT C**)

**ACTION SC09:9/1: RESOLVED, that the above three calls be approved.**  
**ADOPTED**

D. Staff reports - none

VII. REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Mr. Buescher distributed the current Congregation Partnership Support report (**EXHIBIT D**) and the Property Assets report (**EXHIBIT E**) three page color. Please see the following for details:

- A. Mission Support Summary (**EXHIBIT F**)
- B. Operating Budget Performance (**EXHIBIT G**)
- C. Summary of Significant Items (**EXHIBIT H**)

Mr. Buescher focused upon the charts for Mission Support YTD (thru Aug 07). Slightly ahead of previous year, but other factors still indicate a deficit at year's end. Comparison charts on property assets, funds covered by cash assets, and operating expenses as compared to overall funds. The ten-year plan is being reviewed and updated. Mission support growth is and will continue to be our focus.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Constitutions

1. St. John's, Poughkeepsie, Bylaws submitted, no exception
2. Advent, Manhattan, amendments to constitution, exception taken. Contact made.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Sale of house owned by Christ, Wantagh (**EXHIBIT I**)

**ACTION SC09:9/2: RESOLVED, that Synod Council take no exception to the sale of house (caretaker residence) at Christ Lutheran Church in Wantagh.**  
**ADOPTED**

- B. Resolution to preserve the musical assets and heritage of the synod  
(See **EXHIBIT J** for full resolution)

**ACTION SC09:9/3:**            **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 of the announcement of the instruments’ availability or the closing of the congregation, whichever is later

**ADOPTED**

X. DEANS REPORT

The deans have resolved to send representatives to attend synod council meetings on a rotating schedule.

XI. YOUTH REPORT

A. Dcn. Charles Germain reported that nominations are due by Sep. 30 for the Children, Youth and Family Ministry "Heart of Ministry Award".

XII. AUXILLIARY ORGANIZATIONS

Ms. Delores Gray reported on the WELCA synodical convention and noted this was her last meeting. Ms. Marion Steadman was elected the new president.

XIII. OTHER

1. November elections for Executive Committee
2. Pr. Ahlstrom reported the sale of parsonage at St. John's, Christopher Street. Bishop Bouman indicated that they had violated an understanding we had with them. Pr. Mills reported that Grace, Astoria is also in the process of selling a parsonage without synod agreement.
3. Pr. Ahlstrom announced the LMHE Awards Dinner on Sep 25 at Saint Peter's, Manhattan
4. Ms. Beverly Small reported that Pr. Anthony Batista would be exploring possible campus ministry at Hofstra University
5. Pr. Kathleen Koran asked for a list of congregations under synod administration
6. Pr. Annemarie Noto will be attending a Lutheran Revival in Omaha, Nebraska from Oct 10-12, 2007.
7. Pr. Perry Kirschbaum raised questions concerning LDRNY. Pr. Mills indicated that LDRNY will cease to exist as of Oct 2008. All monies will be dispersed as of July. Some activities will be transferred to LSS. A five year report has been produced.
8. Pr. Kirschbaum also expressed concern for Bishop Bouman and the ramifications of the Churchwide Assembly. Bishop Bouman noted that there are 28 new bishops in the Conference of Bishops. There will be conversation and discussion at the COB October meeting.

XIV. CLOSING PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 pm.

Bishop Bouman noted the death of Pr. Barbara Kearsse and her funeral as he gathered our thoughts for prayer before the benediction.