

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

Present

The Rev. Albert Ahlstrom
Mr. William Anderson
The Rev. Edward Barnett
The Rev. William Baum
Bishop Stephen P. Bouman
Ms. Hope Card
Mr. Robert Buescher, Treasurer
Ms. Maria del Toro
Mr. Gerald Erikson
Dcn Charles Germain
Mr. Gene Hiigel
The Rev. Kathleen Koran
The Rev. James Krauser
The Rev. Fred McElderry
Ms. Minerva Melendez
The Rev. Annemarie Noto, PhD
The Rev. Robert Schoepflin
Ms. Beverly Small
Mr. Hans Vogel
Mr. Jonathan Westerlund
Ms. Renee Wicklund

Excused

Ms. Christine Connell, DM
Ms. Elizabeth Hoffmann
Dr. Earl Marsan
The Rev. Perry Kirschbaum

Absent

Mr. Alan Chen
Mr. Patrick O'Brien

STAFF

Mr. Tony Aguilar
The Rev. Dr. Gary Mills
Ms. Joanne Strunck

GUESTS

The Rev. Percy Butiku
The Rev. Marcia Parkinson-Harrison
The Rev. Joy Clarke
The Rev. Mack Smith
The Rev. Marva Jenkins

I. CALL TO ORDER

The specially called meeting of the synod council was called to order by Vice-president Hans Vogel at 5:10 pm.

II. DEVOTIONS

Bishop Stephen Bouman

III. CONSIDERATION OF HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL,
HOLLIS, QUEENS

Mr. Vogel stated the sole agenda item was consideration of a resolution related to Holy Trinity Community School.

Whereas, the Pastor and School staff of the Holy Trinity Ministry at Hollis (which includes the congregational ministry of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and the Holy

Trinity Community School has presented a plan which promises a viable combined operation, and eliminate further financial dependence upon the Synod, and

Whereas, a community based group of local School Board members and Advisory Council members, have agreed to serve in support of that combined Holy Trinity Ministry, and

Whereas, the Black Pastors Group, the Holy Trinity Ministry pastor and staff concur on a series of benchmarks, which are designed to objectively demonstrate the performance according to the plan:

ACTION (SC06:10/1) BE IT RESOLVED, that

- 1. The motion of the Synod Council of July 22, 2006 which ordered the closing of the School in December of 2006, be modified, and that a financially viable Holy Trinity Ministry, be allowed and encouraged to include the School.**
- 2. That a management contract be drawn, for consideration of the Synod Council in its January 2007 meeting, which, in the period thru December of 2009, authorizes the local Holy Trinity School Board, Advisory Council, and Church Council to act on behalf of the Synod, but with Synod observation. During this period, Synod will retain the present processes of receipt of deposits, and payment of bills authorized by the staffs, and replenishing the local bank accounts on presentation of documentation, mirroring the local accounting.**
- 3. Assuming continued financial viability through March of 2009, the Synod Council will consider terms of transfer of property ownership and/or Administration to local ownership and complete control, ending Synodical Administration, and identify by December 31, 2007, specific requirements and time line for such items as the election of Church Council members and officers, drafting and approval in the appropriate steps of a suitable constitution, designed to be in full operation by December 2009.**
- 4. The Council appoint a Progress Review Committee, comprised by 2 members of the Black Pastors Group, the Rev. Brenda Smith and the Rev. Marva Jenkins, and at least two members of the Executive Committee of the Council, with advisors Pr. Gary Mills, Hans Vogel, and Marlene Lund, make monthly reviews of progress according to the plan and benchmarks, attached to this resolution.**
- 5. In April of 2007, as soon as financial results through March of 2007 are known and available, and before any registrations are solicited or accepted**

for the 2007-2008 school year, the Synod Council review reports from the Progress Review Committee. Continuation of the Holy Trinity Ministry, and the School beyond June 30, 2007 will require the positive action of the Synod Council at that time.

ADOPTED

Benchmarks attached to this resolution:

*HOLY TRINITY MINISTRY AT HOLLIS BENCHMARKS ("Hollis Ministry")
Attached to Related Resolution by Synod Council 10-24-06 (Agreed to on 10-19-06)*

The word "Committee" in this list is meant to be the Performance Review Committee, comprised of two members of the Black Pastor's Group, 2 members of the Executive Committee of the Synod Council, and Marlene Lund and a representative of the Bishop.

- ***A plan and dates to address all maintenance issues.*** Fiscal performance must include a charge of \$40,000 per year for present and future maintenance of the property. An itemized plan with specifics, costs and timing should be presented to the Committee no later than January 1, 2007, and updated annually.
- ***Measuring budget performance regularly.*** The Committee will review financial results monthly to determine if the performance against budgets is on targets that demonstrate viability. The targets are: (a) School Operations, \$21,564 surplus in 2006-2007 school year; (b) Church Operations, less than \$80,000 rate of annual net loss; and (c) expenditure or reserve for repair and future maintenance, at an annual rate of \$40,000 annual loss.. Given the commitment of fundraising and grants, the Hollis Mission, as a whole, will show no net funds being required from the Synod, although the Synod will continue to provide cash flow in periods of deficit, absorbing cash in periods of surplus.
- ***Enrollment trends.*** Numbers of students in each of UPK and other will be compared against budget predictions at the start of the year: (46 in Pre-K, 128 in other grades).
- ***A time line and target funds for all the fundraising ideas presented in the letter from the Black Pastors addressed to Mr. Vogel dated September 28, 2006.*** By December 14, 2006, all funds from the grants listed, or their replacements, will have been received by Synod, or a letter to the Synod from each of the granting agencies will be received verifying the amount of the awards and timing of receipt.
- ***Congregational membership growth.*** Monthly average Church Attendance, membership rolls, congregational giving, and other

significant progress items will be reported for review by the Committee. The present estimate assumes congregational growth at 10% per year, with 5% per year increase in expenses.

- ***Mission Support to the synod.*** *A Mission Support commitment must be made for 2007 by December 31, 2006, and the Synod instructed to charge that amount to Church expenses and report Mission Support contributions on published Synod reports.*
- ***Success of the ELCA Department of Outreach grant.*** *This grant is part of the list in the letter to Mr. Vogel, and will be subject to the same scrutiny of performance as others as described above.*
- ***Hard specifics from Black Pastors group.*** *The Black Pastors Group will provide to the Council by December 14, 2006 written evidence of specific fundraising, enrollment, repair, and other activity, committing to the fiscal and timing results.*

The Rev. Mack Smith offered comments on behalf of the Black Pastors Group in support of the benchmarks and the resolution.

Vice-president Vogel thanked our guests and excused them from the room. Without objection he declared the meeting in executive session for the general discussion.

Mr. Vogel asked if the council was prepared to vote. He declared executive session ended and called for the vote. The motion was carried unanimously.

IV. CLOSING PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Vice-president Vogel at 5:35

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne P. Strunck
Administrative Assistant to the Bishop