

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Rev. Albert Ahlstrom	2012
§Mr. William Anderson	2012
The Rev. Edward Barnett*	2010
The Rev. William Baum	2012
§The Rev. Rosalind Brathwaite	2012
Mr. Robert Buescher, Treasurer*	2012
Ms. Hope Card	2010
Mr. Gerald Erikson	2010
§Dcn Charles Germain	2010
Mr. Gene Hügel	2010
Ms. Barbara Holm	2012
The Rev. Dr. Jack Horner (resigned)	2012
Ms. Barbara A. Johnson	2012
§The Rev. Perry Kirschbaum	2010
The Rev. James Krauser, Secretary*	2010
Dr. Earl Marsan*	2010
Ms. Minerva Melendez*	2010
The Rev. Annemarie Noto, PhD	2010
§Dcn. Robert Rainis	2012
Mr. Brian Reardon	2012
*The Rev. Robert A. Rimbo, Bishop	2014

The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, J.D.	2010
Ms. Janet Siry	2012
§Mr. Hans Vogel, AiM*	2010
Ms. Renee Wicklund, Esq.*	2010
Mr. Jonathan Westerlund	2010
§Ms. Grace Yukich	2012

AUXILLIARY MEMBERS

Conference of Deans: Pr. Laurie Cline
Lutheran Men in Mission: Judge Daniel Joy
Women of the ELCA: Ms. Marion Steadman

STAFF

Ms. Sarah Gioe
The Rev. Dr. Gary Mills
Mr. John Litke
Dcn. Gayle Ruege

***Members of Executive Committee**
§Excused absence

Worship

The Council gathered for worship and Eucharist. Bp. Rimbo was preacher/presider

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 10:05am

1. Adoption of Agenda

Adopted as approved

2. Adoption of Minutes

- 21 April 2009
Corrected Pr. Barnett's comment regarding Holy Trinity, New Rochelle to include *constitutional* process.
Approved as corrected
- Edit change 27 January 2009
Edit action to include call to Pr. Robert Wollenberg
Approved as corrected

Request to have minutes distributed earlier and to note a distinction between excused and unexcused absences of synod council members.

3. Bishop's Report**A. Comments of the Bishop****a. Conference Visits:**

Bishop Rimbo discussed his visits with pastors and lay leaders in the Peconic Conference April 29 – May 2. He met with the youth and adult leaders of the confirmation program at Trinity, Rocky Point and with the youth of the Western Suffolk Conference hosted by St. Paul's, East Northport.

- b. Ecumenical/Interfaith events:
The Bishop attended the New York City Council of Churches welcome luncheon for Archbishop Timothy Dolan at the Interchurch Center. Bp. Rimbo brought greetings to the LCMS Atlantic District Convention in Bronxville.
- c. Synod Events:
Bp. Rimbo visited Martin Luther High School, Maspeth to preside at chapel worship and tour the facility. The Bishop preacher/presider at the Setting Apart of Deacons, Trinity, Long Island City and was the presider at the Diakonia graduation, Grace, Malvern.
- d. Synod Assembly:
The Bishop invited comments concerning the synod assembly. There were several comments that the assembly was organized and well-run. The presentations were thoughtfully prepared and well received by the participants. The Oceanside presentation was especially uplifting and encouraging. Restructure of the Conference of Deans was introduced and the change in the role of the deans was acknowledged as a “work in progress” by the assembly action to adopt the “continuing resolution” instead of a change in bylaws to keep that fluid spirit. There was suggestion to provide forums in the future for controversial issues to serve as safety valves and educational opportunities in preparation for the assembly. A summary of actions has been prepared by Secretary Krauser and posted on the website.
- e. Companion Synods:
- Romania briefing:
Bp. Rimbo found it to be an amazing trip. He thanked Pr. Gary Mills and Mary Tennermann for developing an itinerary that offered a wonderful variety of visitation to several ministry sites. The Bishop and synod delegation experienced a sense of standing on holy ground in many of the ancient churches as pastors recounted the congregation’s history. There is excitement as the English speaking ministry in Cluj is developed by Pastors Michael and Terri Church arriving in September. We will be exploring partnership opportunities between congregations in the ELCR and MNYS, as well as seminary faculty and student exchanges.
 - Tanzania:
Bishop Rimbo is looking forward to the upcoming trip to accompany Mr. Aaron Schutte (new teacher to serve KEMPS) in July. He’ll meet with Bishop Buberwa and tour the North Western Diocese.
 - Youth Gathering / International guests / Youth Convocation at CWA:
Bishop Rimbo reported that a guest from each of our companion synods will be arriving next week to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Pr. Daniel Peter will host our visitor from Tanzania and the Lloyd-Berry family will host our visitor from Romania. Bp. Rimbo reported that Alexandria Alam El Din, from Trinity, Brewster, was chosen by the Children, Youth and Family committee to attend the ELCA Youth Convocation to take place in conjunction with the Churchwide Assembly in Minneapolis.
- f. Seafarer’s International “Sea Sunday (**EXHIBIT A**)
There has been a request to the synod council to designate September 27, 2009 as *Sea Sunday* to highlight Seafarers and International House’s mission and ministry. It was noted that September 27 has already been designated as Udugu Sunday to highlight our partnership with the North Western Diocese of Tanzania.

ACTION (SC09:6/1)

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council values the ministry of Seafarers & International House and would like to honor their request for a designated “Sea Sunday”. The Synod Council requests that an alternative date (other than 27 September) be designated in consultation with the synod calendar so that one event might not overshadow another. The Synod Council approves the other intentions of the request.

ADOPTED

- g. EOCM Covenant (**EXHIBIT B**)
The Bishop presented the model of the covenant which he will be signing with the ELCA Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission Unit. Pr. Jack Horner is coordinating a synodwide event for lay leaders scheduled for October 3, 2009 at Resurrection, Mt. Kisco. The presenter will be Kelly Fryer. Ms. Fryer was the presenter at the February Ministerium and is returning to Metro New York to engage lay leaders in a strategy of renewal and evangelism within our synod.
- h. Holy Trinity, New Rochelle
The congregation has taken a second vote to leave the ELCA. Extensive discussion was held on whether to accede to their request for release.

ACTION (SC09:6/2)

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council review the process employed by Holy Trinity, New Rochelle that determined the decision to leave the ELCA; that the Synod Council request members of the Holy Trinity congregation (both those who voted in the affirmative and in the negative) to meet with the Synod Council at the next scheduled meeting on 19 September 2009.

ADOPTED

- i. Holy Trinity School, Hollis (**EXHIBIT C**)
Secretary Krauser received a letter from *Concerned Parents of Holy Trinity Lutheran Community School* requesting a meeting with the Synod Council to discuss a rental option of the building. The Synod Council agreed that renting the facility was not an option. Mr. Krauser was authorized by the Synod Council to respond to the letter.
- j. Christ, Yonkers
Pr. Gary Mills reviewed the history of this synodically authorized worshipping community. The ministry has been stagnant. Negotiations are in process with the developer to offer the space back.
- k. Anti-Racism Rally (Union Seminary):
Several Synod Council members, staff and deans attended the Anti-Racism Rally.

ACTION SC09:6/3

RESOLVED, that the Bishop and his executive staff meet with elected leaders of the synod who are persons of color to make recommendations regarding staffing and issues of race for report to the Synod Council in September.

ADOPTED

- l. New Way of doing Synod Council and Executive Committee:
Bishop Rimbo discussed the new meeting format of/for the Synod Council – which would include meeting less frequently, but for a longer period of time – and at different locations around the synod. The Exec. Committee would meet preferably 1-2 weeks prior to a synod council meeting.

B. Mission Development Board

- a. Salam Arabic, Brooklyn (**EXHIBIT E**)

ACTION SC09:6/5

RESOLVED, that the MNYS accept the request from Salam Arabic to apply temporary synod Administration by the Synod to Salam Arabic and be it further
RESOLVED, that the following persons be appointed Trustees of Salam Arabic Lutheran Church: Rev. Donald Steiger, and Rev. Gary Mills and one other person to be appointed by the Bishop and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Trustees of Salam Arabic Lutheran Church have full powers to hold and manage the affairs of Salam Arabic on behalf the Synod Council and of the congregation.

ADOPTED

- b. Our Saviour's, Brooklyn (**EXHIBIT F**)

ACTION SC09:6/6

RESOLVED, that the MNYS accept the request from Our Saviour's, Brooklyn to apply Temporary Synod Administration by the Synod to Our Saviour's and be it further

RESOLVED, that the following persons be appointed Trustees of Our Saviour's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brooklyn: John Litke and two other persons to be appointed by the Bishop and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Trustees of Our Saviour's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brooklyn have full powers to hold and manage the affairs of Our Saviour's on behalf the Synod Council and of the congregation.

ADOPTED

- c. Zion, Brooklyn (**EXHIBIT G**)

ACTION SC09:6/7

RESOLVED, that the MNYS accept the request from Zion to apply temporary synod administration by the Synod to Zion and be it further

RESOLVED, that the following persons be appointed Trustees of Zion Lutheran Church: John Litke and two other persons to be appointed by the Bishop and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Trustees of Zion Lutheran Church have full powers to hold and manage the affairs of Zion on behalf the Synod Council and of the congregation.

ADOPTED

Items 2-4 were approved/adopted *en bloc*

- d. St. Paul's, Richmond Hill (**EXHIBIT H**)

Revised agreement for the sale of St. Paul's, Richmond Hill presented.

ACTION SC09:6/8

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council accept the revised agreement for the sale of St. Paul's, Richmond Hill.

ADOPTED

- e. Strategic Planning/Mission Development presentation:

Mr. John Litke and Pr. David Olson provided a power point presentation for the Synod Council that included: parochial report data; attendance and giving statistics; revenue and expense information and a summary of the synod's financial assets.

C. Calls, Appointments, etc.

- Advisory Panels
 - + Christ/Cristo, Freeport: Pr. Toby Tobias, Pr. Fernando Otero, Deacon Wernlund
 - + St. Matthew's, White Plains: Pr. Paul Egensteiner, Pr. William Eschen, Ms. Emma Porter
 - + Trinity, St. Albans: Pr. Brenda Jack, Pr. David Parsons, Mr. Hans Vogel

D. ELCA Churchwide Assembly:

Bishop Rimbo met with the CWA voting members in April with a follow-up meeting scheduled for July. Registration is complete – voting members are viewing updates on the ELCA website and will receive information directly from the churchwide offices. A preliminary agenda/schedule was provided.

4. Financial Report (Report of the Treasurer)A. MNYS financials (EXHIBIT I)

Mr. Buescher prepared a slide presentation for his report which included expense allocations from the net sales from properties. Mission support is only 31% of the recorded revenue of the synod. Mr. Buescher noted that in the development of the 10 year plan, there is a dependence on the sale of properties. Currently, we can expect delays of the proposed availability of funds from the sales of buildings originally projected through 2011. This will create a possible \$500,000. deficit for 2010. Mr. Buescher indicated that the Synod Council will need to face some difficult choices over the next several years.

B. MNYS Financial Management Committee recommended loans

- The Rev. Dr. Jack Horner
Requested assistance of a loan of \$50K @ 5% interest over 5 yrs.
- The Rev. Dr. Gary Mills
Requested assistance of a loan of \$35K @ 5% interest over 3 yrs.

ACTION SC09:6/9

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the FMC recommended loans to the Rev. Dr. Jack Horner and the Rev. Dr. Gary Mills.

ADOPEd *en bloc*

5. New Business

- Synod Council accepted the resignation of Pr. Jack Horner from the Synod Council.

6. Other Reports

- Deans
Pr. Jay Longan, Dean – Northwest Queens Conference, was the designated representative for the Conference of Deans at this meeting.
- Youth
 - Dcn. Charlie Germain submitted written report (**EXHIBIT K**)
 - Mr. Westerlund reported that the Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) Assembly was a success. New participating congregations were present. A new Board had been elected:
President: Dan Potaznick
Vice Pres: Katie Fondacaro
Secretary: Katie Elias
Queens: Hepzibah Peter
Suffolk: Christian Cederstrom

June 27, 2009

Synod Council of the Metropolitan New York Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

MINUTES
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Nassau: John Robinson

Del-Hud: Alyssa Trombitas

Member-at-Large: Jesse Callaghan; Heather Dodson

There are 6 conference representatives still open. Looking forward to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans – Splish Splash event at Trinity, Rocky Point in August and Fright Fest in October.

- Auxiliary Organizations
None present

8. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Adjournment at 4pm with prayer by the bishop.

September Synod Council Meeting: 19 September 2009 (9am-4pm)

+ St. Luke's Lutheran Church
95 Eastchester Road
New Rochelle, NY 10801

Gayle E. Ruege
Exec. Administrative Assistant to the Bishop