

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
Ms. Barbara A. Johnson	2012
*The Rev. James Krauser, Secretary	2010
The Rev. Perry Kirschbaum	2010
*Dr. Earl Marsan	2010
*Ms. Minerva Melendez	2010
Pr. Paul Milholland	[2012] 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	2014
*Mr. Hans Vogel, AiM, Vice President	2010

Ms. Renee Wicklund, Esq.	2010
Mr. Jonathan Westerlund	2010
Ms. Grace Yukich	2012
27 Voting members	

AUXILLIARY MEMBERS

Pr. Leo Longan	Conference of Deans
The Hon. Daniel Joy	Lutheran Men in Mission
Ms. Marion Steadman	Women of the ELCA

STAFF

The Rev. Perucy Butiku
Ms. Sarah Gieo
The Rev. Dr. Jack Horner
Pr. Kathleen Koran
Pr. Jonathan Linman
Mr. John Litke
The Rev. Dr. Gary Mills
Dcn. Gayle Ruege
Ms. Kathleen Schmidt

Bold=Present
*Members of Executive Committe
§Excused absence

Call to Order

The meeting opened with Holy Communion at 9:30am.

The business meeting was called to order at 10:24a.m.

I. Adoption of Agenda

The printed agenda was amended to include Item III.F and then adopted.

II. Approval of Minutes: 16 March 2010

The minutes of 16 March were approved without change.

III. Bishop's Report

A. Congregations and Ministries

1. Epiphany, Hempstead

Bishop Rimbo reported that the pastor agreed to a severance package and resigned the call to Epiphany..

2. Salam Arabic, Brooklyn

The subject of Salam was taken up under item VI.D

3. Advent, Elmont

In view of the intention of the ELCA to enforce the policy prohibiting dual rostering, Bp. Rimbo recommended that we consider agreeing to their request and let them go.

An extended conversation took place, several members asking questions and expressing views about how the synod should respond to congregations that vote to leave the ELCA. In light of the discussion,

Bishop Rimbo Bishop requested we postpone any action at this time. During this portion of the agenda, the status of Zion, Brooklyn was discussed and the bishop reported his hopes for continued contact with them.

4. St. John's, Manhattan

Bishop Rimbo read a prepared statement notifying the council that the synod has been named in a wrongful termination lawsuit against St. John's Christopher Street.

B. Future Funding of the Synod

Meeting with philanthropic counselor. Working with excomm and anticipate a resolution to come to June meeting

C. Interfaith Immigration Dialog

Wednesday, sponsored by public policy roundtable.
Bishop, monsenior and rabbi

D. Conference Visits

The bishop announced that a new round of conference visits would begin in the coming week. Scheduled so far are visits to

- ❖ SW Queens (April 25-26)
- ❖ Peconic (May 23-24)

E. Appointments

1. Mr. Daniel Nigro: Financial Management Committee
ACTION SC10:04/01 ADOPTED
To consent to the appointment of Mr. Nigro to the FMC.

2. Tait, Weller and Baker, Certified Public Accountants: 2011 m/s/a
ACTION SC10:04/02 ADOPTED
To appoint Tait, Weller and Baker auditors for F.Y. 2009.

3. Pr. Thomas E. Taylor, Intentional Interim. St. John's, Lindenhurst
ACTION SC10:04/03 ADOPTED
To call Pr. Taylor by appointment [under ELCA 7.44.A05.b.1.5]

4. Pr. A. David Anglada. 2 year Interim Call to Epiphany, Hempstead
Commencing May 1, 2010
ACTION SC10:04/04 ADOPTED
To call Pr. Anglada by appointment [under ELCA 7.44.A05.b.1.5]

F. Calls

1. Ms. Marlene Lund, AiM. Wheat Ridge Foundation,
Executive Director, Center for Urban Education Ministries.
ACTION SC10:04/05 ADOPTED
To call Ms. Lund to an Inter-Lutheran Ministry related to more than one synod [under ELCA 7.52.A.05.b.9.2]

IV. Treasurer's Report

A. March Financials

Commented on cash flow chart. We now anticipate having sufficient available cash through January. Going forward we will need to sell at least one of our listed properties.
Recommendation regarding the reduction of reliance on sales of properties is not yet ready. Continuing to work on this.
Mr. Buescher then discussed a chart that demonstrated the allocation of sources of cash to the operating budget.

B. Cash Flow Task Force

Not met sent last meeting

C. Office Space Task Force

Looked at some options and philosophy

D. Financial Management Committee

Looking for additional members. Recruiting campaign, request suggestions.

Not necessarily accountants, but those that understand businesses and budgets.

E. Audit report

The auditor's gave a report of a clean audit. The management letter was bland this year.

Pr. Baum asked the treasurer if he was reading the report correctly that only about 30% of the congregations had filed mission support commitments to date. The answer was affirmative.

V. Old Business

A. Synod Assembly

1. Agenda

ACTION SC10:04/06

ADOPTED

To recommend the Proposed Agenda for the 2010 Synod Assembly

**Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly Agenda - Westchester Marriott
Friday, May 14, and Saturday, May 15, 2010**

8:00	Registration	
9:30	Orientation for Voting Members	Mr. Hans Vogel, Pr. James Krauser, Mr. Robert Buescher
10:00	Opening Worship and Opening of an Assembly	Grand Ballroom

PLENARY SESSION I

HOSTS: Pr. Kathleen Koran;

10:30	Welcome the Voting Members	Bp. Rimbo
10:32	Welcome and Introduction of Assembly Chaplain, Pr. Perucy Butiku	Bp. Rimbo
10:34	Registration and Attendance Report	Pr. Rosalind Brathwaite
10:36	Introduction of the Parliamentarian/, Pr. Diana Austin	Bp. Rimbo
10:37	Adoption of the Agenda	Bp. Rimbo
10:40	Rules and Procedures	Bp. Rimbo
10:45	Report of the Elections Committee and Additional Nominations	Pr. Egensteiner/Ms. Hunt
11:15	Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel	Pr. Scott Kershner/Ms. Renee Wicklund
11:25	Introduction of the ELCA Representative	Bp. Rimbo

11:30	Introduction of Synod Officers and Synod Council	Bp. Rimbo
11:35	Synod Council Report	Mr. Hans Vogel
11:50	Report of the Treasurer	Mr. Robert Buescher
12:00	Presentation and Approval of 2010 Revised Budget	Mr. Robert Buescher
12:05	Presentation of 2011 Budget (Discussion and Adoption on Saturday)	Mr. Robert Buescher
12:10	2014 Bishop's Election Process Update	Pr. James Krauser
12:15	Registration and Attendance Report	Pr. Rosalind Brathwaite
12:17	Announcements	Pr. Paul Milholland
12:20	Prayer	Assembly Chaplain Pr. Perucy Butiku

PLENARY SESSION II

		HOSTS: Pr. Jonathan Linman;
1:15	Call to Order	Bp. Rimbo
1:16	Prayer	Assembly Chaplain Pr. Perucy Butiku
1:18	Bishop's Report I	Bp. Rimbo
1:48	Introduction of Synod Staff	Bp. Rimbo
2:00	Budget/Financial Presentation	Ms. Kathy Schmidt
2:20	Board of Pensions Report	Ms. Barbara Debski
2:30	ELCA Report I	Pr. Rafael Malpica Padilla
3:00	Children, Youth and Family Ministry Report	Pr. Jonathan Linman
3:10	Candidacy Committee Report	Pr. Jeffrey Kolbo
3:20	Project Connect	Pr. Jonathan Linman
3:30	Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia	Pr. Philip Krey, Ph.D.
3:40	Reference and Counsel	Pr. Scott Kershner/Ms. Renee Wicklund
4:40	Elections Committee/Ballot(s) I	Pr. Paul Egensteiner/Ms. Nina Hunt
5:15	United Methodist Church/NY Conference Greetings	Bp. Jeremiah Park
5:25	Reformed Church in America Greetings	Dr. Jon Norton
5:35	Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod/Atlantic District	Dr. David Benke
5:45	Episcopal Church Greetings	Bp. Catharine Roskam
5:55	Announcements	Pr. Paul Milholland
6:00	Prayer	Assembly Chaplain Pr. Perucy Butiku
6:10	Dinner	Various locations
7:30	Festival Eucharist	Grand Ballroom
9:00	Multicultural Festival	Tarrytown Ballroom

Saturday, May 15, 2010

PLENARY SESSION III

		HOSTS: Pr. Jack Horner;
7:30	Budget Breakfast	Location TBD
8:00	Morning Prayer	Grand Ballroom
8:20	Call to Order	
Bp. Rimbo		
8:22	Registration and Attendance	Pr. Rosalind Brathwaite
8:25	Elections Committee Results of Ballot I/ Voting Ballot II	Pr. Paul Egensteiner/Ms. Nina Hunt
8:50	Transformational Ministry	Pr. Jack Horner/Pr. Robert Fritch
9:00	Lutheran Parish of Northern Dutchess	Pr. LeRoy Ness
9:10	Report of the Bishop II	Bp. Rimbo
9:40	Communication and Interpretation	Ms. Sarah Gioe
9:50	Partnership Grants	Pr. Jack Horner
10:00	LYO	Mr. Jonathan Westerlund
10:10	Reference and Counsel	Pr. Scott Kershner/Ms. Renee Wicklund
10:50	Diakonia Presentation	Pr. Jonathan Linman
11:00	ELCA Report II	Pr. Rafael Malpica Padilla
11:30	Tanzania Committee, Hunger Committee, Romania Committee	Pr. Carol Fryer, Ms. Karen Nurmi, Pr. Leigh Pezet, Pr. Gary Mills
11:50	Adoption of the 2011 Budget	Mr. Robert Buescher
12:00	Announcements	Pr. Paul Milholland
12:02	Prayer	Assembly Chaplain/Pr. Perucy Butiku
12:05	Lunch	Various locations/box lunch

PLENARY SESSION IV

HOSTS: Ms. Sarah Gioe;

1:00	Eucharist	Bp. Rimbo/Worship Committee
1:55	Elections Committee Results Ballot II/Vote Ballot III (if necessary)	Pr. Egensteiner/Ms. Hunt
2:15	LMHE	Pr. Jonathan Linman
2:25	Anniversaries/Introduction of pastors new to MNYS	Pr. Gary Mills
2:40	Introduction of Deans	Pr. Kathleen Koran
2:45	Reference and Counsel	Pr. Scott Kershner/Ms. Renee Wicklund
3:30	Sending Service, Installation of Synod Council, Closing of an Assembly	Bp. Rimbo

Bishop Rimbo noted that Pr. Perucy Butiku would serve as the synod Chaplain and that she would be formally installed to her position on the synod staff at the Friday evening Eucharist.

2. Resolutions

Ms. Wicklund reported that the Committee on Reference and Counsel has received 9 resolutions addressing 6 topics.

3. Update on procedure for election of bishop for 2012

Pr. Krauser reported that the gathering of information about alternative procedures in use in other synods has been completed.

Mr. Vogel turned the chair over to Bishop Rimbo for the next item.

4. Nominations for Vice President and Secretary

Bishop Rimbo announced that nomination forms for three persons had been received. Ms. Maria Del Toro, a former member of the Synod Council; Mr. Hans Vogel, the incumbent Vice President, and Mr. Gene Hiigel, a current member of the Synod Council. He noted that nominations must come from members of the synod council. He asked if there were any nominations.

Mr. Vogel was nominated by Pr. Paul Milholland].

Mr. Hiigel was nominated by Mr. Gerald Erickson.

Ms. DelToro was nominated by Ms. Melendez.

Bishop Rimbo then reported on the nomination forms received for the office of Secretary: Pr. James Krauser, the incumbent secretary, Pr. Edward Barnett, a member of the current Synod Council, and Pr. Robert Schoepflin, a member of the current Synod Council (absent due to a funeral).

He asked if there were any nominations from the council.

Pr. Krauser was nominated by Ms. Barbara Johnson.

Pr. Edward Barnett was nominated by Pr. Annemarie Noto.

Pr. Robert Schoepflin was nominated by Ms. Rene Wicklund.

Bishop Rimbo asked if there were any additional nominations for either Vice President or Secretary. There were none. He then called for a motion to accept the slate of the candidates nominated.

ACTION **SC10:04/07** **ADOPTED**

To nominate the slate of candidates for Vice President and Secretary

Vice President

Secretary

Ms. Maria Del Toro

Pr. Edward Barnett

Mr. Gene Hiigel
Mr. Hans Vogel

Pr. James Krauser
Pr. Robert Schoepflin

Bishop Rimbo expressed his pleasure that we were presenting a full slate of candidates for these offices to the assembly.
He noted that there were many elections to take place and a heavy agenda.

Mr. Vogel resumed his role as chair.

Pr. Barnett served notice that he would like to offer a motion regarding communications from the council, staff and office of the bishop. It was requested that he wait until the afternoon portion of the meeting.

Extended discussion about a synodical definition of congregation viability, procedure for its development, and how and when to bring it before the assembly.

Recess for lunch 12:30

B. Congregations under synod administration

Pr. Mills reviewed the list of congregations and offered comments on the status.

Dcn. Rainis asked if the council had voted to list each of the properties listed for sale.

Pr. Barnett made resolution to offer properties of Bethlehem, Brooklyn; St. John's, Bronx; Salem, Brooklyn for sale.

ACTION

SC10:04/08

ADOPTED

To list the properties of the former congregations known as Bethlehem, Brooklyn; St. John's, Bronx; and Salem, Brooklyn for sale.

A lengthy discussion about the principle of listing all vacant properties should be listed for sale, unless there is an alternative use under consideration. Mr. Litke commented that the costs of maintaining a vacant property is in the neighborhood of \$50,000.

The discussion included comments about consultation with conferences. Conference input can be useful, but the responsibility for the property rests with the synod council. Properties do not belong to conferences; they are either the possession of a congregation or the synod. Pr. Ahlstrom observed that it is easy for those who are not responsible for the property or the expenses they represent to suggest that we not be hasty in selling them. Pr. Mills commented that conferences have been consulted about possible uses for property, often with few or no concrete proposals. Pr. Krauser reminded the council that its duty was to protect assets from "waste and deterioration."

C. Catskill Lutheran Mission (Sullivan County)

The council renewed its discussion of a motion from March 16th meeting on the Catskill Lutheran Mission Proposal.

Pr. Horner discussed the conversation held by his table and Pr. Robinson. Pr. Baum asked specifically if the Evangelical Outreach committee supported the plan. The answer was in the affirmative.

The motion to establish an LLC to facilitate the mission plan was put before the council for a vote (with one minor correction from the previous reading).

Whereas, the Metropolitan New York Synod values the continuation of Lutheran Mission and Ministry in the Catskill region of Sullivan and Ulster counties, and

Whereas, many of the congregations in this region are not able to fulfill the purposes for which they were organized and

Whereas, the Synod Council has received the Renewal Proposal of the Catskill Lutheran Mission Center congregations to affiliate for the purpose of founding a new worshipping community that will supplant the affiliating congregations and

Whereas, the renewal process is anticipated to be self-funded with significant benevolence support to the wider church and

Whereas, the anticipated vehicle for effecting the interim governance and management of resources is a New York Synod-Catskill Area LLC whose proposed Operating Agreement is included in the Renewal Proposal of the Catskill Lutheran Mission Center; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council authorize the organization of the New York Synod-Catskill Area LLC with the Metropolitan New York Synod as its sole member and its charter and Operating Agreement as reported in the Renewal Proposal of the Catskill Lutheran Mission Center and it is further

RESOLVED, that any of 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 organization by the Courts of the State of New York and the Attorney General of the State of New York; 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 organization be fulfilled and the transactions contemplated therein be effectuated; and it is further

RESOLVED, that John Litke is appointed Manager of the LLC with full powers to act on behalf of the Metropolitan New York Synod and the LLC and to administer the LLC in accord with its Operating Agreement.

ACTION

SC10:04/09

ADOPTED

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council authorize the organization of the New York Synod-Catskill Area LLC with the Metropolitan New York Synod as its sole member and its charter and Operating Agreement as reported in the Renewal Proposal of the Catskill Lutheran Mission Center and it is further
RESOLVED, that any of 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 organization by the Courts of the State of New York and the Attorney General of the State of New York; 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 organization be

fulfilled and the transactions contemplated therein be effectuated; and it is further

RESOLVED, that John Litke is appointed Manager of the LLC with full powers to act on behalf of the Metropolitan New York Synod and the LLC and to administer the LLC in accord with its Operating Agreement.

VI. New Business

A. Trexler Grants

Pr. Linman reported two requests for Trexler grants were received and both were approved for recommendation to the synod council. Both grants would be the full amount of \$1000.

Pr. Micah Stumme's request was for travel to Guyana to enhance his depth and familiarity with the culture and traditions of a significant segment of his congregation and community.

Pr. Jared Stahler applied for assistance in travel costs to attend an international seminar on ecumenism. This will not only be of benefit to the ecumenical ministry of St. Peter's (Manhattan) where Pr. Stahler serves, it will deepen our synodical "bench" in ecumenical work.

ACTION SC10:04/10 ADOPTED

To approve a \$1000 Trexler grant to Pr. Stumme.

ACTION SC10:04/11 ADOPTED

To approve a \$1000 Trexler grant to Pr. Stahler

B. Ascension, Deer Park - Sale of Parsonage

The condition of the parsonage was a matter of concern in the recent search to call a new pastor. The congregation voted to sell the exiting parsonage property to buy a new property and authorized the obtaining of a mortgage of an additional \$150,000 (over the sales price) to that purpose.

ACTION SC10:04/12 ADOPTED

To take no exception to the sale of the Ascension Parsonage

C. St. Peter's, Bronx – Imposition of synodical administration

Pr. Mills reviewed the recent history with this congregation, specifically the efforts to reclaim property on which back taxes were owed.

A previous motion to authorize synodical administration had been adopted in September but in order to facilitate the negotiations with the city concerning the taxes had not been implemented and title had not yet been transferred to the synod.

ACTION (SC09:9/7)

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council authorize the following actions related to congregations under permanent Synodical Administration:...

St. Peter's – Bronx: Put under permanent Synodical Administration and take title to property when deemed appropriate by the Synod's legal counsel in consultation with the Executive Committee.

Dcn. Rainis spoke to the timing of this action with regard to the SA if the congregation would seek to appeal the decision.

ACTION SC10:04/13 ADOPTED
To impose permanent synodical administration [S.13.24] on St. Peter's, Bronx and take title to all properties as previously approved.

In response to several points of discussion revolving around congregations and conferences, etc. Pr. Barnett introduced a resolution calling for guidelines to delineate responsibility for conveying certain policy decisions.

ACTION SC10:04/14 ADOPTED
RESOLVED, the synod council requests the Secretary, Ms. Goie and Pr. Mills to develop general guidelines for communications of significant actions of the synod council, the office of the bishop and the synod staff for comment and adoption by the synod council.

Pr. Baum offered a resolution requesting a report on follow-up with congregations who have not submitted mission support commitments or parochial reports.

ACTION SC10:04/15 ADOPTED
RESOLVED, that at the June 2010 meeting the synod council will receive from the staff a report on the efforts being made to follow up with congregations having yet to contribute to strengthening our bonds of Christian fellowship through making a financial commitment to the synod and /or submitting their 2009 parochial report.

D. Salam Arabic, Brooklyn

Pr. Horner said that he had hope the final version of the plan would have been ready for the April meeting. He said that it should be ready in June. At present, the plan is that Salam will sell its building and the proceeds after a 10% gift to the synod will be placed in a synod fund to be used for the on-going ministry of Salam in space shared with another congregation. The proposed agreement also calls for the compensation of the pastor at guidelines, on-going stewardship education and a yearly review. This arrangement will continue for 3 to 5 years after which a evaluation of whether to ministry can be sustained will be made. If, at that time, the synod council determines not to continue the ministry, all remaining funds will be the property of the synod.

ACTION SC10:04/16 ADOPTED
RESOLVED,, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council give prior approval before the final the agreement made between the synod and Salam Arabic, Brooklyn for multi-year ministry funding.

E. Change of date June 2010 Synod Council Meeting:

The June meeting of the council was moved from June 15 to June 8 (location to be determined). **Adopted without objection.**

F. 2011 Synod Assembly date(s)

Pr. Mills said that our normal pattern would be to have a 2 day assembly in 2011. He reported it has been suggested that the council consider a one day assembly in 2011.

Several members resisted the suggestion. No action was taken to hold a 1 day assembly.

Pr. Barnett noting the practice of some other synods, offered a motion suggesting that the planners look to the viability of locations off the territory of the synod.

ACTION

SC10:04/16

ADOPTED

To study the possibility of holding the assembly outside the territory

Pr. Mills said that we the current plan is to hold the assembly May 13-14, 2011. The Melville Marriott is holding the date for us, but a final decision will have to be made soon..

VI. New Business

VII. Other Reports

Pr. Butiku announced Urban Leaders Insitutite Event July 28-30. For the \$250 fee, 5 members of a congregation may attend.

VIII. Announcements/Events

- ❖ Boundary Workshop: A Sacred Trust (4/29 Holy Trinity, CPW)
- ❖ Conversation with the Bishop: Pastors in Specialized Ministries (4/29 Seafarers)
- ❖ Ms. Stephanie Schmiede was announced as the new teacher we will be sending to Tanzania for the KEMPSchool. She begins training in July and will arrive in Tanzania the beginning of August
- ❖ Bishop Rimbo thanked all members terms were completed with this meeting.
- ❖ Transfiguration, Bronx will be honoring Pr. Sudbrock with Amigo award June 8.
- ❖ Ms. Melendez invited members to attend in the 50th wedding anniversary mass and celebration for herself and her husband Manny. Please call if attending (for catering purposes).

Adjournment

The meeting concluded with at 2:45 p.m.

The Rev. James G. Krauser, Secretary