

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

Present

The Rev. William Baum
The Rev. Dr. Stephen P. Bouman, Bishop
Ms. Rene Chapman
Mr. Alan Chen
The Rev. Amandus Derr
Ms. Elizabeth Hoffmann
Ms. Elizabeth Hurst
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. Stephen Marsh
Mr. Kamy Moghbeli
Dcn. Gayle Ruege
Dcn. Carol Straub
Dcn. Edward Tatlian

Excused

The Rev. Christine Bohr
The Rev. Barbara Lundblad
Ms. Joanne Means

Absent

Mr. Matthew Geiser

AUXILIARY REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. Delores Gray, WELCA

STAFF

The Rev. Cherlyne Beck
The Rev. Dr. William Hurst
Ms. Joanne Strunck

GUESTS

The Rev. Carla Meier
Mr. Jim Steipp

I. CALL TO ORDER Mr. John Litke

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m. by the chair, Vice-president Litke.

II. DEVOTIONS Deacon Gayle Ruege

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as prepared, with minor adjustments.

IV. MINUTES, 21 January 2003, consideration of

There were no corrections to the minutes; they stand as submitted.

V. SPECIAL PRESENTATION – The Rev. Carla Meier, Hope Scarsdale

Pr. Carla Meier gave a PowerPoint presentation showing the ministry at Hope Lutheran Church, a new mission congregation of the synod located in Scarsdale, New York.

VI. REPORT OF THE BISHOP

A. Remarks

1. Recent activity from the Office of the Bishop around war and peace.
 - a. Bishop Bouman shared with council a pastoral letter he is sending to the roster of the Metropolitan New York Synod (**Attachment A**)
 - b. He will be preaching at a Mass for Peace at Saint Peter's, Manhattan on Tuesday March 25 at 6 pm.

- c. He will be worshipping with Salam Arabic Lutheran Church in Brooklyn on Sunday, March 30. Salam has members from Baghdad.

2. Conference of Bishops

The bishops discussed the exception issue in *Called to Common Mission (CCM)*. There have been 573 ordinations since *CCM* and only 3 exceptions. The Conference also heard about 11 instances where permission was not granted or the request was taken off the table. The bishop reported that the ELCA has lived into *CCM* in a healthy way, and in a way that we can be comfortable with our ecumenical partners.

3. Immigration Issues.

Bishop Bouman recently attended a Lutheran and Immigration and Refugee Services Board meeting in Arizona. He reported briefly on the extreme poverty in which many immigrants live and the dangers they face in immigrating into the US. He also showed Council a letter from Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson to Tom Ridge stating concerns around the treatment INS is giving another immigrant group - Batak Indonesians.

4. Social Ministry Organizations (SMOs)

The CEOs of our social ministry organizations met with Bishop Bouman, along with Dr. Ruth Reko, from the Division for Church in Society, ELCA, and Ms. Jill Schumann, Director of Lutheran Services in America. They will continue to meet on a monthly basis for the next six months to formulate a plan to establish better connections among the SMOs and between the SMOs and congregations. In this meeting it became clear that the expected cuts from the state budget could have a severe effect on these organizations. For some it might mean going out of business. Bishop Bouman will be writing a letter to Governor Pataki.

5. Bishop Bouman gave an overview of MNYS staff restructuring

- a. Business Office/Development Office

- ✓ Business Manager – Mr. Rob Parker
- ✓ Development – The Rev. Bob Wollenburg; Ms. Connie Duever
- ✓ Stewardship – The Rev. Bob Wollenburg will take over for the Rev. Rip Hoffman who will be our new pastor to Lower Manhattan (Ground Zero)
- ✓ Synodical Administration. We plan to put together a team of people with the necessary expertise to help with the many facets of synodical administration of churches.
- ✓ Finance Committee. Mr. Paul Jensen is working on combining our many finance committees into one. This will come before the Synod Council in April.

- b. Congregational Services Team

- ✓ The Rev. Gary Mills will be team leader. He will no longer be relating to the Division for Outreach (DO) in Chicago. He will continue to work with global churches and our companion synod
- ✓ The Rev. David Anglada will be our staff person relating to DO. We are in negotiations with Chicago to get the same amount of compensation for this position as when Pr. Mills and Pr. Anglada

- split responsibilities. Pr. Mills, Pr. Anglada, Mr. Tony Aguilar, and Ms. Lily Wu will form a DO team.
- ✓ Pr. Mills will continue to do vacancies with a team of 10 people, including the Rev. Gaylon Barker, who will incorporate re-rooting.
 - ✓ The congregational Services Team is looking to incubate a fresh start with Youth and Family Ministry.
 - ✓ Congregations at Risk (CAR). The Rev. Bill Hurst will give up ecumenical ministry and the Diaconate and just work on CAR. We are going to be very intentional about this effort.
 - ✓ Ms. Lily Wu, through LDRNY, will join our staff, reaching out to immigrants, particularly those in economic straights. She will also serve as liaison with our Asian ministries.
- c. Synod Public Life Team includes
- ✓ Mr. Tony Aguilar - team leader
 - ✓ Urban Empowerment Fund
 - ✓ Communications
 - ✓ Ecumenism – The Rev. Gaylon Barker
 - ✓ Center for Public Theology – The Rev. Gaylon Barker
 - ✓ Communication of immigration issues - Ms. Lily Wu
- d. Executive Administrator of our Synod – The Rev. Cherlyne Beck. Pr. Beck will oversee the operations of the synod.

B. Kalam Lutheran Church

**ACTION (SC03:3/1) RESOLVED that Synod Council recommend to the Synod Assembly that Kalam Christian Church, located in the Southeast Queens Conference, be accepted into the membership of the Metropolitan New York Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, to be then known as Kalam Lutheran Church.
ADOPTED**

Pr. Abraham Lu reported that the new congregation will be located in Valley Stream.

C. Appointments

Bishop Bouman reported that he has appointed The Rev. Laurie Cline as Chair of the Communications Commission.

D. Calls

1. RESOLVED that Synod Council call the Rev. Donald A. Stiger to serve Lutheran HealthCare as Vice President of Mission and Spiritual Care, effective September 1, 2003. (Issued under ELCA continuing resolution 7.44.A96.b.5.1)
2. RESOLVED that Synod Council call the Rev. Marianne Tomecek as full-time Interim-Pastor, without terminus, at St. David's Lutheran Church in Massapequa Park, NY, effective March 15, 2003. (Issued under ELCA continuing resolution 7.44.A96.b.1.5)

3. RESOLVED that Synod Council call the Rev. William Purdy to serve as Chaplain for the Jacob Perlow Hospice Department of Beth Israel Medical Center, effective March 10, 2003. (Issued under ELCA continuing resolution 7.44.A96.b.5.1)

4. RESOLVED that Synod Council call the Rev. Dr. Robert Hoffman as pastor to lower Manhattan, effective March 17, 2003, full time, without terminus. (Issued under ELCA continuing resolution 7.44.A96.b.1.6)

Pr. Hoffman will be working as mission developer.

5. RESOLVED that Synod Council call the Rev. Tarja Koskela as Vice Pastor of the New York Finnish Lutheran Church, full-time without terminus. (issued under ELCA continuing resolution 7.44.A96.b.1.5.)

**ACTION: (SC03:3/2) RESOLVED that Synod Council approve all of the above calls.
ADOPTED**

E. Staff reports

1. The Rev. Cherlyne Beck distributed a newspaper article which lifted up Bridge Builders, a program begun in our synod by Pr. Beck which trained pastors to do interventions in churches. Bridge Builders has expanded into the *Congregation Resource Center*, which has a number of participating judicatories.

2. The Rev. Dr. Bill Hurst spoke briefly about *Congregations at Risk*. He would like to move beyond risk terminology to focus on mission. He distributed an outline of the *Commission for Evangelical Outreach (Attachment B)* This commission will explore how we can rethink ministry outside the old models.

VII. REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Mr. Paul Jensen

A. Mr. Jensen distributed four reports on mission support:

- Contributions by Conference February 1, 2002 – January 31, 2003 (**Attachment C**)
- Contributions by Conference February 2, 2003 – February 28, 2003 (**Attachment D**)
(Disregard the first column on the first page)
- Mission Support 1998-2003 (**Attachment E**)
- Comparison of Mission Support Receipts (**Attachment F**)

Mr. Parker is seeking commitment form responses for 2003 by April. Those he does not receive will be sought out at the Synod Assembly.

B. Housing allowance for the Rev. Robert Hoffman

**ACTION: (SC03:3/3) RESOLVED that Synod Council approve \$59,439 as the portion of Pr. Robert Hoffman's salary being designated for housing allowance.
ADOPTED**

VIII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Executive Committee recommendations will come later in the agenda.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. Congregations under synodical administration:

- Hope Lutheran Church, Scarsdale
- Christ Lutheran Church, Yonkers
- Zion, Harlem – will be discussed at the April Council meeting
- Holy Trinity, Hollis

Ms. Marlene Lund, Director of Lutheran Schools Association, reported on the very poor physical plant at Holy Trinity, Hollis – at both the school and the church. The building has been neglected for 25 years and it will take \$150,000, according to the estimates they received, just to make it safe enough to open in the fall. (See **Attachment G** for the architect's report). The long-term estimate for repair is 1.3 million dollars. The architect, when asked if it was worth repairing replied that it could be returned to a low maintenance condition. If the property were to be sold, it is estimated to be worth \$1,200,000 (residential zoning; 8 plots worth \$150,000 each)

Ms. Lund reported further that Holy Trinity School's niche is special-needs children and that they provide a wonderful ministry to the community. They have a large Universal Pre-K program as well. There is a good working relationship between the new pastor and the principal. Both know that they have to be part of the solution.

Holy Trinity is in a poor community and cannot raise the money for needed repairs, other than in small ways. Mr. Rob Parker has looked through their financial reports and expressed some concern as to their spending habits. He is looking at options for funding.

**ACTION: (SC03:3/4) RESOLVED that Synod Council approve \$150,000 from the Metropolitan New York Synod Fund for initial repairs to enable Holy Trinity, Hollis to open the school in the fall of 2003.
ADOPTED**

During the discussion it was noted that the synod does not currently hold the deed for Holy Trinity but is working with our lawyers on this.

The Rev. Stephen Marsh spoke in favor of the motion, saying that Hollis was a viable place for ministry.

B. Congregation Constitutions Mr. Paul Jensen for Mr. Ed Saunders

Constitution and bylaws submitted (2001) - Approved
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Poughkeepsie
Constitution and Bylaws submitted (2001) – Correction
Calvary Lutheran Church, Hauppauge
Congregations have been notified.

C. Prince of Peace, Brentwood

Bishop Bouman briefly reviewed the situation at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Brentwood and said that since the last Synod Council meeting the congregation went ahead and installed a former ELCA pastor who was removed from the roster.

Bishop Bouman asked Synod Council to refrain from talking about this situation and to refer all questions about it to the Bishops office.

This recommendation comes from the Executive Committee.

ACTION: (SC03:3/5) RESOLVED that Synod Council remove Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Brentwood from the roster of congregations of this synod for willful disregard of the constitution sections 9.21 and 9.21d

9.21. This church shall recognize, receive, and maintain on the roster those congregations which by their practice as well as their governing documents:

9.21.d. agree to call pastoral leadership from the clergy roster of this church in accordance with the call procedures of this church except in special circumstances and with the approval of the synodical bishop;

ADOPTED unanimously

D. The Rev. Kristian Baudler

The Executive Committee recommended the following after determining that the Rev. Kristian Baudler showed willful disregard for the constitution by installing a pastor who is not on the roster of the ELCA and by performing an installation without the authority of the bishop.

ACTION: (SC03:3/6) RESOLVED that the Synod Council affirm Bishop Bouman's intent to begin consultations pursuant to discipline of the Rev. Kristian Baudler.

ADOPTED unanimously

E. Synod Assembly 2003

Vice-president Litke reported that a church has been found for the Friday night worship.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Parochial Reports

Well fewer than half of the Parochial Reports have been submitted.

B. Representation of members of worshipping communities at Synod Assembly

ACTION: (SC03:3/7) RESOLVED that recognized worshipping communities in the synod shall be entitled to one voting member at

the Synod Assembly in addition to any rostered persons who, by reason of constitutional provision, are voting members of the assembly.

ADOPTED

Secretary Krauser cited Holy Trinity Hollis, which is under synodical administration, as one such example of a “worshipping community”. He will bring to the next meeting an official definition.

C. Report of the Constitution Committee – The Rev. William Baum, Chair

Pr. Baum reviewed the wording of the “charge” given to the Constitution Committee and listed the names of the members: the Rev. William Baum, chair; the Rev. Joanne Bond; the Rev. Amandus Derr; the Rev. James Krauser; Dcn. Paul Lumpkin; and Ms. Shelly Zacher.

Pr. Baum also listed the names of the Elections Process Committee, a parallel committee and listed its members: Mr. John Litke, chair; the Rev. Paul Johnsen; and Mr. Jim Steipp..

Pr. Baum distributed the document entitled:: Proposed 2003 Amendments to Metropolitan New York Synod Constitution (Working Draft 6) – **Attachment H**

The Synod Council considered items as presented by the Constitution Committee Chair:

- a. Provision to give a clearer definition on how a quorum is established

ACTION: (SC03:3/8) To recommend the following to the Synod Assembly:

S.7.14.01 Quorum shall be one-half of the total number of lay and ordained voting members who have received their credentials at the assembly.

If a congregation fails to elect or report the election of voting members to the registration committee at or before the assembly, those memberships shall be regarded as vacant and will not be a factor in the calculation of the quorum.

S7.14.02 Congregations will submit the names of their Synod Assembly voting members and alternates to the secretary at least fifteen days before the Synod Assembly.

Voting members or alternates whose names were not submitted in advance of the assembly must have their registrations presented by their pastor (or in the case of a vacancy by their interim or vice-pastor).

ADOPTED

- b. The following provision is new, formerly a “rule of the assembly”

ACTION: (SC03:3/9) To recommend the following to the Synod Assembly:

S7.14.03 An alternate lay member shall be seated if the regular lay member is unable to serve. Only credentialed voting members may be seated in the members’ areas.

ADOPTED

c. The Rules of the Assembly reorganized (some combined and edited to remove material covered by other constitution & bylaw material). The effect of this continuing resolution will be that only changes to the rules or special rules will have to be adopted at each assembly.

ACTION: (SC03:3/10) To recommend the following to the Synod Assembly:

S7.32.01 Rules of the Synod Assembly
SC/A2003

a. Parliamentary Rules

- 1) With the permission of the assembly, the chair shall have the authority to call items of business before the assembly in whatever order the chair considers most expedient for the conduct of the business of the assembly.
- 2) Unless this rule is suspended by a 2/3 vote, in all plenary sessions persons speaking from the floor shall be limited to 3 minutes and no person shall speak more than twice on the same question. This rule shall not apply to persons presenting a report, or when direct questions are posed to specific individuals for clarification. {2/3 approval required}
- 3) Only one who is specifically recognized to move the previous question may make the motion for the previous question.
- 4) All substantive motions shall be written by the mover on forms provided for that purpose, signed and sent to the secretary's table. The chair may use discretion not to open the floor for debate on a motion until a written copy is available to the chair, the secretary, or the assembly membership.
- 5) When the motion to *Amend by Substitution* is before the assembly, a vote must first be taken to substitute before the surviving motion may be amended.

b. Non-voting Members of the Assembly

- 1) Assistants to the Bishop who are not otherwise voting members shall be advisory members of the assembly and have voice but not vote.
- 2) All youth officially registered for the assembly shall be granted the privilege of participating in its proceedings with voice but not vote.
- 3) Official visitors may address the assembly at the request of the chair or by majority vote.
- 4) Visitors shall be seated in the designated areas.

c. Resolutions

- 1) The Committee on Reference and Counsel may assist the chairperson in the schedule for handling business items, consider requests for the distribution and posting of materials and give other assistance as the chairperson may request. New business shall be processed through this committee.
- 2) If any voting member proposes to add any new item of business, it shall immediately be referred to the Committee on Reference and Counsel. The committee may establish a deadline for such items at any time following the first plenary session. The

- committee shall report to the assembly its recommendation for handling such new business, which may be that the matter not be considered. In such matters, a two-thirds vote of the assembly shall be required to add the item of business to the agenda.
- 3) Priority shall be given to those resolutions received in advance of the assembly on or before the deadline for submissions. Insofar as possible, resolutions shall be considered in the order in which they were received.
 - 4) When two or more resolutions addressing the same general topic are received the committee on Reference and Counsel may adapt, edit, amend or combine them as seems helpful, securing the consent of (or consulting with) the original author(s) if at all possible. If the committee presents a substitute resolution it becomes the main motion. The maker of the original resolution has the right to place the original resolution on the floor as an amendment by substitution.
 - 5) Resolutions to amend the budget as recommended by the Synod Council must be submitted in writing to the treasurer by the conclusion of Plenary Session in which the budget is put before the assembly.
 - 6) All resolutions proposing the establishment of any new committee, board, commission or task force etc. must include a plan for funding. Those resolutions which do not include such a plan shall be automatically referred to the Synod Council.
- d. Nominations
- 1) After floor nominations have been closed, a brief summary of data on each nominee shall be distributed to the members of the Assembly. Floor nominations whose biographical material has not been received by the secretary by the end of session in which the nominations report is given will be considered withdrawn.

ADOPTED

d. Elections Process. When the discussion of the Amendments to the MNYS constitution reached S9.20.00, regarding election process, Pr. Baum reviewed the six to seven year history of the proposed new process for Synod Council Elections which would have nominations come from the conferences. **Attachment I**, "A Plan for the Election of Synod Council with Direct Input from the Conferences", puts forth this plan in detail

2. Elections Committee Addendum – Mr. Jim Steipp (**Attachment J**)

Mr. Steipp's report revealed a difference in philosophy between the Constitution Committee and the Elections Committee regarding Synod Council elections. The latter preferred to continue nominating Synod Council members as we have done rather than going to a conference-based system.

The following resolution was moved and seconded:

ACTION: RESOLVED that the Constitution Committee and the Elections Committee meet together and reconcile their documents before Synod Council meets again and bring one document back to Synod Council.

DEFEATED (6 for; 6 against)

The Rev. Amandus Derr offered the following two resolutions:

**ACTION: (SC03:3/11) RESOLVED that Synod Council prefer the approach of the Constitution Committee with respect to Synod Council nominations.
ADOPTED**

**ACTION: (SC03:3:12) RESOLVED that all other provisions in the Elections Committee Report be included in the Constitution Committee report and that the entire amended document be recommended to the Synod Assembly.
ADOPTED (carried by more than 2/3)**

(The second motion was declared out of order by Vice President Litke, because it changed the agreed process, but since it carried by more than 2/3 vote he allowed it. He stated the unusual nature of what the Synod Council had just done.)

Time elapsed before any further reports could be given. Ms. Delores Gray will submit a written report to be attached to the minutes.

- XI. DEANS REPORT The Rev. Terrence Weber, STS
- XII. YOUTH REPORT
- XIII. AUXILLIARY ORGANIZATIONS
- A. Women of the ELCA (**Attachment K**) Ms. Delores Gray
- B. Lutheran Men in Mission Mr. Charles Kalhorn
- XIV. CLOSING PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Joanne Strunck
Administrative Assistant to the Bishop