

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

Present

The Rev. Albert Ahlstrom
Mr. William Anderson
The Rev. Edward Barnett
Mr. Leonard Bartkus
The Rev. William Baum
Bishop Stephen Bouman
Mr. Bob Buescher, Treasurer
Mr. Alan Chen
Ms. Chris Connell, DM
Ms. Elizabeth Hoffmann
The Rev. Kathleen Koran
The Rev. James Krauser, Sec'y
Mr. John Litke, V-President
Ms. Christina Lord-Barry
Dr. Earl Marsan
The Rev. Fred McElderry
The Rev. Annemarie Noto, PhD
Mr. Patrick O'Brien

Ms. Beverly Small
Ms. Marion Steadman
Ms. Sharon Wilson

Excused

The Rev. James Anderson
Mr. Carl Blomke
Ms. Maria del Toro
Mr. John Vercelletto

Absent

The Rev. Patt Margolis
Ms. Katie Montano

STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Gary Mills
Ms. Joanne Strunck
The Rev. Robert Wollenburg

AUXILLIARY ORGANIZATIONS

The Rev. Gary Schulz, Deans
Mr. Charlie Kalthorn, Lutheran Men in Mission
Mr. Bill Wooten, Lutheran Men in Mission
Ms. Delores Gray, Women of the ELCA

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:08 pm

II. DEVOTIONS

The Rev. Al Ahlstrom

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted with minor modifications.

IV. MINUTES, January 18, 2004, consideration of

The minutes were approved with one correction in the Report of the Women of the ELCA: the date for their annual synod convention is on September 17

V. REPORT OF THE BISHOP

A. Comments on the sexuality study.

1. The Listening Post, held in three sessions on March 10, was a well-designed process. It was designed and facilitated by a conflict resolution team from Eastern Mennonite University. The bishop thanked Pastor Gary Mills and all others who were involved in organizing it.
 2. The Conference of Bishops has been wrestling with the report of the ELCA Task Force on Sexuality. It has not come to consensus on the issues but recognizes the need to move forward with some kind of progress and keep the church united.
 3. As Region 7 representative on the Churchwide Council, Bishop Bouman will have more to say on this later in the agenda.
- B. The St. Olaf Concert was a success. About \$18,000 will be realized for the synod.
- C. Bishop Bouman discussed with Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson, the following apportionment of the MNYS tithe of legacy money to the ELCA and asked for council's blessing. These would benefit both the wider church and the Metropolitan New York Synod:
1. Fund for Leaders in Mission (to benefit MNYS candidates for ministry)
 2. Ethnic mission strategies
 3. Lutheran Schools Association to underwrite a director for developmentally disabled.
 4. Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services for the creation of an immigration task force in every synod so that there is a national as well as a local network. A motion for the creation of these task forces in every synod will be proposed to the Churchwide assembly by the Minnesota Synod. This resolution will come to our Synod Assembly in May.

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT: RESOLVED, the Metropolitan New York Synod Council commends the vision developed by Bishop Bouman in consultation with Presiding Bishop Hanson for directing our tithe to the ELCA toward the areas of Leaders in Mission, Ethnic Specific Strategies, Lutheran Schools Association, and Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service.

ADOPTED

D. Mission Development Board (MDB)

The Mission Planning Team (a component of the MDB) meets again on March 16. It consists of those deans who are working with Pastor Gary Mills on the vacancy process (Pastors Brooke Swertfager, Richard Mueller, Frank Nelson, and Gary Schulz) and three CEO task force leaders (Dcn. Gale Ruege, Pr. Barrie Lawless, and Pr. Richard Hill). They are studying the new process and its relationship to the existing (and continuing) process managed by the Office of the Bishop.

E. Appointments

1. The Rev. Christine Bohr Anderson as chaplain of 2005 Synod Assembly. No objection

2. Reference and Counsel Committee: Pr. Ed Barnett, Pr. Paul Johnsen, Pr. Barrie Lawless, Mr. David Napiupulu, Esq, Pr. Brenda Smith, Ms. Madelyn Soussoudis. No objection.
3. The Rev. David Elseroad (LCMS), Interim at United, Mt. Vernon. No objection.

F. Calls

1. Ms. Nadine Cordes, AIM – Conference of Bishops approved her call to non-stipendiary ministry to St. Paul’s, Brooklyn as Director of Education, effective 2/1/05. (Synod Council called at January meeting)
2. The Rev. Annemarie Noto

ACTION (SC05/3:1) RESOLVED that Synod Council call the Rev. Annemarie Noto as part-time interim pastor at St. David’s, Massapequa Park, effective February 1, 2005.

G. Staff reports

The Rev. Robert Wollenburg, Assistant to the Bishop for Giving, distributed a report entitled “ELCA & MNYS Mission Support for 2004”. (**Exhibit A**). Congregations have been working hard on mission support but despite this hard work our mission support trends downward. There are still a number of our congregations who pledge nothing to the synod. Pastor Wollenburg encouraged intentional ministry in the practice of stewardship.

H. Ballot for Churchwide Voting Member (clergy)

Mr. Litke reported the nominees received to date and placed them in nomination. No additional names were offered. Nominees: Katrina Foster, Martin Hauser, Leo (Jay) Longan, Annemarie Noto, Daniel Peter, Gary Schulz, Eric Swensson, Phil Trzynka, Diane Wildow. Pastor Gary Schulz was elected on the fourth ballot. Pastor Annemarie Noto will be first alternate.

VI. REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Mr. Robert Buescher

- A. Financial Report. Mr. Buescher reported that the trends are not encouraging in the long term. Mission support continues its downward trend.
- B. 2006 Budget Draft

The proposed 2006 Budget is out of balance, but transfer of funds can compensate for the deficit. However, if transfers continue at current levels, unrestricted funds will be depleted by the end of 2006.

The bishop announced that, given the numbers presented in the budget, it will not be possible to fill the full-time staff vacancy left by Pastor Cherlyne Beck's departure. This places an additional burden on the remaining staff and others, but it is currently necessary so that we can continue to support the many ministries of our synod. We need to face up to our responsibilities to our mission.

Time was requested for further discussion of the budget at the next meeting so that members of the council may better understand it.

ACTION (SC05/3:2) RESOLVED that synod council approve the budget draft for FY2006 (with permission for the Financial Management Committee to make adjustments)
ADOPTED

C. Accompanying documents

1. Statement of Revenues and Expenditures – **Exhibit B**
2. Status of Unrestricted Funds after 2004, 2005, 2006 – **Exhibit C**
3. Typical Budget Categories – **Exhibit D**
4. Proposed Budget for FY2006 – **Exhibit E**

D. Comments by Bishop Bouman

Bishop Bouman expressed dismay at not being able to fill Pastor Beck's position. He is disheartened to see staff that is over burdened and he is disheartened on behalf of the support we are trying to give to the ministries of our synod. He addressed the deeper spiritual issue of declining mission support in a place where God has richly blessed us. He will speak directly and honestly about this to our synod assembly in May.

Lay people as well as clergy have responsibilities for our stewardship. It is time for all of us to feel the pain together.

VII. DEANS REPORT

The Rev. Gary Schulz

Pastor Schulz noted the positive attitude of the deans resulting from their added responsibilities and strengthened relationship with the bishop and staff. Stewardship took the lion's share of time in today's meeting. Among the suggestions coming out of this discussion was a suggestion for a bylaw change saying that congregations that do not give to the synod and pastors who do not hand in their annual reports lose voice and vote at the synod assembly.

Of growing concern is the disconnect between pastors, congregations, and the synod.

Pastor Schulz noted the added involvement in the vacancy process which will hopefully help with some of this disconnect. The deans' goal is to bring all of our congregations into active participation in the synod. Pr. Schulz lifted up Pr. Mills, who is always there to encourage the deans.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Constitutions

1. Prince of Peace, Cambria Heights - approved
2. Christ Ozone Park - submitted

B. 2004 Assembly Minutes

Secretary James Krauser

The review panel submitted corrections, which have been made.

ACTION (SC05/3:3) RESOLVED that synod council approve the 2004 Synod Assembly minutes.

Secretary Krauser noted that at some point synod council needs to make a decision as to whether we need to provide bound minutes or if we can just provide them electronically. He noted the cost savings of doing them electronically. This will be brought up at the April meeting. We will have to produce some printed copies for the ELCA and/or cd rom versions in addition to electronically available copies.

C. Sexuality Report

Synod Council resolved to meet as a committee of the whole to discuss the four resolutions presented for consideration. All four resolutions are similar in focus:

- Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Manhattan/Iglesia Luterana Trinidad – submitted by the congregation council – **Exhibit F**
- Trinity Lower East Side Lutheran Parish – submitted by the congregation council – **Exhibit G**
- Resolution submitted by the Rev. James Krauser and the Rev. William Baum – **Exhibit H**
- Members of the Manhattan Ministerium (the Rev. Amandus Derr's name to be added to signators) – **Exhibit I**

After considerable discussion as a committee of the whole, the committee of the whole recommended that **synod council forward the resolutions to Church Council as information with a cover letter**. Bishop Bouman commented that the Churchwide Council is not looking for finely crafted resolutions from synods upon which they would make their recommendation to the Churchwide Assembly; they are simply looking for information. The committee of the whole disbanded.

The following resolution was presented:

ACTION (SC05:3/4) RESOLVED that synod council forward the resolutions to the Church Council as information with a cover letter.

ADOPTED

Individual opinions offered to the bishop in writing were also distributed to the synod council for their information. (**Exhibit J**)

D. Synod Assembly

1. Update: Seventy-seven people are registered to date. Marriott will not offer the lower housing rate after April 15.
2. Site Selection for 2006:

Site selection committee consists of the Revs. Fred McElderry, Jack Malfati, and Gary Mills. They looked into several churches, motels and other institutions for our three-day assembly in 2006. Only three of our churches are large enough: Grace Yorktown Heights, St. Peter's Huntington Station, and St. John's Poughkeepsie. Grace could not accommodate more than 550, so visitors would have to be in a separate room with closed circuit television. They also considered the Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale, the Marriott in Brooklyn, the Sheraton in Poughkeepsie, Jacob Javits Center, and Wagner College. When all was said and done and cost, proximity, and available dates were considered, the committee recommended St John's Poughkeepsie for site and worship.

ACTION (SC05:3/5): RESOLVED that the MNYS 2006 Synod Assembly be held at St. John's Lutheran Church in Poughkeepsie for worship and plenary and that the local Sheridan will be used for sleeping accommodations.

ADOPTED

IX. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business

X. YOUTH REPORT

Pastor Kathleen Koran reported on the Child Youth and Family Ministry servant event. They recently had their first meeting with all the participants at Koinonia. It is a mixed group which represents a variety of counties in the synod. They all express a commitment to the full three-year program.

XI. AUXILLIARY ORGANIZATIONS

March 15, 2005

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

MINUTES
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A. Lutheran Men in Mission (LLM) Mr. Charles Kalhorn, Treasurer

- LMM accepted the challenge to meet goals for a grant. LMM-NY needed to become self-incorporated to apply for these monies. Mr. Kalhorn distributed a resolution to the Division for Congregational Ministries, ELCA, regarding their incorporation.
- Permission was requested to conduct an appeal to congregations and individuals in support of the LMM Endowment Fund. This is a preliminary request, there is no date yet set for the appeal. Permission was granted. (See **Exhibit K**) for the form they will be using
- National LMM Assembly is coming up in Charleston, SC. Last year 750 men participated.
- Mr. Bill Wooten, LMM vice president, reported on LMM's recent annual meeting. Fifty-eight were in attendance. Mr. Kalhorn was re-elected as treasurer, along with two mission leaders. He expressed thanks to the speaker, Pastor Bob Wollenburg.
- Mr. Kalhorn made the council aware of the Spanish translation of the Master Builder's Bible and gave copies for the synod office

B. Women of the ELCA

- Ms. Gray highlighted the upcoming Triennial in San Antonio, TX. More information is on the Women of the ELCA website
- Synodical annual convention is on September 17 at Grace, Yorktown Heights. Brenda Smith will preach.
- Super Saturday will be on April 16 at The Wartburg, Mt. Vernon. It will be a celebration of women, with each congregation invited to nominate one woman from their congregation to be honored that day. Thelma Thomas, a Biblical storyteller, will be the presenter.

XII. OTHER

- Pastor Annemarie Noto reminded council of the Prayer Breakfast on March 19 at Advent Lutheran Church, Manhattan
- Mr. Litke reminded council of the next meeting on April 19.

XIII. CLOSING PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm; Bishop Bouman closed with prayer and a blessing.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Strunck
Administrative Assistant to the Bishop

Attachment B

Metropolitan New York Synod
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
From 2/1/2004 Through 12/31/2004

Programs		Balances	Income	Expense	Transfers	Transfers	1/31/05
Budgeted Operations	100	(846,788.93)	2,184,934.68	(2,886,331.74)	497,015.00	846,788.93	(204,382.06)
	200	220,893.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,249.25	228,142.50
Unrealized gain on	200	1,433,076.53	3,353.67	(300,000.00)	0.00	0.00	1,136,430.20
Metro New York Synod	201	240,915.92	10,296.76	0.00	(216,033.96)	34,340.66	69,519.38
William & Helen Heineman	202	364,969.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	364,969.44
Tanzania Companion Fund	203	(731.80)	0.00	0.00	0.00	731.80	0.00
Youth Ministry	204	67,991.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	67,991.00
Latino Diakonia Fund	205	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	98.00	148.00
Winston Bone Scholarship	208	25,490.13	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25,590.13
Bishop Rudolph Ressmeyer	209	44,525.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	44,525.16
Latino Laity Leadership	211	6,709.12	3,950.00	(13,658.98)	0.00	2,999.86	0.00
Bishop's Mission Fund	214	38,838.68	88,422.70	(63,282.79)	(273,981.04)	69,701.68	(140,300.77)
Lutheran Youth	215	0.00	5,010.00	(4,768.50)	0.00	0.00	241.50
Timotheans Fund	216	0.00	0.00	(78.10)	0.00	78.10	0.00
Diaconal Ministries Fund	217	0.00	0.00	(2,508.96)	0.00	2,508.96	0.00
Property and Equipment	218	509,375.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	509,375.16
Group Term Life Fund	219	6,658.25	3,930.00	(8,466.85)	0.00	(2,121.40)	0.00
BMF AIDS	250	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
BMF Lenten Devotional	251	0.00	0.00	(163.07)	0.00	0.00	(163.07)
BMF Tanzania	253	35,925.81	16,947.01	(3,949.61)	0.00	(48,923.21)	0.00
BMF World Trade Center	255	0.00	346.00	0.00	0.00	(346.00)	0.00
BMF Tanzania Kibeta	256	(770.00)	3,550.00	0.00	0.00	(2,780.00)	0.00
BMF Tanzania Teachers	257	(6,067.50)	1,035.20	(5,328.71)	0.00	10,361.01	0.00
BMF Director's Salary	261	17,189.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	(17,189.74)	0.00
BMF Director's Employee	262	(26,990.87)	0.00	0.00	0.00	26,990.87	0.00
BMF Director's Travel	263	(551.28)	0.00	0.00	0.00	551.28	0.00
BMF Books and	264	(388.32)	0.00	0.00	0.00	388.32	0.00
BMF-Tanzania Teacher	267	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Christ Church Yonkers	270	565,250.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	565,250.00
BMF Christ-Yonkers Sale	271	1,065,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(1,065,000.00)	0.00
BMF Christ-Yonkers Sale	272	395,300.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	(395,300.71)	0.00
Net Proceeds - Mission Re-	290	0.00	0.00	(13,867.60)	0.00	3,630,776.86	3,616,909.26
Net Proceeds - Support of	291	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	453,847.12	453,847.12
Designate		5,002,609.13	136,991.34	(416,073.17)	(490,015.00)	2,708,962.71	6,942,475.01

Metropolitan New York Synod
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
From 2/1/2004 Through 12/31/2004

		Balances	Income	Expense	Transfers	Transfers	1/31/05
Ministral Education Income	300	471.20	471.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	942.30
Samuel Trexler Income	301	4,251.33	6,213.60	(4,200.00)	0.00	0.00	6,264.93
Martin Luther King Income	302	950.60	950.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,901.20
E. Kreider Income Fund	303	156.20	156.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	312.40
Kreider Memorial Inocme	304	713.30	713.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,426.60
Wieskotten Income Fund	305	381.95	381.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	763.90
St. James/Stechman Income	306	3,276.04	600.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,876.04
Bishop James Graefe	307	25,860.04	2,972.90	(250.00)	0.00	(1,000.00)	27,582.94
Urban Empowerment Fund	308	525,929.03	0.00	(15,900.00)	0.00	0.00	510,029.03
Women's Leaders Fund	309	10,000.00	0.00	(1,365.83)	0.00	(1,744.54)	6,889.63
Make a Difference Fund	310	8,000.00	0.00	(8,000.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Women and Children in	311	15,683.53	0.00	(500.00)	0.00	0.00	15,183.53
Other Restricted Fund	312	2,000.00	0.00	(150.00)	0.00	0.00	1,850.00
Latino Fund	314	5,515.00	0.00	(1,230.00)	0.00	(2,999.86)	1,285.14
Commission Evangelical	315	360.00	1,115.00	(343.75)	0.00	0.00	1,131.25
M. Braitland	316	754.86	3,254.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,009.73
Evangelism Grant Fund	317	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,750.00	3,750.00
Urban Leaders Institute -	318	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	766.62	766.62
Theological Education for	319	0.00	0.00	(133.09)	0.00	3,310.00	3,176.91
Restricted		604,303.08	16,829.52	(32,072.67)	0.00	2,082.22	587,965.24
Stewardship Education	401	(2,046.00)	1,500.00	(1,810.00)	0.00	9,086.55	6,730.55
Bridgebuilders Fund	405	0.00	0.00	(22.25)	0.00	22.25	0.00
Synod Assembly Fund	407	3,998.56	0.00	(530.63)	0.00	(3,467.93)	0.00
Domestic Violence Task	409	1,652.53	0.00	(1,378.08)	0.00	0.00	274.45
World Hunger Conference	410	(1,744.54)	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,744.54	0.00
Spiritual Retreat Fund	419	(1,308.28)	7,985.00	(4,873.99)	0.00	(1,802.73)	0.00
Students Retreat Fund	420	1,965.00	490.00	(336.00)	0.00	(2,119.00)	0.00
Deans' Retreat Fund	421	720.00	0.00	(3,333.80)	0.00	2,613.80	0.00
African American Pastors &	424	(163.13)	0.00	(233.58)	0.00	0.00	(396.71)
Church Days Grant AAL	427	(511.80)	200.00	(200.00)	0.00	511.80	0.00
Fund							
Guyanese Lutheran	428	(914.38)	1,260.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	345.62
Tanzania Pilgrimage Fund	430	9,877.28	2,500.00	(2,977.90)	0.00	0.00	9,399.38
Worship Day Fund	433	1,893.94	630.00	(547.00)	0.00	(1,976.94)	0.00
Lutheran Theological Center	437	1,710.00	3,315.00	(1,950.00)	0.00	(3,075.00)	0.00
Commission for Women	440	38.00	0.00	(280.50)	0.00	242.50	0.00
Gay and Lesbian	443	6,635.37	0.00	(1,708.39)	0.00	0.00	4,926.98
Urban Leaders Institute -	445	(2,869.80)	40,249.00	(29,612.58)	(7,000.00)	(766.62)	(0.00)
All Other	Other	27,957.17	845.00	(1,251.74)	0.00	(20,655.91)	6,894.52
Liability		46,889.92	58,974.00	(51,046.44)	(7,000.00)	(19,642.69)	28,174.79

Metropolitan New York Synod
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
From 2/1/2004 Through 12/31/2004

		Balances	Income	Expense	Transfers	Transfers	1/31/05
Ministral Education Fund	501	9,422.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,422.00
Samuel Trexler Fund	502	124,272.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	124,272.00
Martin Luther King Fund	503	19,012.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19,012.00
E. Kreider Fund	504	3,124.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,124.00
Kreider Memorial Fund	505	14,266.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14,266.00
Wieskotten Fund	506	7,639.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,639.00
St. James/Stechman Fund	507	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00
Bishop James Graefe Fund	508	59,458.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	59,458.00
Berwager Fund	509	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
M Bratland Fund	510	65,097.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	65,097.36
Tanzania Endowment Fund	511	42,764.45	109,753.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	152,518.25
Endowme		357,054.81	109,753.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	466,808.61
Designated Gifts	600	(0.34)	180,151.35	(198,038.55)	0.00	0.00	(17,887.54)
Hope Scarsdale	701	0.00	2,284,132.64	(61,603.00)	0.00	(672,996.88)	1,549,532.76
Good Shepherd Scarsdale	704	0.00	0.00	(68,058.55)	0.00	0.00	(68,058.55)
Holy Trinity Hollis	705	0.00	2,200,000.00	(452,899.84)	0.00	0.00	1,747,100.16
Redeemer Lutheran	709	0.00	2,614,751.21	(20,766.28)	0.00	(2,593,984.93)	0.00
Atonement Staten Island	710	0.00	2,382,676.57	(114,637.55)	0.00	(271,209.36)	1,996,829.66
St. Paul Valley Stream	711	0.00	0.00	(26,959.01)	0.00	0.00	(26,959.01)
Holy Trinity School	712	0.00	177,758.11	(227,096.58)	0.00	0.00	(49,338.47)
Christ Yonkers	713	0.00	60,000.00	(2,800.00)	0.00	0.00	57,200.00
Legacy		0.00	9,659,318.53	(972,020.81)	0.00	(3,538,191.17)	5,149,106.55
Total Programs		<u>5,164,067.67</u>	<u>12,346,953.22</u>	<u>(4,555,583.38)</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>12,952,260.60</u>

Attachment B

Status of Unrestricted Funds after 2004, 2005 2006

Rev A

File: 2006 Budget

The use of Unrestricted Funds to support the budget is not unlimited. This schedule shows that after 2006, the Bishop's Mission Fund, and the Metropolitan NY Synod Fund will be almost depleted. Further expenditure of our investments dollars mean that some of the other commitments we have made no longer have underlying cash or assets to cover the "promises" for various Restricted purposes, such as the Mission Re-Development Fund.

Bishop's Mission Fund

Adjusted Balance 1/31/05	455,317
Applied to 2005	(184,700)
Applied to 2006	(135,000)
Net Balance 1/31/07	<u>135,617</u>

Metropolitan NY Synod Fund

	Fund #201	Tithe from Net Proc.	Fund #200
Adjusted Balance 1/31/05	(384,699)	188,156	228,142
Applied to 2005		(200,000)	(191,150)
Applied to 2006			
Net Balance 1/31/07	<u>(384,699)</u>	<u>(11,844)</u>	<u>36,992</u>
Cross Ttotal			

Mission Re-Development Fund

Adjusted Balance 1/31/05	Note 1	3,356,617
	Note 2	565,250
Applied to 2005		0
Applied to 2006		(276,700)
Net Balance 1/31/07		<u>3,645,167</u>

Note 1

Includes \$1,065,000 earmarked as Christ Yonkers Chapel Reserve

Note 2

Represents a separately invested reserve for payment of a liability to Sunrise Development for construction (payment will begin in 2005)

Unreal Gn

1,136,430

(400,000)

736,430

376,879

Attachment D

TYPICAL BUDGET CATEGORIES

In the last several years, both from deficits, and actions to move to a balanced budget, we have relied heavily on the application of Unrestricted Funds.

If you look at major elements in our typical budgets the following categories give a picture of our revenue and expenses, and the large dependency we have on such Unrestricted Funds.

The following is typical, although they are specifically rounded from the 2005 budget.

Sources of Revenue

Mission Support	1,500,000	
Designated Gifts	150,000	
Grants	400,000	
Charged to Unrestricted Funds	600,000	
Charged to Other Funds (matching Exp)	100,000	
Interest on Investment, Other	250,000	
Sales of Properties Under Mgmt	not applicable	
Total		3,000,000

Expenses

ELCA Contribution of Mission Support	680,000	
Pay out of Designated Gifts	150,000	
Salaries & Benefits	900,000	
Benefits	200,000	
Travel	80,000	
Partnership Grants	190,000	
Education Grants	120,000	
Candidacy	30,000	
Tanzania Teachers Salary & Benfits	50,000	
Expenses related to other Fund Projects	100,000	
Communications/Publications	50,000	
Development (other than salaries)	20,000	
Overhead (Rent, Xerox, Insurance)	430,000	
Total		3,000,000

Net Income

0

Attachment E

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	
1					OPERATING FUND					REV D	
2					Metropolitan New York Synod					2/26/05	
3					2006						
4											
5		CODING			REVENUE					From	Resp
6	GL Code	Program	Function	Category	FY05 Budget	FY06	Descriptions/Comments	Line from			
7			(Suggested)			Estimated	If different from 2005	9-16-04 Budget			
8			11	Contributions from Congregations							
9				Undesignated Mission Support	1,500,000	1,400,000	Fin Mgmt Comm 2/22/05	6			
10				Designated ELCA Projects	150,000	150,000	Moved to Fund #1, with Rev & Exp	7			
11				Designated MNYS Projects	50,000	50,000	available for each element	7			
12				Total Contributions from Congregations	1,700,000	1,600,000					
13											
14			11	Grants & Other Contributions							
15				ELCA - Division for Outreach	95,000	95,000	Anglada -Outreach	9			
16				ELCA - Foundation	45,000	45,000	Dev Office Salary	11			
17				ELCA - Div for Congregational Ministries	26,673	24,673	Stew. Staff Salary -06 estimate	12			
18				ELCA - Div for Ministry - Horizon Grant	12,660	12,660	Cong Life	13			
19				ELCA - Evangelism Grant Fund (#317. fmr #403)		3,750	New - See Function 32				
20				ELCA - Directed Partnership Grants			New Source for 2005				
21				Other grants & contributions	10,000	2,000	Up to \$12,000 into #315,408,437	41		CCD	
22				Bishop's Appeal	25,000	25,000	Same as 2005	44			
23				LDRNY - GZ Mission Starts See LDRNY Note	141,586	141,586	Outreach - Ground Zero	15			
24				LDRNY - Staff Time Reim See LDRNY Note	15,000	15,000	Candidacy	18			
25				LDRNY - Immigrant Relief See LDRNY Note	36,000	36,000	Asian Ministries	19			
26				LDRNY - Expenses See LDRNY Note	2,500	2,500	Other	20			
27				LDRNY - Special Studies Grant See LDRNY Note				Replaces 16			
28				Total Grants & Other Contributions	409,419	403,169					
29											
30			12	Special Events						GM	
31				Assembly	0	0	Will show only net income	36			
32				St. Olaf Concert	20,000	0	Only in 2005	45		TA	
33				Church Day (Fund # 427)	0	0		35		ADA	
34				Lutheran Theological Center (Fund #437)	0	0	\$3K grant for "Gen. Seminary"	35		CCD	
35				Ministry Among Guyanese (Fund #428)	0	0	Delete, its their money	35		TA	
36				Bishops Retreat Fund (Fund #419)	0	0	See Function 52	35		GM	
37				TZ Pilgrimage (Fund #430)	0	0		35		GM	
38				Group Term Life Insurance (New Fund # 446)	0	0	See Function 51	35		GM	
39				Background Checks - Sem. Candidates (Fund 447)			See Function 51	n/a			
40				Worship Day (Fund #433)	0	0		35		GM	
41				Luth Identity/Ecumenical Init (Fund # 408)		0	\$4K Thrivent Grant Expected			CCD	
42				Other grants & contributions		0	Shld have room for all "400" #s	41		CCD	
43				Total Special Events	20,000	0					
44											

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
6	GL Code	Program	Function	Category	FY05 Budget	FY06	Descriptions/Comments	Line from		
45			13	Transfers from Other Funds						
46				Bishop's Mission Fund						
47				TZ Teachers Current	49,700			23		
48				General Budget Support	135,000	135,000	Gen. Budget Support = 2005	24		
49				Ind. Gift flowing Through Fund	45,000	45,000	Ind Gift for Dev Off Salary thru BMF	48		
50				Theo. Educ. for Emerging Ministries (Fund#319)	7,000		Some of costs will be BMF-4603			
51				Metro New York Synod Fund						
52				General Budget Support	191,150	200,000		25		
53				From Net Proceeds from Sales for Operations	200,000	200,000	Accrued from Sale Proceeds	26		
54				Mission Re-Development Fund						
55				General Budget Support		227,000	New Starts, Ptn Grants			
56				TZ Teachers Current		49,700	TZ Teachers Current = to 2005			
57				Other funds						
58				Bishops Retreat Fund (Fund #419)	3,000		Not in 2006 budget, 400 acct			
59				Latino (Fund #314)	10,300	6,000	Cong. Life	28		
60				Trexler (Inc from Fund #502; #301))	6,000	6,000	Cong. Life	29		
61				Urban Leaders Institute - (Fund #318)	30,000	30,000	Per TA 2-24-05			TA
62				Urban Empowerment (Fund #308#)	25,000	25,000	Cong. Life - to supp. TA exp est	31		
63				Women and Children in Poverty (Fund #311)	2,000	2,000	Synod Life - Match exp est	32		
64				Commission on Evangelical Outreach (Fund #315)		8,000	\$8K Crusader Grant			
65				Lutheran Identity/Ecumenical Initiative (Fund #320)			Fmr #408 - see function 31			
66				Youth Ministry Fund (Fund #204)	19,000	19,000	Synod Life, II	33		
67				Theo. Educ. for Emerging Ministries (Fund#319)	3,000	0	Some of costs will be BMF-4603			
68				Total Transfers from Other Funds	726,150	952,700				
69										
70			14	Other Income						
71				Investment Income	162,000	170,000	5% of 3 yr avg. of Invests.	21		
72				Other	10,000	10,000		47		
73				Rental Income	22,000	22,000	Three Sub Leases	43		
74				Lutheran Schools Assoc						
75				Lutheran Counseling Services						
76				Wheatridge						
77				Total Other Income	194,000	202,000				
78										
79				Total Revenue	3,049,569	3,157,869		49		
80										

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
6	GL Code	Program	Function	Category	FY05 Budget	FY06	Descriptions/Comments	Line from		
81					EXPENSES					Resp
82				SYNOD OUTREACH (Synod Programs Beyond Synod)						
83			30	I. Synod Outreach - ELCA and Other Distribution						
84				ELCA Mission Support	647,500	602,000	45.5% of MS, less \$35,000	52	Contri	
85				ELCA Designated Projects	150,000	150,000	All of ELCA Designated	53A	Des Con	
86				MNYS Designated Projects	50,000	50,000	All of Synod Designated	53B	Des. Cont.	
87				Region 7 Coordinating Council	7,435	7,435	Same as 2005	54	Des Con	GM
88				Total Synod Outreach - ELCA and Other Distr	854,935	809,435				
89										
90			31	II. Synod Outreach - All Other Programs						
91				Salaries	96,457	99,351	Anglada, 1/3 MT, 1/3 PL	248		n/a
92				Salaries (2005 shown as 1/2 Mills)	40,542	0	1/2 Vacant Position			
93				Pension and Benefits	18,081	19,691	Anglada, 1/3 MT, 1/3 PL	246		n/a
94				Pension and Benefits (2005 shown as 1/2 Mills)	10,225	(0)	1/2 Vacant Position			
95				Salaries (520X))	75,000	75,000	Hoffman	234	SO	GM
96				Benefits (520X)	24,285	26,446	Hoffman	237	SO	GM
97				Travel and Entertainment (Hoffman)	6,128	6,496	6% Inc			
98				Salaries (520X))	36,000	36,000	Wu	235	SO	ADA
99				Training and Professiona Development	4,000	4,000		266	SO	ADA
100				Travel & Entertainment (Anglada)	10,000	10,000		267	SO	ADA
101				Office Supplies	1,500	1,500		249	SO	MT
102				Lutheran Statewide Advocacy	3,500	3,500		205	SL	TA
103				Global Mission Event Scholarship	1,000	1,000		232	SO	GM
104				NYS Council of Churches	400	400		202	SL	TA
105				Council of Churches of the City of New York	500	500		203	SL	TA
106				LI Council of Churches	200	200		201	SL	TA
107				Companion Synod Tanzania (Teacher Exchange)	10,000	10,000		225	SO	GM
108				Companion Synod Teacher Salaries	24,000	24,000	Only net expense shown	226	SO	GM
109				Companion Synod Teacher Benefits	14,700	14,700		227	SO	GM
110				Travel & Entertainment (Tanzania)	23,500	10,000	See Function 500	117	CL	GM
111				Companion Synod Other	1,000	1,000		228	SO	none
112				TZ Pilgrimage (Fund #430)	0	0	Only net expense shown	229	SO	GM
113				Luth Identity/Ecumenical Init (Fund # 320)		0	\$4K Thrivent Grant Expected			CCD
114				Total Other Synod Outreach - All Other	401,019	343,784				
115										
116				Total Synod Outreach	1,255,954	1,153,219				
117										

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
6	GL Code	Program	Function	Category	FY05 Budget	FY06	Descriptions/Comments	Line from		
118			40	SYNOD LIFE (Synod Programs for Entire Synod)						
119				I. Synod Life - Education (Grants to Educational Activities by Synod)						
120				Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education	42,515	42,515		162	ED	GM
121				Lutheran Schools Association	8,750	8,750		163	ED	GM
122				Student Christian Center at SUNY New Paltz	13,225	13,225		164	ED	GM
123				Philadelphia Seminary	54,000	54,000		165	ED	GM
124				Total Synod Life - Education	118,490	118,490				
125										
126			41	II. Synod Life - Other Programs						
127				Salaries	72,240	74,407	Aguilar & \$10K Receptionists	210	MIX	n/a
128				Pension & Benefits	22,136	24,106	Aguilar + 180 Receptionists	207	MIX	n/a
129				Training & Prof. Development	1,000	1,000		212	SL	TA
130				Travel & Entertainment (Aguilar)	6,500	6,500		213-218	SL	TA
131				Office Supplies	2,000	2,000		211	SL, SO	GM
132				Commission for Gay & Lesbian Ministries	5,000	5,000		295	COM	ADA
133				Worship Events & Ordinations	3,000	3,000		70	BO	SPB
134				Youth Ministries (Supported by Fund #204)	14,000	14,000	Incl. \$4K for 1 yr of Servant Prog.	128,129	CL	GM
135				Outdoor Ministries (Supported by Fund #204)	5,000	5,000		106-109	CL	GM
136				Bishop's Retreat Scholarships (Fund #419)	0	0	Moved to Function 52	n/a		CCD
137				Hunger Committee	1,500	1,500		204	SL	TA
138				Women/Children in Poverty (Sup'ted by Fund #311)	2,000	2,000		221	SL	TA
139				Domestic Violence Awareness Task Force	1,000	1,000		297	COM	CVB
140				Ministry Among Guyanese (Fund #428)	0	0	Delete, its their money	206	SL	TA
141				Other	1,000	1,000		222	SL	TA
142				Total Other Synod Life - Other Programs	136,376	140,513				
143										
144				Total Synod Life	254,866	259,003				
145										

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
6	GL Code	Program	Function	Category	FY05 Budget	FY06	Descriptions/Comments	Line from		
146				CONGREGATIONAL LIFE (Programs and Services to Synod Leaders and Individual Congregations)						
147			50	I Congregational Life - Shared Expenses						
148				Salaries	69,004	71,074	Kolbo, Hurst, 2/3 MT & PL	114	Mix	n/a
149				Salaries (2005 shown as 1/2 Mills)	40,542	0	1/2 Vacant Position			
150				Pension & Benefits	15,205	16,558	Kolbo, Hurst, 2/3 MT & PL	110	Mix	n/a
151				Pension and Benefits (2005 shown as 1/2 Mills)	10,225	(50)	1/2 Vacant Position			
152				Training & Prof. Development	2,000	2,000		116	CL	GM
153				Travel & Entertainment (Mills)	10,000	18,500	See Function 350	119-123	CL	GM
154				Office Supplies	3,500	3,500		115	CL	GM
155				Total Congregational Life - Shared Expenses	150,475	111,582				
156										
157			51	II Congregational Life - Programs & Services to Leaders						
158				Candidacy						
159				Background Checks - Sem. Candidates (Fund 447)		0	As directed by ELCA	n/a		
160				Psych Evaluations	4,500	10,000		85	CL	GM
161				Hispanic Psych Evaluations	8,250	6,000	Too diff estimates, use higher	86	CL	GM.TA
162				Committee Expense (Candidacy)	3,000	0	Duplicates other areas - del.	87	CL	GM
163				Meetings (trips for Staff)	0	3,000		88	CL	GM
164				Retreat	5,000	5,000		89	CL	GM
165				Travel & Entertainment (Candidacy Committee)	2,000	2,000		90	CL	GM
166				Travel and Entertainment (Candidacy Staff)	6,000	3,000	Combined with "meetings"	91	CL	GM
167				Travel & Entertainment (Candidates)	1,000	1,000		92	CL	GM
168				Rostered Deacons & Diaconate	500	500		112	CL	GM
169				Diakonia	250	250		95	CL	GM
170				Latino Diakonia (Supported by Fund #314)	300	1,000		99	CL	GM
171				Latino Laity (Supported by Fund #314)	10,000	5,000		100	CL	ADA
172				Black Pastors	500	750		199	SL	TA
173				Urban Leaders Institute (Fund #318)	23,000	30,000	New Funding	220	SL	TA
174				Commission for Women	1,000	1,000		296	COM	GM
175				Group Term Life Insurance (New Fund # 446)	0	0	Only net expense shown	96	CL	GM
176				Lutheran Theological Center (Fund #437)	0	0	\$3K grant for "Gen. Seminary"	102	CL	GM
177				Orientation of New Pastors	500	500		104	CL	GM
178				Trexler Grants (Inc frm Fund # 502; #301)	6,000	6,000		124	CL	CCD
179				Total Congregational Life - Programs & Services to Leaders	71,800	75,000				
180										

6	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
6	GL Code	Program	Function	Category	FY05 Budget	FY06	Descriptions/Comments	Line from		
181			52	III Congregational Life - Programs & Services to Congregations						
182				Commission for Evangelical Outreach						
183				Building Repairs/Evaluations (Fund # 315)	2,000	2,000		288		GM
184				Cumminications/mailings (Fund # 315)	2,000	2,000		289		GM
185				Counseling Services/Research (Fund # 315)	500	500		290		GM
186				Office Supplies (Fund # 315)	1,000	1,000		291		GM
187				Travel & Entertainment (CEO Comm.)(Fund #315)	6,500	6,500	Includes Meals and Enter	292		GM
188				No longer applicable	0	0	Combined with CEO Comm	293		GM
189				Traning/ Prof Development (Fund # 315)	500	500		294		GM
190				CEO Coordinators (Fund #315)		4,500				
191				ELCA - Evangelism Grant Fund (#317)		3,750				TA
192				Bishop's Retreat Fund (Fund # 419)	3,000	0	Only net exp. In 2006	Moved from Func 350		
193				Church Day (Fund # 427)	0	0	Only net expense shown	93	CL	ADA
194				Worship Day (Fund #433)			Only net expense shown			
195				Congregational Resources	6,000	6,000		94	CL	GM
196				HIV Task Force	200	200		97	CL	ADA
197				Horizon Intershops	25,320	25,320		98	CL	GM
198				Theo. Ed. For Emerging Ministries (Fund #319)	10,000	0	TEEM Grant	n/a		GM
199				Urban Empowerment Fnd Grts (Sup by Fund #308)	23,000	25,000		219	SL	TA
200				Partnership Grants to Congregations			Only total on Monthly Financials		SO	ADA
201				Christ, Ellenville	2,375	4,000		251		ADA
202				First/Grace, Jeffersonville	5,700	7,000		252		ADA
203				Holy Redeemer, Brooklyn	9,500	11,000		253		ADA
204				Holy Trinity (Swahili), Hollis	14,725	16,000		254		ADA
205				Iglesia Resurrection, Hempstead	8,000	10,000		256		ADA
206				Kalam Taiwanese Lutheran Church'	11,400	13,000		257		ADA
207				New Hope, Brox (PR Thomas)	27,350	29,000		258		ADA
208				Reformation LC -Brooklyn	9,500	11,000		260		ADA
209				Salam Arabic Lutheran - Brooklyn	11,400	13,000		261		ADA
210				St. Paul, Brooklyn	4,750	3,500		262		ADA
211				St. Peter, Bronx	9,500	11,000		263		ADA
212				Transfiguration, Bronx	9,500	11,000		264		ADA
213				Trinity Lower East Side, New York	14,250	16,000		265		ADA
214				Undesignaed	6,500	0		239		ADA
215				Atonement-Jackson Hieghts	3,500	6,000		240		ADA
216				Reserved	6,000	6,500		241		ADA
217				St. Luke's Latino	6,000	8,000		242		ADA
218				Trinity 18th Ave Brooklyn'	2,000	4,000		243		ADA
219				Trinity 100th Street	2,000	3,000		244		ADA
220				Zion 119th Street	7,200	12,000		245		ADA
221				Emergency New Starts		10,000				
222				Kingston Latino		12,000				
223				Cristo - Freeport		10,000				
224				Holy Trinity Swahili (Hollis) Support	20,000	0	Charged to Hollis Value	231	SO	GM
225				Total Cong. Life - Programs and Services to Cong.	271,170	304,270				
226										
227				Total Congregatonal Life	493,445	490,852				

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
6	GL Code	Program	Function	Category	FY05 Budget	FY06	Descriptions/Comments	Line from		
228										
229			60	DEVELOPMENT (Fundraising activities for Synod and Beyond)						
230				Salaries	172,044	177,205	Wollenburg, Duever, 2/3 Daniels	150	GIV	n/a
231				Pension & Benefits	34,575	37,652	Wollenburg, Duever, 2/3 Daniels	136	GIV	n/a
232				Training & Professional Development	600	3,200	Includes \$2K CCD	153	GIV	RGW
233				Travel & Entertainment (Wollenburg)	10,400	13,500		155-159	GIV	RGW
234				Travel & Entertainment (Duever)		5,000				
235				Office Supplies	1,000	1,750	Includes \$500 CCD	152	GIV	DDD
236				Printing	1,900	7,900				
237				Postage & Shipping	2,000		Was Printing AND Postage	137,138	GIV	RGW
238				Special Fundraising Projects	5,000	3,000		149	GIV	RGW
239				SMO Agency Events	4,000	9,000		139-148	GIV	RGW
240				Stewardship	0	5,500		151	GIV	RGW
241				Total Development	231,519	263,707				
242										
243			70	BISHOPS OFFICE						
244				Salaries (2005 shown as Bouman, Beck, Strunck)	217,702	226,487	Bouman, Mills, Strunck	59	MIX	GM
245				Pension & Benefits (2005-Bouman, Beck, Strunck)	67,143	73,501	Bouman, Mills, Strunck	57	MIX	GM
246				Training & Professional Development	2,000	2,000		61	BO	GM
247				Travel & Entertainment (Bouman)	15,750	15,750		63-69	BO	GM
248				Office Supplies	2,000	2,000		60	BO	GM
249				Postage & Shipping	500	500		58	BO	GM
250				Other	5,000	5,000		71	BO	GM
251				Total Bishop's Office	310,095	325,238				
252										
253			80	SYNOD GOVERNANCE (Expenses of Governing Entities within Synod)						
254				Synod Assembly	0	0	Net income only on Rev Line	179-194	GOV	JS
255				Synod Council	5,000	5,000		195	GOV	JS
256				Synod Council Committees	8,200	8,200		170-177	GOV	JS
257				Committee Expense (Archives and Historian)	1,200	1,200		198	SL	TA
258				Committee Expense (Worship Committee)	450	450		131	CL	GM
259				Total Synod Governance	14,850	14,850				
260										

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
6	GL Code	Program	Function	Category	FY05 Budget	FY06	Descriptions/Comments	Line from		
261			90	COMMUNICATIONS AND PR						
262				E-Letter, List Serv, hosting	1,200	1,200		278	COM	wh
263				Website Maintenance	4,000	5,000	per Wendy Healy	279	COM	wh
264				Professional Services (Public Relations)	24,000	42,000	Includes Wendy Healy	280	COM	TA
265				Synod Publications						
266				Metroscope		0		282	COM	BH
267				Lutheran New Yorker	25,000	23,925	10% over \$21,750 per WH in 05	283	COM	wh
268				Postage & Shipping - Publications	6,000	6,000		284	COM	BH
269				Printing	3,000	3,000		285	COM	MT
270				Fees & PR	500	500		286	COM	TA
271				Total Communications and PR	63,700	81,625				
272										
273			91	OFFICE SERVICES (Shared Office Expenses)						
274				Business Office						
275				Salaries	37,051	38,163	Hofstедder, 1/3 Daniels	76	MIX	n/a
276				Pension & Benefits	4,344	4,731	Hofstедder, 1/3 Daniels	74	MIX	n/a
277				Training & Professional Development	1,000	1,000	Same as 2005	79	BIZ	rhb
278				Travel & Entertainment (Business Office)	1,000	1,000	Same as 2005	80	BIZ	rhb
279				No longer Applicable	0	0	Included in other "off. Supplies"	78	BIZ	rhb
280				Shipping	500	500		75	BIZ	rhb
281				Professional Services (Accounting)	100,000	103,000	Staff Accountant and Benfits	77	BIZ	rhb
282				Payroll Service Fees		2,200	10% over 2004 Act			
283				Bank Fees		4,000	Same as 2004 Act			
284				Vending Machine Merchandise		4,800	Same as 2004 Act			
285				Insurance, FICA				301	OPS	Parker
286				Rent & Facility Management	177,482	200,555	Assume 13% over 2004 Act	317	OPS	None
287				Property & Liability Insurance		6,800	6% over 1/1/05 bill			
288				Workmens Comp Insurance, State Unem Ins.		8,100	10% over 2004 Act			
289				Car Insurance		1,800	8% over 2004 Act			
290				D&O Insurance		2,800	6% over 1/1/05 bill			
291				Telephone	13,000	21,000	8% over 2004 Act	319	OPS	PAL
292				Lease on Copiers	15,000	15,000	May be part of Xero Copy Chgs	304	OPS	GM
293				Office Supplies	6,500	16,000	8% over 2004 Act	311	OPS	MT
294				Management Information System	16,600	20,200	8% over 2004 Act	307-310	OPS	PAL
295				Internet	3,600	3,600	6% over 2005	302		PAL
296				Maintenacnce and Repair		18,600	4% over 2004 Act			
297				Postage & Shipping	13,500	20,000	10% over 2004 Act	312-314	OPS	PAL
298				Lease on Postage Machine	4,500	4,500	10% over 2004 Act	305		DDD
299				Printing	10,000	4,400	8% over 2004 Act	315	OPS	GM
300				Printing (Xerox payments, supplies)		62,000	8% over 2004 Act, not GM			rhb
301				Professional Services (Audit)	15,000	25,000	2004 was \$31,900, not	316	OPS	rhb
302				Other	1,063	0		323	BIZ	GM
303				Miscl	5,000	5,000		81		rhb
304				Total Synod Offices Services	425,140	594,748				
305										
306				Total Expenses	3,049,569	3,183,242				
307										
308				Net Income (loss)	0	(25,373)				
309										

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
6	GL Code	Program	Function	Category	FY05 Budget	FY06	Descriptions/Comments	Line from		
310										
311				CAPITAL BUDGET						
312						0				
313						0				
314						0				
315										
316				Total Capital Budget		0				
317										
318										
319										
320										
321		Notes of Revisions								
322										
323		Rev A -		2005 numbers matched Rev F of reformatted budget						
324		Rev B -		2005 numbers matched Rev G of reformatted budget, picking up Rev A of 2006 amounts.						
325		Rev C -		Inclusion of initial staff inputs, 2/23/05						
326		Rev D -		Inclusion of name changes in 2005 c/a exercise, adjustment of staff changes 3-7-05						
327										
328				Notes						
329				General Salary Increase Factor		1.030				
330				Benefits Cost Increase (See Note (1))		1.089				
331										
332				Note (1)						
333				Benefits for 2005 budget were computed at 5% over actual 2004, but did not						
334				reflect 3.9% increase in compensation. Therefore Benefits increase over the						
335				2005 budget should be 3.9% higher than ELCA might say is						
336				increase in benefit cost 2006 over 2005						
337										
338										
339				Increase in Expenses over \$2,882,383 of 2004		110.438%				
340										
341										
342										

Attachment F

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MANHATTAN
IGLESIA LUTERANA TRINIDAD
RESOLUTION OF THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL
REQUESTING ACTION BY THE SYNOD COUNCIL

WHEREAS, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Manhattan, a congregation of the Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), has fully welcomed lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people for the past two decades; and

WHEREAS, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Manhattan provided a place of pastoral and material comfort for people dying from and living with AIDS from the earliest days of the epidemic, when many were denied full care because of their sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Manhattan has for several years been a Reconciling in Christ Congregation, and as such welcomes all people, including gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender individuals and couples as fully participating members of our ministry; and

WHEREAS, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Manhattan affirms that bisexual, transgender, lesbian, and gay people are regularly at risk of physical, emotional, and spiritual harm when policies, institutions, and cultural assumptions discriminate against them in favor of heterosexuals; and

WHEREAS, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Manhattan believes that churches gravely damage transgender, bisexual, lesbian, and gay people when they refuse to bless people in committed same-sex relationships and refuse to approve and call candidates who are in them; and

WHEREAS, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Manhattan desires that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America recognize the precious gifts that its gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender members have to offer as lay members and as rostered leaders; and

WHEREAS, the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, to which the Metropolitan New York Synod Council relates, will consider at its regular meeting on April 8-11 the "Report and Recommendations of the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality" in preparation for the 2005 Churchwide Assembly,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Congregation Council of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church ("the Congregation Council") REQUESTS the Metropolitan New York Synod Council ("the Synod Council") take the following TWO actions in response to the aforesaid "Report."

ACTION 1: The Congregation Council requests that the Synod Council consider and pass the following resolution, in these words or others to similar effect:

"BE IT RESOLVED, that with regard to candidacy processes for rostered persons, it shall be the policy of the Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to approve and call partnered gay and lesbian candidates who are otherwise in compliance with Vision and Expectations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that with regard to discipline processes for rostered people and congregations, it shall be the policy of the Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to refrain from disciplining partnered gay and lesbian people who have been so approved and called and the congregations that call them."

ACTION 2: The Congregation Council requests that the Synod Council consider and pass the following resolution, in these words or others to similar effect, and that, pursuant to §14.21.11 of the

Constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Synod Council transmit such resolution to the Church Council of the ELCA in time for that Council's meeting of April 8-11, 2005:

"BE IT RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod believes that Recommendation Three of the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality strikes a necessary balance between those who favor the approval and call of candidates who are in committed same-sex relationships; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod expresses its concern that Recommendation Three may create confusion in that it affirms a disciplinary policy that excludes people in committed same-sex relations from rostered ministry yet permits synods and congregations not to enforce this policy; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod recognizes that some synods and congregations do and will want to approve and call people in committed same-sex relationships, while other synods and congregations do not and will not want to approve and call them; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod asks that the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America recommend the following changes for the approval of the 2005 Churchwide Assembly, in order to allow the church to remain together even while disagreeing:

*(A) The sentence in Guidelines for Discipline currently reading '**Practicing homosexual persons are precluded from the ordained ministry in this church**' will read: '**Although some synods and congregations will approve and call people in committed same-sex relationships and some synods and congregations will not, people in heterosexual and homosexual relationships will be held to the same standards of sexual conduct for the rostered ministries of this church.**'*

*(B) The sentence in Vision and Expectations currently reading '**Ordained ministers who are homosexual in their self-understanding are expected to abstain from homosexual sexual relationships**' will read '**All ordained ministers, whatever their sexual self-understanding, will honor the gift of sexuality in accordance with standards of this church**'; and be it further*

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod asks that the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America develop and recommend for the approval of the 2005 Churchwide Assembly of standardized policies detailing the chaste and faithful behaviors that are expected of all rostered leaders regardless of whether that person is heterosexual or homosexual."

APPROVED by the Congregation Council at its regular meeting of MARCH 8, 2005, in witness whereof we have hereunder set our hands:

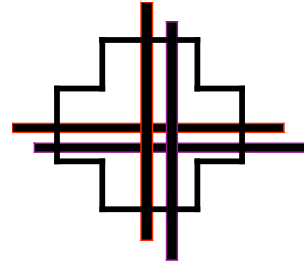
[signed]

Joy Gramolini [Treasurer]
Kevin Lotz [Vice President]
Joyce Grady
Pastor Heidi Neumark
Lydie Raschka [Secretary]
Roger F. Stoltz [President]
Jennifer Graves
Abraham Gil
Guadalupe Gutierrez

Attachment G

**TRINITY LOWER EAST SIDE
LUTHERAN PARISH**

602 EAST 9TH STREET
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10009-5239
212/228-5254 212/674-3872 FAX
pt159@aol.com



March 14, 2005

RESOLUTION FOR THE METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD TO PASS ON
TO THE CHURCHWIDE COUNCIL of the Evangelical Church in America

Whereas Trinity Lower East Side Lutheran Parish affirms the church teaching that the waters of Baptism provide entry into all aspects of ministry, and

Whereas Trinity Lower East Side Lutheran Parish is committed to the full inclusion of all its members in every aspect of the church's life and ministry, and opposes all forms of discrimination against gay and lesbian people, and

Whereas Trinity Lower East Side Lutheran Parish desires to consider any candidate for pastoral service, including partnered gay and lesbian candidates, who are otherwise in compliance with Vision and Expectations, therefore be it

Resolved, that Trinity Lower East Side memorialize the Metropolitan Synod of New York and the Churchwide Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to support the ordination of gay and lesbian persons, including those in committed relationships, and be it further

Resolved, that Trinity Lower East Side memorialize the Metropolitan Synod of New York and the Churchwide Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to support the blessing of same- sex unions.

Signed,

Pastor Philip Trzynka and the Church Council of Trinity Lower East Side Lutheran Parish

602 E. 9th St.

New York, New York 10009

Attachment

H

A Resolution to Commend the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality

1 The Metropolitan New York Synod Council expresses its appreciation and thanks for the work of the Task Force in assisting this church in discerning the witness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as we prayerfully seek the Spirit's guidance in addressing the lives and service of faithful gay and lesbian Christians.

2 The Metropolitan New York Synod Council supports wholeheartedly the Task Force recommendation that in the midst of our disagreements we remain committed to living together believing that Christ calls us to be faithful to each other. We are grateful for the Biblically-based study process that engaged us together in building up the Body of Christ.

3 The Metropolitan New York Synod Council appreciates the sensitivity to all parties embodied in the recommendation that appropriate prayerful support of same-sex couples continue to be a matter for pastoral discretion.

4 The Metropolitan New York Synod Council supports the recommendation that this church need not always seek to administer discipline where a committed partnered gay or lesbian rostered person is called to or engaged in faithful ministry to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

5 The Metropolitan New York Synod Council favors language in *Guidelines for Discipline* and *Vision and Expectations* which would clarify and guide the recommendation that pastoral discretion may be used with regard to the discipline of partnered gay or lesbian rostered persons. This clarity could be provided by revising the sentence

Practicing homosexual persons are precluded from the ordained ministry of this church.

in *Guidelines for Discipline* along these lines:

Homosexual persons whose sexual conduct is deemed to be incompatible with the standards for rostered ministers of this church shall be subject to the discipline of this church.

and by revising the sentence in *Visions and Expectations*

Ordained ministers who are homosexual in their self-understanding are expected to abstain from homosexual sexual relationships.

in the following (or some similar) way:

Ordained ministers who are homosexual in their self-understanding are expected to honor the gift of human sexuality and the standards of this church taking care not to be a stumbling block to the faith of others.

We believe these suggested revisions will enable the third of the Task Force's recommendations, foster an atmosphere of trust, and continue our process of dialogue and discernment under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

BACKGROUND: TEXTS AT ISSUE

Task Force Report

Part One: Recommendations

The Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality recommends that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America continue under the standards regarding sexual conduct for rostered leaders as set forth in Vision and Expectations and Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline, but that as a pastoral response to the deep divisions among us, this church may choose to refrain from disciplining those who in good conscience, and for the sake of outreach, ministry, and the commitment to continuing dialogue, call or approve partnered gay or lesbian candidates whom they believe to be otherwise in compliance with Vision and Expectations and to refrain from disciplining those roster people so approved and called.

Part Two: Rationale for Task Force Recommendations

Therefore, though our recommendations do not establish new policy or change existing policy, they do appeal for respect for one another's bound consciences as a matter of pastoral concern.

Vision and Expectations: Ordained Ministers in the ELCA

Sexual conduct. The expectations of this church regarding the sexual conduct of its ordained ministers are grounded in the understanding that human sexuality is a gift from God and that ordained ministers are to live in such a way as to honor this gift. Ordained ministers are expected to reject sexual promiscuity, the manipulation of others for purposes of sexual gratification, and all attempts of sexual seduction and sexual harassment, including taking physical or emotional advantage of others. Single ordained ministers are expected to live a chaste life. Married ordained ministers are expected to live in fidelity to their spouses, giving expression to sexual intimacy within a marriage relationship that is mutual, chaste, and faithful. Ordained ministers who are homosexual in their self-understanding are expected to abstain from homosexual sexual relationships.

Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline of Ordained Ministers

Sexual Matters

The biblical understanding which this church affirms is that the normative setting for sexual intercourse is marriage. In keeping with this understanding, chastity before marriage and fidelity within marriage are the norm. Adultery, promiscuity, the sexual abuse of another, or the misuse of counseling relationships for sexual favors constitute conduct that is incompatible with the character of the ministerial office. Practicing homosexual persons are precluded from the ordained ministry of this church.

Attachment I

To be submitted to the MNYS Council:

Recommendation regarding the ELCA Council actions concerning the recommendations of the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality:

Whereas, the ELCA in assembly actions in 1991 and 1995 voted “*to affirm that gay and lesbian people as individuals created by God are welcome to participate fully in the life of the congregations of the ELCA*”, and

Whereas, we understand this *welcome to participate fully . . .* to begin at the waters of baptism, and

Whereas, the Metropolitan New York Synod of the ELCA has historically voted to affirm this statement of welcome in several synodical assembly actions including a vote to become a *Reconciling in Christ Synod*, and

Whereas, the Metropolitan New York Synod has experienced a multitude of blessings from the faithful witness and service among us by gay and lesbian rostered leaders, and

Whereas, we acknowledge that within our synod and across the ELCA today there are “*faithful conscience-bound Lutherans*” who believe that partnered gay and lesbian candidates who are otherwise in compliance with *Vision and Expectations* should be allowed to be ordained, and

Whereas, we acknowledge there are other “*Faithful conscience-bound Lutherans*” within our synod and across the ELCA who believe differently, and

Whereas, we believe inequitable legislative restrictions do not allow for full respect of this diversity and hinder the integrity of our witness in seeking *ways to live together faithfully in the midst of our disagreements*, and

Whereas, we value the good order of the church and desire to be in compliance with policies and procedures of the ELCA:

Be it resolved that the undersigned rostered leaders of the Manhattan Ministerium request the Metropolitan New York Synod Council convey to the

ELCA Council our desire of a recommendation to the 2005 ELCA Churchwide Assembly that calls for the *development of standardized policies detailing the chaste and faithful behaviors that are expected of **all rostered leaders** regardless of whether that person is heterosexual or homosexual.*

Respectfully Submitted on March 12, 2005 to the MNYS Synod Council by the undersigned rostered leaders of the Manhattan Ministrium:

Name	Congregation/Agency
Ann Tiemeyer	Koinonia NYC Director/ Advent Lutheran Church
James Sudbrock	Advent Lutheran Church
J. Elise Brown	Advent Lutheran Church
Barbara K Lundbald	Advent Lutheran Church
Brooke L. Swertfager	Christ Lutheran Church
Martin Hauser	Grace & St. Paul's
Fred Weidmann	Riverside
Clint Padgitt	German Seamen's Mission of NY
Thomas S. Taylor	Lutheran Counseling Center/ Advent Lutheran Church
Philip Trzynka	Trinity Lower East Side
Carol Kessler	Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church

Attachment

J

From: Minka11520@aol.com
Subject: Response to the recommendations of the Sexuality Study Task Force
Date: March 13, 2005 5:47:18 PM EST
To: jstrunk@mnys.org
Cc: john_litke@ieee.org, cgljr@optonline.net, PJTakk@aol.com

To: Metropolitan New York Synod Council
From: Janice Lohmann, Lay member, Our Savior's Lutheran Church Glen Head, NY

I am writing in regard to the recommendations of the sexuality study task force that will be voted on this summer. I am not happy with the recommendations that were made because they are very gray. There seems to be no uniformity in the recommendation. If I decide to move from New York to another state, how can I be sure that I am going to join a church that has the same views as the one that I just moved from? I would not want to be a part of a church that is not in favor of same-sex relationships.

Of the responses you received to the Journey Together Faithfully Sexuality Study, 42% of the people 25 years old and under were in favor of allowing the blessing of those in committed same-sex relationships and in favor of ordaining those clergy that are in same-sex relationships. Although I am 35 years old, I also respond to the Sexuality Study and agree with the 42%. Where does that leave the large percentage of voters in the church? Honestly, because I am not sure what the outcome will be with the vote in August, I have started to look into other churches that might be a little more open minded. It would break my heart to leave the Lutheran Church since I was baptized and grew up in a Lutheran Church. Up until this point in time, I have always proud of my religion and involved in church. However, I don't want to be part of something that isn't accepting of all people.

In my opinion, and this is something I strongly believe, so what if I have a gay Pastor? So what if members of a committed same-sex relationship want to be blessed? Who are we to decide what is right and what is wrong? Doesn't Jesus speak of divorce as a terrible thing? Why is it then okay to have divorced people remarry again or for that matter show up in church? Jesus never said anything about homosexuality in the Bible but that isn't okay? To me, this is just a way to be exclusive. Didn't Jesus open himself up to those that were considered outcasts in society even when those around him questioned his actions? Shouldn't we open ourselves up to all people who seek to worship God?

I want to continue to be a part of the Lutheran Church and I hope that you consider carefully the policies that are presented before us. I hope and pray that the right decision will be made because the future of the Lutheran Church depends upon it. Thank you so much for your time.

Janice Lohmann
20 Central Drive
Glen Head, New York 11545
516-671-7966
minka11520@aol.com

From: "Charles G. Leib, Jr." <cgljr@optonline.net>

Date: Sun, 13 Mar 2005 13:12:05 -0500

To: Metropolitan New York Synod Council

From: Charles G. Leib, Jr. Lay member, Our Savior's Lutheran Church Glen Head, NY

Re: Response to the recommendations of the Sexuality Study Task Force

Date: March 13, 2005

I am writing to you to express my concerns over the recommendations from the Sexuality Study Task Force that will go to the assembly of our national church body in August. I am concerned that by not adopting resolutions with clear lines, the present situation in our church will not change much.

There will still be areas of our church where those in same-sex relationships will not be welcomed. Living in the Metropolitan New York area affords us many luxuries. One of the luxuries is that we are able to seek out and belong to an ELCA congregation that welcomes people that are gay/lesbian and will make them feel welcome if they are in a relationship with someone of the same sex. Notice, I say a luxury. That is unfortunate. It should not be a luxury, it should be a given. It will not be a given if the ELCA does not adopt policies that provide that peace and security to gay and lesbian people. My partner Frank and I are welcome at Our Savior's in Glen Head. Our Savior's recently adopted an Affirmation of Welcome whereby they state that all are welcome regardless of sexual orientation. I am concerned that when the day comes that Frank and I must leave this area that we will not find another ELCA congregation to welcome us. If the ELCA does not adopt policies that assure this, our search would be unduly difficult.

I am also concerned that roughly 42% of those responding to the Task Force who were 24 years old or younger were in favor of blessing and rostering. The recommendations being presented to the Assembly are not recommendations that suggest policy change across the board that would endorse blessing and rostering. This age group is the future of our church. If we adopt policies that do not address the hearts and minds of our future, we are headed for trouble.

Many say that they fear that this will cause a split in our church. I think that by adopting "don't ask, don't tell" policies, we are in fact creating breeding ground for a split. There will be those synods and congregations that will bless and roster and those that will not. This sounds like two different churches to me.

I sincerely thank you for allowing me to voice my concerns for a church that I love.

Attachment K



ELCA NEWS SERVICE

March 11, 2005

ELCA Bishops Hear Concerns, Surplus News From Presiding Bishop

05-042-JB

DALLAS (ELCA) -- While expressing gratitude for leaders in the church who prepared the report and recommendations on homosexuality released Jan. 13, the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) raised some concerns about the recommendations in his report to the ELCA Conference of Bishops.

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson also told the conference that the ELCA churchwide organization finished the 2004 fiscal year with a net surplus.

The ELCA Conference of Bishops is an advisory body of the church, consisting of the 65 ELCA synod bishops, ELCA secretary and ELCA presiding bishop. It met here March 3-7. A key part of the conference's work at this meeting was developing a response to the report for the church, as the ELCA prepares to discuss homosexuality issues at the 2005 Churchwide Assembly in Orlando, Fla., Aug. 8-14.

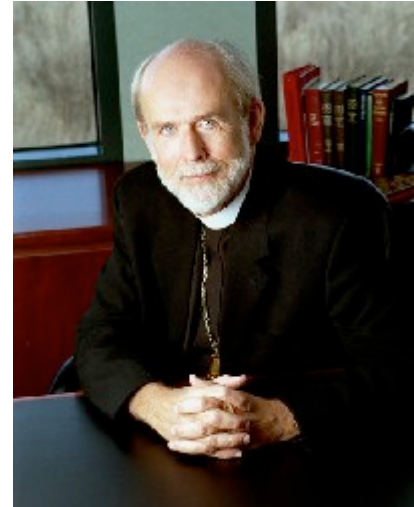
The report, the result of three years' work by a task force, included three recommendations for the assembly to consider when it is expected to answer two key questions on homosexuality: Should the church bless same-gender relationships? Should the church allow people in such relationships to serve as professional lay and ordained ministers?

The task force recommended that the ELCA:

- + concentrate on finding ways to live together faithfully in the midst of disagreements.
- + continue to respect the pastoral guidance of a 1993 statement of the ELCA Conference of Bishops opposing the blessing of homosexual relationships but remaining open to pastors wanting to provide pastoral care for gay and lesbian Lutherans.
- + continue under current standards that expect unmarried ministers to abstain from sexual relations, defining marriage as being between a man and a woman; but, respecting the consciences of those who find these standards in conflict with the mission of the church, the ELCA may choose to refrain from disciplining gay and lesbian ministers in committed relationships and from disciplining those who call or approve partnered gay or lesbian people for ministry.

In his report, Hanson offered his first public comments on the task force report and recommendations. Hanson said:

- + Two "hermeneutics" or paradigms are at work among the members of the ELCA that make agreement difficult on scriptural and theological matters. The Rev. Craig L. Nesson, academic dean and



professor of contextual theology, Wartburg Theological Seminary, an ELCA seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, writes that there is a "traditional approach" and a "contextual approach" in interpreting Scripture, both of which are valid and irreconcilable, Hanson told the bishops. Similarly, Dr. Marcus J. Borg, Department of Philosophy, Oregon State University, Corvallis, writes that there are two irreconcilable "paradigms" in which Christians differ in their understandings of the Christian tradition and their interpretation of Scripture, creeds and the confessions, he said. Hanson said he's heard people with different understandings of Scripture and theology seeking to find a place for their views in the sexuality recommendations.

"Do we expect a resolution to provide a bridge between two extremes?" Hanson asked the bishops. "We Lutherans have come to say that when something is 'paradoxical' that we're going to live in the paradox at the foot of the cross and not force ourselves to decide it with a vote."

+ Hanson said he has "increasing concerns" about Recommendation 1, which calls on the ELCA to concentrate on finding ways to live together faithfully in the midst of disagreements. The recommendation seems to be causing some confusion for some, and the conversation seems to be about much more than the task force intended, he said. For example, Hanson said some have "perceived" that what is at stake is the unity of the "Church catholic," not just the ELCA.

"I have great concerns about a church body voting on the unity of the Church," he said. "The unity of the Church is God's gift to us. We are not to create the unity of the Church. Wouldn't it be better to remind ourselves of the unity we are given but not to ask us to vote on the unity of the Church?"

Hanson also said he hopes no one will leave the ELCA over decisions on homosexuality. He reminded the bishops that if some members do leave "we are still brothers and sisters in Christ. There's where I think Craig Nesson is helpful in trying to say, 'let's not go the secular route of schism but let's look at the continuum of the way we relate,'" he said in an interview with the ELCA News Service.

Finally, Hanson said he is concerned that a vote on church unity could become a "church-defining, church-dividing" issue, and a conversation about that should take place in the "context of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF)." The LWF is a global communion of 138 member churches in 77 countries, representing 66 million Christians worldwide. Hanson -- who is also LWF president -- suggested concepts used in ecumenical discussions such as "reconciled diversity" and "differentiated consensus" might be helpful in such discussions.

+ Hanson said he has heard many concerns about Recommendation 3, which suggests that for reasons of conscience the ELCA may choose to refrain from disciplining gay and lesbian ministers in committed relationships and from disciplining those who call or approve partnered gay or lesbian people for ministry. "For many people [this] is not only confusing but seems to lack integrity because it is read as at least a change in practice if not in policy," he said in an interview.

As an alternative Hanson said it may be helpful to "test" some language that could provide for a special roster, ordination to a specific place or synodically authorized ministry to allow people who are gay and lesbian and in committed relationships to serve as professional church leaders. The presiding bishop suggested the possibility of a six-year testing period.

If the church wanted to test such a system, it would require a "significant standing down" from people who are gay and lesbian, many of whom view such a system as "second class" and unjust, he said. People who view Scripture traditionally would also have to stand down to allow "space," he said.

Presiding Bishop Addresses Budget Surplus, Jerusalem Hospital Situation

Hanson said the ELCA churchwide organization finished the 2004 fiscal year with a \$4.5 million

net surplus. Hanson credited the Conference of Bishops for "making tough decisions" and the churchwide staff for significant underspending in creating the surplus. He said he will likely have a specific proposal for use of the funds for the ELCA Church Council to consider when it meets in Chicago next month.

The conference heard details of a proposed ELCA strategy on the Middle East, tentatively called "Hope in the Holy Land: Pray, Tell, Act for Peace With Justice." In 2004 the ELCA Church Council asked the ELCA Division for Church in Society and ELCA Division for Global Mission to develop the strategy.

One component of the proposal addresses concern for Augusta Victoria Hospital, an LWF-operated hospital on the Mount of Olives in East Jerusalem, which serves Palestinians. The hospital has been involved in a longstanding tax case brought by the State of Israel that could require it to pay an employer's tax. The cost of such a tax may force the hospital to curtail operations.

"It's time to turn up the heat," Hanson told the bishops, saying Lutherans need to press the U.S. government to intervene with Israel on the hospital's behalf. He proposed sending an "e-letter" to professional church leaders asking them to write to U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, and members of Congress to "exert pressure" on the State of Israel.

"This is clearly a humanitarian issue," he said.

For information contact:

John Brooks, Director (773) 380-2958 or news@elca.org

<http://www.elca.org/news>

< [back to Web view](#)



ELCA NEWS SERVICE

March 9, 2005

ELCA Bishops Send Message To Church On Sexuality Recommendations

05-038-JB

DALLAS (ELCA) -- The Conference of Bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), acknowledging its members are "not of one mind" on issues related to homosexuality, sent a message to the church at the conclusion of its spring meeting here. The conference urged the church to affirm two recommendations resulting from a three-year study on homosexuality conducted by a task force of the church, but could offer no definitive advice on the most controversial of the three recommendations.

The ELCA Conference of Bishops is an advisory body of the church, consisting of the 65 ELCA synod bishops, ELCA secretary and ELCA presiding bishop. It met here March 3-7.

The report and recommendations, released Jan. 13, provides possible answers to two key questions on homosexuality: Should the church bless same-gender relationships? Should the church allow people in such relationships to serve the church as professional lay and ordained ministers?

The task force recommended that the ELCA:

- + concentrate on finding ways to live together faithfully in the midst of disagreements. The Conference of Bishops called on the church to affirm this recommendation. "We understand that this recommendation commits us to continuing our journey together for the sake of God's mission," the bishops' message said.

- + continue to respect the pastoral guidance of a 1993 statement of the ELCA Conference of Bishops opposing the blessing of homosexual relationships but remaining open to pastors wanting to provide pastoral care for gay and lesbian Lutherans. The bishops asked the church to affirm the 1993 statement "leaving it as it was intended -- a matter of advice and counsel," the message said.

- + continue under current standards that expect unmarried ministers to abstain from sexual relations -- defining marriage as being between a man and a woman -- but respecting the consciences of those who find these standards in conflict with the mission of the church, the ELCA may choose to refrain from disciplining gay and lesbian ministers in committed relationships and from disciplining those who call or approve partnered gay or lesbian people for ministry.

"We acknowledge that as a conference we are unable to offer a definitive word of advice on recommendation three," the Conference of Bishops said. "Some bishops are convinced there should be no change in the practice and policy of our church. Other bishops favor changes both in policy and in practice though there is no consensus as to how such changes should take place."

The bishops acknowledged their differences on homosexuality. "We hold each other in love and respect. We recognize that our differences are rooted in deeply held convictions. We honor the integrity of these convictions of conscience and faith 'with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace

(Ephesians 4:2-3)," the message said.

"For the sake of the unity of this church and its mission, we are not divided by these differences," the message said. "As evidence of this, we point to the extraordinary engagement of this church in God's mission in the world and our full participation in that work. We thank God for this."

The Conference of Bishops' message said they "see throughout this church that a commitment to the authority of Scripture is not solely the concern of those who seek to maintain the tradition. Similarly compassion for gay and lesbian persons and a commitment that they be treated justly are not solely concerns of those advocating change."

Between now and the churchwide assembly, the conference called on ELCA members to unite in prayer, read Scripture and Luther's Large Catechism, participate in weekly worship, study theology, practice forgiveness, invite people to a faith community, and "serve and love in Christ's name."

"We understand in all of this that we have responsibility for the stewardship of the unity given to us by the Lord Jesus Christ. We also understand that we exercise that stewardship with brothers and sisters of the whole Church throughout the world," the message said.

"We further understand that we have a responsibility for protection of the most vulnerable. This includes not only the poor, the widow, the orphan, and the stranger, but also all who feel estranged by virtue of their deeply held convictions," the message concluded.

The one-page message was intended to advise the boards of the ELCA Division for Church in Society, ELCA Division for Ministry, and the ELCA Church Council, as each considers what to do with the task force report and recommendations on homosexuality. Eventually, the report and its recommendations, along with proposals on how to consider the issues, will make their way to the 2005 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, Aug. 8-14, in Orlando, Fla.

Long Hours to Craft Message

The Conference of Bishops debated and discussed the task force recommendations over several hours during their meeting here. Those sessions included a two-and-one-half hour closed, off-the-record session March 6; an unplanned, informal two-hour writing session the same day attended by more than 40 bishops; and more than two hours of debate and discussion March 7 before the conference adopted the statement by consensus and adjourned.

The bishops took a series of "straw" votes, intended to determine the possibilities, if any, on which they could agree regarding recommendation three. For example, by a vote of 36-22, the bishops present favored that there be no votes taken at the churchwide assembly on sexuality issues. On another possibility, they narrowly favored by a vote of 36-26 all three recommendations provided there were a series of precise "exception" procedures that would allow people who are gay and lesbian and in committed relationships to serve as professional lay and ordained leaders. On still another possibility, the bishops favored 29-26 possible legislative language that would create a "provisional" clergy roster, which would limit the types of service for which these leaders would be eligible.

"The third recommendation ... is so problematic for us," said the Rev. E. Roy Riley, bishop of the ELCA New Jersey Synod, Hamilton Square, and chair of the Conference of Bishops, in an interview with the ELCA News Service. Many conference members seemed willing to create "space" for people who are gay and lesbian and in committed relationships to serve as professional lay and ordained leaders, but "there's simply no consensus on how that might be done," he said.

"There are, of course, members of the conference who believe that we would be better off not creating any space whatsoever and would be more affirming of simply continuing the welcoming kind

of stance that we have been in for gay and lesbian persons in the church," Riley added.

Calling the message "significant" for the conference, Riley said he believes the bishops' struggle was similar to what the voting members will experience at the churchwide assembly in Orlando.

"It will just be a much larger gathering. But I think there's a lot of trust ... and confidence in the Spirit's work among the people of God as they gather in assembly in Orlando," he said.

The full text of the Conference of Bishops message is at <http://www.elca.org/sr/bishopsregardtostudy.html> on the ELCA Web site.

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