

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Rev. Albert Ahlstrom	2012
Mr. William Anderson	2012
*The Rev. Edward Barnett	2010
*The Rev. William Baum	2012
The Rev. Rosalind Brathwaite	2012
*Mr. Robert Buescher, Treasurer	2012
Ms. Hope Card	2010
Mr. Gerald Erikson	2010
§Dcn Charles Germain	2010
Mr. Gene Hügel	2010
Ms. Barbara Holm	2012
Ms. Barbara A. Johnson	2012
*The Rev. James Krauser, Secretary	2010
Dr. Earl Marsan	2010
Ms. Minerva Melendez	2010
The Rev. Paul Milholland	[2012] 2010
The Rev. Annemarie Noto, PhD	2010
§Dcn. Robert Rainis	2012
§ Mr. Brian Reardon	2012
*The Rev. Robert A. Rimbo, Bishop	2014
The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, J.D.	2010
§Ms. Janet Siry	2014
*Mr. Hans Vogel, AiM, Vice President	2010

Ms. Renee Wicklund, Esq.	2010
Mr. Jonathan Westerlund	2010
§Ms. Grace Yukich	2012
20/27 Voting members present	

AUXILLIARY MEMBERS

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

STAFF

Ms. Sarah Gioe
The Rev. Dr. Jack Horner
Pr. Kathleen Koran
Pr. Jonathan Linman
Mr. John Litke
The Rev. Dr. Gary Mills
Dcn. Gayle Ruege
Ms. Kathleen Schmidt
Bold=Present
*Members of Executive Committee
§Excused absence

Devotions & Call to Order

1. Adoption of Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 5:18pm with prayer by Bishop Rimbo. Vice president Vogel welcomed new council member Pr. Paul Milholland.

The agenda was adopted as printed.

2. Adoption of Minutes

21 November 2009

The minutes were approved with the following corrections:

- Ms. Holm was excused from the November meeting
- In the third line of the correction to ACTION (SC09:10/02), the word “part” at the end of the third line should read “party.”

3. Bishop’s Report

Bishop began his report speaking about his trip to the Holy Land. He described it as a good trip but depressing in several ways. He reported that over the years the Christian population has diminished 25% as Palestinian Christians leave the Palestinian territories when and if they have opportunity.

Bishop Rimbo extended congratulations to Treasurer Buescher and his wife, reporting that an event was held at LTSP to honor Bob and Janet Buescher with the *Soli Deo Gloria* award.

He reported the receipt of a letter from Christ Chinese indicating that they have taken a first vote to separate from ELCA. A consultation with the congregation will be arranged and members of the council will be asked to accompany the bishop to the meeting.

Pr. Milholland commented that the ordinations held on December 12 at St. Peter's Huntington Station went well.

The Conference of Bishops is discussing procedures for congregations seeking to leave the ELCA. Caution is urged not to act hastily or unconstitutionally.

4. **Financial Report**

Mr. Buescher reviewed his prepared charts. He reported that changes in the "Property Assets" and "Non-Property Assets", from the end of 2009 Quarter III were minimal and that preliminary figures show an operating Net Gain of \$88,000 this year, even with expenditures exceeding the budget. He cautions that much of what our books call revenue is not from outside cash, and hence does not represent actual cash received.

November spending continued above plan.

Available cash is zero, but December and January are usually the highest months for receipts of Mission Support

The sale of the former St. Paul's – Richmond Hill was supposed to close on December 4, but the buyer did not show up at the closing (probably still short of cash). The realtor was contacted to list the property as it is likely that the buyer will be unable to complete the sale. Mr. Buescher adjusted the forecast of "Available Cash" to delay the sale of that property delayed until December 2010.

5. **Old Business**

Salem Swedish, Brooklyn

The resolution adopted in October (SC09:10/02) to place the congregation under permanent synodical administration pursuant to S13.24 was presented again as a counted vote was not recorded at that time and was required of us by the Attorney General.

**On the resolution to place Salem Swedish under permanent synodical administration
[Previously adopted as ACTION SC09:10/02]**

ADOPTED.

ACTION SC09:12/01.

Total Council Members:	27
Total Council Members Present at Meeting:	19
Total Votes in Favor of Resolution:	19
Total Votes Against Resolution:	0
Total Votes Abstaining:	0

Pr. Ahlstrom commented that the recent action regarding the appointment of trustees might make it advisable that in we examine the practice of giving authority to a single trustee to act on behalf of all trustees.

The final service to held at Salem Swedish will be on Jan. 2 at 11:30am

6. **New Business**

A. **Property and Mission Concerns**

Grace Yukich had hoped to present the request to form a Task Force regarding the criteria for viability of congregations, but was unable to attend this meeting. It is hoped that something will be ready to be put before the Synod Assembly in May.

Pr. Ahlstrom reminded us about the letter from St. Peter's, Manhattan concerning actions of the Board of Pensions. This will be held over to the January meeting.

Synod Office Space task force will be appointed by the end of the year.

Bishop Rimbo will be appointing an interim for Zion German in Brooklyn.

7. Congregation Consultations

General discussion was held about the nature of withdrawing from ELCA prior to the arrival of the invited guests from two congregations that have taken a first vote.

A. Advent Lutheran Church, Elmont

Seven members of the congregation and Pr. Mackenzie were present. VP Vogel welcomed our guests. Bishop Rimbo thanked them for attending and offered a prayer. The purpose of the meeting was stated which was to assist the synod council as it fulfilled its responsibility under the constitution to give or withhold consent to the congregation's action to withdraw from the ELCA. The permission of the synod council is required for all congregations that were formerly members of the Lutheran Church in America or those formed as ELCA congregations to withdraw from the ELCA.

The conversation began with the pastor and members expressing their concerns and attitudes which led them to their decision.

Members of the council asked about the history and character of the congregation. The conversation lasted for about an hour. Bishop Rimbo stated that the congregation would be informed of the synod council's decision. The council took a brief recess while the members of St. James arrived.

B. St. James Lutheran Church, Stewart Manor

Pr. Mackenzie remained and eight members of St. James introduced themselves. VP Vogel gave a word of welcome and Bp. Rimbo offered a prayer and his thanks for their attendance.

The purpose of the meeting was stated which was to assist the synod council as it fulfilled its responsibility under the constitution to give or withhold consent to the congregation's action to withdraw from the ELCA. The permission of the synod council is required for all congregations that were formerly members of the Lutheran Church in America or those formed as ELCA congregations to withdraw from the ELCA.

The conversation followed a similar format. It was observed that there were dissenters to the vote of the congregation to leave the ELCA, some were present at the meeting.

The bishop again thanked the members of St. James for coming and stated that we would be contacting them after the council had the opportunity to discuss their request.

The council took a brief recess. When the meeting resumed Pr. Baum presented the following resolution:

Moved and Seconded:

RESOLVED, because the MNYS values the Christ centered ministry of Advent Lutheran Church, Elmont, NY, and believes the congregation's contribution to the life and witness of our synod is richly beneficial to the *koinonia* of our synod's congregations, for the sake of our shared and interdependent witness to the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ, we respectfully request Advent Lutheran Church remain in the fellowship of the Metropolitan New York

Synod of ELCA.

There was discussion of the motion before the council and also the implications of it or other possible actions for these congregations and their relationship with the synod.

Pr. Ahlstrom moved the previous question. Seconded/Adopted

On the resolution regarding the relationship of Advent Lutheran Church with the Metropolitan New York Synod of the ELCA.

ADOPTED

ACTION SC09:12/02.

RESOLVED, because the MNYS values the Christ centered ministry of Advent Lutheran Church, Elmont, NY, and believes the congregation's contribution to the life and witness of our synod is richly beneficial to the *koinonia* of our synod's congregations, for the sake of our shared and interdependent witness to the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ, we respectfully request Advent Lutheran Church remain in the fellowship of the Metropolitan New York Synod of ELCA.

Pr. Baum presented a second resolution:

Moved and Seconded:

RESOLVED, because the MNYS values the Christ centered ministry of St. James Lutheran Church, Stewart Manor, NY, and believes the congregation's contribution to the life and witness of our synod is richly beneficial to the *koinonia* of our synod's congregations, for the sake of our shared and interdependent witness to the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ, we respectfully request St. James Lutheran Church remain in the fellowship of the Metropolitan New York Synod of ELCA.

There appeared to be no need for further discussion, Pr. Ahlstrom moved the previous question. Second. **Adopted**

On the resolution regarding the relationship of St. James Lutheran Church with the Metropolitan New York Synod of the ELCA.

ADOPTED

ACTION SC09:12/03.

RESOLVED, because the MNYS values the Christ centered ministry of St. James Lutheran Church, Stewart Manor, NY, and believes the congregation's contribution to the life and witness of our synod is richly beneficial to the *koinonia* of our synod's congregations, for the sake of our shared and interdependent witness to the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ, we respectfully request St. James Lutheran Church remain in the fellowship of the Metropolitan New York Synod of ELCA.

As the business of the agenda was concluded, Pr. Ahlstrom moved to adjourn. Second. **Adopted**

The meeting ended at 8:45pm.

The Rev. James G. Krauser, Secretary, MNYS