

**MINUTES OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL, SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
Dunn Conference Center, Tscoepe Building
Texas Lutheran University – Seguin, Texas
May 30, 2008**

Members Present:

Santiago Alanis	Alton Luedke	Jodi Vlasak
The Rev. Mark Behrendt	Linda Nicholas	The Rev. Wayne Walther
Lisa Beyer	The Rev. Eric Petty	Bill Warncke
The Rev. Michael Coffey	Jim Price	The Rev. James Wilken
Mark Helmke	Ronald Riske	Deborah Wilson
David Houston	The Rev. William Swantner	Linda Zander
Peggy Janssen	Carl Teinert	
The Rev. Robert Kaul	Bishop Ray Tiemann	

Advisory Members Present:

John Dellis	Donna Shurley	Claudia Teinert
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Staff Present:

Janet Fries	The Rev. Michael Robinson
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Absent:

The Rev. John Boldt	Gracie Cooley	Whitney Myers
The Rev. Richard Bremer	The Rev. Joe Garcia	Karen Stein
The Rev. Bonnie Claycomb	Heather Hansen	The Rev. Lynn Schudy Ziese
Margaret Cook	The Rev. Stephen Kanouse	

Friday, May 30, 2008

The Synod Council meeting was called to order by Vice President Mark Helmke at 3:04 p.m. Opening devotion presented by Bishop Tiemann.

Roll Call

The secretary determined that a quorum was present.

Agenda

Mr. Helmke presented a Proposed Agenda.

VOTED
SC.08.5.1 To adopt the proposed agenda.

VOTED
SC.08.5.2 To approve the minutes of the February 8-9, 2008, Synod Council meeting as editorially corrected.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Warncke presented the Treasurer's Report, including the 2009-2010 Proposed Budget as it is to be presented to the 2008 Synod Assembly. Mr. Warncke also presented the report of the auditors.

VOTED
SC.08.5.3 **To recommend approval of the audit report from Randy Walker & Co. of San Antonio, Texas, for fiscal year 2007-2008 for presentation and approval by the Synod Assembly.**

Report on ELCA Church Council

Mr. Helmke presented a report of the meeting held in April, 2008, including information on the Lutheran Malaria Initiative and a proposal being considered for full communion agreement with the United Methodist Church. The 2011 churchwide assembly meeting will be held in Florida.

Office of the Bishop Report

Bishop Tiemann presented his report including the following: an update on the San Lucas, Eagle Pass, parsonage project; and an update on the Senior Staff/Executive Officer evaluation process.

Assembly Items

Ms. Fries presented general information regarding the Assembly.

There were no changes to the Standing Rules as voted on by the Synod Council in February.

VOTED
SC.08.5.4 **To recommend adoption of the Proposed Assembly Agenda for presentation to and approval by the Synod Assembly.**

VOTED
SC.08.5.5 **To recommend adoption of the Compensation Guidelines for 2008 for presentation to and approval by the Synod Assembly.**

The draft of the 2009 Compensation Guidelines was also reviewed.

The Synod Council received information regarding the breakout sessions to be held during the Assembly, as well as information regarding worship rehearsal.

VOTED
SC.08.5.6 **To approve the appointment of Gayle Gordon Bouzard as Elections Committee Chair.**

The Synod Council had a short break to allow the Administration and Finance Committee to meet.

The Synod Council recessed at 4:50 p.m. for the annual meeting of St. Luke's Lutheran Healthcare Ministries Corporation.

The Corporation members voted to elect and ratify Executive Committee positions for a one year term expiring 6/30/2009 as follows:

President	Mike Manuppelli
Vice President	Barbara Hanson Nellerhoe
Secretary	Jan Schubert Norris
Treasurer	David Ladensohn
ELCA Clergy	Rev. Steve Rode
At-Large	Brad Hall

The Corporation members voted to elect and ratify Board of Directors positions with a four year term expiring 6/30/2012 for the following persons: Suzanne Marlar Dabbous, MD, Barbara Dreeben, Mike Manuppelli, Jan Norris, Claudia Robison, Lewis Westerman, Karen Norman and Rev. Paul Ziese.

The Corporation meeting was adjourned and the Synod Council meeting reconvened.

Action Items:

VOTED
SC.08.5.7 To approve the recommendation from the Executive Committee to adopt the Resolution on “Book of Faith Initiative” for presentation to and approval by the Synod Assembly.

There were no additional resolutions received.

VOTED
SC.08.5.8 To approve the request by St. Paul Lutheran Church of George West (Exhibit E) for withdrawal from membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

VOTED
SC.08.5.9 To approve the designation of Spirit in the Hills Lutheran Church as a Synodically Authorized Worshiping Community.

VOTED
SC.08.5.10 To approve the 2010 Synod Assembly to be held at the New Braunfels Civic Center as hosted by the San Antonio Conference, and with the Executive Committee to approve the exact dates for said Assembly.

VOTED
SC.08.5.11 To approve the appointment of Jodi Vlasak as Chair of the Candidacy Committee.

VOTED
SC.08.5.12 To extend a letter of call to The Rev. Dr. William R. Russell, Specialized Ministry, Texas Lutheran University.

Administration and Finance Committee Report:

Mr. Price presented the report for this committee.

VOTED
SC.08.5.13 To approve a resolution for mileage reimbursement for Southwestern Texas Synod volunteers as follows:

1. That mileage reimbursements provided volunteers deemed “essential to the operation of the Synod” are not subject to be taxable income, thereby revoking the Synod’s November 2007 revised Reimbursement Form that stated 11 cents of the 25 cents mileage reimbursements was to be regarded as taxable income.
2. That such action by the Synod Council is retroactive to February 1, 2008, or to the first day of the current fiscal year.
3. That volunteers deemed “essential to the operation of the Synod” will be recommended by the Administration and Finance Committee and voted on by the Synod Council at its September 2008 meeting.

VOTED

SC.08.5.14

To approve a resolution for the mileage reimbursement rate for Southwestern Texas Synod volunteers as follows:

- 1. That the mileage reimbursement rate for the remainder of the current 2008-2009 fiscal year remain at 25 cents per mile for Southwestern Texas Synod essential volunteers.**
- 2. That an annual review of the mileage reimbursement rate be conducted by the Administration and Finance Committee during its preparation of proposed Synod budget(s).**

After a closing prayer, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Linda Zander, Synod Secretary