

**MINUTES OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL, SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
Lutheran Ministry Center – Seguin, Texas
October 17-18, 2008**

Friday, October 17, 2008

The Synod Council meeting was called to order by Vice President Carl Teinert at 7:01 p.m. Opening devotion presented by Bishop Tiemann.

VOTED

SC.08.10.1 To accept the resignation of Deborah Wilson, Female Lay Representative for the Austin Conference.

VOTED

SC.08.10.2 To ratify the appointment of Joaquin Trevino, Male Lay Representative for the Austin Conference.

Roll Call

The secretary determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present:

The Rev. Mark Behrendt	Linda Nicholas	Carl Teinert
Lisa Beyer	The Rev. Eric Petty	Bishop Ray Tiemann
Katie Boos	Jim Price	Bill Warncke
Mike Childers	Alfred Reinhardt	Judy Weber
Vicki Hollmig	The Rev. Heidi Schwerdtfeger-Jones	Linda Zander
Peggy Janssen		
Jerry Kramer	The Rev. William Swantner	

Advisory Members Present:

The Rev. Karl Biermann	The Rev. Bonnie Claycomb	Mary Lou Walther
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Staff Present:

Janet Fries	The Rev. Lynn Schudy Ziese
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Absent:

The Rev. Michael Coffey	The Rev. Stephen Kanouse	Karen Stein
John Dellis	The Rev. Robert Kaul	Joaquin Trevino
The Rev. Joe Garcia	The Rev. Alma Morales	The Rev. Dan Zellmer
Heather Hansen	Whitney Myers	
Dennis Hickey	The Rev. Michael Robinson	

Committee Assignments

Mr. Teinert announced the committee assignments as follows:

Administration and Finance Committee:

Lisa Beyer
Mike Childers
Linda Nicholas
The Rev. Eric Petty
Jim Price
Bishop Ray Tiemann
Bill Warncke

Legal, Constitutional and Roster Review Committee:

Santiago Alanis	Judy Weber
Vicki Hollmig	Linda Zander
Jerry Kramer	The Rev. Dan Zellmer
Alfred Reinhardt	(new Austin Lay Female Representative)

Program and Evaluation Committee:

The Rev. Mark Behrendt	The Rev. Alma Morales
The Rev. Karl Biermann	The Rev. Bill Swantner
Katie Boos	The Rev. Heidi Schwerdtfeger-Jones
The Rev. Bonnie Claycomb	Carl Teinert
The Rev. Michael Coffey	Joaquin Trevino
Peggy Janssen	Mary Lou Walther
The Rev. Bob Kaul	

The Synod Council recessed at 7:32 p.m. for committee meetings.

The Synod Council resumed its meeting at 8:44 p.m.

Agenda

Mr. Teinert presented a Proposed Agenda.

VOTED
SC.08.10.3 To adopt the proposed agenda.

VOTED
SC.08.10.4 To approve the minutes of the May 30, 2008, Synod Council meeting (Exhibit A)

VOTED
SC.08.10.5 To approve the minutes of the May 31-June 1, 2008, Synod Assembly (Exhibit B)

Executive Committee Report

As a matter of information, it was reported that the Executive Committee conducted reviews of staff and officers of the Synod at the end of the summer and into the early fall.

VOTED
SC.08.10.6 To approve the appointment of Mark Helmke and Bill Maddox to the Mutual Ministry Committee.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Warncke presented the Treasurer's Report (Exhibits C, D, E & F), including an update of the 2008 Synod Assembly offering (Exhibit G).

Office of the Bishop Report

Bishop Tiemann presented his report (Exhibit H) including the following: encouraged Synod Council members to make a personal contribution to the Synod; gave an update on the completion of the San Lucas, Eagle Pass, parsonage project and dedication of same; update on Conference of Bishops' trip to the Holy Land January 5-16, 2009; and new program proposed by the Outreach Committee entitled Mission One.

Assistant to the Bishop Report

The Assistant to the Bishop Ziese presented her report as outlined in Exhibit I.

Assistant to the Bishop Report

The Assistant to the Bishop Robinson's report was received as outlined in Exhibit J.

Book of Faith Initiative Report

The report of The Rev. Tracey Breashears was received as Exhibit K.

Program and Evaluation Committee Report (Exhibit L):

Ms. Boos, Vice-Chair, presented the committee's report. Pr. Bob Kaul is serving as chair of this committee. Beginning November 1, the application for Vision Grants is to be on the Synod website. The committee will be seeking feedback from the recipients of the grants last year. As of this date, the following persons are serving on the commissions and committees within the designated commissions:

Commission for Congregational Life:

Tracey Breashears (2 year term ending August, 2010)
Rhonda Westerfield (2 year term ending August, 2010)

Worship Committee Chair – Carol Holck (starting January, 2009)

Commission for Mission:

Outreach Committee:

David Arredondo
Wanda Garcia
Greg Gaskamp
Peter Manfred, Chair
Ryan Peterson
Jeff Thompson

Global Missions Committee:

Jack Balsley
Patti Hoerig
Michelle Schlinke
Barbara Schutz
Holly Schwartz
Norm Sulaica

Campus Ministry Committee:

Jennifer Bauer
Jaime Bouzard
Paul Collinson-Streng
Mary Fetter
Suzette Price, Chair

Multi-Cultural Committee:

Sylvia De La Garza, Co-Chair
Faye Schott, Co-Chair

Ecumenical Ministries Committee:

Laura Lincoln
Bill Sappenfield, Chair

Mission Partners Committee:

Committee is being revised to partner with Outreach Committee.

Commission for Communication:

Tim Clark (second term)
Belinda Kinkade (second term)
John Parsons (September, 2008 – August, 2010)
Claudia Teinert (second term)
John Urban (September, 2008 – August, 2010)

Commission for Professional Leadership:

Candidacy Committee (new members):

Craig Sommer (term to August, 2011)
Lucinda Zesch (term to August, 2011)

Leadership Support Committee:

Tim Bauerkemper (second term)
Skip Courter, Chair (second term)
Michael Ensrude (second term)
Ralph Reitmeyer (second term)
Ed Scharlau (second term)
Belinda Schmidt (term to August 31, 2010)
Dawn Silvius (second term)

VOTED

SC.08.10.7 To approve the commission and committee appointments.

Administration and Finance Committee Report (Exhibit M):

Mr. Price, Chair, presented the committee's report. Lisa Beyer is serving as Vice-Chair of this committee.

VOTED

SC.08.10.8 To approve a resolution for mileage reimbursement as follows:

- 1. That all synod employees, including staff and contracted persons, and persons elected by the Synod Assembly, including Synod Council members, Synod commission chairs and members of the Discipline and Consultation committees, be paid the business mileage rate established by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.**
- 2. That all volunteers who submit a written request will be paid a mileage rate set by the Synod Council, currently 25 cents per mile.**

VOTED

SC.08.10.9 To authorize the Administration and Finance Committee to receive bids on a general umbrella policy from insurance companies covering the Southwestern Texas Synod and that the Executive Committee be authorized to execute any contract or sign said policy.

VOTED

SC.08.10.10 To approve the signing of a commercial lease with the Coastal Realty Management Company to manage the property of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Brownsville, Texas, and that the Executive Committee be authorized to execute said lease.

Mr. Price also reported that Dave Sather of Victoria and Michael Aguirre of San Antonio would be serving on the Investments Subcommittee.

VOTED

SC.08.10.11 To approve the updating of all current investment and bank accounts held by the Southwestern Texas Synod to reflect the current administration.

A first ballot was distributed for voting on the at large members of the Executive Committee.

The Synod Council recessed for the evening at 9:35 p.m.

Saturday, October 18, 2008

The Synod Council meeting was called to order by Vice President Carl Teinert at 7:30 a.m. Opening devotion presented by Bishop Tiemann.

Roll Call

The secretary determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present:

The Rev. Mark Behrendt
Lisa Beyer

Mike Childers
Vicki Hollmig

Peggy Janssen
Jerry Kramer

Linda Nicholas
The Rev. Eric Petty
Jim Price
Alfred Reinhardt

The Rev. Heidi Schwerdtfeger-
Jones
Carl Teinert
Bishop Ray Tiemann

Bill Warncke
Judy Weber
Linda Zander

Advisory Members Present:

The Rev. Bonnie Claycomb

John Dellis

Mary Lou Walther

Staff Present:

Janet Fries

Absent:

The Rev. Karl Biermann
Katie Boos
The Rev. Michael Coffey
The Rev. Joe Garcia
Heather Hansen
Dennis Hickey

The Rev. Stephen Kanouse
The Rev. Robert Kaul
The Rev. Alma Morales
Whitney Myers
The Rev. Michael Robinson
Karen Stein

The Rev. William Swantner
Joaquin Trevino
The Rev. Dan Zellmer
The Rev. Lynn Schudy Ziese

Legal, Constitutional and Roster Review Committee Report (Exhibits N and O):

Mr. Kramer, Chair, presented the committee's report. Mr. Reinhardt is serving as Vice-Chair of this committee.

VOTED

SC.08.10.12 To approve On Leave from Call Status for:

Pastor Edwina Baethge for a first year beginning July 1, 2008
Pastor Pedro Caceres Larreategui for a third year beginning September 1, 2008
Pastor Roger Ericson for a first year beginning June 1, 2008
Pastor Marcia Kline for a first year beginning September 1, 2008
Pastor Armin Steege for a first year beginning September 1, 2008
Pastor Alicia Tibbals for a first year beginning May 26, 2008
Pastor Sandi Wilcox for a second year beginning September 1, 2008

VOTED

SC.08.10.13 To approve requests to the Conference of Bishops for On Leave from Call Status for:

Pastor Charlotte Anderson for a two year extension from January 19, 2009
Pastor Anamae Storbeck for a two year extension as of August 21, 2008

VOTED

SC.08.10.14 To approve Removal from the Roster for:

Mary Clayton (Associate in Ministry) as of May 1, 2008
Mary Lou Geer (Associate in Ministry) as of July 15, 2008

VOTED

SC.08.10.15 To approve Specialized Calls for:

Pastor Dawn Silvius as a Synodical Intentional Interim for two years, starting
September 13, 2008

VOTED

SC.08.10.16 To approve Disability Status for:

Pastor Bill Hassel as of October 6, 2008

VOTED

SC.08.10.17 To approve Retired Status for:

Pastor John Braulick as of September 1, 2008
Pastor Charles DeHaven as of June 1, 2008
Pastor Elroy Haverlah as of September 1, 2008
Pastor Donald Just as of August 1, 2008
Pastor Michael Megahan as of May 1, 2008

VOTED

SC.08.10.18 To approve the Constitution for Spirit in the Hills Lutheran SAWC, Spicewood (Bee Caves).

VOTED

SC.08.10.19 To approve the Constitution for St. Paul Lutheran Church, Mason, with changes to C.1.03 to conform to the language of the Model Constitution of the ELCA.

VOTED

SC.08.10.20 To approve changes to the Constitution and Bylaws for Living Word Lutheran Church, Buda, to conform to the Model Constitution of the ELCA for 1.1, 1.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 6.5g, 7.5, 8.2c & d, 9.1, 9.10, 9.11, 9.13, 9.14, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4, 11.1, 11.2, 12.1, 12.2, 12.3, 12.5c & d, 12.7, 13.2, 13.3, 13.4, 13.8, 15.2, 15.6, 15.7, 17.1, 17.4, 18.1, 18.2, omitting Chapter 20 and Bylaws.

VOTED

SC.08.10.21 To approve the changes to the Bylaws of the Constitution for Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Brackettville, to Section V, Lines C & D.

VOTED

SC.08.10.22 To approve changes to the Constitution and Bylaws of Our Savior Lutheran Church, McAllen, to conform to the language of the Model Constitution of the ELCA.

VOTED

SC.08.10.23 To approve changes to the Constitution and Bylaws of St. John's Lutheran Church, San Antonio, to conform to the language of the Model Constitution of the ELCA.

VOTED

SC.08.10.24 To approve an amendment to the Constitution of First Lutheran Church, San Marcos, to Article 8.02.c and to approve the addition of Bylaws B5.1, B5.2, B5.3 and B5.4.

VOTED

SC.08.10.25 To approve changes to the Constitution of St. Martin's Lutheran Church, Austin, to Sections C11.02 and C12.05 and corresponding Bylaws.

VOTED
SC.08.10.26 To affirm the changes to the Constitution of St. Paul Lutheran Church, New Braunfels, as conforming to the Model Constitution of the ELCA.

VOTED
SC.08.10.27 To affirm the changes to the Constitution of Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, San Antonio, as conforming to the Model Constitution of the ELCA.

Action Items:

A second, run-off ballot was distributed for voting on the at large members of the Executive Committee.

VOTED
SC.08.10.28 To reinstate the Constitution of Trinity Lutheran Church, Mission.

VOTED
SC.08.10.29 To appoint The Rev. Dr. Lynn Schudy Ziese as acting bishop during Bishop Tiemann's trip to the Holy Land from January 5-16, 2009.

VOTED
SC.08.10.30 To approve the appointment of Mike Childers to serve on the Cross Trails Ministry Board.

VOTED
SC.08.10.31 To designate a \$25,000 housing allowance out of salary as a portion of the compensation for Bishop Tiemann for 2009, and to designate a \$26,000 housing allowance out of salary as a portion of the compensation for Assistant to the Bishop Robinson for 2009.

VOTED
SC.08.10.32 To appoint the 2009 Synod Assembly Planning Committee as outlined in Exhibit O-0.

Mr. Teinert announced results of the second ballot that Lisa Beyer and Rev. Bob Kaul had been elected as at large members of the Executive Committee.

VOTED **SC.08.10.33** That Mike Childers' name be removed from the ballot for service as an at large member of the Executive Committee, and that Jim Price is elected to serve by acclamation.

VOTED **SC.08.10.34** To approve the process as outlined on the back page of Exhibit O-0 regarding the 2009 Synod Assembly Offering.

VOTED **SC.08.10.35** To approve the appointment of The Rev. Carl Schoss to the Wartburg Theological Seminary Board.

VOTED **SC.08.10.36** To approve the appointment of Michael Aguirre as a member of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago Board through September 30, 2009.

VOTED
SC.08.10.37

To approve the service locations of the following Synodically Authorized Ministers:

- Rachel Ziese Hacker - St. Luke, Schroeder and Zion, Arneckeville (review date of October 31, 2008)
- Scott Hoffman, TEEM - St. James, Bandera (review date of December 31, 2008)
- José Sustaita - North Austin Mission Outreach (review date of December 31, 2008)
- Sr. Carolyn Hellerich - St. Peter, Hallettsville (review date of December 31, 2008)
- Randy Nicholas - Love of Christ, Weslaco (review date of December 31, 2008)
- John Dellis, AIM - St. Peter, Ander (review date of December 31, 2008)
- Ed Truelson, TEEM – St. John, Dime Box (review date of December 31, 2008)
- Cathy Graham – Grace, Harlingen (review date of December 31, 2008)
- Sarah Roemer – Prince of Peace, San Antonio (review date of December 31, 2008)
- Gregory Villareal – Good Shepherd, Elsa (review date of December 31, 2008)
- Kelly Tankersley – St. John, Poth (review date of January 31, 2009)
- Jack Balsley – Camino Real, San Antonio (review date of February 28, 2009)
- Jennifer Bauer – Lutheran Campus Ministry, UTSA (review date of May 31, 2009)
- Donna Shurley/Diane Kiddy – St. John, Bishop and Trinity, Kingsville (review date of May 31, 2009)
- C.B. Suggs – St. Andrew, Weesatche (review date of June 30, 2009)
- Jim Gicklhorn – St. Mark, Point Comfort and First, Tivoli (review date of June 30, 2009)
- Willie Spreen – St. Paul, Tynan and Grace, Mathis (review date of July 31, 2009)
- Mary Ida Lobaugh – Peace, Woodsboro (review date of July 31, 2009)

VOTED
SC.08.10.38

To modify the Compensation Guidelines 2008-2009 as adopted by the Synod Assembly on May 31, 2008, as follows:

1-A COMPENSATION FOR PASTORAL LEADERS

1. CASH SALARY

The Synod Council of the Southwestern Texas Synod recommends the following base levels of cash salary:

Newly-Ordained Pastors: \$30,260 for 2007/2008 and \$31,170 for 2008/2009 (NOTE: The \$31,170 reflects the recommended base level of cash salary for 2008. For 2009, the Synod Council recommends a 2.5% cost of living increase, which totals \$31,949 for the cash salary).

1-B COMPENSATION FOR ROSTERED LAY LEADERS

1. CASH SALARY

The Synod Council of the Southwestern Texas Synod recommends the following baseline levels of cash salary:

Lay Rostered Leasers: \$31,525 for 2007/2008 and \$33,190 for 2008/2009 (**NOTE:** The \$33,190 reflects the recommended base level of cash salary for 2008. For 2009, the Synod Council recommends a 2.5% cost of living increase, which totals \$34,020 for the cash salary).

Commission Reports:

Commission reports were received as follows:

Commission for Communications (Exhibit P)
Commission for Congregational Life (Exhibit Q)
Commission for Mission Report (Exhibit R)
Commission for Professional Leadership (Exhibit S)

Written Reports Received:

- Women of the ELCA (Exhibit T)
- Youth Ministry (Exhibit U)
- Lutheran Men in Mission (Exhibit Z)
- The Rev. Steve Kanouse, Mission Director (Exhibit CC)
- Cross Trails Ministry Report (Exhibit DD)

Mr. Teinert reported on the Vice Presidents' meeting in Chicago that he attended a few weeks ago.

Calendar Items:

Synod Council Meetings:

February 13-15, 2009 – Coastal Bend Conference (location to be determined)
May 15, 2009 – designated hotel in McAllen

Synod Assembly Dates:

May 16-17, 2009 – McAllen (Rio Grande Valley Conference hosts)
May 1-2, 2010 – New Braunfels (San Antonio Conference hosts)

After a closing prayer by Bishop Tiemann, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Zander, Synod Secretary