

**MINUTES OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL, SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
Faith Lutheran Church – Seguin, Texas
September 8-9, 2006**

Members Present:

Santiago Alanis	The Rev. Robert Kaul	The Rev. Wayne Walther
The Rev. Mark Behrendt	Alton Luedke	Bill Warncke
Lisa Beyer	Jim Price	Deborah Wilson
Margaret Cook	The Rev. William Swantner	Linda Zander
Mark Helmke	Carl Teinert	The Rev. Paul Zwarich
David Houston	Bishop Ray Tiemann	
Peggy Janssen	Jodi Vlasak	

Advisory Members Present:

The Rev. James Bouzard	John Dellis	Donna Shurley
The Rev. Bonnie Claycomb	The Rev. Joe Garcia	Tom Winn
The Rev. Michael Coffey	The Rev. Stephen Kanouse	

Staff Present:

Janet Fries	The Rev. Lynn Schudy Ziese
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Absent:

The Rev. John Boldt	Laurie Hartman	Ronald Riske
The Rev. Richard Bremer	The Rev. Daryl Koenig	The Rev. James Wilken
Balorie De La Tejera	Jenny Peterson	

Friday, September 8, 2006:

The Synod Council met in Retreat from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Opening devotion presented by Bishop Tiemann and retreat facilitated by Pastor Kanouse.

Saturday, September 9, 2006:

The Synod Council continued in retreat beginning at 8:30 a.m. with devotions led by Ms. Shurley. Pastor Kanouse again facilitated the retreat. Afternoon devotions at 12:45 p.m. were lead by Pastor Claycomb, followed by the remainder of the retreat with Pastor Kanouse facilitating.

At 3:07 p.m., Vice President Mark Helmke called the Synod Council meeting to order.

Roll Call

The secretary determined that a quorum was present. The Council received the resignation of Laurie Hartman, Coastal Bend Conference lay representative. Jodi Vlasak was welcomed as a new lay representative for the San Antonio Conference.

Installation of New Synod Council Members

Bishop Tiemann installed the newly elected and appointed Synod Council members.

Agenda

Mr. Helmke presented a Proposed Agenda.

VOTED

SC.06.9.41 To adopt the proposed agenda.

VOTED

SC.06.9.42 To approve the minutes of the May 18, 2006, Synod Council meeting and the minutes of the 2006 Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly as amended.

Executive Committee Report

Mr. Helmke presented the report, including the following:

VOTED

SC.06.9.43 That David Houston, Jodi Vlasak and The Rev. Wayne Walther serve as the at-large members of the Executive Committee.

The Mission and Ministry Grant process was explained to the Council.

VOTED

SC.06.9.44 That the Synod Council designate a \$25,000 housing allowance out of salary as a portion of the compensation for Bishop Tiemann for 2007.

VOTED

SC.06.9.45 That the Synod Council ratify the Executive Committee decision to fund the Laredo Mission grant.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Warncke presented the Treasurer's Report, including a current financial report.

VOTED

SC.06.9.46 To approve the appointment of David Houston and Jim Price to the Administration and Finance Committee.

Cross Trails Ministry

VOTED

SC.06.9.47 To approve the appointment of Carl Teinert to the Cross Trails Ministry Board of Directors.

Reports

- The Interim Ministry Report was presented and accepted.
- Bishop Tiemann presented a report on the Task Force for Congregational Conversation and Compassion which was accepted and approved.

- Pastor Bouzard presented the Commission for Professional Leadership report, with the following action items:

VOTED

SC.06.9.48 To approve the appointment of Mark Dellagiacoma to the Invitation to Service Committee, 2 year term.

VOTED

SC.06.9.49 To approve the appointment of The Rev. James Bouzard to the Candidacy Committee, three year term.

Roster Changes

Mr. Helmke presented the items for action by the Synod Council.

VOTED

SC.06.9.50 To approve the actions as follows:

A. On Leave from Call Status approved for:

- Pastor Robert Beicke for 6th year Study Leave (UT-Austin), started 9/21/2000
- Pastor Pedro Caceres for a 1st year beginning 9/1/2006
- Mary Clayton (AIM) for a 2nd year beginning 5/1/2006
- Pastor Tom Dietzel for a 1st year beginning 1/1/2006
- Mary Lou Geer (AIM) for a 2nd year beginning 7/15/2006
- Pastor Larry Handeland for a 3rd year beginning 7/1/2006
- Pastor Anamae Jung for a 2nd year beginning 11/30/2006
- Pastor Michael Megahan for a 3rd year beginning 1/1/2006
- Pastor Lori Ruge-Jones for a 2nd year beginning 6/1/2006

B. Specialized Calls:

- Pastor William "Bernie" Ward-Crixell as of 7/17/2006, Chaplain with Hope Hospice, New Braunfels
- Pastor Alma Morales as of 9/15/2006, EOCM appointment with Trinity Mission (restart)

C. Congregational Constitutions:

- Changes in Constitution for Gethsemane in San Antonio

Next Synod Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Synod Council will be held at the Lutheran Ministry Center in Seguin on February 9-10, 2007 as a site meeting in the San Antonio Conference. Those who are able will make congregation visits on Sunday, February 11.

Discussion Item

Open discussion was lead by Bishop Tiemann on the request by Joshua Fite for an "Ordination in Unusual Circumstances" according to ELCA Bylaw 7.31.17. Bishop Tiemann will need to make a decision concerning this request and invites conversation with individual Synod Council members in the deliberation process.

2007 Synod Assembly Planning Report

The 2007 Synod Assembly Planning Team was approved. Pastor Ziese and Ms. Fries gave a progress report on assembly planning.

Report of Mission Director for Hispanic/Latino Ministries

Pastor Joe Garcia presented his report.

VOTED

SC.06.9.50 To provide synodical support to work with Mission Builders (ELCA) to construct a new parsonage at San Lucas Lutheran Church in Eagle Pass.

VOTED

SC.06.9.51 To endorse a New Ministry Profile for Pastor Hector Vasquez as Mission Developer in San Antonio.

VOTED

SC.06.9.52 For Synod to serve as Fiscal Agent for Trinity Lutheran Church in Mission in their call to Pastor Alma Morales and layperson Randall Nicholas.

VOTED

SC.06.9.53 To provide synodical guidance to La Frontera Ministry.

The following items were referred to the Executive Committee: (1) immigration services to be held at Agua Viva Lutheran Mission in El Cenizo; and (2) Synod to serve as fiscal agent for purchasing a land site for the Laredo Mission.

Reports Received as Information

- Report from Bishop Tiemann
- Report from Assistant to the Bishop Ziese
- Report from Ms. Shurley, Commission for Congregational Life
- Report from Mr. Teinert and Pastor Claycomb, Commission for Mission
- Report from Pastor Kanouse, Mission Director
- Report from Ms. Peterson, Commission for Communications

Vision Gathering

The Synod Council was invited to attend the Vision Gathering to be held on November 11, 2006, in Seguin.

After closing devotions lead by Bishop Tiemann, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Linda Zander, Synod Secretary