

**MINUTES OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL, SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
February 10-11, 2006**

Mark Helmke, vice president, at Zion Lutheran, Fredericksburg, Texas, called the meeting to order at 7:09p.m.

The meeting was opened with greetings from the Hill Country Conference by Rev. Michael Ensrude.

Bishop Tiemann gave devotions based on Bishop Mark Hansen's report to the Churchwide Assembly.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Bishop Ray Tiemann	Mark Helmke	Gayle Gordon Bouzard
Bill Warncke	Tom Winn	Linda Zander
The Rev. Wayne Walther	Laurie Hartman	Alton Luedke
The Rev. Anne Kolmeier	The Rev. Paul Zwarich	Gerry Hornstein
Ronald Riske	The Rev. Michael Ensrude	Nan Hengst
David Houston	Rodger Johnson	
The Rev. James Wilken		

Advisory Members:

The Rev. James Bouzard	John Dellis	The Rev. Herb Beyer
Carl Teinert	Donna Shurley	Clarie Streng Broste
The Rev. Joe Garcia	Jenny Peterson	

Absent:

The Rev. Stephen Kanouse	
Karl Vermace	Baldemar Cano Jr.
Balorie de la Tejera	The Rev. Daryl Koenig
The Rev. Elliott Pancoast	
Alice Schnelle	The Rev. Don Taylor

Staff:

Janet Fries
The Rev. Lynn Schudy Ziese

The secretary determined that a quorum was present

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mark Helmke presents a Proposed Agenda.

VOTED
SC06.2.01 **That the proposed agenda be adopted.**

VOTED
SC06.2.02 **To accept the resignation of Margaret Reus (Exhibit A).**

VOTED
SC06.2.03 **To approve the minutes of the September, 2005 Synod Council meeting (Exhibit B).**

TREASURER'S REPORT (Exhibit C-1, D-1, D-2)

Bill Warncke, treasurer, gives an overview of the financial status of the Synod. He reports that the synod's mission support income in December 2005 was \$229,386 which was the lowest income for December in eight years. Total mission support income for fiscal year 2005 was \$1,881,597, down \$18,140 from fiscal

year 2004 mission support income of \$1,899,737. Total revenues for the 2005 fiscal year were \$2,011,961, with total expenses of \$1,990,836.

VOTED
SC.06.2.04 To accept the auditors' contract with Carneiro Chumney.

The treasurer also reports that there will be a rate review this summer concerning the loan for the Lutheran Ministry Center with the Mission Investment Fund to determine continuation and type of loan.

The proposed 2007-2008 budget is presented by the treasurer, who reports that it is \$21,600.00 over projected income. Bishop Tiemann explains that there are monies to cover the deficit from other revenue sources. Discussion ensued as to how to address budget issues, particularly down turn in mission support.

ACTION ITEMS (Exhibit N revised)

A-1. On-leave from Call

VOTED
SC.06.2.05 To approve on-leave from call status to

Pastor Edwina Baethge for a third year beginning April 1, 2006.
Pastor Heide A. Harris for a third year Study Leave for National Counseling Examination & 3000 hrs for Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC).
Pastor Paul Muehlbrad for a first year beginning January 1, 2006.
Pastor Dawn Silvius for a first year beginning October 31, 2005.

B. Removed from Roster

VOTED
SC.06.2.06 To approve removal of Timothy Brunn from the clergy roster, effective May 2006 contingent on no call being extended and accepted prior to that time.

C. Specialized Calls

VOTED
SC.06.2.07 To extend a call to Pr. Frances Ann Koopman as of January 1, 2006 as Chaplain with the SouthernCare, Inc.

D. Disability Status

VOTED
SC.06.2.08 To approve disability status for
Pastor Diane Bacon as of January 1, 2006
Pastor Jon Bigsby as of August 2005
Pastor James Wilken as of March 3, 2006

E. Retired Status

VOTED
SC.06.2.09 To approve retirement status for Pr. Jere Kimmell.

G. Resigned from the Roster: no action required; information only.

Closing devotions given by Bishop Tiemann on what it means to be Lutheran.

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Meeting reconvened on February 11, 2006 at 9:07 a.m.

Devotions given by Bishop Tiemann on what it means to be the church.

REPORT OF THE MISSION DIRECTOR (Exhibit EOCM SC 06.02)

The report on mission activities of the synod and Natural Church Development was given by the Rev. Joe Garcia and it was received by the Synod Council.

VOTED

SC.06.2.10 To accept and endorse the Southwestern Texas Synod Mission Plan and to authorize the SAWC model for outreach for Lutheran Mission in Laredo and San Lucas Lutheran Church in Eagle Pass.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mark Helmke presents the report to the Synod Council. The following items were discussed and voted upon:

VOTED

SC.06.2.10 To accept the recommendation of the Executive Committee to not approve display space for Kairos (Exhibit F) at the 2006 Synod Assembly.

VOTED

SC.06.2.11 To amend agenda to allow a request from Lutherans Concerned/North America Austin Central Texas Chapter for display space for the 2006 Synod Assembly.

VOTED

SC.06.2.12 To approve display space at the 2006 Synod Assembly for Lutherans Concerned/North America Austin Central Texas Chapter.

1. Mission and Ministry grants awarded by the Executive Committee reported (Exhibit G).
2. An appeal for funds from Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest (Exhibit H) is reported. Bishop Tiemann explains that the appeal would begin January 1, 2007 and it would be up to individual congregations as to whether and how they would implement the appeal.

VOTED

SC06.2.13 To approve the recommendation of the Executive Committee to grant permission for seminary fund raising.

VOTED

SC06.2.14 To ratify the reelection of Pr. Henry Schulte, Earl Koester, Linda Davis, and Stephen Wendel to four year terms beginning 1/1/06 through 12/31/09 to the Texas Lutheran University Corporation.

Amendments to the Southwestern Texas Synod Constitution, as approved by the 2005 Churchwide Assembly are presented (Exhibit J).

VOTED

SC.06.2.15 **To recommend the proposed constitutional changes to the 2006 Synod Assembly.**

VOTED

SC.06.2.16 **To grant the request for release from the ELCA by Our Savior Lutheran, Victoria (Exhibit K).**

VOTED

SC.06.2.17 **To ratify the appointments to the nominating committee as recommended by the Executive Committee (Exhibit L).**

VOTED

SC.06.2.18 **To accept the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the Interim Ministry document be approved as a tool and resource of the Southwestern Texas Synod.**

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP REPORTS

Bishop Tiemann (Exhibit M)

Bishop Tiemann highlights his report and makes the following additions: Phyllis Youngdahl was elected to the ELCA Foundation Board, that he has not followed through at this time on the CCC task force as he was charged to do by the Synod Council at the September 2005 meeting.

VOTED

SC.06.2.19 **To accept the recommendation of the Executive Committee to delay Bishop Tiemann's report on the CCC task force until the May meeting.**

Bishop Tiemann reports that the Administration and Finance Committee recommends that the Synod Council convene a gathering of synod and congregational leaders to discuss the mission of the synod and how to support the priorities, mission, and funding of the synod, prior to the 2006 Synod Assembly, if possible. Discussion ensued by the Synod Council concerning mission support, effects, and how to go about addressing the issue and the recommendation. It is agreed that a substitute motion be drafted.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Commission for Congregational Life (Exhibit P)

Donna Shurley highlights her report, noting the Equipping Congregational Leaders events and the Senior Fest. She also reports that a new Church in Society Committee has been appointed to address the resolutions directed to the CCL from the 2005 Synod Assembly.

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP'S REPORTS CON'T.

The following motion is made: That the Executive Committee be charged with preparing a resolution for the 2006 Synod Assembly calling for a process of survey and discernment across the synod to provide significant input into determining synodical priorities and goals before the end of 2006.

VOTED

SC.06.2.20 **To substitute the above motion for the Administration and Finance Committee recommendation.**

VOTED

SC.06.2.21 **For the above motion.**

Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Lynn Schudy Ziese (Exhibit M-1)

Pastor Schudy Ziese highlights her report.

Clairie Streng Broste presents a report from the board of WELCA.

Elliott Pancoast, Assistant to the Bishop, written report is received.
ACTION ITEMS (Exhibit N)

Constitutional Items:

VOTED
SC.06.2.22 **To ratify the constitution for St. John Lutheran, Thrall and approve constitutional changes for St. Mark's Adkins, Faith, Austin, Immanuel, Comfort, St. John, Cuero (Lindenau).**

The following motion is made: Because there are no known organizations officially recognized by the ELCA that represent a different viewpoint from Lutherans Concerned/North America, the Executive Committee, on behalf of the Synod Council, will invite Exodus International or Love Won Out to have a display, at their own expense, at the 2006 Synod Assembly.

VOTED
SC.06.2.23 **Motion defeated.**

COMMISSION REPORTS CON'T.

Commission for Communications (Exhibit O) received.

VOTED
SC.06.2.24 **To appoint Kathy Cox to a two year term ending 8-31-07 to the Commission For Communications.**

VOTED
SC.06.2.25 **To approve beginning February 1, 2006 through January 31, 2007 the proposed agreement with Daryl Koenig as Youth Ministry Resource person.**

Commission for Mission (Exhibit R) received.

VOTED
SC.06.2.26 **To approve the appointments of Michelle Schrank to a first term to expire 8/31/07 to the Global Missions committee, and Pr. William Sappenfield to a first term as chair of the Ecumenical Ministries committee to expire 8/31/07.**

Commission for Professional Leadership (Exhibit S) received.

PROPOSED BUDGET 2007-2008

VOTED
SC.06.2.27 **To recommend to the Synod Assembly the proposed 2007-2008 Budget as it appears in Exhibit D-2.**

REPORT OF THE 2006 SYNOD ASSEMBLY PLANNING TEAM

Assistant to the Bishop, Lynn Schudy Ziese highlights plans for the Assembly, including the theme, speakers, and offering.

VOTED
SC.06.2.28 **To recommend the proposed standing rules to the Assembly for adoption.**

INFORMATION REPORTS

Mark Helmke reports on the meeting of the Churchwide Council, including actions taken concerning the new Lutheran Worship resource and issues concerning sexuality presented by Synod Assembly resolutions.

Orientation for congregational visits given.

Closing devotions by Bishop Tiemann.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Gayle Gordon Bouzard, Synod Secretary