

**MINUTES OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL, SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
May 18, 2006**

Mark Helmke, vice president, at Omni Bayfront Hotel, Corpus Christi, Texas, called the meeting to order at 7:04p.m.

Bishop Tiemann gave devotions based on Ephesians.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Bishop Ray Tiemann	Mark Helmke	Gayle Gordon Bouzard
Bill Warncke	Tom Winn	Alice Schnelle
The Rev. Wayne Walther	Alton Luedke	Balorie de la Tejera
The Rev. Anne Kolmeier	The Rev. Paul Zwarich	Gerry Hornstein
Ronald Riske	The Rev. Michael Ensrude	Nan Hengst
David Houston	Rodger Johnson	Jodi Vlasak
The Rev. Don Taylor		

Advisory Members:

The Rev. James Bouzard	John Dellis	The Rev. Herb Beyer
Carl Teinert	Donna Shurley	The Rev. Stephen Kanouse
Jenny Peterson		

Absent:

Laurie Hartman	The Rev. James Wilken	John Boldt
Karl Vermace	Baldemar Cano Jr.	The Rev. Joe Garcia
The Rev. Daryl Koenig	Karen Stein	Linda Zander

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

SC06.5.29 To adopt the proposed agenda as revised.

VOTED

SC06.5.30 To approve the minutes of the February, 2006 Synod Council meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Exhibit B)

Bill Warncke, treasurer, gives an overview of the financial status of the Synod. He reports that income received for the second quarter of 2006 makes for the best second quarter in eight years. He also reports that the audit results are all in good order.

VOTED
SC.06.5.31 **To recommend to the 2006 Synod Assembly the audit report of the firm of Carneiro, Chumney and Associates for Fiscal Year 2005-2006.**

The approved proposed 2007-2008 budget is presented by the treasurer as it is to be presented to the 2006 Synod Assembly.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Bishop Tiemann presents the Synod Council Resolution (exhibit C) concerning a process for studying and restructuring synod level positions and activities due to continued budget concerns. Much discussion ensues.

Moved/seconded to delete the sixth whereas and change the second resolved to read:

RESOLVED, that the Southwestern Texas Synod hold one or more events in the Fall of 2006 to develop a stronger focus on synodical prioritizing and annual goals to help the synod better use its resources of staffing and finances and accomplish specific objectives; this gathering will include...

VOTED
SC.06.5.32 **For the amendment.**

Moved/seconded to add after the second resolved:

RESOLVED that the synod enter into a period of prayerful discernment of God's guidance preceding the gathering;

VOTED
SC.06.5.33 **For the amendment.**

VOTED
SC.06.5.34 **To recommend the proposed resolution as amended to the 2006 Southwestern Texas Assembly.**

OFFICE OF BISHOP'S REPORT (EXHIBIT D)

Bishop Tiemann gives an overview of the Assembly and presents information concerning the welcoming of two new congregations to the Southwestern Texas Synod.

VOTED
SC.06.5.35 **That Holy Cross, Rockport and Camino Real Christian Fellowship, San Antonio be officially designated as congregations of the Southwestern Texas Synod.**

ASSEMBLY ITEMS (EXHIBITS F AND G)

VOTED
SC.06.5.36 **To recommend the proposed agenda to the 2006 Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly.**

VOTED
SC.06.5.37 **To recommend to the 2006 Southwestern Texas Synod the Compensation Guidelines for 2006-2007.**

Exhibit H – Bishop Tiemann encourages all members of the synod council to attend one of the breakout sessions listed during that portion of the Assembly.

Exhibit I and K – Resolutions received by Reference and Counsel after the deadline will be part of the Reference and Counsel report to the Assembly.

The Synod Council meeting is recessed at 8:55 p.m.

The annual meeting of St. Luke’s Lutheran Healthcare Ministries Corporation is convened at 8:56.

The Corporation members voted to ratify the Executive Committee positions for a one year term expiring 6/30/07 as follows:

President	Brad Hall
Vice President	Mike Manuppelli
Secretary	David Ladensohn
Treasurer	Anne Kanter
ELCA Clergy	Rev. Steve Rode
At-Large	Mark Helmke

The Corporation members voted to ratify Anne Smith to a second four-year term to the Board of Directors expiring 6/30/2010.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Synod Council meeting reconvened at 9:01 p.m.

REPORT ON COMPASSIONATE CONVERSTATIONS IN CONGREGATIONS

Bishop Tiemann reports his recommendations for this task force including:

1. Seek ways to implement the 2005 Churchwide Assembly decisions, helping the synod and congregations “...concentrate on finding ways to live together faithfully in the midst of our disagreements...” in ways that are broader than sexuality.
2. Work with the Multicultural Committee on establishing a process for training in multicultural awareness for synodical leadership, an event held in late 2006 or early 2007.
3. Set up a process to teach congregations how to have honest conversations on difficult topics, from sexuality to racism to politics to medical ethics. This may include choosing and/or developing a curriculum for use in congregations, training facilitators, and developing a method for publicity and delivery.
4. Hold two events in each conference in 2007, with the goal of reaching 20% of the congregations in three years.
5. Evaluation of the Task Force’s work for the September, 2010, Synod Council meeting.

Carl Teinert gives his report for the Commission for Mission in conjunction with the above recommendations and what the Commission is working toward.

The synod council decides to receive both reports and take no action on the recommendations for this task force at this time.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Constitutions for Holy Cross, Rockport and St. John, Bishop

VOTED
SC.06.5.38 **To approve constitutions and by-law changes for Holy Cross, Rockport and St. John, Bishop as being consistent with governing documents.**

Location of the February 2007 Synod Council meeting.

VOTED
SC.06.5.39 **To have the February 2007 Synod Council meeting in the San Antonio conference at the Synod Office with congregational visits on Sunday within the conference.**

VOTED
SC.06.5.40 **To approve the appointments of the Elections Committee of the 2006 Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly: Laurie Cook, Rev. George Munroe, Stanley Post, Toni Post, Bruce Miller, Troy Cook.**

Mark Helmke expresses his deep and heartfelt thanks for the outgoing synod council members and chairs of commissions.

Bishop Tiemann closes with prayer.

The synod council meeting is adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Gayle Gordon Bouzard, Synod Secretary