

**MINUTES OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL, SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
September 9-10, 2005**

Mark Helmke, vice president, at Lutheran Ministry Center, Texas Lutheran University, Seguin, Texas, called the meeting to order at 7:02p.m. The meeting is opened by Bishop Tiemann with a prayer and devotions.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Bishop Ray Tiemann	Mark Helmke	Gayle Gordon Bouzard
Bill Warncke	Tom Winn	Linda Zander
Alice Schnelle	The Rev. Don Taylor	The Rev. WayneWalthe
Alton Luedke	The Rev. James Wilken	Balorie deLaTejera
The Rev. Anne Kolmeier	The Rev. Paul Zwarich	Gerry Hornstein
Ronald Riske	The Rev. Michael Ensrude	Nan Hengst
David Houston	Rodger Johnson	Margaret Reus

Advisory Members:

The Rev. James Bouzard	John Dellis
Carl Teinert	Donna Shurley
The Rev. Stephen Kanouse	

Absent:

The Rev. James Wilken	The Rev. Joe Garcia
Karl Vermace	Baldemar Cano Jr.
The Rev. Herb Beyer	Jenny Peterson
Irene Merz	Laurie Hartman

Staff:

Janet Fries	The Rev. Daryl Koenig
The Rev. Lynn Schudy Ziese	The Rev. Elliott Pancoast

The secretary determined that a quorum was present

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mark Helmke presents a Proposed Agenda.

VOTED

SC05.9.46 That the proposed agenda be adopted.

VOTED

SC05.9.47 To approve the minutes of the May, 2005 Synod Council meeting, the minutes of the specially called meeting of the Synod Council, May 20, 2005 and the minutes of the 2005 Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly with the following corrections to the 2005 Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly minutes: SA05.5.13 insert budget after 2006-2007, in the Commission for Professional Leadership Report change Sam Dadoman to Radoman, in the Evangelism Leadership Team Report change Shulte to Schulte, strike "Council" from SA.05.5.11.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Exhibit B1-4)

Bill Warncke, treasurer, gives an overview of the financial status of the Synod. He reports that income is up from same time last year, but down from '02, and '03. It is projected that based on the 6 month total of income to the synod thus far there will be a shortfall of \$80,000 by end of the fiscal year. He also gave a report from the Administration and Finance committee. Bishop Tiemann explained Exhibit B-4, the ELCA shared risk pool which provides funds for cases in synods that occur and are not covered by regular insurance. He reported that these fees will need to be included in the synod budget.

VOTED

SC.05.9.48

To approve the appointment of Peggy Pennington to Administration and Finance committee.

REPORT ON 2005 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

Mark Helmke and Bishop Tiemann reported on the Assembly. A video of highlights of the Assembly was shown and Bishop Tiemann referred to his report that was sent out to the synod in August. There was some discussion as to implications of ELCA restructuring, partnership with the Methodists, and the sexuality task force recommendation votes.

REPORT OF THE MISSION DIRECTOR (Exhibit C)

The report on mission activities of the synod was given by the Rev. Stephen Kanouse and it was received by the Synod Council.

The Synod Council meeting recessed at 9:33 p.m.

The Synod Council meeting is reconvened on September 10, 2005 at 8:35 a.m.

Devotions on the topic of creating hope in our congregations was presented by Bishop Tiemann.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

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

VOTED

SC05.9.49

To approve the corporation resolutions from Raymond James.

1. The process for determining the Mission and Ministry grants was explained.
2. It was agreed by the Synod Council that the at-large members of the Executive Council, Tom Winn and Rev. Don Taylor, will continue to serve until the September '06 Synod Council meeting.

VOTED

SC05.9.50

That the Synod Council designate portions of the compensation for the following as housing allowances for 2006: Bishop Tiemann \$25,000, Pastor Elliott Pancoast \$20,000.

3. Resolution 4, Exhibit D-1 which was passed by the 2005 Synod Assembly concerning changing the days the Assembly is held was discussed.

VOTED
SC05.9.51

That the 2007 Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly business sessions be held on Saturday and Sunday.

VOTED
SC05.9.52

That the Sunday of the 2007 Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly be declared a Synod Celebration Sunday with a common sermon and theme being encouraged to be used by congregations.

VOTED
SC05.9.53

That the Synod Staff, in consultation with the conference planning team, be authorized to choose the dates for the 2007 Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly.

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF THE SOUTH (Exhibit H-1 and H-2)

Dr. Kurt Senske, LSS gave the report. He spoke of how LSS and area churches have been responding to the Hurricane Katrina aftermath. LSS, which oversees Lutheran Disaster Response has a plan in place for short term and long term response. He told of several inspiring stories of compassion and faithfulness of both those affected and those helping. He thanked the Synod for their partnership with LSS. There was sentiment from the Synod Council that our minimal Synodical financial support of LSS reflects problems with congregational mission support to the Synod and how shameful that is.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT CON'T.

4. Resolution 12, Exhibit D-2 as passed by the 2005 Synod Assembly was discussed in Terms of how best to respond to the resolution, ramifications for the Synod based on implementation, and how and through what committees this resolution could be implemented.

VOTED
SC05.9.54

To refer Resolution 12 to the Committee on Church in Society under the Commission on Congregational Life and for the committee to report back to the Synod Council as to its recommendations for implementation.

REPORTS

Arlette Villaume, chair of the 2006 Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly planning committee gave a report as to the planning to this point. The theme for the Assembly will be Immersed in God's Amazing Grace. A tentative amount of \$140.00 registration fee for voting members and \$95.00 for visitors is expected. The Synod Council will need to act on the designated offering for the Assembly.

VOTED
SC05.9.55

For the 2006 Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly be designated to Lutheran World Hunger projects, with the option of a portion of the offering going to Lutheran Disaster Relief for Hurricane Katrina relief. The goal of the offering will be \$100,000.00.

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP REPORTS

Bishop Tiemann (Exhibit E, E-1)

1. Bishop Tiemann highlighted aspects of his sabbatical.
2. He explained various ways congregations and Synod Council members can help with disaster relief in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.
3. He explained ways to participate in Eucharistic sharing.

4. He explained changes in the format for meetings with each conference this fall. He stated that more time has been included for meeting with conference Executive Committees, and he encouraged Synod Council members to be present at the conference meetings.
5. He highlighted from his report congregations in the process of voting whether or not to remain as ELCA congregations. Much discussion ensued concerning the impact of these decisions and concerns related to the votes.
6. He explained the nominations process for Synod Council and committee positions. He also explained that the number of Churchwide voting members has changed from 15 to 16 for the 2007 Assembly. Options for how to designate this new voting member slot were discussed.
7. Bishop Tiemann reported that he will decide by the end of 2005 whether or not he will be available for election to the Office of the Bishop.

VOTED

SC.05.9.56 To delegate the Appointment Nominating Committee to the Executive Committee of the Synod Council.

VOTED

SC.05.9.57 To allocate the 16th 2007 Churchwide Assembly voting member slot to the Austin Conference with preference being given for persons 35 and younger to fill that slot.

Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Lynn Shudy Ziese (Exhibit F)

Pastor Schudy Ziese highlighted portions of her report including reporting on the role that the Synod Worship Resource Team will play in the continuing development of the Renewing Worship resource. A first annual Senior Festival will be held in February 2006 in Austin to focus on older adults in our Synod. She also pointed out that the Parish Ministry Training Program (formerly known as the SAM training program) is transitioning from a two-year program to a three-year program.

ACTION ITEMS (Exhibit I)

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

VOTED

SC.05.9.58 To take actions under A, B, C, E en bloc and to approve all action items under these sections.

A. On-Leave from Call

- 1. Requests Received:** Motion: That On Leave from Call Status be approved for:
- Pastor Vic Andersen for one year extension July 31, 2006 to July 31, 2007.
 - Pastor Robert Beicke for a fifth year Study Leave (UT-Austin), started 9/21/2000.
 - Mary Clayton (AIM) for a first year beginning May 1, 2005.
 - Mary Lou Geer (AIM) for a first year beginning July 15, 2005.
 - Pastor Larry Handeland for a second year beginning July 1, 2005.
 - Pastor Lori Ruge-Jones for a first year beginning June 1, 2005.
 - Pastor Timothy Seitz for a first year beginning August 14, 2005.
 - Pastor Anamae Storbeck (Jung) for a first year beginning November 30, 2005.

B. Removed from Roster:

- Pastor Ruben Marcelo Huenulef Ortega
- Pastor Bobby Leggett
- Pastor Daniel Menter

C. Specialized Calls:

- Sister Carolyn Hellerich (Deaconess), Director of Church Relations-TLU
- Mr. William Krejci (AIM), Interim Minister - 2 Year Term, Non Site Specific

E. Retired Status:

Pastor David Carrillo as of August 1, 2005
Pastor Joe Kraatz as of July 1, 2005
Pastor Mary Kaiser as of November 1, 2005

Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Elliot Pancoast

Pastor Pancoast reports that 12 congregations are in roster management process. He emphasizes the it is important to facilitate hope in these processes as many congregations are in transitions and are having to look at new ways of structuring congregations and how they are served due to financial difficulties. He also reports that on the 8th of December there will be a Healthy Leaders event for retired pastors. There was discussion with Pastor Pancoast of extending the listserv to Synod Council members. He stated that currently the listserv is for rostered and congregation members. He encouraged Synod Council members and their congregations invite synod staff to preach in their congregations. He encouraged help with financial support for rostered persons affected by Katrina.

VOTED

SC.05.9.59 To approve the constitutional changes of Martin Luther Lutheran, Giddings, Peace Lutheran, San Antonio, St. Martin's, Austin, and Grace Lutheran, San Antonio.

The Synod Council was informed of the location and dates of the February 2006 Synod Council meeting. It will be held on February 10-12, 2006 in the Hill Country Conference.

VOTED

SC.05.9.60 To receive Camino Real Fellowship, San Antonio as an official congregation of the Southwestern Texas Synod.

HOSPITALITY TASK FORCE (Exhibit J)

Bishop Tiemann reported on further development of the goals and objectives of the Hospitality Task Force. He stated that this task force could focus on helping congregations have discussions about all kinds of difficult topics. There was discussion concerning disassociating the task force with Lutherans Concerned/North America.

VOTED

SC.05.9.61 To decline the request for the reinstatement of the Hospitality Task Force.

VOTED

SC.05.9.62 That the Synod Council consider creation of a task force on Congregational Conversation and Compassion at the February 2006 Synod Council meeting and that the Bishop's Office outline the goals, composition, and budget implications of the task force.

REPORTS CON'T.

Information pertaining to these teams was given in the Office of the Bishop reports.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Commission for Communications (Exhibit L) received.

Commission for Congregational Life (Exhibit M) received.

VOTED

SC.05.9.63 To approve the following persons to serve or continue serving on the Commission for Congregational Life: Rev. Pedro Caceres, first term to expire 8/31/07, Rev. Danielle Casey, second term to expire 8/31/07, Rev. Magdalene Holm-Roesler, first term to expire 8/31/07,

Kevin Karnie, first term to expire 8/31/07, Sophie Rainville, second term to expire 8/31/07, James Sorensen, first term to expire 8/31/07.

Youth Ministry Resource Report (Exhibit M-1) received.

Commission for Mission Report (Exhibit N) received

**VOTED
SC.05.64**

To approve the following to serve on the Commission for Mission: Global Missions – Patty Hoerig, first term as chair to expire 8/31/06, Inclusivity/Multicultural Ministries – Rev. Steve Behr, second term as chair to expire 8/31/06.

LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION

Charles Oestreich reported that LMM is encouraging Bible study through use of their Bible with Helps for men's groups in both English and Spanish. He also reported on a book by Rollie Martinson concerning research into the attitudes of young men ages 18-35 toward faith and religion. He further reports that LMM is trying to address the issue of a gender gap in congregations by encouraging men doing manly things in the church.

Commission for Professional Leadership (Exhibit O) received.

**VOTED
SC.05.9.65**

To approve the following to serve on the Commission for Professional Leadership: Rev. Phil Ruge-Jones, committee member, and Lois Hock, second term as chair, both appointments to expire 8/31/08.

INFORMATION REPORTS

All received.

Closing devotions by Bishop Tiemann.

Meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Gayle Gordon Bouzard, Synod Secretary