

**MINUTES OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL, SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA  
Lutheran Ministry Center – Seguin, Texas  
September 14-15, 2007**

**Members Present:**

|                           |                           |                        |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Lisa Beyer                | Alton Luedke              | The Rev. Wayne Walther |
| Margaret Cook (9/15 only) | Jim Price                 | Bill Warncke           |
| Mark Helmke               | The Rev. William Swantner | The Rev. James Wilken  |
| David Houston             | Carl Teinert              | Linda Zander           |
| Peggy Janssen             | Bishop Ray Tiemann        |                        |
| The Rev. Robert Kaul      | Jodi Vlasak (9/14 only)   |                        |

**Advisory Members Present:**

|                         |                          |                 |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| The Rev. Richard Bremer | John Dellis (9/15 only)  | Donna Shurley   |
| The Rev. Michael Coffey | The Rev. Stephen Kanouse | Claudia Teinert |

**Staff Present:**

|             |                           |                            |
|-------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Janet Fries | The Rev. Michael Robinson | The Rev. Lynn Schudy Ziese |
|-------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|

**Absent:**

|                          |                      |                       |
|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Santiago Alanis          | Gracie Cooley        | Karen Stein           |
| The Rev. Mark Behrendt   | Balorie De La Tejera | Deborah Wilson        |
| The Rev. John Boldt      | The Rev. Joe Garcia  | The Rev. Paul Zwarich |
| The Rev. Bonnie Claycomb | Ronald Riske         |                       |

**Friday, September 14, 2007**

The Synod Council meeting was called to order by Vice President Mark Helmke at 6:45 p.m. Opening devotion presented by Bishop Tiemann.

***Roll Call***

The secretary determined that a quorum was present.

The Synod Council was in recess from 7:10 p.m. to 8:25 p.m. in order that the committees could meet.

At 8:25 p.m. the Synod Council reconvened. Bishop Tiemann and Mr. Helmke presented a report on the 2007 Churchwide Assembly.

The Synod Council recessed for the evening at 8:52 p.m.

**Saturday, September 15, 2007**

The Synod Council meeting reconvened at 8:33 a.m. with a call to order by Mr. Helmke. Opening devotions were led by Bishop Tiemann and Rev. Kanouse.

***Agenda***

Mr. Helmke presented a Proposed Agenda.

**VOTED**

**SC.07.9.1 To adopt the proposed agenda.**

- VOTED**  
**SC.07.9.2** To approve the minutes of the May 18, 2007, Synod Council meeting as submitted (S-1) and the minutes of the 2007 Synod Assembly as submitted (S-2).

***Executive Committee Report***

Mr. Helmke presented the report, including the following:

- VOTED**  
**SC.07.9.3** To ratify the recommendation from the Executive Committee for a Youth Ministry Co-Coordinator Contract for October 1, 2007 – January 31, 2008 with Whitney Myers.

- VOTED**  
**SC.07.9.4** To ratify the recommendation from the Executive Committee for the call of The Rev. Michael Robinson as Assistant to the Bishop as of August 1, 2007.

- VOTED**  
**SC.07.9.5** To approve the recommendation from the Executive Committee for the appointment of Claudia Teinert as Interim Chair of the Commission for Communication with a term to expire as of August 31, 2008.

- VOTED**  
**SC.07.9.6** To ratify the recommendation from the Executive Committee to modify the method for selection of clergy voting members to the Churchwide Assembly as adopted in 2005, so that for the 2009 Churchwide Assembly, the Hill Country Conference and the Coastal Bend Conference will not have clergy voting members.

- VOTED**  
**SC.07.9.7** To ratify the recommendation from the Executive Committee to deny a request from Amazing Grace, San Antonio, to mail a fundraising request to all congregations of the Synod.

- VOTED**  
**SC.07.9.8** To approve the recommendation from the Executive Committee that New Hope Lutheran Church, Blanco, be recognized as a synodically authorized worshipping community.

- VOTED**  
**SC.07.9.9** To ratify the recommendation from the Executive Committee to appoint the following persons to the Lutheran Campus Ministry Board in Austin: Derek Mergele, Larry Collmann and Murray Wells.

**VOTED**

**SC.07.9.10** To delegate to the Executive Committee the authority to make a decision on the site and dates for the 2009 Synod Assembly to be hosted by the Rio Grande Valley Conference, as well as the authority to approve any contract related thereto.

**VOTED**

**SC.07.9.11** To ratify the recommendation from the Executive Committee to designate the Synod Assembly offering for 2008 to support the ministries of our companion synod in Costa Rica, with a goal of \$100,000.00, and that the specific ministries be determined by the Global Mission Committee.

***Treasurer's Report (T.1-T.5)***

Mr. Warncke presented the Treasurer's Report, including an update on the Synod Assembly offering (T.5).

***Office of the Bishop Reports (BRT-1):***

Bishop Tiemann presented his report including the following:

**VOTED**

**SC.07.9.12** That the Synod fund up to \$50,000.00 for the building of a new parsonage for San Lucas Lutheran Church, Eagle Pass, with gifts coming in for the project being used to repay the Synod.

***Assistants to the Bishop Reports:***

The Assistant to the Bishop Ziese (LSZ-1) and the Assistant to the Bishop Robinson (MMR-1) presented their reports.

***February, 2008, Synod Council Meeting***

Mr. Helmke reminded the Synod Council that they are to meet February 8-10, 2008, in the Rio Grande Valley. More details as to schedule, housing, and travel arrangements to follow.

The Synod Council was in recess from 11:54 a.m. to 12:35 p.m.

***Program and Evaluation Committee Report:***

Pr. Kaul presented the report for this committee. This committee plans to meet with Commission Chairs as part of their meetings.

***Administration and Finance Committee Report:***

Mr. Price presented the report for this committee.

**VOTED**

**SC.07.9.13** That effective November 1, 2007, the Synod increase the reimbursement for mileage from \$.14 to \$.25 per mile for volunteers.

**Legal, Constitutional and Roster Review Committee Report (LCRR-1):**

Ms. Zander presented the report for this committee.

**VOTED**

**SC.07.9.14 To approve On Leave from Call Status for:**

- Pastor Robert Beicke for a 7<sup>th</sup> year (study) beginning September 21, 2007
- Pastor Pedro Caceres-Larreategui for a 2<sup>nd</sup> year beginning September 1, 2007
- Mary Clayton (AIM) for a 3<sup>rd</sup> year beginning May 1, 2007
- Mary Lou Geer (AIM) for a 3<sup>rd</sup> year beginning July 15, 2007
- Pastor Robert Lim for a 1<sup>st</sup> year beginning June 1, 2007
- Pastor Michael Megahan for a 4<sup>th</sup> year (study) beginning January 1, 2007
- Pastor Jenny (Stevenson) Pratt for a 1<sup>st</sup> year beginning July 1, 2007
- Pastor Anamae Storbeck Jung for a 3<sup>rd</sup> year beginning August 21, 2007
- Pastor Sandi Wilcox for a 1<sup>st</sup> year beginning September 1, 2007

**VOTED**

**SC.07.9.15 To approve Specialized Calls for:**

- Pastor James Bouzard as Campus Minister at Texas State University, San Marcos, beginning August 16, 2007
- Pastor Rodger Ericson as Chaplain for A\*Med Community Hospice beginning April 1, 2005
- Mr. Brad Highum, Mission Developer, New Life, Dripping Springs (contingent on Candidacy approval, EOCM appointment and ordination)
- Pastor Mark Lundquist as Chaplain for VITAS (Innovative Hospice Care) beginning November 7, 2005
- Mr. Bill Krejci (AIM) as Synodical Intentional Interim (2 year term)
- Pastor Michael M. Robinson as Assistant to the Bishop, Southwestern Texas Synod
- Pastor David Seddelmeyer as Synodical Intentional Interim (2 year term)
- Pastor Ann Svennungsen as President of Texas Lutheran University

**VOTED**

**SC.07.9.16 To approve Disability Status for:**

- Pastor Larry Handeland beginning August 1, 2007
- Pastor Al Cope beginning August 15, 2007

**VOTED**

**SC.07.9.17 To approve Retired Status for:**

- Pastor Bill Bruggeman as of June 10, 2007
- Pastor Stephen Clark as of December 1, 2007
- Pastor Louis Flessner as of August 1, 2007
- Pastor Robert Karli as of November 1, 2007
- Pastor Joe Podolak as of May 1, 2007
- Pastor David Schroeder as of April 1, 2007
- Pastor Carl Schoss as of October 1, 2007

Pastor James Taylor as of September 1, 2007

**VOTED**

**SC.07.9.18 To approve the Constitution for Salem, Austin – refer Bylaw change to I.B.1.**

**VOTED**

**SC.07.9.19 To approve changes in the Constitution for Palm Valley, Round Rock for Amendments C1.03, C1.04, C10.06, C11.01, C11.02 and C11.03. Sections C8.02 and C18.03 are referred back to the congregation for further review.**

***Reports Received as Information***

- Report from Ms. Teinert, Commission for Communication (CC-1).

**VOTED**

**SC.07.9.20 To approve the appointment of Tim Clark, Belinda Kinkade and Kathy Hughes for two year terms effective September 1, 2007, to the Commission for Communication.**

- Report from Mr. Dellis, *Vista* Editor (VE-1).
- Report from Ms. Shurley, Commission for Congregational Life (CCL-1).

**VOTED**

**SC.07.9.21 To approve the appointment of the following persons to serve two year terms on the Commission for Congregational Life ending August 31, 2009: Pr. Karl Biermann, Pr. Magdalene Holm-Roesler, Kathy Krebs, James Sorenson, Pr. Don Taylor and Ken Weber.**

**VOTED**

**SC.07.9.22 To approve the appointment of Pr. Bill Sappenfield as Chair of the Committee on Ecumenism.**

- Report from Ms. Schrank, Global Mission Committee (GM-1).
- Report from Pr. Coffey, Commission for Professional Leadership (PL-1).

**VOTED**

**SC.07.9.22 To approve the appointment of Carlos Cuellar as a member of the Candidacy Committee for a three year term.**

***Written Reports Received:***

- Report from Pr. Garcia, Director for Hispanic/Latino Outreach (HMD-1).

- Report from Pr. Kanouse, Mission Director (MD-1)
- Report from Lutheran Social Services (LSSS-1)

After closing devotions lead by Bishop Tiemann, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Linda Zander, Synod Secretary