

**MINUTES OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL, SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA  
Inn of the Hills – Kerrville, Texas  
May 18, 2007**

**Members Present:**

Santiago Alanis	The Rev. Robert Kaul	The Rev. Wayne Walther
The Rev. Mark Behrendt	Alton Luedke	Bill Warncke
Lisa Beyer	Jim Price	The Rev. James Wilken
Gracie Cooley	Ronald Riske	Deborah Wilson
Mark Helmke	Carl Teinert	Linda Zander
David Houston	Bishop Ray Tiemann	The Rev. Paul Zwarich
Peggy Janssen	Jodi Vlasak	

**Advisory Members Present:**

The Rev. John Boldt	John Dellis
The Rev. Richard Bremer	The Rev. Stephen Kanouse
The Rev. Michael Coffey	Donna Shurley
	Karen Stein

**Staff Present:**

Janet Fries	The Rev. Lynn Schudy Ziese
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**Absent:**

The Rev. Bonnie Claycomb	Balorie De La Tejera	Jenny Peterson
Margaret Cook	The Rev. Joe Garcia	The Rev. William Swantner

The Synod Council meeting was called to order by Vice President Mark Helmke at 3:05 p.m. Opening devotion presented by Bishop Tiemann.

***Roll Call***

The secretary determined that a quorum was present.

**VOTED**

**SC.07.5.1 To accept the resignation of Jenny Peterson as Chair for the Commission for Communications effective as of the close of the Assembly (Exhibit 1).**

The Synod Council was advised that The Rev. Paul Zwarich would be resigning as the Clergy Representative for the Victoria Conference due to his accepting a new call in the San Antonio Conference.

***Agenda***

Mr. Helmke presented a Proposed Agenda.

**VOTED**

**SC.07.5.2 To adopt the proposed agenda.**

**VOTED**

**SC.07.5.3 To approve the minutes of the February 9-11, 2007, Synod Council meeting as submitted (Exhibit A).**

***Treasurer's Report (Exhibits B, B.1-B.3)***

Mr. Warncke presented the Treasurer's Report, including the 2008-2009 Proposed Budget (Exhibit B.3) as it is to be presented to the 2007 Synod Assembly.

**VOTED**

**SC.07.5.4 To recommend approval of the audit report from Randy Walker & Co. of San Antonio, Texas, for fiscal year 2006-2007 for presentation and approval by the Synod Assembly.**

***Executive Committee Report***

Mr. Helmke presented the report, including the following:

**VOTED**

**SC.07.5.5 To recommend approval of the following Enabling Resolution for the Synod Focus for 2007-2012 for presentation to and approval by the Synod Assembly (Exhibit C):**

**WHEREAS** the Southwestern Texas Synod has been in a visioning process since February, 2006, which has included a Synod Council retreat, a synodical Vision Gathering, a synodical ministry audit performed by ELCA churchwide personnel, all of which was accompanied by much prayer, study and reflection by the synod's leaders and people throughout the synod; and

**WHEREAS** several groups have worked with the bishop in analyzing and interpreting the data which has been collected from members across the synod; and

**WHEREAS** there has been much prayer and a strong spirit of discernment working toward a clear focus for the synod's ministry; and

**WHEREAS** Bishop Ray Tiemann has presented the 2007 Synod Assembly with a clear ministry focus for the synod for 2007-2012 around the theme Forming Faithfulness – in Leaders, with Congregations, among Partners; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** that the Southwestern Texas Synod, in assembly, affirm the synodical ministry focus "Forming Faithfulness – in Leaders, with Congregations, among Partners," as set forth by Bishop Tiemann; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the Synod Council be directed to create specific work groups to further define and clarify synodical goals in each area of the synodical ministry focus; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the Synod Council be directed to provide an update on specific projects in furtherance of the synodical ministry focus that will enhance the ministry of the synod to the 2008 Synod Assembly; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the Synod Council be directed to consider any structural changes that may grow out of this process and to present recommendations on such changes to a future synod assembly as soon as reasonably possible.

***Office of the Bishop Reports:***

Bishop Tiemann gave an overview of the Assembly and presented information concerning the welcoming of a new congregation to the Southwestern Texas Synod.

**VOTED**

**SC.07.5.6 To recommend to the 2007 Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly that Living Water, Leander be officially approved and welcomed as a congregation of the Southwestern Texas Synod.**

***Assembly Items:***

**VOTED**

**SC.07.5.7 To approve the recommendation from the Executive Committee to adopt the Proposed Standing Rules (Section 1D) and addendum thereto (Exhibit E.1 - Request for Removal from *En Bloc*) for presentation to and approval by the Synod Assembly.**

**VOTED**

**SC.07.5.8 To approve the recommendation from the Executive Committee to adopt the Proposed Assembly Agenda (Section 1B) for presentation to and approval by the Synod Assembly.**

**VOTED**

**SC.07.5.9 To approve the recommendation from the Executive Committee to adopt the Compensation Guidelines for 2007-2008 (Section 5D.1) for presentation to and approval by the Synod Assembly.**

Mr. Helmke presented a review of Resolution #5, and reported that the Executive Committee had declined to act on the resolution. After discussion, the Synod Council also declined to act on the resolution.

The Synod Council recessed for the annual meeting of St. Luke's Lutheran Healthcare Ministries Corporation.

The Corporation members voted to elect (\*) and ratify (+) Executive Committee positions for a one year term expiring 6/30/2008 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 elect (\*) and ratify (+) Board of Directors positions with a four year term expiring 6/30/2011 for the following persons: +Louis Beldon, \*Roger Hemminghaus, +Anne Johnston, \*Bob Logan, +Bob Shaw, +David West, +Helen West and +Mark Wright.

The Corporation meeting was adjourned and the Synod Council meeting reconvened.

***Committee Assignments:***

The Synod Council then had a thirty minute break-out session for committee work.

After re-assembling, the following committee chairs were announced:

Jim Price – Chair, Administration and Finance Committee  
Deborah Wilson – Chair of Legal, Constitutional and Roster Review Committee  
The Rev. Robert Kaul – Chair, Program and Evaluation Committee

***Action Items:***

***Roster Changes***

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

**VOTED**

**SC.07.5.10 To approve changes in the constitutions for congregations as follows:**

- (a) Love of Christ, Weslaco – amendment of C12.01 approved;**
- (b) Zion, Helotes – all changes approved;**
- (c) St. Paul, Mason – amendment of C11.02 approved;**
- (d) Grace, Harlingen – all changes approved;**
- (e) Abiding Presence, San Antonio – amendment of C11.02 and C13.03 approved;**
- (f) MacArthur Park, San Antonio – amendment of Chapters 11, 12 and 13 approved; and**
- (g) Our Savior, McAllen – all changes approved.**

**VOTED**

**SC.07.5.11 To approve changes in the By-Laws for St. Paul, Mason.**

**VOTED**

- SC.07.5.12 To extend a letter of call to Mariana Mendez, Agua Viva Mission, Laredo, as Mission Developer.**

***Reports Received as Information***

- Report from The Rev. Bonnie Claycomb, Commission for Mission (Exhibit G).

**VOTED**

- SC.07.5.13 To approve the appointment of Suzette Price as Chair of The Campus Ministry Committee.**

- Report from Jenny Peterson, Commission for Communications (Exhibit G.1).

Proposed Youth Ministry Coordinator Contracts (Exhibits G.2 and G.3) were presented to the Synod Council.

**VOTED**

- SC.07.5.14 To approve the Youth Ministry Coordinator Contract for June 1, 2007 – January 31, 2008 with Heather Hansen (Exhibit G.2)**

**VOTED**

- SC.07.5.15 To approve the Youth Ministry Coordinator Contract #2 (Exhibit G.3) with the addition of item #8 as outlined in Exhibit G.2.**

**VOTED**

- SC.07.5.16 To approve the 2008 Synod Assembly dates to be May 31 – June 1, 2008, at Texas Lutheran University, Seguin, Texas.**

After closing devotions lead by Bishop Tiemann, the meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Linda Zander, Synod Secretary