

**MINUTES OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL, SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
Galilean Lutheran Church – Corpus Christi, Texas
February 13-14, 2009**

Friday, February 13, 2009

The Synod Council meeting was called to order by Vice President Carl Teinert at 7:08 p.m. Opening devotion presented by Bishop Tiemann.

VOTED
SC.09.2.1 To ratify the appointment of Diana Dworin, Female Lay Representative for the Austin Conference.

Roll Call

The secretary determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present:

Santiago Alanis	The Rev. Robert Kaul	Carl Teinert
The Rev. Mark Behrendt	Jerry Kramer	Bishop Ray Tiemann
Lisa Beyer	The Rev. Alma Morales	Joaquin Trevino
Mike Childers	Linda Nicholas	Bill Warncke
Diana Dworin	Jim Price	Linda Zander
Vicki Hollmig	Alfred Reinhardt	
Peggy Janssen	The Rev. William Swantner	

Advisory Members Present:

The Rev. Karl Biermann	Mary Lou Walther	The Rev. Dan Zellmer
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Staff Present:

Janet Fries	The Rev. Michael Robinson
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Absent:

Katie Boos	Heather Hansen	The Rev. Heidi Schwerdtfeger-Jones
The Rev. Bonnie Claycomb	Dennis Hickey	Karen Stein
The Rev. Michael Coffey	Whitney Myers	Judy Weber
John Dellis	The Rev. Eric Petty	The Rev. Lynn Schudy Ziese
The Rev. Joe Garcia		

Agenda

Mr. Teinert presented a Proposed Agenda.

VOTED
SC.09.2.2 To adopt the proposed agenda.

VOTED
SC.09.2.3 To approve the minutes of the October 17-18, 2008, Synod Council meeting as revised (Exhibit A)

Clergy Compensation Guidelines

Pr. Skip Courter presented information on the 2009 Clergy Compensation Guidelines.

VOTED

SC.09.2.4

To recommend the 2009 Clergy Compensation Guidelines as outlined in Exhibit A-1 for approval by the 2009 Synod Assembly.

The Synod Council recessed at 7:45 p.m. for committee meetings.

The Synod Council resumed its meeting at 8:45 p.m.

After announcements by Bishop Tiemann, the Synod Council recessed for the evening at 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 14, 2009

The Synod Council meeting was called to order by Vice President Carl Teinert at 9:03 a.m. Opening devotion presented by Bishop Tiemann.

Roll Call

The secretary determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present:

Santiago Alanis

The Rev. Mark Behrendt

Lisa Beyer

Mike Childers

Diana Dworin

Heather Hansen

Vicki Hollmig

Peggy Janssen

The Rev. Robert Kaul

Jerry Kramer

The Rev. Alma Morales

Linda Nicholas

The Rev. Eric Petty

Jim Price

Alfred Reinhardt

The Rev. William Swantner

Carl Teinert

Bishop Ray Tiemann

Joaquin Trevino

Bill Warncke

Linda Zander

The Rev. Dan Zellmer

Advisory Members Present:

The Rev. Karl Biermann

John Dellis

Mark Helmke

Gerry Hornstein

The Rev. Carl Settlage

The Rev. Carol Spencer

Mary Lou Walther

Staff Present:

Janet Fries

The Rev. Michael Robinson

Absent:

Katie Boos

The Rev. Bonnie Claycomb

The Rev. Michael Coffey

The Rev. Joe Garcia

Dennis Hickey

The Rev. Stephen Kanouse

Whitney Myers

The Rev. Heidi Schwerdtfeger-Jones

Karen Stein

Judy Weber

The Rev. Lynn Schudy Ziese

Executive Committee Report

VOTED

SC.09.2.5 To ratify the recommendation of the Executive Committee for the purchase of insurance for the Synod with Church Mutual Insurance Company for a period of one year effective January 1, 2009, at a cost of approximately \$8,800.00.

VOTED

SC.09.2.6 To ratify the recommendation of the Executive Committee to approve the cost of trenching and installing a fiber optic link from the Texas Lutheran University network to the Lutheran Ministry Center at a cost of approximately \$7,200, with the Texas Lutheran University network to act as the provider of internet service for the Synod at the same cost the Synod is paying to its previous provider of said service.

The Synod Counsel was provided with an update on the Shepherd of the Valley property in Brownsville as to future use for the property. Several options are still being investigated at this time.

VOTED

SC.09.2.7 To ratify the recommendation of the Executive Committee to approve Mission & Ministry Grants in the following amounts:

1. Christ Chapel at Texas State University - \$1,236
2. Agua Viva Mission (El Cenizo) - \$2,000
3. Mision Luterana en Laredo - \$2,000
4. Our Savior Lutheran Church - \$1,000
5. Immanuel Lutheran Church - \$2,000
6. Resurrection Lutheran Church - \$2,000
7. St. Mark Lutheran Church - \$1,780
8. Living Word Lutheran Church - \$2,000
9. Lutheran Campus Ministry at UTSA - \$2,000
10. First Lutheran Church, San Marcos - \$2,000
11. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church - \$1,500
12. The Branches #2 Site, Mission of St. Andrew - \$2,000

VOTED

SC.09.2.8 To ratify the recommendation of the Executive Committee to recommend the Proposed Standing Rules as outlined in Exhibit B-1 for adoption by the 2009 Synod Assembly.

VOTED

SC.09.2.9 To ratify the recommendation of the Executive Committee to approve requests for display space at the 2009 Synod Assembly as received from Lutheran CORE, Lutherans Concerned/North America and Water to Thrive.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Warncke presented the Treasurer's Report (Exhibits C, D & E). The Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2010-2011 will be re-worked by the Administration and Finance Committee and presented to Council later.

VOTED
SC.09.2.10 To approve the selection of Randy Walker & Co. of San Antonio, Texas, to serve as auditors.

The Council then received a report by The Rev. Carl Settlage, Director for Mission Support of the ELCA.

Mark Helmke presented the Council with a report from the ELCA Church Council.

The Council was then presented with "Synod Council Resolution concerning Vote Margin for 2009 Churchwide Assembly" (Exhibit F) by Vicki Hollmig. After motion made and seconded, the Council approved (by a vote of 13 For and 5 Against) the following:

VOTED
SC.09.2.11 To approve the Synod Council Resolution concerning Vote Margin for 2009 Churchwide Assembly as outlined in Exhibit F.

Program and Evaluation Committee Report:

Pr. Bob Kaul presented the committee's report. Of the 8 applications received for Vision Projects, the Committee recommends funding of the following:

- Lutheran Campus Ministry of San Antonio - \$4,825
- Synod Outreach Committee for leadership development in congregations - \$5,000
- Synod Disaster Response Task Force - \$2,000
- Spirit in the Hills Lutheran Mission - \$1,000
- Ministerial Alliance of South San Antonio through Trinity Lutheran Church for Parish Nurse training - \$1,200
- The Branches (a dual mission of the ELCA and Presbyterian Church) - \$6,000

VOTED
SC.09.2.12 To approve the funding of Vision Grants as outlined above.

Mission Investment Fund Report

After the lunch break, the Council heard a presentation by The Rev. Carol Spencer from the Mission Investment Fund (Exhibit W).

Office of the Bishop Report

Bishop Tiemann presented his report (Exhibits G, H-1, H-2 and I) including the following: explained the restructuring of the Senior Staff of the Synod; gave an update on the Youth Ministry Coordinator position; gave an update on the San Lucas, Eagle Pass, parsonage project; provided information on nominations for persons to serve as Synod Treasurer; and reported on the Conference of Bishops' trip to the Holy Land January 5-16, 2009.

VOTED
SC.09.2.13 To approve the Youth Ministry Co-Coordinator Contract for February 1, 2009 – May 31, 2009, with Heather Hansen (Exhibit H-1).

VOTED
SC.09.2.14 To approve the Youth Ministry Co-Coordinator Contract for February 1, 2009 – May 31, 2009, with Whitney Myers (Exhibit H-2).

VOTED

SC.09.2.15 To accept the resignation of Whitney Myers as Youth Ministry Co-Coordinator with her last date of employment being May 31, 2009.

VOTED

SC.09.2.16 To authorize the following persons to serve as Synodically Authorized Ministers in the locations indicated with review dates as designated:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Review Date</u>
Kelly Tankersley	St. John/Poth	January 31, 2009
Cathy Graham	Grace/Harlingen	February 28, 2009
Jack Balsley	Camino Real/San Antonio	February 28, 2009
José Sustaita	North Austin Mission Outreach	April 30, 2009
Jennifer Bauer	Lutheran Campus Ministry/UTSA	May 31, 2009
Donna Shurley/ Diane Kiddy	St. John/Bishop; Trinity/Kingsville	May 31, 2009
Sarah Roemer	Prince of Peace/San Antonio	June 30, 2009
C.B. Suggs	St. Andrew/Weesatche	June 30, 2009
Jim Gicklhorn	St. Mark/Point Comfort; First/Tivoli	June 30, 2009
Mary Ida Lobaugh	Peace/Woodsboro	July 31, 2009
John Schroeder	Tri-County Cooperative Ministry	December 31, 2009
Gregory Villareal	Good Shepherd/Elsa	December 31, 2009
Scott Hoffman, TEEM	St. James/Harper	December 31, 2009
Randy Nicholas	Bethel, Lyford & Raymondville	December 31, 2009
John Dellis, AIM	St. Peter/Ander	December 31, 2009
Ed Truelson, TEEM	St. John/Dime Box	December 31, 2009
Dana Schmidt	Trinity/Luling	February 28, 2009
Laura Lincoln	First/Orange Grove	July 31, 2009

VOTED

SC.09.2.17 To approve the appointment of Michael Aguirre to the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago Board of Directors for a period from October 1, 2009, until September 30, 2012.

Bishop Associate's Report

Bishop Associate Robinson's report was received as outlined in Exhibit L.

Administration and Finance Committee Report

Mr. Price, Chair, presented the committee's report as outlined in Exhibit M.

Legal, Constitutional and Roster Review Committee Report

Mr. Kramer, Chair, presented the committee's report as outlined in Exhibits N and O.

VOTED

SC.09.2.18 To approve On Leave from Call Status for:
Pastor Victor Anderson for a 1st year beginning January 1, 2009
Pastor Skip Courter for a 2nd year beginning October 1, 2008
Pastor Craig Gabriel for a 1st year beginning November 2, 2008
Pastor Heide Harris for a 6th year (study) beginning July 1, 2008
Sister Carolyn Hellerich for a 2nd year beginning October 1, 2008
Pastor Thomas Robison for a 2nd year beginning March 1, 2009
Pastor Bill Snooks for a 2nd year beginning December 1, 2008

VOTED
SC.09.2.19 **To approve Retired Status for:**
Pastor John Stern as of March 1, 2009
Pastor Hector Vasquez as of March 1, 2009
Pastor Elliott Pancoast as of January 1, 2009
Pastor Harold Sager as of February 14, 2009

VOTED
SC.09.2.20 **To approve amendments to the Constitution for St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Ander for C5.05, C11.03, C12.05f, C13.01 and C13.06.**

VOTED
SC.09.2.21 **To approve amendments to the Constitution for Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, San Antonio for C11.02 and C12.01.**

VOTED
SC.09.2.22 **To approve amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws for St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Canyon Lake for C12.01a, C12.01b, C12.04j, C12.05g (Constitution), and Section IVC11, Section IVC12, Section VA (Bylaws).**

VOTED
SC.09.2.23 **To approve the Constitution and Bylaws for Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, San Antonio pending editorial corrections.**

Budget Update

The Proposed Budget for 2010-2011 will be presented at a later date.

2010 Synod Assembly Committee Members

VOTED
SC.09.2.24 **To approve the members of the 2010 Synod Assembly Planning Team – Sophie Rainville, Chair; Pastor Paul Ziese, Pastor Mike Robinson, Janet Fries, Margery Erp, Pastor Tim Bauerkemper, Rusty Brockman, Ellie Woytek, Becky Voges, Donna Stewart, Pastor Anne Kolmeier, John and Linda Menchaca.**

Commission Reports:

Commission reports were received as follows:

Commission for Communications (Exhibit Q)

Commission for Congregational Life (Exhibits R & R-1)

VOTED
SC.09.2.25 **To approve the appointment of the following persons to serve until August 2010 on the Commission for Congregational Life: Pastor Tracey Breashears, Laurie Cook, Brad Flink, Yael Mendez and Rhonda Westerfield.**

Commission for Mission Report (Exhibit S)

VOTED

SC.09.2.26 To approve the appointment of Pastor Norm Sulaica, Jr. to serve on the Global Mission Committee to serve until August 31, 2010.

Commission for Professional Leadership (Exhibit T)

2009 Synod Assembly Planning Team Report

Janet Fries presented an update for the planning team. The offering is to be used for projects in the Rio Grande Valley.

Youth Ministry Report

Heather Hansen presented an update for the Council regarding Youth Ministry in the Synod.

Information Reports Received:

- Women of the ELCA (Exhibit V) – presented by Gerry Hornstein
- Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest – presented by John Dellis

Written Reports Received:

- The Rev. Joe Garcia, Director for Evangelical Mission (Exhibit L-1)

Bishop Tiemann reviewed information about visits to congregations tomorrow.

Calendar Items:

Synod Council Meetings:

May 15, 2009 – designated hotel in McAllen
February 26-28, 2010 (location to be determined)

Synod Assembly Dates:

May 16-17, 2009 – McAllen (Rio Grande Valley Conference hosts)
May 1-2, 2010 – New Braunfels (San Antonio Conference hosts)

After closing devotions by Bishop Tiemann, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Zander, Synod Secretary