

**MINUTES OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL, SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
Lutheran Ministry Center - Seguin, Texas
September 11, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.**

The Synod Council meeting was called to order by Vice President Carl Teinert at 7:00 p.m. Opening devotion and prayer by Bishop Tiemann.

Roll Call

The secretary determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present:

The Rev. Mark Behrendt
Lisa Beyer
Katie Boos
Mike Childers
Heidi Franzen
Peggy Janssen

The Rev. Robert Kaul
Jerry Kramer
Linda Nicholas
The Rev. Eric Petty

The Rev. William Swantner
Carl Teinert
Bishop Ray Tiemann
Judy Weber
Linda Zander

Advisory Members Present:

The Rev. Karl Biermann

Mary Lou Walther

Staff Present:

Janet Fries

The Rev. Joe Garcia

The Rev. Michael Robinson
The Rev. Lynn Schudy Ziese

Absent:

Santiago Alanis
The Rev. Bonnie Claycomb
The Rev. Michael Coffey
Gracie Cooley
John Dellis
Diana Dworin

Heather Hansen
Mark Helmke
Dennis Hickey
Vicki Hollmig
The Rev. Alma Morales
Jim Price

Alfred Reinhardt
The Rev. Heidi Schwerdtfeger-
Jones
Joaquin Trevino
The Rev. Dan Zellmer

Mr. Teinert welcomed the new Synod Treasurer, Heidi Franzen.

The Synod Council recessed at 7:25 p.m. for committee meetings.

The Synod Council resumed its meeting at 8:55 p.m.

After a closing prayer by Mr. Teinert, the Synod Council recessed for the evening at 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 12, 2009

The Synod Council meeting was called to order by Vice President Carl Teinert at 9:00 a.m. Opening devotion and prayer by Bishop Tiemann.

Roll Call

The secretary determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present:

The Rev. Mark Behrendt
Lisa Beyer
Katie Boos
Mike Childers
Heidi Franzen
Peggy Janssen

The Rev. Robert Kaul
Linda Nicholas
The Rev. Eric Petty
The Rev. Heidi Schwerdtfeger-
Jones

The Rev. William Swantner
Carl Teinert
Bishop Ray Tiemann
Judy Weber
Linda Zander

Advisory Members Present:

The Rev. Michael Coffey

Mark Helmke

Mary Lou Walther

Staff Present:

Janet Fries

The Rev. Joe Garcia
Heather Hansen

The Rev. Michael Robinson
The Rev. Lynn Schudy Ziese

Absent:

Santiago Alanis
The Rev. Karl Biermann
The Rev. Bonnie Claycomb
Gracie Cooley
John Dellis

Diana Dworin
Dennis Hickey
Vicki Hollmig
Jerry Kramer
The Rev. Alma Morales

Jim Price
Alfred Reinhardt
Joaquin Trevino
The Rev. Dan Zellmer

Agenda

Mr. Teinert presented a Proposed Agenda.

VOTED

SC.09.09.1 To adopt the proposed agenda.

VOTED

SC.09.09.2 To approve the minutes of the May 15, 2009, Synod Council meeting (Exhibit A)

VOTED

SC.09.09.3 To approve the minutes of the May 16-17, 2009, Synod Assembly as revised (Exhibit B)

Executive Committee Report

Mr. Teinert presented the 2009 Amendments to the Constitution for Synods (Exhibit C) as approved by the Churchwide Assembly last month.

The staff/officer reviews have been conducted for the second year in a row, and are hoped to be a model for congregations in their annual reviews.

Mr. Teinert read a thank you letter that was previously sent to the Ruth S. Egg Estate for the gift of \$10,377.44.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Franzen presented the Treasurer's Report as found in Exhibits D (Mission Support Comparison), E (Financial Statement July 2009) & F (2009 Assembly Offering & Distribution Report).

Vice President's Report

Mr. Teinert presented his report as outlined in Exhibit G. He is planning to visit at least one congregation in each of the conferences over the next year. He then had those present draw for prayer partners for the upcoming year.

Office of the Bishop Report

Bishop Tiemann presented his report as outlined in Exhibit H. He provided an update on the 2009 Synod Assembly offering, including the disbursement of the funds to the seven projects previously designated. Project activity is to be provided back to the Synod. He also reported on the recently attended EOCM Mission Strategy Table held in Chicago. He concluded his report by presenting highlights from the recent Churchwide Assembly.

Bishop Associate's Report (The Rev. Lynn Schudy Ziese)

Her report was received as outlined in Exhibit I. Highlights included Compensation Guidelines for Rostered Leaders, Candidacy Committee, 2010 Tri-Synodical Theological Leaders Conference, Programa Para Lideres Laicos and Campus Ministry.

Bishop Associate's Report (The Rev. Michael M. Robinson)

His report was received as outlined in Exhibit J. Highlights included new ELCA Call Process, Colleagues Newsletter now used with Constant Contact, update on 2010 Synod Assembly offering – to go to the ELCA Fund for Leaders, working on Synod Website Policy, call process updates, presentation of new Compensation Guidelines to church councils, call committees and rostered leaders.

Bishop Associate's Report (The Rev. Jose Garcia)

His report was received as outlined in Exhibit K. Highlights included an update on the fine tuning of his role in the last six months, facilitating a Synodical Missional Strategy Table in the Synod, Mission Support, update on ministries for which he has direct and/or consultative responsibilities and development of Asset Maps for each conference.

Youth Coordinator's Report

Ms. Hansen presented an update for the Council regarding Youth Ministry in the Synod as is further outlined in Exhibit L. The next meeting of youth ministry workers is scheduled in San Marcos at Christ Chapel on September 17.

After prayer by Mr. Teinert, had a short break for lunch. Following the lunch break, the Council reassembled and was lead by Ms. Hansen in prayer.

Report and Conversation on 2009 Churchwide Assembly Actions

Mr. Teinert, Mr. Helmke, Bishop Associate Ziese and Bishop Tiemann presented their impressions from having attended the Churchwide Assembly. The Council then discussed possible implications of these actions as they might affect the Synod.

ELCA Churchwide Council Report

Mr. Helmke provided an update to the Council, and indicated that implementation of rostering changes would be acted upon by the Churchwide Council. He reminded the Synod Council that we share a position on the Churchwide Council with the Gulf Coast/Louisiana Synod and that in two years when his term expires, the representative will come from the Gulf Coast/Louisiana Synod.

Action Items:

VOTED

- SC.09.09.4 To ratify the recommendation of the Executive Committee that a lease agreement for a term of two years be entered with House of Adoration for the Shepherd of the Valley facility in Brownsville.**

The Synod Council discussed the possibility of a Companion Synod relationship with Ethiopia in the future.

The consideration of a Bylaw addition concerning Amended S7.22 at the 2009 Churchwide Assembly will be referred to the Legal, Constitutional and Roster Review Committee to provide a recommendation to the Executive Committee, who would then bring the recommendation to the entire Synod Council. The Council will need to decide at its February 2010 meeting on any optional provisions as they have to be published to congregations sixty days prior to Synod Assembly (which would be beginning of March).

VOTED

- SC.09.09.5 To authorize the Executive Committee to appoint Nominating Committee to fill positions as outlined in Exhibit M.**

VOTED

- SC.09.09.6 To approve Debbie Zellmer and Aaron Muegge, both from the Victoria Conference, as Co-Chairs for the 2011 Synod Assembly.**

VOTED

- SC.09.09.7 To approve the dates of May 14-15, 2011, for Synod Assembly, to be held at the Victoria Community Center.**

Program and Evaluation Committee Report:

Pr. Bob Kaul presented the committee's report. The Vision Grant process was discussed. They are in the process of gathering reports from those that received funds last year with reports due by next January. The due date for applications for this year's funds is January 10. Other conversations in this committee were on the structure of the committee itself with more thought to be given to this issue.

Administration and Finance Committee Report

Ms. Beyer presented the committee's report.

VOTED

- SC.09.09.8 To approve the Investment Policy Statement as presented.**

VOTED

- SC.09.09.9 To approve the appointment of Dave Sather, Michael Aguirre and Melvin Strey as members of the Investment Subcommittee for a one year term.**

Legal, Constitutional and Roster Review Committee Report

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

VOTED

SC.09.09.10 To approve On Leave from Call Status for:

Pastor Charlotte Anderson for a 5th year beginning October 15, 2009
Pastor Edwina Baethge for a 2nd year beginning July 1, 2009
Pastor Nathan Blom for a 1st year beginning August 2, 2009
Pastor George Dahl for a 1st year beginning June 1, 2009
Pastor Roger Ericson for a 2nd year beginning June 1, 2009
Pastor Marcia Kline for a 2nd year beginning September 1, 2009
Pastor Shelly Kronbergs for a 1st year beginning June 1, 2009
Anna Livingston (AIM) for a 1st year beginning May 1, 2009
Pastor Ed Rowley for a 1st year beginning June 1, 2009
Pastor Faye Schott for a 1st year beginning July 1, 2009
Pastor Armin Steege for a 2nd year beginning September 1, 2009
Pastor Anamae Storbeck for a 5th year beginning August 21, 2009
Pastor Sandi Wilcox for a 3rd year beginning September 1, 2009

VOTED

SC.09.09.11 To approve a Specialized Call for:

Pastor Gary Goodson – Bureau for Federal Chaplaincy Ministries of the ELCA as of March 1, 2009

VOTED

SC.09.09.12 To approve Retired Status for:

Pastor Pedro C. Larreategui as of September 1, 2009
Pastor Peter Manfred as of October 1, 2009
Pastor Gary Mayer as of June 1, 2009
Pastor Thomas McCrone as of July 1, 2009
Pastor Craig Sommer as of September 1, 2009
Pastor Greg Weyrauch as of May 1, 2009

VOTED

SC.09.09.13 To approve an amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws for St. John Lutheran Church, San Antonio for C14.03.02d.

VOTED

SC.09.09.14 To approve an amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws for Triumphant Love Lutheran Church, Austin for C10.04.

VOTED

SC.09.09.15 To approve the Constitution and Bylaws of the San Antonio Conference of the Southwestern Texas Synod.

The Committee will come back with a recommendation to the Synod Council as to how to add a Young Adult person to the Council.

Commission Reports:

Commission reports were received as follows:

Commission for Communications (Exhibit R)

Commission for Congregational Life (Exhibit S) presented by Ms. Walther. On October 17 there will be a joint meeting with the members of the Commission and the Chairs of the groups working under the Commission.

VOTED

SC.09.09.16 To approve the appointment of the following persons to serve until August 31, 2011, on the Commission for Congregational Life: Paul Baillie, Gilma Hernandez, Becky Krogness, June Wilkins and Allan Williams.

Commission for Professional Leadership (Exhibit U) presented by Pr. Coffey.

VOTED

SC.09.09.17 To approve the appointment of Pr. Bill Hassel to serve until August 31, 2011, on the Candidacy Committee.

VOTED

SC.09.09.18 To approve the appointment of Pr. William Irons to serve until August 31, 2011, on the Leadership Support Committee.

2010 Synod Assembly Planning Team Report

Bishop Associate Robinson presented an update for the planning team.

Information Report Received:

- Women of the ELCA (Exhibit V)

Calendar Items:

Synod Council Meetings:

February 26-28, 2010 (Victoria Conference)

April 30, 2010 – New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce Meeting Room

Synod Assembly Dates:

May 1-2, 2010 – New Braunfels (San Antonio Conference hosts)

May 14-15, 2011 – Victoria (Victoria Conference hosts)

After closing devotions by Bishop Tiemann, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Zander, Synod Secretary