

LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD, ELCA
SYNOD COUNCIL
Minutes
June 6, 2009

The Lower Susquehanna Synod Council met for a regular meeting on Saturday, June 6, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room of the United Church Center, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Vice President Ronald R. Price called the meeting to order and led the members of Synod Council in devotions. He used two daily readings from the book, A Year With Dietrich Bonhoeffer for the days of our assembly, June 12 and 13. The two readings were entitled, "The Church in the World" and "The Judgment of the Church." He led the members of the Synod Council in prayer.

ROLL CALL

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| Members present: | Bishop B. Penrose Hoover Thomas E. McKee | Ronald R. Price |
| | Jon R. Adams Thomas C. Benner Lucinda L. Bringman David L. Hefner Mary Anne Kingsborough Paula L. Murray | Timothy W. Sadler Patricia A. Snyder Marcus W. Thomsen April E. Trout Kim Y. Wittel |
| Liaisons present: | Fred W. Bohls Marisa Hunt | Kathy Hefner |
| Staff present: | Melvin E. Dick Pamela B. Drenner Clifton D. Eshbach | Barbara A. Myers Joanne Wilhelm |
| Guests Present: | Bishop Israel-Peter Mwakyolile | Gwamaka Mwakenja |
| Members excused: | Allison L. Carlson Holly Freas-Webster Sara A Gausmann | Richard B. Geib Cody Teitman |
| Staff excused: | David R. Fisher | Charlie Roberts |

MINUTES

Ronald R. Price, synod vice president, provided a brief summary of the actions taken at the last Synod Council meeting. The minutes of the April 25, 2009, meeting of Synod Council were approved as distributed.

BISHOP'S REPORT

Bishop B. Penrose Hoover provided a written report.

Bishop Hoover moved the following appointments and elections:

ADOPTED: That the Synod Council appoint to the World Hunger Committee
SC09.06.30. the Rev. Naomi Carriker for a first three-year term, expiring in 2012; and

That the Synod Council appoint to the Stewardship Committee Allison L. Carlson for a first three-year term, expiring in 2012; and

That the Synod Council elect to the board of directors of Luthercare the Rev. Linda Hanus for a partial term, expiring April 2010.

Bishop Hoover moved the following motion regarding “on-leave-from-call” status:

ADOPTED: SC09.06.31. That the Synod Council request from the Conference of Bishops a two-year extension of “on-leave-from-call” status for the Rev. Vicky G. Schaffner Bush.

That the Synod Council retain “on-leave-from-call” status the Rev. Elizabeth L. Lartz until July 1, 2010; the Rev. Richard D. Schoenly until August 16, 2010; and the Rev. Lyla Harold until September 1, 2010.

That the Synod Council grant “on-leave-from-call” status to Sister Phyllis J. Enck for a period of one year, beginning June 1, 2009 and continuing through June 1, 2010; and to the Rev. Deborah L. Volker for a period of one year, beginning June 21, 2009, and continuing through June 21, 2010.

Bishop Hoover moved the following motions about retirement:

ADOPTED: SC09.06.32. That the Synod Council approve the retirement of the Rev. Sarah A. Heintzelman, effective August 1, 2009.

ADOPTED: SC09.06.33. That the Synod Council approve the return to active service from retirement status of the Rev. Daniel M. Long.

Bishop Hoover moved the following renewals of Synod Council calls:

ADOPTED: SC09.06.34. That the Synod Council extend its call to the Rev. Dr. William H. Cluley as intentional interim pastor of Faith United Lutheran Church in Denver, effective September 1, 2009, for a period of one year or until Faith United calls a pastor;

That the Synod Council extend its call to the Rev. Fredrica K. Meitzen as intentional interim pastor at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Rouzerville, effective July 27, 2009, for a period of one year;

That the Synod Council extend its call to the Rev. Eric N. Anderson as intentional interim pastor at Christ (Filey’s) Lutheran Church in Dillsburg, effective September 2, 2009, for a period of one year; and

That the Synod Council extend its call to the Rev. Sandra R. Mackie as intentional interim pastor at Solomon’s Lutheran Church in Chambersburg, effective December 10, 2009, for a period of one year.

The bishop moved the following Synod Council calls:

ADOPTED: That the Synod Council extend a call to the Rev. William C. Snyder to serve as Vice President of Marketing and Community Relations at Luthercare, effective June 1, 2009.
SC09.06.35.

ADOPTED: That the Synod Council extend a call to Emily R. Myallis, a diaconal minister candidate, to serve as a member of the Direct Care Staff for Eldercare at Avenues-Eldercare Program, located in Palmyra, Pennsylvania, effective upon consecration.
SC09.06.36.

Bishop Hoover reported that he continues to be out in the congregations of our synod. Morale within the synod appears to be very good. The bishop said that he is looking forward to Synod Assembly. He announced that Bishop Dunkin and Bishop Pile both were reelected on the first ballots at their respective assemblies.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Linda Lubold, administrative assistant in the treasurer's office, provided a Merrill Lynch Report for April and May 2009; Mission Support Statements for the four months ended April 30, 2009, and April 30, 2008, and for the five months ended May 31, 2009, and May 31, 2008; a budget summary from February 1, 2009, through April 30, 2009; and a statement of activities for January through April 2009. Receipts from congregation continue to lag behind last year.

Lucinda Bringman requested that Synod Council members receive a list of congregations in the conference to whom they relate that have not submitted a statement of intent for 2009.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Vice President Price thanked the members of Synod Council whose terms expire this year for their faithful service to this synod: Lucinda Bringman, Allison Carlson, Thomas Benner, Pastor David Hefner, Pastor Richard Geib, and Cody Teitman. The vice president also congratulated Pastor McKee on his thirty-fifth anniversary of ordination and on his tenth anniversary as secretary of this synod.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Pastor McKee moved the following motion:

ADOPTED: That the Synod Council, through the bishop and the secretary, certify the minutes of the 2008 Synod Assembly as the official protocol of said assembly, to be deposited in the archives.
SC09.06.37.

Pastor McKee announced that the Assembly Planning Committee and the staff have been working really hard to get ready for the assembly. The assembly should be a wonderful experience for all participants. There has been some concern about rising assembly costs. The evaluation form will provide a vehicle for assembly voting members to suggest what cost-cutting measures should be employed.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee did not meet on May 15, 2009, due to a lack of quorum.

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES OF SYNOD COUNCIL

ASSEMBLY PLANNING COMMITTEE presented minutes of its May 5, 2009, meeting. Pastor Hefner asked Bishop Hoover to urge the voting members to be discriminate in their use of the white card.

GIFT DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE presented minutes of its April 20, 2009, meeting.

REPORTS OF THE LIAISONS

LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION liaison, Fred Bohls, commented on the men's annual gathering. Pastor Kerry Nelson gave a wonderful presentation. However, attendance was down. Because only about thirty persons attended, they lost money on the event. They are planning a father and son retreat, using as a resource, Man's Ultimate Survival Guide.

LUTHERAN YOUTH ORGANIZATION liaison, Marissa Hunt, announced that the LYO will meet during Synod Assembly.

WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA liaison, Kathy Hefner announced that plans are complete for their twenty-second annual convention. It will be held June 26-27, 2009, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Camp Hill. Seventy-six persons are registered including sixteen delegates.

REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE STAFF

Pastor Melvin E. Dick announced that ushers are needed for the Friday evening service at Synod Assembly. A number of Synod Council members volunteered to serve in this way.

Pamela B. Drenner announced that she has been intentional about ordering curriculum, in light of the closing of the Augsburg Fortress store, so that there will always be curriculum available in the Resource Center for persons to preview.

Barbara Myers reported on the Tour De Revs. The three pastors arrived at Frey Village, were refreshed with beverages, and were welcomed by special guests. Pastor Hal Fox and ten riders met them at Frey Village and bicycled with them to Trinity Lutheran Church in Steelton. Twenty-five individuals joined them for dinner and brought with them \$1,070 in contributions to World Hunger.

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES FOR THE MINISTERIUM

REPORTS OF THE SYNODICAL MINISTRIES FOR CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES FOR MISSION

AUDIT COMMITTEE provided minutes of its June 4, 2009, meeting.

Ronald Price moved the following recommendations from the Audit Committee.

LOST: **That the Synod Council require the staff to reverse the contributions improperly recorded as pledges for 2/1/07 and 1/31/08.**
SC09.06.38.

Pastor McKee abstained from voting on the above recommendation.

While the Synod Council appreciates the concern of the Audit Committee for accurate reporting, the council believes that the same effect can be achieved by noting the material weakness and making a one-time adjustment especially in light of the fact that accounting procedures have been changed to eliminate this type of error in the future.

ADOPTED: **That the Synod Council call a fact finding meeting with a representative from this synod, this synod's attorney, and Lisa Ritter to determine the possibility of pursuing the potential liability of negligence by Wildeman and Obrock.**
SC09.06.39.

The Audit Committee believes that because internal weaknesses were not addressed, theoretically at least, this enabled the fraud to continue. It may be very expensive to pursue this potential liability of negligence against Wildeman and Obrock so that what potentially could be received in compensation should be weighed against the cost of making such a claim. Lucinda Bringman noted that audit firms do what clients ask of them and their report is dependent upon what clients provide for them. Therefore audit reports have certain parameters of accountability. We need to closely consider the cost of this endeavor against what we can hope to receive from it.

CHURCH IN SOCIETY is planning Racial Justice Training for October 19-20, 2009. Members of Synod Council are to attend this training session.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE's liaison, Allison Carlson, submitted a Synod Council Report Form.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES FOR THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Pastor McKee asked the members of the Synod Council to review the Memorials and the Resolutions that will go to the Synod Assembly.

REPORTS OF AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS RELATING TO THE LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Pastor McKee introduced Bishop Israel Peter Mwakyolile and Pastor Gwamaka Mwakenja to the Synod Council. They are visiting in the Lower Susquehanna Synod for eighteen days along with Pastor Edward Johnson Mwaikali, assistant to the bishop. They will be attending our Synod Assembly. Bishop Mwakyolile told about the wonderful progress that has been made by Manow Lutheran Secondary School. There are currently 597 students enrolled in this school. Plans are being developed to make Uoli Lutheran Teachers' College, where Pastor Mwakenja teaches, a university. The Konde Diocese will hold its Synod in November. A Synod is held every four years. At this Synod there will be a vote of trust for the bishop. If he receives a majority of votes, he will then be bishop for life. Pastor Judith McKee, Pastor Clifton Eshbach, and Pastor Thomas McKee will represent the Lower Susquehanna Synod at this Synod.

Fred Bohls announced that Lutheran Men in Mission has provided every seminary middler a Master Builder's Bible and a copy of the book, Pastoring Men.

April Trout, a member of the Konde Medical Needs Task Force announced that a video on Itete Hospital will be distributed to each congregation at Synod Assembly.

Pastor Paula Murray showed drawings of the proposed new church building of St. Jacob Lutheran Church, Glenville.

There was no further new business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m. with the praying of the Lord's Prayer.

Thomas E. McKee
synod secretary

6/6/09