

**MINUTES of the ELCA-SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD COUNCIL**  
**Renaissance Waverly Hotel, Atlanta, GA**  
**June 5, 2008**

I. CALL TO ORDER. Mr. Wesley Crenshaw, Vice President and Chair of the meeting, called to order the June 5, 2008 meeting of the Synod Council at the Renaissance Waverly Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia, at 10:05 a.m. An opening devotion was led by Bishop Julian Gordy.

A. Attendance. (EXHIBIT A). Members of the Council and others present introduced themselves and were marked in attendance.

OFFICERS:

|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Bishop Julian Gordy | President      |
| Mr. Wesley Crenshaw | Vice President |
| Rev. John Stirewalt | Secretary      |
| Mr. John Lucht      | Treasurer      |

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

|               |                        |
|---------------|------------------------|
| Conference 1  | Rev. Rick Ohsiek       |
| Conference 2  | Ms. Mary Ann Smith     |
| Conference 3  | Rev. Lewis Groce       |
| Conference 4  | Mr. Lee Smith          |
| Conference 5  | Rev. William White     |
| Conference 6  | Mr. Michael Huseh      |
| Conference 7  | Rev. Karnig Kazanjian  |
| Conference 8  | Ms. Doris Underwood    |
| Conference 9  | Rev. James Braswell    |
| Conference 10 | Ms. Linda Larson       |
| Conference 11 | Rev. Matt Henning      |
| Conference 12 | Ms. Mary Winfrey       |
| Conference 13 | Rev. David Smedley     |
| Conference 14 | Mr. Lou Reda           |
| At-Large      | Ms. Mary Kay Moore     |
| At-Large      | Ms. Marsha Goerss      |
| At-Large      | Mr. Rand Smith         |
| At-Large      | Ms. Meredith Hendricks |
| At-Large      | Ms. Sharon Bost        |
| Youth Member  | Mr. Clark Perkins      |

OTHERS PRESENT (for some or all of the meeting):

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Ms. Rachel Alley         | Director for Youth Ministries                             |
| Dr. Sandra Gustavson     | Fiscal Advisor  |
| Ms. Darleen Krautwurst   | Outgoing Synod Council Staff Liaison                      |
| Ms. Elaine Schwartz      | Exec. Assistant to the Bishop/Meeting & Event Coordinator |
| Rev. Dr. Beverly Wallace | Assistant to the Bishop                                   |
| Rev. Dr. Delmer Chilton  | Assistant to the Bishop                                   |
| Rev. Nancy Christensen   | Assistant to the Bishop                                   |
| Rev. Darrel Peterson     | Assistant to the Bishop                                   |
| Ms. Judith Bunker        | Member, ELCA Church Council                               |
| Rev. Dr. Gary Danielsen  | Chief Executive Officer, Lutheran Services of Georgia     |
| Ms. Kathy Thoreson       | Chief Executive Officer, Lutheran Services in Tennessee   |
| Rev. Dr. Marcus Miller   | President, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary         |

B. Adoption of Agenda. Without dissent, the Council began work from the printed agenda, with additions and corrections provided and incorporated within these minutes. Materials provided to the Council included Council exhibits, as well as materials for the 2008 Synod Assembly. References to the Assembly materials are denoted by SA in these minutes.

C. Minutes of January 19, 2008 Meeting.

It was PROPOSED and

**AGREED**

**That the Minutes of the January 19, 2008 Synod Council meeting be approved.**

II. OFFICERS

A. President – Bishop H. Julian Gordy

1. Report of the Bishop (SA, pages B-1 through B-13). The bishop made brief remarks concerning his recent activities and some of the items included in his written report.

2. Task Force for Constitutional & Organizational Review (EXHIBIT B). The bishop reminded the Council of the discussions at the January 2008 Synod Council retreat regarding problems with the current synod structure. Many commissions and committees do not have a full slate of members, some are completely inactive, and only two conferences are currently functioning as envisioned by the synod bylaws. The Executive Committee PROPOSED and the Synod Council

**AGREED SC.08.06.01TF**

**(a) To establish an ad-hoc task force to review and recommend changes to the synod's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions, with particular emphasis on the synod's commission and committee structure; and (b) To appoint the following to serve as the initial members of this task force:**

**Rev. Randy Jones, Messiah, Montgomery, AL (Convener)  
Mr. Paul Arne, St. John's, Atlanta, GA  
Rev. Jill Henning, Trinity, Lilburn, GA  
Ms. Marilyn Kelm, Redeemer, Atlanta, GA  
Rev. David Keener, Christ the King, Evans, GA  
Dr. Sandra Gustavson (Staff Liaison)**

3. Churchwide Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding (EXHIBIT C). The bishop noted that the ELCA churchwide organization has requested that the Southeastern Synod increase the percentage of congregational mission support that it shares with the churchwide organization by one-half a percent per year until the percentage reaches 55 percent (compared to the current level of 50 percent). Synod Council members discussed the request but took no action. A suggestion was made to recommend a specific percentage goal to congregations to use in determining their mission support contributions. The bishop asked that the request from the churchwide organization be provided to a task force that will be looking at the synod's overall support of agencies and institutions. This task force should also consider the possibility of a percentage goal for congregations. (Establishment of the Institutional Support Task Force was approved later during this same meeting, via Agreement # SC08.06.18LL.)

4. Roster Status Changes (EXHIBIT E).

a. Clergy On Leave from Call. It was PROPOSED and

**AGREED SC08.06.02AR** That that the ELCA-Southeastern Synod ordained ministers listed be granted On Leave from Call status in accordance with the terms stated:

The Rev. Scottie J. Burkhalter - third year, 6/16/08  
The Rev. Barbara I. Engelbrecht - second year, 8/15/08  
The Rev. Michael E. Jenkins – first year, 6/1/08  
The Rev. James M. Kroninger - first year, July 1, 2008  
The Rev. Amaretta J. Onstad - first year, 6/1/08  
The Rev. George L Onstad - first year, 6/1/08  
The Rev. Susan L. Springer - first year, 5/16/08  
The Rev. David K. Stouter - first year, 12/17/07  
The Rev. Lester White - first year, 7/15/08

b. Letters of Call. It was PROPOSED and

**AGREED SC08.06.03AR** That the ELCA-Southeastern Synod pastors listed be granted calls to serve as mission developers in accordance with the terms stated:

Ms. Patricia A. Axel's call to serve as Pastor Developer of Nativity Lutheran Church, Bethlehem, GA beginning July 6, 2008 shall be open-ended until such time as the pastor's ministry with this congregation is completed.

The Rev. Seth Bridger's call to serve as Pastor Developer for Abundant Life Lutheran Church, Pooler, GA beginning August 4, 2008 is no longer considered a term call, but shall be open-ended until such time as the pastor's ministry with this congregation is completed.

The Rev. Virginia M. Krekling's call to serve as Pastor Developer for Celebration of Grace Lutheran Church, Canton, GA beginning August 20, 2008 is no longer considered a term call, but shall be open-ended until such time as the pastor's ministry with this congregation is completed.

c. Letters of Call – Term Calls. It was PROPOSED and

**AGREED SC08.06.04AR** That the ELCA-Southeastern Synod pastors listed be granted calls to serve as Synod Transition Pastors in accordance with the terms stated:

The Rev. Craig H. Bowyer - Holy Trinity, Daphne, AL, July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009

**The Rev. Michael W. Lemke - Covenant, Jacksonville, AL, June 5, 2008 to June 4, 2009**

**The Rev. Sandra S. Niiler - Faith, Clay, AL, June 11, 2008 to June 10, 2009**

**The Rev. Donald L. Rehner - Mt. Zion-St. Luke, Oglethorpe, GA, September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2009**

d. Clergy Retirements. It was PROPOSED and

**AGREED SC08.06.05AR That the ELCA-Southeastern Synod ordained ministers listed be granted retirement status as of the dates stated:**

**The Rev. Noel R. Anderson - July 1, 2008  
The Rev. James A. Clark - September 1, 2008  
The Rev. David Hart - July 1, 2008  
The Rev. Eleanor J. Russey - September 1, 2008  
The Rev. John Weber - August 1, 2008**

e. Disability Status. It was PROPOSED and

**AGREED SC08.06.06AR That the ELCA-Southeastern Synod ordained minister listed be granted disability status as of the date stated:**

**The Rev. Palmer D. Clemmer – May 17, 2008**

f. Deaths. It was noted that the following ELCA-Southeastern Synod pastors died on the dates stated:

**The Rev. Raymond E. Davis, Jr., April 4, 2008  
The Rev. Claude T. Peterson, May 7, 2008**

5. Summary of Use of Emergency Assistance Funds (EXHIBIT F). The bishop presented a summary of how emergency assistance funds were used during the 2007-08 fiscal year. He noted that honoraria received by himself or his assistants are now being deposited into the emergency assistance accounts.

B. Vice President - Mr. Wesley Crenshaw

1. Report of the Vice President (SA, page B-15). The vice president made brief remarks concerning his recent activities.

2. 2009 Bishops' Academy (EXHIBIT D). The vice president called attention to the request from ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson that the Synod Council be supportive of Bishop Gordy's participation in the next Bishops' Academy, scheduled for January 5-15, 2009, in Israel and Palestine.

C. Secretary – The Rev. John Stirewalt (SA, page B-16). The secretary made brief remarks concerning his recent activities.

D. Treasurer – Mr. John Lucht

1. 2007-08 Actual versus Spending Plan (EXHIBIT G). The treasurer presented a summary of actual income and expenses in the Undesignated Fund, compared to the spending plan that had been approved for that fund. It was PROPOSED and

**AGREED SC08.06.07TR That retroactive approval be granted for 2007-08 expenditures that exceeded their previously approved levels.**

2. April 2008 Financial Statements (EXHIBIT H). The treasurer presented and answered questions concerning the April 2008 financial statements. He also indicated that mission support receipts from congregations through May 2008 are on track to meet the revised plan approved in January 2008.

3. Endowment Fund Spending Limits, 2008-09 (EXHIBIT I). As information and for future reference, the treasurer called the Council's attention to the 2008-09 spending authorizations for the Morton, Luther-Zion, Kessler, Candidacy, and Great Commission Endowment Funds.

### III. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A. Representation on Commissions, Committees, and Boards (EXHIBIT J). The Executive Committee PROPOSED and the Synod Council

**AGREED SC08.06.08EC To elect the following persons as specified, for the terms and committees/boards noted:**

**Budget and Finance Committee:**

**Mr. Fred Weinhold, Trinity, Hixson, TN, 2-yr term (2008-2010)**

**Ms. Delee Rehak, Christ Our Shepherd, Peachtree City, GA, 2-yr term (2008-2010)**

**Rev. Jerry Reynolds, Incarnation, Marietta, GA, 2-yr term (2008-2010)**

**Nominating Committee:**

**Mr. Ralph Gnann, Holy Trinity, Springfield, GA, 2-year term (2008-2010)**

**Ms. Louise Hamilton, Emmanuel, Atlanta, GA, 2-year term (2008-2010)**

**Synod Assembly Committee:**

**Rev. Michelle Kuhlman, Grace, Carrollton, GA, 2-yr term (2008-2010)**

**Ms. Jan Levengood, Living Grace, Tucker, GA, 2-yr term (2008-2010)**

**Mr. Chris Schwanebeck, Christ, Marietta, GA, 2-yr term (2008-2010)**

**Ms. Kleah Jacques, Christ, Fairfield Glade, TN, unexpired term to 2009**

**Ms. Linda Few, St. Mark, East Point, GA, retroactive approval for 2-yr term (2007-2009)**

**Board of Trustees, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary:**

**Gene Lewis, St. John's, Atlanta, 3-year term as an at-large member**

**All Things New Ministry Board:**

**Ms. Beverly (Sam) Underwood, All Saints, Lilburn, GA, 3-yr term (2008-2011)**

B. Notification of Executive Committee Actions. The vice president called attention to the following actions taken by the Executive Committee since the January 19, 2009 Synod Council meeting:

1. Grants. Two Great Commission Endowment Fund grant proposals were approved (via e-mail votes, January 25-28, 2008) as follows: (a) \$3,000 for Christ the King, Tupelo, MS

for a Learning Enrichment and Achievement Program and (b) \$2,278.95 for All Saints, Lilburn, GA for its Rockbridge Bus Ministry.

2. Calls to Assistants to the Bishop. New assistants to the bishop were recommended during a conference call meeting on April 1, 2008. Housing allowances were subsequently approved (via e-mail votes, April 15-22, 2008). Based on these actions, the Synod Council

**AGREED SC08.06.09AR** That the following pastors be granted calls to serve as Assistants to the Bishop in the ELCA-Southeastern Synod, beginning May 1, 2008:  
Rev. Dr. Beverly Wallace  
Rev. Dr. Delmer Chilton  
Rev. Darrel Peterson (75% time)  
Rev. Nancy Christensen (50% time)

3. WTA Land Grant (EXHIBIT U). At its meeting on June 4, 2008, the Executive Committee approved the recommendation from Mission Director Gary Christensen for a \$10,000 allocation from the WTA-Site Acquisition account for Living Word Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN.

C. Congregational Constitutions. Upon the recommendation of the Rev. Randy Jones, reviewer of congregational constitutions, the Executive Committee PROPOSED and the Synod Council

**AGREED SC08.06.10CS** To approve the constitutional changes submitted by the following congregations:  
Advent, LaGrange, GA  
Trinity, Tullahoma, TN  
Holy Trinity, Kingsport, TN

D. Funding Source for 2008 Percept Agreement (EXHIBIT K). Regarding the provision of Percept demographic data and at the recommendation of Mission Director Gary Christensen, the Executive Committee PROPOSED and the Synod Council

**AGREED SC08.06.11OR** To approve payment of the 2008 contractual fee of \$8,038 for the Percept agreement from the spendable portion of the Great Commission Endowment Fund.

E. Establish Skillrud Scholarship Fund within ELCA Fund for Leaders (EXHIBIT L). The Executive Committee PROPOSED and the Synod Council

**AGREED SC08.06.12EC** To establish an endowed seminary scholarship fund with the ELCA's Fund for Leaders (FFL), subject to the following provisions:

a. The fund is to be named in honor of The Rev. Dr. Harold and Lois Skillrud.

b. Assets equal to the balance in the synod's Skillrud Candidacy and General Candidacy Scholarship Funds are to be liquidated and transferred to the FFL as the initial gift to establish the scholarship fund.

c. Documents establishing the fund should specify, to the extent possible, that priority in awarding scholarships from this

fund is to be given to one or more qualified candidates from the Southeastern Synod, with the specific recommendations to be made by the synod's Candidacy Committee.

d. The bishop and other synod officers are directed and authorized to sign the documents necessary to establish this fund with the FFL.

e. Any future gifts designated for the Skillrud Scholarship Fund and received by the synod are to be forwarded to the FFL and added to the corpus of the new Skillrud Fund.

F. Resolution Regarding Book of Faith Initiative (EXHIBIT M and SA Exhibit 7). In support of the Book of Faith Initiative within the ELCA, the Executive Committee PROPOSED and the Synod Council

**AGREED SC08.06.13EC To recommend the following resolution to the 2008 Southeastern Synod Assembly:**

Whereas all the baptized when they affirm their baptism promise “to hear the Word of God” and “to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed”;

Whereas all parents and sponsors covenant to place the Holy Scriptures in the hands of their children and nurture them in faith and prayer;

Whereas pastors at their ordination vow to be diligent in their study of the Holy Scriptures;

Whereas the ELCA has begun a *Book of Faith Initiative* inviting everyone to join the conversation, to make a commitment, and to become part of the initiative (see <http://www.elca.org/bookoffaith>);

Whereas the Holy Scriptures are considered the norm and rule of faith in the Christian life (cf. 2 Tim 3:14-17), providing a foundation for open conversation, spiritual direction, growth and change;

Whereas the Holy Scriptures have been used throughout history, with good intention, in ways that were either inconsistent with core Lutheran theology and hermeneutics, counter to the up-building of open, grace-centered communities of faith (cf. Gal. 2:11-13) or driven by ideological principles that undermine the central message of the gospel: that all are sinners who fall short of the glory of God and receive salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ – by grace alone and faith alone (Rom. 1-3);

Be it resolved, that the ELCA – Southeastern Synod become a *Book of Faith* synod, committing ourselves to live in and from the word of God in all our meetings, assemblies and events, so that as we regularly and increasingly hear, read, study, share and are engaged by God's word, we lead by example in faithful service and Christ-centered living;

Be it further resolved that the Bishop of our synod – who “as its pastor, shall be a teacher of the faith of this church and shall provide leadership for the life and witness of this church” – in coordination with the Synod Advocate

lead this initiative personally and through collaborative programmatic work with congregations of the synod;

Be it further resolved that all voting members of this synod assembly covenant together to begin a regular practice of Bible study and prayer, gathering with others in their congregation and/or community to speak and hear the word from one another;

Be it further resolved that we celebrate and continue to support and strengthen those places where Scripture is already taught and engaged, such as Women of the ELCA Bible studies, camping and campus ministries, lay schools, congregational councils, Sunday school and other congregational groups;

Be it further resolved that we encourage all congregations to become *Book of Faith* congregations, which will find expression by

- \* exploring new opportunities for engaging the Bible,

- \* sending sufficient numbers of members to synod events for training as Bible study leaders,

- \* including Biblical study as an integral part of all meetings and groups, in order to become more fluent in the first language of faith – the language of Scripture – that we might live our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered, and sent by the Living Word (cf. the Trinity) that we meet in the Written Word, the Bible.

Ms. Meredith Hendricks agreed to speak in favor of this resolution when it is considered by the Synod Assembly.

G. Designation of Maritime Bethel as SAWC (EXHIBIT N). At the recommendation of Mission Director Gary Christensen, the Executive Committee PROPOSED and the Synod Council

**AGREED SC08.06.14OR To change the designation of Maritime Bethel at Savannah (GA) from a Congregation Under Development (CUD) to a Synodically Authorized Worshiping Community (SAWC).**

H. Requests for Morton Fund Grants (EXHIBIT O). The Synod Council discussed the two requests for Morton Fund grants contained in Exhibit O. It was

PROPOSED That a group be formed to review requests for Morton Fund grants before they are considered by the Synod Council and that the group include persons from Conferences 1 and 2.

Bishop Gordy explained the process used in the early 1990's for reviewing Morton Fund grant proposals. That process involved the now inactive Appalachian Task Force. The Synod Council

**AGREED SC08.06.15MF That the Bishop's Office will consult with Conferences 1 and 2 regarding the possibility of establishing a new process for considering requests for Morton Fund grants.**

The bishop indicated that Assistant to the Bishop Delmer Chilton will take the lead in this consultation process. Regarding current proposals for grants, the Executive Committee PROPOSED and the Synod Council

**AGREED SC08.06.16MF** To approve the following grants from the Morton Fund's 2008-09 spending authorization: (1) \$3,000 to ELCMA and (2) \$800 to Immanuel, Blountville, TN to assist their youth attending AFFIRM.

I. Designate Remaining WTA Funds (EXHIBIT P). Upon the recommendation of Mission Director Gary Christensen, the Executive Committee PROPOSED and the Synod Council

**AGREED SC08.06.17OR** To designate the \$20,000 remaining undesignated Walking Together Appeal (WTA) funds so that they may be used to support "New Mission Starts and/or Redevelopment Efforts."

J. Funding for Lutheranch (EXHIBIT Q). The Council discussed aspects of a resolution from the synod's youth organization (SESLYO), which has been submitted to the Reference and Counsel Committee for consideration by the 2008 Synod Assembly. The Executive Committee PROPOSED and the Synod Council

**AGREED SC08.06.18LL** 1. To adjust the 2009-10 Ministry Funding Plan (budget) that is recommended to the 2008 Synod Assembly by adding an expense line for \$65,000 for Lutheranch and a \$65,000 Source of Funds line entitled "Transfers from Designated Funds."

2. To request that the Budget and Finance Committee (a) review and recommend appropriate changes to existing rules governing spending from the synod's various designated accounts, (b) recommend the specific designated funds to fulfill the purpose described in #1 above, and (c) report its recommendations to the Synod Council no later than the January 2009 Synod Council meeting.

3. To transmit the actions described in #1 and #2 to the Committee on Reference and Counsel for its use in dealing with SESLYO's proposed resolution regarding funding for Lutheranch, which has been submitted for consideration by the 2008 Synod Assembly.

4. To establish an Institutional Support Task Force to (a) assess the Southeastern Synod's level of institutional support relative to other synods in Region 9 and (b) recommend ways in which the synod might improve its funding for all of the agencies and institutions that it supports, with a request that a Task Force report be issued in time to be considered at the December 6, 2008 meeting of the Budget and Finance Committee.

5. To appoint the following as initial members of the Institutional Support Task Force:

Mr. Rand Smith, St. Andrew, Franklin, TN  
Rev. John Weber, Christ Our Shepherd, Peachtree City, GA

**Dr. Sandra Gustavson (Staff Liaison)**

**6. To authorize Bishop Gordy to appoint two additional members of the Institutional Support Task Force when and if he determines that additional members would be useful.**

Pastor Lewis Groce indicated that he was not in favor of the consensus agreeing to these actions, but that he did not wish to block the agreements. The bishop reminded the Council of its earlier discussion about the Churchwide Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding. He reiterated a comment made during that discussion that the Institutional Support Task Force should consider the possibility of a percentage goal for congregations when making decisions about their mission support contributions. He also stated that the charge to the Budget and Finance Committee to review rules governing spending from designated accounts should be understood to include the need for reviewing Morton Fund grants prior to their consideration by the Synod Council.

K. Change in Signature Authorizations (EXHIBIT R). With the retirement of Darleen Krautwurst from her position in the synod office, there is a need to revise the positions authorized to sign checks. The Executive Committee PROPOSED and the Synod Council unanimously

**APPROVED SC08.06.19PY**      **An amendment to the existing policy regarding signature authorizations, so that the following positions are authorized as account signatories: (a) Bishop, (b) Treasurer, (c) Fiscal Advisor, and (d) one Assistant to the Bishop selected by the Bishop.**

L. Background Checks for Transition Pastors (EXHIBIT Y). At the recommendation of synod staff, the Executive Committee PROPOSED and the Synod Council

**AGREED SC08.06.20PY**      **1. To implement a policy requiring background checks on all transition pastors appointed by the bishop.**

**2. To specify that congregations which approve the appointments pay the cost of the background check. A congregation may request financial assistance from the bishop when this fee is a burden to the congregation.**

**3. To specify that background checks for transition pastors be good for no more than 4 years or the durations of the synod call, whichever is longer.**

IV. COMMISSIONS – The Synod Council reviewed written reports that had been submitted by the Commissions for the Synod Assembly as noted below, and acted upon recommendations that had been submitted to the Synod Council.

A. Commission for Leadership. Based on a recommendation from the Candidacy Committee, it was PROPOSED and the Synod Council

**AGREED SC08.06.21KF**      **That the following persons be awarded scholarships from the Kessler Fund for the 2008-09 academic year, in the amounts shown: Karen Schwindler, \$3,147; Michael Rhyne, \$3,000; and Laura D'Angelo, \$3,000.**

B. Commission for Multicultural Ministries – Ms. Catherine Crimi, Chair (No Report)

C. Commission for Planting Congregations – Rev. Devin Strong, Chair (SA, page C-5)

D. Commission for Resources – Ms. Allison Ward, Chair (SA, page C-6)

E. Commission for Transforming Congregations – Ms. Debbie Grabeldinger, Chair (SA, pages C-7 through C-8). At the recommendation of the Commission, it was PROPOSED and the Synod Council

**AGREED SC08.06.22CR** That a \$1,500 grant from the spendable portion of the Great Commission Endowment Fund be approved for Immanuel, Blountville, TN, for their community-focused program entitled “Gospel Fest.”

V. SYNOD COUNCIL COMMITTEES / TASK FORCES - The Synod Council reviewed written reports that had been submitted by the committees and task forces as noted below, and acted upon recommendations that had been submitted.

A. Budget and Finance Committee – Mr. Fred Weinhold, Chair (SA, Tab E)

1. Finalization of 2008-09 and 2009-10 Ministry Funding Plans (EXHIBIT S). With the calls of the new assistants to the bishop issued, the Council was able to allocate the lump sum amounts included in the 2008-09 and 2009-2010 ministry funding plans approved in January 2008. It was PROPOSED and the Synod Council

**AGREED SC08.06.23BF** To amend the 2008-09 ministry funding plan so that the allocation for “Salaries & Housing” is \$547,900; the allocation for “Pension, Insurance, and Other Benefits” is \$188,688; and the allocation for “Staff Travel” is \$94,000; and

To amend the 2009-10 ministry funding plan recommended to the Synod Assembly, so that the allocation for “Salaries & Housing” is \$588,500; the allocation for “Pension, Insurance, and Other Benefits” is \$218,690; and the allocation for “Staff Travel” is \$110,000.

B. Consultation Committee (No Report)

C. Discipline Committee (No Report)

D. Mutual Ministry Committee (No Report)

E. Nominating Committee – Mr. Henry Harris, Chair (SA, page D-3)

F. Personnel Committee (No Report)

G. Synod Assembly Committee – Rev. Ann Bassett, Chair

1. Election of Members of Synod Assembly Committees (SA, Exhibit 3). The Executive Committee PROPOSED and the Synod Council

To elect the following persons for the 2008 Synod Assembly Committees as specified:

**Reference and Counsel Committee**

Rev. Paul Baumgartner, Chairperson  
Mr. Bert Blood  
Ms. Marsha Goerss  
Mr. Lee Smith  
Ms. Allison Ward  
AIM Paula Wertenberger  
Rev. Bud Onstad (Advisor)  
Rev. Delmer Chilton (Advisor)

**Credentials Committee:**

Rev. Terry Fugate  
Mr. Jared Horn  
Mr. John Hunter  
Rev. Sandra Johnson, Chairperson  
Ms. Charlotte Light  
Mr. Lou Reda  
Rev. Darrel Peterson (Advisor)

**Elections Committee**

Mr. Bill Fleming  
Rev. Carla Knobler  
AIM Linda Larson  
Ms. Shannon Mantovani  
Rev. John Rossing, Chairperson  
Mr. Tim Shally  
Dr. Sandra Gustavson (Advisor)

**Minutes Committee**

Ms. Carolyn Akland  
AIM Michelle Angalet  
Rev. Lewis Groce  
Ms. Meredith Hendricks, Chairperson  
Rev. Randy Jones  
Rev. Larry Miller

2. Review of Assembly Agenda (SA, Tab A). As a special order, at 1:25 p.m. Ms. Elaine Schwartz led the Synod Council through a review of the agenda and schedule for the 2008 Synod Assembly.

H. Ad Hoc Committees. The Synod Council reviewed written reports that had been submitted by the ad-hoc committees and task forces as noted below, and acted upon recommendations that had been submitted.

1. Immigration Task Force – Rev. Matt Henning, Chair (No report)

2. Welcoming Task Force – Rev. Lewis Groce, Chair (SA, Exhibit 6)

3. Synod Office Location Task Force - Dr. Sandra Gustavson, Convener (EXHIBIT T). As an extension of the authorization granted in January 2008, it was PROPOSED and the Synod Council

**AGREED SC08.06.25SO** To authorize Bishop Gordy to act at his discretion after consultation with the other officers, to take the actions necessary between now and the next Synod Council meeting to extend the synod office's current lease at the Woodruff Volunteer Service Center in Atlanta for the six-month period from November 1, 2008 through April 30, 2009, at a rental rate of \$15.50 per square foot.

4. Audit Committee – Mr. Fred Weinhold, Chair (EXHIBIT X).

a. 2007-08 Independent Auditor's Report (SA, Exhibit 10). After some explanatory comments by Treasurer John Lucht, it was PROPOSED and the Synod Council

**AGREED SC08.06.26BF** That the 2007-08 audit report be received.

b. Internal Control Recommendation. After comments by Treasurer John Lucht and discussion by other Council members, the Executive Committee PROPOSED and the Synod Council

**AGREED SC08.06.27BF** That Marshall Jones & Co.'s recommendation about segregation of cash disbursement responsibilities (contained within Exhibit X) be referred to the Budget and Finance Committee for continued review and monitoring, with a request that the Committee provide an update on this matter for the January 2009 Synod Council meeting.

## VI. CONFERENCES

A. Reports from Conferences. The conference representatives noted below provided brief oral updates about activities in their conferences and called attention to any written reports that had been submitted.

1. Holston Heritage - Rev. Rick Ohsiek (EXHIBIT Z)
2. South East Tennessee - Ms. Mary Ann Smith (EXHIBIT AA)
3. Middle Tennessee - Rev. Lewis Groce
4. Tennessee Valley – Mr. Lee Smith
5. West Tennessee – Rev. Bill White
6. North Mississippi – Mr. Michael Huseth
7. Gulf Coast – Rev. Karnig Kazanjian
8. Greater Alabama - Ms. Doris Underwood
9. New Hope – Rev. James Braswell (SA, page C-9)
10. Ebenezer – Ms. Linda Larson, AIM (SA, pages C-11 to C-12)
11. Leaven – Rev. Matt Henning
12. Southern Cross – Ms. Mary Winfrey
13. Foothills – Rev. David Smedley
14. Peach – Mr. Lou Reda (EXHIBIT CC)

Bishop Gordy reminded the Council that the conferences need to meet and that Synod Council representatives are to be elected by the conferences, not just by the clergy within a conference. He indicated that lay persons in many conferences have been disenfranchised from decision making and that this situation must be addressed and changed. During the general discussion

that followed the bishop's comments, Pastor Darrel Peterson mentioned the need for an expanded database that would contain the names of talented laity in numerous fields

B. Conference Deans. Bishop Gordy reported that new deans had been appointed and that Pastor Nancy Christensen is the new staff liaison to the Conference Deans.

VII. REPORTS OF SYNOD STAFF – The Council reviewed written reports and exhibits provided in advance. Staff members who were present at the meeting provided additional verbal comments about their recent activities.

A. Revs. Amy & Bud Onstad, Assistants to the Bishop/Pastors for Leadership (SA, page 17). In response to a question about how staff who are retiring should be recognized, it was PROPOSED and the Synod Council

**AGREED SC08.06.28TF**      **To appoint an ad-hoc task force consisting of Pastor Matt Henning, Pastor Nancy Christensen, Ms. Mary Winfrey, and Ms. Meredith Hendricks to recommend appropriate ways to recognize the work and impending retirements and departures from the synod staff of Pastor Bud Onstad, Pastor Amy Onstad, Pastor Bryn Carlson, and Ms. Darleen Krautwurst.**

B. Rev. Dr. Beverly Wallace, Assistant to the Bishop (EXHIBIT DD). In response to a question concerning the status of the African Descent Strategy Task Force, Pastor Wallace indicated that the task force had not yet been appointed, but that with full synod staffing now in place, the appointment of the task force will be addressed in the near future.

C. Rev. Dr. Delmer Chilton, Assistant to the Bishop

D. Rev. Darrel Peterson, Assistant to the Bishop/Pastor for Stewardship (EXHIBIT W and SA, page B-18). In addition to emphasizing the importance of stewardship, Pastor Peterson described a proposed new plan for utilizing a \$100,000 grant from Thrivent that was first awarded to the Southeastern Synod in the Fall of 2006. The Executive Committee PROPOSED and the Synod Council

**AGREED SC08.06.29ST**      **That the September 2007 action by the Synod Council authorizing the return of the \$100,000 Thrivent Stewardship Grant be rescinded and that the plan outlined in Exhibit W be approved as the guide for using the grant monies. This plan calls for work in the three areas of Basic Stewardship, Legacy Stewardship, and Mission Interpretation. Target allocations for the grant monies during 2008 and 2009 include \$42,000 for legacy stewardship efforts; \$23,000 for training mission interpreters; and \$35,000 for upgrading the synod website.**

E. Rev. Nancy Christensen, Assistant to the Bishop

F. Rev. Bryn Carlson, Administrator for Transforming Congregations (SA, page B-19)

G. Ms. Elaine Schwartz, Executive Assistant to the Bishop / Meeting & Event Coordinator

H. Ms. Rachel Alley, Director for Youth Ministries (SA, pages B-21 to B-22)

I. Dr. Sandra Gustavson, Fiscal Advisor (SA, page B-20)

J. Ms. Holly Liersch, Office Manager (No report)

VIII. REPORTS OF ELCA DEPLOYED STAFF – The Synod Council reviewed the written reports submitted by the ELCA deployed staff noted below.

A. Rev. Dr. Gary Christensen, ELCA Mission Director (SA, pages C-1 through C-4)

B. Rev. Harvey Huntley, Jr., Region 9 Coordinator (SA, pages C-37 through C-42)

C. Ms. Karen Sumner, Mission Investment Fund, Church Building Consultant (SA, page C-33)

## IX. AGENCIES, INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

A. PRESENTATIONS TO THE SYNOD COUNCIL – Representatives from three institutions supported by the Southeastern Synod had been invited to make presentations to the Synod Council. In addition to hearing these presentations and asking pertinent questions, Council members reviewed the written reports that had been submitted.

1. Lutheran Services of Georgia – Rev. Dr. Gary Danielsen (Exhibit BB and SA, pages C-29 to C-30)

2. Lutheran Services in Tennessee – Ms. Kathy Thoreson (SA, pages C-27 to C-28)

3. Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary – Rev. Dr. Marcus Miller (SA, page C-45)

B. WRITTEN REPORTS – Council members reviewed written reports submitted in advance by the agencies, institutions, and organizations noted below.

1. Day 1 (formerly The Protestant Hour) (SA, page C-16)

2. ELCA Campus Ministry (SA, page C-15)

a. Atlanta University Campus Ministry (No report)

b. Lutheran Campus Ministry at Georgia Tech (SA, pages C-19 to C-20)

c. Tyson House at University of Tennessee (SA, page C-44)

d. University of Georgia Campus Ministry (SA, pages C-21 to C-22)

3. Evangelical Lutheran Coalition for Mission in Appalachia (SA, page C-17)

4. Georgia Christian Council (No report)

5. James R. Crumley, Jr. Archives (SA, page C-14)

6. Lutheran Men in Mission (No report)

7. Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) – Ms. Nicole Wirshing, President

8. Lutheridge/Lutherock Ministries, Inc.; and Lutheranch (SA, pages C-31 to C-32)

9. Mississippi Religious Leadership Conference (No report)
10. Newberry College (SA, pages C-35 to C-36)
11. Lutheran Theological Center in Atlanta (No report)
12. Lutheran Ministries of Alabama (No report)
13. Lutheran Episcopal Services in Mississippi (LESM) (SA, pages C-23 to C-24). Mr. Michael Huseth supplemented the written report with verbal comments, and Bishop Gordy emphasized the numerous accolades received by LESM in recent months.
14. All Things New Ministry (SA, page C-13)
15. Southeastern Women of the ELCA – Ms. Louise Iconis, President (SA, page C-43)

## X. FUTURE MEETINGS

A. Synod Master Calendar (EXHIBIT V). Council members reviewed the synod's master calendar. It was noted that the dates for the Reformer Tour to Germany are incorrect. The correct dates are July 23 through August 9, 2008.

B. Synod Council and Assembly Meetings. Vice President Wesley Crenshaw asked Council members to make note of the following future meeting dates:

### Synod Council:

September 5-6, 2008  
January 16-17, 2009  
June 4, 2009  
September 11-12, 2009  
January 15-16, 2010

### Synod Assembly

June 5-7, 2009 (Atlanta, GA)

### Churchwide Assembly

August 17-23, 2009 (Minneapolis, MN)  
August 14-20, 2011 (Orlando, FL)

## XI. OTHER

A. Greetings from ELCA Church Council Member. As a special order at 5:00 p.m., ELCA Church Council member Judith Bunker addressed the Synod Council and expressed her appreciation for being able to attend the Southeastern Synod Council and Synod Assembly meetings.

B. Executive Session. At 8:00 p.m. the Synod Council prepared to move into executive session to discuss compensation for the four newly called assistants to the bishop. In addition to its elected members, the Council invited Dr. Sandra Gustavson to attend the executive session. The Council took the following actions during the executive session:

**AGREED SC08.06.30ES** To approve annual rates totaling \$264,220 for salaries and housing allowances for the four new assistants to the bishop, with benefits payable in accordance with established synod policies, and to specify that this compensation includes housing allowances paid at the following annual rates, effective May 1, 2008:

|                        |          |
|------------------------|----------|
| Rev. Beverly Wallace   | \$30,000 |
| Rev. Delmer Chilton    | \$30,000 |
| Rev. Darrel Peterson   | \$45,000 |
| Rev. Nancy Christensen | \$6,000  |

**AGREED SC08.06.31ES** To approve compensation for the Rev. Bryn Carlson for the period June 1, 2008 through August 31, 2008 equal to half his former rate and specify that his compensation includes a housing allowance of \$1,100 per month.

## XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m., June 5, 2008, with a prayer by Pastor Rick Ohsiek.