

Report of the Synod Council

Northern Illinois Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
May 1, 2008 – April 30, 2009

Synod Officers

The Rev. Dr. Gary Wollersheim, bishop (2010)
Ms. Esther Prabhakar, vice-president (2009)
The Rev. Gary Erickson, Secretary (2010)
Mr. Michael Brooks, Treasurer (2011)

Synod Council

Mr. Bill Bartlett (2008)
Ms. DiAnne Beynon (2010)
Ms. Beth Nelson Chase (2009)
Ms. Karen Dowsett (2011)
Mr. James Hankins (2009)
The Rev. Robert Hansen (2011)
Mr. Robin Johnson (2011)
The Rev. Donald Knowles (2008)
The Rev. Kim Lee-Brown (2010)
Ms. Amy Laurin NIS WELCA (advisory member)
The Rev. Kim Lee-Brown (2010)
The Rev. Mark Luepke (2010)
The Rev. Richard Meier (2009)
Mr. Dennis Melgren NIS LMM (advisory member)
Dr. Randall Mullin (2009)
Mr. Kevin Rogers NIS LYO (2009)
Mr. George Sanchez (2010)
Ms. Jerilyn Strohecker (2008)
The Rev. Janet Wold (2011)

Synod Staff

The Rev. Denver Bitner, Urban/Multicultural Ministry Consultant (2008)
The Rev. Jeffrey Clements, assistant to the bishop
Ms. June Cain, support staff
The Rev. Michel Clark, assistant to the bishop for the West Conference
Ms. Nancy Corey, support staff
The Rev. Brent Dahlseng, Evangelizing Church Consultant (2008)
Deaconess Cheryl Erdman, assistant to the bishop for the Northeast Conference
Ms. Judi Fields, support staff
The Rev. Carol Gates, assistant to the bishop for the East Conference (2008)
Ms. Karin Graddy, AIM, Communication Director
The Rev. Kurt Hansen, assistant to the bishop for the Northwest Conference
The Rev. Dennis Heaney, Mission Director (2008)
The Rev. Len Hoffman, development director (2008)
The Rev. Timothy Kenyon, assistant to the bishop for the South Conference
The Rev. Tom Larsen, assistant to the bishop for the Southwest Conference
Ms. Mary Lasits, Synod Youth Coordinator
Ms. Julie Lewis, support staff
Ms. Sandra Musch, assistant to the bishop
The Rev. Kurt Nordby, assistant to the bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission
The Rev. Jay Quinn, assistant to the bishop for the North Conference
The Rev. Barbara Rapp, assistant to the bishop for candidacy
The Rev. Christine Stienstra, assistant to the bishop for the Central Conference

Committees

Executive Committee

Mr. Bill Bartlett (2008)
Ms. DiAnne Beynon (2008)
Mr. Michael Brooks
Ms. Beth Nelson Chase
The Rev. Gary Erickson
The Rev. Richard Meier
Ms. Sandra Musch – Ex Officio
Ms. Esther Prabhakar
The Rev. Dr. Gary Wollersheim

Finance Committee

Mr. Bill Bartlett
Ms. DiAnne Beynon
Mr. Michael Brooks
Ms. June Cain – Ex Officio
The Rev. Jeffrey Clements – Ex Officio
The Rev. Mark Luepke
Ms. Sandra Musch – Ex Officio
Ms. Wanda Nelson
The Rev. Kurt Nordby – Ex Officio
Ms. Esther Prabhakar
Mr. Nord Swanstrom
The Rev. Janet Wold
The Rev. Dr. Gary Wollersheim

Appointment/Specialized Ministry Committee

Mr. Bill Bartlett (2008)
Ms. DiAnne Beynon (2008)
Mr. Michael Brooks
Ms. Beth Nelson Chase
The Rev. Gary Erickson
The Rev. Richard Meier
Ms. Sandra Musch – Ex Officio
Ms. Esther Prabhakar
The Rev. Dr. Gary Wollersheim

Synod Council Dates and Locations

May 31, 2008	Synod Office, Rockford, IL
September 6, 2008	Christ Lutheran Church, Belvidere, IL
January 24, 2009	Synod Office, Rockford, IL
April 18, 2009	Synod Office, Rockford, IL

Administrative Actions

1. Received the bishop's report at each meeting
2. Approved Synod Council minutes at each meeting.
3. Approved 2008 Synod Assembly Committees
4. Approved 2009 Synod Assembly rules.
5. Approved resolutions left over from 2008 Synod Assembly.
6. Approved Clergy, AIM, and Diaconal Ministry rosters and conducted the yearly review of the rosters.
7. Approved Synod Council Committees
8. Approved 2009 Synod Assembly budget.

9. Approved 2009 Synod Assembly ballot.
10. Designated the 2009 Assembly offering: ½ to support the Synod Youth Director's position and ½ to support the synod's international companions.
11. Approved guidelines for rostered leader's salaries to present to the 2009 Assembly.
12. Approved changes to congregational constitutions and bylaws.
13. Approved appointments to standing committees.
14. Approved program initiatives for the synod.
15. Received reports from NIS-WELCA, NIS-LMM, NIS-LYO, LSSI, Covenant Cluster Seminaries.
16. Approved a resolution of thanks for Synod Council members with terms expiring in 2008.
17. Declined funding for a pastor's work with ecumenical volunteer organization.
18. Expressed commitment to work toward making the position of campus pastor at NIU full-time.
19. Took action regarding congregation's membership in conference and then rescinded action at the following Synod Council meeting.
20. Passed two resolutions supporting Christians in India.
21. Approved congregation's name change from "Lord of Life" to "Living Spirit Lutheran Church."
22. Established a task force for investigating background checks for congregational use.

Budget and Finance

1. Regularly reviewed and approved, subject to audit, the reports of the treasurer.
2. Accepted the audit report presented by Lindgren, Callihan, Van Osdol, and Co. Ltd.
3. Approved the Jenny Lind Chapel budget.
4. Approved pay freeze for all synod staff due to economic conditions.
5. Approved housing allowances for ordained synod staff.
6. Revised 2009 budget.
7. Approved 2010 Synod budget.
8. Approved salary for Development Director.
9. Approved reinvestment of interest bearing accounts.
10. Approved distribution of financial gifts received by synod.
11. Approved policy statement changes as needed.
12. Approved distributions from reserve funds according to reserve fund policy.
13. Approved recommendations for expenditures from the synod endowment fund.
14. Approved designated fund with goal of bringing LCM-NIU campus pastor position to full-time.
15. Approved request of Jenny Lind Chapel trustees for use of chapel endowment funds for building repairs.
16. Approved Finance Committee's request to table any distributions from Endowment Fund until the economy improves.
17. Approved "second mile" gift of 1% of synod budget: ½ to ELCA churchwide mission support, ½ to LSSI, Seminaries, Colleges, Campus Ministry and LOMC proportional to the amounts that each will receive in the revised budget.

Personnel

1. Received report of pastors not attending the 2009 Synod Assembly
2. Granted "On Leave From Call" status to the following:
 - i. Pr. Trish Madden Baik (extension to 4th year – 2/28/06-2/28/12)
 - ii. Mr. George Brook, AIM (3rd year 2/29/04 – 2/29/08 call pending)
 - iii. Pr. Kurt Carlsen (1st year 2/28/09 – 2/28/12)
 - iv. Pr. Paul Darveau (1st year 3/1/08 – 3/1/11)
 - v. Pr. Jerome Diers (2nd year 1/31/07 – 1/31/10)
 - vi. Pr. Terry Dufur (2nd year 3/01/08-3/01-11)
 - vii. Pr. Susan Davenport (4th year [1 year extension] – 9/01/05-9/01/09)
 - viii. Pr. Kathleen Flores (4th year [1 year extension] 3/20/06-3/20/10)
 - ix. Susan Friesen, AIM (3rd and final year – 5/31/06-5/31/09)
 - x. Pr. Rebecca Gordon (1st year family leave 7/2/08 – 7/2/14)
 - xi. Pr. Sue Ellen Grudt (1st year 8/18/08 – 8/18/11)
 - xii. Pr. Jim Harbaugh (2nd year – 2/28/07-2/28/10)

- xiii. Pr. Gary Heedum (3rd and final year – 2/28/07-2/28/10)
 - xiv. Pr. Lisa Hufford (3rd and final year – 3/13/07-3/13/10)
 - xv. Pr. David Schweppe (1st year 7/1/08 – 7/1/11)
 - xvi. Pr. Christine Stienstra (1st year 9/1/08 – 9/1/11)
 - xvii. Pr. David Vidler (1st year 12/1/08 – 12/1/11)
 - xviii. Pr. Kathryn Whitney (1st year 3/8/09 – 3/8/12)
 - xix. Pr. Pat Woods (2nd year - 3/13/08-3/13/11)
3. Extended “calls to special service” to the following:
- i. Pr. Diane Dardon, called to full time LCM-NIU
 - ii. Pr. Al Beck, interim pastor (2/1/09-1/31/10)
 - iii. Pr. Kurt Hansen, interim pastor (2/01/09-1/31/10)
 - iv. Pr. Paul Wolf, interim pastor (2/1/09-1/31/10)
4. Appointed the following:
- i. Pr. Bob Burton, Congregational Life Committee (2 year term)
 - ii. Pr. Brant Clements, Social Ministry Committee (3 year term)
 - iii. Ms. Jackie Danalwich, Outreach Committee (3 year term)
 - iv. Pr. Diane Dardon, Lutheran Campus Ministry Board (unending term as campus pastor)
 - v. Pr. Susan Davenport, LSTC Board (1/2009 – 1/2012): Social Ministry Committee (3 years)
 - vi. Pr. Steve Dow, Lutheran Campus Ministry Board (3/2008 – 3/2010)
 - vii. Deaconess Cheryl Erdman, Lutheran Campus Ministry Board (3/2008 – 3/2010)
 - viii. Mr. Walter Farley, Outreach Committee (2 year term)
 - ix. Pr. Norm Femrite, Congregational Life Committee (1 year term)
 - x. Pr. Stacie Fidlar, LSSI Board of Directors (11/2008 – 6/2011)
 - xi. Ms. Nancy Gebler, Ministry Support Committee (3 year term)
 - xii. Pr. Dawn Jones, Lutheran Campus Ministry Board (unending term as UCM campus pastor)
 - xiii. Mr. David Kromphardt, Lutheran Campus Ministry Board (3/2008 – 3/2009)
 - xiv. Mr. Trent Lang, Lutheran Campus Ministry Board (3/2008 – 3/2009)
 - xv. Ms. Jennifer Madison, Outreach Committee (2 year term)
 - xvi. Pr. Greg Mayer, Jenny Lind Chapel Operating Committee (1/5/09 – 1/5/12)
 - xvii. Mr. Bob Ramage, Wartburg Seminary Board (3 year term)
 - xviii. Pr. Sharon Rogers, Lutheran Campus Ministry Board (3/2009 – 3/2012)
 - xix. Mr. Douglas Scott, LSSI Board of Directors (6/2008 – 6/2011)
 - xx. Ms. Minnette Scott, Lutheran Campus Ministry Board (3/2008 – 3/2009)
 - xxi. Ms. Betty Stralow, Congregational Life Committee (3 year term)
 - xxii. Mr. Wayne Swanson, Jenny Lind Chapel Trust Board (5/30/08 – 1/1/10)
 - xxiii. Pr. Ron Voss, 2009 Assembly Nominating Committee Chair
5. Resignation from Clergy Roster
- i. Pr. Steve Woita (6/7/07)
6. Notice of Retired Pastors
- i. Pr. Mark Helge (4/09)
 - ii. Pr. Jim Hill (11/1/08)
7. Appointed Pr. Len Hoffman as synod Director of Development
8. Excused pastors formally requesting absence from Synod Assembly (SC.01.06.04)
9. Discussed staff evaluations.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Gary Erickson, Synod Secretary