

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Leonel E. Avila	2020
Mr. Adam A.D. Campbell (Youth)	2020
*Ms. Cynthia Corley	2020
The Rev. Chryll Crews	2022
<i>S. Dcn. Steven Daniels</i>	<i>2022</i>
*Bishop Paul Egensteiner	2025
Mr. David Ehlers	2022
<i>Ms. Monica Gavryszewski</i>	<i>2020</i>
Ms. Hazel Goldstein	2022
The Rev. Marva Jenkins	2022
*Mr. John Litke, Treasurer	2022
<i>The Rev. Christopher Mielowski</i>	<i>2020</i>
S. Dcn. John Ogren	2020
*The Rev. Jeanine Owens	2020
<i>The Rev. David Parsons</i>	<i>2022</i>
<i>*The Rev. Daniel Peter</i>	<i>2022</i>
S. Dcn. Denise Rutherford-Gill	2020
Mr. Thomas Sargent	2020
<i>*The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Sect.</i>	<i>2022</i>
<i>The Rev. Nicole Schwalbe</i>	<i>2020</i>
<i>Mr. Cecil Spurlock-Shackelton</i>	<i>2022</i>
<i>The Rev. Garry Squire</i>	<i>2020</i>
Ms. Wendy Bean Tannenbaum	2022
Ms. Emma Turner (Young Adult)	2020
*Mr. Christopher Vergara	2020
*Ms. Renee Wicklund, VP	2022
S. Dcn. Anita Martin-Williams	2022
<i>Ms. Karen Woolley</i>	<i>2020</i>

STAFF

Ms. Susan Brandt
The Rev. Gladys Diaz
Ms. Regina Daniels
Mr. Brandon Dupree
Mr. Roberto Lara
The Rev. Christopher Mielowski
Ms. Maria Rodas
S. Dcn. Gayle Ruege
The Rev. Kevin Vandiver
Mr. Mark Goodwin

Guests

Bold = present
Italics = excused absence
*Member of Executive Committee

Opening Devotions: David Ehlers
Observer: Tom Sargent
Call to Order: Ms. Renee Wicklund @ 5:18 pm

- 1. Adoption of the agenda as presented**
- 2. Draft SC minutes 17 December 2019 approved as presented**

3. Report of the Bishop

A. Introduction of new staff (*began their ministry service on Jan 6*)

- + Mo. Gladys Diaz: Bronx, Tappan Zee, Western Queens, Western Nassau, Southwest Nassau (64)
- + Pr. Christopher Mietlowski: Staten Island, Hudson, Del-Hudson, Western Suffolk, Eastern Nassau, Peconic (67)
- + Pr. Kevin Vandiver: Southeast Queens, Northeast Queens, Brooklyn Bridges, Southwest Brooklyn, South Shore Brooklyn (51)

B. Visits, Meetings, Updates

- + Numerous meetings / phone conversations with pastors / congregational leaders
- + Oceanside Council; Sion (Toy wrapping); Gustavus Adolphus; Trinity 100th (gift distribution); First, Throggs Neck; Fordham, Bronx
- + Central Synagogue
- + Staten Island Conference visit

Upcoming:

- + ELCA Sanctuary consultation / San Francisco: Jan 17-18
- + Eastern Nassau Conference visit: Jan 26-28
- + Western Nassau Conference visit: Feb 6-7; 9
- + Preach at Interchurch Center week of Christian unity service on Jan 22

C. Calls

- a. **The Rev. Christian Scharen:** *Vice President of Applied Research and the Center for the Study of Theological Education, Auburn Theological Seminary, NY, NY effective 14 Jan 2020*
Dr. Scharen recently transferred from the Saint Paul Area Synod. He is employed by Auburn Seminary as Vice President of Applied Research and the Center for the Study of Theological Education.

ACTION SC20:01/01

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to specialized ministry to The Rev. Dr. Christian Scharen as Vice President of Applied Research and the Center for the Study of Theological Education / Auburn Seminary, Manhattan effective 14 Jan 2020

ADOPTED

- b. **The Rev. Jon Overvold:** *Manager of Pastoral Care and Education at NYP Weill Cornell effective 14 Jan 2020*

Pr. Overvold has completed his service as Director for Spiritual Care – NYU Langone and has taken this new position at New York Presbyterian – Weill Cornell

ACTION SC20:01/02

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to specialized ministry to The Rev. Jon Overvold as Manager of Pastoral Care and Education at NYP Weill Cornell effective 14 Jan 2020

ADOPTED

c. The Rev. H. Gaylon Barker: *Intentional Interim Ministry/ Gustavus Adolphus, Manhattan effective 20 Jan 20*

Pastor Gaylon Barker and Pastor Carla Meier are a clergy term who serve as intentional interim pastors. They will complete their ministry service with the congregation of Holy Trinity, Manhattan on January 19 to begin ministry service as intentional interim pastors for the congregation of Gustavus Adolphus, Manhattan.

ACTION SC20:01/03

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to The Rev. H. Gaylon Barker as Interim Pastor for Gustavus Adolphus, Manhattan effective 20 January 2020

ADOPTED

d. The Rev. Carla Meier: *Intentional Interim Ministry/ Gustavus Adolphus, Manhattan effective 20 Jan 20*

ACTION SC20:01/04

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to The Rev. Carla Meier as Interim Pastor for Gustavus Adolphus, Manhattan effective 20 January 2020

ADOPTED

D. Appointments

a. MNYS Candidacy Committee

- + The Rev. Evelyn "Patty" Avila
- + Mr. Evan Boyd
- + Mr. William Menenga
- + Ms. Renée Hamilton-Taylor
- + The Rev. Justin Lathrop
- + S.Dcn. Lulu Paolini

b. Mr. Mark Wilson: Financial Management Committee

E. St. Paul's, Williamsburg: Consultation

Consultation with leaders of St. Paul's, January 10. Bp. Egensteiner, VP Wicklund and Pr. Kevin Vandiver in attendance.

4. Report of the Vice President

- Conversations with pastors / congregation visits
- 2025 Vision Leadership Team meeting

A. Western Queens (update):

- There is a January 21 roundtable meeting scheduled with the conference ministerium.

B. St. Paul's, Williamsburg

- Meeting with congregation leadership on January 10

C. Zion German Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brooklyn (update)

- January 15 meeting with the congregation council. Bp. Egensteiner, Dean David Parsons, VP Wicklund in attendance.

5. Strategic Plan Report

A. Invitation to participate via email to current / prospective participants

B. Kick-off meeting January 25, 2020 / Wartburg (Gatz Conference Center): 10 am – 1 pm

C. Grant extensions

a. Advent, Manhattan: Building for Mission Grant

ACTION SC20:01/05

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the extension of the Building for Mission Grant in the amount of \$200,000 to Advent Lutheran Church, Manhattan, contingent on the congregational approval of the project at the annual meeting.

ADOPTED

b. Roberto Lara: Leadership Development Grants / Communication

ACTION SC20:01/06

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the extension of the Leadership Development Grants to Roberto Lara in the amount of \$7500 for Communications Workshops in our four quadrants and \$5000 for the production of the Communications "how-to" videos.

ADOPTED

c. Internship Program: Leadership Development Grants

ACTION SC20:01/07

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the extension of the set aside funding of \$27,125 from the leadership development grant funds for the internship program.

ADOPTED

6. Treasurer's Report

A. Mission Support Report (31 December 2019)

Mission Support received in December totaled \$166,707.20, which is \$22,183.79 more than budgeted for the month. Mission Support received year-to-date is \$887,087.74 which is \$7,270.76 less than budgeted year-to-date.

B. Financials (30 November 2019)

Treasurer Litke presented the financials. FMC has begun the process of preparing the revised 2020 budget and the proposed 2021 budget.

7. Old Business
none

8. New Business

A. Housing Allowances

A housing allowance is a portion of clergy income that may be excluded from income for federal income tax purposes (W-2 "Box 1" wages) under Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code. An ordained minister's housing allowance must be established or designated by the congregation or by the Synod (for ordained synod staff and mission developers).

ACTION SC20:01/08

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the 2020 staff housing allowances as presented.

ADOPTED

9. Afterthoughts

Synod Assembly registration is open

Martin Luther King, Jr. service: Jan 19 at New Hope, Jamaica

10. Observers' Evaluation

Adjourned with prayer at 6:42 pm

Next Executive Committee Meeting: March 12, 2020*

Synod Council Meeting: March 24, 2020

***Proposed items for the Synod Council agenda should be submitted to Gayle Ruege (gruege@mny.org) for consideration by the Executive Committee on or before March 6, 2020.**

*S.Dcn. Gayle Ruege
Executive Assistant to the Bishop*