

Synod Council of the Metropolitan New York Synod

June 10, 2022

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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APPROVED 9/24/2022

MINUTES

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

| | |
|---|-------------|
| The Rev. E. Patricia Avila | 2026 |
| *Ms. Cynthia Corley | 2024 |
| Ms. Monique Davis | 2026 |
| The Rev. George Dietrich | 2024 |
| *Bishop Paul Egensteiner | 2025 |
| *S. Dcn. David Ehlers | 2026 |
| S.Dcn. Philip Jenks | 2026 |
| *Mr. John Litke, Treasurer | 2023 |
| The Rev. Linda Manson | 2026 |
| <i>Mr. Erich Markert</i> | <i>2024</i> |
| <i>Ms. Lily Sage Mathias</i> | <i>2024</i> |
| <i>The Rev. Ernst Mossi</i> | <i>2026</i> |
| *The Rev. Jeanine Owens | 2024 |
| The Rev. David Parsons | 2026 |
| Mr. Aiden Sargent (Youth) | 2023 |
| Mr. Thomas Sargent | 2026 |
| <i>*The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Sect.</i> | <i>2026</i> |
| Mr. Cecil (Chip) Spurlock-Shackelton | 2026 |
| *The Rev. Gary Squire | 2024 |
| The Rev. Brooke Swertfager | 2024 |
| *Mr. Christopher Vergara, VP | 2026 |
| <i>The Rev. Dr. Kimberly Wilson</i> | <i>2024</i> |

STAFF

Ms. Regina Daniels
The Rev. Gladys Diaz
Mr. Branden Dupree
Ms. Karen Falco
S. Dcn. Donna-Mari Fieldsa
Mr. Mark Goodwin
Ms. Kaitlin Kowalec
Mr. Roberto Lara
The Rev. Christopher Mietlowski
Ms. Maria Rodas
S. Dcn. Gayle Ruege
Ms. Leticia Silva
The Rev. Kevin Vandiver

GUESTS

Bold = present

Italics = excused absence

*Member of Executive Committee

MEETING WAS HELD AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SEMINARY, HUNTINGTON, NEW YORK

Observer: *S.Dcn. David Ehlers*

Call to Order: *Ms. Renée Wicklund at 7:38 pm*

Welcome newly elected SC members:

- + ***Pr. Patty Avila***
- + ***Ms. Monique Davis***
- + ***S.Dcn. Philip Jenks***
- + ***Pr. Linda Manson***
- + ***VP-Elect Christopher Vergara***

1. Adoption of the agenda

Approved as presented

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2. Draft SC minutes 23 April 2022

Approved as presented

3. Report of the Bishop

A. Calls

a. The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Ehrlich: *On Leave from Call effective May 1, 2022*

Pastor Ehrlich was called by the ELCA Church Council to serve as the Associate Dean for Community Life @ General Theological Seminary, Manhattan in August 2021. Pastor Ehrlich's ministry concluded at the end of this academic year in May.

SC22:06/01

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant On Leave from Call status to the Rev. Dr. Rebecca Ehrlich effective 1 May 2022

ADOPTED

b. The Rev. Dr. William Damrow: *Retirement status effective September 1, 2022*

Pastor Damrow will retire from his pastoral ministry at St. Luke's, New Rochelle effective 1 September 2022.

SC22:06/02

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve retirement status for the Rev. Dr. William Damrow effective 1 September 2022.

ADOPTED

c. The Rev. Mark Erson: *Retirement status effective August 1, 2022*

Pastor Erson will retire from his pastoral ministry at St. John's, Manhattan effective 1 August 2022.

SC22:06/03

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve retirement status for the Rev. Mark Erson, effective 1 August 2022.

ADOPTED

B Appointments

a. The Rev. Martin Nale: *Interim Dean / SW Nassau Conference*

Pastor Nale retired from full time ministry Oct 2020, and has agreed to serve as the Interim Dean for the SW Nassau Conference.

C. Pastoral Care / Ecumenical & Interfaith participation

a. Pastoral calls / meetings / visits with rostered & lay leaders (38)

- King of Kings, New Windsor (60th Anniversary)
- Christ, Wantagh (Pr. Martin Nale / retirement celebration)

- **Wagner College: Board of Trustees**
- **Lutheran – Anglican – Roman Catholic luncheon gathering**
The LARC Dialog has been an active ecumenical group that has been meeting for 20+ years. They have coordinated continuing education events and joint worship celebrations. A luncheon meeting took place this afternoon with Bp. Provanzano and members of the Episcopal, Roman Catholic and MNYS Dialog team.
- **Conference of Bishops (bi-weekly)**
- **Region 7 Bishops (weekly)**
- **Anti-racism Committee**
- **BET (monthly)**

C. Communications / Events

a. Bishop's message / pastoral letters

Pastoral letters regarding the mass shootings in Buffalo and Uvalde, TX

b. Sierra Pacific Synod

Roberto Lara reported on the recent events concerning Bp. Roeher and the Latine Community in the Sierra Pacific Synod

D. Staff / Updates

a. Synod Owned Properties

b. Legal updates

c. Leticia Silva, Administrative Assistant

4. Report of the Vice-President

VP Wicklund addressed each council member individually expressing gratitude for the gifts they faithfully employ in the governance of the synod.

5. Strategic Plan Report

A. 2025 Vision

a. Bishop / weekly meetings with Pr. William Baum and Renee Wicklund

b. Vision Team meeting May 21

- The Vision Team was formed in September of 2021 to serve as a team of advisors and strategic thinkers in the implementation of the 2025 Vision.

- Bishop Egensteiner is the convener. Vision Team of 12 members:
 - (4) Staff: Diaz; Lara; Mietlowski; Vandiver
 - (4) SC: VP Wicklund; Mathias; Spurlock-Shackelton; Tannenbaum
 - (4) At Large: Baum; Alanis; Herbst; Rutherford-Gill

c. Ministry Legacy Project Manager / action under New Business

6. Treasurer's Report (EXHIBIT A)

A. Mission Support Report

B. Financials (30 April 2022)

J. Litke reviewed the financials with the council.

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C. Annual audit / completion

The annual audit has been completed. The synod audit committee is reviewing the report which will be presented for approval at the Sep SC meeting.

7. Old Business (10 min)

A. Reparations proposal (EXHIBIT B)

SC22:06/04

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the Black Equity Table's reparations proposal for technology / live stream as presented.

ADOPTED / 1 ABSTENSTION

B. Property sale: 3420 Giles Place, Bronx

SC22:06/05

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council accept the offer of \$730,000 from Ricardo Cabrera and enter into contract for the sale of the property located at 3420 Giles Place, Bronx.

ADOPTED.

C. Immanuel, Manhattan: extension for appeal

SC22:06/06

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant an extension to Immanuel, Manhattan to exercise their right to appeal the Synod Council action of March 2022 until 30 June 2022.

ADOPTED

8. New Business (20 min)

A. St. John-Incarnation property sale

In Oct 2017, the Synod Council approved the proposal for merger between St. John's Lutheran Church, Lynbrook and Incarnation Lutheran Church, Cedarhurst. The legal documents provided by the congregation confirm that the legal process has concluded. The merged congregation (St. John-Incarnation) has requested the SC's approval to sell the Incarnation property. Secretary Schoepflin has reviewed the documents and confirms they are in order. The NYS Attorney General requires judicatory approval for the sale of property by a congregation.

SC22:06/07

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council take no exception to the sale of the property located at 411 Bayview Avenue, Cedarhurst, NY 11516 by St. John – Incarnation Lutheran Church.

ADOPTED

B. Ministry Legacy Project Manager (EXHIBIT C)

- **Job Description**
- **Offer: Pr. Robert Wollenburg**

VP Wicklund provided the rationale for the Vision Team's recommendation to create the position of Ministry Legacy Project Manager charged with the responsibility of providing guidance and pastoral care to congregations' that have come to the conclusion of their ministry.

SC22:06/08

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the position of the Ministry Legacy Project Manager and offer the position to the Rev. Robert Wollenburg.

ADOPTED

C. Executive Committee Elections

The Executive Committee of the Synod Council is elected annually at the meeting following the Synod Assembly. The EC consists of the four officers of the Synod and four members of the Synod Council. It is recommended that 1st term / 1st year Council members not serve on the EC. The following SC members have been nominated and have agreed to serve if elected.

- **Cynthia Corley**
- **S.Dcn. David Ehlers**
- **Pr. Jeanine Owens**
- **Pr. Garry Squire**

SC22:06/09

RESOLVED, that the following persons are elected to serve on the Executive Committee from June 2022 through June 2023: Ms. Cynthia Corley; S.Dcn. David Ehlers; Pr. Jeannine Owens, Pr. Garry Squire

ADOPTED

D. Formal Expression of Gratitude for VP Renée Wicklund (EXHIBIT D)

SC22:06/10

WHEREAS, Renée Wicklund has performed the Office of the Vice-President of the Metropolitan New York Synod competently and skillfully, and has provided specialized expertise and care for the members of The Metropolitan New York synod; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod expresses its heartfelt gratitude and Appreciation for Vice-President Renée Wicklund and her willingness to serve this Synod during a time of unprecedented need; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod upholds Vice-President Renée Wicklund's Dedicated service to our Church.

ADOPTED

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9. Afterthoughts

A. Devotions / September : Christopher Vergara

B. Observer / September: Chip Spurlock-Shackelton

10. Observer's Evaluation

Executive Committee Meeting: Sep 8 via zoom

Synod Council Meeting: Sat, Sep 24 via zoom

***Proposed items for the Synod Council agenda should be submitted to Gayle Ruege (gruege@mnys.org) for consideration by the Executive Committee by Aug 26, 2022**

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