

**SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS**

*The Rev. E. Patricia Avila* 2026  
**\*Ms. Cynthia Corley** 2024  
**Dr. Raymond Cheung** 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  
*Mr. Erich Markert* 2024  
*Ms. Lily Sage Mathias* 2024  
*The Rev. Ernst Mossi* 2026  
**\*The Rev. Jeanine Owens** 2024  
**The Rev. David Parsons** 2026  
**Mr. Aiden Sargent (Youth)** 2023  
**Mr. Thomas Sargent** 2026  
**\*The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Sect.** 2026  
*Mr. Cecil (Chip) Spurlock-Shackelton* 2026  
**\*The Rev. Gary Squire** 2024  
**The Rev. Brooke Swertfager** 2024  
**\*Mr. Christopher Vergara, VP** 2026  
**The Rev. Dr. Kimberly Wilson** 2024

**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**

**GUESTS**

**Bold = present**

*Italics = excused absence*

\*Member of Executive Committee

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**MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE**

**Opening Devotions:** *VP Vergara*

**Observer:** *Pastor George Dietrich*

**Call to Order:** *VP Vergara at 5:10pm*

**Welcome to Dr. Raymond Cheung, elected by the Synod Council to fill the unexpired term of Lay man: Tappan Zee conference effective through May 2024.**

**1. Discussion: Synod Council Community Agreement / Covenant**

Members went into breakout rooms for discussion, then reported back thoughts and suggestions. VP Vergara invited further feedback and said a revised draft will be presented at a future meeting.

**2. Adoption of the agenda / SC minutes**

Agenda adopted as presented.

**A. Draft SC minutes 24 September 2022: adopted as presented.**

**3. New Business**

**A. 2023 Housing Allowances (EXHIBIT A)**

**SC22:11/01**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the designated 2023 Housing Allowances as presented.**

**ADOPTED**

**B. Investment Committee Charter (EXHIBIT B)**

VP Vergara reviewed the charter for the Financial Management Committee.

**SC22:11/02**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the proposed Charter for the Investment Committee as presented.**

**ADOPTED**

**C. Vision Team Charter (EXHIBIT C)**

**SC22:11/03**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the proposed Charter for the Vision Team as presented.**

**ADOPTED**

**D. 2023 Exec Committee / Synod Council meeting schedule (EXHIBIT D)**

**SC22:11/04**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the proposed Executive Committee / Synod Council 2023 meeting schedule as presented.**

**ADOPTED**

**4. Report of the Bishop**

**A. Calls**

- a. The Rev. Stephanie Kershner: *On Leave from Call status effective 1 Sep 2022*

**SC22:11/05**

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant On Leave from Call status to the Rev. Stephanie Kershner effective 1 September 2022.

**ADOPTED**

- b. The Rev. Elsa Marty: *Renewal On Leave from Call for Graduate Study status effective 1 Dec 2022*

**SC22:11/06**

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council renew On Leave from Call for Graduate Study status to the Rev. Elsa Marty effective 1 December 2022.

**ADOPTED**

- c. The Rev. Mark Wilhelm: *Retirement status effective 1 Feb 2023*

**SC22:11/07**

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant retirement status to the Rev. Mark Wilhelm effective 1 February 2023.

**ADOPTED**

**E. Appointments (FOR REPORT)**

**a. Investment Committee**

- Yadira Alguera
- Hazel Goldstein
- Suzanne Hoglund
- Erich Mauer
- Mark Wilson, Chair

**b. Worship Committee**

- The Rev. Kelsey Brown
- The Rev. Zachary Dean

**c. Vision Team**

- John Litke
- The Rev. Analyse Triolo

**B. Pastoral Care / Ecumenical & Interfaith participation**

**a. Pastoral calls / meetings / visits with rostered & lay leaders / Lutheran**

**Partners:** G. Ruege reported that Bishop had 23 meetings.

- **Congregation visits / Councils**
  - **St. John-St. Matthew-Emanuel, Brooklyn**
  - **Christ, Islip Terrace**
  - **Hope, Selden**
  - **Unidad y Fe, Woodhaven**
  - **Ascension, Franklin Square**
  - **Trinity Lower Eastside Parish, Manhattan**
  - **Trinity, Brewster: Dia de los Muertos**
  - **Messiah, Staten Island**
  - **St. John's, Middletown**
- **Long Island Lutheran Middle & High School, Old Brookville: Chapel**
- **Martin Luther High School, Maspeth: Chapel**
- **Wagner College**
- **Greek Orthodox Archdiocese**
- **Lutheran Counseling Center annual gala**
- **Healing Center annual gala**
- **Candidacy Committee**
- **Conference of Bishops (bi-weekly)**
- **Region 7 Bishops (weekly)**
- **BET (monthly)**
- **Quadrant 1 Deans (Hudson, Delaware-Hudson, Tappan Zee)**
- **Quadrant 2 Deans (Nassau & Suffolk conferences)**
- **Bringing Difference in Community**
- **Capell Barnett Matalon & Schoenfeld presentation: panelist**

**D. Vision Team**

**a. Meeting 19 Nov 2022**

- **Role & responsibilities of the Vision Team**
- **Integration with role of the Legacy Project Manager (Pr. Bob Wollenburg)**

**E. Staff / Updates**

- a. Pr. Kevin Vandiver departure: call to Reformation Lutheran Church, Capitol Hill, DC**
- b. Synod Owned Properties: update given by Karen Falco**
- c. Legal updates: update given by Karen Falco**

**5. Report of the Vice-President**

**6. Treasurer's Report**

**A. Mission Support Report (Sep 30, 2022) (EXHIBIT E)**

J. Litke reported that September 2022 Mission Support offerings totaled \$67,088.06. YTD Mission Support actuals through September 30, 2022, are \$527,660.56 which is \$77,388.04 less than YTD September 2021.

**7. Afterthoughts**

**A. Observer / January:** Tom Sargent

**8. Observer's Evaluation**

**Meeting adjourned at 6:38pm with Compline.**

**Executive Committee Meeting: January 12 via zoom**

**Synod Council meeting: January 21 via zoom**

**\*Proposed items for the Synod Council agenda should be submitted to Gayle Ruege ([gruege@mnys.org](mailto:gruege@mnys.org)) for consideration by the Executive Committee by January 6, 2023**

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert Schoepflin, Secretary