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**SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**The Rev. Albert Ahlstrom** 2012  
**Mr. William Anderson** 2012  
**\*The Rev. William Baum** 2012  
**The Rev. Rosalind Brathwaite** 2012  
*Ms. Kesley Brown* 2012  
**\*Mr. Robert Buescher, Treas.** 2012  
**Ms. Christine Connell, DM** 2014  
**\*Ms. Maria Del Toro, Vice President** 2014  
**Dcn Charles Germain** 2014  
**Ms. Barbara Hansen** 2014  
**Mr. Gene Hiigel** 2014  
**Ms. Barbara Holm** 2012  
**The Rev. Brenda Jack** 2012  
**\*Ms. Barbara Johnson** 2012  
*The Rev. Perry Kirschbaum* 2014  
**Mr. Carlos Lopez** 2014  
**Mr. John Malone** 2014  
**\*Ms. Minerva Melendez** 2014  
**The Rev. Craig Miller** 2014  
**\*The Rev. Paul Milholland** 2014  
**Mr. Brian Reardon** 2012  
**\*The Rev. Robert A. Rimbo, Bishop** 2014  
**The Rev. Kit Robison** 2014  
**\*The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Sect.** 2014  
**Ms. Janet Siry** 2014  
**Dr. Grace Yukich** 2012

26 Voting Members

**AUXILLIARY MEMBERS**

**STAFF**

*The Rev. Percy Butiku*  
**Ms. Sarah Gioe**  
**The Rev. Dr. Jack Horner**  
**The Rev. Kathleen Koran**  
**The Rev. Jonathan Linman**  
**Mr. John Litke**  
*The Rev. Dr. Gary Mills*  
**Dcn. Gayle Ruege**  
**Ms. Kathleen Schmidt**

**GUESTS**

**Bold = present**

*Italics = excused absence*

\*Member of Executive Committee

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**Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by VP Del Toro at 5pm.

**Opening Devotions**

The Rev. Paul Milholland led opening devotions.

**1. Adoption of Agenda**

Adopted as amended.

**2. Reflections on the Synod Council Retreat**

Synod Council retreat participants reflected on the November retreat and offered

short statements on their retreat experience.

### 3. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes of November 20, 2010 Council meeting adopted as amended.

### 4. Old Business

#### A. Congregational Viability Norms Committee

The Rev. William Baum reported on meeting of committee. Fuller report to be presented at March Synod Council meeting.

#### B. Congregations that have voted to separate from the ELCA

Bishop Rimbo reported that ELCA Church Council is refining process for dealing with congregations that have voted to separate from the ELCA. Bishop further noted that the provisions of the Model Constitution for congregations will prevail, regardless of the provisions of a congregation's own constitution.

A brief history on each of the 4 MNYS congregations that have voted to leave the ELCA, as prepared by The Rev. Gary Mills, was offered.

The Rev. Jack Horner noted that where a congregation has received partnership grants an additional issue is raised if that congregation attempts to leave the ELCA.

#### C. Christ Chinese, Brooklyn

#### ACTION SC10:12/01

**RESOLVED**, because the MNYS values the Christ centered ministry of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, NY, and believes the congregation's contribution to the life and witness of our synod is richly beneficial to the *koinonia* of our synod's congregations, for the sake of our shared and interdependent witness to the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ, we respectfully request Christ Lutheran Church remain in the fellowship of the Metropolitan New York Synod of ELCA.

**ADOPTED**

#### ACTION SC10:12/02

**RESOLVED**, that the Bishop's office be directed to find culturally appropriate ways to reach out to the community of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, NY, in an attempt to reconcile perceived differences in theology.

**ADOPTED**

#### D. Commission on Election of the Bishop

The Rev. Robert Schoepflin reported on progress in staffing the commission.

#### E. Congregations under synod administration

Ms. Kathy Schmidt reported.

### 5. Bishop's Report

#### A. Cultural competency and ethnic sensitivity

The Rev. Jonathan Linman reported on progress in this area. Bishop Rimbo will appoint a planning group to meet with the director of PAC training to design a program for Synod Council and for other leaders of MNYS.

#### B. Conference Visits 2011

Bishop Rimbo reported that visits are being scheduled for 2011.

**C. Appointments**

- **Mr. Marc Karis:** *Financial Management Committee*  
This appointment did not require Synod Council action.

**D. Calls**

- **Rev. William Eggers:** Interim Pastor: *Gloria Dei, Huntington Station*
- **Rev. Thomas E. Taylor,** Interim Pastor: *St. John's, Lindenhurst*
- **Rev. Ivan Gunderman,** Interim Pastor: *St. Paul's, Port Jefferson Station*

**ACTION SC10:12/03**

**ADOPTED *en bloc***

**E. Synod Philanthropic Committee**

Bishop Rimbo invited Synod Council members to suggest names for this committee, noting that Mr. Robert Buescher and VP Maria Del Toro will serve on the committee.

**6. Treasurer's Report**

**A. November financials**

Mr. Robert Buescher presented the financial reports and charts.

**B. Proposed revised 2011 synod budget**

Mr. Robert Buescher presented work of Financial Management Committee (FMC). See Exhibit A (copy of powerpoint presentation).

A suggestion was made by a council member that the budget should include a provision for Seafarer's and International House to be a synod supported agency. After discussion, the FMC deferred seeking approval of the budget and agreed to further explore and consider the request.

Revised 2011 Budget and Proposed 2012 Budget to be presented at February Synod Council meeting.

VP Maria Del Toro noted that we thank the FMC for its work.

**7. New Business**

**A. German Seamen's Mission / Seafarers & International House Merger**

Bishop Rimbo announced that this merger has taken place after years of discussion.

**B. Change of date: January Synod Council meeting (11 Jan 2011)**

Change of meeting date approved.

**C. St Johns, Bronx**

**ACTION SC10:12/04**

**RESOLVED**, that based upon the facts recited above and for the reasons set forth above, all of which are included and incorporated herein and made a part hereof as if fully set forth herein, the **Synod Council** hereby ratifies, *nunc pro tunc*, the transfer of title from the **SYNOD** to **METRO SYNOD-ST JOHN'S LLC**, a Limited Liability Company organized under the laws of the State of New York, of the Property, known and designated as and by street number 1343-1351 Fulton Avenue, Bronx, New York, for the **LLC** to hold, manage, and convey on behalf of and at the direction of its sole member and manager, the **SYNOD**,

**RESOLVED**, that any one of the Officers of the **SYNOD**, acting on behalf of the **SYNOD** and as the sole member and manager of the **LLC** be and hereby are authorized, empowered and directed on behalf of the **SYNOD** and on behalf of the **LLC** to sign, verify and cause to be filed such Petition as may be required by law to obtain the approval *nunc pro tunc*, by the Supreme Court of the State of New York and the Attorney General of the State of New York of such transfer, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that any of the officers of the **SYNOD**, acting on behalf of the **SYNOD** was and is authorized to execute, acknowledge and deliver a Deed of Conveyance and all such other documents required to transfer or otherwise confirm ownership of the **Property** to the **LLC**, and to do all such things as may, on advise of Capell Barnett Matalon & Schoenfeld LLP, Counsel to the **SYNOD**, be deemed reasonable, necessary, proper or convenient in order that said transfer be effectuated and/or ratified, and that the officers of the **SYNOD**, and each and any of them, acting on behalf of the **SYNOD**, pay all such customary and/or required costs and fees relating to the transfer and/or ratification of the transfer of such parcel of real estate, and be it further.

**RESOLVED**, that the **SYNOD**, as the sole Member and Manager of the **LLC** does hereby authorize **METRO SYNOD-ST JOHNS LLC** as Seller, to enter into the Agreement, dated December , 2010 (a copy of which is annexed hereto) with **IGLESIA NI CRISTO**, as **Buyer**, for the purchase of the **Property**, for a sales price of \$2,500,000.00 and and for the **LLC** to pay on closing, if, as and when title closes, and out of the proceeds of sale, a total brokerage commission of \$100,000.00 to Remax Team and Exit Reality Success, to be shared by them in equal parts; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that any officer of the **SYNOD** be authorized, empowered, and directed to execute on behalf of the **SYNOD** as the sole member and manager of the **LLC** the Agreement between **METRO SYNOD-ST JOHNS LLC**, as Seller, and **IGLESIA NI CRISTO**, as **Buyer**, for the sale of the **Property** in consideration of the sales price of Two Million Five Hundred Thousand (\$2,500,000.00) Dollars, and that any one of the officers of the **SYNOD** is thereafter authorized, empowered and directed to execute, verify and cause to be filed such Petition on behalf of the **SYNOD**, individually and as the sole member and manager of **LLC**, to both obtain, *nunc pro tunc* the approval of the transfer of title to the Property from the **SYNOD** to the **LLC** and then from the **LLC** to **IGLESIA NI CRISTO**, for the sum of Two Million Five Hundred Thousand (\$2,500,000.00) Dollars, by the Supreme Court of the State of New York and the Attorney General of the State of New York, all as required by law; and, in the event that such approvals shall be obtained, to thereafter on behalf of the **SYNOD** as the sole member and manager of the **LLC**, acting on behalf of the **LLC** execute, acknowledge and deliver a Deed of Conveyance and all such other documents as may be required to convey title to the **Property**, and to pay all customary and/or required closing costs, transfer taxes, brokerage, attorney and other professional fees incurred in connection with the sale of the **Property**; and otherwise do all such things as may, upon advice of Capell Barnett Matalon & Schoenfeld LLP, counsel to the **SYNOD** and the **LLC**, be reasonable, necessary, proper or convenient in order that the terms and provisions of the Agreement be fulfilled and the transactions contemplated therein be effectuated; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that after consummation of the sale by **METRO SYNOD-ST**

**JOHN'S LLC**, the net proceeds from the sale of the **Property**, after payment of the customary and/or required closing costs, transfer taxes, attorney and other professional fees relating to the sale, be paid over to the **SYNOD** and utilized in furtherance of the purposes for which the **SYNOD** was formed, in accordance with its Certificate of Incorporation and Constitution and By-Laws; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that the dissolution of the **SYNOD** is not contemplated following the transfer of the **Property**.

**ADOPTED**

#### **D. Housing Allowances**

##### **ACTION SC10:12/05**

Resolution to designate the following amounts as housing allowances for 2011:

Bishop Robert Rimbo - \$60,000  
The Rev. Jonathan Linman - \$37,080  
The Rev. Kathleen Koran - \$40,000  
The Rev. Gary Mills - \$59,600  
The Rev. Eduardo Arias - \$30,000  
The Rev. Michael Church - \$3,000  
The Rev. Terri Church - \$3,000

*Note: The Internal Revenue Code permits members of the clergy to designate a portion of their annual compensation as a housing allowance. This portion is not taxable as income. The IRS requires that such housing allowance be approved by and recorded in the minutes of the governing board of the church, agency or organization. The individual member of the clergy is responsible for substantiating that the amount of the allowance is appropriate.*

**ADOPTED**

#### **8. Other Reports**

Mr. Charles Germain reported on Youth and Family ministry.

The Rev. Brenda Jack reported that Project Connect received a Lily grant.

Dr. Grace Yukich noted environmental survey in MNYS e-letter and urged congregations to complete and submit it.

#### **9. Announcements/Events**

##### **A. Ordination: 4 December 2010 / St. Paul's International, Floral Park**

+ Rev. Paul Downing      + Rev. John Flack  
+ Rev. Jeanine Duncan    + Rev. Fernando Otero

##### **B. Ministerium: Primer on Islam for Christians (in response to the reaction of the public to the proposed Mosque at Ground Zero**

VP Maria Del Toro asked members of council if the goals of agenda were met at the meeting. The response was affirmative. She then wished everyone a blessed Christmas and peaceful new year.

In response to question on how to distribute documents for future council meetings, it was decided that documents will be printed and distributed at meeting.

Bishop Rimbo closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Secretary