

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

*Ms. Cynthia Corley	2024
S. Dcn. Steven Daniels	2022
The Rev. George Dietrich	2024
*Bishop Paul Egensteiner	2025
*S. Dcn. David Ehlers	2022
Ms. Hazel Goldstein	2022
The Rev. Marva Jenkins	2022
*Mr. John Litke, Treasurer	2022
Mr. Erich Markert	2024
Ms. Lily Sage Mathias	2024
Mx. Anna Moritz (Young Adult)	2024
*The Rev. Jeanine Owens	2024
<i>The Rev. David Parsons</i>	2022
The Rev. Daniel Peter	2022
Mr. Aiden Sargent (Youth)	2023
Mr. Thomas Sargent	2022
*The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Sect.	2022
Mr. Cecil (Chip) Spurlock-Shackelton	2022
*The Rev. Gary Squire	2024
The Rev. Brooke Swertfager	2024
Ms. Wendy Bean Tannenbaum	2022
*Ms. Renee Wicklund, VP	2022
S. Dcn. Anita Martin-Williams	2022
<i>The Rev. Dr. Kimberly Wilson</i>	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
The Rev. Kevin Vandiver

GUESTS

Bold = present

Italics = excused absence

*Member of Executive Committee

MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE

Opening Devotions: Ms. Cynthia Corley

Observer: Mr. Cecil "Chip" Spurlock-Shackelton

Call to Order: Ms. Renée Wicklund at 5:11 pm

- 1. Adoption of the agenda:** adopted as amended.

2. **Draft SC minutes 14 December 2021:** adopted as presented.

3. **Report of the Bishop**

A. **Calls**

a. **The Rev. Marianne Tomecek:** *Interim Pastor / St. Andrew's, West Hempstead, effective 14 Nov 2021*

SC22:01/01

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to The Rev. Marianne Tomecek to serve as Interim Pastor to the congregation of St. Andrew's, West Hempstead effective 14 November 2021.

ADOPTED

B. **Appointments**

a. **Bishop's Listening / Advisory Panel: Good Shepherd, Brooklyn**

- Pr. Leticia Alanis
- Mr. Thomas Sargent
- Pr. Kevin Vandiver

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

- a. **(Pastoral calls / meetings / visits with rostered leaders (10))**
- b. **Wagner College Board of Trustees**
- c. **ADLA – Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration service**
- d. **ELCA Annual Bishops Academy**
- e. **ELCA Conference of Bishops (weekly)**
- f. **ELCA Region 7 Bishops (weekly)**
- g. **Black Equity Table (monthly)**

C. **MNYS Deans**

a. **Revised meeting schedule**

- **Full Conference of Deans (Quarterly)**
- **Quadrant Deans (3x a year)**
- **Individual Dean (annually)**

Bishop reviewed the role of Dean for SC members and a revised meeting schedule for deans.

D. **Congregations**

a. **Christ, Little Neck**

Bishop reported that the leadership of Christ, Little Neck has determined that they have completed their ministry and has requested guidance and next steps for holy closure. Bishop and members of his staff will be meeting with the leaders.

b. Good Shepherd, Bay Ridge Brooklyn: Bishop's Listening Panel

Bishop reported that Pastor Ruíz and the congregation council have requested assistance in evaluating their ministry and a listening panel has been appointed (noted above).

c. NYS ruling: Virtual meetings / congregational meetings

Bishop reported that annual meetings of congregations cannot be hybrid, due to an amendment of the New York Religious Corporations Law on November 8 2021. Meetings must be entirely in person or entirely virtual.

Congregation council meetings may continue to be hybrid.

d. Trinity, Staten Island / Our Saviour, Staten Island: Merger Proposal

Branden Dupree reported that the congregations of Trinity and Our Saviour, Staten Island have submitted a proposed Mission / Business Plan for review and approval by the SC to continue to move forward in the next phase of their merger process. The proposal will be reviewed by the Executive Committee at the Feb 6 meeting.

e. Congregation / Ministry site: pastoral ministry statistics EXHIBIT A

Bishop reported that Congregation / Ministry site statistics (pertaining to pastoral coverage in congregations and mission developments, in addition to anticipated pastoral transitions in congregations due to upcoming retirements) will be provided to the Conference of Deans and the Synod Council quarterly.

A report was presented at this meeting (see exhibit).

f. Synodically Authorized Worshiping Community (SAWC) annual reviews Jan 24-25

Bishop reported that Branden Dupree, DEM, will be conducting annual ministry reviews/evaluation of our SAWCS and will report to the Synod Council at the March meeting.

E. Communications

Roberto Lara reported.

a. Year-end 2021 metrics

b. Bishop's messages: Christmas / New Year / Epiphany

c. COVID updates

F. Staff / Updates

Karen Falco reported.

- a. Synod Owned Properties**
- b. Legal updates**
- c. Administrative Assistant open position**

4. Report of the Vice-President

A. End of Term

R. Wicklund announced that she is completing her term, will be moving and will not seek another term.

B. Succession Plan

C. Remaining Goals

D. Park Church Co-op

R. Wicklund noted that a letter addressed to the Synod Council dated December 27, 2021 was included in the Dropbox. She gave background on the ministry.

5. Strategic Plan Report

Bishop reported and thanked members of the team.

A. 2025 Vision

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

b. Tom Massey: Triangle 2 Consulting

Bishop reported that Tom will continue to work with the Synod on a pro bono basis.

c. Vision Team meeting: 15 January 2022

d. Ministry Legacy Project Manager

R. Wicklund reported that this will be a new position and a job description is being developed.

ACTION SC22:01/02

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council authorize the Executive Committee to secure a contracted Project Manager for one year, renewable.

ADOPTED

6. Treasurer's Report

J. Litke noted that a full report will be presented at the March meeting.

7. Old Business

A. Reparative Justice Proposal

Bishop reported that regular meetings have been held with the Black Equity Table, and that three estimates have been given in the range of \$21-30,000 for each of six congregations to enable them to have an online presence in their communities. These

congregations serve communities in which they do not have the resources that other congregations have. R. Lara was asked to review the technology in the three proposals. Funding will eventually come from our Synod Legacy Fund, if Synod Council approves.

8. New Business

A. MNYS Events Policy: revision EXHIBIT B

R. Lara shared the revised policy. Revisions were primarily editorial in nature.

ACTION SC22:01/03

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the revised MNYS Events policy effective 18 January 2022.

ADOPTED

B. 2022 Special Meeting of the Synod Assembly (May 6)

a. Ordination / Setting Apart of Synodical Deacons (May 7)

ACTION SC22:01/04

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council gives consent to Bishop Egensteiner to call for a special meeting of the synod assembly on 6 May 2022.

ADOPTED

8.C. Christ Lutheran Church, Newburgh

ACTION SC22:01/05

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council takes no exception to the sale of the property located at 40 Barton Street, Newburgh by the congregation of Christ Lutheran Church, Newburgh.

ADOPTED

9. Afterthoughts

A. Devotions March: Hazel Goldstein

B. Observer March: Jeanine Owens

10. Observer's Evaluation

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm with prayer by Bishop.

Executive Committee Meetings: February 3 / March 10 2022 via zoom

Synod Council Meeting: March 22, 2022 via zoom

January 18, 2022
DRAFT

Synod Council of the Metropolitan New York Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
MINUTES

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***Proposed items for the Synod Council agenda should be submitted to Gayle Ruege (gruege@mnys.org) for consideration by the Executive Committee by: January 28 / March 4 2022**

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Schoepflin, Secretary