

***MINUTES OF THE
THIRTIETH REGULAR ASSEMBLY OF THE
METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA***

+
LIVE LIKE CHRIST IN OUR COMMUNITIES

**May 5-6, 2023
Long Island Marriott, Melville, New York**

Assembly registration began at 8:00 am. The Opening of the Assembly was held at 9:50am.

FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2023

PLENARY SESSION I

At 10:15 am Bishop Egensteiner called the first plenary session to order.

Bishop Egensteiner welcomed the voting members, expressing his gratitude that the Assembly could meet in person for the first time since 2019 (due to the pandemic a regular meeting of the Assembly was held virtually in 2021, and a special meeting of the Assembly was held virtually in 2022). He then noted that the land on which the Assembly was being held was the unceded land of the Matinecock People.

Bishop then expressed thanks to the sponsors of the coffee hours and to the MNYS Communications and Events Team, the Assembly Planning Team, and other committees that helped bring about the Assembly.

Introductions

Bishop Egensteiner next made the following introductions:

The Rev. Kathleen Koran, Assembly Chaplain;
The Rev. C. Anderson James, Assembly Parliamentarian;
Ms. Jodi Slattery, ELCA Representative;
The Rev. Theresa Thames, Keynote Speaker;
The Rev. Dr. Martha Cruz and The Rev. Rebecca Pollicino, Reference and Council Committee Co-Chairs;
The Rev. Danielle Miller, Consultation Committee Chair;
The Rev. Kevin O'Hara, Nominations and Elections Committee Chair;
The Rev. William Kroeze, Worship Committee Chair; and
The Rev. Paul Johnsen, Synod Assembly Coordinator.

Bishop then introduced the Synod Staff:

Ms. Karen Falco, Chief Operating Officer;
S.Dcn. Gayle Ruege, Executive Assistant;

Mr. Branden Dupree, Director for Evangelical Mission;
Mr. Roberto Lara, Assistant for Communications and Development;
The Rev. Gladys Diaz, The Rev. Angela Shannon, and the Rev. Christopher Mietlowski, Assistants to the Bishop;
S.Dcn. Donna-Mari Fieldsa, Director for Finance and Administration;
Mr. Mark Goodwin, Property Manager for Synod-owned properties;
Ms. Maria Rodas, Data and Events Manager and Administrative Supervisor;
Ms. Regina Daniels, Ms. Kaitin Kowalec and Ms. Letitia Silva, Administrative and Support Staff; and
Mr. Edgar Guerrero, S.Dcn. Lori Scaffidi, and Ms. Karina Teran, Assembly Support Staff.

Bishop next introduced the Synod Council and Officers:

Mr. Christopher Vergara, Vice President;
The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Secretary;
Mr. John Litke, Treasurer;
The Rev. Patricia Avila;
Dr. Raymond Cheung;
Ms. Cynthia Corley (Executive Committee);
Ms. Monique Davis;
The Rev. George Dietrich;
S.Dcn. David Ehlers (Executive Committee);
S.Dcn. Philip Jenks;
Mr. Erich Markert;
Ms. Lily Sage Mathias;
The Rev. Ernst Mossli;
The Rev. Jeanine Owens (Executive Committee);
The Rev. David Parsons;
Mr. Aiden Sargent;
Mr. Thomas Sargent;
Mr. Cecil “Chip” Spurlock-Shackelton;
The Rev. Gary Squire (Executive Committee);
The Rev. Brooke Swertfager; and
The Rev. Kimberly Wilson.

Bishop then introduced the Conference of Deans:

The Rev. Jeffrey Koenig and The Rev. Sonja Tilberg Maclary, Hudson;
The Rev. MaryLou Baumgartner, Delaware Hudson;
The Rev. Jennifer Boyd and The Rev. James O’Hanlon, Tappan Zee;
The Rev. Micah Stumme, Eastern Nassau;
The Rev. Robert Cederstrom, Western Nassau;
The Rev. Paul Downing, Peconic;
The Rev. Joanne Bond, Western Suffolk;
The Rev. Marcia Parkinson-Harrison, Southeast Queens;
The Rev. Analyse Triolo, Northeast Queens;
The Rev. Paul Milholland, Western Queens;

The Rev. David Parsons, Brooklyn Bridges;
The Rev. Kelsey Brown, South-Shore Brooklyn;
The Rev. Khader Khalilia, Southwest Brooklyn;
The Rev. William Kroeze and The Rev. Danielle Miller, Manhattan;
The Rev. Jeannine Owens, Bronx; and
The Rev. Wolfgang Laudert, Staten Island.

The assembly then viewed a video on Parliamentary Procedure followed by a review of Assembly resources on the Synod website.

Roberto Lara then led the Assembly in a test of using the voting devices,

Registration and Attendance

Maria Rodes gave the first registration report.

Lay Voting Members	165
Rostered Leaders	<u>118</u>
Total Voting Members	283

Adoption of Agenda

Bishop Egensteiner asked those speaking in favor of or against a matter before the assembly to do so at the appropriate microphone and noted that they will be limited to three minutes.

The agenda for the assembly was adopted as presented.

2023 Synod Assembly Agenda

FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2023

8 am – 10:30 am

Registration and Check-In

Grand Ballroom Foyer

9:50 am

Opening of the Assembly

Grand Ballroom

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

PLENARY SESSION I

Grand Ballroom

Welcome, Bishop Paul Egensteiner

10:05 | Introductions:

The Rev. Kathleen Koran, *Chaplain*

The Rev. C. Anderson James, *Parliamentarian*
Jodi Slattery, *ELCA Representative*
The Rev. Dr. Theresa Thames, *Keynote Speaker*
The Rev. Martha Cruz & The Rev. Rebecca Pollicino, *Reference and Counsel Co-Chairs*
The Rev. Danielle Miller, *Consultation Committee Chair*
The Rev. Kevin O'Hara, *Nominations & Elections Chair*
The Rev. Will Kroeze, *Worship Committee Chair*
The Rev. Paul Johnsen, *Assembly Planning Coordinator*
Synod Staff
Synod Council
Deans

10:15 | Robert's Rules

10:20 | Synod Assembly Resources

10:25 | Introduction to Voting Platform, Scott Casey

10:35 | Registration and Attendance, Maria Rodas

10:38 | Adoption of the Agenda, Bishop Paul Egensteiner

10:43 | Adoption of Standing Rules and Procedures, Bishop Paul Egensteiner

10:48 | Report of the Vice-president, Christopher Vergara

11:18 | Report of the Treasurer, John Litke

Including presentation of the Recommended Budget. Discussion will be held at the Budget Breakfast, Saturday, May 6

11:43 | Announcements, Maria Rodas

Prayer, Chaplain

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Lunch

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Registration & Check-In

Grand Ballroom Foyer

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

PLENARY SESSION II

Grand Ballroom

Call to Order, Bishop Paul Egensteiner

Prayer, Chaplain

1:05 | Registration and Attendance, Maria Rodas

1:08 | Bishop's Report, Bishop Paul Egensteiner

Hymn

1:43 | Report from MNYS Finance Team, Karen Falco & S. Dcn. Donna-Mari Fieldsa

1:48 | Report from the Executive Assistant to the Bishop, S. Dcn. Gayle Ruege

1:53 | Report from MNYS Director for Evangelical Mission, Branden Dupree

1:58 | 2022 Anniversaries, The Rev. Christopher Mietlowski

2022 Silver Jubilees, The Rev. Christopher Mietlowski

2022 Golden Jubilees, The Rev. Christopher Mietlowski

Hymn

2:18 | Consultation Committee Introduction, Bishop Paul Egensteiner & Synod Council
Secretary The Rev. Robert Schoepflin

2:38 | Consultation Committee: Report I, The Rev. Danielle Miller

2:58 | Announcements, Maria Rodas

Prayer, Chaplain

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

COFFEE BREAK

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Registration & Check-In

Grand Ballroom Foyer

4:00 pm – 6:15 pm

PLENARY SESSION III

Grand Ballroom

Call to Order, Bishop Paul Egensteiner

Prayer, Chaplain

4:05 | Registration and Attendance, Maria Rodas

4:08 | Consultation Committee: Collection of Questions Process, The Rev. Danielle Miller

4:18 | Keynote Presentation, The Rev. Dr. Theresa Thames

5:18 | Reference and Counsel, The Rev. Martha Cruz & The Rev. Rebecca Pollicino

5:48 | 2023 Anniversaries, The Rev. Gladys Diaz

2023 Silver Jubilees, The Rev. Gladys Diaz

2023 Golden Jubilees, The Rev. Gladys Diaz

6:03 | In-Memoriam, Bishop Paul Egensteiner

Hymn

6:13 | Announcements, Maria Rodas

Prayer, Chaplain

6:15 pm – 7:30 pm

Dinner

6:30 – 7:30 pm

Registration, Check-In & Check-Out

Grand Ballroom Foyer

7:00 – 7:30 pm

Meditation

Chapel – Melville Room

7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Holy Eucharist with the Rite of Ordination for Ministers of Word & Sacrament

9:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Reception

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2023

7:00 am - 8:00 am
Budget Breakfast
Nassau/Suffolk Rooms

7:00 am - 8:00 am
"Being" Yoga Class, The Rev. Dr. Theresa Thames
Chapel – Melville Room

Start your day with a Saturday Morning Slow-Flow. In a society focused on doing, we invite you into a practice of Being. This accessible all-level class moves at a slow pace while weaving together breath and yoga postures. This class teaches the importance of pranayama, mindfulness, and connecting deeply with oneself and nature. Dress comfortably and bring a yoga mat or a full-size bath towel.

8:00 am - 8:30 am
Meditation
Chapel – Melville Room

8:00 am – 10:30 am
Registration, Check-In & Check-Out
Grand Ballroom Foyer

8:00 am
Display Tables Open

8:30 - 8:55 am
Morning Prayer
Grand Ballroom

9:00 am - 9:45 am
Forums & Workshops

9:45 am - 10:00 am
Coffee Break

10:00 am – 12:30 pm
PLENARY SESSION IV
Grand Ballroom

Call to Order, Bishop Paul Egensteiner
Prayer, Chaplain

10:05 | Registration and Attendance, Maria Rodas
10:08 | Churchwide Report, Jodi Slattery
10:38 | Consultation Committee: Report II (Including Responses from Appealing Congregation), The Rev. Danielle Miller
11:18 | Consultation Committee: Assembly Deliberation and Action, The Rev. Danielle Miller
Hymn
11:43 | Common Ballot I, The Rev. Kevin O'Hara
12:13 | Adoption of Recommended FY 2024 Budget, John Litke
12:23 | Announcements, Maria Rodas
Prayer, Chaplain

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm
Registration, Check-In & Check-Out
Grand Ballroom Foyer

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm
Lunch

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm
PLENARY SESSION V
Grand Ballroom

Call to Order, Bishop Paul Egensteiner
Prayer, Chaplain

1:35 | Registration and Attendance, Maria Rodas
1:38 | Reference & Counsel, The Rev. Martha Cruz & The Rev. Rebecca Pollicino
2:08 | Assistant to the Bishop Report, The Rev. Gladys Diaz
2:13 | Assistant to the Bishop Report, The Rev. Christopher Mietlowski
2:18 | Assistant to the Bishop Report, Roberto Lara
2:23 | Common Ballot II, The Rev. Kevin O'Hara
2:33 | Presentation from Our Partners
Wartburg
Center for Evangelical Mission
2023 Lutheran Summer Gathering
Camp Ma-He-Tu
Pinecrest
Koinonia
Growing in Faith (Diakonia)
United Lutheran Seminary
Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education (LMHE)
3:18 | Announcements, Maria Rodas
Prayer, Chaplain
END OF 2023 SESSION

Registration, Check-Out

Grand Ballroom Foyer

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Coffee Break with Snacks

4:30 pm – 6:00 pm

Holy Eucharist with the Rite of Setting-Apart of Synodical Deacons and the Closing of the Assembly

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Reception

Adoption of Rules of the Assembly

The Rules were adopted as presented.

Report of Vice President

Bishop Egensteiner invited Christopher Vergara to give his report.

Report of the Treasurer

Bishop Egensteiner invited John Litke to give the treasurer's report.

Presentation of Revised 2023 Budget and Proposed 2024 Budget

Announcements and Prayer

After announcements by Maria Rodas and prayer by Pr. Kathleen Koran, the session was adjourned at 11:37 am. Lunch followed.

FRIDAY. MAY 5, 2023

PLENARY SESSION II

Bishop Egensteiner called the second plenary session to order at 1:01pm and asked Pr. Koran to lead the members in prayer.

Registration and Attendance

Maria Rodas gave the second registration report.

Lay Voting Members	184
Rostered Leaders	<u>131</u>
Total Voting Members	315

Report of the Bishop

Video Report of the MNYS Finance Team (Karen Falco and Donna-Mari Fieldsa)

Video Report of Executive Assistant to the Bishop (Gayle Ruege)

Video Report of Director For Evangelical Mission (Branden Dupree)

2022 Anniversaries

Bishop Egensteiner invited Pr. Christopher Mietlowski to present the anniversaries, whereupon a video was shown and those celebrating silver and gold anniversaries were presented with certificates and gifts.

25 Years Ordained as Minister of Word and Sacrament

The Rev. John Saraka

50 Years Ordained as Minister of Word and Sacrament

The Rev. Robert Modr

The Rev. Robert J. Rodriguez

Consideration of Appeal of Decision under S13.24 of the Metropolitan New York Synod Constitution

Bishop Egensteiner invited Secretary Schoepflin to speak of the constitutional provisions and continuing resolution related to the process of appeals, to report on the actions of the Synod Council under S13.24 and report to the assembly if any appeals were received.

After reviewing the reasons the Synod Council “may take charge and control of the property of [a] congregation” under S13.24 and the appeals process under Continuing Resolution SC 10:10/09, Secretary Schoepflin reported that on March 22, 2022 the Synod Council voted to apply S13.24 to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Manhattan, and that the congregation was informed of such action and of its right to appeal such action to the Synod Assembly. He further reported that Immanuel, through its legal representatives, had submitted a written notice of appeal.

Bishop Egensteiner then asked Pr. Danielle Miller, chair of the Consultation Committee, to present the committee’s report and recommendation. The committee’s report is attached hereto as **EXHIBIT A**.

Announcements and Prayer

After announcements by Maria Rodas and prayer by Pr. Kathleen Koran, the session was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2023

PLENARY SESSION III

Bishop Egensteiner opened the third plenary session at 4:00 pm by inviting Pr. Koran to begin the session with prayer.

Registration and Attendance

Maria Rodas gave the third registration report.

Lay Voting Members

185

Rostered Leaders
Total Voting Members

135
320

Consultation Committee: Process for collecting Questions

Pr. Danielle Miller, Chair of Consultation Committee, explained how questions regarding the Committee's report on the appeal of Immanuel Lutheran Church could be submitted for consideration. She noted that a Question Submission Form needed to be completed and submitted to the committee by the close of the present plenary session.

Keynote Address: The Rev. Dr. Theresa Thames

Reference and Counsel

Bishop Egensteiner referred to the adopted agenda and standing rules in stating that 30 minutes have been allotted to this report of Reference and Counsel, that debate on any resolution would be limited to 15 minutes, and that any unfinished business of Reference and Counsel would be moved to Plenary Session V.

Pr. Martha Cruz and Pr. Rebecca Pollicino, co-chairs of Reference and Counsel were asked to present the resolutions that were submitted.

Resolution 1: Nominations and Elections Bylaw

Whereas, the current bylaw S10.01.04 states that *the terms of the members of the Synod Council (other than the officers) shall begin at the conclusion of the Synod Assembly (or Synod Council meeting) at which they are elected*, which may limit flexibility in the timing of term commencement; and

Whereas, it is important to maintain a transparent and flexible nomination process, allowing Nominations from the Floor to accommodate the varying availability and interests of potential Synod Council members;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the bylaw S10.01.04 be amended as follows:

The terms of the members of the Synod Council (other than the officers) shall begin at the date specified for each elected synod council position.

This resolution was brought by the Synod Council.

ACTION SA2023:05.01

Resolved, that the bylaw S10.01.04 be amended as follows:

The terms of the members of the Synod Council (other than the officers) shall begin at the date specified for each elected synod council position.

ADOPTED

Resolution II: Resolution Regarding MNYS Voting Members to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly

Whereas the ELCA Churchwide Assembly is held every three years and is a wonderful opportunity to see the wider church in action while networking with our sisters and brothers across the US, and

Whereas there is always broad interest in being elected as a MNYS voting member, and Whereas the ELCA incurs the cost for voting members, and voting members should be elected from the entire pool of eligible MNYS members, giving preference to first time attendees, and

Whereas there are some members of the MNYS that have had the opportunity to attend numerous times, while others have never had the opportunity.

Be it therefore resolved:

1. That all members of the MNYS be encouraged to put their names in for consideration, and
2. That MNYS members that have attended at least 2 ELCA Churchwide Assemblies be encouraged to withdraw their names for consideration on ballots where they are not the sole candidate.

Respectfully submitted by:

Vicar Jean Dougherty
The Rev. Robert Schoepflin
Ms. Susan Carentz
S. Deacon Roberta Detmers
The Rev. Kimberly Wilson
The Rev. Linda Bell
The Rev. A. David Anglada

The Committee for Reference and Counsel recommends adoption.

ACTION SA2023:05.02

Resolved:

- 1. That all members of the MNYS be encouraged to put their names in for consideration, and**
- 2. That MNYS members that have attended at least 2 ELCA Churchwide Assemblies be encouraged to withdraw their names for consideration on ballots where they are not the sole candidate.**

ADOPTED

Resolution III: A Resolution to Encourage Using Retired Clergy to Support and Strengthen Congregations in the Metropolitan New York Synod of the ELCA

WHEREAS in recent years in many mainline Christian denominations in the United States there has been a growing awareness of the decline in both membership and financial support in many congregations as well as a decrease in the number of ordained clergy available, and

WHEREAS there is currently a substantial gap between the number of students enrolled in theological seminaries who are preparing for ordained ministry as well as an increase in the number of clergy who are retiring from active ministry or approaching retirement age, and

WHEREAS in the Metro New York Synod there are many congregations that do not have pastoral leadership because of the lack of candidates or because they lack sufficient financial resources to the support full or even part-time clergy to serve them, and

WHEREAS the ELCA, through Portico Benefits, provides excellent resources for assisting pastors considering their financial options for their retirement years that can enable them to continue serving after retiring without having to rely completely on local congregations for their personal financial support, and

WHEREAS there is a significant number of retired clergy who choose to remain available for serving in congregations and can continue serving in specific ways in local congregations, and

WHEREAS creating and implementing a comprehensive strategy on a synodical level for the use of the gifts of retired clergy able to serve the church after retirement could provide experienced pastoral leadership and benefit the ministries of local congregations, and

WHEREAS for several decades, in the U.S. and other countries, other Christian denominations have addressed similar concerns about providing pastoral leadership by creating numerous innovative models that train and use ordained and retired clergy and lay members to use their gifts in forming and serving as local shared ministry teams to support their Christian communities,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT THE METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE ELCA direct the Synod Council to form a synodical team, led by a qualified pastor, deacon, or lay person and including a synod staff person to:

1. conduct a study of innovative ways our synod can assist clergy making personal decisions about retirement as well as already retired clergy, to consider their options for continuing to serve the church after retirement, and
2. research and experiment with different models from around the world and other Christian

denominations for creating, training, and using shared ministry teams that make use of the gifts of all God's people, including lay members, rostered ministers, and retired clergy, on a salaried and a voluntary basis, to serve and support local congregations and conferences, and

3. oversee, foster, and assist in creating local and conference strategies for shared ministry, by providing training for clergy and local congregational leaders that will enable them to create and serve in shared ministry teams in their own local settings.

Submitted by Rev. Dr. Richard O. Hill Pastor of Hope Lutheran Church, Selden, NY

The Committee for Reference and Counsel recommends adoption.

ACTION SA2023:05.03

RESOLVED that the Metropolitan New York Synod of the ELCA direct the Synod Council to form a synodical team, led by a qualified pastor, deacon, or lay person and including a synod staff person to:

1. conduct a study of innovative ways our synod can assist clergy making personal decisions about retirement as well as already retired clergy, to consider their options for continuing to serve the church after retirement, and

2. research and experiment with different models from around the world and other Christian denominations for creating, training, and using shared ministry teams that make use of the gifts of all God's people, including lay members, rostered ministers, and retired clergy, on a salaried and a voluntary basis, to serve and support local congregations and conferences, and

3. oversee, foster, and assist in creating local and conference strategies for shared ministry, by providing training for clergy and local congregational leaders that will enable them to create and serve in shared ministry teams in their own local settings.

ADOPTED

2023 Anniversaries

Bishop Egensteiner invited Pr. Gladys Diaz to present the anniversaries, whereupon a video was shown and those celebrating silver and gold anniversaries were presented with certificates and gifts.

25 Years Ordained as Minister of Word and Sacrament

The Rev. Laurie Cline

The Rev. Norman White

The Rev. Sonja Tillberg Maclary

50 Years Ordained as Minister of Word and Sacrament

The Rev. Paul Schmiede

The Rev. Dr. Richard O. Hill
The Rev. William Eggers
The Rev. George Handzo
The Rev. John Havrilla

25 Years Ordained as Minister of Word and Service
Deacon Jacquelyn J. Mize-Baker

25 Years Service as Synodical Deacon
S.Dcn. Kause Jonietz
S.Dcn. Charles Germain
S.Dcn. Robert Michaelis

In Memoriam

At this point a video was shown in remembrance of rostered ministers and lay leaders who entered the Church Triumphant in the past two years.

Announcements and Prayer

After announcements by Maria Rodas and prayer by Pr. Kathleen Koran, the session was adjourned at 5:26 pm.

6:15 pm Dinner

7:30 pm Holy Eucharist with Rite of Ordination for Ministers of Word and Sacrament

9:00pm Reception

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2023

PLENARY SESSION IV

After breakfast forums Bishop Egensteiner opened the fourth plenary session at 10:00 am by inviting Pr. Koran to begin the session with prayer.

Registration and Attendance

Maria Rodas gave the fourth registration report.

Lay Voting Members	187
Rostered Leaders	<u>137</u>
Total Voting Members	324

ELCA Churchwide Report

Ms. Jodi Slattery, Executive for Governance in the ELCA, gave the church report following a churchwide video. She spoke of the many ministries of the ELCA and expressed gratitude to the MNYS for its partnership and support.

Consultation Committee Report II

Bishop Egensteiner asked Pr. Danielle Miller to respond to questions that were submitted by the voting members of the Assembly.

The Pastor and members of Immanuel Lutheran Church were given an opportunity to respond to the report.

Bishop Egensteiner then opened the floor for voting members to speak for or against the motion to sustain the action of the Synod Council in imposing S13.24 on the congregation. He reminded the members that each speaker would be limited to 3 minutes.

At the close of this period Bishop Egensteiner led the assembly in a vote on the question, reminding the voting members that the question before them was; “Shall the action of the Synod Council in exercising Section 13.24 of the Synod Constitution in relation to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Manhattan, be sustained?” He noted that a “yes” vote would sustain the action of the Synod Council and a “no” vote would overturn the action of the Synod Council.

269 votes were cast: 200 in favor of sustaining the action of the Synod Council, 69 in favor of overturning it.

The motion passed.

ACTION SA2023:05.04

The action of the Synod Council in exercising Section 13.24 of the Synod Constitution in relation to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Manhattan, is sustained.

ADOPTED

First Common Ballot

Bishop Egensteiner invited Pr. Kevin O’Hara, chair of Nominations and Elections, to conduct the voting on the first common ballot.

ACTION SA2023:05.05

Elected to Synod Council:

The Rev. Sonja Tillberg Maclary

The Rev. Kristen Wuerffel

The Rev. Dr. Arden Strasser

The Rev. Gary Squire

Ms. Mary Downing

Ms. Cynthia Roberti

Ms. Lily Sage Mathias

Mr. Peter Teichmann

Mr. Devon Brooks

ACTION SA2023:05.06

Elected to Consultation Committee:
The Rev. Christopher Chantelau
Mr. Philip E. Jenks

ACTION SA2023:05.07

Elected to Discipline Committee:
The Rev. Rebecca Pollicino
The Rev. Luis Echandia

ACTION SA2023:05.08

Elected as voting members to Churchwide Assembly:
The Rev. Leticia Alanis
S.Dcn. Roberta C. Detmers
Mr. Roberto Lara Aranda
Mr. Edgar Guerrero
Ms. Maria Rodas

Adoption of Revised 2024 Budget

There being no submitted amendments, Bishop Egensteiner called for a vote on the budget.

ACTION SA2023:05.09

Adopted a Proposed Budget of \$5,448,775 for F.Y. 2024

ADOPTED

Announcements and Prayer

After announcements by Maria Rodas and prayer by Pr. Kathleen Koran, the session was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2023

PLENARY SESSION V

Bishop Egensteiner called the session to order at 1:30 pm, and asked Pr. Koran to open the session in prayer.

Registration and Attendance

Pr. Paul Johnsen, Synod Assembly Coordinator gave the fifth and final registration report.

Lay Voting Members	188
Rostered Leaders	<u>138</u>
Total Voting Members	326

Second Common Ballot

As there was no need for a second report of Reference and Counsel, Bishop Egensteiner invited Pr. Kevin O'Hara to conduct the second common ballot.

ACTION SA2023:05.10

Elected to Synod Council:
The Rev. Kevin O'Hara
S.Dcn. Denise Rutherford-Gill

ACTION SA2023:05.10

Elected as voting members to Churchwide Assembly:
The Rev. Linda Bell
The Rev. George Dietrich
The Rev. William Kroeze
Ms. Belynda Barton
Mr. Edgar Guerrero Avila

Assistant to the Bishop Reports

The Rev. Gladys Diaz presented a video report.
The Rev. Christopher Mietlowski presented a video report.
Mr. Roberto Lara presented a video report.

After each video presentation Bishop Egensteiner thanked his assistants for their dedicated service to our Synod.

Presentations from Our Partners

Mr. David Gentner, President and CEO of Wartburg addressed the Assembly and spoke of the expanding ministry of Wartburg.

The Rev. Dr. Richard O. Hill spoke to the members about the work of the Center for Evangelical Mission.

The Rev. Arden Strasser presented a video about the 2023 Lutheran Summer Gathering at Silver Bay Retreat Center.

Ms. Madeline Sharrock, Vice President of Lutheran Girls Camp Association gave a slide presentation about Camp Ma-He-Tu.

A video about Pinecrest was presented.

Dr. Kathleen Ruen and Pr. Rich Hill brought greetings from Camp Koinonia.

A video about Growing in Faith (Diakonia) was presented.

The Rev. Dr. Guy Erwin brought greetings from United Lutheran Seminary.

The Rev. Becca Seely, Executive Director of Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education presented a video about the ministry of The Vine among college and graduate students in New York City.

Announcements and Prayer

After announcements by Maria Rodas and prayer by Pr. Kathleen Koran, the session was adjourned at 3:20 pm.

Bishop Egensteiner gave his final thoughts, thanking all who attended and organized the Assembly, and all who serve with him on staff and Synod Council.

He noted that the next Assembly would be May 1-3, 2025 at the Long Island Marriott in Melville, and that it would include an election for bishop.

4:30 pm Holy Eucharist with Rite of Setting Apart of Synodical Deacons and the Closing of the Assembly

9:00pm Reception

*Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Robert Schoepflin
Secretary, MNYS*