

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

<i>Mr. Leonel E. Avila</i>	2020
Mr. Adam A.D. Campbell (Youth)	2020
*Ms. Cynthia Corley	2020
The Rev. Chryll Crews	2022
S. Dcn. Steven Daniels	2022
Mr. David Ehlers	2022
Ms. Monica Gavryszewski	2019
Ms. Hazel Goldstein	2022
The Rev. Marva Jenkins	2022
*Mr. John Litke, Treasurer	2022
*Bishop Donald McCoid	2019
The Rev. Christopher Mietlowski	2020
S. Dcn. John Ogren	2020
*The Rev. Jeanine Owens	2020
<i>The Rev. David Parsons</i>	2022
*The Rev. Daniel Peter	2022
S. Dcn. Denise Rutherford-Gill	2020
Mr. Thomas Sargent	2019
*The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Sect.	2022
The Rev. Nicole Schwalbe	2020
Mr. Cecil Spurlock-Shackelton	2022
<i>The Rev. Garry Squire</i>	2020
Ms. Wendy Bean Tannenbaum	2022
<i>Ms. Emma Turner (Young Adult)</i>	2020
*Mr. Christopher Vergara	2020
*Ms. Renee Wicklund, VP	2022
S. Dcn. Anita Martin-Williams	2022
Ms. Karen Woolley	2020

STAFF

Dcn. Margy Schmitt Ajer
Ms. Susan Brandt
The Rev. Percy Butiku
Ms. Regina Daniels
Mr. Branden Dupree
Mr. Roberto Lara
The Rev. Jonathan Linman
Ms. Maria Rodas
Synod Dcn. Gayle Ruege
The Rev. Lamont Wells

Guests

Bold = present

Italics = excused absence

*Member of Executive Committee

Opening Prayer: Bp. McCoid

Observer: *The Rev. Jeanine Owens*

Call to Order: *Ms. Renee Wicklund at 5:12 pm.*

1. Adoption of the Agenda: adopted as amended.

2. **Adoption of the SC Minutes (23 October 2018):** adopted as amended.
2018 Synod Assembly minutes (Review / Adopt in January)

3. **Bishop's Report**

- A. **Town Hall Meetings – update**

Bishop McCoid reported that the number of participants that pre-registered and those who were walk-ins totaled 400 participants - 200 lay and 200 rostered.

- a. **Advisory Group Report / timeline**

Bishop reported that the Advisory Group is working to complete their report to the synod, which will be posted on January 15 (2 weeks prior to the pre-identification period opens).

- b. **Resource for the discernment for the election of a bishop**

Pastor Linman spoke about a resource he has developed for the synod's prayerful discernment as we prepare for the election of a bishop. VP Wicklund invited lay members of the council to join in writing resources that could be used during Lent for the discernment process.

- B. **Calls**

- a. **The Rev. H. Gaylon Barker: *Interim Pastor / Saint John, Bellmore eff. 15 Oct 18***

Bishop reported that Pastor Barker and Pastor Meier completed their interim ministry at Good Shepherd, Brooklyn and are now serving at St. John, Bellmore.

ACTION SC18:12/01

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to The Rev. H. Gaylon Barker as Interim Pastor for Saint John, Bellmore effective October 15, 2018.

ADOPTED

- b. **The Rev. Carla Meier: *Interim Pastor/ St. John, Bellmore eff. 15 Oct 18***

ACTION SC18:12/02

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to The Rev. Carla Meier as Interim Pastor for Saint John, Bellmore effective October 15, 2018.

ADOPTED

- c. **The Rev. Scott Adams: *Interim Pastor / Trinity, Kingston eff. 1 Oct 18***

ACTION SC18:12/03

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to The Rev. Scott Adams as Interim Pastor for Trinity, Kingston effective October 1, 2018.

ADOPTED

- d. **The Rev. Gregory Fryer: *Resignation from the ELCA roster eff. 26 Jun 18***

Bishop reported that he is in receipt of Pr. Fryer's letter of resignation from the ELCA roster effective June 26, 2018.

e. The Rev. Karen Kuttler: *Retirement status effective 1 Jan 2019*

ACTION SC18:12/04

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve retirement status for The Rev. Karen Kuttler, effective January 1, 2019.

ADOPTED

f. Dcn. Marlene Lund: *Retirement status effective 1 Jul 2018*

ACTION SC18:12/05

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve retirement status for Deacon Marlene Lund, effective July 1, 2018.

ADOPTED

C. Appointments

a. The Rev. Romeo Dabee: *Term Pastor / St. James – St. Matthew’s, S. Ozone Park eff 1 Jan 2019 – 31 Dec 2020*

Bishop reported that he appointed an Advisory Panel to engage the congregation of St. James – St. Matthew’s earlier this year. After reviewing the panel’s report he met with the congregation council and provided several recommendations to assist them in their current and future ministry. The council began working with Pr. Mantovani (Dean / Coverage Pastor) on the recommended actions.

On Sunday, December 9 Bishop met with the congregation council to introduce Pr. Romeo Dabee as a two-year appointment to serve as term pastor to the congregation.

b. Ms. Barbara Johnson; Dr. John Litke; Mr. Cecil Spurlock-Shakelton: *Consultation Team / St. Peter’s, Brx*

Bishop reported that the congregation council of St. Peter’s, 219th Street, Bronx requested a meeting with Pr. Lamont Wells and Dcn. Margy Schmitt Ager seeking assistance in evaluating their current ministry and planning for the future.

He appointed Pr. Laurie Andersen as a pastoral consultant to work with the congregation to help them assess and evaluate their ministry and to also provide administrative guidance on their governance and financial practices. Pr. Andersen completed her work in early November, and submitted her report.

He appointed the consultation team that will meet with St. Peter’s council to discuss the findings in the report.

c. The Rev. Jeanine Owens: *Wider Church Grant Review Team*

Bishop noted that The Wider Church Fund was established by the Synod Council in 2004. Grants are intended to help fund programs outside of our synod's regular operating budget. In 2011, a Benevolence Task Force was formed to develop the application process and criteria for application.

The Wider Church Grant Review Team works with the Bishop to review the applications. The Bishop determines the grant awardees and reports the recipients to the Synod Council.

The 2018 budget included \$125,000 for the Wider Church Fund.

D. Wider Church Fund Grant Awards

Bishop reported that the following grants had been awarded:

Asian and Pacific Ministries Domestic Mission - \$10,000
Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, Inc. - \$5,000
Camp for Peace Liberia - \$20,000
Christ for the World Chapel (JFK Airport) - \$8,000
Fellowship of Reconciliation, Inc. - \$8,000
Friends of Mwangaza, Inc. - \$7,000
Lutheran Counseling Center - \$10,000
Maureen's Haven - \$5,000
New York Interfaith Power & Light - \$2,000
Parish Resource Center of Long Island, Inc. - \$5,000
Seafarers and International House Inc. - \$25,000
Trinity's Service and Food for the Homeless - \$20,000

4. Report of the Vice President

VP Wicklund reported that she had attended the Town Hall meetings in each quadrant, had worshiped in 4 congregations of our synod, had represented the Bishop and our synod at several events, and chaired the election of Pr. William Kroeze as pastor of Trinity, LES.

5. Treasurer's Report

A. Mission Support Report (31 Oct 2018)

Treasurer Litke reported that contributions for the month of October totaled \$79,727, which is \$15,273 lower than what was budgeted for the month; that Year-to-date mission support received is \$669,547, which is \$120,453 lower than the budgeted amount of \$790,000; and that

Mission Support received year-to-date 10/31/2018 is \$32,932 lower than 10/31/17.

B. Financials 31 Oct 18

Treasurer Litke presented the financials for October 31, 2018.

6. Report of the Strategic Plan Working Group

A. Working Group met 11 Dec 18.

B. Committee Appointments – will be presented in January

C. GATHERED

a. Leadership Development Grants **EXHIBIT A**

ACTION SC18:12/06

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the Leadership Development Grants reviewed by the Leadership Development Grant Review Team and recommended by the Executive Committee.

ADOPTED

Pr. Linman spoke about the need to assist congregations financially so that they can bring interns to the territory of our synod. This led to the following resolution presented by Treasurer Litke.

ACTION SC18:12/07

RESOLVED, that the synod council create a designated fund entitled Internship Support, to support future actions to promote internship for seminary students training for ordination as ELCA rostered ministers on the territory of the synod and to transfer \$27,000 of the 2018 budget year line item leadership development grants as initial funding. This fund will clear to the operating assets when it declines to 5% of its initial funding value.

ADOPTED

C. CLAIMED

a. Communications update

R. Lara reported that there have been targeted emails sent for various reasons and events, including Synod Assembly

D. SENT

E. FMC

VP Wicklund reported that giving is down but our investments are doing well.

F. ANTI-RACISM

Pr. Butiku announced that there will be 5 training opportunities in 2019. Targeted groups: Synod staff, Synod Council members, call committees, congregation council members, and youth.

7. Old Business

A. Leif Ericson Day School

a. Educational Epiphany / Assessment – Audit of the school

VP Wicklund reported that the Executive Committee had a conference call with Dr. Donyall Dickey, CEO, Educational Epiphany, Washington DC. Educational Epiphany is an educational consulting firm that will conduct a complete Assessment / Audit of Leds and provide a report to us regarding the redevelopment of the school.

Educational advisors Dr. David Hahn, former Head of School for Long Island Lutheran Middle and High School, and Ms. Jessica Raba, current principal of LuHi participated in the conference call and are willing to continue to serve as advisors through this discernment process.

She indicated that a firm has also been secured to do a complete assessment of the facility and property including a zoning analysis.

Both assessments should be completed within the next 4 weeks and reports provided to the Executive Committee on January 10.

B. Eltingville Church & School update

VP Wicklund reported that Eltingville perfected their appeal. Our response papers are due Dec 17. We will have information next month to report.

8. New Business

A. Former Zion, Brklyn : 6309 Fourth Avenue

a. MNYS 6309 Fourth LLC: Certificate of Resolution / MNYS Internal Document

ACTION SC18:12/08

RESOLVED, that based upon the facts recited 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 here, the Synod Council hereby approves of the formation by the Metropolitan New York Synod of MNYS 6309 Fourth LLC, a limited liability company organized under the laws of the State of New York, in which the Metropolitan New York Synod is and shall continue to be the sole member and manager, with the intention of conveying to MNYS 6309 Fourth LLC title to the Property. To the extent possible, it is the Synod Council's intention that, as a single member limited liability company, with the Metropolitan New York Synod as the sole member, MNYS 6309 Fourth LLC shall be tax exempt and shall not be required to file separate tax returns. No other assets shall be placed in MNYS 6309 Fourth LLC, and MNYS 6309 Fourth LLC shall have no liabilities. The sole purpose of MNYS 6309 Fourth LLC is and shall continue to be to hold, manage, and convey title to the real property formerly of Zion Brooklyn for, on behalf of, and at the direction and convenience of the Metropolitan New York Synod; and it is further

RESOLVED, that based upon the facts recited 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 here, the Synod Council

hereby approves of the transfer of title to the Property from the Metropolitan New York Synod to MNYS 6309 Fourth LLC, a single member limited liability company organized under the laws of the State of New York, of which the Metropolitan New York Synod is and shall continue to be the sole member and manager, to hold, manage, and convey that real property on behalf of and at the direction and convenience of the Metropolitan New York Synod, its sole member and manager; and it is further

RESOLVED, that any two of the Trustees of Zion Brooklyn, acting in their capacity as Trustee, be and hereby are authorized, empowered and directed on behalf of the Synod to sign, verify and cause to be filed all documents and papers as may be required in furtherance of and to effectuate that conveyance; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the dissolution of the Metropolitan New York Synod is not contemplated following the transfer of the Property to MNYS 6309 Fourth LLC.

ADOPTED (23 for, 0 opposed)

b. MNYS 6309 Fourth LLC: LLC / PSA / Lease for Attorney General submittal

ACTION SC18:12/09

RESOLVED, the Property was appropriately transferred to the Metropolitan New York Synod from Zion Brooklyn as provided by 13.24 and Sections 17-c 2(a)(ii) and (iii) and 17-c 2(c)(ii) of the Religious Corporations Law of the State of New York; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Agreements having been extensively reviewed and discussed with the Synod Council and the Metropolitan New York Synod's legal counsel, are accepted, approved and adopted; and it is further

RESOLVED, that it is in the best interest of the Metropolitan New York Synod to engage the Purchaser to purchase the Property; and it is further

RESOLVED, that it is in the best interest of the Metropolitan New York Synod to enter into the Development Agreement with the Purchaser to construct the Project, assign the Development Agreement to the MNYS 6309 Fourth LLC and have Purchaser transfer the Community Facility Unit to MNYS 6309 Fourth LLC upon completion; and it is further

RESOLVED, that it is in the best interest of the Metropolitan New York Synod to lease the Property to the SCA, through MNYS 6309 Fourth LLC (subsequent to an assignment of the Lease); and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Purchase Price, the Developer Fee, Extension Fee and Rent to be paid by the Purchaser to the Metropolitan New York Synod or MNYS 6309 Fourth LLC is fair and equitable and such funds will be used to further the Metropolitan New York Synod's mission and ministry; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Broker's Commission is fair and reasonable is accepted and approved; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the dissolution of the Metropolitan New York Synod is not contemplated following the sale of the Property; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the execution of the Agreements by the Rev. Robert P. Schoepflin, as Secretary of the Metropolitan New York Synod, and acting solely and on behalf of the Metropolitan New York Synod and sometimes through MNYS 6309 Fourth LLC, be and hereby is authorized, empowered and directed; and it is further

RESOLVED, that any one of the officers of the Metropolitan New York Synod acting solely and on behalf of the Metropolitan New York Synod through MNYS 6309 Fourth LLC, be and hereby is authorized, empowered and directed to sign, verify and cause to be filed such petition or other paper or papers as may be required to obtain the approval as required by New York law based on the terms and conditions as recited in the Agreements; and, in the event that such approvals shall be obtained, to thereafter execute, acknowledge and deliver a deed 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, broker, attorney and other professional fees incurred in connection with the sale of the property; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the net proceeds from the sale of the Property, after payment of the customary and/or required closing costs, transfer taxes, broker, attorney and other professional fees relating to the sale, be utilized in furtherance of the purposes for which the Metropolitan New York Synod was formed, in accordance with its Certificate of Incorporation and Constitution and By-Laws; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod will not become insolvent following the transfer of the Property; and it is further

RESOLVED, that to the best of my knowledge, no persons have raised, or have a reasonable basis to raise, objections to the sale of the Property.

ADOPTED (23 for, 0 opposed)

B. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) MNYS2424 Linden LLC

ACTION SC18:12/10

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the memorandum of understanding, dated November 16, 2018 (MOU) between PK Linden LLC and MNYS2424 Linden LLC.

ADOPTED (*unanimously via email on _____*)

C. 2019 Housing Allowances

Rev. Leticia Alanis \$26,400
Rev. Evelyn Avila \$24,000
Rev. Aaron Baughman \$ 5,000
Rev. Perucy Butiku \$30,000

December 11, 2018
APPROVED 1/22/19

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

Page 9

Rev. Lenny Duncan \$40,000
Rev. Amy Kienzle \$25,000
Rev. Jonathan Linman \$30,000
Rev. Eric Mull \$23,000
Rev. Kevin Vandiver \$22,500

ACTION SC18:12/11

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the 2019 staff housing allowances as presented.

ADOPTED

10. Afterthoughts

11. Closing Devotions: by Christopher Vergara

12. Observer

Meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm with prayer by Bishop McCoid.

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

**Next Executive Committee Meeting: January 10, 2019*
Synod Council Meeting: January 22, 2019**

***Proposed items for the Synod Council agenda should be submitted to Gayle Ruege (gruege@mnys.org) for consideration by the Executive Committee on or before January 4.**

All committees are to provide a digital copy of meeting minutes to Regina Daniels (rdaniels@mnys.org) for the synod files.