

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Rev. E. Patricia Avila	2027
Mr. Devon Brooks	2029
Ms. Monique Davis	2026
Ms. Mary Downing	2029
*Bishop Paul Egensteiner	2025
*S.Dcn. David Ehlers	2027
S.Dcn. Philip Jenks	2027
*Mr. John Litke, Treasurer	2024
The Rev. Sonja Maclary	2029
Ms. Lily Sage Mathias	2029
The Rev. Kevin O'Hara	2029
The Rev. David Parsons	2027
Ms. Cynthia Roberti	2029
*S.Dcn. Denise Rutherford Gill	2029
*Mr. Thomas Sargent	2027
*The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Sect.	2027
Mr. Cecil (Chip) Spurlock-Shackelton	2027
The Rev. Arden Strasser	2029
The Rev. Gary Squire	2029
Mr. Peter Teichmann	2029
*Mr. Christopher Vergara, VP	2027
*The Rev. Kristin Wuerffel	2029
The Rev. Ernie Moss	2029

STAFF

Ms. Regina Daniels
The Rev. Gladys Diaz
Mr. Branden Dupree
Ms. Karen Falco
S.Dcn. Donna-Mari Fieldsa
Mr. Mark Goodwin
The Rev. Christopher Mietlowski
Ms. Maria Rodas
S.Dcn. Gayle Ruege
S.Dcn. Lori Scaffidi (Ret.)
The Rev. Angela Shannon
Ms. Leticia Silva

GUESTS

Mr. Jason Labate, Goldstein Hall
Ms. Ellen Clemont, Goldstein Hall
Mr. Alex Weis, Matter RE

Bold = present

Italics = excused absence

**Member of Executive Committee (as elected at this meeting)*

Opening Devotions: Bishop Egensteiner: Fruit of the Spirit / Peace and Patience

Observer: D. Ehlers

Call to Order: VP Vergara at 9:06 am

1. **Adoption of the Agenda:** adopted as presented
Adoption of the Synod Council minutes 21 September 2024: adopted as presented
2. **New Business**

A. Bishop Election Committee Appointees (this item of business was addressed after item 2F below)

The Bishop's Election Committee Charter was approved by the SC in its September meeting. The following persons were appointed by Bishop Egenstiener and are recommended for ratification by the EC.

The list of appointees meets the requirements of two representatives from each quadrant (geographic inclusion) as well as lay / ordained /young adult / diversity goals.

The Charter states that if the incumbent synod bishop has indicated that they will not accept re-election if named on the nominating ballot, the committee members and committee chair shall be appointed by the bishop in consultation with the synod council.

2025 MNYS Bishop Election Committee

Chair: The Rev. C. Anderson James, Parliamentarian

Quad 1: (Delaware-Hudson / Hudson / Tappan Zee

- The Rev. Mary Lou Baumgartner
- Mr. Michael Martucci

Quad 2: (Nassau / Suffolk Counties)

- Christian Cederstrom
- The Rev. Luis Echandia

Quad 3: (Brooklyn / Queens)

- Mr. Vernon Chu
- Ms. Katie Cunningham

Quad 4: (Bronx, Manhattan, Staten Island)

- The Honorable Laura Douglas
- Ms. Hayley Moe

ACTION SC24:11/09

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council, in consultation with Bishop Egensteiner, ratify the appointees to the 2025 Bishop's Election Committee.

ADOPTED

B. Synod Properties: List for sale

At the request of the congregations (Grace, Holy Cross, New Hope) the Synod Council placed the properties into synod preservation under constitutional provision S13.24.

- a. Grace, Uniondale***
- b. Holy Cross, Commack***
- c. New Hope, Valley Stream***

ACTION SC24:11/01

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council authorize the synod owned properties of former congregations Grace, Uniondale; Holy Cross, Commack; New Hope, Valley Stream be listed for sale.

ADOPTED (16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

- C. Staff: Office of the Bishop: 2025 COLA 4%***

ACTION SC24:11/02

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve a 4% COLA for the synod staff in the Office of the Bishop effective 1 Jan 2025.

ADOPTED

- D. Calls: Rostered Leaders***
 - a. The Rev. Chryll Crews: Interim Pastor, Good Shepherd, Roosevelt (eff. 23 Nov 2024)***

ACTION SC24:11/03

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to the Rev. Chryll Crews to serve as Interim Pastor for the congregation of Good Shepherd, Roosevelt effective 23 November 2024.

ADOPTED

- b. The Rev. Susan Sprowls: Interim Pastor, Christ, Wantagh (eff 23 Nov 2024)***

ACTION SC24:11/04

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to the Rev. Susan Sprowls to serve as Interim Pastor for the congregation of Christ, Wantagh effective 23 November 2024.

ADOPTED

- c. The Rev. Martin Malzahn: Renewal / Priest-in-Charge St. Paul's and Incarnation Episcopal Parishes, Jersey City, NJ (eff 20 Oct 2024 – 31 Dec 2025)*

ACTION SC24:11/05

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council renew the call to the Rev. Martin Malzahn to serve as Priest-in-Charge for the Episcopal Parishes of St. Paul's and Incarnation, Jersey City effective 20 Oct 2024 – 31 Dec 2025.

ADOPTED

- d. The Rev. David Parsons: Retirement status (eff 1 Nov 2024)*

ACTION SC24:11/06

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant retirement status to the Rev. David Parsons effective 1 Nov 2024.

ADOPTED

E. Executive Committee Election: Nominees

- a. S.Dcn. Dave Ehlers*
- b. S.Dcn. Denise Rutherford-Gill*
- c. Tom Sargent*
- d. The Rev. Kristin Wuerffel*

ACTION SC24:11/07

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council elect S.Dcn. Dave Ehlers; S.Dcn. Denise Rutherford-Gill; Tom Sargent; Rev. Kristin Wuerffel to serve as the Executive Committee through November 2025.

ADOPTED

F. Resignation: Ms. Anaih Nieto / Young Adult SC member

Anaih was appointed by the SC to serve as the Young Adult member of the SC in November 2023. Anaih has secured an administrative position in the Office of the Bishop and subsequently needs to resign her seat.

ACTION SC24:11/08

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council accept the resignation of Anaih Nieto from the Synod Council.

ADOPTED

G. Bronx Strategy: Proposed Redevelopment / 763 Prospect Avenue, Bronx

B. Durpee introduced Jason Labate and Ellen Clemont of Goldstein Hall, Esqs. and Alex Weis of Matter RE.

Mr. Weis gave a detailed presentation of the various options for redevelopment.

The deterioration of the Prospect Ave property required immediate action by the Synod Council. All of the options for redevelopment require the demolition of the existing structure. The estimated cost of demolition is \$250,000.00.

ACTION SC24:11/10

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council authorize the demolition of the structure located at 763 Prospect Avenue, Bronx, at an estimated cost of \$250,000.
ADOPTED (20 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

3. Report of the Bishop

A. Appointments

a. The Rev. Dr. Katrina Foster: Interim Dean / Brooklyn Bridges Conference

B. Synod Events

a. 2024 Bishop's Retreat for pastors / synod deacons (Oct 21-25)

The staff coordinated the annual Bishop's retreat for rostered leaders (pastors and deacons) last month at the Holy Family Retreat Center in W Hartford, CT. The retreat offered 70 pastors and 45 deacons a well-balanced opportunity that included worship, continuing ed, wellness activities and fellowship.

C. Congregation Updates

a. Bishop's Listening / Advisory Panel: Hope, Selden

The Listening Panel appointed to Hope, Selden has completed their work, submitted their report and recommendations have been shared with the pastors and congregation council.

D. 2025 Synod Assembly Updates

The Events and Communication teams will launch the webpages and email communications for the 2025 Synod Assembly the first week of January. Registration information (including rates / lodging), deadlines, and Bishop's Election details) will be provided.

SC members Mary Downing and Peter Teichmann offered to coordinate alternative lodging options for voting members with members of Long Island congregations located near the Melville Marriott. This was reported to the Conference Deans this past Tuesday, and a plan will be shared when developed.

4. Report of the Vice-President

A. MNYS Secretary Robert Schoepflin

Secretary Schoepflin will conclude his (15 years) of service at the conclusion of the 2025 Synod Assembly. A new Secretary will be elected by the Synod Assembly in May. According to our constitution, the SC provides two nominees for the position. The office may be filled by a lay or ordained person. Nominations will be secured at the January or March meeting.

B. MNYS Committee Charter Update

Christopher and Gayle are reviewing the complete list of MNYS Committees, Commissions, Task Forces, Working and Affinity Groups to identify active and functioning committees / groups and develop charters to support them. A report and list will be presented to the SC for review in January / March.

C. MNYS Discernment Process

The Bishop's Election Committee is working with consultant Rozella Haydee White and her firm in coordinating the Discernment Process that was approved at the September SC meeting. Rozella will schedule a zoom with SC members, along with other leadership groups, as part of the data collection in preparing a synod profile and questions for pre-identified candidates.

5. Treasurer's Report: J. Litke gave report.

A. Mission Support (31 October 2024)

- The October 2024, Mission Support offerings totaled \$62,835.16.
- YTD Mission Support actuals through October 31, 2024 are \$527,484.28 which is \$66,787.13 less than YTD October 2023.
- A number of congregations remain at \$0 giving YTD.
- Decline in mission support from congregations is approximately 10% per year.

B. Financials (31 October 2024)

C. Fiscal Year Feb 1 2025 – Jan 31 2026 Budget preparations

7. Afterthoughts (as necessary)

A. Observer for January meeting

8. Observer's Evaluation: D. Ehlers

Executive Committee Meeting: January 14, 2025 (via zoom)

Synod Council meeting: January 25, 2025 (via zoom)

Meeting adjourned with prayer by Bishop at 11:41 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Schoepflin, Secretary