

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS (23)

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
<i>The Rev. Sonja Maclary</i>	2029
Ms. Lily Sage Mathias	2029
The Rev. Ernie Mossli	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

STAFF (12)

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
Mr. Alex Weis, Matter RE

S.Dcn. George Guinan

Bold = present

Italics = excused absence

*Member of Executive Committee

Opening Devotions: *Bishop Egensteiner: Fruits of the Spirit / Kindness and Goodness*

Observer: *S.Dcn. Dave Ehlers*

Call to Order: *VP Vergara: at 9:07 am*

1. Adoption of the Agenda: adopted as presented

- 2. Adoption of the Synod Council minutes 25 January 2025:** adopted as presented
- 3. Adoption of 2023 Synod Assembly minutes:** adopted
After discussion it was decided that the report of the consultation committee on the Appeal of Immanuel Lutheran Church, New York, NY will be added as an exhibit to the minutes.
- 4. Old Business (Updates)**
 - A. Bronx Strategy: Proposed Redevelopment / 763 Prospect Avenue, Bronx**
Jason Labate: Goldstein Hall
Alex Weis: Matter Real Estate
Mr. Weis gave an update on the project and noted that an RFP was shared to find not-for-profit partners in the project. One not-for-profit has expressed an interest so far.
- 5. New Business**
 - A. Brooklyn Consolidation (Our Saviour / Redeemer-St. John's / Salam Arabic**

ACTION SC25:03/01

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council authorize the Brooklyn congregations of Redeemer-St. John's, Our Saviour, and Salam Arabic, to continue toward a legal consolidation process in accordance with ELCA guidelines for congregation consolidation and New York State Religious Corporations Law.

ADOPTED

- B. Christ, New Hyde Park: parsonage sale**

ACTION SC25:03/02

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council take no exception to the sale of the property located at 13 Surrey Lane, New Hyde Park, NY by the congregation of Christ Lutheran Church, New Hyde Park.

ADOPTED

C. 2025 Synod Assembly

a. Synod Assembly draft agenda

The proposed agenda for Synod Assembly was developed allowing time for 5 ballots to elect a bishop.

ACTION SC25:03/03

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council recommend the proposed agenda to the 2025 Synod Assembly for adoption on May 2, 2025.

ADOPTED

b. Synod Assembly Standing Rules

The Standing Rules for 2025 Synod Assembly reflect the inclusion of the Bishop's election process including the use of VPoll as the sole vendor for the voting process at the assembly.

ACTION SC25:03/04

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council recommend the Standing Rules to the 2025 Synod Assembly for adoption on May 2, 2025.

ADOPTED

c. 2026 Budget

J. Litke gave a detailed presentation of the proposed budget.

ACTION SC25:03/05

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council recommend the proposed 2026 budget to the 2025 Synod Assembly for adoption on May 2, 2025.

ADOPTED

d. Nomination for Synod Secretary: Tom Sargent

ACTION SC25:03/06

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council place in nomination Thomas Sargent for the office of Synod Secretary to the 2025 Synod Assembly.

ADOPTED

D. MNYS Discernment Process

a. Synod Profile

ACTION SC25:03/07

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council authorize the release of the MNYS Ministry Profile developed by RHW Consulting.

ADOPTED

b. Candidate Questions to be submitted to Bishop's Election Committee

Questions will be developed by RHW Consulting and BEC will decide whether to release questions before assembly.

E. MNYS Committees / Charters: Continuing Resolution

ACTION SC25:03/08

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the 2025 MNYS Standing Committees and respective charters.

ADOPTED

F. Lutheran Churches of Metro New York

Proposed resolution.

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod, while legally retaining the name *The Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, shall publicly identify itself in most external communications, marketing, and public-facing materials as *The Lutheran Churches of Metro New York*; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Office of the Bishop and synod staff be tasked with ensuring that future public-facing communications, including but not limited to website content, press releases, social media, and public events, reflect this identity; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod encourage all congregations and ministry sites within its jurisdiction to embrace this shared public identity, recognizing it as a tool for clarity, mission, and evangelism; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that this resolution take effect immediately upon its adoption, with the understanding that the synod's legal name shall remain unchanged, while its public identity shall, in most instances, be communicated as *The Lutheran Churches of Metro New York*.

After discussion, a motion was made, seconded and approved to table consideration of this resolution until the September 2025 Synod Council meeting.

ACTION SC25:03/09

RESOLVED, that consideration of publicly identifying the Metropolitan New York Synod as “The Lutheran Churches of Metro New York” be tabled until the September 2025 meeting of the Synod Council.

ADOPTED

G. Synod Owned Properties

a. 311 Uniondale Avenue, Uniondale, NY

ACTION SC25:03/10

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the acceptance of an offer to purchase the property located at 311 Uniondale Avenue, Uniondale, NY by a purchaser in the amount of \$2,100,000 or higher.

ADOPTED

b. 51 & 53 Verbena Drive, Commack, NY

ACTION SC25:03/11

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the acceptance of an offer to purchase the property located at 51 & 53 Verbena Drive, Commack by a purchaser in the amount of \$2,450,000 or higher.

ADOPTED

6. Report of the Bishop

A. Calls

- a. The Rev. Stephanie Kershner: Extension of *On Leave from Call status***

ACTION SC25:03/12

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve a two-year Extension of On Leave from Call status to the Rev. Stephanie Kershner effective Sep 1 2025 – Sep 1 2027.

ADOPTED

- b. The Rev. Richard Sheridan: Extension of *On Leave from Call status***

ACTION SC25:03/13

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve a two-year Extension of On Leave from Call status to the Rev. Richard Sheridan effective Sep 1 2025 – Sep 1 2027.

ADOPTED

B. Congregation Updates

a. Christ, Ellenville

Pr. Mietlowski and Karen Falco were invited to speak with the congregation about Holy Closure and the process for the synod to assume responsibility for the management of the property.

b. Southeast Queens Conference

A meeting with the pastors and members of the SE Queens conference with the Bishop and Karen Falco took place on March 6. The conference will be working with Peggy Hahn (LEAD) to develop an Area Mission Strategy and a business plan as they move toward consolidation.

D. Legal / Property Updates

E. Quadrant Ministeriums

Quadrant 1: March 20 King of Kings, New Windsor
Hudson / Delaware-Hudson / Tappan Zee

- **Quadrant 2: March 18** St. Paul's Port Jefferson
Nassau and Suffolk Counties
- **Quadrant 3: March 25:** St. Paul's International, Floral Park
Brooklyn and Queens
- **Quadrant 4: March 27:** Advent, Manhattan
Bronx, Manhattan, Staten Island

7. Report of the Vice-President

A. Change in EC / SC meeting dates

- a. EC to May 13
- b. SC to June 7

After discussion, the motion to hold an in person meeting was defeated.

B. Nominations and Elections

8. Treasurer's Report

A. Mission Support (FY Feb 1 2024 – Jan 31, 2025)

Fiscal year Feb 1 2024 – Jan 31 2025: \$790,580 of which 50% (\$395,300) was given to Churchwide. \$0 Giving: 71 congregations

B. FY 2024 /2025 Audit

Donna-Mari is working with the auditors.

7. Afterthoughts (as necessary)

A. Observer for June meeting

8. Observer's Evaluation

Executive Committee Meeting: May 13, 2025 (via zoom)

Synod Council meeting: June 7, 2025 (via zoom)

Meeting adjourned at 11:42 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Schoepflin, Secretary