

***Listening for Leadership***  
**MNYS Town Hall Meetings**  
**September & November, 2018**

In May of 2019, our Synod will elect a Bishop to lead and provide pastoral care to Lutheran congregations, pastors, lay leaders, and members, in growing in faith and sharing the Gospel with Metropolitan New York.

The challenge, scope, and complexity of this seems overwhelming...this is why we look to God for guidance. In Ephesians 4, St. Paul writes:

*"I therefore, a prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift."*

This scripture exhorts us to strive for unity in our plans and process to call a Bishop. In pursuit of unity in our large, diverse Synod, we began by listening to those who are a part of our synod family, members of the Body of Christ.

### Discovery

The Synod Council appointed a Town Hall Advisory Group (Page 5) and challenged them with the task of listening to as many rostered ministers and laity as possible, in all parts of our Synod.

We held eight Town Hall meetings throughout the Synod—four with rostered ministers and four with laity (Page 4). Bishop McCoid moderated all the meetings. He invited people to share their hopes, concerns, observations, commentary, questions, or suggestions about any aspect of our Synod.

Over 400 rostered ministers and laity attended the eight Town Hall meetings. Members of the Advisory Group were at each Town Hall session, to hear the responses and take notes. Synod staff were also in attendance.

### Data

All the responses of those speaking at the Town Hall meetings were captured in the notes by members of the Advisory Group. A complete report containing all responses can be obtained by clicking [here](#).

The Advisory Group reviewed all the responses and sorted them by common themes. Those themes with the most responses were further analyzed by separating responses by Quadrant

(1,2,3,4), and by separating the responses of lay leaders and rostered ministers, with special attention to specific words and ideas contained within the theme.

### Discussion

Using this analysis, the Advisory Group discussed and considered hundreds of responses and more than a dozen potential themes. However, the desired end result was not to have a comprehensive report that would cover everything said, but rather, a short list of the most commonly mentioned themes that would best inform the process of electing a Bishop.

### Decision

From the discussion, the Advisory Group made decisions on what specific themes, areas, and details to include in this report and used in the Bishop call process. The results of those decisions are on the Bishop Profile (Page 3), and on the “Questions for the Prospective Bishop” form. (MNYS Secretary will provide this form to pre-identified pastors).

### Summary

To find unity from within our Synod family to inform the Bishop election process, we completed the following steps:

- *Listening* to clergy and laity at the Town Hall meetings
- Reviewing all the responses
- Grouping responses into common themes
- Analyzing the themes
- Discussing the specific impact on the Bishop election process
- Making decisions on the “Bishop Profile” and “Questions for the Prospective Bishop” to help our Synod secure God honoring *Leadership*

*Listening for Leadership*

## **Bishop Profile**

### 1. Bishop as Pastoral

The Bishop is the spiritual leader of our Synod. The Bishop shares scripture and prophetic words with clergy and laity, in a manner that teaches, inspires, challenges, and gives hope. The Bishop listens to and encourages the people of our Synod.

### 2. Bishop as Bridge Builder

The MNYS is diverse in ethnicity, geography, opinions on social issues, and viability of congregations. The Bishop helps people respect these differences, brings healing, and builds networks to advance the Gospel together.

### 3. Bishop as Leader

The Bishop leads through a ministry of presence in congregations. The Bishop communicates the plans, resources, activities, and vision for our life together as a Synod. The Bishop shares the Lutheran message in ecumenical and inter-religious gatherings, public forums, and the media.

### 4. Bishop as Administrator

The Bishop has oversight of the Synod's governance, finances, personnel, and legal issues. The Bishop develops a staff to advance the strategic plan and support congregations throughout the Synod. The Bishop works closely with the Synod Council and handles sensitive matters related to clergy.

The areas below will be the focus of the networks, resources, activities, and staff referenced above:

- A. Congregational Vitality & Mergers
- B. Supporting and Increasing Youth Ministries
- C. Improved Internal Communications
- D. Advancing Diversity
- E. Equipping Lay Leaders
- F. Evangelism & Outreach

## **MNYS Town Hall Meetings**

### **Quadrant 3: Brooklyn & Queens**

Lay Members: September 16, 2018, 3:00 – 5:00 pm  
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church  
225-17 115th Avenue, Cambria Heights, NY 11411 Advisory  
Group Notetakers: Amy Kienzle, Harry Schenkel

Rostered Ministers: September 17, 2018, 9:00 am – 2:30 pm  
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church  
225-17 115th Avenue, Cambria Heights, NY 11411 Advisory  
Group Notetakers: Cynthia Corley, John Malone

### **Quadrant 2: Nassau & Suffolk**

Lay Members: September 23, 2018, 3:00 – 5:00 pm  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
120 Vernon Valley Road, East Northport, NY 11731  
Advisory Group Notetakers: John Jurik, Renée Wicklund

Rostered Ministers: September 24, 2018, 9:00 am – 2:30 pm  
St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
145 Prospect Street, Farmingdale, NY 11735  
Advisory Group Notetakers: John Jurik, Harry Schenkel

### **Quadrant 1: Tappan Zee/Delaware-Hudson/Hudson**

Lay Members: November 4, 2018, 3:00 – 5:00 pm  
King of Kings Lutheran Church  
543 Union Avenue, New Windsor, NY 12553  
Advisory Group Notetakers: Justin Johnson, Cynthia Corley

Rostered Ministers: November 5, 2018, 9:00 am – 2:30 pm  
King of Kings Lutheran Church  
543 Union Avenue, New Windsor, NY 12553  
Advisory Group Notetakers: Karen Maulen, Renée Wicklund

### **Quadrant 4: Bronx/Manhattan/Staten Island**

Lay Members: November 11, 2018, 3:00 – 5:00 pm  
Grace and St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
123 West 71 Street, New York, NY 10023  
Advisory Group Notetakers: John Malone, Karen Maulen

Rostered Ministers: November 12, 2018, 9:00 am – 2:30 pm  
Saint Peter's Church  
619 Lexington Avenue (54th Street), New York, NY 10022  
Advisory Group Notetakers: Amy Kienzle, Cynthia Corley

## **MNYS Town Hall Advisory Group**

Ms. Cynthia Corley: New Hope, Jamaica (Synod Council)

The Rev. Justin Johnson: Our Saviour, Croton-on-Hudson

The Rev. John Jurik: Ascension, Franklin Square

The Rev. Amy Kienzle: Park Church Co-op, Brooklyn

S. Dcn. Carlos Lopez: Advent, Manhattan

S. Dcn. John Malone: Holy Trinity, Brooklyn

S. Dcn. Karen Maulen: St. Andrew's, Yorktown Heights

Bishop Donald McCoid: MNYS (Interim Bishop)

Mr. Walter Nash: St. Peter's, 219th Street, Bronx

The Rev. Harry Schenkel: St. Paul's, East Northport

Ms. Renée Wicklund: Our Savior, Port Washington (Synod Vice President)