



## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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### **Summary of a meeting with the Metro New York Synod, ELCA, and a statement from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton**

Meeting on Tuesday, April 3, 2018; 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Participants: Interim Bishop Donald McCoid, synod staff,  
synod executive committee, The Rev. Larry Foster and  
Deacon Mary Ann Schwabe (17 in attendance)

This meeting at the synod office on April 3, 2018 was scheduled at the suggestion of Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton following her meeting with the synod staff and rostered ministers on Wednesday, February 14, 2018, and subsequently at the request of Bishop McCoid, the synod staff, and the executive committee of the synod council. The purpose of this meeting was to have an opportunity to voice the observations and/or concerns of these two bodies of synod leadership and to prioritize the issues raised.

Larry Foster and Mary Ann Schwabe presented systemic information along with:

- Rabbi Friedman's bi-polar graph of functioning capacities
- Management of change while moving ahead
- Chronic cycle of anxiety/regressed emotional process
- Article on "Secrets"

Two evaluation documents from previous synod consultations were distributed and reviewed – one consultation was conducted in 1991, the other in 2008. Several periods of Q & A occurred throughout the meeting.

Suggestions for action were discussed:

- Appoint an advisory committee with consideration of maturity and diversity criteria.
- Enlist a staff member or synod representative to enroll in the ELCA Systems Academy who would coordinate a wholistic approach to congregational work with a family systems lens and develop a synod resource team as an integral part of that approach.
- Conduct structured town hall meetings in various locations or quadrants.
- Continue consultation as needed.

### **A statement from Presiding Bishop Eaton:**

I have reviewed the above information and have conversed with Bishop McCoid, Larry Foster and Mary Ann Schwabe. I am pleased with the engagement of the synod staff and the executive committee of the synod council in this first meeting with Larry and Mary Ann. I believe that this flexible and open approach for ongoing work and consultation with Bishop McCoid, the synod staff and the executive committee will maximize opportunities for thoughtful, calm, and faithful leadership of the Metro New York Synod. I am grateful for your engagement and partnership in ministry and in this process.

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton