

***MINUTES OF THE  
TWENTY-SIXTH REGULAR SYNOD ASSEMBLY OF THE  
METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA***

+

***“REFORMATION 500+FAITH NOT FEAR”***

**May 11-13, 2017  
Westchester Marriott, Tarrytown, New York**

Assembly registration began at 8:00 am, followed by Orientation for Voting Members.  
*Prayer on the Way: Opening of the Assembly*, with the Holy Eucharist, was held at 10:00am.

***THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2017***

***PLENARY SESSION I***

At 11:15 am Bishop Rimbo called the first plenary session to order by asking all voting members to share the peace of Christ with one another.

Bishop Rimbo welcomed the voting members, spoke about the work of the assembly, defined for the assembly the term “voting member” as it applies to the members of the assembly, and led the voting members through the use of the Guidebook app for assembly materials. He announced that resolutions and nominations from the floor must be received at the Hospitality Table by the end of the plenary session at 12:30 pm.

He then welcomed guests at the assembly, asking them to stand when introduced:

**The Rev. Javier Alansi**, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, who was the preacher at opening worship;

**Linda Hartke**, President and CEO of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service; and

Indicated that we will look forward to welcoming, later in the assembly, **Katherine Johnson**, ELCA representative, **The Rev. Dr. Brian McWeeny**, Archdiocese of New York, and **Bishop Lawrence Provenzano**, Episcopal Diocese of Long Island.

Bishop Rimbo then introduced **The Rev. Dr. Jerome Taylor** as Assembly Chaplain.

Introductions continued with:

**Mr. Phil Fox Rose**, Chair of Assembly Planning Committee; and **The Rev. Perucy Butiku** and **Mr. Rose** as hosts for the first plenary session;

**Pastor new to the Synod**

The Rev. Gaylon Barker: Good Shepherd, Brooklyn

The Rev. Carla Meier: Good Shepherd, Brooklyn  
The Rev. George Dietrich: Incarnation, Bridgehampton and St. Michaels, Amagansett  
The Rev. Wilbert Miller: Holy Trinity, Manhattan  
The Rev. Maritza Ortiz Cruz: New Hope for All Saints, Bronx  
The Rev. John Saraka: Zion, Staten Island  
The Rev. Jacob Simpson: Trinity, White Plains  
The Rev. Robert Weber: St. Lukes, Famingdale

### **Ordinands serving under call**

Leticia Alanis: All Saints/Todos los Santos, Woodhaven (Mission Developer)  
Evelyn Avila: Latino Ministry, Ascension, Deer Park (Mission Developer)  
Winston Dookram: Holy Cross, Commack  
John Heidgerd: Our Saviour, Jamaica  
James Miller: Lutheran Parish of Northern Dutchess

### **ELCA Deacon**

Deacon Carleen Miller: Executive Director, Church World Services

### **Synod Deacons set apart in April 2017**

Irma Bahr-Madrid: Christ, Newburg  
George Guinan: St. Andrews, West Hempstead  
Eric Johnson: St. John-St. Matthew-Emanuel, Brooklyn  
Cyrilene Mathurin: Grace, Uniondale  
Sandra Miller: Cross of Christ, Babylon  
Adolfo Ramirez: Advent, Manhattan  
Denise Rutherford-Gill: Holy Redeemer, Brooklyn  
Randy Subramany: St. Pauls, Bronx

### **Synod Staff**

Ms. Susan Brandt, Executive Administrator  
The Rev. Percy Butiku, Asst. to the Bishop for Global and Multicultural Mission  
Mr. Brandon Dicks, Office Assistant  
The Rev. Jeffrey Kolbo, Candidacy Coordinator  
The Rev. Kathleen Koran, Asst. to the Bishop for Congregations  
The Rev. Jonathan Linman, Asst. to the Bishop for Faith and Leadership Formation  
Synod Deacon Gayle Ruege, Senior Asst. to the Bishop  
Ms. Kathleen Schmidt, Asst. to the Bishop for Finance and Administration  
Ms. Rebekah Thornhill, Asst. to the Bishop for Communications and Events, and  
The Rev. Lamont Anthony Wells, Asst. to the Bishop for Evangelical Mission.  
(Bishop Rimbo also welcomed Deacon Margy Schmitt Ajer, who will begin June 1 as Assistant to the Bishop for Congregations)

### **Conference of Deans:**

The Rev. Fernando Otero – Bronx  
The Rev. Paul Egensteiner – Tappan Zee  
The Rev. John Flack – Manhattan  
The Rev. Marcia Parkinson-Harrison – Southeast Queens  
The Rev. Edward Barnett – Southwest Nassau

The Rev. Joseph Mantovani – Western Queens  
 The Rev. Richard Hill – Peconic  
 The Rev. Ernie Mossel – Delaware Hudson  
 The Rev. Emily Trubey-Weller – Eastern Nassau  
 The Rev. Sonja Maclary – Hudson  
 The Rev. Katrina Foster – Brooklyn Bridges  
 The Rev. Daniel Peter – Northeast Queens  
 The Rev. Jennifer Richards – Staten Island  
 The Rev. Joanne Bond – Western Suffolk  
 The Rev. Khader Khalilia – Southwest Brooklyn  
 The Rev. Robert Cederstrom – Western Nassau, and  
 The Rev. Harriet Wieber – South Shore Brooklyn.

The voting members then viewed a video on parliamentary procedure, after which Bishop Rimbo introduced The Rev. C. Anderson James, Associate for Small Church Ministries & Technologies for the New Hope Presbytery, Raleigh, NC, as Assembly Parliamentarian.

Then followed the introduction of The Rev. Joel Brandt, Chair of Reference and Counsel.

Ms. Jean Knight of Qwizdom introduced the voting members to the voting devices that will be used during the assembly.

**Report of the Committee on Registration**

Ms. Cynthia Corley gave the first registration report.

Ministers of Word and Sacrament	122
Ministers of Word and Service	7
Lay Voting Members	189
<b>Total Voting members</b>	<b><u>318</u></b>
Visitors	<u>56</u>
<b>Total Attendance</b>	<b>374</b>

**Adoption of Agenda**

Bishop Rimbo asked those speaking in favor of or against a matter before the assembly to do so at the appropriate microphone and noted that they will be limited to three minutes.

The agenda for the assembly was adopted as presented.

**Basic Agenda**

**Thursday, May 11**

9:00 am

**Workshop:** Humor as a Morale Booster and Community Builder, *Dutchess Room*

**Workshop:** Making the most of Reformation 500 in your Congregation, *Rockland Room*

**Orientation to our 2017 Synod Assembly,** *Westchester Ballroom*

10:00

**Prayer on the Way:** Opening of the Assembly with Eucharist, *Grand Ballroom*  
**Plenary Session I, Grand Ballroom**

Welcome

Introductions

Orientation to Assembly

Reference and Counsel

Orientation to Voting Devices

Registration and Attendance Report

Adoption of Agenda

Rules and Procedures

Nominations and Elections

Report of the Treasurer and Ten Year Plan

Conclusion

Prayer

12:30 pm

**Lunch, Tarrytown Ballroom, Garden Terrace, or on your own**

1:30

**Plenary Session II, Grand Ballroom**

Call to Order/Introduction of Session

Registration and Attendance Report

Introduction to the Process for Appeals of Decisions under 13.24

Process for Appeals of Decisions under 13.24

**Prayer on the Way, Grand Ballroom**

**Plenary Session II continues, Grand Ballroom**

Mission Moment: Seafarers International House

Introduction to the Synod Council

Report of the Vice President

Mission Moment: Diaconate Council

Reference and Counsel

Mission Moment: ELCA Youth Gathering

Nominations and Elections

Mission Moment: Anti-Racism Task Force

Conclusion

Prayer

Announcements

5:00

**Hearing:** Resolution No. 1, *Pocantico Room*

**Hearing:** Resolution No. 2, *Lyndhurst Room*

**Hearing:** Proposed and Revised Budgets, *Sleepy Hollow Room*

**Hearing:** Claimed: Reaching and Engaging Youth and Young Adults, *Hudson Room*

**Hearing:** Gathered: Lay & Pastoral Leadership Development, *Putnam Room*

**Hearing:** Sent: Serving & Supporting Immigrants, *Dutchess Room*

**Hearing:** Anti-Racism: Confronting Racism, *Rockland Room*

6:00

**Dinner, Tarrytown Ballroom, Garden Terrace, or on your own**

7:00

**Prayer on the Way:** Keynote Presentation, *Grand Ballroom*

**Friday, May 12**

8:00 am

**Prayer on the Way**, *Grand Ballroom*

8:25

**Plenary Session III**, *Grand Ballroom*

Call to Order/Introduction of Session

Mission Moment: Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education

Registration and Attendance Report

Process for Appeals of Decisions under 13.24

Mission Moment: Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services

Nominations and Elections

Mission Moment: Lutheran Social Services of New York

**Prayer on the Way**: Bishop's Bible Study, *Grand Ballroom*

11:00

**Workshop**: Can we talk?, *Lyndhurst Room*

**Workshop**: Feeling Called to Serve? Let's Talk, *Rockland Room*

**Workshop**: Houston, We have a Gathering, *Pocantico Room*

**Workshop**: Imagining Possibilities: Schools as Church in the World, *Putnam Room*

**Workshop**: The Forgotten Luther, *Dutchess Room*

**Workshop**: To Wittenburg with Drama (and Comedy), *Sleepy Hollow Room*

12:00 pm

**Lunch**, *Tarrytown Ballroom, Garden Terrace, or on your own*

1:00

**Prayer on the Way**: Eucharist, *Grand Ballroom*

**Plenary Session IV**, *Grand Ballroom*

Call to Order/Introduction of Session

Mission Moment: United Lutheran Seminary

ELCA Report

Mission Moment: Candidacy Committee

Congregational and Rostered Minister Anniversaries

**Prayer on the Way**, *Grand Ballroom*

**Plenary Session IV continues**, *Grand Ballroom*

Mission Moment: Lutheran World Relief

Registration and Attendance Report

Reference and Counsel

Budget Questions and Adoption

Conclusion

Announcements

Interfaith and Ecumenical Guests

**Prayer on the Way**, *Grand Ballroom*

6:00

**Dinner**, *Tarrytown Ballroom, Garden Terrace, or on your own*

7:00

**Prayer on the Way**: Magnificat: Faith Not Fear, *Grand Ballroom*

**Saturday, May 13**

8:00 am

**Workshop**: After 500 years: Lutherans as World Citizens, *Putnam Room*

**Workshop:** Luther and the Jews: Directions for Reformation 500, *Lyndhurst Room*

**Workshop:** Who are Lutherans today?, *Hudson Room*

9:00

**Prayer on the Way,** *Grand Ballroom*

9:30

**Keynote Presentation,** *Grand Ballroom*

10:45

**Break:** Sisters of Perpetual Motion, *Grand Ballroom*

11:00

**Prayer on the Way:** Solemn Eucharist, *Grand Ballroom*

12:30 pm

**Lunch,** *Tarrytown Ballroom, Garden Terrace, or on your own*

1:30

**Service and Learning Commitments,** *Grand Ballroom*

3:00

**Prayer on the Way:** Closing of Assembly, *Grand Ballroom*

### **Adoption of Rules of Procedure**

Bishop Rimbo directed the voting members to the Standing Rules and drew attention to Item G, a new part setting forth a process for the consideration of congregational appeals of decisions under Section 13.24 of the Synod Constitution. He called upon The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Synod Secretary, to explain the proposed continuing resolution that was approved by the Synod Council on April 22, 2017.

SC17.04(S)/01

G. Process for Appeals of Decisions under §13.24

1. *(for 2017)* A congregation shall have until the time at which the agenda for a meeting of the Synod Assembly is approved by the Assembly to submit a written statement of its appeal of any decision under §13.24 to the Synod Vice-President so that time to hear the appeal may be properly docketed.

*(effective following the adjournment of the 2017 Assembly)* A congregation shall submit a written statement of its appeal of any decision under §13.24 to the Synod Secretary no later than thirty days prior to the next meeting of the Synod Assembly.

2. When an appeal of a Synod Council decision under §13.24 is made to the Assembly, the Assembly shall docket time for at least two reports from the Consultation Committee appointed by the Synod Council, ordinarily on separate days of the Assembly meeting. The Assembly shall not vote on the appeal until it has heard the final report of the Consultation Committee.
3. Following the first report of the Consultation Committee, members of the Assembly may submit written questions to the Consultation Committee, which may respond as appropriate in later reports to the Assembly.
4. During the final report of the Consultation Committee, the Assembly chair will recognize members of the appealing congregation to speak to the Assembly regarding the appeal.

- Each speaker from the congregation will have no more than two minutes.
  - No additional speakers will be recognized after 15 minutes has elapsed.
  - When there are multiple factions within the appealing congregation, the Assembly chair may confer with the Consultation Committee so as to recognize speakers in a way that divides this time as equally as possible among members of the various groups.
5. At the conclusion of the final report of the Consultation Committee, the question before the Assembly will be, “Shall the action of the Synod Council exercising Section §13.24 of the Synod Constitution in relation to \_\_\_\_\_ (name of appealing congregation) be sustained?”
  6. Each voting member of the Assembly recognized to speak will have no more than three minutes to speak for or against the motion to sustain the action of the Synod Council. No additional speakers will be recognized after 20 minutes has elapsed. During the debate:
    - A motion to amend, postpone, or refer this question shall not be in order.
    - A motion to call the previous question or change the limits of debate beyond the limitations stated in this procedure shall not be in order.
    - Members of the Assembly will not be recognized for questions on the content and substance of the motion during the debate.
  7. Before the Assembly votes, the Assembly Chair shall restate the question, “Shall the action of the Synod Council exercising Section §13.24 of the Synod Constitution in relation to \_\_\_\_\_ (name of appealing congregation) be sustained?” and clearly indicate the intent of each vote.
    - A “yes” vote shall *sustain the action of the Synod Council to exercise Section §13.24 of the Synod Constitution.*
    - A “no” vote shall *overturn the action of the Synod Council to exercise Section §13.24 of the Synod Constitution.*

#### G. Process for Appeals of Decisions under §13.24

1. *(for 2017)* A congregation shall have until the time at which the agenda for a meeting of the Synod Assembly is approved by the Assembly to submit a written statement of its appeal of any decision under §13.24 to the Synod Vice-President so that time to hear the appeal may be properly docketed.
 

*(effective following the adjournment of the 2017 Assembly)* A congregation shall submit a written statement of its appeal of any decision under §13.24 to the Synod Secretary no later than thirty days prior to the next meeting of the Synod Assembly.
2. When an appeal of a Synod Council decision under §13.24 is made to the Assembly, the Assembly shall docket time for at least two reports from the Consultation Committee appointed by the Synod Council, ordinarily on separate days of the Assembly meeting. The Assembly shall not vote on the appeal until it has heard the final report of the Consultation Committee.
3. Following the first report of the Consultation Committee, members of the Assembly may submit written questions to the Consultation Committee, which may respond as appropriate in later reports to the Assembly.
4. During the final report of the Consultation Committee, the Assembly chair will recognize members of the appealing congregation to speak to the Assembly regarding the appeal.
  - Each speaker from the congregation will have no more than two minutes.
  - No additional speakers will be recognized after 15 minutes has elapsed.

- When there are multiple factions within the appealing congregation, the Assembly chair may confer with the Consultation Committee so as to recognize speakers in a way that divides this time as equally as possible among members of the various groups.
5. At the conclusion of the final report of the Consultation Committee, the question before the Assembly will be, “Shall the action of the Synod Council exercising Section §13.24 of the Synod Constitution in relation to \_\_\_\_\_ (name of appealing congregation) be sustained?”
  6. Each voting member of the Assembly recognized to speak will have no more than three minutes to speak for or against the motion to sustain the action of the Synod Council. No additional speakers will be recognized after 20 minutes has elapsed. During the debate:
    - A motion to amend, postpone, or refer this question shall not be in order.
    - A motion to call the previous question or change the limits of debate beyond the limitations stated in this procedure shall not be in order.
    - Members of the Assembly will not be recognized for questions on the content and substance of the motion during the debate.
  7. Before the Assembly votes, the Assembly Chair shall restate the question, “Shall the action of the Synod Council exercising Section §13.24 of the Synod Constitution in relation to \_\_\_\_\_ (name of appealing congregation) be sustained?” and clearly indicate the intent of each vote.
    - A “yes” vote shall *sustain the action of the Synod Council to exercise Section §13.24 of the Synod Constitution.*
    - A “no” vote shall *overturn the action of the Synod Council to exercise Section §13.24 of the Synod Constitution.*

Amendment moved, seconded and adopted to change “may” to “shall” in final clause of paragraph 3.

Amendment moved, seconded and adopted to remove “as appropriate” in final clause of paragraph 3.

Amendment moved, seconded and adopted to remove “not” from third bullet point of paragraph 6.

Amendment moved, seconded and adopted to change “two” to “three” in first bullet point of paragraph 4.

Process for congregational appeals was then adopted as amended.

## **SA2017:05/01**

### **G. Process for Appeals of Decisions under §13.24**

1. *(for 2017)* A congregation shall have until the time at which the agenda for a meeting of the Synod Assembly is approved by the Assembly to submit a written statement of its appeal of any decision under §13.24 to the Synod Vice-President so that time to hear the appeal may be properly docketed.

*(effective following the adjournment of the 2017 Assembly)* A congregation shall submit a written statement of its appeal of any decision under §13.24 to the Synod Secretary no later than thirty days prior to the next meeting of the Synod Assembly.



2. When an appeal of a Synod Council decision under §13.24 is made to the Assembly, the Assembly shall docket time for at least two reports from the Consultation Committee appointed by the Synod Council, ordinarily on separate days of the Assembly meeting. The Assembly shall not vote on the appeal until it has heard the final report of the Consultation Committee.
3. Following the first report of the Consultation Committee, members of the Assembly may submit written questions to the Consultation Committee, which shall respond in later reports to the Assembly.
4. During the final report of the Consultation Committee, the Assembly chair will recognize members of the appealing congregation to speak to the Assembly regarding the appeal.
  - Each speaker from the congregation will have no more than three minutes.
  - No additional speakers will be recognized after 15 minutes has elapsed.
  - When there are multiple factions within the appealing congregation, the Assembly chair may confer with the Consultation Committee so as to recognize speakers in a way that divides this time as equally as possible among members of the various groups.
5. At the conclusion of the final report of the Consultation Committee, the question before the Assembly will be, "Shall the action of the Synod Council exercising Section §13.24 of the Synod Constitution in relation to \_\_\_\_\_ (name of appealing congregation) be sustained?"
6. Each voting member of the Assembly recognized to speak will have no more than three minutes to speak for or against the motion to sustain the action of the Synod Council. No additional speakers will be recognized after 20 minutes has elapsed. During the debate:
  - A motion to amend, postpone, or refer this question shall not be in order.
  - A motion to call the previous question or change the limits of debate beyond the limitations stated in this procedure shall not be in order.
  - Members of the Assembly will be recognized for questions on the content and substance of the motion during the debate.
7. Before the Assembly votes, the Assembly Chair shall restate the question, "Shall the action of the Synod Council exercising Section §13.24 of the Synod Constitution in relation to \_\_\_\_\_ (name of appealing congregation) be sustained?" and clearly indicate the intent of each vote.
  - A "yes" vote shall *sustain the action of the Synod Council to exercise Section §13.24 of the Synod Constitution.*
  - A "no" vote shall *overturn the action of the Synod Council to exercise Section §13.24 of the Synod Constitution.*

## **ADOPTED**

The Rules of Procedure were adopted.

### **Report of Committee on Nominations and Elections**

The Rev. Kevin O'Hara, Chairperson, gave report and procedure for receiving nominations from the floor.

After announcements by Mr. Rose and prayer by The Rev. Edward Barnett, the session was adjourned at 12:45 pm.

Bishop Rimbo called the second plenary session to order at 1:52 pm, and announced that The Rev. Lamont Wells and Mr. Phil Fox Rose were the session hosts.

**Report of Treasurer and Presentation of Revised 2017 Budget and Proposed 2018 Budget**

Bishop Rimbo invited Mr. Frank Suttell, Synod Treasurer, and Mr. Edward Wagner, Chair of the Financial Management Committee, to the podium.

Mr. Suttell gave the report of the Treasurer, noting that it included amounts paid to attorneys and consultants as directed by resolution of last year's assembly.

**Treasurer's Report**

2016 was a good year from a financial point of view. Our only disappointment is the fact that mission support from congregations was essentially unchanged from 2015. The Synod has three major financial resources we use to manage our money. We have the financial statements which are prepared according to generally accepted accounting principles and are subject to external audit. We also have detailed budgets for our spending in the current year and the subsequent year. Finally, we have a ten-year plan to measure how the current spending will impact the long-term sustainability of the Synod. I will discuss the audited financials and current budgets and Ed Wagner, chair of the Financial Management Committee.

A combination of a strong real estate market and a bullish stock market increased our investment fund by approximately \$7 million. This increased liquidity of course has a number of positive consequences in terms of our goal of self-sufficiency. We have increased our budget for a number of projects which have proven successful such as our various direct grants for capital improvement, educational updates and other support.

Tait Weller and Baker, CPA'S is the accounting firm the Synod retained to audit our books. Since we have worked with T/W for several years, we decided to review the pro's and con's of changing auditors. We decided to stay with T/W but periodically change the partner on our account. We believed we could have the advantage a new set of eyes on the books and still not lose their years of experience.

They issued an unmodified opinion and made no major recommendations.

As mentioned earlier, 2016 was a very good year for improving the liquidity of the Synod. Accordingly, we have taken advantage of our improved cash flow by bolstering those strategic plan projects which have proven to be successful.

Conditions indicated that we were able to increase spending on proven projects.

We anticipate that our revenue and fund transfers will increase by approximately \$1.3 million. This increase is possible because of our ability to withdraw from funds which were strengthened during 2016.

We suggested minor increases in most of the expense categories except for the gathered project. The gathered strategy budget is getting an increase of approximately \$1 million, \$800,000 of which is earmarked for additional congregational grants.

While most budget work is concentrated on the current year 2017, we also make a preliminary budget for 2018.

We see 2018 as basically flat from 2017 but will be monitoring our progress during 2017 to determine if we need any budget modifications.

I understand that for most of you the budget breakfast is the highlight of the assembly. Where else can you get-up at 6 a.m. on a Saturday to discuss finance? This year, instead of the breakfast, we will be conducting a series of hearings, including one on the budget. These hearings run from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. and the budget one will be in the Sleepy Hollow room. We urge you to attend.

A few good years do not guarantee long term viability. In order to test the long-term results of our work we update a ten-year plan to reflect our progress and/or problems. We don't complete the yearly budgets unless it fits our plan for long-term self-sustainability.

Proposed Revised 2017 and 2018 budgets.

Each year the Ten-Year Plan is updated and extended by one year, this allows for a long-range perspective on the effects of short term decisions - decisions such as the next two years' budgets.

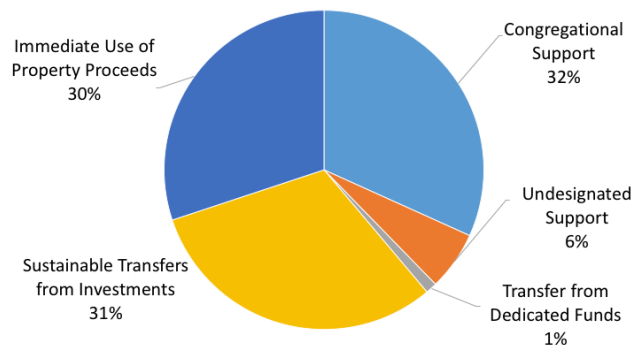
Having a long-range perspective helps us all focus on the synod's ongoing financial goals.

What are the synod's financial goals?

- Ensure that all resources from property sales are dedicated to mission
- To attain, by 2024, a balance between income and expenses that is sustainable beyond that into the future
- Maintain a nest egg of investments that will provide predicible income into the future

The endowment approach adopted five years ago provides for that nest egg, a portion of net property proceeds is invested for the long term, and, each year, no more than 4% is withdrawn for mission expenses. This approach preserves the base investment and allows it to grow with inflation.

This chart represents the revenue to the operating budget over the ten years of the 2017-2026 Plan:



The good news is that the total in this year's Plan is \$5 million more than in last year's Plan. So, there is a significantly larger pie. Each of the three major sources of revenues totals about \$12 million over ten years.

Congregational support—is that which is received from your congregations.

Sustainable transfers from investments—that is the 4% annual withdrawal.

The third major piece of the pie consists of property proceeds that are used in the near term to support the strategic initiatives and strengthen congregations.

With \$5 million more revenue available, strategic plan spending can be nearly double what was provided in last year's Plan and this can be done while maintaining the other important synod programs.

**IN SUMMARY THEN**, the 2017-2026 Ten-Year Plan shows:

- The synod is on track to meet its financial goals
- Strategic Plan programs can double over the near term
- The synod’s endowment nest egg will continue to grow and provide greater income in the future

Mr. Wagner and Mr. Suttell presented the Revised 2017 Budget and Proposed 2018 Budget, noting that any proposed amendments to the budgets are to be submitted in writing.

**Proposed Revised 2017 Budget**

Dollars in thousands	Approved 2017	Proposed Revised 2017
<b>Revenue and Funds Transfer</b>	<b>\$4,172</b>	<b>\$5,427</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Claimed	350	374
Gathered	1,990	3,014
Sent	1,133	1,280
Synod Governance	210	277
Finance and Administration	489	482
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,172</b>	<b>\$5,427</b>

**Proposed 2018 Budget**

Dollars in thousands	2017	Proposed Revised 2018
<b>Revenue and Funds Transfer</b>	<b>\$5,427</b>	<b>\$5,342</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Claimed	374	318
Gathered	3,014	2,958
Sent	1,280	1,293
Synod Governance	277	281
Finance and Administration	482	492
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$5,427</b>	<b>\$5,342</b>

### **Report of the Committee on Registration**

Ms. Cynthia Corley gave updated registration figures.

Ministers of Word and Sacrament	136
Ministers of Word and Service	9
Lay Voting Members	195
<b>Total Voting members</b>	<b><u>340</u></b>
Visitors	<u>64</u>
<b>Total Attendance</b>	<b>404</b>

### **Introduction to the Process for Appeals of Decisions under S13.24**

Bishop Rimbo invited The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Synod Secretary, to review the constitutional provisions and the continuing resolution related to the process of appeals, to report on the actions of the Synod Council under S13.24 and to report on any registered appeals.

Secretary Schoepflin led the assembly through the process under S13.24 whereby the Synod Council may take charge and control of the property of a congregation, and the process under continuing resolution SC10:10/09 whereby a congregation may appeal such action of the Synod Council. He noted that on March 21, 2017, the Synod Council affirmed its prior decision to take control and charge of the property of Eltingville Lutheran Church and School under S13.24. He further reported that he had received written notice from Eltingville Lutheran Church and School of its intent to appeal that decision to the present synod assembly. Finally he stated that this was the only written notice of appeal received and the time for giving notice of any other appeals has passed and that it was appropriate now for the Consultation Committee to report to the assembly.

Bishop Rimbo then invited The Rev. Jared Stahler of the Consultation Committee to present its first report on Eltingville Lutheran Church and School to the assembly.

Ms. Nancy-Casalino-Malone, of the Consultation Committee, then gave a detailed report of the committees findings.

The Rev. Joanne Bond led the assembly in prayer.

### **Prayer on the Way**

Worship was led by Ms.Leticia Alanis, The Rev. Sonja Maclary and The Rev. Khader Khalilia.

After a brief recess, the session reconvened at 3:35 pm.

### **Mission Moment: Seafarer's and International House**

The Rev. Marsh Drege, Executive Director, reported on the ministry of Seafarer's and International House.

### **Introduction of Officers and Members of Synod Council**

Bishop Rimbo then introduced the officers and members of the Synod Council:

Ms. Maria Del Toro, Vice President

Mr. Frank Suttell, Treasurer

The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Secretary  
The Rev William Baum, St. Barnabas, Howard Beach  
Ms. Cynthia Corley, New Hope, Jamaica  
Ms. Tabitha Johnson, St. Andrews, Smithtown (Youth representative)  
The Rev. Amy Kienzle, Park Church Co-op, Brooklyn  
Mr. John Litke, St. Peter's, Huntington Station  
Synod Seacon Dr. Carlos Lopez, Advent, Manhattan (Executive Committee)  
Synod Deacon John Malone, Holy Trinity, Brooklyn  
Synod Deacon Karen Maulen, Grace, Yorktown Heights  
The Rev. Christopher Mietlowski, Gustavus Adolphus, Manhattan  
Mr. Walter Nash, St. Peter's, 219<sup>th</sup> Street, Bronx  
The Rev. Jeanine Owens, Abiding Presence, Bronx  
Synod Deacon Lulu Paolini, Gustavus Adolphus, Manhattan  
The Rev. Daniel Peter Penumaka, St. Paul's International, Floral Park  
Synod Deacon John Prosen, St. Johns by the Sea, Long Beach  
Synod Deacon Denise Rutherford-Gill, Holy Redeemer, Brooklyn  
The Rev. Harry Schenkel, St. Pauls, East Northport (Executive Committee)  
The Rev. Nicole Schwalbe, Resurrection, Mount Kisco  
The Rev. Gary Squire, Messiah, Staten Island  
Ms. Wendy Bean Tannenbaum, St. Paul's, East Northport  
Ms. Abby Triebel, St. John's, Poughkeepsie  
Ms. Emma Turner, St. Andrews, West Hempstead (Young Adult representative)  
Mr. Christopher Vergara, St. Peter's/Sion, Manhattan (Executive Committee)  
Ms. Karen Wooley, New Hope, Valley Stream – Executive Committee

### **Report of the Vice President**

Ms. Maria Del Toro gave the report of the Vice President.

*Buenas tardes!*

*First of all I want to thank the synod council because they are the most wonderful team I have ever had the honor to be part of. We work hard and we pray a lot. And I give thanks to God for each and everyone of them. Thank you.*

*Last year I told you my story and I told you how as a teenager first coming to the Lutheran church, what joy my Lutheran identify has always been to me. Well, at the beginning of every synod council meeting we have a “tell your story” moment. It is my favorite time. At each meeting a council member volunteers to share meaningful story about her or his life.*

*Now I will tell you a very personal story. For all the years that Stan and I have been together, more than 42 years to be exact, I have always told him that I hoped I would live long enough to be around to celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the commemoration of the reformation.*

*And whenever I have been seriously ill, and it has been several times, my loving husband Stan has always said, “hey kid, remember, you have to be around for the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary!” Well, here I am. And my heart is full of joy and thanksgiving for God's blessings.*

*So, in this year of the commemoration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the reformation, it is with great humility that I give the vice president's report to the synod assembly.*

*You will find a full report on all the actions taken by the synod council this past year in the Guidebook app under "Assembly Resources – Reports to the Assembly." So I will not take the time to go over it. I hope you will read it.*

*More than five years ago I challenged our synod council to answer this very important question: what does God want us to do? We prayed and worked and a year later the synod assembly answered that question by adopting our synod strategic plan: for such a time as this.*

*For such a time as this, was not just for four years ago, nor was it prophetic for such times as now. Every time God is calling us is for such a time as this. That is the essence of our strategic plan. How can we ensure that we use all the resources and blessings that God has given us to ensure that word and sacrament ministry will continue in the metro New York synod for future generations? How do we stay relevant now and for the future of the changing world, society, and the New York metropolitan area?*

*It is this conceptual framework and trust in God's promises that has driven the strategic plan and the actions and decisions made by the council this past year on behalf of the congregations of our synod.*

*In 2016 our synod awarded \$2,175,000 in grants. I would like to highlight three of those grants because they specifically demonstrate the forward-looking focus of our synod strategic plan.*

*The synod awarded \$532,000 for congregation capital improvement challenge grants to congregations for improvements ranging from roofs, restrooms, parking lots, boilers, parsonage renovations, exterior building repairs, air conditioning, stair lifts and many more.*

*If you received a capital improvement grant, please stand, so we can recognize you.*

*Leadership development grants were awarded to both lay and clergy in the amount of \$50,000. If you received a leadership development grant, please stand so we can recognize you.*

*Grants for new initiatives, called the Sower's Project, amounted to \$57,000. If you received a Sower's award, please stand, so we can recognize you.*

*Epiphany, is a church in crown heights that is redeveloping their property because they are building for the future and want to maintain a Lutheran presence in that community. They approached the synod with their plans. The synod council agreed with them and awarded them a grant of \$500,000 towards their redevelopment of their property, \$50,000 of which they have already received.*

*And we have awarded \$150,000 to date to three congregations, St. Paul's, park Chester, Fordham, Bronx, and Resurrection Bronx, to assist them while they work through their mission strategies and explore the possibility of redeveloping their properties.*

*Since 2012, when we launched the strategic plan, our synod has awarded almost \$10,000,000 in grants. And we have additional funding for the capital improvement challenge grants and leadership grants in the new budget you will vote on at this assembly. We are indeed grateful for God's abundance to us.*

*Many of our communities are in constant change as new immigrants constantly change the urban landscape. Under the leadership of pastor Lamont Wells, our synod works together with the ELCA church wide to grow new ministries and restore congregational vitality in these communities. In 2016 our synod awarded \$442,000 in partnership grants for new start ministries in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and Port Jarvis.*

*One such ministry is our south queen's strategic initiative, All Saints/ Todos los Santos in Queens. You will hear more about this tomorrow at 5:00 p.m.*

*As you may recall, our synod entered into an agreement with fifth avenue committee, a non-profit developer, to build 64 units of affordable senior housing on the site of the former Zion, Brooklyn property, and that the synod will retain ownership of 15,000 square feet at that site. We are in the final stages of negotiation with the New York City schools construction authority to house five universal pre-k classrooms in that space. This will benefit the sunset park neighborhood as they are desperately needed in that area. And our synod will benefit as well, as we will receive lease payments, starting at approximately \$250,000 per year, with escalation increases built in for the duration of the 25-year lease.*

*The anti-racism enabling committee continues to provide anti-racism training for everyone in our synod. In 2016, 246 individuals from 80 congregations participated in five anti-racism trainings. 70% of deans, 96% of our synod council, 100% of our synod staff, 27% of our synodical-rostered deacons and 28% of our pastors attended trainings. Plans are for four other trainings this year, including two in Spanish. We want to thank the Anti-Racism Team so please stand so we can thank you.*

*Last year, the work of strategic plan focused on leadership training to congregations. The synod offered six full day congregational council workshops at different geographic areas to offer maximum accessibility for people to attend.*

*425 from 97 congregations participated. We want to thank rev. Secretary Chris Boerger, who was generous enough to lead two of the workshops. Two former secretaries of the ELCA also led two workshops each. From the evaluations we received, this has been by far one of the best-received programs the synod has ever offered. I attended one of the workshops and it was an amazing experience. Secretary Boerger was the leader, and, if anyone can make a discussion on the ELCA constitution, and the model constitution, interesting, he certainly can and did! Thank you Secretary Boerger.*

*And we want to thank the synod staff for organizing the workshops. They did a magnificent job! Thank you.*

*From the beginning the goal of the strategic plan was to support congregations on their mission in their communities. What does it mean for the local congregations, in their local*



*settings? What meaning did our synod strategic plan, for such a time as this, have for the local congregation? Could we help congregations develop their own congregational strategic plans? What would they look like? Tom Massey has been assisting congregations by providing demographic analyses of the communities you serve. These analyses will help each congregation understand the demographics of your changing community and what people in your community value.*

*This past summer, immediately after our last synod assembly, I challenged all us working in some way on the strategic plan to spend the following year reviewing the past four years to see what strategies had worked and what needed modification. This is standard for any strategic plan. We called it "refreshing our strategic plan. The idea was to once again have ideas and insights from many people and stakeholders.*

*On December 4, all the four strategic planning committees met for a full day of brainstorming. I encouraged the committees to be bold.*

*In February we shared their work with the synod council and were used in our budgeting process – which you will see in the budget presentations at this assembly.*

*Tom Massey has also met with the staff and deans and received their input as well as had special presentations with the synod council.*

*As part of the congregational council workshops in February and march, we wanted to hear from the congregations themselves about their priorities for their congregations and communities. We asked them and they told us. The next step is to support those congregations as they develop their own strategic plans.*

*But tonight you too will have a chance to participate in discussions on how these new strategies could best help your congregations over the next 4 years. The majority of the time will be spent listening to your ideas and input to help us answer this central question: how could the strategic plan be most relevant to my congregation and community over the next four years?*

- 1. The claimed strategy wants us to focus more on reaching and engaging youth and young adults.*
- 2. The gathered strategy wants to focus on leadership development to support congregations not just to be viable but also to be vibrant congregations.*
- 3. The sent strategy wants us serve and support immigrants and God would want us to do that.*
- 4. And the anti-racism team continues to challenge us to confront racism in any form.*

*I encourage you to divide up those attending from your congregation so you can attend several forums. Remember, that we will be counting on you to tell us about your congregation and your community to help us shape these strategies.*

*And there is another way for you to be involved. At these assemblies you hear a lot about the three expressions of the church: church wide, the synod, and your congregation. But we have another level for you to consider: a personal one.*

*Let me reframe the question. What does God want you to do? What does God want me to do?*

*We have two opportunities for you to share how you personally want to share in the work of the gospel. The first is tonight in the forums. On the card you will receive is a place for you to express your interest in continued work on the next strategies being proposed. If you feel called to stay involved with that strategy, the committee will get your name and contact information. You will receive information about the development of the strategy, and maybe even an invitation to be a part of that committee.*

*On Saturday, our sent committee has invited five great Lutheran ministries to share how they serve others and how you and I can connect with their work.*

- a: Lutheran Social Services*
- b: Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services*
- c: Seafarers International House*
- d: Lutheran World Relief*
- e: Pine Crest Camp*

*We will be making care kits for Lutheran World Relief. There is still time for you to pick up the supplies to make 5 kits and get involved with boxing 1,500 kits to send to those in need around the world. To find out how you can be ready for Saturday, please see a member of the sent committee. Would the members of the sent committee please stand?*

*And there is another way you can get involved. We want to participate in the “always being made new: the campaign for the ELCA.” You will be hearing more about it and how you can get involved soon. We will be looking for volunteers to be on the leadership team for our synod part. If you are interested, please contact pastor Lamont Wells who will lead the synod’s efforts. Now let’s get back to the theme of this assembly. We are commemorating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the reformation.*

*Now, you already know how passionate I am about the reformation. And why not? I think every Lutheran is or should be? For what is it that we commemorate?*

*We are saved by grace alone,  
Through faith alone,  
In Christ alone,  
According to scripture alone,  
For the glory of God alone.*

*So how appropriate that our theme is faith not fear. I say amen to that. And the synod has many events in addition to this assembly, to commemorate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary.*

*The claimed strategy chair, Pastor Mark Erson together with pastor Jonathan Linman have led the synod’s planning on the commemoration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In your materials is a list of coming events for the remainder of the 2017 calendar year.*

*But I want to call attention two important events. On September 6 and 8, there will be lectures at Saint Peter’s in Manhattan by international Luther scholar, Thomas Kaufman and author of a short life of Martin Luther (you can purchase the book at half price here at the assembly) this promises to be a very important event and we encourage everyone to put it in your calendar.*

*And now. Please pay close attention to this. I want you to take out your phones. I did not say turn on your phones. Just take them out and open your calendar. I want you to hold Wednesday, November 1, at 6 pm. Go ahead.*

*This is the date of our synod’s commemoration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the reformation and the beginning of the first day of the next five hundred. We will have a “commemorative Eucharist and festive reception” at the cathedral of St. John the Divine in Manhattan. Worship service will be at six pm followed by a reception of heavy hors d’oeuvres and plenty to drink.*

*This is open and free to all. But donations will be received. Registration will open on June 1 on the synod website. Let’s all make this event a glorious day of worshipping our lord in the Lutheran tradition.*

*Let us thank the assembly planning committee in advance for what we all know is going to be three magnificent days of commemoration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the reformation. They are: Cynthia Corley, Phil Fox rose (chair) Pastor Kevin O’Hara, Pastor Paul Johnsen Hazel Goldstein, John Goldstein, Amy Finney, Pastor Jared Stahler (worship committee liaison,) and all supported by the very capable staff member Rebekah Thornhill. I know they*

*are all scattered everywhere so I am not going to ask them to stand but let's give them a big round of applause.*

*And as always, special thank you to our bishop, Bishop Rambo. I give thanks to God for his friendship and his leadership to our synod.*

*And finally, hermanos y hermanas, I do not have to tell you that we live in turbulent times. I don't know about you. But I wake up every morning and I am afraid to turn on the television because I don't know what horrible thing is happening in the world today.*

*Faith not fear! What does it mean to live in a society where faith is what determines our actions? This was the challenge of the reformation 500 years ago and this is our challenge today.*

*This is the theme that will be explored throughout the events in the assembly in our three days together.*

*So let's commemorate the reformation with that same faith and not fear.*

*Muchas gracias.*

#### **Mission Moment: Metropolitan New York Synod Diaconate Council**

Synod Deacon John Malone and Ms. Nancy Casalino-Malone, co-chairs of the council, reported on its work.

#### **Reference and Counsel**

The Rev. Joel Brandt, chairperson, gave first report of the committee, reminding the assembly of the difference between a resolution and a memorial. He reported that a resolution had been received from the floor regarding conversation with church partners and that the assembly must vote, with a 2/3 majority, whether to consider this resolution. The assembly voted to consider it.

Pr. Brandt announced where the hearings on the resolutions would be held at 5:00 pm.

#### **Mission Moment: 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering**

Ms. Lisa McCaffrey and The Rev. Becca Seely reported on the Youth Gathering to be held next year in Houston.

#### **First Common Ballot**

The Rev. Kevin O'Hara, chair of Nominations and Elections, conducted voting on the ballot.

##### Ballot 1: Synod Council: Clergy

The Rev. Garry Squire – 166 **elected**

The Rev. Robert Kasting - 93

##### Ballot 2: Synod Council: Clergy

The Rev. Justin Johnson – 156 **elected**

The Rev. John Saraka – 99

Ballot 3: Synod Council: Lay Female  
Ms. Karen Woolley – 261 **elected**  
Other votes – 1

Pr. O’Hara reported that all elections were complete.

**ACTION**  
**SA 2017:05.02 First Ballot**  
**ADOPTED**

**Synod Council**  
**The Rev. Garry Squire**  
**The Rev. Justin Johnson**  
**Ms. Karen Woolley**

**Mission Moment: Anti-Racism Enabler to the Strategic Plan**  
The Rev. Marcia Parkinson-Harrison, Mr. Roberto Lara Aranda, The Rev. James Rowe and Synod Deacon Randy Subramany reported on the work under this initiative.

After Bishop Rimbo recapped the work accomplished during the session, Mr. Rose gave announcements and The Rev. Khader Khalilia closed the session with prayer at 4:59 pm.

**Hearings on resolutions, budgets, and the strategic plan were held in various rooms beginning at 5:00 pm.**

**Prayer on the Way, with Keynote Presentation by The Rev. Javier Alanis, was held at 7:00 pm.**

***FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2017***

***PLENARY SESSION III***

**Prayer on the Way was led by Mr. Joe Chappel, The Rev. Sarah Gaddada, and Deacon Judy Hinsch.**

Bishop Rimbo called the third plenary session to order at 8:55 am, and announced that Ms. Kathleen Schmidt and Mr. Phil Fox Rose were the session hosts.

**Mission Moment: Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education**  
The Rev. Becca Seely and Ms. Sedahlia Mahlum spoke about LAMP community.

**Report of the Committee on Registration**  
Ms. Cynthia Corley gave updated registration figures.

Ministers of Word and Sacrament	145
Ministers of Word and Service	9
Lay Voting Members	200
<b>Total Voting members</b>	<b><u>354</u></b>
Visitors	<u>73</u>
<b>Total Attendance</b>	<b>427</b>

### **Appeal Process under S13.24**

Bishop Rimbo reviewed for the assembly the process that will be followed with respect to the appeal by Eltingville Lutheran Church and School of the action of the Synod Council under S13.24. He then asked The Rev. Jared Stahler to present the second report of the Consultation Committee.

Pr. Stahler outlined the flow of the second report, which follows.

The Rev. Garry Squire, coverage pastor, addressed the assembly.

Then, questions submitted by voting members of the assembly to the Consultation Committee were answered by members of the committee: Pr. Stahler, Ms. Nancy Casalino-Malone and Ms. Carol Trower.

Following this, The Rev. Jennifer Richards, dean of the Staten Island Conference spoke to the assembly.

Finally, eight (8) members of Eltingville Lutheran Church and School addressed the assembly:

Synod Deacon Frank Ali spoke against affirming the action of the Synod Council;  
Ms. Colleen McGuigan spoke in favor of affirming the action of the Synod Council;  
Ms. Ann Thompson spoke against affirming the action of the Synod Council;  
Ms. Kathie D’Albero spoke in favor of affirming the action of the Synod Council;  
Ms. Betty Ann Pascarella spoke against affirming the action of the Synod Council;  
Mr. Jason Recevuto spoke in favor of affirming the action of the Synod Council;  
Ms. Betty Gustavsen spoke against affirming the action of the Synod Council; and  
Ms. Kris Siebel spoke in favor of affirming the action of the Synod Council.

Bishop Rimbo asked The Rev. Paul Egensteiner to lead the assembly in prayer before calling for a vote on the matter.

Bishop Rimbo then put the question before the assembly:

*Shall the action of the Synod Council exercising section S13.24 of the Synod Constitution in relation to Eltingville Lutheran Church and school be sustained?*

Yes: 271

No: 34

### **ACTION**

#### **SA 2017:05.03**

**RESOLVED, that the action of the Synod Council in exercising Section S13.24 of the Synod Constitution to take charge and control of the property of Eltingville Lutheran Church, Staten Island NY is sustained.**

#### **ADOPTED**

### **Mission Moment: Lutheran Social Services New York**

Mr. Damyn Kelly, President and CEO of LSSNY addressed the assembly.

Following announcements by Mr. Rose, the session was adjourned at 11:10 am.

Workshops were held in various rooms prior to lunch.

***FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2017***

***PLENARY SESSION IV***

---

**Prayer on the Way: Eucharist**

Bishop Rimbo preached and The Rev. Becca Seely presided.

Bishop Rimbo called the fourth plenary session to order at 2:25 pm, and announced that The Rev. Jonathan Linman and Mr. Phil Fox Rose were the session hosts.

**Mission Moment: Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services**

Ms. Linda Hartke, President and CEO spoke to the assembly.

**Mission Moment: United Lutheran Seminary**

Dr. Michael Cooper-White reported.

**ELCA Churchwide Report**

By M. Kathryn Johnson, Director for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations in the Office of Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

**Mission Moment: Candidacy Committee**

The Rev. Jeff Kolbo, Candidacy Coordinator reported, after which Bishop Rimbo thanked him for 15+ years of service. Pr. Kolbo will be retiring July 1, 2017.

**Anniversaries**

A video of The Rev. Kathleen Koran, recognizing significant anniversaries was presented.

Certificates and special recognition was given to:

**25 Years Ordained**

The Rev. William Eric Baum  
The Rev. Jennifer Boyd

**50 Years Ordained**

The Rev. Robert L. Gahagen  
The Rev. Robert Mursch  
The Rev. Thomas Hammond

**75 Years of Ministry**

Gloria Dei, New Hyde Park  
New Hope, Valley Stream

**150 Years of Ministry**

St. Johns, Brooklyn  
St. Jacobus, Woodside

**100 Years of Ministry**

St. Johns, Merrick  
St. Pauls, Port Jefferson Station

**175 Years of Ministry**

Trinity, Kingston  
Third, Rhinebeck

**Prayer on the Way**

Led by The Rev. Arias, The Rev. Trubey-Weller and Ms. Linda Hartke.

**Mission Moment: Lutheran World Relief**

Ms. Geri Sicola, Vice President for Strategic Partnerships and External Relations spoke of the work of LWR.

### **Report of the Committee on Registration**

Ms. Cynthia Corley gave updated registration figures.

Ministers of Word and Sacrament	140
Ministers of Word and Service	7
Lay Voting Members	199
<b>Total Voting members</b>	<b><u>346</u></b>
Visitors	<u>79</u>
<b>Total Attendance</b>	<b>425</b>

### **Reference and Counsel**

The Rev. Joel Brandt, Chair of Reference and Counsel presented the first resolution for consideration.

Resolution No. 1 – Synod Assembly Agenda

*Whereas*, the Synod Constitution designates the Annual Synod Assembly as the “highest legislative authority” of the Synod (S7.01); and

*Whereas*, the only other element required of the Synod Assembly *other* than legislation is the celebration of the Holy Communion (S7.01.03); and

*Whereas*, attendance throughout the Assembly varies, with the largest numbers of voting members being present in the middle; and

*Whereas*, the ability of the voting members to bring their concerns to the Synod is a central aspect of the Synod Assembly, and that aspect takes place via the report and deliberation of Reference and Counsel; *therefore, be it*

*RESOLVED*, that the prepared agenda for the Synod Assembly be constructed so as to schedule the report and deliberations of the Reference and Counsel Committee during the times when the most persons are expected to be present; *and be it further*

*RESOLVED*, that although the members of the Committee on Reference and Counsel may be introduced during the first plenary session, no report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel may be scheduled for the first plenary session, except when more than six Memorials, Resolutions or other legislative items have been received in advance of the Assembly, in which case a report may be scheduled for the first plenary; *and be it further*

*RESOLVED*, that the report of the committee on Reference and Counsel be allotted sufficient time for the Assembly adequately to consider every Memorial, Resolution, and other legislative item, including at least 20 minutes of deliberation per Memorial, Resolution, or other legislative item received in advance of the Assembly, as needed; *and be it further*



*RESOLVED*, that in the event that the time allotted to deliberations for Reference and Counsel prove insufficient to deliberate and vote upon every Memorial, Resolution, or other legislative item, that all further agenda items other than celebration of the Holy Communion will be delayed or removed from the agenda, until completion of the deliberation and voting; *and be it further*

*RESOLVED*, that the report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel be completed before commencement of the final plenary session of the Assembly, except insofar as nothing shall prevent the extension of previously scheduled deliberation and voting into the final plenary session if necessary.

The Rev. Edward Barnett, St. Peter's, Baldwin, Dean, SW Nassau

The Rev. MaryLou Baumgartner, King of Kings, New Windsor

The Rev. Mary Chang, Incarnation, Cedarhurst

The Rev. David Grainson, Holy Trinity, Rockville Centre

The Rev. James Krauser, Grace, Bellmore

The Rev. Danielle Miller, Oceanside, Oceanside

The Rev. Annemarie Noto, Grace, Malverne

The Rev. Rebecca Pollicino, Holy Trinity, Bellerose

The Rev. Jennifer Richards, Trinity/Our Saviour, Staten Island, Dean, Staten Island

The Rev. Harriet Wieber, Holy Trinity, Brooklyn, Dean, South Shore Brooklyn

The Rev. Edward Barnett spoke in favor of the resolution. Upon being seconded, the resolution was adopted.

## **ACTION**

**SA 2017:05.04          Synod Assembly Agenda**

**RESOLVED**, that the prepared agenda for the Synod Assembly be constructed so as to schedule the report and deliberations of the Reference and Counsel Committee during the times when the most persons are expected to be present; **and be it further**

**RESOLVED**, that although the members of the Committee on Reference and Counsel may be introduced during the first plenary session, no report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel may be scheduled for the first plenary session, except when more than six Memorials, Resolutions or other legislative items have been received in advance of the Assembly, in which case a report may be scheduled for the first plenary; **and be it further**

**RESOLVED**, that the report of the committee on Reference and Counsel be allotted sufficient time for the Assembly adequately to consider every Memorial, Resolution, and other legislative item, including at least 20 minutes of deliberation per Memorial, Resolution, or other legislative item received in advance of the Assembly, as needed; **and be it further**

**RESOLVED**, that in the event that the time allotted to deliberations for Reference and Counsel prove insufficient to deliberate and vote upon every Memorial, Resolution, or other legislative item, that all further agenda items other than celebration of the Holy

**Communion will be delayed or removed from the agenda, until completion of the deliberation and voting; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that the report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel be completed before commencement of the final plenary session of the Assembly, except insofar as nothing shall prevent the extension of previously scheduled deliberation and voting into the final plenary session if necessary.**

**ADOPTED**

Pr. Brandt then presented the next resolution to be considered.

Resolution No. 2 – Synod Council Elections

*Whereas*, the Synod Constitution was amended in 2000 to expand geographic (Conference) representation in Synod affairs; and

*Whereas*, the Synod Constitution provides that each Conference shall nominate two (or more candidates) for any position assigned to it in the rotation (S9.20.03 and S9.20.05); and

*Whereas*, however, in some circumstances a Conference identifies and recruits only one candidate to nominate; and

*Whereas*, when a Conference nominates only one candidate, that candidate usually represents the Conference's best discernment and judgment as to its own representation in Synod affairs; and

*Whereas*, when the Nomination Committee provides a second candidate in addition to the candidate identified by the Conference, the Conference's own discernment is impinged; and

*Whereas*, the Synod Constitution already provides for the circumstance in which a single nomination is inadequate, insofar as it provides that "nominations may be made from the floor" (S9.20.05.b); and

*Whereas*, the Synod Constitution provides for any circumstance in which a Conference provides no nomination, insofar as it provides that "if the Conference nominates no candidates, the Nominating Committee of the Synod shall make nominations for the position, and additional nomination may be made from the floor" (S9.20.05.c); and

*Whereas*, the Synod Constitution does not stipulate that the Nominating Committee provide a second candidate in the case that a Conference nominates only one candidate; therefore be it,

*RESOLVED*, that the Nominating Committee be instructed not to provide any additional candidate in the instance that a Conference nominates only one candidate for any position assigned to it in the rotation.

The Rev. Edward Barnett, St. Peter's, Baldwin, Dean, SW Nassau  
The Rev. Al Alstrohm, Redeemer, Kingston  
The Rev. MaryLou Baumgartner, King of Kings, New Windsor  
The Rev. Mary Chang, Incarnation, Cedarhurst  
The Rev. Paul Downing, St. Paul's, Port Jefferson Station  
The Rev. David Grainson, Holy Trinity, Rockville Centre  
The Rev. James Krauser, Grace, Bellmore  
Mr. John Litke, St. Peter's, Huntington Station, Synod Council  
The Rev. Danielle Miller, Oceanside, Oceanside  
The Rev. Annemarie Noto, Grace, Malverne  
The Rev. Kevin O'Hara, Our Savior, Patchogue  
The Rev. Rebecca Pollicino, Holy Trinity, Bellerose  
The Rev. Jennifer Richards, Trinity/Our Saviour, Staten Island, Dean, Staten Island  
The Rev. Harriet Wieber, Holy Trinity, Brooklyn, Dean, South Shore Brooklyn  
Resolution No. 2 – Synod Council Elections

The Rev. Edward Barnett spoke in favor of the resolution. Upon being seconded, the resolution was adopted.

#### **ACTION**

#### **SA 2017:05.05          Synod Council Elections**

**RESOLVED, that the Committee on Nominations and Elections be instructed not to provide any additional candidate in the instance that a Conference nominates only one candidate for any position assigned to it in the rotation.**

#### **ADOPTED**

Pr. Brandt then presented the next resolution to be considered.

#### Resolution 3: Conversation with Church Partners

Whereas, in Christ, we are all children of God through faith... *There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. (Gal. 3:26b, 28);*

Whereas, we are called to be the Body of Christ in the world, though many, we are one. (I Cor. 12:12);

Whereas, at our 2009 Churchwide Assembly, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adopted *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust, which calls for full inclusion of all on the gender spectrum;*

Whereas, we have built relationships with sister synods in other parts of our country (Arkansas - Oklahoma Synod) and other parts of the world (Northwest Diocese, Tanzania).

Whereas, there is a great divide in our own country, often caused by lack of exposure and conversation in the face of growing diversity causing misunderstandings among the followers of Jesus.

Whereas, religious leaders from the United States are actively exporting homophobia to the developing world, leading nations to write laws that are harmful to children of God who seek mercy and justice from their governments. (See: Southern Poverty Law Center - <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/intelligence-report/2010/us-anti-gay-activists-under-fire-role-uganda>)

Whereas, there is a growing, fear-filled tendency in our nation and in our world to segment and separate from those who hold differing opinions, causing widening division among brothers and sisters in Christ; therefore

Be it resolved, that this assembly direct our synod council and our bishop to initiate and create opportunities in 2018 and 2019 for conversations among lay and rostered leaders in our sister synods and global mission partners that will seek to cultivate and nurture listening to one another's stories, concerns, and fears, especially concerning issues of human sexuality and the call for full inclusion of all on the gender spectrum.

Be it further resolved that this assembly direct our bishop to work with the bishops of our sister synods and global mission partners to explore further opportunities to build bridges of understanding between the pastors and congregations in their charge.

Be it further resolved that any progress made, events executed, and/or methods developed that work toward promoting deeper understanding be shared with *Living Lutheran*, as well as local news organizations, as a witness to our unity in Christ and as a model for others to follow.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Mark Erson, Pastor, St. John's, Manhattan  
Executive Committee of St. John's, Manhattan

The Rev. Amandus Derr, Pastor, Saint Peter's, Manhattan

The Rev. John Flack, Pastor, Our Saviors Atonement, Manhattan

The Rev. Martin Hauser, Pastor, Grace and St. Paul's, Manhattan

The Rev. Chris Mietlowski, Pastor, Gustavus Adolphus, Manhattan

The Rev. Wilbert Miller, Pastor, Holy Trinity, Manhattan

The Rev. Clint Padgitt, Pastor, Zion-St. Mark's, Manhattan

Vicar Nancy Rakoczy

The Rev. Arden Strasser, Pastor, St. Andrew's, Yorktown Heights

The Rev. Tiina Talvitie, Pastor, NY Finnish Lutheran Congregation, Manhattan

The Rev. Phil Tryznka, Pastor, Trinity Lower East Side, Manhattan

The Rev. Mark Erson spoke in favor of the resolution. In response to a question about implementation of the resolution, Bishop Rimbo said it would be referred to the Claimed Strategic Committee. Upon being seconded, the resolution was adopted.

## **ACTION**

**SA 2016:05.06            Conversation with Church Partners**

**RESOLVED, that this assembly direct our synod council and our bishop to initiate and create opportunities in 2018 and 2019 for conversations among lay and rostered leaders**

in our sister synods and global mission partners that will seek to cultivate and nurture listening to one another's stories, concerns, and fears, especially concerning issues of human sexuality and the call for full inclusion of all on the gender spectrum, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this assembly direct our bishop to work with the bishops of our sister synods and global mission partners to explore further opportunities to build bridges of understanding between the pastors and congregations in their charge, and be it further **RESOLVED**, that any progress made, events executed, and/or methods developed that work toward promoting deeper understanding be shared with *Living Lutheran*, as well as local news organizations, as a witness to our unity in Christ and as a model for others to follow.

**ADOPTED**

#### **Adoption of Revised 2017 Budget and Proposed 2018 Budget**

##### **ACTION**

**SA 2017:05.07**      **Ratified a Revised Budget of \$5,776,740 for Fiscal Year 2017**

**ADOPTED**

##### **ACTION**

**SA 2017:05.08**      **Adopted a Proposed Budget of \$5,691,460 for Fiscal Year 2018**

**ADOPTED**

Announcements were made by Mr. Rose.

#### **Ecumenical Greetings**

The Rev. Dr. Brian E. McWeeney, Director of Ecumenical and Inter-Faith Affairs, Ethnic Apostolates, and Ecclesial Ministries and Organizations for the Archdiocese of New York.

The Right Reverend Lawrence Provenzano, Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Long Island.

Session was adjourned at 6:08 pm.

#### **Prayer on the Way**

Led by Mr. Geronimo Desumala, The Rev. Harry Schenkel and The Rev. Tiina Talvitie.

#### **SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2017**

Workshops on Reformation themes were held at 8 am.

#### **Prayer on the Way**

Led by Synod Deacon Denise Rutherford-Gill, Synod Deacon Eric Farret and The Rev. Percy Butiku.

#### **Keynote Presentation**

The Rev. Javier Alanis

**Prayer on the Way**

Eucharist led by Bishop Rimbo and The Rev. Kathleen Koran

Following lunch, the voting members participated in various opportunities for learning and service.

**Closing of Assembly**

Bishop Rimbo expressed final words of appreciation to the Assembly Chaplains, the Synod Worship Team, worship leaders and assistants, those who participated in the “Prayer on the Way” moments, our musicians – Donald Mieneke, Guillermo Vaisman and Horatio Martinez Bach Choir from Holy Trinity, Mr. Phil Fox Rose and the Assembly Planning Committee, all registration and hospitality volunteers, The Rev. Joel Brandt and the Committee on Reference and Counsel, elected officers and the Synod Council, Strategic Plan Consultant Tom Massey, Parliamentarian Andy James, Photographer Bob Williams, Quizdom Representative Jean Knight, and Assembly Coordinator Rebekah Thornhill.

Bishop Rimbo then invited a motion to adjourn, which was made, seconded and passed.

The assembly concluded with the Order for the Closing of the Assembly.

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