

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

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“BUILDING BRIDGES”

**May 11-12, 2018
Melville Marriott Long Island, Melville, New York**

Assembly registration began at 8:00 am, followed by Orientation for Voting Members. The Opening of the Assembly was held at 10:00am.

FRIDAY, MAY 11, 2018

PLENARY SESSION I

At 10:05 am Bishop McCoid called the first plenary session to order.

Bishop McCoid welcomed the voting members, spoke about the work 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 11:30 pm.

He then introduced the Synod Assembly Coordinator, Pastor Paul Johnsen, and Assembly Planning Committee Chair, Ms. Elizabeth Hoffmann, thanking them, along with the entire Assembly Planning Committee, Synod staff, volunteers and Marriott staff for their work in the coordination of the Assembly.

Bishop McCoid introduced the Assembly Chaplains, Fr. Juan Carlos Ruiz and S.Dcn. Ingrid Compton, noting that they will be available for prayer and pastoral care throughout the Assembly.

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

ELCA Representative, The Rev. Dr. Wyvetta Bullock, Executive for Administration in the Office of the Presiding Bishop, who will present the ELCA report to the Assembly and preach at the closing Eucharist; and

Mary Campbell and Alaide Vilchis Ibarra, representatives of the ELCA AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities) Program, who will be leading interactive forums on the immigrant journey.

Bishop McCoid then introduced the Synod staff:
Ms. Susan Brandt, Executive Administrator

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The Rev. Percy Butiku, Asst. to the Bishop for Global and Multicultural Mission
Ms. Regina Daniels, Executive Administrator
Mr. Brandon Dupree, Asst. to the Director for Evangelical Mission
Mr. Roberto Lara, Director for Communications
The Rev. Jonathan Linman, Asst. to the Bishop for Faith and Leadership Formation
Ms. Maria Rodas, Administrator for the Executive Staff
S.Dcn. Gayle Ruege, Senior Asst. to the Bishop
Dcn. Margy Ajer, Asst. to the Bishop for Congregations, and
The Rev. Lamont Anthony Wells, Asst. to the Bishop for Evangelical Mission.

Bishop McCoid continued by introducing The Rev. Joel Brandt, Chair of Reference and Counsel, reminding members of the Assembly that resolutions and memorials from the floor must be submitted by 11:30 am in order to be considered by Reference and Counsel, and that amendments to resolutions or memorials are to be made on the triplicate form available at the Hospitality Table, with the original given to the Synod Secretary and a copy to the Bishop. He asked that amendments be emailed, if possible, to Secretary Schoepflin at robertschoepflin@gmail.com.

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

Then followed the introduction of The Rev. Kevin O'Hara, Chair of Nominations and Elections, who came to the podium to lead the voting members through the voting materials in the Guidebook App and on the Synod website.

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.

Lay Voting Members	200
Rostered Leaders	131
Total Voting Members	331
Visitors	<u>65</u>
Total Attendance	396

Adoption of Agenda

Bishop McCoid 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.

2018 Synod Assembly Agenda

Friday, May 11

8:00 – 10:30 am	Registration and Check-in	Hotel Lobby
9:00 am	Orientation for Voting Members	Ballroom
10:00 am	Opening of the Assembly	Grand Ballroom
10:15 – 11:30	Plenary Session I Welcome Introductions Introduction of Reference and Counsel Introduction of Nominations and Elections Orientation to Voting Devices Registration and Attendance Report Adoption of Agenda Rules and Procedures Natural Systems Process Report of the Treasurer / Presentation of Budgets Building Bridges Moment: Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education Conclusion and Prayer	
11:30 – 12:45 pm	Lunch	
1:00 – 4:00 pm	Registration	Hotel Lobby
1:00 – 2:30 pm	Plenary Session II Call to Order Introduction of Synod Officers / Synod Council Report of the Vice President Building Bridges Moment: ELCA AMMPARO Portico Introduction of Nominated Officers / Candidate speeches Process for the Election of the Bishop Reference and Counsel – Introduction of resolutions and Hearings / locations Conclusion and Prayer	
2:30 – 3:45 pm	Hearings, Forums, Workshops, Worship Rehearsal ELCA AMMPARO (<i>Nassau Room</i>) Anti-racism Forum (<i>Roosevelt Room</i>) Claimed Strategy Forum (<i>Whitman Room</i>) Gathered Strategy Forum (<i>Suffolk Room</i>) Sent Strategy Forum (<i>Vanderbilt Room</i>) Ref & Counsel Hearings (<i>Cypress Room</i>) Ref & Counsel Hearings (<i>Melville Room</i>)	
4:00 – 6:00 pm	Plenary Session III Call to Order Prayer Attendance and Registration Report Reference and Counsel Part I Building Bridges Moment: Congregational Vitality	

	Common Ballot 1	
	Building Bridges Moment: Mission Investment Fund	
	Introduction of Conference Deans and Rostered Ministers new to MNYS	
	Recognition of Anniversaries / Rostered Ministers and Congregations	
	Building Bridges Moment: Multicultural Committee	
	Hunger Committee	
	Conclusion and Prayer	
6:00 – 7:15 pm	Dinner	
7:30 pm	Festival Eucharist with Ordination	Grand Ballroom

Saturday, May 12

7:00 – 8:00 am	Budget Breakfast	Suffolk Room
8:00 – 10:30 am	Registration	Hotel Lobby
8:30 am	Morning Prayer	Grand Ballroom
9:00 – 10:00 am	Hearings, Forums, Workshops, Worship Rehearsal	
	ELCA AMMPARO	<i>(Nassau Room)</i>
	Center for Evangelical Mission	<i>(Suffolk Room)</i>
	Congregational Vitality Forum	<i>(Whitman Room)</i>
	Diakonia Forum	<i>(Roosevelt Room)</i>
	Multicultural Committee	<i>(Atrium / Lobby)</i>
	Portico Forum	<i>(Vanderbilt Room)</i>
	Ref & Counsel Hearings	<i>(Cypress Room)</i>
	Ref & Counsel Hearings	<i>(Melville Room)</i>
10:15 – 12:30 pm	Plenary Session IV	
	Call to Order	
	ELCA Churchwide Report	
	Attendance and Registration Report	
	Adoption of the Revised 2018 / Proposed 2019 Budgets	
	Reference and Counsel Part 2	
	Building Bridges Moment: Diakonia	
	Common Ballot 2	
	Building Bridges Moment: Pinecrest	
	Conclusion and Prayer	
12:30 – 1:15 pm	Lunch	
12:30 pm	Registration check-out	Hotel
Lobby		
1:30 pm	Eucharist / Rite for Closing of the Assembly	Grand
	Ballroom	

Adoption of Rules of the Assembly
The Rules were adopted as presented.

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Bishop McCoid next spoke about the Natural Systems Process that will be utilized in the Synod, with town hall meetings in the four quadrants in the fall.

Presentation of Revised 2018 Budget and Proposed 2019 Budget

Mr. Ed Wagner spoke to the members about the 10-Year Plan adopted by the Synod Council. A video on the budgets was presented by Ms. Sue Brandt. Bishop McCoid reminded the members that any proposed amendments to the budgets must be submitted by the end of this plenary session.

METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD - ELCA						
Adopted 2017 and Proposed Revised 2018/Proposed 2019 Budgets						
				2018		2019
Program	Component	Line #	Budget (Adopted at 2017 Assembly)	Proposed Revised Budget	Proposed Budget	
REVENUE						
CONTRIBUTIONS FROM CONGREGATIONS						
	Undesignated Mission Support	1	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	
	Total Contributions from Congregations		1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	
GRANTS, UNDESIGNATED GIFTS, & OTHER CONTRIB.						
	ELCA Domestic Mission Grant	2	11,000	11,000	11,000	
	Undesignated Gifts and Other Contributions	3	25,000	350,000	25,000	
	Total Grants & Other Contributions		36,000	361,000	36,000	
TRANSFERS FROM OTHER FUNDS						
	MNYS Legacy Fund	4	325,000	167,860	330,917	
	MNYS Legacy Fund - Partnership Grants	5	600,000	525,000	525,000	
	MNYS Legacy Fund - Strategic Plan Implementation	6	2,179,616	1,983,233	1,974,709	
	Wider Church Grant Fund	7	-	-	-	
	Tanzania Endowment Fund	8	65,000	85,000	65,000	
	Other Funds	9	30,000	30,000	30,000	
	Total Transfers from Other Funds		3,199,616	2,791,093	2,925,626	
OTHER INCOME						
	Investment Income	10	725,000	819,806	1,033,726	
	Loan Interest	11	180,844	180,846	163,346	
	Total Other Income		905,844	1,000,652	1,197,072	
TOTAL REVENUE AND FUND TRANSFERS			5,341,460	5,352,745	5,358,698	

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EXPENSES							
CLAIMED							
Faith Formation	Staff *	12	68,269	88,643	90,584		
	Total		68,269	88,643	90,584		
Family Ministries	Children, Youth & Family Ministries	13	5,000	-	-		
	Staff *	14	7,427	-	-		
	Total		12,427	-	-		
Communications - Claimed	Communications (Print, Digital, Video, PR)	15	-	37,400	27,000		
	Website Maintenance/Social Media	16	4,200	4,200	4,200		
	Staff *	17	19,239	35,382	36,152		
	Total		23,439	76,982	67,352		
Education Grants	Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education Grant	18	43,370	43,370	43,370		
	Lutheran Schools Association (Judicatory fees)	19	21,675	19,500	21,000		
	Student Christian Center at SUNY New Paltz Grant	20	15,000	15,000	15,000		
	Total		80,045	77,870	79,370		
Strategic Plan Implementation	Strategic Support	21	35,000	30,000	30,000		
	Communication Program	22	10,000	-	-		
	Website Enhancement	23	-	30,000	-		
	First Third Initiative	24	60,000	65,000	35,000		
	500th Anniversary of the Reformation	25	-	-	-		
	Staff *	26	29,052	54,491	55,753		
	Total		134,052	179,491	120,753		
	Total Claimed		318,232	422,986	358,059		
GATHERED							
Mission Resources	Stewardship & Mission Support Table	27	2,500	7,500	7,500		
	Staff *	28	34,058	56,644	57,909		
	Total		36,558	64,144	65,409		
Congregational Grants	Partnership Grants	29	600,000	525,000	525,000		
	Other Grants	30	25,000	25,000	25,000		
	Staff *	31	50,425	114,237	116,852		
	Total		675,425	664,237	666,852		
Congregational Call Process/Consultations	Staff *	32	247,651	257,889	263,546		
	Total		247,651	257,889	263,546		
Communications - Gathered	Communications (Print, Digital, Video, PR)	33	-	22,300	29,500		
	Staff *	34	19,239	35,382	36,152		
	Total		19,239	57,682	65,652		
Leadership Formation	Bishop's Retreat	35	25,000	25,000	25,000		
	Deans Retreat	36	3,750	3,750	3,750		
	Staff Retreat	37	3,500	6,000	3,500		
	Ministerium & Other Education Events	38	5,000	5,000	5,000		
	Diaconate	39	5,000	5,000	5,000		
	Urban Leaders Institute	40	5,000	5,000	5,000		
	Trexler Fund Grants	41	5,000	5,000	5,000		
	Candidacy Expenses	42	20,000	7,500	7,500		
	Staff *	43	145,712	169,950	173,933		
	Total		217,962	232,200	233,683		
Education/Internship Grants	United Lutheran Seminary	44	65,000	65,000	65,000		
	Horizon Internships	45	12,000	12,000	12,000		
	Staff *	46	8,649	8,615	8,806		
	Total		85,649	85,615	85,806		
Strategic Plan Implementation	Strategic Support	47	35,000	30,000	30,000		
	Pastoral Care	48	5,000	-	-		
	The Sower's Project	49	75,000	30,000	-		
	Leadership Development Grants	50	100,000	150,000	150,000		
	Congregational Capital Improvement Challenge Grants	51	500,000	400,000	350,000		
	Building for Mission Grant	52	300,000	300,000	300,000		
	Property Surveys	53	25,000	15,000	15,000		
	Congregations in Transition - Financial & Property Reviews	54	30,000	10,000	10,000		
	Congregational Leadership Workshops	55	-	25,000	25,000		
	Congregational Consulting Support	56	150,000	-	50,000		
	Epiphany (Bkin) Grant	57	150,000	150,000	150,000		
	SW Queens Initiative	58	-	25,000	75,000		
	Strategic Initiatives - Pilot Projects (Bronx)	59	200,000	200,000	250,000		
	Staff *	60	105,631	102,248	104,673		
	Total		1,675,631	1,437,248	1,509,673		
	Total Gathered		2,958,116	2,799,016	2,890,621		
SENT							
Companion Synods	Companion Synod - Tanzania (Teacher Salary)	61	60,000	60,000	60,000		
	Travel & Hospitality (Tanzania)	62	5,000	25,000	5,000		
	Staff *	63	50,286	49,658	50,711		
	Total		115,286	134,658	115,711		
Committees/Commissions	Synod Committees/Commissions	64	5,000	5,000	5,000		
	Staff *	65	31,098	30,501	31,168		
	Total		36,098	35,501	36,168		
Multicultural Ministries	Multicultural Ministries	66	10,000	10,000	10,000		
	Staff *	67	77,237	76,383	78,010		
	Total		87,237	86,383	88,010		
Social Ministry Organizations	Social Ministry Organizations (SMO)	68	19,000	5,000	5,000		
	Lutheran Services New York Alliance	69	-	15,000	15,000		
	NYS Council of Churches	70	-	5,000	5,000		
	Staff *	71	19,836	19,619	20,040		
	Total		38,836	44,619	45,040		
Communications - Sent	Communications (Print, Digital, Video, PR)	72	-	39,300	27,500		
	Staff *	73	27,174	43,229	44,169		
	Total		27,174	82,529	71,669		
ELCA Support	ELCA Mission Support	74	618,000	618,000	624,000		
	Total		618,000	618,000	624,000		
Strategic Plan Implementation	Strategic Support	75	35,000	30,000	30,000		
	Anti-racism Training	76	32,000	32,000	8,000		
	Community Outreach Initiative	77	60,000	-	-		
	Immigration Initiative	78	10,000	100,000	100,000		
	Unspecified Initiative	79	28,000	-	-		
	Wider Church Grants	80	125,000	125,000	125,000		
	Staff *	81	79,933	79,494	81,282		
	Total		369,933	366,494	344,282		
	Total Sent		1,292,564	1,368,184	1,324,901		

SYNOD GOVERNANCE						
Synod Assembly	Synod Assembly	82	75,000	55,500	75,000	
	Staff *	83	55,398	51,940	53,118	
	Total		130,398	107,440	128,118	
Synod Council	Synod Council	84	8,000	8,000	8,000	
	Synod Council Committees	85	2,500	4,000	4,000	
	Archives	86	12,000	12,000	12,000	
	Staff *	87	73,605	74,027	75,677	
	Total		96,105	98,027	99,677	
Synod Events	Region 7 Coordinating Council	88	7,500	7,500	7,500	
	Worship Events & Ordinations	89	4,000	6,500	5,500	
	Staff *	90	42,568	46,663	47,708	
	Total		54,068	60,663	60,708	
	Total Synod Governance		280,572	266,130	288,503	
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION						
General Office Management	Telephone/Internet Access	91	18,000	19,000	19,000	
	Professional Services - Technology	92	3,500	7,500	7,500	
	Computers & Other Equipment	93	5,000	5,000	5,000	
	Database/Cloud Hosting Expense	94	20,000	20,000	20,000	
	Office Supplies/Printing	95	10,000	10,000	10,000	
	Postage & Shipping	96	8,000	5,000	5,000	
	Office Hospitality	97	5,000	7,500	7,500	
	Other Expense	98	2,852	1,394	2,906	
	Staff *	99	23,119	14,131	14,480	
	Total		95,471	89,525	91,386	
General Accounting	Payroll Service Fees	100	4,700	10,000	5,000	
	Credit Card/TransitChek/Bank Fees	101	3,000	4,000	4,000	
	Staff *	102	41,916	44,367	45,466	
	Total		49,616	58,367	54,466	
Facility	Rent & Facility Management	103	197,684	195,775	200,669	
	Maintenance & Repairs	104	6,500	7,000	7,000	
	Depreciation Expense	105	15,000	15,000	15,000	
	Staff *	106	1,980	2,648	2,714	
	Total		221,164	220,423	225,383	
Audit/Legal	Professional Services - Audit	107	23,000	27,000	27,500	
	Legal Fees	108	15,000	15,000	10,000	
	Staff *	109	43,477	47,844	48,945	
	Total		81,477	89,844	86,445	
Insurance	Directors & Officers/Employment Practices Liability Insurance	110	14,000	5,000	5,500	
	NYS Disability/Dishonesty Bond Insurance	111	1,650	2,000	2,000	
	ELCA Shared Risk Assessment	112	1,650	1,650	1,650	
	Workmen's Comp/State Unemployment Insurance	113	8,000	9,000	9,000	
	Property & Liability/Umbrella Insurance	114	14,000	14,000	14,000	
	Staff *	115	4,949	6,620	6,784	
	Total		44,249	38,270	38,934	
	Total Finance and Administration		491,976	496,430	496,614	
	TOTAL EXPENSES - OPERATING FUND		(5,341,460)	(5,352,745)	(5,358,698)	
	TOTAL REVENUE AND FUND TRANSFERS		5,341,460	5,352,745	5,358,698	
	NET INCOME (LOSS) - OPERATING FUND		0	0	0	
PROPERTIES OWNED/SYNOD ADMINISTRATION BUDGET (Fund 7)						
REVENUE						
	Synod Owned Properties - MRF (Budget Est Only)	116	200,000	200,000	200,000	
	Synod Admin Properties - MRF (Budget Est Only)	117	150,000	150,000	150,000	
	TOTAL REVENUE AND FUND TRANSFERS		350,000	350,000	350,000	
EXPENSES						
	Synod Administration/Owned Properties - TBD	118	350,000	350,000	350,000	
	TOTAL EXPENSES	119	(350,000)	(350,000)	(350,000)	
	NET INCOME (LOSS) - FUND 7		0	0	0	
SUMMARY - ALL FUNDS						
	TOTAL EXPENSES - ALL FUNDS		(5,691,460)	(5,702,745)	(5,708,698)	
	TOTAL REVENUE & FUNDS TRANSFERS - ALL FUNDS		5,691,460	5,702,745	5,708,698	
	NET INCOME (LOSS) - ALL FUNDS		0	(0)	(0)	

Building Bridges Moment – Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education

The Rev. Becca Seely presented a video about campus ministry.

Bishop McCoid summarized what was accomplished during the plenary session and what we will focus on in the second plenary session.

After announcements by Ms. Elizabeth Hoffman and prayer by Fr. Juan Carlos Ruiz and S. Dcn. Ingrid Compton, the session was adjourned at 11:30 am.

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Bishop McCoid opened the second plenary session with prayer at 1:05 pm.

Report of the Vice President – Part 1

VP Maria Del Toro gave the first part of her report.

Vice President Report on the Resignation of Bishop Rimbo (Part I)

Buenas tardes hermanas y hermanos en Cristo!

The theme of our assembly is **building bridges**. Bridges can be more than physical structures spanning physical obstacles, transporting us over something, and separating us from our destination.

I want to share with you my story of what happened on January 24th, the day Bishop Rimbo resigned as bishop of the Metropolitan New York Synod. I hope the story serves as a bridge for us today, towards healing and reconciliation as we at this assembly build towards the future of our synod. It is my own story; as I lived it that day; as I experienced what happened that day.

The night before we had a synod council meeting. It was a wonderful meeting, very productive. We had accomplished a great deal. The bishop had been very pleased.

That night at around ten I received a text message from him. “The presiding bishop and secretary Boerger are meeting with you at 10:30 tomorrow.” “I think you sent me the wrong text.” “No.” He replied. I replied. “What’s going on?” I said. “I cannot say.” He replied.

At that point I immediately began to get nervous. I called Gayle. She tells me she had received a similar text. My first thought is that someone has made some horrible accusation against the Bishop, but I have no idea what it could possibly be.

I pull out the Synod constitution. I read the S8.22 on the duties of the vice president. I read S8.54 on what happens if the bishop resigns. I should have read that more carefully before I agreed to run for vice president.

I cannot sleep all night. The next morning, I go to the synod office with a copy of the constitution in my bag and the only people I see are Bishop Eaton and Secretary Boerger. They both look very upset. They greet me, and I say. “I guess you don’t have good news for me” and they reply. “No.” They tell me that the entire staff is in the large conference room. So the three of us go into the small conference room.

“What’s going on?” Bishop Eaton says “Bishop Rimbo is resigning. “Why?” “Because of an extra marital affair.”

I am flabbergasted. This is the last thing I am expecting. "What do you mean? Is it with a member of the staff?" "No." "Is it someone from the church?" "No." "Who?" "We never identify people." All we can tell you is that it is an adult." "How do you know?" "One person made the allegation and we investigated." "Is it true then?" "Yes." "He will have to resign, and he will be removed from the roster of the ELCA."

I am shown the statement that has been prepared by the lawyers and that I am to make public if the bishop signs a letter of resignation. If he doesn't resign, disciplinary action will be taken immediately. I am told that Bishop Rimbo is expected at the office soon and Bishop Eaton hopes he will sign the letter of resignation.

I am going to be honest with you today. I was angry. I feel betrayed. I have worked so closely with the bishop. We have had such a wonderful working relationship as well as friendship. I have spent every day since my retirement working with him. How could he? I take it very personally. I know the whole thing is difficult for Bishop Eaton but she lets me vent. Secretary Boerger looks sad and just nods his head.

But I feel awful for Lois and want to know how she is. I knew she had just come back from the Holy Land and had a cold. Bishop Eaton tells me that Lois will be fine and that both Lois and Bishop Rimbo will receive pastoral care.

I am a roller coaster of emotions. I read and reread the statement. I am shocked. My first reaction is this is too harsh. "Those are the rules," I am told. The bishop understood the rules when he took office.

I am conflicted. I am the Synod Vice President, but I am also Bob Rimbo's friend, heartbroken for him and his wife Lois.

I tell Bishop Eaton I want to call the synod secretary Bob Schoepflin. I call Bob and put him on speakerphone. When I tell him what is going on, he is incredulous. He sounds as shocked as I am. Bishop Eaton tells us to take our time calling for an election of a new bishop. The synod will need time to heal. She reassures us that we have strong leadership and to trust the Holy Spirit. She encourages Bob to get pastoral care because he sounds so distraught.

Bishop Eaton reassures me that she and her office will guide us through the transition. Soon we will get a name of an interim bishop. All will be well. Trust the Holy Spirit, she urges time and time again. We pray. I keep hearing through over and over again "For such a time as this". Throughout all this, I desperately want to talk to my husband, but I have not had a chance. I keep getting texts from him. "How are you?" "Are you ok?" And I reply. "I'm ok."

It is decided that the announcement of the resignation will go out under my signature to the council, roster clergy and congregations. I still have concerns about the content of the statement and tell the Bishop Eaton that I will not release it until I have conferred

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with our lawyers. She says fine, but not before I confer with the lawyers at the ELCA office as well. I agree to do that.

Sometime after 11:00 am Bishop Rimbo arrived and Bishop Eaton and Secretary Boerger went to meet with him. Shortly afterwards I was told to come and join them in the large conference room.

The entire staff was sitting around the table. Then Bishop Rimbo and his wife Lois came in. I was surprised to see Lois. I think everyone else was too. They looked so tired, as if they had not slept the night before. The bishop wore a shirt and a sweater and no clerical collar. They sat next to each other and Bishop Eaton and Secretary Boerger sat next to them. I sat across from them on the other side of the table. The staff was silent. It was clear that many had been crying.

After what seemed like an eternity, Bishop Rimbo just looked at everyone and quietly said, "I am sorry."

Bishop Eaton looked at me as if to say, you are now the leader here. My head was spinning. I was a jumble of emotions, but I knew I had to control them. I saw this man I cared for deeply, my bishop and friend. I saw Lois in such pain. I didn't know what to say. I just looked at him and said, "You are a child of Christ."

And then each member of the staff spoke about how each felt. It was as if we were at a wake. We talked about all we had accomplished together; about what a wonderful team we had been.

At one point, Bishop Rimbo addressed everyone. I have tried to remember his exact words because they are very important. "I want you to know that I am satisfied with the way this has been handled." He turned to Bishop Eaton and continued, "I have done enough of these, you have done a great job, if I had been in your position, I would have done the same thing."

I think it was important for those of us there to hear from him that he was satisfied with the decision made by the presiding bishop. It certainly was important for me to hear him say it.

By this time, it was time for the normal noon worship. Bishop Eaton asked if she could join us and everyone said, "of course"

Jonathan led the worship. The commemoration was Francis de Sales, bishop of Geneva, who died in 1622. The reading was John 15:9-17. I recall how Jonathan was very shaken and had difficulty reading the text:

⁹As the father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰if you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy

may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹²“this is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³no one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴you are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my father. ¹⁶you did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Jonathan commented on love, how love is what life in the church is all about, and the lectionary never fails to give a word from God that we need in the moment, in the power of the Holy Spirit. And I like to think that the Holy Spirit is doing the same here today because this text was the Gospel reading we all heard in church this past Sunday. Agape, God’s love that surpasses all understanding.

The service was a simple version of Holy Communion. Jonathan used the prayer we normally use to guide us through difficult days:

“O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

We shared the Lord’s peace. “Peace be with you” “La Paz” as we all go around the circle and embrace one another. Then we all have Holy Communion.

Shortly after the worship service, Bishop Rimbo signed the letter of resignation and I was given the letter. Then Secretary Boerger tells us emphatically that as of January 24, 2018, Robert Rimbo is no longer bishop or a rostered member of the ELCA.

Before she leaves, Bishop Eaton wants to make sure that I will get pastoral care and Secretary Boerger tells her he knows my pastor and he is sure I will. I assure them that I have a good team and that I know we are going to be ok. Both Bishop Eaton and Secretary Boerger give me their direct numbers so I can reach them whenever I need them.

Finally Bob and Lois go into his office and begin the painful process of packing all his things and we all tried to stay out of their way and respect their privacy.

Sometime later, someone came in and said the Rimbos had left. We never said goodbye.

I am immediately overwhelmed with a sense of responsibility. I called the staff into the large conference room and we started the process of transition. How are you doing? I asked the staff. One by one they share how they feel.

As per Bishop Eaton's recommendation, I tell them that as soon as possible I will call a meeting of the executive committee to extend the call of the executive staff until the election of a new bishop because their calls have been co-terminus with the bishop. The rest of the staff will continue as per their contracts. Gayle is in charge of staff and has already arranged for counseling to be provided the following week. (Counseling was later offered to rostered clergy as well as to members of the Synod Council.) I tell them I plan to be at the office every day until we have an interim bishop.

Bishop Eaton had recommended that we hold off announcement of the resignation until everyone would get the same news at the same time together. Therefore, I give instructions to the staff that no one is to disclose anything about the resignation, even to members of their families until we make a statement public later that evening.

There were so many decisions to be made, meetings to be cancelled, two ordinations scheduled in the following two weeks, calls to our lawyers, ELCA, to the Executive Committee. It is now very late and only Gayle, Roberto and I remain in the office.

Wonderful Gayle is my right-hand person and she knows exactly what to do. Roberto is a professional; he wants to make sure we protect the synod as well as Bob and Lois' privacy. I still have not talked to my husband. I have texted my pastor that I need pastoral care and he answers, "I'll wait for you at the church." I text Stan to meet me at Saint Peter's.

I finally tell Roberto to release the statement. I get a cab and drive to Saint Peters. When I get there, both my husband and Pastor Derr greet me at the door and embrace me and for the first time that day I started to sob.

The synod statement regarding the resignation was released at 10:00 pm. The ELCA released their statement at 10:01 pm. Immediately after, I started receiving dozens and dozens of emails from so many of you offering your prayers. Those prayers sustained me during those difficult weeks and months.

A tragic thing happened. A very sad thing; we cannot deny it. But we are children of God, a people of Christ's resurrection.

As I said at the beginning of my remarks, I hope that my story about that sad day will be a bridge as we move from the past towards the future. Our synod is strong. We are electing new leadership. We are blessed in having Bishop McCoid as our interim bishop to help us through our healing process. And the Holy Spirit will guide us elect our next bishop. And as I have said so often, **we are here for such a time as this.**

One final note – about 10 days ago I had a long lunch with Lois. She knows I am telling you this today. And, she wanted me to let you know, the Rimbos are doing well.

Let us pray:

Oh living God, to turn away from you is to fall, to turn toward you is to rise, and to stand before you is to abide forever. Grant us, dear God, in all our duties your help; in all our uncertainties your guidance; in all our dangers your protection; and in all our sorrows your peace; through Jesus Christ or Lord, Amen.

After VP Del Toro concluded her prayer, Bishop McCoid led the assembly in prayer for the Synod and for Lois and Robert Rimbo.

Introduction of Synod Officers and Synod Council

Bishop McCoid introduced the officers and council to the Assembly.

Ms. Maria Del Toro, Vice President
The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Secretary
Ms. Cynthia Corley, New Hope, Jamaica (Executive Committee)
The Rev. Justin Johnson, Trinity, Kingston
The Rev. Amy Kienzle, Park Church Co-op, Brooklyn
Mr. John Litke, St. Peter's, Huntington Station
S.Dcn. Dr. Carlos Lopez, Advent, Manhattan
S.Dcn. John Malone, Holy Trinity, Brooklyn
S.Dcn. Karen Maulen, Grace, Yorktown Heights
The Rev. Christopher Mietlowski, Gustavus Adolphus, Manhattan
Mr. Walter Nash, St. Peter's, 219th Street, Bronx
The Rev. Jeanine Owens, Abiding Presence, Bronx (Executive Committee)
The Rev. Daniel Peter Penumaka, St. Paul's International, Floral Park
S.Dcn. 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

Report of the Vice President – Part 2

VP Maria Del Toro gave the second part of her report.

Vice President Report: Part 2

This is my last report as Synod Vice President. It has been a remarkable journey and as I told the Synod Council at our last meeting, these past eight years with you have strengthened my faith and made me a better Christian. I have so many wonderful memories that I will always cherish.

When Hurricane Sandy hit, several of our churches were very badly damaged. A week or so after, Ed Wagner and I went to visit Saint Barnabas in Howard Beach. As we got closer to the church, about a mile or so, the devastation was terrible. Along the street to the church, we could see the homes partly destroyed, and people belongings strewn everywhere on the streets.

When we arrived at the church, we saw a group of people busily working and getting things from the lower flower and out into to dumpster on the street. The floor below still had a lot of water. Everyone was working. There, removing debris with their bare hands. I met a woman named Debbie and I asked her whether her home had been badly damaged, and her response was. "Oh yes, everything has been almost destroyed. "So why are you here and not at your home?" I asked, and she said: "because I can deal with the destruction of my home but not the destruction of my church."

Last year, I attended the 25th anniversary of Pastor Baum's ordination, and Debbie was there. As soon as she saw me, she came over and greeted me with a hug and big smile. She could hardly wait to show me how the members of Saint Barnabas and their community had restored her church.

Several years ago I attended the closing of Resurrection Lutheran Church in Brooklyn. I met an elderly lady downstairs who was crying. I introduced myself and she told me that she had been baptized, married and her children had been baptized at resurrection. Her husband's memorial service had been held there. Now the church was closing. "It is the saddest day of my life," I sat next to her as she told me of all the years she had spent at that church. We talked, and I tried to console her. Finally, I told her that perhaps she shouldn't think of the day as a sad day but instead as a day of thanksgiving for all the blessings she and her family had received at Resurrection. "Maybe it does not have to be a sad day." "I am going to a new church," she said. "they are nice people." She said she would think about it as she waited for her daughter. I went upstairs to the sanctuary. The service was moving as such services are and there were many tears.

Later there was a reception. As we were leaving, the elderly lady called me to her side. She embraced me. "it was not a sad day", she said. "I am happy. Some people from my new church came to the service today. So I know I am going to be ok". And she hugged me. And then I cried.

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I also will cherish my memory of the commemoration the 500th anniversary of the Reformation at our special Eucharistic service on November 1st at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine. More than 1000 Lutherans and Ecumenical partners worshiped together that evening. Remember I told you last year that one of my dreams was to live long enough to commemorate the 500th anniversary. Well I did. And it was truly glorious!

The theme of our assembly is building bridges. For eight years I have had the honor to work with leaders who have been the bridges that have helped move our synod forward. I would like to thank the current members of the Synod Council as well former members that served during my past eight years as vice president. The Synod Council has been an incredible team working together, discerning what the Holy Spirit would want us to do to advance the mission of the synod in the Metropolitan New York area. We have often had to make very difficult decisions, but always after much prayer.

And I especially want to thank the members of the Executive Committee, Pastor Bob Schoepflin, our Synod Secretary, Cynthia Corley, Pastor Harry Schenkel, Pastor Jeanine Owens and Christopher Vergara for the faithful leadership they have provided our Synod during these past four months.

But the greatest pleasure for me has been working with so many of you over the years on the synod's Strategic Plan. It has been our most important bridge. It was proposed by the Synod Council to the Synod Assembly in 2011. Over the next year more than 380 people provided input into the process in more than two dozen meetings and working sessions. The Synod Assembly approved the plan in 2012 and its implementation began the following year.

Let me summarize the many ways God has blessed us.

As part of our Claim Strategy, our website and social media platforms have been redesigned to be easier to navigate and connect you with others. We now have a fresh, new brand with modern graphics that will appeal to younger audiences and diverse populations. Just in this quarter, our site new visitor's rate has improved by 117%; our social media content reaches more than 3,000 people per day, and our video performance rate has increased by an exceptional 121,000%.

Under the Gathered Strategy we help your congregations in grants in three areas: Capital Improvement, Leadership, and Ministry innovation.

In October 2017, the Synod Council approved \$513,320 for Congregational Capital Improvement Challenge Grants.

Since 2014, the first year we awarded Congregational Capital Improvement Challenge Grants, congregations have received a total of **\$1,642,373** to improve their facilities and thereby enable them to better concentrate on their ministry and not on their buildings. **If you have ever received a congregational capital improvement challenge grant, please stand up so we can congratulate you and praise god for his abundance.** And we continue to invest in innovative ministries. The proposed budget includes \$525,000 for development ministries, part of our partnership with the ELCA.

I said that people could be bridges and for that reason Gathered has focused on leadership development for both lay and clergy. This past year, the Council approved \$83,259 in Leadership Development Grants. **If you received a Leadership Development Grant, please stand so we can congratulate you.**

Last year we became a sanctuary synod and the Sent Strategy continues to focus on immigration. We are all fundamentally the same and when we open ourselves up to receive the grace we have received through Christ's resurrection to direct our lives, we build bridges and grow in love.

The Anti-Racism enabler is focusing on building bridges of connection, reparation, reconciliation and justice among people and tearing down the walls that divide us and keep us from oneness in Christ. The anti-racism training offered by our anti-racism committee is such a bridge. So far 7 anti-racism trainings have been offered with 160 pastors and 159 lay people attending. **If you have been a participant in these trainings, please stand up and be recognized.**

If you haven't attended an anti-racism training, which is required for all rostered clergy, please sign up as soon as possible.

And the Financial Management Committee or FMC makes sure we are fiscally responsible. But this group goes far beyond just talking about revenue and expenses. They work very closely with the chairs of the other strategic planning committees to ensure their top priorities are funded. They are as much about ministry as they are about money. But they do take very seriously our long-term financial viability. And the Budget Breakfast is back, by popular demand! Yes! Go to the budget breakfast tomorrow morning at 7:00 am.

I want to thank the chairs of the strategies; Pastor Mark Erson, chair of claim, Hazel Goldstein, Chair of Gathered, Barbara Johnson, Chair of Sent, Pastor Rebecca Seely and Pastor Marcia Parkinson-Harrison, chairs of anti-racism and Ed Wagner Chair of Financial Management. **Please stand so we can thank you for your service to the church.**

This past year the council adopted two actions of particular importance to the synod that I would like to report on.

To further the purposes of the Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran the synod has decided to create a tax-exempt supporting organization. The main purposes of the supporting organization are to directly support the synod's missions, ministries, and activities and to ensure that funds will be available for the synod's missions, ministries, and activities. The assets held by the supporting organization are intended to be protected from future creditors of the synod. The supporting organization is governed by a board of directors. The Resolution as well as the list of members of the board of directors is on the screen **The Council also approved a resolution for a process for election of bishop that is coming for affirmation by this assembly tomorrow.**

My final comments are about the future of the strategic plan and you – yes you. Your insights from your involvement in your congregation are needed to ensure the strategies continue to be relevant into the future.

This afternoon at 2:30 pm you will have the opportunity to attend a very interactive session on one of four topics. If you have a passion for helping in one of these areas on the screen, please go to the room listed in your Assembly materials.

At that forum the committee chairs will share with you how to continue your involvement on one of our strategic planning committees.

But I cannot end without thanking a group who are probably our better bridges: the staff. It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with them. I want to thank them for all the support they have given me these past eight years and especially these past four months. I want to thank Gayle Reuge especially, because she has been my right-hand person at the Synod, especially these past four months. I have depended on her and she has never let me down. Thank you, Gayle.

And I want to thank Bishop McCoid. In the short time he has been here it has been my pleasure to work with him. I know he has been sent by the Holy Spirit to guide us through our healing process.

And I want to thank my wonderful husband Stan for always being by my side these past eight years.

It has been an incredible journey. I have had the pleasure of meeting so many special people, who have taught me the meaning of grace. I have often been humbled by your faith. I have seen the joy of working together with congregations, as you bring the gospel to your communities, but I have also have seen how utterly painful it is to close a church. I have seen how we have challenged each other to end systemic racism. We have prayed together, and we have cried together. And above all, I have seen how we can be Christ's Church together, for such a time as this.

Muchas Gracias!

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After VP Del Toro concluded her report, in which she announced that she was not standing for another term in office, words of tribute and thanks were offered to and for Maria by Secretary Schoepflin and Bishop McCoid.

Building Bridges Moment – ELCA AMMPARO

Mary Campbell and Alaide Vilchis Ibarra spoke of work of AMMPARO and showed a video.

Portico

The Rev. Cathy Schibler of Portico presented a video report.

Candidate Statements – Vice President

The three nominees for Synod Vice President, Ms. Barbara Johnson, Mr. Christopher Vergara, and Ms. Renee Wicklund each gave a three minute statement to the Assembly focused on the following questions:

1. What gifts and interests would you bring to the office of Vice President of the Metropolitan New York Synod?
2. In looking toward our future, what do you see as the greatest needs and opportunities for the Metropolitan New York Synod?

S.Dcn. Ingrid Compton then led the Assembly in prayer.

Report of the Committee on Registration

Ms. Cynthia Corley gave the second registration report.

Lay Voting Members	235
Rostered Leaders	166
Total Voting Members	401
Visitors	<u>77</u>
Total Attendance	478

Process for the Election of the Bishop

Bishop McCoid reported to the Assembly that ELCA Secretary Boerger informed the Synod Council that the process used to elect our bishop in 2014 would not apply to the next election, and that at its April meeting, the Synod Council adopted a process to be used at the next election in 2019.

[**ACTION SC18:04/06** RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council adopt the Process for Election of the Bishop to be implemented in 2019 and present it to the 2018 Synod Assembly for affirmation.]

The Assembly is being asked to affirm this action. He then invited Secretary Schoepflin to lead the Assembly through the process.

Metropolitan New York Synod – Election of a Bishop

Because the resolution for the election of the bishop passed at the 2012 assembly had specific dates relating to the 2014 election of bishop, this process will not be used for any upcoming election.

The synod council approved the pre-identification of pastors as a step in the process for the election of bishop at the 2019 assembly and submits such for affirmation by the Synod Assembly.

**Pre-identification is when a pastor on the roster of the ELCA is identified as having the gifts and skills necessary to serve as bishop. Pre-identification may come through individuals, congregations, conferences.*

The election for a new bishop will take place at the 2019 Synod Assembly.

- (1) While the pre-identification of pastors who could be considered by this synod as our next bishop at the next election is affirmed, an ecclesiastical ballot is the recommendation. In other words, we would approach the election with the first ballot being a nominating ballot. That is, any ELCA rostered pastor can be voted for on the first ballot, regardless of whether that individual was pre-identified in the process discussed below.
- (2) The Synod Council shall call the synod to prayerful deliberation.
- (3) The Synod Council shall prepare and distribute information about the Metropolitan New York Synod including its strategic plan and other information that would be helpful for the synod's consideration. Input from synodical members may be directed to the synod council.
- (4) Pre-identification of possible pastors to be considered may be made by conferences, by individuals, especially voting members to the assembly, and by congregations.
- (5) Each pre-identified pastor who gives permission to have her or his name considered will be given a form and common questions to be completed. The pre-identification process will open Feb 1 and close Mar 1 2019. Names and responses will be shared with the synod secretary. The secretary will post the names and responses of individuals on the synod website 45 days prior to the Assembly and will remain posted until the opening of the Assembly. Pre-identified pastors are not to make the rounds of conferences and congregations to campaign for this office, to have an equal footing for the synod's consideration of all pre-identified pastors.
- (6) During the assembly election process, each of the seven persons who will appear on the third ballot (see paragraph 8 below which sets forth the ecclesiastical ballot process set forth in S9.04 of the synod constitution) will be given an opportunity to address the assembly. If a fourth ballot is necessary, the three persons who will appear on the fourth ballot will be asked to respond to questions in front of the assembly. Such questions will be developed by the synod council in advance of the assembly with input from members of the synod.
- (7) The ecclesiastical ballot is defined in the synod constitution under †S9.04, which reads:

†S9.04. The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no one is elected, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. Three-fourths of the

legal votes on the second ballot shall be necessary for election. The third ballot shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the second ballot, and two-thirds of the votes cast shall be necessary for election. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of votes on the third ballot, and 60 percent of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. On subsequent ballots a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. These ballots shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the previous ballot.

- (8) For an ELCA pastor to be on the slate of nominees for bishop, her or his name must be included in the tally of votes received on the first ballot for bishop.

Addendum: The Synod Constitution defines the responsibilities of a synod bishop in †S8.12.

†S8.12. As this synod's pastor, the bishop shall:

- a. Preach, teach, and administer the sacraments in accord with the Confession of Faith of this church.
- b. Have primary responsibility for the ministry of Word and Sacrament in this synod and its congregations, providing pastoral care and leadership for this synod, its congregations, its ministers of Word and Sacrament, and its ministers of Word and Service.
- c. Exercise this church's power to ordain (or provide for the ordination by another synodical bishop* of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for the office of ministry of Word and Sacrament (and as provided in the bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America).
- d. Consecrate (or provide for the consecration of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for service as ministers of Word and Service.
- e. Attest letters of call for the persons called to serve congregations in the synod, letters of call for persons called by the Synod Council, and letters of call for persons on the rosters of this synod called by the Church Council.
- f. Install (or provide for the installation of) rostered ministers whose calls the bishop has attested.
- g. Exercise leadership in the mission of this church and in so doing:
 - 1) Interpret and advocate the mission and theology of the whole church;
 - 2) Lead in fostering support for and commitment to the mission of this church within this synod;
 - 3) Coordinate the use of the resources available to this synod as it seeks to promote the health of this church's life and witness in the areas served by this synod;
 - 4) Submit a report to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly concerning the synod's life and work; and
 - 5) Advise and counsel this synod's related institutions and organizations.
- h. Practice leadership in strengthening the unity of the Church and in so doing:
 - 1) Exercise oversight of the preaching, teaching, and administration of the sacraments within this synod in accord with the Confession of Faith of this church;
 - 2) Be responsible for administering the constitutionally established processes for the resolution of controversies and for the discipline of rostered ministers, and congregations of this synod;
 - 3) Be the chief ecumenical officer of this synod;
 - 4) Consult regularly with other synodical bishops and the Conference of Bishops;
 - 5) Foster awareness of other churches throughout the Lutheran world communion and, where appropriate, engage in contact with leaders of those churches;
 - 6) Cultivate communion in faith and mission with appropriate Christian judicatory leaders functioning within the territory of this synod; and
 - 7) Be ex officio a member of the Churchwide Assembly.
- i. Oversee and administer the work of this synod and in so doing:
 - 1) Serve as the president of the synod corporation

and be the chief executive and administrative officer of this synod, who is authorized and empowered, in the name of this synod, to sign deeds or other instruments and to affix the seal of this synod; 2) Preside at all meetings of the Synod Assembly and provide for the preparation of the agenda for the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, and the council's Executive Committee; 3) Ensure that the constitution and bylaws of the synod and of the churchwide organization are duly observed within this synod, and that the actions of the synod in conformity therewith are carried into effect; 4) Exercise supervision over the work of the other officers; 5) Coordinate the work of all synodical staff members; 6) Appoint all committees for which provision is not otherwise made; 7) Be a member of all committees and any other organizational units of the synod, except as otherwise provided in this constitution; 8) Provide for preparation and maintenance of synodical rosters containing the names and addresses of all rostered ministers of this synod and a record of the calls under which they are serving or the date on which they become retired or disabled; 9) Annually bring to the attention of the Synod Council the names of all rostered ministers on leave from call or engaged in approved graduate study in conformity with the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this church and pursuant to prior action of this synod through the Synod Council; 10) Provide for prompt reporting to the secretary of this church of: (a) additions to and subtractions from the rosters of this synod and the register of congregations; (b) the issuance of certificates of transfer for rostered ministers in good standing who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested, regular letter of call under the jurisdiction of another synod; and (c) the entrance of the names of such persons for whom proper certificates of transfer have been received; 11) Provide for preparation and maintenance of a register of the congregations of this synod and the names of the laypersons who have been elected to represent them; and 12) Appoint a statistician of the synod, who shall secure the parochial reports of the congregations and make the reports available to the secretary of this church for collation, analysis, and distribution of the statistical summaries to this synod and the other synods of this church.

When the question “Shall the process for the Election of the Bishop adopted by the Synod Council on April 21, 2018 be affirmed by the Synod Assembly?” was posed, the Assembly affirmed the process by a vote of 340 to 24.

SA 2018.05.01 Process for Election of the Bishop

RESOLVED, that the action of the Metropolitan New York Synod Council on April 21, 2018 adopting a process for the election of the next bishop in 2019 is affirmed.

ADOPTED

Reference and Counsel – Introduction of Resolutions and Hearings

The Rev. Joel Brandt reported on the resolutions and memorial that will come before the Assembly. He noted that the maker of Resolution No. 3 in the voting materials had withdrawn the resolution. He reminded the Assembly of the difference between a resolution and a memorial and spoke about the Hearings that are scheduled on these matters.

After announcements by Ms. Elizabeth Hoffman and prayer by Fr. Juan Carlos Ruiz and S. Dcn. Ingrid Compton, the session was adjourned at 2:42 pm.

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Hearings, Forums and Workshops were held from 2:42 to 3:45 pm.

FRIDAY, MAY 11, 2018

PLENARY SESSION III

Bishop McCoid opened the third plenary session at 4:00 pm by inviting the Assembly to join in singing “Life Every Voice and Sing.” S.Dcn. Ingrid Compton then led the Assembly in prayer.

Report of the Committee on Registration

Ms. Cynthia Corley gave the third registration report.

Lay Voting Members	233
Rostered Leaders	164
Total Voting Members	397
Visitors	<u>79</u>
Total Attendance	476

Reference and Counsel 1

The Rev. Joel Brandt presented Memorial 1 to the Assembly, noting that Reference and Counsel recommended adoption.

MEMORIAL 1: THE ELCA’S 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORDINATION OF WOMEN

Whereas in 1970 both the Lutheran Church in America and American Lutheran Church in their national conventions voted to ordain women; and

Whereas the ELCA rejoices in these actions of its predecessor church bodies and will recognize the 50th anniversary in 2020 of the ordination of women; and

Whereas we express our profound gratitude for the many and varied ways the gifts of ordained women have advanced God’s mission through this church; and

Whereas we learned in the research related to the 45th anniversary of women’s ordination of some progress but also significant disparities for women in the areas of preparation for ministry, all calls including first calls, mobility, compensation, ministry roles, and debt following seminary education (<http://www.elca.org/About/Leadership/Womens-Ordination-research>); and

Whereas the same research uncovered denigrating and discriminatory experiences of many ordained women, some particularly acute for ordained women of color; and

Whereas the church is called to reflect in church and society its roles of advocate and model for the respect, dignity, and equal rights due all women, including the ordained women of this church; and

Whereas this church is simultaneously addressing women and justice in its social statement under consideration and the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women; therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Assemble memorialize the 2019 Churchwide Assembly to:

Call upon all synods in their 2020 assemblies to include celebration and special recognition of ordained women upon the 50th anniversary of authorizing this ordination practice; and

Call upon our seminaries, colleges, campus ministries, outdoor ministries, social ministry organizations, synods, and congregations to highlight women preachers, teachers, and speakers throughout 2020 in recognition of the diversity of gifts women's ordination has brought to our church; and

Call upon congregations throughout the ELCA to participate in the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women in our church through worship services, bible studies and other efforts to celebrate and recognize the importance and contributions of ordained women; and

Call upon all members of this church to examine our consciences, and confess our sins and complicity in whichever circumstances by the outright or silent actions women have faced including barriers, discrimination, or sexual harassment as they prepared for and served as ordained women in this church; and

Call upon this church to renew efforts in education on the intersection of the sins of sexism, racism, homophobia, transphobia, and classism, and develop healing interventions offering hope and support to those who experience these sins to the point of despair about ministry; and

Call upon our seminaries to include intentional coursework and resources to equip pastoral leaders in identifying and ministering in situations of gender-based discrimination and violence; and

Urge all congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization in 2020 to conduct a gender analysis wherein each can develop strategies to promote and protect gender equity and justice, with particular focus on addressing the areas of preparation for ministry, call process including first calls, mobility, compensation, ministry roles, and debt following seminary education; and

Call upon this church to establish goals and strategies in each synod of achieving for ordained women comparable compensation with that of ordained men in all calls by 2024, reporting the outcome of this action step at the Churchwide Assembly in 2025; and

Call upon this church to establish goals and strategies in each synod of achieving for ordained women access to ministry roles where women are currently underrepresented, with a particular focus on the challenges faced by women of color receiving viable first and second calls; and

Call upon the churchwide expression's Domestic Mission Unit to develop, undertake, and successfully complete a strategy specifically related to the debt of women of color after seminary; and

APPROVED 1/22/19

Call upon all candidacy committees to examine their practices in light of the findings in the 45th anniversary research; and

Request the Office of the Presiding Bishop to provide in 2025 updated research on achievement of these initiatives and other matters pertinent to the full and just participation of ordained women in this church; and

Request all church publications to plan features in 2020 on the ordination of women, lifting up the amazing talents and gifts this church has received from its ordained women, the barriers ordained women still experience in this church, and the steps outlined in this memorial to overcome these barriers; and

Invite the prayers of all members of this church for the successful outcome of these initiatives.

Note: A helpful tool for the gender analysis urged above is a one-page flyer entitled *A Radical Act of Love: Gender Analysis for Everyone* (published by The Justice for Women Working Group of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA), freely available from the ELCA at http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Gender_Analysis_Brochure.pdf?_ga=2.250219270.1683371274.1522685592-2123560546.1497101385

The Rev. J. Elise Brown
Advent Lutheran Church, Manhattan
Chairperson of the ELCA Task Force for the 50th Anniversary of Women's Ordination

The Rev. Ann Tiemeyer, Interim Pastor
Trinity Lower East Side Lutheran Parish, Manhattan

The Rev. Kevin O'Hara, Pastor
Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Patchogue

The Rev. Dr. Katrina D Foster, Pastor
St. John's Lutheran Church, Greenpoint, Brooklyn

The Rev. Stephanie Kershner, Pastor
Grace Lutheran Church, Scarsdale

The Rev. Christopher Mietlowski, Pastor
Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, Manhattan

The Rev. Margay Whitlock, retired
Advent Lutheran Church, Manhattan

The Rev. Dr. Thomas S. Taylor, Pastor
Advent Lutheran Church, Manhattan, and Lutheran Counseling Center

The Rev. Robert Wollenburg, Interim Pastor
St. Lydia's, Brooklyn

The Rev. Leo E. Longan, Jr., Pastor
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Middle Village

The Rev. Dr. Gary E. Mills, Pastor
St. Jacobi Lutheran Church, Brooklyn and Advent Lutheran Church, Manhattan

APPROVED 1/22/19

The Rev. Harriet J.R. Wieber, Pastor
Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church, Flatbush and coverage at
Lutheran Church of Holy Redeemer and St. James Lutheran Church

The Rev. Deborah Hafner DeWinter, Pastor
First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Poughkeepsie

The Rev. David C. Parsons, Pastor
St. John-St. Matthew-Emanuel Lutheran Church, Brooklyn

The Rev. James Sudbrock, retired
Advent Lutheran Church, Manhattan

The Rev. Danielle Miller, Pastor
Advent Lutheran Church, Manhattan

The Rev. James Klockau, Pastor
Grace, Astoria

The Rev. Kathleen Rystad Koran, retired
Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, Pleasantville

The Rev. Brooke L. Swertfager, Pastor
Christ, Manhattan

The Rev. William Baum, Pastor
Saint Barnabas Church, Howard Beach, Queens

The Rev. Rebecca Seely, Executive Director
Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education of NYC

The Rev. John Jurik, Interim Pastor
Ascension Lutheran Church, Franklin Square

The Rev. March Drege, Executive Director
Seafarers & International House, Manhattan

After discussion, the memorial was adopted.

SA 2018:05.02 The ELCA's 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Assemble memorialize the 2019 Churchwide Assembly to:

Call upon all synods in their 2020 assemblies to include celebration and special recognition of ordained women upon the 50th anniversary of authorizing this ordination practice; and

Call upon our seminaries, colleges, campus ministries, outdoor ministries, social ministry organizations, synods, and congregations to highlight women preachers, teachers, and speakers throughout 2020 in recognition of the diversity of gifts women's ordination has brought to our church; and

APPROVED 1/22/19

Call upon congregations throughout the ELCA to participate in the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women in our church through worship services, bible studies and other efforts to celebrate and recognize the importance and contributions of ordained women; and

Call upon all members of this church to examine our consciences, and confess our sins and complicity in whichever circumstances by the outright or silent actions women have faced including barriers, discrimination, or sexual harassment as they prepared for and served as ordained women in this church; and

Call upon this church to renew efforts in education on the intersection of the sins of sexism, racism, homophobia, transphobia, and classism, and develop healing interventions offering hope and support to those who experience these sins to the point of despair about ministry; and

Call upon our seminaries to include intentional coursework and resources to equip pastoral leaders in identifying and ministering in situations of gender-based discrimination and violence; and

Urge all congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization in 2020 to conduct a gender analysis wherein each can develop strategies to promote and protect gender equity and justice, with particular focus on addressing the areas of preparation for ministry, call process including first calls, mobility, compensation, ministry roles, and debt following seminary education; and

Call upon this church to establish goals and strategies in each synod of achieving for ordained women comparable compensation with that of ordained men in all calls by 2024, reporting the outcome of this action step at the Churchwide Assembly in 2025; and

Call upon this church to establish goals and strategies in each synod of achieving for ordained women access to ministry roles where women are currently underrepresented, with a particular focus on the challenges faced by women of color receiving viable first and second calls; and

Call upon the churchwide expression's Domestic Mission Unit to develop, undertake, and successfully complete a strategy specifically related to the debt of women of color after seminary; and

Call upon all candidacy committees to examine their practices in light of the findings in the 45th anniversary research; and

Request the Office of the Presiding Bishop to provide in 2025 updated research on achievement of these initiatives and other matters pertinent to the full and just participation of ordained women in this church; and

Request all church publications to plan features in 2020 on the ordination of women, lifting up the amazing talents and gifts this church has received from its ordained

women, the barriers ordained women still experience in this church, and the steps outlined in this memorial to overcome these barriers; and

Invite the prayers of all members of this church for the successful outcome of these initiatives.

ADOPTED

The Rev. Joel Brandt then presented the first resolution to be considered.

RESOLUTION 4: MNYS TO USE THE BRIDGEBUILDER PROCESS

Whereas the Metro New York Synod/system is experiencing both disruption and pain as former Bishop Rimbo has left the office; and

whereas this disruption offers an opportunity, after thoughtful and intentional evaluation, to move in a positive direction; and

whereas the Bridgebuilder process provides a vehicle by which our synod can move from a focus on weakness to strength, from anxiety to clarity, and to grow and enhance the ministry we do together; therefore be it

Resolved that the Metropolitan New York Synod engage or accept a qualified facilitator from outside this synod to lead us through the Bridgebuilder process.

Submitted by:

The Rev. John A. Jurik, Interim Pastor, Ascension Lutheran Church, Franklin Square

The Rev. James Watrud, Christ Lutheran Church, East Northport

The Rev. Thomas Taylor, St. John's Lutheran Church, Lindenhurst

The Rev. Martha Jacobi, Pastoral Assistant, St. Luke's Lutheran Church, NYC

The Rev. William Eschen, Associate Pastor, St. Peter's Lutheran Church, NYC

The Rev. Jeanne Warfield, Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church, Forest Hills

The Bridgebuilder Process

A structured process for helping religious organizations (such as synods, schools, and congregations) in times of transition and tension.

The purpose and elements of the process:

- A process of *growth* toward health and peace.
- A multi-step process including *consultation, teaching* and *coaching* of leaders.
- An *objective view* of the organization's emotional system.
- A way of *empowering the organization* to manage their situation in healthy ways.
- A *focus on strengths* not weaknesses.
- A process of *finding shared vision* and opportunity for the future.

APPROVED 1/22/19

- *A renewal of purpose*, mission and organizational health.
- A process to *increase the leadership capacities* within the organization.

The primary Bridgebuilders are the people of the synod who are most in the position to effect decisions, changes and direction. A French proverb says “Change is a door that can be opened only from the inside.” Bridgebuilder is a way to help this happen. It is about empowering people to create a new future.

The Rev. John Jurick noted for the Assembly that this resolution was intended to complement and not to replace the Natural Systems process announced by Bishop McCoid.

The following amendment was moved, seconded and adopted:

Resolved, that the Metropolitan New York Synod invite Peter Steinke or another Bridgebuilder facilitator with similar experience to work with Larry Foster and Mary Ann Schwabe in integrating the Bridgebuilder and Natural Systems Processes.

The following amendment was also moved, seconded and adopted:

Resolved, that funding for integrating the Bridgebuilder process and Natural Systems process be sourced from Transition Funds according to Synod Council determination.

A motion to refer the resolution to the Synod Council was made, seconded, and defeated.

The resolution, as amended, was then narrowly adopted.

SA 2018:05.03 MNYS to Use the Bridgebuilder Process

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod engage or accept a qualified facilitator from outside this synod to lead us through the Bridgebuilder process, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod invite Peter Steinke or another Bridgebuilder facilitator with similar experience to work with Larry Foster and Mary Ann Schwabe in integrating the Bridgebuilder and Natural Systems Processes, and be it further

RESOLVED, that funding for integrating the Bridgebuilder process and Natural Systems process be sourced from Transition Funds according to Synod Council determination.

ADOPTED

Building Bridges Moment – Congregational Vitality

The Rev. Lamont Wells presented a video on congregational vitality and then addressed the Assembly.

Common Ballot 1

APPROVED 1/22/19

The Rev. Kevin O'Hara announced that certain ballots contained only one nominee and so the Assembly elected these persons by unanimous consent and Bishop McCoid pronounced them elected.

**SA 2018:05.04 Election by Unanimous Consent of Assembly
ADOPTED**

Secretary	The Rev. Robert Schoepflin
Treasurer	Mr. John Litke
Synod Council	The Rev. Marva Jenkins The Rev. Daniel Penumaka The Rev. David Parsons Ms. Hazel Goldstein Mr. Cecil Spurlock-Shackelton Mr. David Ehlers Synod Dcn. Steven Daniels Mr. John Ogren Mr. Adam A.D. Campbell, Youth Member
Consultation Committee	The Rev. Justin Lathrop The Rev. Peter Rustico
Discipline Committee	The Rev. Wibert Miller Synod Dcn. John Malone
Churchwide Assembly	Mr. Alex Lawrence Mr. John Litke Synod Dcn. Paul Lumpkin Ms. Marret Arfsten

Voting then proceeded on the remaining ballots.

Vice President

Christopher Vergara – 81
Renee Wicklund – 210 **elected**
Barbara Johnson – 66

Ballot 4: Synod Council, Bronx, Clergy

Harry Schenkel – 119
Justin Johnson – 62
Chryll Crews – 111
Donald Lemke – 38
No election. Schenkel and Crews to appear on next ballot.

Ballot 5: Synod Council, SW Brooklyn, Lay Female

APPROVED 1/22/19

Barbara Holm – 128
Anita Martin-Williams – 190 **elected**

Ballot 10: Synod Council, Lay Female, At Large
Wendy Bean Tannenbaum – 224 **elected**
Diane Gilroy – 99

Ballot 14/15: Consultation Committee, Clergy Female (elect 2)
Jeanne Warfield – 290 **elected**
Sonja Tillberg Maclary – 202 **elected**
Diane Wildow – 145

Ballot 20: Discipline Committee, Lay Female
Carole Brosnan – 85
Anita Martin-Williams – 58
Madelyn Soussoudis – 181 **elected**

Ballot 22: Churchwide Assembly, Clergy Female (elect 3)
Ann Tiemeyer – 217 **elected**
Harriet Wieber – 178 **elected**
Linda Bell – 161
Jeanine Owens – 134
Rebecca Pollicino – 164
Diane Wildow – 102
Bell and Pollicino to appear on next ballot.

SA 2018:05.05 First Common Ballot
ADOPTED

Vice President	Ms. Petra Renee Wicklund
Synod Council	Synod Dcn. Anita Martin-Williams Ms. Wendy Bean Tannenbaum
Consultation Committee	The Rev. Jeane Warfield The Rev. Sonja Tillberg Maclary
Discipline Committee	Ms. Madelyn Soussoudis
Churchwide Assembly	The Rev Ann Tiemeyer The Rev. Harriet Wieber

Ballots 23 and 24 were voted on paper. Results will be announced in Plenary Session 4.
Ballot 26 will be voted on in Plenary Session 4.

Recognition of Anniversaries – Rostered Ministers and Congregations

APPROVED 1/22/19

Dcn. Margy Schmitt Ajer recognized rostered leaders celebrating significant anniversaries.

Certificates and gifts were presented to the following leaders:

25 Years Ordained

The Rev. J. Elise Brown
The Rev. Perry Kirschbaum
The Rev. Kathleen Koran
The Rev. Rhonda Hoehn

50 Years Ordained

The Rev. Gerard Gaeta
The Rev. Larry Johnson
The Rev. Robert Sonnenberg
The Rev. George Summers

After announcements by Ms. Elizabeth Hoffman and prayer by Fr. Juan Carlos Ruiz and S. Dcn. Ingrid Compton, the session was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Following dinner, a Festival Eucharist with Rite of Ordination (Leonard A. Duncan) was held at 7:30 pm.

On Saturday morning, there was a budget breakfast. Morning Prayer was at 8:30 am, followed by Hearings, Forums and Workshops at 9:00 am.

SATURDAY, MAY 12, 2018

PLENARY SESSION IV

Bishop McCoid opened the session with prayer at 10:15 am.

Building Bridges – Mission Investment Fund

Mr. Gerry Lauro presented a video to the Assembly.

Introduction of Conference of Deans and Rostered Leaders new to Synod

Dcn. Margy Schmitt Ajer introduced the Conference of Deans.

The Rev. Fernando Otero: Bronx
The Rev. James O’Hanlon: 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. Kevin O’Hara: Peconic
The Rev. Mary Lou Baumgartner: 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. Wolfgang Laudert: Staten Island
The Rev. Joanne Bond: Western Suffolk
The Rev. Khader Khalilia: Southwest Brooklyn
The Rev. Robert Cederstrom: Western Nassau
The Rev. Harriet Wieber: South Shore Brooklyn

APPROVED 1/22/19

She then introduced pastors new to the Synod.

The Rev. David Dockwieler: St. Andrew's, Yorktown Heights
The Rev. Marie Meeks: Dobbs Ferry
The Rev. Christopher Chantelau: Grace, Yorktown Heights
The Rev. Lauretta Deitrich: Grace, Greenwood Lake
The Rev. Rich Ajer: Trinity, Rocky Point
The Rev. Lorraine Peterson: Chaplain, Stony Brook University Hospital

Newly ordained pastors were introduced next.

Kevin Vandiver, Mission Developer: The Christ Center @ Transfiguration, Harlem
Ordinand Leonard Duncan, Mission Developer: Jehu's Table

Finally, Synod Deacons set apart in April, 2018 were introduced.

S.Dcn. Suzanne Beckles: Holy Cross, Ronkonkoma
S.Dcn. Deborah Burke: First, Throggs Neck
S.Dcn. Stephen Daniels: Trinity, Wyandanch
S.Dcn. Jean Dougherty: St. Andrew's, Smithtown
S.Dcn. Etta Effatt: Abiding Presence, Bronx
S.Dcn. Sarajeon Grainson: Holy Trinity, Rockville, Centre
S.Dcn. Margaret Kurz: Our Saviour, Patchogue
S.Dcn. Doreen Mazzei-Buckman: Church of the Holy Redeemer
S.Dcn. Stuart Meade: St. Paul's, Port Jefferson Station
S.Dcn. Deborah Ann Peltz: St. Paul's, East Northport
S.Dcn. Patricia Rose: Abiding Presence, Bronx
S.Dcn. Murial Ryan: St. Peter's, Huntington Station
S.Dcn. Fred Schoenfeld: Ascension, Franklin Square
S.Dcn. Nancy Sigler: St. Luke's, New Rochelle
S.Dcn. Johnny Slade: St. Paul's, Port Jefferson Station
S.Dcn. Virginia Ward: Holy Cross, Commack

Dcn. Ajer then offered congratulations to the following congregations, asking members present to stand:

125 Years of Ministry

Emanuel, Pleasantville
Our Saviour, Staten Island

150 Years of Ministry

Christ, Manhattan
Memorial, Rhinebeck
St. John-St. Matthew-Emanuel, Brooklyn

175 Years of Ministry

Trinity, Long Island City
Trinity, Lower East Side, Manhattan

Building Bridges Moment – Multicultural Committee

S.Dcn John Ogren and The Rev. Perucy Butiku reported to the Assembly.

APPROVED 1/22/19

Hunger Committee

Dr. Robert Brent of the Synod Hunger Committee addressed the Assembly.

ELCA Churchwide Report

The Rev. Dr. Wyvetta Bullock presented the Churchwide report and thanked the Synod for its partnership in the Gospel.

She then presented a video of 2017 ministry in review and a second video entitled “We Are Lutheran.”

Report of the Committee on Registration

Ms. Cynthia Corley gave the fourth registration report.

Lay Voting Members	220
Rostered Leaders	151
Total Voting Members	371
Visitors	<u>85</u>
Total Attendance	456

Adoption of Revised 2018 Budget and Proposed 2019 Budget

Mr. Ed Wagner and Ms. Sue Brandt presented the budgets for adoption.

Separate votes for each budget were held, and both were adopted.

SA 2018:05.06 Ratified a Revised Budget of \$5,702,745 for Fiscal Year 2018
ADOPTED

SA 2018:05.07 Adopted a Proposed Budget of \$5,708,698 for Fiscal Year 2019
ADOPTED

The Assembly then joined in singing “Praise the Almighty.”

Reference and Counsel 2

The Rev. Joel Brandt presented the next resolution to be considered, noting that Reference and Counsel recommended adoption.

RESOLUTION 2: CONGREGATIONAL FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING

Whereas Christian stewardship includes Congregations utilizing clear financial reporting;
and

Whereas financial malfeasance has been a temptation in the church since the first century (John 12); and

Whereas our congregations have limited numbers of persons with financial accountancy skills; and

APPROVED 1/22/19

Whereas ELCA congregations have unique accountancy needs, which cannot always be translated from other arenas, even by experienced advisors; and

Whereas the reporting of budgeting, revenue, and payables is a time-intensive task; and

Whereas Council Members and Congregants need to understand the financial status of their congregation in order to make wise and prudent decisions as advised by C.12.05.a, C.12.05.d, C.12.05.e and C.5.03.f¹; therefore be it

Resolved that a Congregational Financial Accountancy Task Force be formed; and be it further

Resolved that the Conference of Deans recommend members to this Task Force, who shall be appointed by the bishop with the advice and consent of the Synod Council; and be it further

Resolved that the Task Force survey congregational practice both within and outside of the Metro New York Synod; and be it further

Resolved that the Task Force develop a series of templates for financial reporting available to Metro New York Synod congregations for use at monthly Congregation Council meetings and Annual Meetings of the Congregations; and be it further

Resolved that the Task Force recommend attendant Best Practices to accompany the templates; and be it further

Resolved that the Task Force report their work to the 2019 Synod Assembly for it to be voted on as the recommended basis for Congregational Financial reporting.

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

The Rev. Bob Cederstrom, Christ, New Hyde Park, Dean, West Nassau

The Rev. John Flack, Our Saviour's Atonement, Manhattan, Dean, Manhattan

The Rev. Katrina Foster, St. John's, Greenpoint, Dean, Brooklyn Bridges

The Rev. Rich Hill, Hope, Selden, Dean, Peconic

The Rev. Khader Khahilia, Redeemer – St. John, Brooklyn, Dean, Southwest Brooklyn

¹ C.12.05.a. The Congregation Council shall be the board of [trustees] [directors] of this congregation, and as such shall be responsible for maintaining and protecting its property and the management of its business and fiscal affairs. It shall have the powers and be subject to the obligations that pertain to such boards under the laws of the State of _____, except as otherwise provided herein.

C.12.05.d. The Congregation Council shall prepare an annual budget for adoption by this congregation, shall supervise the expenditure of funds in accordance therewith following its adoption, and may incur obligations of more than \$ _____ in excess of the anticipated receipts only after approval by a Congregation Meeting. The budget shall include this congregation's full indicated share in support of the wider ministry being carried on in partnership with the synod and churchwide organization.

C.12.05.e. The Congregation Council shall ascertain that the financial affairs of this congregation are being conducted efficiently, giving particular attention to the prompt payment of all obligations and to the regular forwarding of benevolence monies to the synodical treasurer.

C.5.03.f. (The Congregation is authorized to:) approve the annual budget;

John Litke, member, St. Peter's, Huntington Station
The Rev. Joseph Mantovani, St. Jacobus, Queens, Dean, Western Queens
The Rev. Jim O'Hanlon, St. Paul's, Rye Brook, Dean, Tappan Zee
The Rev. Marcia Parkinson-Harrison, Resurrection, St. Albans, Dean, Southeast, Queens
The Rev. I. Daniel Peter Penumaka, St. Paul, Floral Park, Dean, Northeast Queens
Hans Vogel, member, Christ, Wantagh
The Rev. Harriet Wieber, Holy Trinity, Brooklyn, Dean, South Shore, Brooklyn

After discussion, the resolution was adopted.

SA 2018:05.08 Congregational Finance and Accounting

RESOLVED, that a Congregational Financial Accountancy Task Force be formed; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Conference of Deans recommend members to this Task Force, who shall be appointed by the bishop with the advice and consent of the Synod Council; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Task Force survey congregational practice both within and outside of the Metro New York Synod; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Task Force develop a series of templates for financial reporting available to Metro New York Synod congregations for use at monthly Congregation Council meetings and Annual Meetings of the Congregations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Task Force recommend attendant Best Practices to accompany the templates; and be it further

**RESOLVED, that the Task Force report their work to the 2019 Synod Assembly for it to be voted on as the recommended basis for Congregational Financial reporting.
ADOPTED**

The Rev. Joel Brandt presented the final resolution for consideration, noting the Reference and Counsel recommended adoption.

RESOLUTION 1: SEEKING GREATER RECOGNITION OF *DECLARATION ON THE WAY*

Whereas, *Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry and Eucharist* provides much needed clarity to our own Lutheran articulation of these topics, be it

Resolved, that the Metropolitan New York Synod in Assembly directs the Synod Council to request the ELCA Church Council to draft amendments to the Confession of Faith of the Constitutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for action at the next Churchwide Assembly [2019] to recognize the Agreements [1-32] in Chapter II of *Declaration on the Way* as authoritative statements of the teaching of this church.

APPROVED 1/22/19

The Rev. James G. Krauser
Grace, North Bellmore

REFERENCE:

Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry and Eucharist (2015)

Created by the Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical & Interreligious Dialogue of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops & the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It is a declaration of the consensus achieved by Lutherans and Catholics on the topics of church, ministry and Eucharist as the result of ecumenical dialogue between the two communions since 1965. The Declaration also offers encouragement that together Catholics and Lutherans will find ways to move forward where work remains to be done.

II. STATEMENT OF AGREEMENTS

A. Agreements on the Church

The Church's Foundation in God's Saving Work

(1) Catholics and Lutherans agree that the church on earth has been assembled by the triune God, who grants to its members their sharing in the triune divine life as God's own people, as the body of the risen Christ, and as the temple of the Holy Spirit, while they are also called to give witness to these gifts so that others may come to share in them. (2) They agree as well that the church on earth arose from the whole event of Jesus Christ, who remains its sole foundation (1 Corinthians 3:11). (3) Further, they hold in common that the church on earth is gathered by the proclamation of the gospel of God's saving mercy in Christ, so that the gospel, proclaimed in the Holy Spirit by the apostles, remains the church's normative origin and abiding foundation. (4) An agreement follows that the church on earth is in every age apostolic, because it is founded upon the apostles' witness to the gospel and it continuously professes the apostolic and evangelical faith while living by mandated practices handed on from the apostles. Thus, Lutherans and Catholics recognize in both their ecclesial communities the attribute of apostolicity grounded in their ongoing continuity in apostolic faith, teaching and practices.

The Word, Scripture and Means of Grace

(5) Lutherans and Catholics agree that the church on earth lives from and is ruled by the Word of God, which it encounters in Christ, in the living word of the gospel, and in the inspired and canonical Scriptures. (6) They are one in holding that the church on earth participates in Christ's benefits through the historical and perceptible actions of proclaiming the gospel and celebrating the sacraments, as initiated by Christ and handed on by his apostles.

Communion, Visibility and Hiddenness

(7) Catholics and Lutherans agree that the church on earth is a communion (*koinonia*). It shares in God's gifts offered for us by Christ, which, by being held in common, bring believers into unity and fellowship with each other. (8) Consequently, they agree that the church on earth combines audible and visible elements with profound spiritual realities that remain hidden from empirical investigation and perception.

Preservation of the Church and Union with the Saints

(9) Catholics and Lutherans agree that the church on earth is indefectible, because it is and will be preserved by the Holy Spirit in all its aspects essential for salvation. They share the certainty of Christian hope that the church, established by Christ and led by his Spirit, will always remain in the truth fulfilling its mission to humanity for the sake of the gospel. (10) They furthermore agree that the church on earth is united with the community of the saints in glory.

Eschatology and Mission

APPROVED 1/22/19

(11) This perspective gives rise to agreement that the church on earth is an anticipatory reality, on pilgrimage and expectant of reaching its final destination in God's ultimate gathering of his people in their entirety, when Christ returns, and when the Holy Spirit completes the work of sanctification. (12) But Catholics and Lutherans agree as well that the church on earth is mandated to carry out a mission in which it participates in God's activity in the world by evangelization, worship, service of humanity and care for creation.

B. Agreements on Ordained Ministry

In "Agreements on the Church," Catholics and Lutherans affirm the ecclesial character of one another's communities. This affirmation is an essential first step toward a mutual recognition of ordained ministry, for mutual recognition of one another's ecclesial character is intertwined with the mutual recognition of one another's ministry.

Ministry in the Church

(13) Lutherans and Catholics agree that the ordained ministry belongs to the essential elements that express the church's apostolic character and that it also contributes, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to the church's continuing apostolic faithfulness. (14) Catholics and Lutherans agree that all the baptized who believe in Christ share in the priesthood of Christ. For both Catholics and Lutherans, the common priesthood of all the baptized and the special, ordained ministry enhance one another.

Divine Origin of Ministry

(15) Lutherans and Catholics affirm together that ordained ministry is of divine origin and that it is necessary for the being of the church. Ministry is not simply a delegation "from below," but is instituted by Jesus Christ. (16) We both affirm that all ministry is subordinated to Christ, who in the Holy Spirit is acting in the preaching of the Word of God, in the administration of the sacraments, and in pastoral service. (17) Lutherans and Catholics agree that the proclamation of the gospel is foremost among the various tasks of the ordained ministry. (18) They declare in common that the essential and specific function of the ordained minister is to assemble and build up the Christian community by proclaiming the word of God, celebrating the sacraments, and presiding over the liturgical, missionary and diaconal life of the community.

Authority of Ministry

(19) The authority of the ministry is not to be understood as an individual possession of the minister, but it is rather an authority with the commission to serve in the community and for the community. (20) Catholics and Lutherans also agree that the office of ministry stands over against (*gegenüber*) the community as well as within it and thus is called to exercise authority over the community.

Ordination

(21) Catholics and Lutherans agree that entry into this apostolic and God-given ministry is not by baptism but by ordination. They agree that ministers cannot ordain themselves or claim this office as a matter of right but are called by God and designated in and through the church. (22) Catholics and Lutherans both ordain through prayer invoking the Holy Spirit and with the laying on of hands by another ordained person. Both affirm that the ordinand receives an anointing of the Holy Spirit, who equips that person for ordained ministry. (23) Both Lutherans and Catholics regard ordination as unrepeatable.

One Ministerial Office

(24) Both consider that there is one ordained ministerial office, while also distinguishing a special ministry of *episkope* over presbyters/pastors. (25) They agree that the ministry is exercised both locally in the congregation and regionally. Both accept that the distinction between local and regional offices in the churches is more than the result of purely historical and human developments, or a matter of sociological necessity, but is the action of the Spirit. Furthermore, the differentiation of the ministry into a more local and a more regional office arises of necessity out of the intention and task of ministry to be a ministry of unity in faith.

Ministry Serving Worldwide Unity

(26) Catholics and Lutherans affirm together that all ministry, to the degree that it serves the koinonia of salvation, also serves the unity of the worldwide church and that together we long for a more complete realization of this unity.

C. Agreements on the Eucharist

High Esteem for Eucharistic Union with Christ in Holy Communion

(27) Lutherans and Catholics agree in esteeming highly the spiritual benefits of union with the risen Christ given to them as they receive his body and blood in Holy Communion.

Trinitarian Dimension of Eucharist

(28) Catholics and Lutherans agree that in Eucharistic worship the church participates in a unique way in the life of the Trinity: In the power of the Holy Spirit, called down upon the gifts and the worshipping community, believers have access to the glorified flesh and blood of Christ the Son as our food, and are brought in union with him and with each other to the Father.

Eucharist as Reconciling Sacrifice of Christ and as Sacrifice of the Church's Praise and Thanksgiving

(29) Catholics and Lutherans agree that Eucharistic worship is the memorial (anamnesis) of Jesus Christ, present as the one crucified for us and risen, that is, in his sacrificial self-giving for us in his death and in his resurrection (Romans 4:25), to which the church responds with its sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

Eucharistic Presence

(30) Lutherans and Catholics agree that in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, Jesus Christ himself is present: He is present truly, substantially, as a person, and he is present in his entirety, as Son of God and a human being.

(31) Catholics and Lutherans agree that Eucharistic Communion, as sacramental participation in the glorified body and blood of Christ, is a pledge that our life in Christ will be eternal, our bodies will rise, and the present world is destined for transformation, in the hope of uniting us in communion with the saints of all ages now with Christ in heaven.

Eucharist and Church

(32) Lutherans and Catholics agree that sharing in the celebration of the Eucharist is an essential sign of the unity of the church, and that the reality of the church as a community is realized and furthered sacramentally in the Eucharistic celebration. The Eucharist both mirrors and builds the church in its unity.

The Rev. James Krauser spoke in favor of resolution.

Motion by The Rev. Amandus Derr to indefinitely postpone consideration of this matter was seconded and adopted.

Following this action, Bishop McCoid clarified the present status of Declaration on the Way for the Assembly.

Building Bridges Moment – Diakonia

The Rev. Rebecca Pollicino, S.Dcn. Ingrid Compton, The Rev. Kevin O'Hara, and Ms. Tracy Hill spoke about the new "brand" for the program – "Growing in Faith." They indicated that there will now be an anti-racism component and that classes can be attended on-line.

Common Ballot II

The Rev. Kevin O'Hara presented the remaining ballots for voting.

Ballot 4: Synod Council, Bronx, Clergy

APPROVED 1/22/19

The Rev. Harry Schenkel – 136
The Rev. Chryll Crews – 160 **elected**

Ballot 22: Churchwide Assembly, Clergy, Female

The Rev. Linda Bell - 114
The Rev. Rebecca Pollicino – 181 **elected**

Ballot 26: Churchwide Assembly, Multicultural

Mr. Christopher Vegara - 193 **elected**
Ms. Maritza Tamayo – 75
The Rev. Brenda Irving - 27

Pr. O’Hara announced that for Ballot 23, with two positions to elect, and 174 votes required to elect, there was no election on the first ballot. The four candidates with the most votes on the first ballot will appear on the second ballot, and Ballot 23 will be divided into two separate ballots, designated 23a and 23b, with two candidates appearing on each.

Ballot 23a: Churchwide Assembly, Clergy, Male

The Rev. Joel Brandt – 151
The Rev. Mark Erson – 161 **elected**

Ballot 23b: Churchwide Assembly, Clergy, Male

The Rev. Kevin O’Hara – 178 **elected**
The Rev. David Parsons – 132

Pr. O’Hara then announced that for Ballot 24, with three positions to elect, and 175 votes required to elect, there was no election on the first ballot. The six candidates with the most votes on the first ballot will appear on the second ballot, and Ballot 24 will be divided into three separate ballots, designated 24a, 24b and 24c, with two candidates appearing on each.

Ballot 24a: Churchwide Assembly, Lay, Female

S.Dcn. Anita Martin-Williams – 116
Ms. Cynthia Corley – 176 **elected**

Ballot 24b: Churchwide Assembly, Lay, Female

Ms. Eleanor Sudbrock – 137
Ms. Elizabeth Hoffmann – 172 **elected**

Ballot 24c: Churchwide Assembly, Lay, Female

S.Dcn. Roberta Detmers – 148
Ms. Susan Brandt – 156 **elected**

SA 2018:05.09 Second Common Ballot
ADOPTED

Synod Council The Rev. Chryll Crews

APPROVED 1/22/19

Churchwide Assembly

**The Rev. Rebecca Pollicino
The Rev. Mark Erson
The Rev Kevin O’Hara
Ms. Cynthia Corley
Ms. Elizabeth Hoffmann
Ms. Susan Brandt
Mr. Christopher Vergara**

MNYS Communications Report

The Rev. Mark Erson, Chair of the Claimed Strategic Committee, spoke on importance of communication through websites and Facebook pages.

Mr. Roberto Lara spoke about the redesign of the Synod website and the number of people visiting the Synod’s pages on Facebook and Instagram.

Building Bridges Moment – Pinecrest

Mr. James Allan spoke about the ministry of Pinecrest.

Ms. Elizabeth Hoffmann made final announcements to the Assembly.

Bishop McCoid thanked the voting members of the Assembly and assured us all that God will lead and guide the Synod forward, as we look to the election of a new bishop in 2019.

The session was closed with prayer by the chaplains at 12:30 pm.

Following lunch, the final Eucharist, with rite for Closing of the Assembly, was held at 1:30 pm.

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