

**SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS**

<b>The Rev. Albert Ahlstrom</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Mr. William Anderson</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>*The Rev. William Baum</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>The Rev. Rosalind Brathwaite</b>	<b>2012</b>
<i>Ms. Kelsey Brown</i>	<i>2012</i>
<b>*Mr. Robert Buescher, Treas.</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Ms. Christine Connell, DM</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>*Ms. Maria del Toro, Vice President</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>Dcn Charles Germain</b>	<b>2014</b>
<i>Ms. Barbara Hansen</i>	<i>2014</i>
<b>Mr. Gene Hiigel</b>	<i>2014</i>
<b>Ms. Barbara Holm</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>The Rev. Brenda Jack</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>*Ms. Barbara Johnson</b>	<b>2012</b>
The Rev. Perry Kirschbaum	2014
<b>Dr. Carlos Lopez</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>Dcn. John Malone</b>	<b>2014</b>
<i>*Ms. Minerva Melendez</i>	<i>2014</i>
<b>The Rev. Craig Miller</b>	<b>2014</b>
<i>*The Rev. Paul Milholland</i>	<i>2014</i>
<b>Dcn. Bobbi Paulik</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Mr. Brian Reardon</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>*The Rev. Robert A. Rimbo, Bishop</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>The Rev. Kit Robison</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>*The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Sect.</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>Ms. Janet Siry</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>Mr. Jonathan Westerlund</b>	<b>2012</b>

27 Voting Members

**AUXILLIARY MEMBERS**

**STAFF**

**The Rev. Perucy Butiku**  
**Ms. Sarah Gioe**  
**The Rev. Dr. Jack Horner**  
**The Rev. Kathleen Koran**  
**The Rev. Jonathan Linman**  
*Mr. John Litke*  
*The Rev. Dr. Gary Mills*  
**Dcn. Gayle Ruege**  
**Ms. Kathleen Schmidt**

**GUESTS**

**The Rev. Diane Wildow (Conference of Deans)**  
**Mr. Richard Eaddy (Studley)**  
**Mr. David Carlos (Studley)**

**Bold = present**

*Italics = excused absence*

\*Member of Executive Committee

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Bp Rimbo announced that presentation by Studley (Item 2) would be made before devotions and call to order. Presentation was made by Richard Eaddy and David Carlos from Studley, a commercial real estate firm.

**Devotions:** *Pastor Jonathan Linman*

**Call to Order by VP DelToro at 5:46pm.**

**1. Adoption of Agenda**

Adopted as presented

**2. Studley Presentation: Commercial Real Estate Firm (presentation made at beginning of mtg)**

*Mr. Richard Eaddy / Mr. David Carlos*

**3. Adoption of Minutes: 17 September 2011:**

Adopted

**4. Bishop's Report**

**A. Strategic Plan update**

Bp Rimbo noted that Executive Committee met with Tom Massey. Survey has been sent via email to pastors, deans and SC members. Pastors were asked to encourage congregation members to take survey. Executive Committee and Executive Staff will meet with Tom Massey on November 4. Tom Massey will meet with Synod Council on retreat November 18-19, 2011.

**B. Appointments**

**a. Bishop's Benevolence Task Force: Sarah Beaty**

**ACTION SC11:10/01**

**RESOLVED**, that Sarah Beaty be appointed to serve on the Bishop's Benevolence Task Force.  
**ADOPTED**

**C. Calls**

**a. Rev. Daniel Ruth: Lutheran World Relief**

**ACTION SC11:10/02**

**RESOLVED**, that Rev. Daniel Ruth be called to serve under specialized call to Lutheran World Relief.  
**ADOPTED**

**b. Mr. Benjamin McKelahan: Mission Developer (Youth and Young Adult Ministry/Brooklyn)**

**ACTION SC11:10/03**

**RESOLVED**, that Mr. Benjamin McKelahan be called to serve as Mission Developer for Youth and Young Adult Ministry in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.  
**ADOPTED**

**c. Rev. Romeo Dabee (On Leave from Call Status effective July 1, 2011)**

**ACTION SC11:10/04**

**RESOLVED**, that Rev. Romeo Dabee be granted On Leave from Call Status, effective July 1, 2011.  
**ADOPTED**

**d. Rev. Donald Lemke: Interim Pastoral Ministry (Christ, Ozone Park)**

**ACTION SC11:10/05**

**RESOLVED**, that Rev. Donald Lemke be called to Interim Pastoral Ministry at Christ, Ozone Park.  
**ADOPTED**

**e. Rev. Ronald Gothberg: Interim Pastoral Ministry (Gloria Dei, New Hyde Park)**

**ACTION SC11:10/06**

**RESOLVED**, that Rev. Ronald Gothberg be called to Interim Pastoral Ministry at Gloria Dei, New Hyde Park.  
**ADOPTED**

**D. Legal Updates**

- a. St. Luke's, Bronx** Report given by K. Schmidt.
- b. Derek Gomez** Report given by Bp. Rimbo.
- c. Reid, Glazier** Report given by Bp. Rimbo

**E. NYS same-gender marriage laws (letter/guidelines)**

Bp Rimbo noted that he sent a letter of opinion and guidance to clergy and to SC after NYS adopted its same-sex marriage law this past summer. It was the sense of the SC that no further action needs to be taken at this point.

**F. Bishop's Benevolence Task Force**

Bp Rimbo gave brief report.

**5. Treasurer's Report (EXHIBIT A)**

Mr. R. Buescher presented report and financial charts.

**6. Old Business**

**A. Property/contract for sale of former Bethlehem, Brooklyn**

Sect. Schoepflin reported that Supreme Court granted Synod permission to sell the property and that objectants have until November 25 to file a notice of appeal.

**B. Zion/Sion, 119<sup>th</sup> Street, Manhattan**

Sect. Schoepflin presented the following resolution from the Executive Committee.

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan New York Synod is committed to developing a strong Latino ministry in Manhattan; and

WHEREAS, the Letter of Agreement between the Metropolitan New York Synod ("synod") and Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church ("Zion") dated September 4, 2005 authorizes the synod to take title to the property located at 217 East 119<sup>th</sup> St., New York, NY if synod monies from the Mission Redevelopment Fund are needed to fund the ongoing operations of Zion and expenses related to the potential redevelopment of its property; and

WHEREAS, the synod has expended in excess of \$1.3 million since September 4, 2005 on behalf of Zion; and

WHEREAS, the Zion Mission Guidance Team has determined that it is no longer economically feasible to construct a new church facility at 217 E. 119<sup>th</sup> St; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the synod develop a Latino mission strategy for Manhattan centered around the pastor and people of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, and seek to involve the existing Latino ministries in Manhattan in developing this plan; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the synod take title to and sell the property located at 217 E.119<sup>th</sup> St., New York, NY; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the proceeds from the sale be used to first reimburse the synod for all monies expended on behalf of Zion since September 4, 2005; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Bishop, the Director for Evangelical Mission, and the members of the Zion Mission Guidance Team meet with the congregation to discuss the best use of the remaining net proceeds from the sale of the property; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council authorize the synod's executive staff to locate a home for

Zion (temporary or permanent) within one of our existing congregations in Manhattan as quickly as possible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council express its gratitude to the Zion Mission Guidance Team and to Pastor Fabian Arias and the people of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church for their efforts over these last six years and their continuing commitment to build up a strong Latino ministry within our synod.

*VP del Toro asked Pr. Brenda Jack to lead council in prayer before taking the vote on this resolution.*

**ACTION SC11:10/07**

RESOLVED, that the synod develop a Latino mission strategy for Manhattan centered around the pastor and people of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, and seek to involve the existing Latino ministries in Manhattan in developing this plan; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the synod take title to and sell the property located at 217 E.119<sup>th</sup> St., New York, NY; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the proceeds from the sale be used to first reimburse the synod for all monies expended on behalf of Zion since September 4, 2005; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Bishop, the Director for Evangelical Mission, and the members of the Zion Mission Guidance Team meet with the congregation to discuss the best use of the remaining net proceeds from the sale of the property; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council authorize the synod's executive staff to locate a home for Zion (temporary or permanent) within one of our existing congregations in Manhattan as quickly as possible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council express its gratitude to the Zion Mission Guidance Team and to Pastor Fabian Arias and the people of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church for their efforts over these last six years and their continuing commitment to build up a strong Latino ministry within our synod.

**ADOPTED (18 in favor; 0 opposed; 3 abstentions)**

**C. Procedures for Synod Administration (EXHIBIT B)**

Pr. J. Horner presented procedure for "permanent" synod administration requested by the congregation (S13.24).

**ACTION SC11:10/08**

**RESOLVED**, that this procedure for "permanent" synod administration requested by the congregation (S13.24) be adopted.

**ADOPTED**

**D. St. Stephen's, Brooklyn (EXHIBIT C)**

K. Schmidt presented the Debt Reduction Proposal for St. Stephen's.

**E. Congregations under synod administration (monthly report) (EXHIBIT D)**

K. Schmidt reported

**F. Congregational Loan Status / Synod Properties update (EXHIBIT E)**

K. Schmidt reported.

**G. Committee on the Election of the Bishop**

Sect. Schoepflin reported that 151 persons have taken the survey posted on the web-site and that the commission will meet on November 7 to look over results and determine what recommendation for change, if any, will be brought to the Synod Council.

**H. Synod Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy**

Treasurer Buescher presented following corrected ethics policy for adoption.

WHEREAS, the Synod Council adopted the Operational Ethics Policy on September 11, 2010 (SC10 09/03), and,

WHEREAS, it has been detected that the policy was approved with a minor error of omission from the proposed Financial Managements submission, being the last sentence under paragraph No. 1:

*“In all dealings with and on behalf of the synod, or any affiliated entity, these Synod Representatives shall be held to a standard of loyalty and honest and fair dealing with the synod and its affiliated entities”*,  
be it

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council Adopt the corrected Operational Ethics Policy as circulated to the members, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the corrected Operational Ethics Policy be attached to the file copy of the minutes of this meeting.

**ACTION SC11:10/09**

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council Adopt the corrected Operational Ethics Policy as circulated to the members, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the corrected Operational Ethics Policy be attached to the file copy of the minutes of this meeting.

**ADOPTED**

Treasurer Buescher presented the following resolution regarding the Operational Ethics Policy.

WHEREAS, the Operational Ethics Policy, in paragraph No. 7 requires an annual distribution of a copy of this policy to a wide list of key committee members and staff, be it

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council adopt a continuing resolution that would require the annual distribution required by paragraph No. 7 of the Operational Ethics Policy be done at, or as nearly as feasible to, the June meeting of the Synod Council, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the policy be included in the Manual for Synod Council Training and Formation.

**ACTION SC11:10/10**

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council adopt a continuing resolution that would require the annual distribution required by paragraph No. 7 of the Operational Ethics Policy be done at, or as nearly as feasible to, the June meeting of the Synod Council, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the policy be included in the Manual for Synod Council Training and Formation.

**ADOPTED**

**I. Pending**

a. **St. Luke's, Bronx**

b. **Grace, North Branch**

**Bp Rimbo reported.**

c. **St. Peter's, 140<sup>th</sup> Street, Bronx**

d. **Office Space Task Force**

Mr. Buescher reported that task force is actively looking for viable office space.

e. **Committee on Congregational Viability Norms**

g. **Congregations that voted to leave the ELCA/Dual rostering**

Bp Rimbo noted that we are only synod in ELCA that has not released the congregations that have voted to leave the ELCA. Pr. Brenda Jack noted that it generally is not the congregations that choose

to leave, but pastors who wrongfully influence their congregations to leave.

Mr. Brian Riordan made a motion that Rev. Eric Swensson and Rev. John McKenzie be removed from the roster of the ELCA, since they have become rostered in another Lutheran Body and the ELCA does not recognize dual-rostering. Seconded. Discussion followed.

**ACTION SC11:10/11**

**RESOLVED**, that Rev. Eric Swensson and Rev. John McKenzie be removed from the roster of clergy of the ELCA since they have become rostered in another Lutheran body.

**ADOPTED (unanimously)**

Rev. Al Ahlstrom noted that since the congregations being served by Swenson and MacKenzie are being served by pastors not on the roster of the ELCA, there are grounds to remove these congregations from the ELCA.

**h. Resolution: Call to Celebrate and Support LMHE**

This resolution was deferred to the November meeting of the Synod Council.

**7. New Business**

VP del Toro reported receiving letter of resignation from Janet Siry, effective November 1, 2011, and thanked Ms. Siry for her faithful service on Synod Council.

**8. Other Reports**

**A. Children, Youth and Family (EXHIBIT F)**

Dcn. Charlie Germain distributed a written report.

Reported on upcoming events and that two scholarships were given for ELCA Youth Ministry Extravaganza.

**9. Announcements/Events**

**A. Bishop's Retreat (November 16-18, 2011)**

**B. Synod Council Retreat (November 18-19, 2011) Mount St. Alphonsus, Esopus, NY**

VP del Toro reported that Tom Massey will be leading session of SC retreat on Friday evening on the strategic planning/mission vision.

Sarah Gioe announced malaria conference at Advent, NYC on November 5.

**10. Meeting Evaluation**

VP del Toro led the meeting evaluation. She asked us to consider whether each meeting should have a member serve as an objective observer and report on and critique the meeting process, using a form for this purpose. It was determined that this evaluation process would be used for the next council meeting, with Dcn. John Malone serving as the observer.

Mtg adjourned at 7:29 pm with prayer by Pr. Craig Miller.