

2SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

***The Rev. William Baum** 2016
The Rev. Rosalind Brathwaite 2016
Ms. Christine Connell, DM 2014
**Ms. Maria del Toro, Vice President* 2014
The Rev. Khader El-Yateem 2016
Dcn Charles Germain 2014
Ms. Hazel Goldstein 2016
Ms. Barbara Hansen 2014
***The Rev. Marc Herbst** 2014
Mr. Eugene Hiigel 2014
**The Rev. Brenda Irving* 2016
Ms. Barbara Johnson 2016
Ms. Savannah Lochansingh, Youth 2014
Dr. Carlos Lopez 2014
Dcn. John Malone 2014
Ms. Minerva Melendez 2014
The Rev. Paul Milholland 2014
The Rev. Craig Miller 2014
Dcn. John Prosen 2016
Mr. Brian Reardon 2016
***The Rev. Robert A. Rimbo, Bishop** 2014
The Rev. Kit Robison 2014
Ms. Terra Rowe 2016
***The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Sect.** 2014
Ms. Abby Triebel, Young Adult 2016
**Mr. Frank Suttell, Treas* 2016
***Mr. Christopher Vergara** 2016
Ms. Karen Woolley 2016

AUXILLIARY MEMBERS

STAFF

The Rev. Percy Butiku
Ms. Sarah Gioe
The Rev. Kathleen Koran
The Rev. Jonathan Linman
Dcn. Gayle Ruege
Ms. Kathleen Schmidt
Ms. Rebekah Thornhill

GUESTS

Bold = present

Italics = excused absence

***Member of Executive Committee**

Worship: Rev. Jonathan Linman: Rite for Healing

Observer: Rev. Khader El-Yateem

Call to Order: By Bp Rimbo at 7:18pm.

Pr. Linman sent around a sign up sheet for devotions and for meeting observers.

- 1. Adoption of the Agenda:** adopted as presented.
- 2. Adoption of the Minutes:** 28 September 2013. Adopted as presented.

3. Strategic Plan

A. Report of the Steering Committee: Bp. Rimbo gave following report.

The Steering Committee met on October 10. Each of the Key Strategy Chairs presented Goals, Objectives and Benchmarks to be shared with the Executive Committee.

Each of the Strategy Committees has formed sub-committees (TEAMS) to begin the work outlined in their Charges

CLAIMED: Theological Team – Communications Team – Connection Team – Commitment Team
GATHERED: Research Team – Leadership Development Team – Innovation Team – Resource Team
SENT: Service Team – Partnership Team – Advocacy Team. Bp Rimbo noted that Pr. Marsh Drege has assumed the chair of the SENT Committee.

B. Assistant to the Bishop for Strategic Plan: Bp. Rimbo gave following report.

The Steering Committee/ Executive Committee reviewed SC13:4/1 (additional temporary staff for implementation of the Strategic Plan) and modified the position description to reflect a broader and more expansive description of the work of the staff person responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

- One (1) Coordinator for the implementation of the strategic plan
- Coordinator reports directly to the Bishop
- Coordinator will relate to all four Strategy Committees (Claimed, Gathered, Sent, and Financial Management)
- Coordinator oversees the work of 2 groups: Pastoral Care Team and Management Team.
 - Pastoral Care Team (PCT) will consist of 3 persons and will tend to pastors and congregations in transition. The PCT will reflect the diversity of the synod
 - Management Team (MT) will tend to properties, demographics, AG's office, legal component. The MT will enlist a number of persons with varied gifts and skills that can be deployed depending on the context.
- Bp. Rimbo noted that four (4) applicants were interviewed by the Executive Committee for the position of Assistant to the Bishop for the Strategic Plan. He indicated that Pr. Marc Herbst was the choice of the Executive Committee.
- Bp. Rimbo brought before the council the motion of the Executive Committee, and led the council in prayer before the vote.

ACTION SC13:10/01

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to the Rev. Marc Herbst as Assistant to the Bishop for Strategic Plan Implementation effective December 1, 2013.

ADOPTED

- C. Quadrant 2 (Nassau / Suffolk) Visitation :** Bp. Rimbo gave the following report.
The Bishop and staff will begin a 3rd round of visits within the synod beginning November 22-24. The visits will cover the geographic region of Quadrants and will span the course of a weekend (Fri-Sun).

Itinerary for Quadrant 2 (Nassau and Suffolk Counties)

- Friday evening: Dinner with ministerium (Abiding Presence, Fort Salonga)
- Saturday Leaders Retreat w/ SP Steering Committee (St. Paul's, East Northport)
- Sunday morning (Nov 24): congregation visits
 - Ordained staff will serve as guest preachers / Thank you for mission support / report strategic plan
 - Lay staff will bring greetings / Thank you for mission support / report strategic plan
 - **SYNOD COUNCIL Members bring greetings / TY for mission support / report SP**

4. Bishop's Report

A. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton's Installation

Bp. Rimbo reported that the installation was an "amazing" event. The music was glorious and diverse. The liturgy emphasized the unity of our church. Bp. Rimbo noted that we have already requested the Bp. Eaton be the ELCA representative at our 2014 Synod Assembly.

B. Calls:

- a. Rev. Dr. Deborah DeWinter/First, Poughkeepsie: *Annual renewal: Letter of Invitation to Extended Service*) Pr. DeWinter is a pastor of the United Church of Christ. Bp. Rimbo made motion, which was seconded.

ACTION SC13:10/02

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council renew the Invitation to Extended Service to the Rev. Dr. Deborah DeWinter serving First Lutheran Church, Poughkeepsie.

ADOPTED

- b. Assistant to the Bishop for Strategic Plan Implementation**
See above.

C. Appointments

- a. Rev. Keith Harke/ Christ, Staten Island: *Intentional Interim Pastor*. Pr. Harke is a pastor of the Moravian Church. This appointment is made by the Bishop and requires no council action.

D. Staff

- a. Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM): Bp. Rimbo reported on the search process. Eight applications were received. Four persons were interviewed. Bishop reported that Pr. Lamont Wells was the choice of the interviewing team (4/MNYS and 4/Churchwide). Pr. Wells has accepted and will begin January 2, 2014. His call comes through Churchwide. Bishop Rimbo noted that Pr. Wells brings many gifts to this position. Pr. Wells will be invited to participate in a meeting of the Outreach Table in November.

5. Treasurer's Report: in the absence of Treas. Frank Suttell and of Ms. Kathleen Schmidt, the council reviewed the reports that were provided. **(EXHIBIT A)**

- A. Mission Support update**
- B. Financial Report**

6. New Business

A. Trexler Grant: Rev. John Havrilla

An ad hoc committee of MNYS staff members recommends approval of a \$1,000 Trexler grant to Pastor John Havrilla who plans to visit Italy to pursue conversations among Waldensians and Roman Catholics concerning their efforts entitled, "The Transforming Witness of Faith Communities in Reconciliation." Pastor Havrilla intends to learn, first hand, about how these communities have done more than "bury the hatchet," but have extended the arms of embrace with each other. In terms of applying what he learns to our own ministry context in the ELCA in North America, Pastor Havrilla reports that he would hope to apply new found wisdom to our own church body and those who have broken away as a result of the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly's decisions concerning human sexuality. Further, he hopes to be able to present a model of ecumenical relationships that emanate not just from theological discussion alone, but from the stories of those who have suffered in the past and those who have sought to bring about understanding and reconciliation. Pastor Havrilla has the support of his congregational leadership in making this trip to Italy.

ACTION SC13:10/03

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council award a Trexler Grant to the Rev. John Havrilla in the amount of \$1000 for his travel to Italy in 2014.

ADOPTED

B. Lutheran Schools Association: request/authorization for Thanksgiving Appeal

Pr. Linman reported that a request has been received from LSA for a Thanksgiving Appeal to selected congregations in the synod. The appeal's purpose is to raise LSA's visibility within Lutheran congregations. Selected congregations will be invited to direct the offering from their Thanksgiving Eve or Day Service to LSA . The Appeal will conclude the first week of December.

ACTION SC13:10/04

RESOLVED, that Lutheran Schools Association be permitted to conduct the specified appeal.

ADOPTED

C. St. Lydia's, Brooklyn: Bank account

Banking regulations require congregations wishing to open a bank account provide a copy of the resolution, recorded in a congregation's minutes, authorizing the opening of a new bank account that includes the listing of authorized signers on the account.

As a "Congregation under Development", St. Lydia's is not incorporated, but falls under the incorporation of the ELCA. Authorization by the Synod Council for St. Lydia's to open a new bank account (for their capital campaign funds) – recorded in the SC minutes will satisfy that requirement.

This action was deferred until the November council meeting. Bp. Rimbo will speak with Pr. Scott about signatories.

7. Old Business

A. Congregations under synod administration/Synod properties (EXHIBIT B)

a. St. Luke's, Bronx: We closed the sale of this property.

b. Zion, Brooklyn (update): Mr. Eugene Hiigel gave a brief report on initial meetings with the congregation.

B. Congregational Loan Status: Ms. Kathleen Schmidt provided report in absentia. (EXHIBIT C)

C. Pending:

a. MNYS Committee structure analysis

Bp. Rimbo reported that committee chairs have submitted summary sheets reporting committee membership, and activity over the last 12 months. The Steering Committee will review the summary sheets on Oct 29. The review will determine the integration of the synod's committees, commissions, and task forces within the Key Strategies.

b. Process for the Election of the synodical bishop

Bp. Reported that this committee has been meeting. VP Maria del Toro to attend the next meeting on Oct 23.

8. Other Reports

No other reports.

9. Announcements/Events

A. St. Thomas House dedication / open house: November 4 (4-8pm): Bp. Rimbo invited all council members to attend.

10. Observer's Evaluation:

Pr. El-Yateem gave his evaluation of meeting.

Pr. Linman spoke about the Saturday schedule for the retreat.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:37pm, with prayer by Pr. Marc Herbst.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Schoepflin, Secretary