SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS
*The Rev. William Baum 2016
The Rev. Rosalind Brathwaite 2016
Ms. Christine Connell, DM 2014
*Ms. Maria del Toro, Vice President 2014
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. Savanah 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. Perucy Butiku
Ms. Sarah Gioe
The Rev. Kathleen Koran
The Rev. Jonathan Linman
Dcn. Gayle Ruege
Ms. Kathleen Schmidt
Ms. Rebekah Thornhill
Ms. Minerva Melendez

Bold = present
*Member of Executive Committee

AUXILIARY MEMBERS

STAFF

GUESTS

Devotions:  Dcn. John Malone
Observer:  Ms. Barbara Johnson
Call to Order:  Ms. Maria del Toro at 5:21pm.

1. Adoption of the Agenda:  adopted as presented.

2. Adoption of the Minutes:  18 October 2013:  adopted as presented.
3. **Synod Council Retreat (debrief)**

   Bp. Rimbo led discussion on location, timing of business meeting, Saturday visioning session, and most importantly, the bocce tournament. Positive feedback about retreat center and holding business meeting on Friday night instead of Saturday. The visioning session was structured well and produced many good ideas that were passed on to the Sent Strategy Committee. It was determined that the bocce tournament was “rigged,” but thoroughly enjoyable.

4. **Strategic Plan**

   A. Report of the Steering Committee

      VP Del Toro gave report. There will be a meeting of all strategic plan committees on December 7 at Saint Peters, Manhattan. It was requested that each of the committees give a report at the December synod council meeting.

   B. Quadrant Visit weekends

      - January 10-12 (Quadrant 4: Bronx / Manhattan / Staten Island)
      - February 7 – 9 (Quadrant 1: Delaware- Hudson / Hudson / Tappan Zee)
      - March 7-9 (Quadrant 3: Queens, Brooklyn)

5. **Bishop’s Report**

   A. St. Thomas House dedication / open house (November 4)

      Bp. Rimbo reported that approximately 70 persons were in attendance at the dedication, including former congregation members, former pastors, synod council members and others, including some local political leaders.

   B. Calls:

      a. Rev. Krista Vingelis: *On Leave from Call effective 14 October 2013*

   **ACTION SC13:11/01**

   **RESOLVED**, that the Rev. Krista Vingelis be granted On Leave from Call status, effective October 14, 2013.

   **ADOPTED**

   C. Appointments

      a. Rev. Dr. Laurie Andersen: *Intentional Interim / Redeemer, Flushing effective 1 November 2013*
      b. Rev. F. Robert Modr: *Interim / Christ Islip Terrace effective 1 November 2013*
      c. John Daggan, MNYS Archivist: *Affiliated Director to the Lutheran Archives @ Philadelphia*
      d. Jack Martz: *Recommend for election as Non-affiliated Director to the Lutheran Archives @ Philadelphia*

      Bp. Rimbo announced these appointments (no council action necessary).

   D. MNYS Group / India Pilgrimage

      BP. Rimbo announced that the following individuals are on a pilgrimage that was organized by Pr. Daniel Peter: Pr. Perucy Butiku, Pr. Paul Block, Pr. Jeff Kolbo, Pr. Mary Chang, Pr. Brenda Irving, Mr. John Ogren, Dcn. Kamy Moghbeli, Dcn. Anita Williams, Dr. Fitzchaud Grant, Mrs. Marcia Grant, Dr. Jihana Grant and Ms. Camille Grant.
6. **Treasurer’s Report** *(EXHIBIT A)*
   A. Mission Support update  
   There was considerable discussion about mission support and congregations that do not make a commitment or fail to honor their commitments.

   B. Financial Report

7. **New Business**
   A. 2014 Synod Assembly Fees:
      • Voting Members: $140
      • Visitors: $75
      • Meal Package: $200 (excluding breakfast)

   **ACTION SC13:11/02**  
   *RESOLVED*, that the fees for the 2014 Synod Assembly be set as presented.  
   ADOPTED

   B. Executive Committee (vacant seat / Dec 2)  
   Pr. Marc Herbst announced his resignation, effective December 1, 2013, from the Synod Council/Executive Committee due to his call to synod staff. Pr. Craig Miller nominated Barbara Johnson to complete Pr. Herbst’s unexpired term on the Executive Committee. Nominations were closed and Ms. Johnson elected by acclamation.

   **ACTION SC13:11/03**  
   Barbara Johnson was elected to fill, effective December 2, 2013, the unexpired seat on the Executive Committee (seat left vacant due to the call of The Rev. Marc Herbst to synod staff).  
   ADOPTED

8. **Old Business**
   A. Congregations under synod administration/Synod properties  
   Bp. Rimbo reported meeting with Reformation, Brooklyn to discuss synod administration. Congregation voted unanimously to request that synod council apply synod administration, with the intent that congregation will close. Bp. Rimbo moved that synod council apply permanent synodical administration, pending receipt of written request, under the following resolution.

   **WHEREAS**, ENGLISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REFORMATION *(REFORMATION)* located at 105 Barbey Street, Brooklyn, New York is a member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America (ELCA) rostered with the Synod, and

   **WHEREAS**, the membership of REFORMATION has declined and dwindled to so few, and become so scattered and diminished in numbers as to make it impractical for REFORMATION to fulfill the purposes for which it was organized, and

   **WHEREAS**, REFORMATION has been suffering financially, operating in deficit, has and continues to suffer economic distress and as a result of which the Congregation is unable to maintain its properties in title and in proper repair and condition requiring the Synod to protect the property of
RE FORMATION from waste and deterioration, and

WHEREAS, at a joint meeting of the Members and the Congregation Council of RE FORMATION duly called, held on November 14, 2013 at which quorums of both the Congregation Council and the membership of RE FORMATION were present, a resolution was duly adopted for RE FORMATION to request the Synod to apply permanent synodical administration and to disband and, pursuant to its Constitution, turn over its assets to the Synod, and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the Synod, Section 13.24 provides in instances where a congregation’s membership has diminished such that it is unable to fulfill its mission and ministry for which it is organized and where economically it is unable to protect its property from waste and deterioration, the Synod may take charge and control of the property of such a congregation to hold, manage and convey the same on behalf of this Synod, and

WHEREAS, such charge and control of the property by the Synod, as provided in Section 13.24, may be through the appointment by Synod Council of trustees, and

WHEREAS, for good cause having been demonstrated the Synod has elected to apply synodical administration upon RE FORMATION and to take charge and control of RE FORMATION’s property to hold, manage, and convey the same on behalf of the Synod, and

WHEREAS, by virtue of the authority granted it by Section 13.24 of its Constitution, the Synod has requested Synod Council to consider applying synodical administration upon RE FORMATION pursuant to the terms and provisions of Section 13.24 and to take charge and control of the property of RE FORMATION, through the appointment of three trustees, and to hold, manage and convey such property on behalf of the Synod.

NOW THEREFORE, it is:

RESOLVED, that for the reasons set forth above, all of which are included and incorporated herein and made a part hereof as if fully set forth, the Synod pursuant to Section 13.24 of its constitution does hereby apply synodical administration over the property of RE FORMATION to take charge and control of the property of RE FORMATION and to hold, manage, and convey such property on behalf of the Synod, and it is further,

RESOLVED, that the following are hereby appointed as trustees, with the with full power to hold and manage the property of RE FORMATION on behalf of the Synod in all regards relating directly or indirectly to the taking charge and control of the property of RE FORMATION and in holding, managing and conveying such property of RE FORMATION on behalf of the Synod, to wit: Ms. Kathleen Schmidt, Pastor David Parsons (Dean), and Pastor Marc Herbst (Synod Council) and it is further,

RESOLVED, that the signature of any two of the Trustees acting to take charge and control of the property of RE FORMATION and to hold, manage, and convey the property of RE FORMATION on behalf of the Synod shall be binding upon and considered as the act of all of the Trustees. No person or party acting in reliance of the signature of such Trustees as binding upon all Trustees shall be charged with notice of any revocation or change of such authority unless he, she or it shall have received actual written notice thereof. No person or party shall be required to look behind the signature of such Trustees.

ACTION SC13:11/04

RESOLVED, that for the reasons set forth above, all of which are included and incorporated herein and made a part hereof as if fully set forth, the Synod pursuant to
Section 13.24 of its constitution does hereby apply synodical administration over the property of REFORMATION to take charge and control of the property of REFORMATION and to hold, manage, and convey on behalf of the Synod, and it is further,

RESOLVED, that the following are hereby appointed as trustees, with the with full power to hold and manage the property of REFORMATION on behalf of the Synod in all regards relating directly or indirectly to the taking charge and control of the property of REFORMATION and in holding, managing and conveying such property of REFORMATION on behalf of the Synod, to wit: Ms. Kathleen Schmidt, Pastor David Parsons (Dean), and Pastor Marc Herbst (Synod Council) and it is further,

RESOLVED, that the signature of any two of the Trustees acting to take charge and control of the property of REFORMATION and to hold, manage, and convey the property of REFORMATION on behalf of the Synod shall be binding upon and considered as the act of all of the Trustees. No person or party acting in reliance of the signature of such Trustees as binding upon all Trustees shall be charged with notice of any revocation or change of such authority unless he, she or it shall have received actual written notice thereof. No person or party shall be required to look behind the signature of such Trustees.

ADOPTED 20 in favor; 0 opposed; 0 abstentions.

Ms. Kathy Schmidt reported on other congregations under administration. (EXHIBIT B)

B. Congregational Loan Status (EXHIBIT C)

C. St. Lydia’s, Brooklyn: Bank account
   Pr. Schoepflin reported that we are awaiting direction on this matter from Congregational and Synodical Mission in Chicago.

D. Pending:
   b. MNYS Committee structure analysis
      VP Del Toro noted that report will be brought to December council meeting.

   c. Process for the Election of the synodical bishop
      Ms. Thornhill (synod administrative support to this committee) reported that the work of committee is on schedule. Four nominations have been received thus far. Up to seven nominees will be announced on April 1.

9. Other Reports
   A. Child Youth & Family Ministry Network (EXHIBIT D)
   B. Pr. W. Baum reported on the dedication at St. Barnabas, Howard Beach, of the post-Sandy work and restoration.
   C. Ms. Christine Connell submitted report of the actions of the Church Council (ELCA) (EXHIBIT E)

10. Announcements/Events
    A. Quadrant 2 Leaders Retreat (23 Nov 2013): St. Paul’s, East Northport (8:30 am – 3:00 pm)
11. Observer’s Evaluation

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm, with prayer by Pr. Marc Herbst.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Schoepflin, Secretary