

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

*The Rev. William Baum	2016
The Rev. Rosalind Brathwaite	2016
<i>Ms. Christine Connell, DM</i>	<i>2014</i>
*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
<i>Dr. Carlos Lopez</i>	<i>2014</i>
Dcn. John Malone	2014
*Ms. Minerva Melendez	2014
*The Rev. Paul Milholland	2014
The Rev. Craig Miller	2014
Dcn. John Prosen	2016
<i>Mr. Brian Reardon</i>	<i>2016</i>
*The Rev. Robert A. Rimbo, Bishop	2014
The Rev. Kit Robison	2014
Ms. Terra Rowe	2016
<i>*The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Sect.</i>	<i>2014</i>
<i>Ms. Abby Triebel, Young Adult</i>	<i>2016</i>
*Mr. Frank Suttell, Treas	2016
Mr. Christopher Vergara	2016
Ms. Karen Woolley	2016

AUXILLIARY MEMBERS

STAFF

The Rev. Perucy Butiku
Ms. Sarah Gioe
The Rev. Jack Horner
The Rev. Kathleen Koran
The Rev. Jonathan Linman
Dcn. Gayle Ruege
Ms. Kathleen Schmidt
Ms. Rebekah Wedge

GUESTS

Mr. Edward Wagner, Chair: FMC
Mr. Tom Massey, daxko T2 Consulting

Bold = present

Italics = excused absence

*Member of Executive Committee

Devotions: *Bishop Rimbo*

Observer: *Pr. Paul Milholland and Ms. Terra Rowe*

Call to Order: *Ms. Maria del Toro at 10:15 am*

- 1. Adoption of the Agenda:** adopted as amended
- 2. Adoption of the Minutes:** 19 March 2013: adopted as presented

3. Strategic Plan

A. Progress Report:

Mr. Tom Massey provided the Synod Council with an overview of the presentation to the Synod Assembly. Strategy Chairs: Pr. Emily Scott / CLAIMED, Pr. William Baum / GATHERED, Ms. Barbara Johnson / SENT gave a status-progress report to the Synod Council regarding their committee's work. Each chair briefed the Council on their individual presentations to the Synod Assembly.

B. Resolution: Additional temporary staff or Implementation of the Strategic Plan

ACTION: SC13:4/1

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan New York Synod's Strategic Plan 2013 - 2023 envisions reviewing ministries and making mission strategy recommendations; and

WHEREAS, our synod must provide pastoral care to congregations having completed their present ministry, and for congregations and pastors in their transitions; and

WHEREAS, the scope of this work cannot be fulfilled without additional temporary synod staff designated specifically to implement the mission strategy recommendations; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee of the Synod Council be authorized to engage a temporary Assistant to the Bishop for Strategic Plan Implementation, and to engage as a consultant, a temporary Synod Property Manager; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that their responsibilities will be solely directed toward implementation of mission strategy recommendations as directed by the Executive Committee; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Assistant to the Bishop for Strategic Plan Implementation will provide pastoral care and presence to congregations having completed their present ministry, and congregations and pastors in their transitions; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that a Synod Property Manager will provide logistical and coordinating support for property repurposing.

ADOPTED

4. Treasurer's Report (EXHIBIT A)

A. 2013 proposed amended budget / 2014 proposed budget

ACTION: SC13:4/2

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council recommend to the Synod Assembly on June 1, 2013, that it adopt the revised budget for 2013 and the proposed budget for 2014.

ADOPTED

B. Investment Policy (EXHIBIT B)

Mr. Edward Wagner, Chair of the Financial Management Committee reviewed the proposed synod investment policy. Action by the Synod Council will be on the June agenda.

C. Report of the Audit Committee (EXHIBIT C)

ACTION: SC13:4/3

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council adopt the Financial Statements and Report for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2013 prepared by Tait, Weller & Baker, certified public accountants, noting that in the opinion of the auditors the financial statements taken as a whole present fairly the financial position of the Metropolitan New York Synod in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

ADOPTED

D. Tait, Weller & Baker, Certified Public Accountants (2013-2014)

ACTION: SC13:4/4

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod retain the services of Tait, Weller & Baker, Certified Public Accountants for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2014

ADOPTED

5. Bishop's Report

A. Staff

- a. Resignation: Rev. Dr. Jack Horner
Pastor Horner has accepted a call to Trinity Lutheran Church, Camp Hill, PA. and will remain on staff through the 2013 Synod Assembly. Bishop Rimbo has been in conversation with the ELCA churchwide offices regarding the transition process until a new DEM is called. The open position (Director for Evangelical Mission) in the Metropolitan New York Synod has been posted on the ELCA and MNYS websites.
- b. Quarterly report of the MNYS Disaster Response Coordinator **(EXHIBIT D)**
Pastor Craig Miller provided a written report to the Synod Council and regularly posts updates regarding the recovery effort on our website: www.mnys.org/disasterrelief .

B. Calls:

- a. Rev. Marianne Tomecek: Interim Pastoral Ministry, Redeemer, Qns Village eff: 17 Mar 2013

ACTION: SC13:4/5

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council issue a call to the Rev. Marianne Tomecek as Intentional Interim Pastor to Redeemer Lutheran Church, Queens Village, New York effective 17 March 2013.

ADOPTED

- b. Rev. Emilce Erato: Interim Pastoral Ministry, Christ/Cristo, Freeport eff: 27 Apr 2013

ACTION: SC13:4/6

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council issue a call to the Rev. Emilce Erato as Intentional Interim Pastor to Christ ~ Cristo Lutheran Church, Freeport, New York effective 27 April 2013.

ADOPTED

C. Appointments

- a. Rev. John Backe: Interim Pastoral Ministry, Our Saviour, Croton-on-Hudson eff: 10 Mar 2013
- b. Rev. John Backe: Pastor, St. Thomas House, Bronx eff: 1 May 2013
- c. Rev. Paul Britton: Interim Pastoral Ministry, Trinity, Kingston eff: 1 March 2013
- d. Rev. Marianne Tomecek: Committee on Reference & Counsel / 2013 Synod Assembly

ACTION: SC13:4/7

RESOLVED, that the Rev. John Backe be appointed as Interim Pastor to Our Saviour, Croton-on-Hudson (effective 10 March 2013) and Pastor in Residence at St. Thomas House, Bronx (effective 1 May 2013); the Rev. Paul Britton be appointed as Interim Pastor to Trinity, Kingston (effective 1 March 2013); the Rev. Marianne Tomecek be appointed to the Committee on Reference & Counsel to the 2013 Synod Assembly.

ADOPTED

- D. Indonesian Lutheran Church, East Elmhurst
Bishop Rimbo and Pr. Horner met with Pr. Silaban and the leadership of Indonesian. The congregation will vote to close on April 28 and the final worship is scheduled for May 12.
- E. 2013 Synod Assembly
 - a. Agenda **(EXHIBIT E)**

ACTION: SC13:4/8

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council adopt the agenda for the May 31 – June 1, 2013 Synod Assembly as presented.

ADOPTED

- b. Update: registration, forums, commercials, Bulletin of Reports
Ms. Rebekah Wedge reported on a current registration of 483 participants. Sections B & C will be available on line on April 29.

6. New Business

- A. 2012 Synod Assembly Minutes **(EXHIBIT F)**
Copies of the 2012 SA minutes were provided to the Synod Council electronically.

ACTION: SC13:4/9

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the minutes of the 2012 Synod Assembly as presented.

ADOPTED

- B. Trexler Grants
 - a. Rev. Jeanine Duncan

ACTION: SC13:4/10

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve a \$1000 Trexler Grant for the Rev. Jeanine Owens for study/pilgrimage trip to Tanzania in June 2013.

APPROVED

7. Old Business

A. Leif Ericson Day School Resolution

ACTION: SC13:4/11

Whereas, the intention of the former Bethany Lutheran Church in Brooklyn to leave the assets of a possible sale of their parsonage as a legacy to support the continued mission of Leif Ericson Day School is well-documented in that former congregation's records;

Whereas, the parsonage of the former Bethany Lutheran Church was sold by the Metropolitan New York Synod during a time of cash flow crisis for the synod;

Whereas, our synod is on a more solid foundation financially and missionally with the strategic plan and also a vision for financial stabilization over the course of this decade, and the net proceeds of the sale of the parsonage are still invested in our synod's mission fund;

Whereas, the Metropolitan New York Synod has not lived into the fullness of the intended and legislated partnership relationship with Leif Ericson Day School since the closing of Bethany Lutheran Church;

Whereas, the eventual restoration of the net assets of the sale of the Bethany Lutheran Church parsonage to Leif Ericson Day School would contribute to the healing of broken trust between our synod and the school;

Whereas, returning the net proceeds of the parsonage sale to Leif Ericson Day School would indeed support a vital ministry and mission on the territory of our synod;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod commit itself in partnership with Leif Ericson Day School to a collaborative and mutually agreed upon process and timeline for the restoration of the net proceeds of the sale (currently understood as \$401,248) of the former Bethany Lutheran Church parsonage to Leif Ericson Day School, with a likely principal focus on use of funds for building repair and building improvement needs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Metropolitan New York Synod be represented on the Leif Ericson Day School Board in keeping with resolutions passed by the synod in 2008;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a working group comprised of Metropolitan New York Synod Council members and Leif Ericson Day School Board members be established to discern in a collaborative and mutually agreeable way the details of implementation of the above resolution, such details to be vetted by and voted on by the Metropolitan New York Synod Council and the Leif Ericson Day School Board.

ADOPTED

B. Bethlehem, Bronx: authorization to list for sale

ACTION: SC13:4/12

RESOLVED, that the property owned by the Synod located at 327 Bolton Avenue, Bronx, New York, formerly known as Bethlehem Lutheran Church, be listed for sale.

ADOPTED

C. St. Thomas House, Bronx: property usage

ACTION: SC13:4/13

RESOLVED, that the property owned by the Synod located at 1942 Grand Concourse, Bronx, New York, formerly the rectory of St. Thomas Lutheran Church (hereinafter the "Property"), be held and maintained by the Synod as a house for interns and other individuals serving within the Synod until August 31, 2014; and be it

RESOLVED, that in return for allowing interns, and other individuals to reside in the Property, the congregations and organizations being served by such interns, and other individuals will contribute to the expense of maintaining the Property; and be it

RESOLVED, that no later than its meeting in June 2014, the Synod Council will determine whether or not to continue to hold and maintain the Property beyond August 31, 2014.

ADOPTED

- D. Congregations under synod administration **(EXHIBIT G)**
Ms. Kathy Schmidt reported
- E. Congregational Loan Status / Synod Properties **(EXHIBIT H)**
Ms. Kathy Schmidt reported
- F. Christ Chinese Lutheran Church, Brooklyn (update)
Pastor Horner provided a status report on the progress the ELCA is making with Christ Chinese (re-payment of the Partnership grants). The congregation leaders at Christ Chinese have given a verbal agreement for repayment of the grants and attorneys are currently drafting signed agreement.
- G. Pending:
 - a. MNYS Committee structure analysis
 - b. Process for the Election of the synodical bishop
 - c. 2013 Churchwide Assembly

8. Other Reports

9. Announcements/Events

10. Observer's Evaluation

Adjourned with prayer at 3:17 pm

Deacon Gayle Ruege
Executive Assistant to the Bishop