

**SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS**

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

**AUXILLIARY MEMBERS**

**The Rev. Leo ("Jay") Longan, Jr.; Conf. of Deans**

**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**  
**The Rev. Marc Herbst**  
**The Rev. Lamont Wells**

**GUESTS**

**Bold = present**

*Italics = excused absence*

\*Member of Executive Committee

---

*Observer: Ms. Hazel Goldstein*

*Opening Prayer: Pr. Khader El-Yateem*

*Call to Order: Bishop Rimbo at 5:15pm*

**1. Adoption of the Agenda:** adopted as presented

**2. Adoption of the Minutes:** 11 February 2014: adopted.

### 3. Strategic Plan

#### A. Report on the Quadrant 3 Visit (March 7-9, 2014)

Bp. Rimbo reported on Friday evening dinner with 65 participants, Saturday Leaders Retreat with 115 participants, and Sunday congregation visits.

He reported that Quadrant visits were successful events. There were 275 participants altogether in the Friday dinners, and 500+ participants in the Leaders retreats. Bishop and his staff are planning for a new round of Quadrant visits in 2014 – 2015.

#### B. Report of the Steering Committee / Committee Updates

All three committees are working on the development of concrete resources to present at Synod Assembly in various forms.

Gathered Committee will begin work on developing the criteria for the grant programs

##### a. Communications Consultant update: Pr. Marc Herbst reported on the following items:

- i. Synod wide release of adopted resolutions has generated excitement and good spirit.  
**EXHIBIT A**
- ii. Dedication: Bp. Rimbo was invited to represent Lutheran Church at the dedication of a special new space (A Living Memorial to the Holocaust in Lower Manhattan) at the Jewish Heritage Museum. Major religious and political leaders Gov. Cuomo, Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Rabbi Joseph Potasnick, and others were present for this event.
- iii. Newsday Article reported that Bp. Rimbo encouraged congregations (“snow angels”) to reach out to help the elderly and shut-in during the snow storms.
- iv. Wall Street Journal Article: there was tremendous response to the biographical article on Bp. Rimbo from around the country.
- v. New York Times Article:  
Bp. Rimbo spoke about the article reporting on the dean election in Southwest Brooklyn Conference. Bp. Rimbo had nominated Pr. Samuel Cruz. His nomination was opposed by several persons at the meeting. Conference nominated and elected Pr. David Rommereim. Bp. Rimbo will meet with all the pastors of the conference and together decide how the conference can move forward and work together. Pr. El-Yateem, who was present at the meeting as a member of the conference, reported that the article was very misleading.
- vi. Food Packing: at St. Luke’s, New Rochelle, headed up by Pr. Danielle Miller. This was reported on by WPIX and FOX television networks.
- vii. NBC Interview: Bp. Rimbo was invited by NBC 4 reporter, Pei-Sze Cheng to participate on an interfaith panel to reflect on the one year anniversary of Pope Francis’ election. The program aired “live” on March 10. Pei-Sze Cheng indicated that she would like to convene the panel again for other faith stories.
- viii. Washington Post: ran an article “Ashes to Go” (following Ash Wednesday) which included distribution of ashes in Union Square on Ash Wednesday by Gustavus Adolphus.
- ix. Public Relations / Communications workshops: Our communications consultant has provided communication seminars in Plainview and Manhattan for the purpose of improving and expanding public relations skills. The final seminary will be on March 29 at Christ, Newburgh.
- x. News12 Brooklyn covered dedication at Lutheran Medical Center.

Bp. Rimbo reported that as a result of the Jewish Heritage Museum event and the NBC panel participation, he is experiencing a growing relationship with Rabbi Joseph Potasnick.

b. Management Tool Box

Pr. Herbst reported on programs that are being examined and developed to assist congregations with payroll processing, energy costs, insurance coverage, supply purchasing, congregation audits, and web-site development.

c. Pilot Projects Update

Pr. Herbst reported on the pilot projects underway in the Bronx, Western Nassau and Southwest Queens.

#### 4. Bishop's Report

A. Calls:

a. Rev. William Eggers: *On Leave from Call effective 19 January 2014*

**ACTION SC14:03/01**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve On Leave from Call status for the Rev. William Eggers effective 19 January 2014.**

**ADOPTED**

b. Rev. ElizaBeth Nebrasky: *On Leave from Call extension through 2016 – renewed annually*

**ACTION SC14:03/02**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve an extension of On Leave from Call status for the Rev. ElizaBeth Nebrasky for two years through February 2016 (with annual renewal), pending approval from the Conference of Bishops, and to forward this request to the Roster Committee of the Conference of Bishops.**

**ADOPTED**

c. Rev. Diane Wildow: *On Leave from Call effective 27 January 2014*

**ACTION SC14:03/03**

**RESOLVED, that the Synod council table consideration of this request until the April meeting of the Synod Council, since this request was received after the agenda was set by the Executive Committee.**

**ADOPTED**

d. Rev. Frederick Johnson: resigned from ELCA roster of ordained clergy

Bp. Rimbo announced this resignation. Pr. Johnson never served in the synod, he served as a chaplain in the military.

**ACTION SC14:03/04**

**RESOLVED, that the Synod council accept the resignation of the Rev. Frederick Johnson from the ELCA roster of ordained clergy.**

**ADOPTED**

- B. Appointments: Bp. Rimbo announced that he had made the following appointments:
- a. Rev. Jennifer Richards: Assembly Planning Committee / 1 year extension
  - b. Rev. Rodney Smith: Assembly Planning Committee
  - c. Rev. Jeanne Warfield: Chair, Reference & Counsel Committee
  - d. Mr. Barry Gogel: Reference & Counsel Committee
  - e. Judge Daniel Joy: Reference & Counsel Committee
  - f. Dcn. John Prosen: Reference & Counsel Committee
  - g. Rev. Marianne Tomecek: Reference & Counsel Committee
  - h. Ms. Meaghan Atkinson: Reference & Counsel Committee
  - i. Rev. Kathleen Koran: Bishop's Liaison to Research Team / Gathered Strategy Committee
  - j. Ms. Kathleen Schmidt: Bishop's Liaison to Research Team / Gathered Strategy Committee
  - k. Ms. Renee Wicklund: Innovative Ministries Team / Gathered Strategy Committee
- C. Congregations
- a. St. Peter's, Port Jervis  
Pr. Koran / Kathy Schmidt reported on their work with the congregation.

**ACTION SC14:03/05**

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council temporarily assume administration of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Port Jervis in accordance with the Procedures for "Temporary" Synod Administration (\$13.25)\*, and ask the congregation to concur in this application. \*[As adopted by the Synod Council on 17 September 2011]

**ADOPTED**

**ACTION SC14:03/06**

**RESOLVED**, that the following are hereby appointed as trustees of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Port Jervis, who will report quarterly to the Synod Council: Rev. Ernst Mossi (Dean, Delaware-Hudson Conference); Ms. Hazel Goldstein (Synod Council); Rev. Kathleen Koran (MNYS staff).

**ADOPTED**

- b. St. Peter's, 140<sup>th</sup> Street, Bronx
  - i. Trustees

Bp. Rimbo reported that new trustees need to be appointed for this congregation already under synod administration.

**ACTION SC14:03/07**

**RESOLVED**, that the following are hereby appointed as trustees for St. Peter's, 140<sup>th</sup> Street, Bronx and will report quarterly to the Synod Council: Rev. Fernando Otero (Dean, Bronx Conference); Mr. Christopher Vergara (Synod Council); Rev. Lamont Wells (MNYS staff).

**ADOPTED**

**5. Treasurer's Report:**

- A. Mission Support update

Treasurer Suttell reported that audit is underway, and that we are doing well with our budget. Mission Support report attached as **EXHIBIT B**

## 6. New Business

- A. Trexler Grant: Rev. William Munz

### ACTION SC14:03/08

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council award a Trexler Grant to the Rev. William Munz in the amount of \$1000 for his travel to the Holy Land in 2014.

### ADOPTED

- B. Trinity, White Plains: sale of parsonage:

A letter was received from the congregation requesting that Synod Council take no exception to the sale of its parsonage. The Council reviewed and discussed the request.

### ACTION SC14:03/09

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council notify Trinity Lutheran Church, White Plains, that it takes exception to the sale of its parsonage because the congregation's vote was taken on the basis of inaccurate and inadequate information.

### ADOPTED

- C. 2013 Synod Assembly minutes

### ACTION SC14:03/10

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the minutes of the 2013 Synod Assembly as presented.

### ADOPTED

## 7. Old Business

- A. Congregations under synod administration/Synod properties **EXHIBIT C**  
B. Congregational Loan Status: **EXHIBIT D**

- C. Christ Chinese, Brooklyn:

*Whereas*, upon prayerful and amicable resolution of issues surrounding the property of Christ Chinese Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, NY and having entered into a Settlement Agreement and Promissory Note; and having received the initial payment in the agreement, and having agreed to a schedule of payments over 15 years from the congregation, be it

**RESOLVED**, that with regret, the Metropolitan New York Synod Council remove Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, NY from the roster of the Metropolitan New York Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

### ACTION SC14:03/11

**RESOLVED**, that with regret, the Metropolitan New York Synod Council remove Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, NY from the roster of the Metropolitan New York Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

### ADOPTED

- D. Sion Iglesia Luterana:

- a. Release from synod administration
- b. Covenant amendment

*Whereas*, with the sale of Sion Iglesia Luterana's property and the satisfaction of loan obligations to the Metropolitan New York Synod; and

*Whereas*, the congregation council of Sion Church requests that the three year covenant adopted by the Synod Council, Saint Peter's Church and Sion signed in September 2012 be amended to authorize that the administration of the remaining funds (*from the proceeds from the sale of the property*) be moved from an account administered solely by Sion to a segregated account administered jointly by Sion and Saint Peter's Church, Manhattan; be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council remove Sion Iglesia Luterana from synod administration and authorize that the remaining funds (*from the proceeds from sale of the property*) be administered jointly by Sion and Saint Peter's Church, Manhattan.

#### **ACTION SC14:03/12**

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council remove Sion Iglesia Luterana from synod administration and authorize that the remaining funds (*from the proceeds from sale of the property*) be administered jointly by Sion and Saint Peter's Church, Manhattan.

#### **ADOPTED**

- E. Wider Church Fund Grants – letters of appreciation: **EXHIBIT E**
- F. Pending:
  - b. MNYS Committee structure analysis
  - c. Process for the Election of the synodical bishop:

Secretary Schoepflin reported that Maria del Toro, Tom Massey and he met with the Election Committee to bring them up to date on the Strategic Plan as they begin the final discernment process of candidate selection. Ms. Rebekah Thornhill reported that the committee is working and will release its report of nominees and meetings by April 1.

#### **8. Other Reports**

- A. Children, Youth and Family :

Dcn. Charles Germain gave report. **EXHIBIT F**

#### **9. Announcements/Events**

- A. Lord, Teach Us to Pray : March 22 10am – 3pm (Wartburg, Mt. Vernon):
- B. Public Relations workshop: March 29 10 – 11:30 am (Christ, Newburgh):
- C. Wrestling with Tradition: April 7 10am – 3pm (Interchurch Center, Manhattan)

#### **10. Observer's Evaluation**

- 11. Closing Devotions** : led by Pr. El-Yateem

**Meeting was adjourned at 7:41 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert Schoepflin, Secretary