

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
The Rev. Khader El-Yateem 2016
Dcn Charles Germain 2014
Ms. Hazel Goldstein 2016
Ms. Barbara Hansen 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
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**

Opening Prayer: Pr. Jonathan Linman / Closing Devotions: Brian Reardon

Observer: Barbara Hansen

Call to Order: by VP Del Toro at 5:07 pm.

- 1. Adoption of the Agenda:** adopted as presented.
- 2. Adoption of the Minutes:** 10 December 2013: adopted as presented.
- 3. Report on Constitutional Changes:** *In accordance with actions of the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Secretary Schoepflin will brief the SC at the February meeting*

4. Strategic Plan

- A. Report on the Quadrant 4 Visit (January 10-12, 2014)
- Friday evening dinner at St. John's, Manhattan had 60 in attendance / social gathering of our pastors and spouses/partners.
 - Saturday retreat at Our Saviour's Atonement, Manhattan had approx 100 attendees
 - Synod staff and Synod Council members participated in Sunday congregation visits among congregations in Manhattan, Staten Island, Bronx
- B. Report of the Steering Committee / Committee Updates
- a. Proposal for Communications Consultant **(EXHIBIT A)**
Last month Pr. Herbst reported that he had sent a RFP to 8 Communications / Public Relations firms requesting a proposal for a comprehensive communications strategy for our synod. Three firms submitted RFP's. The Executive Committee reviewed Rubenstein's proposal and voted to contract with Rubenstein (Strategic Communications and Media Relations) in accordance with the terms and conditions outlined in their proposal.

ACTION SC14:1/01

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council ratify the decision of the Executive Committee to contract with Rubenstein Strategic Communications and Media Relations in accordance with the terms and conditions defined in the proposal.

ADOPTED

- b. Pastoral Care Team:
Members of the Pastoral Care Team will accompany Marc Herbst for pastoral visits with pastors and congregations to determine the level of care and accompaniment necessary to assist congregations during varied levels of transition. Five pastors have been appointed to the Pastoral Care Team (they are listed in the Bishop's Report – under appointments).

5. Bishop's Report

- A. Calls:
a. Rev. Kimberli Lile: *Interim Pastor / Christ, Floral Park effective February 9, 2014*

ACTION SC14:1/02

RESOLVED, that the Rev. Kimberli Lile be called to serve Christ Lutheran Church, Floral Park as Interim Pastor effective 9 February 2014.

ADOPTED

- b. Rev. Anthony Bateza: *On leave from call status (annual renewal) through September 2016*
c. Deacon Kamy Moghbeli: *On Leave from Call status effective April 1, 2013*

ACTION SC14:1/03

RESOLVED, that the Rev. Anthony Bateza be granted annual renewal of *On Leave from Call* status and that Deacon Kamy Moghbeli be granted *On Leave from Call* status effective 1 April 2013.

B. Appointments

- a. Rev. John Backe: *Intentional Interim Pastor / Christ, Staten Island effective February 1, 2014*
b. Rev. Rebecca Pollicino: *MNYS Outreach Table / Committee*
c. Rev. Dr. Kimberly Wilson: *MNYS Assembly Planning Committee*
d. Marc Stutzel: *Innovation Team / Gathered Committee*

- e. Rev. Benjamin McKelahan: *Innovation Team / Gathered Committee*
- f. Rev. Emily Scott: *Innovation Team / Gathered Committee*
- g. Rev. Lamont Anthony Wells: *Bishop's Liaison to Innovation Team / Gathered Committee*
- h. William Rampe (Quad 1): *MNYS Nomination Committee*
- i. Rev. Kit Robison (Quad 2): *MNYS Nomination Committee*
- j. Nadine Cordes (Quad 3): *MNYS Nomination Committee*
- k. Rev. William Eggers (Quad 4): *MNYS Nomination Committee*
- l. Rev. Amdandus Derr: *MNYS Pastoral Care Team*
- m. Rev. Emilce Erato: *MNYS Pastoral Care Team*
- n. Rev. Brenda Irving: *MNYS Pastoral Care Team*
- o. Rev. John Jurik: *MNYS Pastoral Care Team*
- p. Rev. Ernst Mossl: *MNYS Pastoral Care Team*
- q. Rev. Perucy N. Butiku: *Healing Center, Inc., Board of Directors*

Bishop Rimbo announced these appointments (no action necessary)

C. Congregations

- a. First, Poughkeepsie **(EXHIBIT B)**

A copy of Pastor Deborah DeWinter / Nancy Compton's letter in response to the matching grant awarded to the congregation was provided to the Synod Council

D. Bishop's Benevolence Task Force: *Wider Church Fund Grants*

The Benevolence Task Force met January 15 to review 12 grant applications. A listing of the grant recipients is included in the binder. Total grants awarded: \$201,900

• Association of Lutheran Church Musicians	\$15,000
• Christ for the World Chapel (JFK Airport)	\$10,000
• Eger Health Care and Rehabilitation Center	\$15,000
• Emmaus House of Harlem	\$25,000
• Gayle Lyn Kliever Student Fund	\$10,000
• Lutheran Church in Liberia Trauma Healing and Reconciliation Program	\$25,000
• Lutheran Music Program	\$20,000
• Lutheran Schools Association	\$7,500
• Martin Luther Camp Corp (Koinonia)	\$29,400
• Parish Resource Center of Long Island, Inc.	\$5,000
• Seafarer's & International House	\$20,000
• Trinity Healing Center, Inc.	\$20,000

E. Staff Reports / Introduction of Pr. Lamont Wells

6. Treasurer's Report: (EXHIBIT C)

A. Mission Support update:

Treasurer Frank Suttell reported that mission support in December was below the budgeted amount. There were significant receipts in January, but we are still below budget for the year.

B. Financial Report:

Mr. Suttell presented the Summary Balance Sheet and the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures as of 31 December 2013.

7. New Business

A. MNYS 2014 Partnership Grants (EXHIBIT D)

The Outreach Committee met with Pr. Michael Benethum and Pr. Lamont Wells (via conf call) in November to allocate funding for our Partnership Grants. The Financial Management Committee reviewed the Synod's grant allocation total at their January meeting.

ACTION SC14: 1/04

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the 2014 Partnership Grant allocations determined by the MNYS Outreach Table.

ADOPTED

B. Mission Plan / merger Augustana, East Elmhurst and Grace, Astoria (EXHIBIT E)

Augustana, East Elmhurst and Grace, Astoria have requested that the Synod Council review and approve the proposed Mission Plan and legal merger of the congregations.

ACTION SC14:1/05

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the proposed Mission Plan of Augustana Lutheran Church, East Elmhurst and Grace Lutheran Church, Astoria to pursue legal merger of the congregations and, takes no exception to the listing of Augustana's building for sale.

ADOPTED

8. Old Business

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

B. Congregational Loan Status (EXHIBIT G)

C. St. Lydia's, Brooklyn: *bank account signatories*

Banking regulations require congregations wishing to open a bank account provide a copy of the resolution, recorded in the congregation's minutes. The resolution must include the names of signatories 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.

ACTION SC14/1:06

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council authorize St. Lydia's Church, Brooklyn to open a congregation bank account designated for capital campaign funds; listing the Rev. Emily Scott and Phil Fox Rose as authorized signatories on the account.

ADOPTED

D. Leif Ericson Day School

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 (LEDS) 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 (MNYS) during a time of cash flow crisis for the synod;

Whereas the Metropolitan New York Synod Council voted to 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 parsonage sale to Leif Ericson Day School;

Whereas the Metropolitan New York Synod now has representation on the Leif Ericson Day School Board in keeping with resolutions passed by the synod in 2008 and 2013;

Whereas a working group comprised of Metropolitan New York Synod Council and staff members and Leif Ericson Day School Board, staff and community members has been established to discern and recommend a collaborative and mutually agreeable way to implement the MNYS resolution to return the net proceeds of the sale of the former Bethany Church parsonage to Leif Ericson Day School;

Whereas members of this working group determined and agreed that the current value of the net proceeds of the sale of the former Bethany Church parsonage (less sale-related costs and other expenses incurred by our synod for the maintenance and care of LEDS-related buildings) is \$473,199.23

Whereas rounding this figure up to \$475,000 acknowledges in a modest way possible interest on funds that LEDS might have earned in intervening years;

Therefore be it resolved that the Metropolitan New York Synod restore to Leif Ericson Day School \$475,000 payable in one lump sum to fulfill its commitment to justice in returning to LEDS funds intended to support the school;

Be it further resolved that the working group consisting of representatives of both MNYS and LEDS commit itself to discerning, studying and making recommendations about questions of corporate ownership and governance for LEDS, seeking to define and appropriately strengthen the relationship between LEDS and MNYS;

Be it further resolved that the LEDS/MNYS working group commit itself to discerning the possibility of and to make recommendations about calling (a) chaplain(s) to serve the Word and Sacrament ministry needs of the LEDS community.

ACTION SC14:1/07

Therefore be it resolved that the Metropolitan New York Synod restore to Leif Ericson Day School \$475,000 payable in one lump sum to fulfill its commitment to justice in returning to LEDS funds intended to support the school;

Be it further resolved that the working group consisting of representatives of both MNYS and LEDS commit itself to discerning, studying and making recommendations about questions of corporate ownership and governance for LEDS, seeking to define and appropriately strengthen the relationship between LEDS and MNYS;

Be it further resolved that the LEDS/MNYS working group commit itself to discerning the possibility of and to make recommendations about calling (a) chaplain(s) to serve the Word and Sacrament ministry needs of the LEDS community.

ADOPTED

- E. Pending:
 - b. MNYS Committee structure analysis
 - c. Process for the Election of the synodical bishop

9. Other Reports

- A. Synod Assembly Update
Assembly registration has opened and is posted on the website.

10. Announcements/Events

- A. Quadrant 1 Leaders Retreat (8 Feb 2014): St. John's, Middletown (8:30 am – 3 pm)
- B. March 7-9 (Quadrant 3: Queens, Brooklyn)
- C. MNYS Events Page

11. Observer's Evaluation

Brian Reardon led the Council in closing devotions. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Deacon Gayle E. Ruege
Executive Assistant to the Bishop