

**SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**Mr. Daquan Baker (Youth)** 2016  
**\*The Rev. William Baum** 2016  
**The Rev. Rosalind Brathwaite** 2016  
**\*Ms. Maria del Toro, Vice President** 2018  
**\*The Rev. Khader El-Yateem** 2016  
**\*Ms. Hazel Goldstein** 2016  
**The Rev. Brenda Irving** 2016  
**Ms. Barbara Johnson** 2016  
**The Rev. Amy Kienzle** 2018  
**Dr. John Litke** 2018  
**Dr. Carlos Lopez** 2014  
**Dcn. John Malone** 2014  
**Ms. Karen Maulen** 2015  
**The Rev. Craig Miller** 2018  
**Mr. Walter Nash** 2018  
*Dcn. Lulu Paolini* 2018  
**The Rev. Daniel Peter** 2018  
**Dcn. John Prosen** 2016  
*Mr. Brian Reardon* 2016  
**\*The Rev. Robert A. Rimbo, Bishop** 2020  
**Ms. Terra Rowe** 2016  
**The Rev. Harry Schenkel** 2018  
**\*The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Sect.** 2018  
**\*Mr. Frank Suttell, Treasurer** 2016  
**Ms. Wendy Bean Tannenbaum** 2018  
*Ms. Abby Triebel (Young Adult)* 2016  
**\*Mr. Christopher Vergara** 2016  
**Ms. Karen Woolley** 2016

**AUXILIARY MEMBERS**

**STAFF**

**The Rev. Perucy Butiku**  
**Ms. Sarah Gioe**  
**The Rev. Marc Herbst**  
**The Rev. Kathleen Koran**  
**The Rev. Jonathan Linman**  
**Dcn. Gayle Ruege**  
**Ms. Kathleen Schmidt**  
**Ms. Rebekah Thornhill**  
**The Rev. Lamont Wells**

**GUESTS**

**Bold = present**

*Italics = excused absence*

**\*Member of Executive Committee**

---

*Opening Prayer: By Bp. Rimbo*

*Observer: Abby Triebel*

*Call to Order: Ms. Maria del Toro at 5:10pm.*

- 1. Adoption of the Agenda:** adopted as presented.
- 2. Adoption of the Minutes:** 11 November 2014: adopted as presented.
- 3. Strategic Plan Implementation Status Reports**

a. Bronx Conference

Pr. Herbst reported that a follow-up meeting has been scheduled for January 22 with Bronx pastors to review the Daxko report. Participants will include the Pastoral Care Team – representatives from Wartburg – Phipps Development – Executive Committee / Steering Committee and staff.

b. SW Queens Consolidation

- Establishment of an LLC
- Our legal counsel prepared a document that could serve as a guide to facilitate the SW Queens consolidation. Vote by congregations will take place on Transfiguration Sunday.

**ACTION SC 14:12/01**

**RESOLVED, that the Synod Council of the Metropolitan New York Synod, after reviewing and having had preliminary conversations with the clergy and lay leaders of congregations in Southwest Queens that are having difficulties in fulfilling the purposes for which they were formed, authorizes the Synod to enter into more formal discussions with and examinations of those congregations and their appropriate clergy, lay leaders and members of the congregations for the purposes of formulating and presenting to the Synod Council for approval, a comprehensive plan for addressing the difficulties these congregations are facing and assisting them with their ministry resources and missional attitudes, which plan may include consolidating the existing congregations, transferring ownership of their property to the Synod, selling those properties and creating a new, combined congregation that will worship in a new state-of-the-art multipurpose church facility in Southwest Queens, and entering into other related agreements in furtherance of the plan, all of which agreements shall be subject to further approval of the Synod Council.**

**ADOPTED**

After discussion, the executive committee was tasked with bringing a resolution to the January SC meeting regarding the formation of one or more limited liability companies to take ownership of the properties.

c. Western Nassau

Over 100 Congregation leaders met recently to discuss and explore shared ministry under the leadership of Pr. Richard Hill. A report will be provided by Pr. Hill at a later date.

B. Quadrant Visits: Bp Rimbo spoke about the visits which are scheduled.

The visits will include:

- Individual appointments for each pastor with Bp. Rimbo
- Dinner with rostered leaders (other than pastors)(Wed / Thursday)
- Clergy appreciation dinner on Friday evening
- Workshop: Congregation Strategic Planning on Saturday
- Sunday visits / Bishop, Staff and Synod Council

a. Jan 30 – Feb 1: Quadrant 4 (Bronx, Manhattan, Staten Island)

- Clergy appreciation dinner: Trinity Lower East Side Parish
- Saturday workshop: Gustavus Adolphus

b. Feb 27 – Mar 1: Quadrant 3 (Brooklyn, Queens)

c. Mar 27 – 29: Quadrant 1 (Hudson, Delaware-Hudson, Tappan Zee)

d. May 1-3: Quadrant 2 (Nassau, Suffolk)

#### 4. Bishop's Report

##### A. Calls

- a. Rev. Robert A. Vogl: *On Leave from Call effective Sep 7, 2014*

##### **ACTION SC 14:12/02**

**RESOLVED, that the Rev. Robert A. Vogl be granted On Leave from Call status, effective September 7, 2014.**

**ADOPTED**

- b. Deacon Penny Liles: *On Leave from Call effective Oct 20, 2014*

##### **ACTION SC 14:12/03**

**RESOLVED, that Deacon Penny Liles be granted On Leave from Call status, effective October 20, 2014.**

**ADOPTED**

- c. Deacon Ursil Silcott: *Request to be removed from the Synodical Diaconate roster effective Oct 30 2014, at her own request.*

##### **ACTION SC 14:12/04**

**RESOLVED, that Deacon Ursil Silcott be removed from the roster of the Synodical Diaconate, effective October 20, 2014.**

**ADOPTED**

##### B. Appointments

Bp. Rimbo announced the following appointments.

- a. Dcn. John Prosen: *Chair, Diaconate Council*
- b. Pr. David Grainson: *Diaconate Council*
- c. Pr. Kimberly Wilson: *Diaconate Council*
- d. Judy Lorkowski: *Tanzania Companionship Committee*
- e. The Rev. Dr. John Krahn: *Intentional Interim Pastoral Ministry / Faith, Syosset effective Nov 16, 2014*

##### C. ELCA Campaign **EXHIBIT A**

Pr. Wells spoke about the content and collaboration of the Campaign Goals.

He also spoke about our synods' implementation of the campaign that includes raising synodical funds (50/50 campaign).

A developed proposal for our implementation of the campaign will be brought to synod council in February.

#### 5. Treasurer's Report: by Mr. Frank Suttell

##### A. November Financials **EXHIBIT B**

##### B. November Mission Support Report **EXHIBIT C**

Mr. Suttell reported that during November we received \$95,437 in Mission Support vs. a budgeted amount of \$107,103, so we are behind for the month by \$11,646.

Year-to-date we have received \$855,753 vs. a budgeted amount of \$920,849, giving us a shortfall of \$65,096.

But our bottom line is good because our expenditures are under budget.

#### 6. New Business

##### A. Housing Allowances

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| Marc Herbst        | \$50,000 |
| Jonathan Linman    | \$27,500 |
| Kathleen Koran     | \$38,000 |
| Benjamin McKelahan | \$27,000 |
| Eric Mull          | \$12,000 |
| Anna Rieke         | \$22,832 |
| Robert Rimbo       | \$54,000 |
| Emily Scott        | \$21,600 |

**ACTION SC 14:12/05**

**RESOLVED, that 2015 housing allowances for the called staff of the Synod be approved as presented.**  
**ADOPTED**

- B. 2015 Synod Assembly fee schedule (May 29-30, 2015) Presented by Ms. Rebekah Thornhill
- Voting Members: \$125 (Feb 1 – Apr 15)  
\$175 (Apr 16 – May 11)  
\$300 (May 12 – May 30)
  - Visitor: \$ 50 (Feb 1 – Apr 15)  
\$100 (Apr 16 – May 11)  
\$200 (May 12 – May 30)
  - Meal Package: \$175 (optional, but only if registered by May 11)

**ACTION SC 14:12/06**

**RESOLVED, that the fees for the 2015 Synod Assembly be set as presented.**  
**ADOPTED**

- C. Synod Diaconate Guidelines (revision):  
Jonathan Linman presented the revised Guidelines. **EXHIBIT D**  
Vote on the revised Guidelines was deferred until the Jan 2015 synod council meeting.

**7. Old Business**

- A. Congregations / properties under synod administration **EXHIBIT E**  
Ms. Kathy Schmidt reported
- B. Congregation Loan status **EXHIBIT F**  
Ms. Kathy Schmidt reported
- C. St. Peter's, Port Jervis  
Ms. Goldstein presented report of the trustees, who are Pr. Kathleen Koran, Pr. Ernie Mossl and Ms. Hazel Goldstein.  
VP Del Toro called for prayer before voting on the recommendations of the trustees.

**ACTION SC 14:12/07**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the recommendations presented by the Trustees regarding the current and future ministry of St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, Port Jervis, NY.**

**ADOPTED (unanimously)**

D. Messiah, Flushing / Wartburg partnership: Trustees of Messiah are Pr. Marc Herbst, Pr. Daniel Peter, and Mr. Christopher Vergara

Pr. Herbst reported. Mr. Suttell expressed the thoughts of the FMC on this matter.

VP del Toro asked Pr. Peter to lead the council in prayer prior to voting.

**ACTION SC 14:12/08**

**RESOLVED, that the Synod Council of the Metropolitan New York Synod authorizes the Synod to enter into a purchase and sale agreement with the Wartburg and other necessary parties, for the development of low cost senior housing on the property currently owned by Messiah Lutheran Church, Flushing, New York, and other related agreements in furtherance of that development, all of which agreements shall be subject to further approval of the Synod Council.**

**ADOPTED (For: 24 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0)**

D. Jeffersonville property

Ms. Kathy Schmidt reported on the efforts to find a purchaser for this property.

**ACTION SC 14:12/09**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council accept the offer of \$87,500 for the property located at 3 Main Street (Route 52), Jeffersonville, NY 12748.**

**ADOPTED (For: 24 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0)**

F. MNYS Disaster Response Plan: Presented by Pr. Craig Miller, MNYS Disaster Coordinator

**ACTION SC 14:12/10**

**RESOLVED, that the Synod Council of the Metropolitan New York Synod approve the MNYS Disaster Plan and recommend its adoption to the 2015 Synod Assembly with the following implementation recommendations:**

- 1. The Metropolitan New York Synod adopts the Disaster Plan**
- 2. The MNYS will establish a permanent Disaster Response and Planning web page and make this Disaster Plan available on the page**
- 3. The MNYS establishes a Disaster Response Task Force consisting at least one person from each quadrant, a member of the synod staff, a representative from LSSNY. The Disaster Response Task Force will maintain familiarity with the Disaster Plan and ensure the Disaster Response and Planning web page contains current information and links, and assist the bishop and synod to assess the nature and scope of a disaster and appropriate synod response. The convener of the Disaster Response Task Force will participate in the Lutheran Disaster Response network.**
- 4. The MNYS calls upon congregations to develop and implement congregational disaster plans and share Those plans with the synod office**
- 5. The MNYS encourages all rostered leaders to develop and implement personal or family disaster plans as examples of good stewardship.**

**ADOPTED**

G. Pending

- MNYS Committee structure
- Report on the Process for Election of a Bishop

**8. Announcements/Events**

**9. Observer's Evaluation – Abby Triebel**

**10. Closing Devotions – Pr. Harry Schenkel**

**Next Synod Council meeting: January 27, 2015 (LSSNY Board Room – Suite 1244)**

- Observer: John Litke
- Opening/Closing devotions: Terra Rowe

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Robert P. Schoepflin, Secretary