

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
Ms. Barbara Hansen 2018
***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
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, Treas** 2016
Ms. Wendy Bean Tannenbaum 2018
Ms. Amy Triebel 2016
***Mr. Christopher Vergara** 2016
Ms. Karen Woolley 2016

AUXILLIARY MEMBERS

STAFF

The Rev. Percy 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

The Rev. Leo (Jay) Longan, Conf. of Deans

Bold = present

Italics = excused absence

*Member of Executive Committee

Observer: Hazel Goldstein

Opening Prayer: Terra Rowe

Call to Order: at 5:12pm by Maria del Toro

1. Welcome of newly elected SC members / introductions

New Members to the SC:

- Mr. Daquan Baker
- Pr. Amy Kienzle
- Dr. John Litke

- Mr. Walter Nash
- Dcn. Lulu Paolini
- Pr. Daniel Peter
- Pr. Harry Schenkel
- Ms. Wendy Bean Tannenbaum

2. Adoption of the Agenda: adopted as presented

3. Adoption of the Minutes: 26 April 2014: adopted as presented

4. Synod Assembly de-brief

A. Summary of Actions of the 2014 MNYS Assembly **EXHIBIT A**

a. SA2014.05.06

This action of the assembly directing synod council to recommend to the church council (ELCA) a constitutional amendment will be discussed at the September 2014 meeting.

B. Communications Report

Ms. Sarah Gioe reported that there were 9,000 views on synod website during assembly!

C. Reflections / Observations

Members and guests of SC shared reflections on the 2014 Assembly.

5. Strategic Plan

A. Report of the Steering Committee

VP Del Toro reported that a retreat has been scheduled in September for the Executive Committee, Asst to the Bishop Marc Herbst, and the strategic plan committee chairs to set goals

a. Pilot Projects update

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

b. GATHERED Strategy

i. LSSNY Proposal (Reformation, Brooklyn)

Ms. Schmidt spoke of plan to utilize the property to house unaccompanied refugee children as part of the Safe Haven program and grant that LSSNY has received. Much work still needs to be done on proposal before it can be voted on by synod council.

ii. LHC Proposal (Zion, Brooklyn)

Ms. Schmidt reported on proposal by Lutheran Health Care to build a health center, dental clinic, and affordable housing on this property. Developers will be brought in over the summer months to make bids on the project.

- iii. Grant applications
Pr. Herbst reported on grant applications received and congregational presentations he has made since the assembly.
- c. CLAIMED Strategy
 - i. Rubenstein: contract renewal

ACTION SC14:06/01

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council renew the contract with Rubenstein Strategic Communications and Media Relations for a period of one year through June 2015 in accordance with the terms and conditions defined in contract.

ADOPTED

- d. SENT Strategy
Ms. Barbara Johnson reported that the committee is examining how to assist congregations with community organizing.
- e. FMC
 - i. Resolution in Recognition of the work of Paul Jensen and Daniel Nigro

ACTION SC14:06/02

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council gives thanks to God for the faithful and diligent service of Mr. Paul Jensen and Mr. Daniel Nigro on the Financial Management Committee and requests that the Bishop issue a letter of gratitude to Mr. Jensen and Mr. Nigro for their insightful contributions.

ADOPTED

6. Bishop's Report

- A. Congregations
 - a. St. Luke's, Brooklyn
Bp Rimbo reported that closing service was held on June 22, 2014.
 - b. St. Peter's, Port Jervis
Pr. Koran reported on work being done with this congregation that is under temporary synod administration.
- B. Calls:
 - a. Rev. Dr. Gary Mills: *annual renewal of OLFC status effective 1 July 2012*

ACTION SC14:06/03

RESOLVED, that the on leave from call status of The Rev. Dr. Gary Mills, effective July 1, 2012, is renewed for one year.

ADOPTED

- b. Dcn. Meg Fielding: *OLFC status effective 1 May 2014*

ACTION SC14:06/04

RESOLVED, that on leave from call status be granted to Dcn. Meg Fielding, effective May 1, 2014.

ADOPTED

C. Appointments

- a. Ms. Barbara Hansen: *Financial Management Committee (6/2014 – 6/2017)*
- b. Rev. Ernst Mossel: *Advisory Panel (Zion, Staten Island)*
- c. Rev. Toby Tobias: *Advisory Panel (Zion, Staten Island)*
- d. Rev. James Watrud: *Advisory Panel (Zion, Staten Island)*

Bp Rimbo reported that these appointments had been made. No council action necessary.

7. Treasurer's Report

A. Mission Support update **EXHIBIT B**

B. May Financials **EXHIBIT C**

C. Report of the Audit Committee: Audited Financial Statements (31 Jan 2014) **EXHIBIT D**

ACTION SC14:06/05

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council receive the Financial Statements and Report for the year ending January 31, 2014 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. Management Advisory letter **EXHIBIT E**

E. Tait, Weller & Baker (2014 – 2015)

After discussion of whether a new accounting firm should be retained because Tait, Weller & Baker have been used for many years, the following resolution was adopted.

ACTION SC14:06/06

RESOLVED, that the matter of investigating whether a new accounting firm should be retained to audit the financial position of the Metropolitan New York Synod for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2015 be referred to the audit committee of the synod council.

ADOPTED

8. Old Business

A. Congregations under synod administration/Synod properties **EXHIBIT F**

B. Congregational Loan Status **EXHIBIT G**

C. MNYS Stewardship Plan **EXHIBIT H**

Pastors Lamont Wells and Craig Miller presented the mission support and stewardship plan.

ACTION SC14:06/07

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council adopt the Mission Support and Stewardship Plan developed and presented by the Mission Support Table.

ADOPTED

9. New Business

A. Trexler Grants: *Rev. Edward Barnett; Rev. Stephanie Kershner; Justin Kosec:*

ACTION SC14:06/08

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve \$1000 Trexler Grants for the Rev. Edward Barnett; the Rev. Stephanie Kershner and Seminarian Justin Kosec.

ADOPTED

B. St. Thomas House

The following action was taken in April 2014. By the terms of that resolution, the synod council needed to determine if St. Thomas House should continue to be held and maintained by the synod.

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

ACTION SC14:06/09

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod continue to hold and maintain St. Thomas House (1942 Grand Concourse, Bronx) as a house for interns and other individuals serving within the Synod in accordance with the terms of SC13:4/13.

ADOPTED

C. Our Saviour, Mineola: *sale of parsonage:*

ACTION SC14:06/10

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council take no exception to the sale by Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Mineola, of the property located at 205 Pomander Road, Mineola.

ADOPTED

D. EC/SC meeting schedule: Sep 2014 – Jun 2015
Distributed to members of council.

E. Executive Committee Elections

ACTION SC14:06/11

RESOLVED, that Pr. William Baum, Pr. Khader El-Yateem, Ms. Hazel Goldstein, and Mr. Christopher Vergara are elected to serve one year terms on the Executive Committee.

ADOPTED

F. MNYS Operational Ethics Policy / Disclosure Form
Members completed and submitted the disclosure form.

10. Other Reports

11. Announcements/Events

Ms. Terra Rowe distributed information on the Peoples Climate March on September 21 in New York City.

Pr. Brenda Irving made announcement about the VBS at her congregation.

Mr. Daquan Baker announced the dates for Pinecrest.

12. Observer's Evaluation

13. Closing Devotions: by Terra Rowe

Meeting was adjourned at 825:pm

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Schoepflin, Secretary