

**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** 2018  
**Dcn. John Malone** 2018  
**Ms. Karen Maulen** 2018  
**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. Percy Butiku*  
**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

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**Devotions:** Bp. Rimbo opened the meeting with prayer at 5:05pm.

**Observer:** Hazel Goldstein

**Call to Order:** Ms. Maria del Toro

- 1. Adoption of the Agenda:** adopted as presented.
- 2. Adoption of the Minutes:** 26 September 2015: adopted as presented.

**3. Bishop's Report**

- A. Appointments

- a. The Rev. Mark Erson: Interim Chair, CLAIMED Strategy Committee (*effective 13 Oct 2015*)

**ACTION SC15:10/01**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council ratify the appointment of the Rev. Mark Erson by the Executive Committee as Interim Chair of the CLAIMED Strategy Committee effective Oct 13, 2015.**

**ADOPTED**

- B. Advisory Panels
  - a. Trinity Wyandanch  
Bp. Rimbo reported that the panel completed their work and submitted its report, thanks to Pr. Joanne Bond, Carlos Lopez, Emma Porter.
  - b. Christ, Little Neck  
Bp. Rimbo reported that the panel conducted interviews with congregation members on October 18, and is expect to submit its report in early November, thanks to Pr. John Jurik, Pr. Jon Overvold, Janet Siry.
  - c. Eltingville, Staten Island  
Bp. Rimbo reported that the panel conducted interviews with congregation members on October 19, and is expect to submit its report in early November, thanks to Pr. Eric Olsen; Gene Hiigel, Kathy Schmidt.
- C. Immanuel, Manhattan  
Bp. Rimbo reported that he and others have met with the congregation and that the first vote of the congregation to resign from the roster of the ELCA and join the NALC is scheduled for November 8.
- D. St. Paul's, Coney Island  
St. Paul's has retained an attorney seeking to resign from the roster of the ELCA.
- E. Stewardship Consultation – November SC Retreat  
Former Bishop Margaret Payne will be with us on retreat in November. She will conduct our synodical stewardship consultation on Saturday morning.

**4. Strategic Plan Implementation**

- A. CLAIMED Strategy
- B. GATHERED Strategy
  - a. Sower's Grants Pr. Herbst reported
    1. The Rev. Franklin Simpson / Resurrection, Bronx: \$10,000 grant for children's theatre program.
    2. The Rev. Dr. Fernando Otero / St. Paul's, Bronx: \$10,000 grant for after-school program.
  - b. Cost Savings Grants  
Pr. Herbst announced that a Fuel Oil Cost Savings Program open to congregations and ministries of the Synod was released earlier this month.  
He also announced a snow removal program for Western Suffolk.

c. Bronx Pilot Project

Pr. Herbst reported that they are in final stages of preparing report and making recommendations.

d. Western Nassau Pilot Project

Pr. Herbst reported that Phase I of the Pilot Project has been completed. Pr. Rich Hill has provided the Steering Committee / Executive Committee with a final report. A proposal for Phase II will be presented to the Steering Committee.

e. Capital Improvement Grants 2015 /2016: Pr. Herbst reported on behalf of the committee.

- 29 Grant applications received
- \$1,123,459 in total grant requests
- Grant Review Committee met 10/8 and 10/26 to review applications and make determinations.
- Grant award recipients will be presented to the Executive Committee on November 10 and to the Synod Council on Nov 20 for approval.

C. SENT Strategy

a. Anti-racism training & programming: Pr. Herbst reported.

- Nomination period to serve on the TF is open - several nominations have been received
- SENT Strategy Chairs and Executive Committee will present nominees for appointment
- The Synod Anti-Racism Initiative will include the integration of training / workshops offered by ecumenical and civic partners.

D. Financial Management Committee (FMC): Mr. Suttell reported that the FMC has reviewed the synod's portfolio with our asset manager.

E. Congregational Strategic Planning: Pr. Herbst announced that a follow-up workshop is scheduled for December 12 at the Interchurch Center (LSSNY Board room)

F. Strategy Committee application period

Pr. Herbst announced that nomination forms are being accepted to serve on the Strategy Committees, the Anti-racism Task Force, and the Disaster Response Task Force.

## 5. Treasurer's Report

A. Mission Support

Mr. Suttell reported that synod continues to run ahead of budget. For the month of September, we received \$14,551 above the budgeted amount (\$86,981 received vs. a budgeted amount of \$74,430). YTD we are ahead by \$25,951. Total MS received YTD is \$688,509 vs. a budgeted amount of \$662,558. Good news!  
He also noted that more persons are needed to serve on the FMC.

B. September Financials: financials will be presented at November meeting.

**6. New Business:**

A. MNYS Conflict of Interest / Disclosure Statement

**ACTION SC15:10/02**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council adopt the revised MNYS Conflict of Interest policy as presented.**

**ADOPTED**

After adoption of revised policy, each member of the council completed and signed a Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement.

B. Trexler Grant

**ACTION SC15:10/03**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve a \$500 Trexler Grant for the Rev. Mark Erson to assist with travel expenses for an upcoming Journeys Unlimited tour of the Holy Land for pastors.**

**ADOPTED**

**7. Old Business**

A. Congregations / properties under synod administration: report was presented in Ms. Schmidt's absence. **EXHIBIT A**

- a. Bethany, Elmhurst: Appeal Process: Bishop's consultation scheduled for Nov 9
- b. Incarnation, Cedarhurst: Bishop's consultation scheduled for Nov 9
- c. Kingsbridge, Bronx:  
A communication was sent to Pr. Berg acknowledging receipt of his letter dated Jul 17 indicating that a determination regarding next steps is forthcoming.
- d. St. Peter's, 140<sup>th</sup> Street, Bronx  
A communication was sent to Catherine Emanuel (cong. President) confirming receipt of her letter dated Sep 1.  
A consultation with Bp. Rimbo and the leaders from St. Peter's will be scheduled in November.
- e. Christ, Ozone Park: purchase offer:

**ACTION SC15:10/04**

**RESOLVED, that a contract be entered into for the sale of three parcels of property located at 85-10; 85-12; 85-20 101<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Ozone Park, New York, with Cross Over Baptist Church for the sale price of \$3,000,000.**

**ADOPTED For: 20 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0**

- f. St. Philips, Brooklyn: purchase offer:

**ACTION SC15:10/05**

**RESOLVED, that a contract be entered into for the sale of the property located at 85 Forbell Street, Brooklyn, New York, with Pentecostal Christian Church, John 3:16, for the sale price of \$1,850,000.**

**ADOPTED For: 20 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0**

F. Synod Assembly Actions (PENDING)

- a. SA2015:05.01 / Resolution on Ministerium: Bp. Rimbo announced that ministerium will be held on April 21, 2016, at Wartburg, Mt. Vernon.
- b. SA2015:05.05 / To Divest from Fossil Fuel Corporations: Mr. Suttell reported that 100% divestment will occur well before the 5 year goal adopted by the Synod Assembly.
- c. SA2015:05.07 / To Review Election Process for Voting Members to CWA
- d. SA2015:05.08 / MNYS Disaster Response Task Force: nomination forms being accepted
- e. SA2015:05.12 / Augusta Victoria Hospital: Pr. Amy Kienzle reported that letter was sent by Bp. Rimbo.
- f. SA2015:05.13 / Awareness-Raising, Accompaniment, Advocacy in the Holy Land: Pr. Amy Kienzle reported that screening of "The Stones Cry Out" was held in Suffolk Co. Committee continues to work to raise awareness.
- g. SA2015:05.14 / Commitment for Addressing Racism in Church and Society: Nominations for Task Force being accepted.

G. Pending

- MNYS Committee structure
- Report Process for election of a Bishop
- 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation
- Lief Erickson Day School (added by Mr. Litke)

**8. Other Reports**

- A. Deans: no deans report presented.

**9. Announcements/Events**

- A. Bishop's Retreat: Nov 3-5 (Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center, W. Hartford, CT)
- B. Synod Council Retreat: Nov 20 – 21 (Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Huntington). SC members are asked to confirm their attendance with Dcn. Ruege by November 10.
- C. Bp. Rimbo reported on recent trip that he and VP Del Toro took to Tanzania.

**10. Observers' Evaluation**

**Compline led by Bp. Rimbo.**

**Next Synod Council Meeting: November 20, 2015 (Synod Council Retreat: Nov 20 – 21)**

**Seminary of the Immaculate Conception  
440 West Neck Road  
Huntington, NY 11743**

Meeting adjourned at 6:34pm by VP Del Toro.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Robert P. Schoepflin, Secretary