

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

AUXILIARY 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

Bold = present

Italics = excused absence

***Member of Executive Committee**

Opening Devotions: Robert Schoepflin

Compline: Christopher Vergara

Observer: John Litke

Call to Order: Ms. Maria del Toro at 5:21pm

- 1. Adoption of the Agenda:** adopted as presented
- 2. Adoption of the Minutes:** 16 December 2014: adopted as presented

3. Strategic Plan Implementation

A. CLAIMED Strategy

- a. Presentation: Dcn. John Malone, Chair, presented the proposed “tag-line” for our synod – *“Walking Together.”* This conveys a sense of community.

B. GATHERED Strategy

a. Conference Pilot Projects

1. Bronx Conference

Pr. Marc Herbst reported on a follow-up meeting at the Wartburg in January with pastors, lay leaders, members of the Synod Pastoral Care Team, and members of Synod staff. The purpose of the meeting was to review the Daxko facility study and explore possible partnership with Wartburg in developing some of the Bronx properties.

2. SW Queens Project

Pr. Marc Herbst reported that four congregations in SW Queens will hold congregational meetings on March 1 and vote to close their individual congregations in order to join in the formation of one regional congregation. Bishop Rimbo sent a letter requesting that each congregation call a special meeting. A Q & A, in English and Spanish, was provided to the congregations.

- Establishment of an LLC

ACTION SC 15:02/01

RESOLVED, that a not-for-profit corporation (one that will qualify as tax exempt under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code) be formed to receive and hold properties of congregations in the SW Queens Pilot Project.

ADOPTED

C. SENT Strategy

a. Service for Justice & Reconciliation (17 January 2015)

Ms. Barbara Johnson, co-chair of Sent Committee reported on the service. Over 250 people gathered together on January 17 at Saint Peter’s, Manhattan to call for peace amidst racial tensions around the country – and especially in New York City. The spirit was hopeful, the music was uplifting, and the message of confronting racism was powerful. Mutual Conversation and Consolation followed the service. There was good media coverage of the event.

She also reported that the Sent Committee is looking into hiring a community organizer who will work with congregations in the synod.

D. Innovation Team: Sower’s Grants

Pr. Lamont Wells reported on the grants that have been awarded.

- a. Uniondale: After school program (\$8,000 grant)
- b. Deer Park / Wyandanch: Latino Ministry (\$10,000 grant)

- c. Hudson Valley: Faith, Food and Community (\$10,000 grant)

E. Quadrant Visits:

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

Bishop Rimbo reported that he held individual appointments with 39 pastors in Manhattan, Bronx and Staten Island. Pastors enjoyed a relaxed Clergy Appreciation Dinner on Friday night (Jan 30), and congregational planning teams attended a free workshop on Saturday (Jan 31) led by Tom Massey and Pr. Marc Herbst.

More than 25 congregations began conversations about strategic planning for their parishes, and over 80 people engaged in mutual conversation and consolation.

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

Bishop Rimbo is scheduled to meet individually with 30 pastors in Brooklyn and Queens – the Clergy Appreciation Dinner is scheduled for February 27 at St. James – St. Matthew's, Ozone Park. The Congregation Strategic Planning workshop is scheduled for Feb 28 at Good Shepherd, Brooklyn.

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

After consultation with the Quadrant Deans, the visit scheduled for Quadrant 1 will be changed to June 5-7.

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

4. Bishop's Report

A. Calls

- a. The Rev. Patt Kauffman: *On Leave from Call (effective 31 January 2015)*

ACTION SC 15:02/02

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve On Leave from Call Status to the Rev. Patt Kauffman effective 31 January 2015.

ADOPTED

- b. The Rev. George Detweiler: *Interim Pastor, Holy Trinity Central Park West (effective 9 February 2015)*

ACTION SC 15:02/03

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council call the Rev. George Detweiler as Intentional Interim Pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Manhattan.

ADOPTED

- c. The Rev. Arden Strasser: *Interim Pastor, St. David's, Massapequa Park (effective 16 February 2015)*

ACTION SC 15:02/04

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council call the Rev. Arden Strasser as Interim Pastor, St. David's Lutheran Church, Massapequa Park.

ADOPTED

- d. The Rev. Linda Bell: *OLFC annual renewal (effective : 28 February 2013)*
- e. The Rev. William Eggers: *OLFC annual renewal (effective 19 January 2014)*

ACTION SC 15:02/05

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant On Leave from Call renewal to the Rev. Linda Bell and the Rev. William Eggers.

ADOPTED

- f. The Rev. Stephen Hultgren: *removal from ELCA roster (effective 1 January 2015)*
Pastor Hultgren has been serving as a Lecturer in New Testament at the Australian Lutheran College. The Lutheran Church in Australia has extended him a permanent call and he has been received onto the LCA roster there. In accordance with the ELCA policy of no dual rostering – Pr. Stephen Hultgren will be released from the ELCA roster.

ACTION SC 15:02/06

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council acknowledge the transfer of the Rev. Stephen Hultgren to the roster of ordained ministers of the Lutheran Church in Australia and authorize his removal from the ELCA roster, effective January 1, 2015, in accordance with ELCA policy.

ADOPTED

- g. The Rev. David J. Meyers: *retirement status (effective 15 February 2015)*
- h. The Rev. Robert Wollenburg: *retirement status (effective 10 January 2015)*

ACTION SC 15:02/07

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council acknowledge retirement status of the Rev. David J. Meyers, effective 15 February 2015 and the Rev. Robert Wollenburg, effective 10 January 2015.

ADOPTED

B. Appointments

a. Nomination Committee: Bishop Rimbo announced the following appointments and noted that we are seeking at least more appointees. A nomination form will be posted.

- The Rev. Kevin O’Hara
- The Rev. James Sudbrock

b. Mid-East Relations Committee: Bishop Rimbo announced the following appointments but noted that he is seeking additional lay participation. A nomination form will be posted.

- The Rev. Perucy Butiku, MNYS Staff
- The Rev. Khader El-Yateem
- Dennis Frado
- The Rev. Dr. Marvin Henk
- The Rev. Dr. Timothy Kennedy
- The Rev. Stephanie Kershner
- The Rev. Khader Khalilia
- The Rev. Amy Kienzle, Chair
- Mary Margaret Powers

- The Rev. David Rommereim
- Brita Rose
- The Rev. James Sudbrock
- The Rev. Lamont Anthony Wells, MNYS Staff

C. Wider Church Fund Grants: Bishop Rimbo reported the grants that were awarded. **EXHIBIT A**
Members of the Grant Review Team: Bp. Rimbo, Pr. John Backe, Pr. Jim Sudbrock, Sarah Beatty,
Pr. Brenda Irving, Kathy Schmidt

D. Staff Reports
Pr. Jonathan Linman presented his report. **EXHIBIT B**

5. Treasurer's Report : presented by Mr. Frank Suttell)

A. January Mission Support

Mission support for the year ending 1/31/15 totaled \$1,161,867, which is \$88,133 below the budgeted amount of \$1,250,000, and \$41,052 less than what our synod received in 2013.

B. Budgets

Mr. Suttell reported that the budgets will be presented at the April meeting of the Synod Council.

6. Constitutions

Pr. Robert Schoepflin reported that the following constitutions were received and approved.

- A. Our Saviour's, Brooklyn
- B. Grace, North Bellmore

7. New Business

A. Trexler Grant

Pr. Jonathan Linman reported receipt of an application from Pr. Robert Rainis to attend the 2015 ELCA Worship Jubilee in Atlanta in July. Request is \$1000 to assist with travel and other event related expenses.

ACTION SKC 15:02/08

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve a \$1000 Trexler Grant for the Rev. Robert Rainis to travel to the ELCA Worship Jubilee in Atlanta, GA in July 2015

ADOPTED

B. Salam Arabic Lutheran Church: resolutions brought to council by Executive Committee:

RESOLVED, that control of the Salam Ministry Fund will pass to Salam Arabic Lutheran Church upon receipt and approval by the Executive Committee of the Synod Council of a financial plan for the use of the monies in the fund.

RESOLVED that the Synod Council strongly recommends an expedited full comprehensive ministry review of the congregation of Salam Arabic Lutheran Church.

Pr. Craig Miller proposed amending the two resolutions to form a single resolution to read as follows:

RESOLVED, that control of the Salam Ministry Fund will pass to Salam Arabic Lutheran Church upon receipt and approval by the Executive Committee of the Synod Council of a financial plan for the use of the monies in the fund and an expedited full comprehensive ministry review of the congregation.

The motion to amend was seconded. After discussion, the amended resolution was adopted.

ACTION SC 15:02/09

RESOLVED, that control of the Salam Ministry Fund will pass to Salam Arabic Lutheran Church upon receipt and approval by the Executive Committee of the Synod Council of a financial plan for the use of the monies in the fund and a full comprehensive ministry review of the congregation.

ADOPTED

C. SC Meeting: March 17 (No meeting)

Due to scheduling conflicts the Executive Committee has determined that the Synod Council will not meet in March. The next SC meeting will be on Saturday – April 25

8. Old Business

A. Congregations / properties under synod administration
Report presented by Ms. Kathy Schmidt. **EXHIBIT C**

B. Congregation Loan status **EXHIBIT D**

C. Synod Diaconate Guidelines (revision)
The council voted to defer consideration of the revised Guidelines.

D. St. Peter's, Port Jervis

Ms. Hazel Goldstein, a Trustee of the congregation reported that the SC took action in December 2014 to approve the recommendations presented by the Trustees regarding the current and future ministry of St. Peter's, Port Jervis. But still pending was a recommendation to pay outstanding financial obligations to the IRS and Portico. Since these amounts were not yet finalized, the Synod Council voted to defer consideration of a resolution to pay these obligations.

E. Pending

- MNYS Committee structure
Pr. Marc Herbst reported that each of the existing committees have been placed under the appropriate strategic plan committee.
- Report Process for election of a Bishop

9. Other Reports

- A. Deans: report of Pr. Ed Barnett at **EXHIBIT E**
B. Disaster Response Coordinator: final report of Pr. Craig Miller at **EXHIBIT F**

C. Youth Leadership Summit (Nov 13-16, 2014): no report.

10. Announcements/Events

11. Observer's Evaluation

Next Synod Council meeting: Saturday, April 25, 2015 (location: TBD)

- Opening devotions: Christopher Vergara
- Observer: Terra Rowe (AM) / Pr. Craig Miller (PM)

Mr. Christopher Vergara led Compline.

Meeting adjourned at 7:16pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Robert P. Schoepflin, Secretary