

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
<i>The Rev. Amy Kienzle</i>	2018
Dr. John Litke	2018
<i>Dr. Carlos Lopez</i>	2014
Dcn. John Malone	2014
<i>Ms. Karen Maulen</i>	2018
The Rev. Craig Miller	2018
<i>Mr. Walter Nash</i>	2018
Dcn. Lulu Paolini	2018
<i>The Rev. Daniel Peter</i>	2018
Dcn. John Prosen	2016
Mr. Brian Reardon	2016
*The Rev. Robert A. Rimbo, Bishop	2020
<i>Ms. Terra Rowe</i>	2016
The Rev. Harry Schenkel	2018
<i>*The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Sect.</i>	2018
*Mr. Frank Suttell, Treasurer	2016
Ms. Wendy Bean Tannenbaum	2018
<i>Ms. Abby Triebel (Young Adult)</i>	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
Mr. Brendan Stanton
Ms. Rebekah Thornhill
The Rev. Lamont Wells

GUESTS

The Rev. Dr. Richard O. Hill, Conf of Deans

Bold = present

Italics = excused absence

*Member of Executive Committee

Indaba: Wendy Bean Tannenbaum invited the Synod Council into a period of Indaba referencing Pope Francis' visit to the Americas – asking the question: What is God calling us in our synod to do in our ministries of reconciliation?

Observer: Dcn. Lulu Paolini (AM) / Dcn. John Prosen (PM)

Call to Order: by VP Del Toro at 9:47 AM

- 1. Adoption of the Agenda:** adopted as presented.

2. Adoption of the Minutes: 23 June 2015: adopted (as edited).

3. Bishop's Report

A. Staff

a. Communications

- Departure of Brendan Stanton
- Rebekah Thornhill covering internal communications

b. Transitions

- Pr. Marc Herbst has accepted a call to serve Our Saviour, Manhasset.
- 2 year call concludes November 30, 2015

c. Staff Reports **EXHIBIT A**

B. Calls

- a. The Rev. Linda Bell: Interim Pastoral Ministry / Grace, Malverne (*effective 1 Sep 2015*)

ACTION SC15:09/01

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to the Rev. Linda Bell as Interim Pastor for Grace Lutheran Church & School, Malverne, effective 1 September 2015.

ADOPTED

- b. The Rev. Dr. Katrina Foster: Term Call Pastor / St. John's, Brooklyn (*effective 1 Sep 2015*)

ACTION SC15:09/02

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a Term Call to the Rev. Dr. Katrina Foster as Pastor St. John Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, effective 1 September 2015 – 31 August 2018.

ADOPTED

- c. The Rev. Susan Nagle: Intentional Interim ministry / Grace, Yorktown Heights (*eff 1 Nov 2015*)

ACTION SC15:09/03

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to the Rev. Susan Nagle as Interim Pastor for Grace Lutheran Church, Yorktown Heights effective 1 November 2015.

ADOPTED

- d. The Rev. Ann Tiemeyer: Interim Pastoral Ministry / Advent, Manhattan (*eff 1 Aug 2015*)

ACTION SC15:09/04

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to the Rev. Ann Tiemeyer as Interim Pastor for Advent Lutheran Church, Manhattan effective 1 August 2015

ADOPTED

- e. The Rev. Amy Kienzle: Mission Developer / Park Church Co-op (*eff 14 Sep 2015*)

ACTION SC15:09/05

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to the Rev. Amy Kienzle as Mission Developer for the Park Church Co-op, Brooklyn, effective 14 September 2015.

ADOPTED

- f. The Rev. Ronald Gothberg : retirement status (*effective 1 Nov 2015*)
g. The Rev. Edward Schreiber: retirement status (*effective 14 September 2015*)
h. The Rev. Dennis Walker: retirement status (*effective 1 Jun 2015*)
i. The Rev. Dr. Timothy Kennedy: retirement status (*effective 1 November 2015*)

ACTION SC15:09/06

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council acknowledge retirement status for The Rev. Ronald Gothberg effective 1 November 2015; The Rev. Edward Schreiber effective 1 October 2015; The Rev. Dennis Walker effective 1 June 2015; The Rev. Dr. Timothy Kennedy effective 1 November 2015.

ADOPTED

- j. Patrick W. Poole: resigned from ELCA roster (*effective 15 July 2015*)

ACTION SC15:09/07

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council remove the Rev. Patrick W. Poole from the ELCA roster of ordained ministers effective 15 July 2015.

ADOPTED

C. Appointments

- a. The Rev. Dr. Joanne Bond / Dcn. Carlos Lopez / Ms. Emma Porter: *Adv Panel, Trinity Wyandanch*
b. Mr. Eugene Hiigel / The Rev. Eric Olsen / Ms. Kathleen Schmidt: *Adv. Panel, Eltingville*
c. The Rev. John Jurik / The Rev. Jon Overvold / Ms. Janet Siry: *Adv. Panel, Christ, Little Neck*
d. The Rev. Harry Schenkel / Dcn. John Prosen / The Rev. Perucy Butiku: *Adv. Panel, St. Paul's, Coney Is*
e. Bishop's Advisory Committee
f. The Rev. William Starkweather: *Innovation Team*
g. The Rev. Arden Strasser: *Worship Committee*
h. The Rev. Sonja Maclary: Interim ministry / Atonement, Saugerties (*effective 15 Sep 2015*)

- D. Ascension Table Ministry / Pr. Eric Mull: St. John's by the Sea, Long Beach
The Ascension Table Ministry will be moved from St. Thomas House, Bronx to St. John's by the Sea, Long Beach. Pastor Eric Mull will also serve as coverage pastor for the congregation.

- E. The Healing Center, Brooklyn
The Healing Center is a Social Ministry Organization of the ELCA and a member of the Lutheran Services New York Alliance (LSNYA) has requested authorization to approach and communicate with MNYS congregations to support their important work.

ACTION SC15:09/08

RESOLVED, that the MNYS Council authorize The Healing Center, Brooklyn to approach and communicate with MNYS congregations to increase visibility and awareness of its ministries, and to seek financial support for the Center's programs and services.

ADOPTED

4. Strategic Plan Implementation

- A. CLAIMED Strategy
- a. Dcn. John Malone tendered his resignation as Chair of the Claimed Committee. Pastor Mark Erson has agreed to be Interim Chair. VP Deltoro thanked Dcn. Malone for his work and service over this past year.
 - b. Five Years of God's Creative Grace **EXHIBIT B**
Pr. Jonathan Linman provide a list of the "Hoped-for Outcomes" of this year's Theme: Confession, Forgiveness, Reconciliation.
- B. GATHERED Strategy
- a. Leadership Development Grants:
 1. The Rev. Craig Miller
 2. The Rev. Linda Bell
 3. The Rev. Robert Fritch
 4. Quadrant 1

ACTION SC15:09/09

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the Leadership Development Grants proposed by the Leadership Development Grant Review Team and recommended by the Executive Committee.

ADOPTED (noted that Pr. Craig Miller recused himself from the vote)

- b. Sower's Grants:
 1. The Rev. Rebecca Pollicino
 2. Zachary Walter
- c. Cost Savings Grants:
 1. Synod group discount for heating oil
 2. Snow Removal and landscaping – RFP has been issued

- d. Practical Steps and Expectations for Congregations to Consider when Contemplating Congregational Mergers / Consolidations **EXHIBIT C**

Pr. Herbst provided the Synod Council with a document that has been prepared for congregations using the ELCA guidelines for Congregations contemplating congregational mergers / consolidations. Dcn. John Prosen has asked that these guidelines be posted on the website.

- e. Minimum Guidelines for Congregational Building Assessments: **EXHIBIT D**

ACTION SC15:09/10

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the *Minimum Synod Guidelines for a Congregational Assessment Report Pursuant to: The Policy of the Metropolitan New York Synod on the Transition and Call Process* proposed by the Gathered Committee and recommended by the Executive Committee for adoption at the 2016 Synod Assembly.

ADOPTED

- f. Minimum Guidelines for Financial Reviews : **EXHIBIT E**

ACTION SC15:09/11

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the *Minimum Synod Guidelines for a Congregational Financial Review Pursuant to: The Policy of the Metropolitan New York Synod on the Transition and Call Process* proposed by the Gathered Committee and recommended by the Executive Committee for adoption at the 2016 Synod Assembly.

ADOPTED

- g. Bronx Pilot Project

Pastor Herbst reported that a meeting was held on Sep 15 to assess the progress of the Bronx strategy. Action items have been identified and further follow-up with pastors and congregational leaders will happen in the coming weeks.

- h. Capital Improvement Grants 2015 / 2016

Most of the 2014 grant projects have been completed. A complete report will come to the Synod Council in October. 2015 grant applications continue to be received – deadline is October 1. The Grant Review Team is scheduled to meet in the month of October to review and award grants. Announcement will be made after November 1.

C. SENT Strategy:

- a. Anti-racism training & programming: Barbara Johnson reported that a Task Force will be formed to coordinate the synod's anti-racism training & programming for 2015-2016. An application/nomination form to serve on the Task Force will be posted on our website and noted in our e-letter.

- D. Financial Management Committee (FMC)
Frank Suttell reported that in accordance with the Synod Assembly action – Fossil fuel divestment is in progress - a written report will be provided in the months ahead. According to the monthly published list of organizations involved in fossil fuel – we will not purchase from those companies – and those companies in our investment portfolio that are involved in fossil fuel – we will divest within the coming years. Investment policy has been modified to reflect this change. Congregations will be contacted requesting that they follow the synod’s lead.
- E. Congregational Strategic Planning: follow-up workshop:
Tom Massey held a follow-up workshop on September 19 for congregational leaders developing a congregational strategic plan. Six – eight congregations participated – it was very productive. Additional dates for follow-up workshops will be announced.
- F. Strategy Committee application period
Application / nomination forms to serve on the Strategy Committees have been posted and noted in the e-letter. Applications / nominations will be received through Oct 25 and reviewed in early November. Committee appointments will be presented to the SC at the November meeting. Hazel Goldstein has recommended staggered terms.

5. Treasurer’s Report:

- A. Mission Support **EXHIBIT F**
Received YTD is \$601,528 vs. a budgeted amount of \$590,128
- B. Financials through August 31 **EXHIBIT G**
- C. Fossil Fuel Divestment

6. New Business:

- A. All Saints – Todos Los Santos: Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community (SAWC)

ACTION SC15:09/12

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Metropolitan New York Synod Council officially designate All Saints – Todos Los Santos in the Southwest Queens Conference as a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community (SAWC) of the Metropolitan New York Synod, ELCA.
ADOPTED

- B. Park Church Co-op: Congregation Under Development (CUD)

ACTION SC15:09/13

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Metropolitan New York Synod Council officially designate the Park Church Co-op in Greenpoint, Brooklyn as a Congregation Under Development (CUD) of the Metropolitan New York Synod, ELCA and designates the Rev. Amy Kienzle as the Mission Developer.
ADOPTED

C. 2016 Pastors Compensation Guidelines **EXHIBIT H**

ACTION SC15:09/14

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the recommended COLA of 0% for the 2016 Pastors Compensation Guidelines.
ADOPTED

7. Old Business

- A. Congregations / properties under synod administration: **EXHIBIT I**
- a. Bethany, Elmhurst: Formal letter of appeal dated 12 August received / begin the consultation process
 - b. Incarnation, Cedarhurst: Formal letter of appeal dated 11 August received / begin the consultation process
 - c. Kingsbridge, Bronx: Received a response from Pr. Berg dated 17 July 2015
 - d. Redeemer, Flushing
 - e. Trinity, St. Albans
 - f. Christ, Ozone Park
 1. Trustees (K. Schmidt / C. Vergara / J. Mantovani)

ACTION SC15:09/15

RESOLVED, that the following are hereby appointed as trustees, with the full power and authority to hold, manage and convey the property of the former Christ , Ozone Park on behalf of the Synod in all regards relating directly or indirectly to and in furtherance of synodical administration, by taking charge and control of the property the former Christ, Ozone Park and holding, managing and conveying that property on behalf of the Synod, to wit: The Rev. Joseph Mantovani; Mr. Christopher Vergara (SC Rep); Ms. Kathleen Schmidt ("Trustees"); and it is further

RESOLVED, that the signature of any two of the Trustees acting for and on behalf of the Synod to take charge and control of the property located at 85-10, 85-12, 85-15, 85-20 101st Avenue, Ozone Park, NY and to hold, manage and convey the property on behalf of the Synod shall be binding upon and considered as the act of all of the Trustees. No person or entity acting in reliance on the signatures of any two of such Trustees as binding upon all Trustees shall be charged with notice of any revocation or change of such authority unless he, she or it shall have received actual written notice thereof. No person or entity shall be required to look behind the signatures of such Trustees.

ADOPTED

2. List for sale

ACTION SC15:09/16

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council authorize that three parcels of property located at 85-10, 85-12, 85-20 101st Ave, Ozone Park (former Christ Lutheran Church, Ozone Park) be listed for sale.

ADOPTED For: 17 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

g. St. Philips, Brooklyn: Trustees

ACTION SC15:09/17

RESOLVED, that the following are hereby appointed as trustees, with the full power and authority to hold, manage and convey the property of the former St. Philips, Brooklyn on behalf of the Synod in all regards relating directly or indirectly to and in furtherance of synodical administration, by taking charge and control of the property the former St. Philips, Brooklyn and holding, managing and conveying that property on behalf of the Synod, to wit: The Rev. Joseph Mantovani; Mr. Christopher Vergara (SC Rep); Ms. Kathleen Schmidt ("Trustees"); and it is further

RESOLVED, that the signature of any two of the Trustees acting for and on behalf of the Synod to take charge and control of the property located at 85 Forbell Street, Brooklyn and to hold, manage and convey the property on behalf of the Synod shall be binding upon and considered as the act of all of the Trustees. No person or entity acting in reliance on the signatures of any two of such Trustees as binding upon all Trustees shall be charged with notice of any revocation or change of such authority unless he, she or it shall have received actual written notice thereof. No person or entity shall be required to look behind the signatures of such Trustees.

ADOPTED

h. St. Luke's, Woodhaven: Trustees

ACTION SC15:09/18

RESOLVED, that the following are hereby appointed as trustees, with the full power and authority to hold, manage and convey the property of the former St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Woodhaven on behalf of the Synod in all regards relating directly or indirectly to and in furtherance of synodical administration, by taking charge and control of the property the former St. Luke's and holding, managing and conveying that property on behalf of the Synod, to wit: The Rev. Joseph Mantovani; Mr. Christopher Vergara (SC Rep); Ms. Kathleen Schmidt ("Trustees"); and it is further

RESOLVED, that the signature of any two of the Trustees acting for and on behalf of the Synod to take charge and control of the property located at 87-34 85th Street, Woodhaven, NY and to hold, manage and convey the property on behalf of the Synod shall be binding upon and considered as the act of all of the Trustees. No person or entity acting in reliance on the signatures of any two of such Trustees as binding upon all Trustees shall be charged with notice of any revocation or change of such authority unless he, she or it shall have received actual written notice thereof. No person or entity shall be required to look behind the signatures of such Trustees.

ADOPTED

- i. St. Peter's, 140th Street, Bronx: Received letter requesting the right to appeal the closing of the congregation.
- B. Property formerly Bethlehem, Bronx

ACTION SC15:09/19

RESOLVED, that the contract entered into for the sale of the property located at 327 Bolton Ave, Bronx, New York, formerly known as Bethlehem Lutheran Church, to Restoration Temple Ministries, Inc. for the sale price of \$750,000. be approved. The contract was presented to the Synod Council prior to the vote.

ADOPTED For: 17 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

- C. St. Thomas House, Bronx

ACTION SC15:09/20

RESOLVED, that the contract entered into for the sale of the property located at 1942 Grand Concourse, Bronx, New York, known as St. Thomas House, to 1940 Grand LLC for the sale price of \$1,000,000 be approved. The contract was presented to the Synod Council prior to the vote.

ADOPTED For: 17 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

- D. Former Zion, Brooklyn / NYU Lutheran

- E. Grace, North Branch

Reimbursement for legal fees in the amount of \$15,000 has been received – letter of agreement promising non-association with all MNYS congregations by Pr. Norman David has been received.

- F. Synod Assembly Actions (PENDING)

- a. SA2015:05.01 / Resolution on Ministerium: Bp. Rimbo /planning committee have met twice – date and location soon to be announced.
- b. SA2015:05.05 / To Divest from Fossil Fuel Corporations
- c. SA2015:05.07 / To Review Election Process for Voting Members to CWA:

- d. SA2015:05.08 / MNYS Disaster Response Task Force: Task Force to be formed – nomination form to be posted.
- e. SA2015:05.12 / Augusta Victoria Hospital:
- f. SA2015:05.13 / Awareness-Raising, Accompaniment, Advocacy in the Holy Land
- g. SA2015:05.14 / Commitment for Addressing Racism in Church and Society

G. Pending

- MNYS Committee structure: Committee chairs will be receiving a communication inquiring about the status and activity of their committees.
- Report Process for election of a Bishop

8. Other Reports

A. Deans

9. Announcements/Events

10. Observers' Evaluation

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm with Sending Prayer

Next Synod Council Meeting: October 27, 2015 (LSSNY Board Room – Suite 1244)

Dcn. Gayle Ruege
Executive Assistant to the Bishop