

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
Mr. 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. Kathleen Koran
The Rev. Jonathan Linman
Dcn. Gayle Ruege
Ms. Kathleen Schmidt
Ms. Rebekah Thornhill
The Rev. Lamont Wells

GUESTS

The Rev. Edward Barnett, Conf. of Deans
The Rev. Rebecca Seely

Bold = present

Italics = excused absence

***Member of Executive Committee**

Opening Devotions: *Pastor Khader El-Yateem, Pastor Brenda Irving, Rebekah Thornhill*
+ How do we address discrimination in our society and media?

Observer: *Hazel Goldstein*

Call to Order: *Ms. Maria del Toro at 5:06 pm*

- 1. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 2. Adoption of the Minutes:** 15 December 2015

3. Strategic Plan Implementation

- A. Committee Appointments:
 - a. CLAIMED Strategy Committee
 - 1. Mr. David Bullock
 - b. SENT Strategy Committee
 - 1. Anti-racism Task Force Appointments
 - The Rev. John Flack
 - The Rev. Justin Johnson
 - Mr. Roberto Lara Aranda
 - The Rev. David Parsons
 - Mr. Randy Subramany
 - The Rev. Samuel Silaban
- B. Anti-racism Training Events
 - 1. Barbara Johnson / Pr. Percy Butiku reported on the Anti-racism training the SENT Committee and Anti-racism TF received on January 9 with Judith Roberts (ELCA)
 - 2. Feb 20 Training Event for SC members, Strategy Committee members, Deans with representatives from Race Forward at the Wartburg, Mt. Vernon.
 - 3. Recent article from the January Lutheran magazine describing how two congregations in Dallas, TX are addressing racism through "Courageous Conversations".
- C. Innovation Team Report: Sower's Project
Terra Rowe provided a report on the "Faith, Food and Community" project in the Hudson Valley.
- D. Visioning Session: Feb 5 / Joint Committees: Feb 6
Feb 5: Steering Committee, Executive Committee and staff are scheduled for a full day visioning session followed by a joint meeting of all the strategy committees on Feb 6.

4. Bishop's Report

- A. Calls
 - a. Ross Murray: ELCA Diaconal Minister

ACTION SC16:1/01

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to Ross Murray as an ELCA Diaconal Minister in his work as Director of Programs for GLAAD.

ADOPTED

- b. Mark Kiesel: resigned from roster of ELCA ordained ministers effective December 30, 2015

ACTION SC16:1/02

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council acknowledge the resignation of the Rev. Mark Kiesel from the roster of ordained ministers of the ELCA effective 30 December 2015.

ADOPTED

- c. Dcn. Charles Rogler: On Leave from Call effective November 1, 2015
- d. Dcn. Margaret Lindblom: On Leave from Call effective November 1, 2015

ACTION SC16:1/03

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve On Leave from Call status to Deacon Charles Rogler, effective 1 November 2015 and Deacon Margaret Lindblom, effective 1 November 2015.

ADOPTED

- B. Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education (LMHE) Appeal
Pastor Rebecca Seely requested authorization from the Synod Council to conduct a congregational appeal.

ACTION SC16:1/04

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council authorize Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education to conduct a Congregational Appeal in 2016.

ADOPTED

- C. Immanuel, Manhattan **(EXHIBIT A)**
The Synod Council responded to Immanuel, Manhattan's notification of the November 8 Congregation meeting.
- D. 500th Anniversary of the Reformation
VP del Toro reported on the formation of a working group convened by Pr. Jonathan Linman, which met on January 13.
- E. 2016 Synod Assembly
 - a. Registration
Registration is open
 - b. Nominations and Elections

5. Treasurer's Report : (EXHIBIT B)

- A. Mission Support Report
Treasurer Suttel reported that total mission support received YTD has us slightly ahead of budget. January 31 completes our fiscal year.
- B. December financials
 - Balance Sheet Summary (T-1)
 - Operating Income Statement (T-2)
- C. Financial Management Committee (FMC)

6. New Business

- A. Holy Cross, Commack
Bishop Rimbo received a letter from Holy Cross, Commack requesting Temporary Synod Administration. The Executive Committee has directed Pr. Lamont Wells to meet with the congregation council.

7. Old Business

- A. Congregations / properties under synod administration (EXHIBIT C)
- B. St. Paul's, Coney Island

ACTION SC16:1/05

WHEREAS, ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF CONEY ISLAND (ST. PAUL'S) located at 2801 West 8th Street, Brooklyn, New York is a member congregation of the **Evangelical Lutheran Church In America (ELCA)** rostered with the **METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD (SYNOD)** and

WHEREAS, the membership of **ST. PAUL'S** has declined and dwindled to so few, and become so scattered and diminished in numbers as to make it impractical for **ST. PAUL'S** to fulfill the purposes for which it was organized, and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the **SYNOD**, Section 13.24 provides in instances where a congregation's membership has diminished such that it is unable to fulfill its mission and ministry for which it is organized, the **SYNOD** may take charge and control of the property of such a congregation to hold, manage and convey the same on behalf of this **SYNOD**, and

WHEREAS, such charge and control of the property by the **SYNOD**, as provided in Section 13.24, may be through the appointment by Synod Council of trustees, and

WHEREAS, by virtue of the authority granted it by Section 13.24 of its Constitution, the **SYNOD** has requested Synod Council to consider applying synodical administration upon **ST. PAUL'S** pursuant to the terms and provisions of Section 13.24 and to take charge and control of the property of **ST. PAUL'S**, through the appointment of three trustees, and to hold, manage and convey such property on behalf of the **Synod**.

NOW THEREFORE, it is:

RESOLVED, that for the reasons set forth above, all of which are included and incorporated herein and made a part hereof as if fully set forth, the **SYNOD**, pursuant to Section 13.24 of its constitution does hereby impose synodical administration over the property of **ST. PAUL'S** to take charge and control of the property of **ST. PAUL'S** and to hold, manage, and convey on behalf of the **SYNOD**, and it is further,

RESOLVED, that the following are hereby appointed as trustees, with the with full power to hold and manage the property of **ST. PAUL'S** on behalf of the **SYNOD** in all regards relating directly or indirectly to the taking charge and control of the property of **ST. PAUL'S** and in holding, managing and conveying such property of **ST. PAUL'S** on behalf of the **SYNOD**, to wit: The Rev. Harriet Wieber, Mr. Frank Suttell and Ms. Kathleen Schmidt.

RESOLVED, that the signature of any two of the Trustees acting to take charge and control of the property of **ST. PAUL'S** and to hold, manage, and convey the property of **ST. PAUL'S** on behalf of the **SYNOD** shall be binding upon and considered as the act of all of the Trustees. No person or party acting in reliance of the signature of one such Trustee 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 party shall be required to look behind the signature of such Trustee.

ADOPTED FOR: 22 AGAINST: 0

- C. Christ, Ozone Park: sale

ACTION SC16:01/06

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the contract for the sale of three parcels of property located at 85-10; 85-12; 85-20 101st Avenue, Ozone Park, New York, with Cross Over Baptist Church for the sale price of \$3,000,000.

ADOPTED FOR: 22 AGAINST: 0

D. Bolton Ave, Bronx Property: offer

ACTION SC16:1/07

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council accept the offer of \$593,000 for the property located at 327 Bolton Avenue, Bronx, NY from The Word Enlightenment House of Jesus Christ, Ministries, Inc.

ADOPTED FOR: 22 AGAINST:0

E. ELCA / MNYS Campaigns:

Pastor Lamont Wells and VP del Toro reported on the joint capital campaign strategy and timeline.

F. SA Actions (Pending)

- SA2015:05.08 / MNYS Disaster Response Task Force
Nomination form for the MNYS Disaster Response Task Force have been posted to our website. To date, there have been no nominations.

G. . Pending

- MNYS Committee structure
- Report Process for election of a Bishop

8. Observer's Evaluation

Meeting Adjourned at 6:48 pm with Compline.

Next Synod Council Meeting: February 16, 2016 (Meeting rooms C-D / First Floor)