

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Leonel E. Avila	2020
The Rev. William Baum	2017
Ms. Cynthia Corley	2020
*Ms. Maria del Toro, Vice President	2018
Ms. Tabitha Johnson (youth)	2018
*The Rev. Amy Kienzle	2018
Mr. John Litke	2018
*Dr. Carlos Lopez	2018
Dcn. John Malone	2018
Ms. Karen Maulen	2018
<i>The Rev. Christopher Mietlowski</i>	<i>2020</i>
Mr. Walter Nash	2018
The Rev. Jeanine Owens	2020
Dcn. Lulu Paolini	2018
The Rev. Daniel Peter	2018
Dcn. John Prosen	2020
*The Rev. Robert A. Rimbo, Bishop	2020
Ms. Denise Rutherford-Gill	2020
*The Rev. Harry Schenkel	2018
*The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Sect.	2018
The Rev. Nicole Schwalbe	2020
The Rev. Garry Squire	2017
*Mr. Frank Suttell, Treasurer	2020
Ms. Wendy Bean Tannenbaum	2018
<i>Ms. Abby Triebel</i>	<i>2020</i>
Ms. Emma Turner (Young Adult)	2020
*Mr. Christopher Vergara	2020

AUXILIARY MEMBERS

STAFF

Ms. Susan Brandt
Mr. Branden Dicks
The Rev. Perucy 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

Bold = present

Italics = excused absence

*Member of Executive Committee

Devotions: Ms. Karen Maulen
Observer: Ms. Emma Turner
Call to Order: Ms. Maria del Toro at 5:17pm

- 1. Adoption of the Agenda:** adopted
- 2. Adoption of the Minutes:** 21 October 2016: adopted as presented.
- 3. "Tell your story"**

Lulu Paolini shared story of adopting her first son, who was born on Christmas Day 28 years ago.

4. Bishop's Report

A. Calls

a. **Gary Schaeffer, AiM:** *On Leave from Call effective 21 October 2016*

b. **The Rev. Kristina Schaeffer:** *On Leave from Call effective 21 October 2016*

Gary and Stina Schaeffer came to us from the SE Penn Synod to serve at Koinonia in September 2014. Gary as the Executive Director and Stina as the pastor. They made the decision to return to PA and resigned their calls effective Oct 21.

c. **The Dr. Rev. Kenneth Simurro, Jr.:** *On Leave from Call effective 31 October 2016*

Pastor Ken Simurro served St. Paul's, Flatlands (Brooklyn) for 17 years. He and his wife are relocating upstate, where they own a house. He resigned his call to St. Paul's effective Oct 31.

ACTION SC16:10/01

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve On Leave from Call Status to Gary Schaeffer, AiM; effective 21 Oct 2016; the Rev. Kristina Schaeffer, effective 21 Oct 2016; the Rev. Dr. Kenneth G. Simurro, Jr. effective 31 October 2016.

ADOPTED

B. Appointments (FOR REPORT)

a. **Ms. Faith Rowold / The Rev. Rebecca Seely:** *Innovation Team / Gathered Strategy*

b. **The Rev. Wilbert Miller:** *Candidacy Committee*

c. **The Rev. Laurie Anderson:** *Interim Pastoral Ministry / St. James – St. Matthew, So. Ozone Park*

d. **The Rev. Annemarie Noto:** *Interim Pastoral Ministry / Grace, Malverne*

e. **Mr. Branden Dicks:** *staff liaison / Environmental Stewardship Committee*

f. **Ms. Rebekah Thornhill:** *staff liaison / Domestic Violence Task Force*

C. Staff

a. **The Rev. Kathleen Koran**

Bp Rimbo reported that Pastor Koran was called as Assistant to the Bishop for Congregations in April 2009. She and her husband, Gary, have made the decision to retire in 2017. Her retirement will be effective April 30, 2017.

Pastor Koran has been a tremendous asset to our staff - and to this synod - working with congregations in pastoral vacancy and transition. She has done a stellar job. Bp. Rimbo accepted her resignation with both regret (in her leaving) and with deep joy as she and Gary begin this new time in their lives with family and friends.

Bp. Rimbo also welcomed The Rev. William Baum back to synod council.

D. Advisory Panels

Bp. Rimbo reviewed for the council the purpose and work of an advisory panel.

a. St. Stephen's, Brooklyn

Bp. Rimbo reported that an Advisory Panel for St. Stephen's was appointed in August to assist Pastor Crews and the congregation examine their ministry, particularly current financial practices and governance.

Four Panelists (Gene Hiigel, Cynthia Corley, Dean Khader Khalilia, Pr. Perucy Butiku) met with the pastor and members on September 17. A report was submitted to Bp. Rimbo for review.

Bp. Rimbo sent correspondence to the congregation with his suggestions.

b. Transfiguration, Harlem

Bp. Rimbo reported that after conversation with a congregation officer and Pr. Flack, the conference dean, an Advisory Panel was appointed for Transfiguration to assist the congregation examine its current ministry and determine future options. Transfiguration has been without a called pastor for several years.

Three panelists (Dean John Flack; Emma Porter and Pr. Lamont Wells) met with congregation members on August 17. A report was completed and submitted. He is still taking the Panel's report and recommendations under consideration.

5. Strategic Plan Implementation

A. Strategic Plan Review and Refresh Update

VP Del Toro reported that with the Strategic Plan reaching its fourth year at this past Assembly – it was determined to be good practice to enter a time of review – evaluation – and visioning approaching the mid-point of our 10 year Strategic Plan. After seeking the input of the staff, the deans, the Strategic Plan Working Group, and the synod council, we are now engaged in a strategic plan refresh.

a. Joint Committee meeting 3 December 2016

VP Del Toro reported that committee members from the CLAIMED, GATHERED, SENT Strategies, the Financial Management Committee, synod staff and members of the Ant-racism Task Force met on Saturday, December 3 to identify their foci and set priorities looking toward 2020. Committees were asked to establish goals and begin the development of a strategy to meet those goals.

B. CLAIMED Committee

a. Continue the coordination (with staff) of the Reformation 500 events

- b. Achieve a wider public awareness thru website redesign / video stories / “web members” and *Faith in Challenging Times* messaging.
- c. Develop and launch a *First Third* ministry. (Children, Youth and Young Adults)

C. GATHERED Committee

- a. Commit to growing VIBRANT congregations. Moving viable congregations to vitality and vibrancy by investing significant financial support through leadership and capital grants
- b. Increase dramatically the number of leaders (lay & clergy) engaged in public evangelism, stewardship, innovative ministry and advocacy.
- c. Evaluate the ministries of congregations that are unable to call a pastor / unable to self-govern and assist with closure.

D. SENT Committee

- a. To be an inclusive church with a focus on immigration and continued Anti-racism training including pre and post training research on changes in attitudes and actions related to racism.
- b. To be engaged in community organizing by training leaders (lay & clergy)
- c. To recognize Anti-Racism as a Strategy Enabler of the Strategic Plan

E. Grants

a. Leadership Development Grants EXHIBIT A

Pr. Linman presented a list of recommended Leadership Development Grant recipients.

ACTION SC 16:12/02

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

ADOPTED

b. Sowers Grants

reported that two Sowers Grants were recommended by the Innovation Team and approved by Bishop Rimbo.

- Pr. Mark Erson / St. John’s, Manhattan: \$7500 for “Art of Life – St. John’s Presents”
- Ms. Felicia Robinson-Fiorillo / Christ-Cristo, Freeport: \$10,000 for immigration ministry

6. Treasurer’s Report

A. Mission Support through 30 November 2016 EXHIBIT B

Mr. Suttell reported that we continued to run behind budget in November, and that receipts for the month totaled \$97,324, which was (\$9,675) below the budgeted amount of \$106,999. YTD mission support receipts total \$873,637, vs. the budgeted amount of \$902,002, giving us a YTD deficit of (\$29,365).

B. November financials **EXHIBIT C**

7. Secretary's Report

A. Constitution Review Committee

Secretary Schoepflin reported that he is working with Gayle Ruege and Sue Brandt on the formation of this committee and organization of the process. He proposed an amendment to the enabling resolution to provide for a committee of the Secretary and four other members, one from each Quadrant.

Each CRC member will establish a review team (within their Quadrant) to assist in the review of congregation constitutions.

Conference Deans are currently meeting individually with each of the pastors in their conferences and are receiving the most current constitution from each congregation to pass on to this Committee for review.

The Secretary of the Synod will have oversight over the process and will report regularly to the SC on the work of the committee.

ACTION 16:12/03

RESOLVED, that ACTION 16:06/13 is hereby amended to provide that "the Synod Council hereby establishes a Constitution Review Committee consisting of the Secretary of the Synod and up to four other members, one from each Quadrant, appointed for three year terms by the bishop with the advice and consent of the Synod Council. (*changes in original action are underlined*)

ADOPTED

8. New Business

A. Immanuel, Kingston: sale of parsonage

Bp. Rimbo reported that Immanuel, Kingston requested that the Synod Council take no exception to the sale of its parsonage. He further reported that Immanuel is currently served part time by Pr. Paul Britton (retired) who lives in Kingston; that Immanuel is not able to call a full time pastor; that maintenance of the parsonage runs the congregation \$10,000 per year; that if unoccupied by clergy – the house must return to the tax rolls; and that the congregation voted to sell parsonage on Oct 16 by a 2/3 majority.

Pr. Peter led the council in prayer before the vote.

ACTION 16:12/04

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council take no exception to the request of Immanuel, Kingston to list the property located at 98 Roosevelt Avenue, Kingston, NY for sale.

ADOPTED

B. Vacant SC seat: nomination / Karen Woolley

VP Del Toro reported that a letter of resignation was received from Muriel Davis, newly elected to the SC this past May, due to health issues and that the Executive Committee nominates Karen Woolley, who served on SC 2012-2016, to fill Ms. Davis' seat until the May 2017 Assembly. Ms. Wooley shared the ballot with Ms. Davis.

ACTION 16:12/05

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council accept the resignation of Ms. Muriel Davis.
ADOPTED

ACTION 16:12/06

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council hereby appoints Ms. Karen Woolley to fill the vacant seat through the 2017 Synod Assembly.
ADOPTED

C. MNYS Events policy EXHIBIT D

R. Thornhill presented the proposed Events Policy to the council.

ACTION 16:12/07

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council adopt the events policy as presented.
ADOPTED

D. 2017 Synod Assembly rate schedule EXHIBIT E

R. Thornhill presented the proposed rate schedule.

ACTION 16:12/08

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the proposed rate schedule for the 2017 Synod Assembly.
ADOPTED

E. Ordained synod staff / housing allowances EXHIBIT F

Bp. Rimbo explained and then presented the proposed housing allowances

ACTION 16:12/09

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the staff housing allowances as presented.
ADOPTED

F. 2017 SC retreat date: June 9-10

G. Ruege announced a change to our meeting schedule in 2017 and the council retreat will be held in June instead of October/November. June is the first meeting for newly elected SC members and it makes sense to introduce them to the work of the SC, their role and sitting members in June.

It is now scheduled for June 9-10 at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Huntington.

G. Synod Council / paperless meetings beginning in January 2017

G. Ruege and R. Thornhill announced that beginning in January 2017, we plan to conduct paperless SC meetings. We've experienced the growing acceptance of going paperless in our Synod Assemblies and Churchwide Assemblies. Each council member (via email) will be provided with information to log-in to access SC documents for the month's meeting. Please bring to the January meeting the electronic device you plan to use (iPad /tablet / Laptop). For those who lack a device, one will be provided for use at the meetings. Rebekah will walk us through a tutorial at the January meeting.

9. Old Business

A. Synod Properties/Congregations under synod administration **EXHIBIT G**

K. Schmidt reported to the council on First, Jeffersonville and Zion, Brooklyn. She also reported on Messiah, Flushing.

B. SA Actions (pending)

SA2015:05.8 MNYS Disaster Response Task Force
SC2016:04/07 Supporting Organizations
SA2016:05.04 On Mission Partnerships
SA2016:05.09 On Committee Minutes
SA2016:05.11 On Advocacy and Justice for Refugees

10. Announcements/Other

A. Congregation Council Training Events **EXHIBIT H**

B. Africa Descent Lutheran Association (ADLA) Martin Luther King, Jr. service January 15, 2017, 4pm, St. Paul's, Bronx.

C. Article: Catholic New York article on Sheen Center service.

D. Ecumenical Prayer Service: Wednesday, January 18, 6:30pm, at Holy Trinity CPW.

11. Observer's Evaluation

Next Synod Council Meeting: January 17, 2017 (Meeting room C-D)

Next Executive Committee Meeting: January 5, 2017 *

Adjourned at 6:55pm, with prayer by Bp. Rimbo.

**Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Secretary**