

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

Bold = present

Italics = excused absence

*Member of Executive Committee

There was no quorum at this regularly scheduled meeting. These minutes contain only reports that were given. A special meeting to handle business matters before the Council was called by VP Del Toro for Saturday, February 20, 2016, at 9:30am.

Opening Devotions:

Observer: none

Call to Order: Ms. Maria del Toro at 5:17pm

Bp Rimbo opened the meeting with prayer

1. Adoption of the Agenda

2. Adoption of the Minutes: could not be done in absence of quorum

3. Bishop's Report

A. Calls **deferred until 2/20/16 Special Meeting.**

- a. The Rev. Dr. Deborah DeWinter: *Renewal of Contract for Extended Service / First, Poughkeepsie*
- b. The Rev. Michael Thomas: *Termination of Call effective 29 February 2016*
- c. Dcn. Roberta Paulik: *OLFC effective 1 Nov 2015*
- d. Dcn. Gary Weiler: *OLFC effective 1 Aug 2014*
- e. Dcn. Lynn A. Weiler: *OLFC effective 1 Aug 2014*

B. Appointments: Bp. Rimbo announced the following appointments.

- a. The Rev. Joel Brandt: *Chair, Reference & Counsel*
- b. Dcn. Jean Hansen: *Diaconate Council*
- c. Dcn. Jasmine Downer: *Nominations & Elections Committee (Feb 1 2016 – Jan 31 2017)*
- d. Jacquelyn Mize-Baker: *CLAIMED Strategy Committee*

C. Staff

- a. Dcn. Gayle Ruege: Senior Assistant to the Bishop
- b. Rebekah Thornhill: Assistant to the Bishop for Communications & Events

A recent eblast to rostered leaders and note in today's eletter announces a new staff plan developed and approved by the Executive Committee to address the departure of Sarah Gioe, Director of Communications and Pr. Marc Herbst, Director for Strategic Plan and Chief of Staff, last year.

Dcn. Gayle Ruege has been named Senior Assistant to the Bishop. She is the communication link between rostered leaders, congregations and partner agencies with my office in the synod. She is also taking on the administrative role that had been part of the Chief of Staff position.

Rebekah Thornhill has become the Assistant to the Bishop for Communications and Events (which she has ably done since June of last year). She will continue to develop and manage our synod communications and oversee / coordinate major synod events.

c. Staff Reports

Staff reports are provided at **EXHIBIT A**

Pr. Lamont Wells participated / presented at The 19th Annual Wall Street Project Economic Summit earlier today in mid-town. This year's theme for the Clergy Roundtable was "Saving Our Homes, Stabilizing Our Communities and Expanding the Vision Of the 21st Century Church".

D. Wider Church Fund Grants **EXHIBIT B**

2016 may be the final year we are able to provide these grants to the wider church unless we revisit the practice of tithing 10% from the sale of our properties to invest in this fund.

4. Strategic Plan Implementation

A. Tom Massey: Consultant / responsibilities

VP del Toro reported that we are expanding the role of our consultant, Tom Massey. He will be working closely with the Strategy Committees to ensure the implementation of our strategic plan continues to run smoothly.

B. Anti-racism Training Events

- Race Forward: February 20, 2016: Rebekah Thornhill reported on registration

C. Visioning Session: Feb 5 / Joint Committees: Feb 6

VP del Toro reported that on Feb 5 the Steering Committee, the Executive Committee and the Staff gathered for a visioning session from 10 am – 4 pm on February 5 with Tom Massey. Planning for the Assembly and future events in the Quadrants are being planned for 2016-2017.

On Feb 6, the Strategy Committees met jointly from 9:30 am – 2 pm to vision and set priorities for 2016 – 2017.

D. Financial Management Committee: MNYS Investment Policy

Mr. Suttell reported that the 2015 Synod Assembly directed that the Synod divest investments in fossil fuel companies within five years. Our investment manager, Walden Asset Management, has closed out the one fund that contained fossil fuel securities and presently all the Synod's investments are fossil fuel free.

The FMC will proposing slight changes to the Investment Policy at the 2/20 Special Meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report : **EXHIBIT C**

A. Mission Support: Treasurer F. Suttell reported on mission support.

For the month of January, we received \$135,500 vs. a budgeted amount of \$170,111, putting us below budget for the month by about \$35,000.

Total Mission Support received for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2016 is \$1,170,000 vs. a budgeted amount of \$1,200,000, so we fell short of budget by \$30,000.

6. New Business

A. Our Savior's, Glen Head: sale of property

The synod council received a request from Our Savior's, Glen Head to take no exception to the sale of house located at 19 Glenwood Rd, Glen Head and an open lot bordered by Glenwood Rd and Willard Place. This property is not the parsonage.

This action will be taken at the 2/20 Special Meeting.

7. Old Business

A. Congregations / properties under synod administration: **EXHIBIT D**

B. ELCA / MNYS Campaigns:

Pastor Wells' proposed time line for the joint campaigns is at EXHIBIT E.

C. 2016 Synod Assembly Update:

Ms. Rebekah Thornhill gave the update.

D. SA Actions (Pending)

- SA2015:05.08 / MNYS Disaster Response Task Force

E. Pending

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:36 pm by VP Del Toro.

Closing prayer was led by Bishop Rimbo.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Robert P. Schoepflin, Secretary