

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Leonel E. Avila	2020
Ms. Cynthia Corley	2020
<i>Ms. Muriel Davis</i>	<i>2020</i>
*Ms. Maria del Toro, Vice President	2018
Ms. Tabitha Johnson (youth)	2018
*The Rev. Amy Kienzle	2018
<i>Mr. John Litke</i>	<i>2018</i>
<i>*Dr. Carlos Lopez</i>	<i>2018</i>
<i>Dcn. John Malone</i>	<i>2018</i>
<i>Ms. Karen Maulen</i>	<i>2018</i>
<i>The Rev. Christopher Mietlowski</i>	<i>2020</i>
The Rev. Craig Miller	2018
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
<i>*The Rev. Harry Schenkel</i>	<i>2018</i>
<i>*The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Sect.</i>	<i>2018</i>
<i>The Rev. Nicole Schwalbe</i>	<i>2020</i>
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. Percy Butiku
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: *Bp. Robert Rimbo*

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

Call to Order: *Ms. Maria del Toro at 9:41 am*

- 1. Adoption of the Agenda: Adopted as presented**
- 2. Adoption of the Minutes: 28 June 2016 : Adopted as presented**
- 3. "Tell your story": Christopher Vergara**

4. Bishop's Report

A. Churchwide Assembly: New Orleans

The Bishop's experienced HOPE – it seems we are turning a corner with an identity that is much more secure than it was 10 years ago. There is a new style of leadership in our churchwide office.

Bp. Eaton has brought together new possibilities for our church.

- a. United Roster of Word and Service Ministers: Ministers of Word and Sacrament / Ministers of Word and Service (ELCA Diaconal Ministers, Associates in Ministry, Deaconess Community)
- b. Declaration on the Way: the next step in a long process of conversations / healing the rift between Lutherans and Roman Catholic Church.
- c. Future Directions of the ELCA
- d. Memorials, Resolutions to Churchwide Assembly / Constitutional Changes
Secretary Schoepflin will review constitutional changes with the Council over several SC meetings.

B. Calls

- a. The Rev. Nicholas Sollom: *Chaplain, Bellevue Hospital, NYC effective 15 August 2016*

ACTION SC16:09/01

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to the Rev. Nicholas Sollom as Chaplain, Bellevue Hospital, NYC effective 15 August 2016.

ADOPTED

- b. The Rev. Gaylon Barker: *Interim Pastoral Ministry / Good Shepherd, Brooklyn eff 1 Aug 2016*

ACTION SC16:09/02

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to the Rev. Gaylon Barker as Interim Pastor for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, effective 1 August 2016.

ADOPTED

- c. The Rev. Carla Meier: *Interim Pastoral Ministry / Good Shepherd, Brooklyn eff 1 Aug 2016*

ACTION SC16:09/03

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to the Rev. Carla Meier as Interim Pastor for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, effective 1 August 2016.

ADOPTED

- d. The Rev. Arden Strasser: *Interim Pastoral Ministry / St. Andrew's, Yorktown Hgts 10 Oct 2016*

ACTION SC16:09/04

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to the Rev. Arden Strasser as Interim Pastor for St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Yorktown Heights, effective 10 October 2016.

ADOPTED

- e. The Rev. Linda Bell: *On Leave from Call effective 1 Sep 2016*

- f. The Rev. David Rommereim: *On Leave from Call effective 1 May 2016*

- g. The Rev. William Starkweather: *On Leave from Call effective 1 August 2016*

ACTION SC16:09/05

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve *On Leave from Call Status* to the Rev. Linda Bell effective 1 Sep 2016; the Rev. David Rommereim effective 1 May 2016; the Rev. William Starkweather effective 1 August 2016;

- h. The Rev. Francis D. Bonadonna: *retirement status effective 1 July 2016*
i. The Rev. Dr. Jerome Taylor: *retirement status effective 1 November 2016*
j. The Rev. Michael Thomas: *retirement status effective 1 September 2016*
k. The Rev. Diane Wildow: *retirement status effective 1 February 2016*

ACTION SC16:09/06

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council acknowledge retirement status for the Rev. Francis Bonadonna effective 1 July 2016, The Rev. Dr. Jerome Taylor effective 1 November 2016; The Rev. Michael Thomas effective 1 September 2016; The Rev. Diane Wildow effective 1 February 2016

C. Appointments (FOR REPORT)

a. Advisory Panel / Transfiguration, Harlem:

- *Pr. John Flack*
- *Ms. Emma Porter*
- *Pr. Lamont Wells*

b. Advisory Panel / St. Stephen's, Brooklyn:

- *Pr. Percy Butiku*
- *Ms. Cynthia Corley*
- *Mr. Eugene Hiigel*
- *Pr. Khader Khalilia*

c. Consultation Team for the appeal process

- *Mr. Eugene Hiigel*
- *Ms. Nancy Casalino-Malone*
- *Pr. Jared Stahler*
- *Ms. Carol Trower*

Consultations with representatives from congregations are scheduled for September 29. The names of the congregations going forward to the SA will be identified following the meeting.

D. Staff Reports (Jan – Aug 2016) (EXHIBIT A)

Provided for review

5. Strategic Plan Implementation

A. Strategic Plan Review and Refresh: Tom Massey presented purpose and process

- Review
- Refresh:
 - Focus of Claimed: 2017 Commemoration
 - Focus of Gathered: Vibrant Congregations (Pastors & Councils) movement from viable to vibrant
 - Sent: Confronting Racism / Immigration
 - Alignment
 - Execution

B. CLAIMED Committee

- a. Reformation 500 events & resources

C. GATHERED Committee

- a. Leadership Development Grants: presented by Pr. Jonathan Linman **(EXHIBIT B)**

ACTION SC09:09/07

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. Capital Improvement Grants update:
 - 23 applications received to date. Ranging from \$4K to \$300K
 - Review Team will present to EC / SC in November

D. SENT Committee

- a. Resignation of the Rev. Marsh Drege, Co-Chair
- b. Anti-Racism Initiative :
 - Crossroads Antiracism training workshops (June 11, September 10, November 1
 - Anti-Racism Task Force Retreat (Sep 23-24)

E. Financial Management Committee (FMC)

6. Treasurer's Report

A. Mission Support Report **(EXHIBIT C)**

Our YTD budgeted amount is \$606,894 vs. actual receipts of \$580,073, so YTD we are under budget (by \$26,820). We expect the deficit will be reduced in September.

B. August Financials **(EXHIBIT D)**

C. Stewardship & Mission Support Table **(EXHIBIT E)**

Pr. Craig Miller reported the Mission Support Table's recommendations for Synod Council

7. "Tell your story": Denise Rutherford-Gill

8. New Business

- A. The Rev. Craig Miller: Synod Council resignation
Nominations: Pr. William Baum to fill seat until May 2017 Assembly – then hold election to fill the unexpired term through May 2018

ACTION SC09:09/09

RESOLVED, that the Rev. William Baum be elected to serve on the Metropolitan New York Synod Council through the May 2017 Synod Assembly. Development Grants reviewed by the Leadership Development Grant Review Team and recommended by the Executive Committee.
ADOPTED

- B. Special Assembly Agenda: 15 Oct 2016

ACTION SC09:09/10 (EXHIBIT F)

RESOLVED, that the proposed agenda for the October 15 2016 Special Assembly be approved for recommendation to the Assembly.
ADOPTED

- C. Synod Council Retreat (EXHIBIT G)

The retreat schedule and location were approved

- D. Recommended COLA for 2017 Pastors Compensation Guidelines:

Kathy Schmidt reported that the Consumer price index recommended COLA is 1%

ACTION SC09:09/11

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council acknowledges the 2017 COLA at 1% as reported by the Consumer Priced Index.
ADOPTED

- E. HSBC Banking Signatories

ACTION SC16:09/12

RESOLVED, that Robert Rimbo be removed as an authorized signatory on the synod's account with HSBC Bank and that Gayle Ruege be added as an authorized signatory on the HSBC account, and that Rebekah Thornhill's name be changed on the banking resolution from Rebekah Wedge to Rebekah Thornhill.

ADOPTED

9. Old Business

- A. Creation of a Supporting Organization / referred back to Synod Council from Synod Assembly 2016
(EXHIBIT H)

ACTION SC16:09/13

RESOLVED that the Synod Council of the Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is hereby authorized to create or cause to be created one or more

tax exempt Supporting Organizations, as defined and regulated by the United States Internal Revenue Code and other applicable federal and New York State laws and regulations, in furtherance of the Synod's role as good steward and financial manager and to assist the Synod in utilizing its assets in furtherance of the purposes for which the Synod was formed and the mission and ministry of the Synod, including but not limited to:

1. Participating in God's mission by proclaiming God's saving Gospel of justification by grace for Christ's sake through faith alone, according to the apostolic witness in the Holy Scripture, and preserving and transmitting the Gospel faithfully to future generations.
2. Carrying out Christ's Great Commission by reaching out to all people to bring them to faith in Christ and by doing all ministry with a global awareness consistent with the understanding of God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of all.
3. Serving in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, and standing with the poor and powerless, and committing itself to their needs.
4. Worshipping God in proclamation of the Word and administration of the sacraments and through lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness, and service.
5. Nurturing its members in the Word of God so as to grow in faith and hope and love, to see daily life as the primary setting for the exercise of their Christian calling, and to use the gifts of the Spirit for their life together and for their calling in the world.
6. Manifesting the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives.
7. Working in cooperation with and in support of the mission and ministry of the Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, as interpreted by the Bishop and Synod Council.

ADOPTED

- B. Congregations / properties under synod administration **(EXHIBIT I)**
- a. Former St. Luke's, Woodhaven: *contract for sale*

ACTION SC16:09/14

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the contract for the sale of the property located at 87-34 85th Street, Woodhaven, New York, with Christ the Rock, for the sale price of \$2,200,000.

ADOPTED YES: 18 NO: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

- b. Jeffersonville property: *donation of property*

The congregation closed in 2009. The property was listed for sale in 2011 for \$250,000

Over the last 5 years the price has been gradually lowered – the property has gone in and out of contract. Last purchaser contracted for \$87,500 and pulled out of the contract in August due to an easement issue with the cemetery (an adjoining property).

Recommendation of the EC is to explore the donation of this property to a local non-profit.

c. Former Bethlehem, Bronx

ACTION SC16:09/15

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council ratify the action of the Executive Committee to accept the reduction in price of \$5000 for the contract for sale to The New Move of God Pentecostal Church for \$550,000 for the property located at 327 Bolton Avenue, Bronx, NY.

ADOPTED YES: 18 NO: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

d. Former Messiah Flushing / Wartburg project

ACTION SC16:09/16

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council terminate the contract with The Wartburg for the development of the property located at 42-15 165th Street, Flushing, NY

ADOPTED YES: 18 NO: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

e. Former Zion, Brooklyn / Contract extension:

ACTION SC16:09/17

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend the contract with FAC 6309 Fourth Avenue LP for the property located at 6307 Fourth Avenue, Brooklyn through December 31, 2017 contingent upon the receipt of a signed contract or Letter of Intent for the lease of the synod owned space to a fair market value tenant.

ADOPTED YES: 18 NO: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

f. Epiphany, Brooklyn

ACTION SC16:09/18

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant Epiphany Lutheran Church & School, Brooklyn an early release of grant funding in 2016 up to \$50,000 for preliminary carrying costs incurred in the redevelopment of the property.

ADOPTED

C. ELCA / MNYS Campaigns:

a. Feasibility Study RFP

Received RFP's from 4 consulting firms. Cost is prohibitive. Exploring other options / individuals that work in institutional development.

D. SA Actions (Pending)

- **SA2015:05.08 / MNYS Disaster Response Task Force:** A nomination form for appointment to this TF is posted on our website's Disaster page mnys.org/disasterrelief and will be noted in this Tuesday's eletter.

- **2016 SA Actions**
 1. **SA2016:05.4 On Mission Partnerships:**
Synod staff will meet with the ministerium of the Western Suffolk Conference (the authors of the resolution) to engage them in the development of this program

 2. **SA2016:05.09 On Committee Minutes**
A template is posted on our website under <http://www.mnys.org/committees/>

 3. **SA2016:05.11 On Advocacy and Justice for Refugees**

E. Pending

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

10. Observer's Evaluation

Next Executive Committee Meeting: Tuesday, October 4, 2016 *

Synod Council Retreat: October 21-22

- **Seminary of the Immaculate Conception
440 West Neck Road
Huntington, NY 11743**

***Proposed items for the Synod Council agenda should be submitted to Dcn. Gayle Ruege (gruege@mnys.org) for consideration by the Executive Committee on or before September 26.**

As of September 2016, all committees are to provide a digital copy of meeting minutes to Susan Brandt (sbrandt@mnys.org) for the synod files. A template is available for committee use.

Closed with prayer / Adjourned at 3:07 pm

*Deacon Gayle Ruege
Senior Assistant to the Bishop*