

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

AUXILIARY MEMBERS**STAFF**

Ms. Susan Brandt
Mr. Branden Dicks
The Rev. Perucy Butiku
The Rev. Kathleen Koran
The Rev. Jonathan Linman
Synod Dcn. Gayle Ruege
Ms. Kathleen Schmidt
Ms. Rebekah Thornhill
The Rev. Lamont Wells

GUESTS

Mr. Ed Wagner (FMC)
Mr. Damyn Kelly, Lutheran Social Services NY
Ms. Marlene Lund
The Rev. Marcia Parkinson-Harrison, Conf. of Deans

Bold = present

Italics = excused absence

*Member of Executive Committee

Bp. Rimbo introduced Mr. Damyn Kelly, CEO Lutheran Social Services, who addressed the council about the work of LSS, including work in the areas of immigration and education.

Devotions: *The Rev. Harry Schenkel*

Observer: *The Rev. Jeanine Owens*

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

1. **Adoption of the Agenda:** adopted as presented.
2. **Adoption of the Minutes:** 21 February 2017: adopted as presented.
3. **“Tell your story”**
The Rev. Jeanine Owens shared her story.
4. **Treasurer’s Report**
 - A. **Proposed Revised 2017 budget / Proposed 2018 budget**
Treasurer F. Suttell presented the budgets to the council.

ACTION SC17:03/01

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council recommend to the Synod Assembly that it adopt the proposed revised budget of \$5,426,740 for 2017 and the proposed budget of 5,341,460 for 2018.

ADOPTED

B. 10 Year Plan

Mr. Ed Wagner, Chairperson of the Financial Management Committee, presented the Ten-Year Plan for 2017-2026, reminding the council that the goal of the plan is to attain a sustainable balance between income and expenses by 2024.

ACTION SC17:03/02

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council Ten-Year Plan for 2017-2026 be adopted as presented.

ADOPTED

C. Mission Support Report

Treasurer F. Suttell reported that contributions for the month of February totaled \$61,955, which was \$23,470 higher than what was received in February 2016.

5. Bishop’s Report

A. Calls

- a. Evelyn Patricia Avila: *Mission Developer / Latino congregation at Ascension, Deer*

Park

ACTION SC17:03/03

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to Evelyn (Patty) Avila as Pastor / Mission Developer for the Ascension Lutheran Church Latino Ministry, Deer Park, NY, effective 21 March 2017.

ADOPTED

- b. Synod Deacon Sharon Brennan: *OLFC effective 1 Mar 2017*

ACTION SC17:03/04

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve On Leave from Call Status to Synod Deacon Sharon Brennan effective 1 March 2017.

ADOPTED

B. Appointments

- a. Renee Wicklund: *Reference & Counsel*

ACTION SC17:03/05

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the appointment of Renee Wicklund to the 2017 Committee on Reference & Counsel.

ADOPTED

- b. The Rev. Kevin O'Hara: *Chair, Nominations & Elections Committee*
- c. The Rev. Dr. Katrina Foster: *Nominations & Elections Committee*
- d. The Rev. Tobias Anderson: *Nominations & Elections Committee*
- e. Ms. Savita Ramdhani: *Nominations & Elections*
- f. Synod Deacon Karen Nurmi: *Nominations & Elections*

ACTION SC17:03/06

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the appointments of the Rev. Kevin O'Hara; the Rev. Dr. Katrina Foster; the Rev. Tobias Anderson; Ms. Savita Ramdhani; and Synod Deacon Karen Nurmi to the 2017 Nominations & Elections Committee.

ADOPTED

- g. Jeffry Peterson: *Audit Committee*

ACTIONS SC17:03/07

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the appointment of Jeffry Peterson to the Audit Committee (Feb 1 2017 – Jan 31, 2020).

ADOPTED

- h. Judge Laura Douglas: *Constitution Review Committee*

Bp. Rimbo reported that Judge Laura Douglas, a member of Abiding Presence, Bronx, has been appointed to the Constitution Review Committee, and that four other persons are still needed to fill the Committee and others to form the review team for each quadrant. He noted that our goal is to have at least 4 people on each review team. Members were invited to submit nominations.

ACTION SC17:03/08

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the appointment of Judge Laura Douglas to the Constitution Review Committee.

ADOPTED

C. Staff

b. Assistant to the Bishop for Congregations

Bp. Rimbo reported that currently, several applications have been received for this position. The Executive Committee will review and arrange interviews, and a recommendation to the Synod Council will be forthcoming.

6. Strategic Plan Implementation

A. CLAIMED Committee

a. Nov 1 Reformation 500 event / Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine

Pr. Linman reported that a Planning Group is working on the coordination of this event, and that communication will be out soon.

B. GATHERED Committee

b. Leadership Development Grants

P. Linman reported on the leadership development grants recommended.

ACTION SC17:03/09

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

C. SENT Committee

Pr. Percy Butiku reported that the SENT Committee met on March 18 to plan for the Synod Assembly. A forum on immigration issues is planned.

D. FMC

(Ten Year Plan was presented earlier in the meeting)

E. Anti-racism Initiative / Enabler

Pr. Percy Butiko reported that the Anti-Racism Task Force is scheduled to meet March 25 to plan for Synod Assembly.

F. Congregation Council Training Events (6 events – completed)

S.Dcn. Gayle Ruege reported that six training events for congregation councils have been held, the final one being on March 18. With approximately 500 participants, there was a positive response to the synod's commitment to leadership development for both lay and ordained leaders.

7. New Business

A. Trexler Grant: *The Rev. Robert Kasting*

ACTION SC18:03/10

RESOLVED, that a Trexler Grant, in the amount of \$1,000, be approved for The Rev. Robert Kasting for attending the ELCA Rostered Leaders Gathering.

ADOPTED

B. 2017 Synod Assembly Agenda

Ms. Rebekah Thornhill presented the proposed agenda.

ACTION SC18:03/11

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Synod Council approves the agenda for the 2017 Synod Assembly.

ADOPTED

8. Old Business

A. Synod Properties / Congregations under synod administration

a. Bolton Avenue, Bronx property

S.Dcn. Gayle Ruege (for Kathleen Schmidt) reported that closing on the sale of this property is anticipated by the end of this month.

B. Transfiguration, Harlem

Bp. Rimbo reported that he will be meeting with the congregation on April 2 to discuss the direction of its ministry.

C. St. Peter's, Port Jervis

Pr. Kathleen Koran reported that the Synod Council voted on March 18, 2014 to temporarily assume administration of St. Peter's, Port Jervis. The defined goals of such action were to assist the congregation in clearly defining its resources for ministry, to prepare a realistic, balanced budget, and cultivate a mission strategy.

The trustees recommend that the synod council remove temporary administration.

ACTION SC17:03/12

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council remove St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Port Jervis, NY from temporary synodical administration effective 1 April 2017.

ADOPTED

D. Congregation Appeals

a. Eltingville, Staten Island

ACTION SC17:03/13

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council affirm its prior decision to take charge and control of the property of Eltingville Lutheran Church, Staten Island, under S13.24 of the constitution of the Synod, and send written notice to the congregation of its right to appeal this decision to the Synod Assembly and that notice of intent to exercise its right of appeal must be made in writing to the Vice President of the Synod Council by April 7, 2017 in order to be placed on the agenda for the Synod Assembly.

ADOPTED (16 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

b. St. Paul's, Coney Island

ACTION SC17:03/14

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council affirm its prior decision to take charge and control of the property of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Coney Island, under S13.24 of the constitution of the Synod, and send written notice to the congregation of its right to appeal this decision to the Synod Assembly and that notice of intent to exercise its right of appeal must be made in writing to the Vice President of the Synod Council by April 7, 2017 in order to be placed on the agenda for the Synod Assembly.

ADOPTED (16 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

c. St. Peter's, 140th Street, Bronx

ACTION SC17:03/15

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council affirm its prior decision to take charge and control of the property of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 140th Street, Bronx, under S13.24 of the constitution of the Synod, and send written notice to the congregation of its right to appeal this decision to the Synod Assembly and that notice of intent to exercise its right of appeal must be made in writing to the Vice President of the Synod Council by April 7, 2017 in order to be placed on the agenda for the Synod Assembly.

ADOPTED (16 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

E. SA Actions (Pending)

- SA2015:05.08 / MNYS Disaster Response Task Force
- 2016 SA Actions
 1. SC16:04/07 Supporting Organizations
 2. SA2016:05.4 On Mission Partnerships
 3. SA2016:05.09 On Committee Minutes
 4. SA2016:05.11 On Advocacy and Justice for Refugees

9. Announcements / Other Reports

10. Observer's Evaluation

Meeting adjourned with prayer by Bp. Rimbo at 7:17 pm.

Next Synod Council Meeting: Saturday, April 22, 2017 (location TBD)

Next Executive Committee Meeting: April 4, 2017 *

***Proposed items for the Synod Council agenda should be submitted to S.Dcn. Gayle Ruege (gruege@mnys.org) for consideration by the Executive Committee on or before March 29.**

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.

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