

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Leonel E. Avila 2020
Mr. Adam A.D. Campbell (Youth) 2020
***Ms. Cynthia Corley** 2020
The Rev. Chryll Crews 2022
S. Dcn. Steven Daniels 2022
Mr. David Ehlers 2022
Ms. Monica Gavryszewski 2020
Ms. Hazel Goldstein 2022
The Rev. Marva Jenkins 2022
***Mr. John Litke, Treasurer** 2022
***Bishop Donald McCoid** 2019
The Rev. Christopher Mietlowski 2020
S. Dcn. John Ogren 2020
***The Rev. Jeanine Owens** 2020
The Rev. David Parsons 2022
***The Rev. Daniel Peter** 2022
S. Dcn. Denise Rutherford-Gill 2020
Mr. Thomas Sargent 2020
***The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Sect.** 2022
The Rev. Nicole Schwalbe 2020
Mr. Cecil Spurlock-Shackelton 2022
The Rev. Garry Squire 2020
Ms. Wendy Bean Tannenbaum 2022
Ms. Emma Turner (Young Adult) 2020
***Mr. Christopher Vergara** 2020
***Ms. Renee Wicklund, VP** 2022
S. Dcn. Anita Martin-Williams 2022
Ms. Karen Woolley 2020

STAFF

Dcn. Margy Schmitt Ajer
Ms. Susan Brandt
The Rev. Perucy Butiku
Ms. Regina Daniels
Mr. Branden Dupree
Mr. Roberto Lara
The Rev. Jonathan Linman
Ms. Maria Rodas
Synod Dcn. Gayle Ruege
The Rev. Lamont Wells

Guests

Bold = present

Italics = excused absence

***Member of Executive Committee**

Opening Devotions: prayer by Bishop McCoid at 5:40 pm.

Observer: Ms. Cynthia Corley

Call to Order: Ms. Renee Wicklund

Introduction / welcome of visitors from Leif Ericson Day School, Brooklyn:

- **Dcn. Christine Hauge, Principal**

- **Mr. Gene Hiigel, School Board**
- **Ms. Signe Campbell, staff**

1. Adoption of the Agenda: adopted.

2. Adoption of the SC Minutes (22 January 2019): adopted.

3. Bishop's Report

A. Election of the Bishop / update

a. Pre-identification process

Bishop McCoid reported that Secretary Schoepflin began receiving notification of pre-identified pastors beginning Feb 1. Upon receipt of the notification, Pr. Schoepflin sent an email containing the link to access the profile and questionnaire for pre-identified pastors to complete and submit for posting by R. Lara on April 1.

b. Bishop's Election Committee

1. Appointment: The Rev. C. Anderson James, Chair of the BEC

Bishop noted that Pr. Andy James has served as our parliamentarian for several years. He is knowledgeable of our governing documents and structure and has assisted us with the 2014 Bishop election. He understands the process, has participated in the conference calls pertaining to the election and has the skills to facilitate this important process. Bishop Eaton will have oversight of the election process at the assembly.

c. Resources for the Election of the Bishop / Conference events

Bishop reported receiving notification from several of our conferences that events employing the resources for the Election of the Bishop have been scheduled.

B. Communications: 4Q metric review

Roberto Lara presented the metric review.

C. Letters of Gratitude for grants received through the Wider Church Funds

a. Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education

Bishop shared parts of letter received.

D. Methodist Decision

Bishop spoke about decision of General Assembly of UMC regarding.

4. Report of the Vice President

A. Visits and Consultations

VP Wicklund spoke about conversations she has had with synod pastors. Often a Ranger hockey game was the forum.

B. Lenten Devotions project

VP Wicklund spoke about the status of this project and thanked those who are participating.

5. Treasurer's Report

A. Mission Support (31 Jan 19)

Treasurer John Litke gave the following report.

January 31, 2019 Year-End

Contributions for the month of January totaled \$143,616, which is \$6,384 lower than what was budgeted for the month. Year-end mission support received totaled \$1,047,261, which is \$152,739 lower than the budgeted amount of \$1,200,000.

Comparison from 2017 (180 congregations):

- 59 congregations increased their mission support. The increases ranged from \$.33 - \$9,842, for a total increase of \$80,438
- 45 congregation's mission support remained the same as 2017.
- 52 congregations reduced their mission support. The reductions ranged from \$10 - \$12,467, for a total reduction of \$93,900.
- 24 congregations contributed no mission support. 12 of those congregations contributed zero the previous year; 12 had contributed for a total reduction of \$24,360.

B. Financials (31 Dec 18) EXHIBIT A

6. Report of the Strategic Plan Working Group

A. Meeting held on Feb 7

B. Budget review

C. Committee Reports

a. CLAIMED

• **First Third's Ministry: ELCA Grant for Young Adult Network**

VP Wicklund reported that a grant proposal to establish a network of young adult ministry was prepared by Pr. Becca Seely and submitted to the ELCA on behalf of MNYS and Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education. The ELCA awarded a \$27,650 grant.

A large portion of the grant is to contract with a coordinator who will work to establish a network of young adult ministry throughout the synod. The Claimed Committee is supporting this project and providing an additional \$6,600 from their budget toward this focus on First Thirds

Ministry. The job description for the coordinator has been running in the eletter for the last couple of weeks.

b. GATHERED

• **Pastoral Care / Leadership Development / Grants**

Hazel Goldstein reported that the Pastoral Care Team is now to be called the "Holy Closure Team."

c. SENT

Pr. Butiku reported that Welcome packs for immigrants and asylum seekers are being prepared.

d. FMC

Treasurer Litke reported that budgets are being prepared.

e. ANTI-RACISM

Scheduling trainings for this year. Planning to train a cadre of MNYS leaders to facilitate the Anti-racism training sessions to decrease our dependence on outside facilitators and also to expand the opportunities for training in Metro NY

D. Mission Driven Developments

A. Project redevelopment Working Groups

A Project Redevelopment Working Group has been formed for each of our four active projects.

7. Old Business

A. Leif Ericson Day School

a. Educational Epiphany / Assessment – Audit of the school

VP Wicklund summarized the assessment performed by Educational Epiphany.

b. Funding

Whereas pre-baccalaureate schools with strong Christian faith-based values are important for the synod and the church; and

Whereas Leif Ericson Day School has a long history of education imbued with Christian faith-based values; and

Whereas changing neighborhood populations and changing education economics and expectations have made the operation of the school financially precarious, requiring substantial synod financial support during this school year; and

Whereas the synod engaged the firm of Educational Epiphany to make a thorough and broad based

analysis of the school, its challenges, and its opportunities; and

Whereas Educational Epiphany advised that:

There is substantial established competition in the area for private pre-baccalaureate education that has substantial marketing, educational, and financial advantages over Leif Ericson Day School;

To achieve full enrollment will require several years and ongoing substantial investment in staff, curriculum, public relations, and building adjustments;

Operating costs cannot reasonably be supported by probable revenue, even at full enrollment, in the Dyker Heights/Bay Ridge area; and

Probable capital costs cannot be reasonably supported by probable revenue, even at full enrollment;

Therefore, be it resolved that

Synodical financial support of Leif Ericson Day School operations not be continued beyond the close of the 2018-2019 school year.

ACTION SC19:02/01

RESOLVED, that Synodical financial support of Leif Ericson Day School operations not be continued beyond the close of the 2018-2019 school year.

ADOPTED (20 for, 0 opposed, 1 abstention)

ACTION SC19:02/02

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council affirm the ministry of the administration, faculty and staff of Leif Ericson Day School and express our thanks to God for the Christian ministry and dedication of the school and for the young lives that have been formed.

ADOPTED

B. Consultation Panel: St. Paul's, Rye Brook / William Ross

VP Wicklund reported that the panel has been formed and oriented and will begin its work.

8. New Business

A. Trexler Grants

a. The Rev. David Dockweiler: \$1000

b. The Rev. Jennifer Boyd : \$750

c. The Rev. Dr. Joanne Bond : \$1000

ACTION SC19:02/03

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve Trexler Grants in the amount of \$1000 to the Rev. David Dockweiler to assist with travel costs in leading a mission trip to the San Lucas Toliman Mission in Guatemala in June 2019; \$750 to the Rev. Jennifer Boyd to assist with travel costs for her participation in the mission trip to the San Lucas Toliman Mission in Guatemala in June 2019; and \$1000 to the Rev. Dr. Joanne Bond to assist with travel costs for continuing education in the Women's Empowerment Program of the Lutheran World Federation in Geneva, Switzerland.

ADOPTED

B. MNYS 585 East 163 (LLC) – vacate and market property

ACTION SC19:02/04

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the recommendation of the Executive Committee to list the property located at 585 East 163rd Street, Bronx , NY for sale.

ADOPTED

C. Mission Plan: The New Saint Peter's Church, Manhattan

Mr. Christopher Vergara gave an overview of the plan.

ACTION SC19:02/05

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the proposed Mission Plan for the New Saint Peter's Church, Manhattan.

ADOPTED

9. Afterthoughts

10. Observers' Evaluation

Next Executive Committee Meeting: March 7, 2019*

Synod Council Meeting: March 19, 2019

***Proposed items for the Synod Council agenda should be submitted to Gayle Ruege**

(gruege@mny.org) for consideration by the Executive Committee on or before Mar 4.

All committees are to provide a digital copy of meeting minutes to Regina Daniels (rdaniels@mny.org) for the synod files.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm with prayer by Pr. Gary Squire.

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