

**SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS**

<b>Mr. Leonel E. Avila</b>	<b>2020</b>
<i>Mr. Adam A.D. Campbell (Youth)</i>	2020
<b>*Ms. Cynthia Corley</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>The Rev. Chryll Crews</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>S. Dcn. Steven Daniels</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>*Bishop Paul Egensteiner</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>Mr. David Ehlers</b>	<b>2022</b>
Ms. Monica Gavryszewski	2020
<b>Ms. Hazel Goldstein</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>The Rev. Marva Jenkins</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>*Mr. John Litke, Treasurer</b>	<b>2022</b>
S. Dcn. John Ogren	2020
<b>*The Rev. Jeanine Owens</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>The Rev. David Parsons</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>*The Rev. Daniel Peter</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>S. Dcn. Denise Rutherford-Gill</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Mr. Thomas Sargent</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>*The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Sect.</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>The Rev. Nicole Schwalbe</b>	<b>2020</b>
Mr. Cecil Spurlock-Shackelton	2022
<b>The Rev. Garry Squire</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Ms. Wendy Bean Tannenbaum</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Ms. Emma Turner (Young Adult)</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>*Mr. Christopher Vergara</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>*Ms. Renee Wicklund, VP</b>	<b>2022</b>
<i>S. Dcn. Anita Martin-Williams</i>	2022
Ms. Karen Woolley	2020

**STAFF**

**Ms. Susan Brandt**  
**The Rev. Gladys Diaz**  
**Ms. Regina Daniels**  
**Mr. Brandon Dupree**  
**Ms. Karen Falco**  
**Mr. Mark Goodwin**  
*Ms. Kaitlin Kowalec*  
**Mr. Roberto Lara**  
*Ms. Valery Mejia*  
**The Rev. Christopher Mietlowski**  
**Ms. Maria Rodas**  
**S. Dcn. Gayle Ruege**  
**The Rev. Kevin Vandiver**

**Bold = present**

*Italics = excused absence*

\*Member of Executive Committee

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**MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE**

**Opening** Devotions: *Christopher Vergara*

**Observer:**

**Call to Order:** *Ms. Renee Wicklund*

- 1. Adoption of the agenda:** adopted as amended.

2. **Draft SC minutes 24 March 2020:** adopted as presented.

3. **Report of the Bishop**

**A. State of the Synod /Communications Report: COVID 19**

**a. Staff contact with pastors (congregation / specialized ministry / retired)**

Bishop reported that the priority during this crisis has been for the Assistants to the Bishop to be in contact with the pastors in their conferences. He noted that the staff has been working hard. We have several pastors suffering with Covid-19, and we have lost many members across our synod.

**b. Weekly Zoom meeting with Deans**

**c. Lutheran Counseling Center partnership / clergy care and wellness (pastors / deacons)**

Bishop reported that the staff had a lengthy Zoom meeting with Molly Blancke, Exec. Director for Lutheran Counseling Services and several of the pastoral counselors on staff. The purpose of the meeting was to address the complex needs of rostered ministers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lutheran Counseling Centers has offered to provide a number of resources that will address these needs at no charge to the synod or participants, including

- Wellness groups
- Training groups / spiritual practices (Centering prayer and mindfulness exercises)
- Individual 30 minute counseling sessions for pastors and deacons

**d. ELCA Churchwide partnership (financial assistance)**

Churchwide is providing a block grant to each of the 65 synods in the amount of either \$5K, \$7500, or 10K. An application has been submitted.

ELCA has given synod a grant of \$35,000 for social ministry.

**e. Transition and Call Process**

The staff has been working to revise and update our synod's guidelines for the transition and call process. We are using our current resources along with resources from our sister synods. Our goal is to have the updated guidelines by June.

**B. Communications Report COVID – 19 (incl. metrics):** R. Lara reported

**a. Targeted emails / Weekly eletter / COVID-19 resources**

**b. Zoom Pro Accounts**

**c. Webinars / Blogs**

- d. **Worship Services / Facebook / YouTube / phone**
- e. **Reimagined Synod Communications Strategy**

**4. Report of the Vice President  
Activities and Virtual Visits**

**5. Strategic Plan Report : Bishop Egensteiner  
A. 2025 Vision / Re-vision**

Bishop reported that there has been considerable discussion surrounding what the world will look like on the other side of this pandemic. We are gathering information on how the pandemic has impacted our congregations and how this will effect future ministry, programming, worship and communications.

The Vision 2025 Team will begin to reevaluate the vision to meet the changing needs within our synod, our surrounding communities, and the world.

**6. Treasurer's Report: John Litke**

**A. Mission Support Report (Mar 31, 2020)**

Two months into the year and we're about \$19K behind 2019 offering.

**B. Report of the Audit Committee / Financials: Year-end (1.31.2020)**

**ACTION SC20:04/01**

**RESOLVED**, that the Synod Council accept the Financial Statements and Report for the year ending January 31, 2020 prepared by Tait, Weller & Baker, Certified Public Accountants, noting that in the opinion of the auditors the financial statements taken as a whole present fairly the financial position of the Metropolitan New York Synod in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

**ADOPTED**

**C. Tait, Weller & Baker**

**ACTION SC20:04/02**

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod retain the services of Tait, Weller & Baker, Certified Public Accountants, for the year ending January 31, 2021.

**ADOPTED**

**D. Budgets 2020 – 2021 / Update**

J. Litke noted that normally the revised 2020 and proposed 2021 budgets would be presented at the Synod Assembly for adoption.

In light of the current crisis and its economic impact – the budget is being reviewed and will be presented to the Synod Council at a later meeting.

**7. Old Business**

**A. Otisville property (MNYS West126th LLC)**

R. Wicklund gave an update on the status of this property.

**8. New Business**

**A. 2020 Synod Assembly**

**ACTION SC20:04/03**

**RESOLVED, that in light of current conditions and because the Synod Constitution does not require us to have an assembly every year, the Metropolitan New York Synod not hold a Synod Assembly in 2020 and that all registration fees will be refunded.**

**ADOPTED**

**B. Proposal Interim Appointments SC 2020**

R. Wicklund presented the proposal for appointments to SC since there will not be a Synod Assembly.

**ACTION SC20:04/04**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the proposal for making one year interim appointments to the Synod Council until elections at the 2021 synod assembly.**

**ADOPTED**

**C. SC Retreat (June 19-20)**

A decision will be made at the May Synod Council meeting on this retreat.

**D. Congregation Financial Review / Transition & Call Process / Proposed revision**

J. Litke presented the revised process.

**ACTION SC20:04/05**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve a simplified process be designed for use by the synod to provide appropriate functionality at appropriate cost and that the document “Draft Congregational Assessment Strategy for Congregations In Transition” be adopted as an initial response to the requirements of SA201605.16**

**ADOPTED**

**E. SBA PPP Loan with ELCA Federal Credit Union**

R. Wicklund reported that the Synod applied for a loan.

ACTION SC20:04/06

**RESOLVED**, that the following individuals are hereby authorized to executed documents necessary to finalize an SBA PPP loan with ELCA Federal Credit Union and to open an account or accounts as necessary: Susan Brandt, Karen Falco, John Litke, Renee Wicklund, Gayle Ruege and Robert Schoepflin.

**ADOPTED**

**F. Park Church Co-op**

ACTION SC20:04/07

**RESOLVED**, that the Rev. Jacob Simpson be called as pastor of Park Church Co-op (SAWC), effective June 1, 2020.

**ADOPTED**

**9. Afterthoughts**

**10. Observers' Evaluation**

Meeting adjourned at 7:12pm with prayer by Bishop.

**Next Executive Committee Meeting: TBD**

**Synod Council Meeting: TBD**

**\*Proposed items for the Synod Council agenda should be submitted to Gayle Ruege ([gruege@mnys.org](mailto:gruege@mnys.org)) for consideration by the Executive Committee by: TBD.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert Schoepflin,  
Secretary