

**SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS**

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| <b>Mr. Leonel E. Avila</b>                | <b>2020</b> |
| Mr. Adam A.D. Campbell (Youth)            | 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> |
| <b>Ms. Monica Gavryszewski</b>            | <b>2020</b> |
| <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> |
| <b>S. Dcn. John Ogren</b>                 | <b>2020</b> |
| <b>*The Rev. Jeanine Owens</b>            | <b>2020</b> |
| <i>The Rev. David Parsons</i>             | <i>2022</i> |
| <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> |
| The Rev. Nicole Schwalbe                  | 2020        |
| <b>Mr. Cecil Spurlock-Shackelton</b>      | <b>2022</b> |
| <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> |
| <b>S. Dcn. Anita Martin-Williams</b>      | <b>2022</b> |
| <b>Ms. Karen Woolley</b>                  | <b>2020</b> |

**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**  
**The Rev. Christopher Mietlowski**  
*Ms. Maria Rodas*  
**S. Dcn. Gayle Ruege**  
**The Rev. Kevin Vandiver**

**GUESTS**

**The Rev. Robert Wollenburg (Koinonia)**  
**Ms. Carol Safchinsky (Koinonia)**

**Bold = present**

*Italics = excused absence*

\*Member of Executive Committee

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**MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE**

***Opening Devotions / Prayer:*** Branden Dupree

***Observer:*** Cecil "Chip" Spurlock-Shackelton

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

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

2. **Draft SC minutes 28 April 2020:** adopted.
  
3. **Report of the Bishop**
  - A. **COVID 19 Related Responses / Resources**
    - a. **Congregation Assistance Loans**

Bishop reported that four congregations have applied for a congregation assistance loan. The Vision 2025 Team reviewed the applications and have approved two (2) loans. There is one (1) pending and one (1) on hold.
  
    - b. **Bishop's Discretionary Fund distributions**

There have been several distribution from the Bishop's Discretionary Fund
  
    - c. **Churchwide Funds distributions**

There were five distributions of varying amounts from the \$10K Covid Relief Grant. The report of recipients will be provided to the Churchwide offices.

Distributions have also been made from the \$35K Hunger Grant – with new applications ready for review
  
    - d. **Re-opening of Bishop's office**
  
    - e. **Re-entering our buildings and future in-person worship**
  
  - B. **Communications Report COVID – 19 (incl. metrics):**
    - a. **Targeted emails / Weekly eletter / COVID-19 resources**
  
    - b. **Ministerium / webinars**
  
    - d. **Bishop / Vice President video messages**
  
    - e. **Synod online worship**
  
  - C. **Calls**
    - a. **The Rev. Amandus Derr: retired status effective June 1, 2020**

**ACTION SC20:06/01**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve retirement status for The Rev. Amandus Derr effective June 1, 2020.**

**ADOPTED**

**D. Appointments**

- a. **Advisory Panel: Christ, Fresh Meadows**

Bp. Egensteiner reported that an Advisory Panel has been appointed.

- + **S.Dcn. Denise Rutherford Gill / Synod Council representative**
- + **The Rev. Jeanne Warfield / Conference of Deans**
- + **The Rev. Kevin Vandiver / Assistant to the Bishop**

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

VP Wicklund thanked those who are leaving synod council due to expiration of their terms: Monica, Nicole Schwalbe, John Ogren, Christopher Vergara, Karen Wooley

**5. Strategic Plan Report : Bishop Egensteiner**  
**A. 2025 Vision Team**

Bishop reported that the Vision 2025 Team met May 12 and June 16. Current restrictions have prevented the Working Groups from forming the Task Forces and beginning the conversations and planning around strategies and priorities.

We were able to lay the foundation for our Vision 2025 at the kick-off meeting in January – but we know that our current reality will define and shape the plan and direct its future implementation in our synod.

**6. Treasurer's Report**

**A. Mission Support Report ( May 31, 2020) EXHIBIT A**

May's 2020 Mission Support offerings totaled \$48,614.29. YTD Mission Support actuals are \$214,508.73, which is \$60,814.79 less 2019.

**B. Financials (Apr 30, 2020) EXHIBIT B**

**C. Budget 2020 (Feb 1 2020 – Jan 31 2021) EXHIBIT C**

J. Litke gave a detailed presentation of the proposed revised budget for 2020 and the proposed budget for 2021, which the Synod Council had to consider since the Synod Assembly was not held due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The structure (and magnitude) of the 2021 budget are guaranteed to change as we work through the synod response to the public health crisis and the ongoing social advocacy concerns.

The current 2021 structure is heavily dependent on past practice, and that clearly will not continue into 2021 unchanged.

Structural issues: conversation at the council level earlier than the first of the year of 2021.

Allocation issues: conversations include Vision groups and many others and should follow a separate schedule, probably beginning in about October.

The Synod Council is charged with approval of the revised 2020 budget and proposed 2021 budget as the Synod Assembly will not meet in 2020.

**ACTION SC20:06/02**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council adopt the proposed revised budget for 2020 and the proposed budget for 2021.**

**ADOPTED**

At this point Item 8.C. was considered, due to the arrival to the meeting of the representatives of Koinonia.

**7. Old Business / UPDATES**

**A. Eltingville School Property**

VP Wicklund reported that our attorneys are negotiating a new lease with the charter school. A Term Sheet has been prepared and presented to the school administration. Upon agreement of the terms the new lease will be prepared.

**B. St. Paul's, Williamsburg**

VP Wicklund reported on continued communication between the Office of the Bishop and Synod Officers and leadership of the congregation regarding disaffiliation from the MNYS and the ELCA.

**ACTION SC20:06/04**

**RESOLVED, that unless the congregation of St. Paul's, Williamsburg, votes to maintain its membership in the MNYS and the ELCA, the Metropolitan New York Synod Council releases it from membership in the MNYS and ELCA, but retains ownership of the congregation's property.**

**ADOPTED**

**8. New Business**

**A. Leif Ericson Day School Building**

VP Wicklund reported that over the last 12 months the property has been shown as a possible lease opportunity for a charter school to several interested parties. None of the prospects have materialized

Bethlehem, Brooklyn expressed interest in using 5,000 sq ft of the property to expand the Bay Ridge Senior Center's hot meals program funded by NYC.

As we consider possible options – we would like to do our due diligence and list the property for sale to determine its market value and consider whether outright sale of the property best serves our synod at this time.

**ACTION SC20:06/05**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the listing for sale of the property located at 1037 72<sup>nd</sup> Street, Brooklyn, NY**

**ADOPTED**

**B. Koinonia** (Pr. Bob Wollenburg and Ms. Carol Safchinsky joined the meeting for this item)

Pr. Bob Wollenburg reported that Koinonia continues the mold remediation of its buildings and is preparing a fund raising campaign to compliment financial resources secured through a loan with the Mission Investment Fund.

He said the Mission investment Fund is asking the synod to guarantee the \$15K interest for the first 18 months and to be a guarantor / signator for the \$300K loan.

Pr. Wollenburg and Ms. Safchinsky left the meeting before discussion and vote on the matter.

**ACTION SC20:06/03**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council agree to serve as a guarantor for the loan secured by Koinonia through the Mission Investment Fund and request that Capell, Barnett, Shoenfeld and Matalon draft a Guaranty Agreement, and request that the Bishop be allowed to appoint a representative to the Koinonia Board.**

**ADOPTED**

**C. Northwest Diocese, ELCT loan request**

VP Wicklund reported that our Companion Synod has made the request for a \$50K loan that will fund the construction of 10 additional rooms at the ELCT/Bukoba Hotel in 2020. The hotel currently has 32 rooms and proposes the construction of a separate structure that will offer 10 additional rooms. The hotel will provide income revenue that helps support work of the church, such as paying of salaries of pastors in poor parishes and support some teachers of the deaf and deaf/blind children.

**ACTION SC20:06/06**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council agree to provide a loan to the North Western Diocese of Tanzania in the amount of \$50,000 and will request Capell, Barnett, Shoenfeld and Matalon draft the loan documents.**

**ADOPTED**

**D. Synod Council Interim Appointments (one year)**

VP Wicklund reported that in accordance with the Synod Council's approval of the proposal for making one year interim appointments to the Synod Council until elections at the 2021 Assembly - the following persons are presented for Appointment, and that voting will be *enbloc*.

- + Western Nassau / Clergy: Pr. Jeanine Owens
- + Peconic / Clergy: Pr. Paul Downing
- + Manhattan / Clergy: Pr. Brooke Swertfager
- + Staten Island / Clergy: Pr. Garry Squire
- + Western Qns / Lay Female Lily Sage Mathias
- + At Large/ Lay Female S.Dcn. Denise Rutherford Gill
- + At Large / Lay Female Cynthia Corley
- + At Large / MC Female Isabel Mendoza
- + So Shore Brklyn/ Lay Male Lionel Avila
- + Hudson / Lay Male Erich Markert
- + Tappan Zee / Lay Male **VACANT**
- + Young Adult Emma Turner
- + Youth Adam Campbell
  
- + E Nassau / Lay Male (2022) Thomas Sargent

**ACTION SC20:06/07**

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council appoint the Rev. Jeanine Owens, the Rev. Paul Downing, the Rev. Brooke Swertfager, the Rev. Garry Squire, Lily Sage Mathias, S.Dcn. Denise Rutherford Gill, Cynthia Corley, Isabel Mendoza, Lionel Avila, Erich Markert, Emma Turner and Adam Campbell to one year interim terms to the Synod Council through May 2021.

**ADOPTED**

**ACTION SC20:06/08**

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council appoint Thomas Sargent to complete the unexpired term for Lay Male / Eastern Nassau through May 2022.

**ADOPTED**

**E. Election of the Executive Committee**

The following individuals were nominated: Pr. Jeannine Owens, Pr. Chryll Crews, Pr. Gary Squire, Pr. Daniel Peter Penumaka, and Ms. Cynthia Corley.

**ACTION SC20:06/08**

**RESOLVED**, that the following persons are elected to serve on the Executive Committee from June 2020 through June 2021: Pr. Jeannine Owens, Pr. Chryll Crews, Pr. Gary Squire, and Ms. Cynthia Corley.

**ADOPTED**

**F. Synod Council Schedule of Meeting Dates**

**9. Afterthoughts**

June 20, 2020  
APPROVED 9/19/2020

Synod Council of the Metropolitan New York Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
MINUTES

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**10. Observers' Evaluation**

**Meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm, with prayer by Bishop.**

**Next Executive Committee Meeting: September 10, 2020**

**Synod Council Meeting: September 19, 2020**

**\*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: September 4, 2020**

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert Schoepflin,  
Secretary