

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Leonel E. Avila	2021	<i>Ms. Regina Daniels</i>
Mr. Adam A.D. Campbell (Youth)	2021	The Rev. Gladys Diaz
*Ms. Cynthia Corley	2021	Mr. Branden Dupee
The Rev. Chryll Crews	2022	Ms. Karen Falco
S. Dcn. Steven Daniels	2022	<i>S.Dcn. Donna-Mari Fieldsa</i>
The Rev. George Dietrich	2021	<i>Mr. Mark Goodwin</i>
*Bishop Paul Egensteiner	2025	<i>Ms. Kaitlin Kowalec</i>
Mr. David Ehlers	2022	Mr. Roberto Lara
Ms. Hazel Goldstein	2022	Ms. Claire Mazza
<i>The Rev. Marva Jenkins</i>	<i>2022</i>	The Rev. Christopher Mietlowski
*Mr. John Litke, Treasurer	2022	Ms. Maria Rodas
Mr. Erich Markert	2021	S.Dcn. Gayle Ruege
Lily Sage Mathias	2021	The Rev. Kevin Vandiver
Isabel Mendoza-Garcia	2021	
<i>*The Rev. Jeanine Owens</i>	<i>2021</i>	
The Rev. David Parsons	2022	
*The Rev. Daniel Peter	2022	
S. Dcn. Denise Rutherford-Gill	2021	
Mr. Thomas Sargent	2021	
*The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Sect.	2022	
Mr. Cecil Spurlock-Shackelton	2022	
*The Rev. Garry Squire	2021	
The Rev. Brooke Swertfager	2021	
Ms. Wendy Bean Tannenbaum	2022	
Ms. Emma Turner (Young Adult)	2021	
*Ms. Renee Wicklund, VP	2022	
<i>S. Dcn. Anita Martin-Williams</i>	<i>2022</i>	

GUESTS

Bold = present

Italics = excused absence

*Member of Executive Committee

MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE

Opening Devotions: *John Litke*

Observer: *Wendy Bean Tannenbaum*

Call to Order: *Ms. Renee Wicklund at 5:06pm*

1. **Adoption of the agenda: adopted**
2. **Draft SC minutes 19 September 2020: adopted**
3. **Report of the Bishop (10 min)**
 - A. **Lutheran Partners / Ecumenical / Interfaith Conversations**

- **Appeal of Conscience Annual Awards: Held virtually**

Founded in 1965, the Appeal of Conscience Foundation has worked on behalf of religious freedom and human rights throughout the world.

It's an interfaith coalition of business and religious leaders committed to the peace, inter-religious cooperation and ethnic conflict resolution.

The Foundation holds an annual event honoring a world leader, a Business leader, and a Religious leader.

- **Abraham's Table Panel: Bp. Participated on Sunday, October 18.**

- **LSNYA Board Meeting**

- **Wagner College Board meeting**

Bishop currently serve on two Board committees: Institutional Advancement and Academic Affairs.

Bishop reported that students want to be *on campus* and *stay* on campus this semester. This drive has been a key factor in Wagner's success over the first two months of the semester at tamping down viral infection on campus

Wagner created a Higher Education Health Analytics Team for Staten Island. Wagner's COVID-19 case tracker, has been rated A+ by a team of researchers from Harvard, Yale, Baylor and Ohio State University. Wagner is one of only three US Institutions to earn top marks out of over 220 colleges and universities evaluated.

- B. **Congregation Advisory Panels / Consultations**

- **New Hope, Jamaica**

- C. **Pastoral Care**

- a. **Pastoral calls / check-in**

- b. **Conference ministeriums**

- c. **Kelsey Brown ordination**

Pr. Brown was ordained on Sep 20 @ Advent, NYC. There were 25 in attendance (masked / socially distanced). 1200+ tuned in via facebook livestreaming

d. Christ, Suffern / service of Holy Closure

Service of Holy Closure was held on September 27

e. Monthly BET meeting

f. Participated in listening post with New Jersey Synod.

g. Participated in Seafarers' House event which recognized Christopher Vergara for his work in ministering to immigrants.

D. Appointments

a. Bishop's Listening / Advisory Panel: New Hope, Jamaica

- The Rev. Marcia Parkinson- Harrison
- Cecil "Chip" Spurlock-Shackelton
- The Rev. Kevin Vandiver

b. Erich Mauer: Financial Management Committee

E. Communications / Roberto Lara

a. MNYS Pastoral messages and videos

b. Media: Associated Press

c. Twitter / Instagram accounts

d. Webinar: Reflection: Faith in Action / Oct 14-15 (Dr. Susan Michaels-Strasser)

e. Updates Covid 19 Resource page

5. Report of the Vice President

A. Weekly meetings with Bishop and Pr. William Baum as head of Vision 2025.

B. Returned to visiting congregations.

C. MNYS Roster Review

Review first group of MNYS pastors / roster review at the November meeting.

6. Strategic Plan Report

A. Vision 2025

a. Bishop / weekly meetings with Pr. William Baum and Renee Wicklund

b. Regular conversations / meetings with Tom Massey

c. Meeting : Vision 2025 Team

Vision 2025 Team: (Bishop / Pr. Baum / Pr. Chris Mietlowski / Pr. Kevin Vandiver / Pr. Brenda Irving / Pr. Marc Herbst / Renee Wicklund) met on Oct 6 to identify priorities in developing 2021 budget.

Standing Commitments / Obligations

Outward Focus: Sharing our faith story, congregations making a life-giving difference in their communities

Digital Presence: Building capacity and proficiency to reach, teach and serve people using technology

Succession Plans: Thoughtfully and intentionally assisting congregations chart their future

B. COVID-19 Related Responses / Resources

a. Congregation Disaster Assistance Loans

Trinity, White Plains: \$11,000

7. Treasurer's Report

A. FMC meets monthly

B. Revenue & Expense Document Review

C. Mission Support / Financial reports presented in November

Donna-Mari is currently taking a training intensive for our accounting software / program. Reports will be presented in November.

8. Old Business

A. Synod Assembly dates: August 20-21, 2021

B. Pending Items:

a. Western Queens / Todos los Santos

b. Otisville Property

9. New Business

A. MNYS LLC's (former Christ, Suffern)

Synod attorneys are setting up two LLC's for the cemetery and the church properties

Resolution:

WHEREAS, Church of Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ramapo Rockland County New York (a/k/a Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church) ("Christ Suffern") was an interdependent member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (the "Church") and the Synod; and

WHEREAS, Christ Suffern owns the following real property: (a) 3 Church Road, Suffern, New York 10901 (55.19-2-27 and 55.19-2-27.1), (b) 1 Church Road, Suffern, New York 10901 (55.19-2-

27.2), (c) 68 Airmont South Road, Suffern, New York 10901 (55.19-2-28), (d) 68A Airmont South Road, Suffern, New York 10901 (55.19-2-30), and (e) 51A Airmont South Road, Suffern, New York 10901 (55.19-1-60) (collectively, the "Property"); and

WHEREAS, ownership of the property of Christ Suffern, as an interdependent member congregation of the Church and Synod, is governed by the Constitutions of the Church, the Synod and the Congregation, each of which state that title to the undisposed property of a congregation that ceases to exist shall pass to the Synod; and

WHEREAS, section 13.24 of the Constitution of the Synod provides that:

If any congregation of this synod has disbanded, or if the members of a congregation agree that it is no longer possible for it to function as such, or if it is the opinion of the Synod Council that the membership of a congregation has become so scattered or so diminished in numbers as to make it impractical for such a congregation to fulfill the purposes for which it was organized or that it is necessary for this synod to protect the congregation's property from waste and deterioration, the Synod Council, itself or through trustees appointed by it, may take charge and control of the property of the congregation to hold, manage and convey the same on behalf of this synod. The congregation shall have the right to appeal the decision to the Synod Assembly.

and

WHEREAS, in addition, New York Religious Corporations Law section 17-c(2) provides that:

Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. (a)The relationship between a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the church may be terminated in one of the following ways:

(i) The congregation takes action to dissolve;

(ii) The congregation ceases to exist;

(iii) The membership of the congregation becomes so scattered or diminished in numbers as to make it impracticable for such congregation to fulfill the purposes for which it was organized. In such case, the synod in order to protect the property from waste and deterioration, through the synod council or trustees appointed by it, may take charge and control of the property of the congregation to hold, manage, and convey the same on behalf of the synod. The congregation shall have the right to appeal the decision to the synod assembly;

* * *

(c) Subject to the provisions of the governing documents of congregations recognized at the establishment of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the following shall govern the ownership of property by congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

* * *

(ii) Title to the undisposed property of a congregation that ceases to exist by virtue of subparagraph (i), (ii) or (iii) of paragraph (a) of this subdivision, shall pass to the synod of this church to which the congregation is related;

(iii) Title to the property of a congregation that is no longer recognized by this church as a result of discipline shall continue to reside in the congregation;

and

WHEREAS, the congregation of Christ Suffern acknowledged that it was no longer possible for it to function as such and voted to disband, pursuant to section 13.24 of the Constitution of the Synod. In addition, the Synod Council is of the opinion that the membership of the congregation of Christ Suffern has become so scattered and so diminished in numbers as to make it impractical for that congregation to fulfill the purposes for which it was organized and that it is necessary for the Synod to protect the congregation's property from waste and deterioration, and therefore it is in best interests of the Synod to take charge and control of the property of Christ Suffern and to hold, manage and convey the same on behalf of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, title to the real and personal property of Christ Suffern shall pass to the Synod and it is in the best interests of the Synod to insulate the Synod from liability and for other reasons, to convey part of the real property formerly of Christ Suffern to two different limited liability companies in which the Synod will be and shall remain the sole member and manager thereof; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of that purpose, the Synod intends to form 51A Airmont Rd S Cemetery LLC and 3 Church Road LLC with the intention of conveying to: (a) 51A Airmont Rd S Cemetery LLC title to the real property formerly of Christ Suffern known as and by street address 51A Airmont South Road, Suffern, New York 10901 (55.19-1-60) and (b) 3 Church Road LLC title to the real property formerly of Christ Suffern known as and by street address 68 Airmont South Road, Suffern, New York 10901 (55.19-2-28), and 68A Airmont South Road, Suffern, New York 10901 (55.19-2-30); and

WHEREAS, the sole purpose of 51A Airmont Rd S Cemetery LLC and 3 Church Road LLC is

and shall continue to be to hold, manage, and convey title to the real property formerly of Christ Suffern for, on behalf of, and at the direction and convenience of the Synod; and

NOW THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, that for the reasons set forth above, all of which are included and incorporated herein and made a part hereof as if fully set forth, the Synod, pursuant to Section 13.24 of its constitution and New York Religious Corporations Law section 17-c(2), does hereby take charge and control of the real and personal property (including the Property) of Christ Suffern to hold, manage, and convey it on behalf of the Synod; and it is further

RESOLVED, that based upon the facts recited and for the reasons set forth above, all of which are included and incorporated herein and made a part hereof as if fully set forth here, the Synod Council hereby approves of the formation by the Synod of 51A Airmont Rd S Cemetery LLC and 3 Church Road LLC, limited liability companies organized under the laws of the State of New York, in which the Synod is and shall continue to be the sole member and manager, with the intention of conveying to (a) 51A Airmont Rd S Cemetery LLC title to a portion of the real property formerly of Christ Suffern known as and by street address 51A Airmont South Road, Suffern, New York 10901 (55.19-1-60) and (b) 3 Church Road LLC title to a portion of the real property formerly of Christ Suffern known as and by street addresses 68 Airmont South Road, Suffern, New York 10901 (55.19-2-28), and 68A Airmont South Road, Suffern, New York 10901 (55.19-2-30); and it is further

RESOLVED, the sole purpose of 51A Airmont Rd S Cemetery LLC and 3 Church Road LLC is and shall continue to be to hold, manage, and convey title to a portion of the real property formerly of Christ Suffern for, on behalf of, and at the direction and convenience of the Synod, its sole member and manager; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the dissolution of the Synod is not contemplated following the transfer of the real and personal property of Christ Suffern to the Synod, the formation and transfer a portion of the property to 51A Airmont Rd S Cemetery LLC and 3 Church Road LLC.

ACTION SC20:10/01

RESOLVED, that for the reasons set forth above, all of which are included and incorporated herein and made a part hereof as if fully set forth, the Synod, pursuant to Section 13.24 of its constitution and New York Religious Corporations Law section 17-c (2), does hereby take charge and control of the real and personal property (including the Property) of Christ Suffern to hold, manage, and convey it on behalf of the Synod; and it is further

RESOLVED, that based upon the facts recited and for the reasons set forth above, all of which are included and incorporated herein and made a part hereof as if fully set forth here, the Synod

Council hereby approves of the formation by the Synod of 51A Airmont Rd S Cemetery LLC and 3 Church Road LLC, limited liability companies organized under the laws of the State of New York, in which the Synod is and shall continue to be the sole member and manager, with the intention of conveying to (a) 51A Airmont Rd S Cemetery LLC title to a portion of the real property formerly of Christ Suffern known as and by street address 51A Airmont South Road, Suffern, New York 10901 (55.19-1-60) and (b) 3 Church Road LLC title to a portion of the real property formerly of Christ Suffern known as and by street addresses 68 Airmont South Road, Suffern, New York 10901 (55.19-2-28), and 68A Airmont South Road, Suffern, New York 10901 (55.19-2-30); and it is further

RESOLVED, the sole purpose of 51A Airmont Rd S Cemetery LLC and 3 Church Road LLC is and shall continue to be to hold, manage, and convey title to a portion of the real property formerly of Christ Suffern for, on behalf of, and at the direction and convenience of the Synod, its sole member and manager; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the dissolution of the Synod is not contemplated following the transfer of the real and personal property of Christ Suffern to the Synod, the formation and transfer a portion of the property to 51A Airmont Rd S Cemetery LLC and 3 Church Road LLC.

ADOPTED (23 for, 0 opposed)

B. Properties / List for sale

Former Kingsbridge Lutheran Church, Bronx. Kingsbridge was placed under synod administration / preservation in July 2015. Litigation ensued and the court ruled in our synod's favor.

**3128 Bailey Avenue
3130 Bailey Avenue
3132 Bailey Avenue
3134 Bailey Avenue
3420 Giles Place – parsonage**

ACTION SC20:10/02

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod list the properties located at 3128, 3130, 3132, 3134 Bailey Avenue and 3420 Giles Place, Bronx for sale.

Adopted (22 for, 1 opposed)

Former Transfiguration, Bronx (parsonage)

- **750 Kelly Street, Bronx, NY – parsonage**

ACTION SC20:10/03

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod list the property located at 750 Kelly Street, Bronx for sale.

Adopted (23 for, 0 opposed)

C. 2021 Compensation Guidelines

ACTION SC20:10/04

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the 2021 Clergy Compensation Guidelines as presented.

Adopted

D. Christ, Fresh Meadows / request to list property for sale

ACTION SC20:10/05

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council take no exception to the sale of the property located at 73-14 189th Street, Fresh Meadows, NY 11366.

Adopted.

10. Afterthoughts

11. Observers' Evaluation

Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm with prayer by Pr. Gary Squire.

Next Executive Committee Meeting: November 5, 2020

Synod Council Meeting: November 17, 2020

***Proposed items for the Synod Council agenda should be submitted to Gayle Ruege (gruege@mnys.org) for consideration by the Executive Committee by: November 2, 2020**

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Schoepflin,
Secretary