

**SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS**

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

**Bold = present**

*Italics = excused absence*

\*Member of Executive Committee

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**MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE**

**Opening Devotions:** *Cynthia Corley*

**Observer:** *Denise Rutherford-Gill*

**Call to Order:** *Ms. Renee Wicklund at 5:10pm.*

1. **Adoption of the agenda:** adopted as presented.
2. **Draft SC minutes 20 October 2020:** adopted as presented.

3. **Report of the Bishop**

**A. Lutheran Partners / Ecumenical / Interfaith Conversations**

Bishop reported that there have been good conversations with PCUSA / RCA regarding St. Peter's, Port Jervis.

Follow-up zoom conversation on Nov 2 with judicatory leaders from PCUSA and RCA regarding the Port Jervis congregations collaboration. Pr. Mietlowski is moving forward by leading a coordinated effort to assist the congregational leadership identify vision, mission and goals for the coming year.

There have been conversations with NE Penn Synod regarding possible shared ministry between St. Peter's, PJ, a NE Penn congregation, and Koinonia.

**Conversation with Rabbi Abraham Unger / Wagner College**

**Presentation with Thrivent Financial / upcoming webinar**

Thrivent will host a synod-wide webinar titled: Church, Finances and Covid-19. The webinar is scheduled for Dec 1 from 7 – 8:30 pm

**NYS Council of Churches annual gala (virtual) : December 2**

**Social Justice Award: Christopher Vergara**

Bishop reported that Christopher's father died this morning in Florida and asked us to keep the family in prayer.

**B. Congregation Advisory Panels / Consultations**

- **New Hope, Jamaica: report received / recommendations pending**  
The Listening Panel (Vandiver, Parkinson, Spurlock-Shackelton) completed their work and submitted their report. Recommendations are pending.
- **St. Stephen's, Brooklyn: report received / recommendation presented**  
Recommendations were presented to the congregation council of St. Stephens via Zoom meeting with a follow-up to be scheduled within the next week.

- **Bethlehem, Baldwin: Conflict mediation / Kaleidoscope Institute**  
Bishop and Mo. Gladys met with Pr. Smith and congregation council with the recommendation they employ the Kaleidoscope Institute in conflict mediation / management. Mo. Gladys is coordinating that effort between KI and the congregation's pastor and leadership.
- **Christ, Fresh Meadows: Conflict mediation / Kaleidoscope Institute**  
Bishop and Pr. Vandiver have recommended that the congregation employ the Kaleidoscope Institute in conflict mediation / management, Pr. Vandiver is working closely with them to navigate the pastoral transition after the retirement of their pastor.

**C. Pastoral Care**

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

**b. Bishop and Assistants availability / post- election**

The Bishop and Assistants cleared their calendars to be available to rostered leaders of the synod (Nov 4-5) to provide pastoral care (*post - election day*) conversations. A targeted email was sent to rostered leaders with a link to schedule their telephone appointment.

**c. Individual zoom meetings with Conference Deans**

The Bishop and deployed Assistants dedicated four Monday mornings to engage the conference deans in Individual zoom conversations to check the pulse of the pastors and leaders serving the ministry sites on their territories.

**d. Deans Retreat (Nov 19)**

A virtual Deans Retreat (va Zoom) has been scheduled for Thursday from 9:30 – 12:30 pm.

**e. Monthly BET meeting**

Bishop joined the monthly meeting of the Black Equity Table on Nov 12.

**D. Communications / Roberto Lara**

Due to a family emergency, Roberto Lara was excused from the meeting and will present his communications report at the December meeting.

**5. Report of the Vice President**

**A. Weekly meetings**

**B. Visits**

**C. MNYS Roster Review: Ministers of Word and Sacrament (A-E)**

VP Wicklund reported that in accordance with the constitutional requirement that the Synod Council review the roster of ministers every three years – we will begin the review of our synod’s roster of Word & Sacrament ministers at this meeting.

Regina Daniels manages the roster of Word & Sacrament / Word & Service ministers in the synod’s database. She presented the ministers currently on our roster with last names beginning with A – E. Further reports will be given at future meetings.

**6. Strategic Plan Report**

**A. Vision 2025**

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

**b. Held regular conversations and meetings with Tom Massey**

**c. Meeting : Vision 2025 Team met Nov 10**

The Vision 2025 Team held a productive meeting on Nov 10. The meeting was hosted by Pr. Marc Herbst at Our Saviour, Manhasset. There were 6 participants on site and 6 that joined the meeting via zoom.

Core values and mission priorities have been identified. The Team is working on the development of a zero based budget.

**B. COVID-19 Related Responses / Resources**

Bishop reported that Karen Falco continues to monitor the NYS Covid webpage as it provides updates. She also receives communications from the Governor’s office. Our COVID-19 webpage reflects the most current and updated information.

**7. Treasurer’s Report EXHIBIT A**

**A. FMC meets monthly**

**B. Mission Support Report (31 October 2020)**

J. Litkie reported that October’s 2020 Mission Support offerings totaled \$50,460.87. YTD Mission Support actuals are \$554,187.92, which is **\$108,606.85** less than October 2019.

**C. Financial reports (30 September 2020)**

**8. Old Business**

**A. Pending Items:**

**a. Western Queens / Todos los Santos**

VP reported that Mark Goodwin has resumed the search for leased space to house the Todos Los Santos community.

**b. Otisville Property**

VP Wicklund reported that Pastor Vandiver will be in conversation with the Christ Center members to discuss and determine future use of this property. We will remove this from our pending list going forward.

**9. New Business**

**A. Discussion: Reparation considerations**

VP Wicklund reported that it was the Executive Committee's recommendation that Bp. Egensteiner engage the Black Equity Table in developing a proposal for the Synod Council's consideration. Bishop reported that he met with the BET on Nov 12, and that there was active conversation regarding this topic. Many different options are being explored. This is also being discussed in the Conference of Bishops.

10. Afterthoughts

11. Observers' Evaluation

**Meeting was closed with prayer by Bishop at 6:16pm.**

**Next Executive Committee Meeting: December 3, 2020**

**Synod Council Meeting: December 8, 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: November 27, 2020**

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert Schoepflin,  
Secretary