SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Leonel E. Avila 2021
Mr. Adam A.D. Campbell (Youth) 2021
*Ms. Cynthia Corley 2021
*The Rev. Chryll Crews 2022
S. Dcn. Steven Daniels 2022
The Rev. George Dietrich 2021
*Ms. Karen Falco 2022
Ms. Regina Daniels
The Rev. Gladys Diaz
Mr. Branden Dupee
S.Dcn. Donna-Mari Fieldsa
Mr. Mark Goodwin
Ms. Karen Falco
Ms. Kaitlin Kowalec
Mr. Roberto Lara
Ms. Claire Mazza
The Rev. Christopher Mietlowski
Ms. Maria Rodas
S.Dcn. Gayle Ruege
The Rev. Kevin Vandiver

*Member of Executive Committee

MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE

Opening Devotions: Pr. George Dietrich
Observer: Ms. Hazel Goldstein
Call to Order: Ms. Renée Wicklund at 5:16pm.
1. Adoption of the agenda: adopted as presented.
2. Draft SC minutes 17 November 2020: adopted as presented

3. Report of the Bishop

A. Conference of Deans
   a. Completed individual zoom meetings with Conference Deans
      Through the months of October, November and December, the Bishop and Deployed Assistants had individual conversations with each conference dean to learn how our pastors, deacons, lay leaders and congregations are managing the challenges and demands of our current reality.

   b. Virtual Deans Retreat (Nov 19)
      A three hour deans retreat was held on November 19 via zoom. There was opportunity to share in breakout rooms.

B. Calls
   a. The Rev. Dr. J. Elise Brown: Renewal of Call / Executive Minister, Marble Collegiate Church, Manhattan effective 29 Sep 2020

ACTION SC20:12/01
RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council renew the call (extended 12 December 2017) to The Rev. Dr. J. Elise Brown as Executive Minister for Marble Collegiate Church, Manhattan effective 29 September 2020.
ADOPTED

   b. The Rev. Dr. W. Harvard Stephens, Jr: Interim Pastor / Gustavus Adolphus, Manhattan effective 1 Dec 20

ACTION SC20:12/02
RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend the call to The Rev. Dr. Harvard W. Stephens, Jr. as Interim Pastor to Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, Manhattan effective 1 December 2020.
ADOPTED

   c. The Rev. Judith A. VanOsdol: Interim Pastor / Our Redeemer, Seaford effective 1 Nov 20

ACTION SC20:12/03
RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend the call to The Rev. Judith VanOsdol as Interim Pastor to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Seaford, NY effective 1 November 2020.
ADOPTED


ACTION SC20:12/04
RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant On Leave from Call status to the Rev. Christian Scharen effective 30 October 2020.
ADOPTED

C. Appointments
   b. The Rev. Thomas E. Taylor: Interim Pastor to the Kingston Congregations of Redeemer and Trinity effective 1 Oct 2020 – 30 Sep 2022

D. Congregation Listening Panels / Consultations
   • St. Stephen’s, Brooklyn: recommendations presented / meeting with leadership in Jan
   • New Hope, Jamaica: Listening Panel’s report submitted / preparing recommendations
   • Bethlehem, Baldwin: Conflict mediation / Kaleidoscope Institute
   • Christ, Fresh Meadows: Conflict mediation / Kaleidoscope Institute

E. Pastoral Care
   a. Pastoral calls / check-in
   b. Conference ministeriums: Tappan Zee; Western Nassau; Hudson; Staten Island
   c. Monthly BET meeting will be held on December 10

F. Ecumenical / Lutheran Partners / ELCA Churchwide Participation
   a. Visit to the Advent, Manhattan pantry / food distribution center (21 Nov)
   b. Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services online event (19 Nov)
   c. New York State Council of Churches virtual annual gala (2 Dec)
      Christopher Vergara received the Excellence in Social Justice Award
   d. New ELCA Bishops Formation (1 Dec – 4 Dec)
   e. Advocacy Consultation / Upstate New York Synod (7 Dec)
Participants:
- MNYS: Bp. Egensteiner, Pr. Kevin Vandiver, Pr. John Flack, Christopher Vergara
- Upstate NY Synod: Bp. John Macholz, Pr. Dustin Wright

G. Communications: report by Roberto Lara
   a. Metrics Review (3Q) and Personas
   b. MNYS Pastoral messages and videos
   c. Twitter / Instagram accounts
   d. Webinar: Church, Finances and Covid 19 / Dec 1 (7:00-8:30 pm)
   e. Updates Covid 19 Resource page
   f. Service of the Word (Advent 1 and Christmas 1)

H. Staff
   a. Anti-bias / Anti-racism sessions with Kaleidoscope Institute: completed session 2 of 4.
   b. Property / Legal updates: report by Karen Falco
   c. Staff to work remotely through January 2021
      Due to the current escalation of Covid 19 infections in our area / and across the country – and the priority of the health and safety of the Bishop’s staff – the staff has been asked to work remotely through January 2021.
   d. Advent / Christmas worship recommendation to congregations
      A targeted email to our pastors was sent December 7 with the recommendation that the Advent / Christmas worship services be provided online via zoom / facebook / Youtube.
   e. Congregational call meetings
      The Transition / Call Process continues in our congregations throughout the challenging times of the pandemic. Staff and congregation leaders have found ways to interview and meet candidates for pastoral consideration.

      Three congregations have successfully held a “virtual call meeting” (with the assistance of Synod staff) within the last 3 weeks. A fourth congregation call meeting will be conducted this weekend.

4. Report of the Vice President
   A. Weekly meetings
   B. Visits
C. MNYS Roster Review: Ministers of Word and Sacrament (F-H)
   Review led by R. Daniels

D. Vice President Future Vision Team: survey was emailed

5. Strategic Plan Report

   A. Vision 2025
      a. Bishop / weekly meetings with Pr. William Baum and Renee Wicklund
      b. Tom Massey / Lori Swann
      c. Meeting: 2025 Vision Team on 1 Dec

      Bishop reported that The 2025 Vision Team is actively working on the
      development of a zero based budget for the revised 2021 budget and the
      proposed 2022 budget.

      Bishop presented Three Core Values for Vision 2025:
      -Live the Gospel
      -Love all people
      -Serve God’s children together

   B. State of the Synod Report: early 2021

      The Bishop will present to the SC early next year a “State of the Synod” report
      that will include the specifics of implementation of the 2025 Vision.

6. Treasurer’s Report

   A. FMC meets monthly

   B. Mission Support Report (30 November 2020)

      November’s 2020 Mission Support offerings totaled $81,537.21. YTD Mission Support
      actuals are $635,725.13, which is $84,665.41 less than November 2019.

   C. Financial reports (31 October 2020)

7. Old Business

   A. Pending Items:
      a. Western Queens / Todos los Santos

      The Working Group has re-convened and resumed the search for a location to
      house the worshiping community. Pr. Leticia Alanis and Mark Goodwin recently
      visited a possible location.
b. Reparations Proposal / discussion
Conversation and discussion continue in the Black Equity Table

8. New Business
   A. 2021 Housing Allowance Designations

ACTION SC20:12/05
RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the designated 2021 Housing Allowances as presented.
ADOPTED

9. Afterthoughts
   W. Bean Tannenbaum announced that Clover websites had made a $500 offer to assist a congregation in developing a website.
   R. Lara announced that the synod will be presenting a webinar in January on websites.

10. Observers’ Evaluation

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm with prayer by Bishop.

Next Executive Committee Meeting: January 14, 2021
Synod Council Meeting: Saturday, January 23, 2021

*Proposed items for the Synod Council agenda should be submitted to Gayle Ruege (gruege@mnys.org) for consideration by the Executive Committee by: January 8, 2020

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Schoepflin,
Secretary