

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Leonel E. Avila	2021	Ms. Regina Daniels
Mr. Adam A.D. Campbell (Youth)	2021	The Rev. Gladys Diaz
*Ms. Cynthia Corley	2021	Mr. Branden Dupee
<i>*The Rev. Chryll Crews</i>	2022	Ms. Karen Falco
S. Dcn. Steven Daniels	2022	S.Dcn. Donna-Mari Fieldsa
The Rev. George Dietrich	2021	Mr. Mark Goodwin
*Bishop Paul Egensteiner	2025	Ms. Kaitlin Kowalec
<i>Mr. David Ehlers</i>	2022	Mr. Roberto Lara
Ms. Hazel Goldstein	2022	<i>Ms. Claire Mazza</i>
The Rev. Marva Jenkins	2022	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
<i>Isabel Mendoza-Garcia</i>	2021	
*The Rev. Jeanine Owens	2021	
The Rev. David Parsons	2022	<u>GUESTS</u>
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>	2022	

Bold = present

Italics = excused absence

*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

d. **The Rev. Christian Scharen:** *On Leave from Call status effective 30 Oct 2020*

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

a. **The Rev. Romeo Dabee:** *Renewal term appointment / Interim Pastor, St. James – St. Matthew, S. Ozone Park 1 Jan 2021 - 31 Dec 2022*

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 worshipping 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