

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
*The Rev. Chryll Crews	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
Mr. David Ehlers	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	<i>The Rev. Kevin Vandiver</i>
Isabel Mendoza-Garcia	2021	
*The Rev. Jeanine Owens	2021	
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>	

Bold = present

Italics = excused absence

*Member of Executive Committee

GUESTS

MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE

Opening Devotions: *Pr. Brooke Swertfager*

Observer: *Mr. Dave Ehlers*

Call to Order: *Ms. Renée Wicklund at 9:37 am.*

1. **Adoption of the agenda:** adopted as presented
2. **Draft SC minutes 8 December 2020:** adopted as presented
3. **Report of the Bishop**
 - A. **Calls**
 - a. **The Rev. Dr. Maritza Ortiz Cruz:** *Renewal Term-Call / Redeemer, Queens Village (1 Jan – 31 Dec 2021)*

ACTION SC21:01/01

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council renew the Term - Call extended to The Rev. Dr. Maritza Ortiz Cruz as Pastor to Redeemer, Queens Village, effective 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2021.

ADOPTED

- b. **The Rev. Ann Tiemeyer:** *On Leave from Call status effective 15 January 2021*

ACTION SC21:01/02

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant On Leave from Call status for the Rev. Ann Tiemeyer effective 15 Jan 2021.

ADOPTED

B. Appointments (For Report)

- a. **The Rev. Samuel Siliban:** *Coverage Pastor / Stated Supply: Christ, Fresh Meadows eff. 15 Jan 2021*
- b. **The Rev. Dr. John Krahn:** *Interim Pastor: Christ, Wantagh effective 1 November 2021*

C. Pastoral Care

a. Pastoral calls / check-in

Bishop reported on zoom meetings with pastors, deacons, candidates approved for ordination.

b. Good Shepherd, Levittown

Bishop and C. Mietlowski reported that congregation experienced a fire on Christmas Day. Church was damaged beyond repair. Bishop was present to provide pastoral care and engage first responders and media onsite. C. Mietlowski has attended worship with congregation since fire.

c. Saint Peter's, Manhattan

Bishop reported on flooding caused by a water main break under Lexington Avenue that brought extensive damage to the lower levels of the

Saint Peter's facility including the theater, sacristy, Music & Choir room and congregation archives.

Bishop worshipped and preached on site with members of the congregation on Jan 10.

d. Western Suffolk Ministerium

Bishop met with the Western Suffolk Conference ministerium on Dec 14

D. Lutheran Partners / Ecumenical / Interfaith Relationships

a. The Episcopal Dioceses of New York and Long Island

There have been conversations with both Dioceses continues regarding shared ministry opportunities

b. NE Penn and NJ Synods

There have been continued conversations regarding shared ministry along the Delaware River corridor

c. Staten Island Council of Churches / Week of Christian Unity

Bishop participated as the preacher for the ecumenical service during the week of Christian Unity coordinated by the Staten Island Council of Churches

d. African Descent Lutheran Association (ADLA) commemoration for the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Bishop served as the presider at ADLA's annual MLK remembrance service. Bp. Patria Davenport (SE Penn Synod) was the preacher.

e. Wagner Board and Committees

Bishop participated in the January committee and Board of Trustees meetings.

D. Eltingville: Legal Update

The charter school has vacated the school building – the locks have been changed and the building has been secured. The litigation continues in the courts.

E. COVID-19 Response / Resources / Updates

a. Christ, Fresh Meadows: Congregation COVID Assistance Loan \$20,000

b. COVID 19 MNYS webpage updates

COVID 19 resource pages are updated regularly with NY State and CDC updates several times a week.

c. Re-opening of our buildings / Ash Wednesday protocols

Guidelines for the re-opening of our buildings effective Feb 1 and the disposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday are being prepared and will be disseminated next week.

F. Staff

a. Anti-bias / Anti-racism sessions with Kaleidoscope Institute

The Bishop's staff has now completed Anti-bias / Anti-racism training with both the ELCA Anti-racism Network and the Kaleidoscope Institute. Congregation call committees and councils will be encouraged to use either resource for their trainings.

b. Monthly Property / Legal updates

Karen Falco reported that she speaks weekly with our attorneys regarding specific properties and litigations – and also meets with the team as a whole monthly to monitor progress and receive updates.

c. Staff / Hybrid (remote / in office) schedule as of February 1

The staff continues to work remotely – and beginning Feb 1 will return to the office in accordance with a coordinated schedule of assigned days.

4. Report of the Vice President

A. Weekly meetings: with Bishop and W. Baum on Vision 2025.

B. Other activities

C. MNYS Roster Review: Ministers of Word and Sacrament (I-K)

Regina Daniels presented.

5. Strategic Plan Report

A. Vision 2025

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

b. Tom Massey / staff / 2025 Vision Team Budget development

Members of the staff, the FMC and the 2025 Vision Team continue to work on developing the revised 2021 and proposed 2022 budgets.

B. State of the Synod Report: Bishop hopes to share this in March 2021

6. Treasurer's Report

A. FMC meets monthly

B. Mission Support Report (31 December 2020) EXHIBIT A

a. Summary detail / conference / congregation

b. Congregation Listing / \$0 Mission Support YTD

J. Litke reported that December 2020 Mission Support offerings totaled \$68,866.23. YTD Mission Support actuals are \$704,591.36, which is \$182,496.38 less than in December 2019.

A summary of congregations that submitted mission support in December and a listing of congregations that have \$0 mission support to date was provided.

C. Financial reports (30 November 2020) EXHIBIT B

7. Old Business

A. Todos los Santos

a. Formation of the LLC: MNYS Woodhaven Mission Development LLC

R. Wicklund reported that the working group for Todos los Santos resumed its work in securing a space to house this growing ministry.

A suitable space (for lease) that offers good visibility, accessibility and room for growth was identified on Jamaica Avenue. A series of legal steps including the formation of the LLC are required to secure and prepare the site for occupancy.

**PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS FOR
FORMATION A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**

WHEREAS, the Synod Council has previously deemed it desirable and in the best interests of the Synod to establish a mission site in Queen, New York; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee of the Synod Council, upon advice of counsel, recommend the Synod establish a limited liability company to be organized under the laws of the State of New York, in which the Synod shall be, and shall continue to be, the sole member and manager, with the sole purpose of said company to be to acquire, hold, manage, and convey the Synod's real property interest, fee, leasehold or otherwise, related to the Synod's mission in Queen, New York; and

WHEREAS, the Synod Council, after due diligence, inquiry, and deliberation of said recommendation, agree with the Executive Committee of the Synod Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is:

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 MNYS WOODHAVEN MISSION DEVELOPMENT LLC, a limited liability company to be organized under the laws of the State of New York, in which the Synod shall be, and shall continue to be, the sole member and manager, with the sole purpose of said company to be to acquire, hold, manage, and convey the Synod's real property interest, fee, leasehold or otherwise, related to the Synod's mission in Woodhaven, Queen, New York, for, on behalf of, and at the direction and convenience of the Synod. To the extent possible, it is the Synod Council's intention that, as a single member limited liability company, with the Synod as the sole member, MNYS WOODHAVEN MISSION DEVELOPMENT LLC shall be tax exempt and shall not be required to file separate tax returns; and it is further

RESOLVED, that any one of the officers of the Synod be, and is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to execute, for and on behalf of the Synod and in its name, any and all such documents as may be necessary, proper or required to establish said company and the Synod's Chief Operating Officer and Director for Finance, Administration and Grant Management be, and each hereby is, authorized and directed to take such other and further action and to execute such other and further papers as may, upon advice of counsel to the Synod, be necessary, reasonable, proper or required to carry into effect these resolutions, including without limitation the establishment of a corporate bank account, the acquisition of insurance, and the payment of all customary or required costs and expenses related thereto.

ACTION SC21:01/03

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 MNYS WOODHAVEN MISSION DEVELOPMENT LLC, a limited liability company to be organized under the laws of the State of New York, in which the Synod shall be, and shall continue to be, the sole member and manager, with the sole purpose of said company to be to acquire, hold, manage, and convey the Synod's real property interest, fee, leasehold or otherwise, related to the Synod's mission in Woodhaven, Queen, New York, for, on behalf of, and at the direction and convenience of the Synod. To the extent possible, it is the Synod Council's intention that, as a single member limited liability company, with the Synod as the sole member, MNYS WOODHAVEN MISSION DEVELOPMENT LLC shall be tax exempt and shall not be required to file separate tax returns; and it is further

RESOLVED, that any one of the officers of the Synod be, and is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to execute, for and on behalf of the Synod and in its name, any and all such documents as may be necessary, proper or required to establish said company and the Synod's Chief Operating Officer and Director for Finance, Administration and Grant

Management be, and each hereby is, authorized and directed to take such other and further action and to execute such other and further papers as may, upon advice of counsel to the Synod, be necessary, reasonable, proper or required to carry into effect these resolutions, including without limitation the establishment of a corporate bank account, the acquisition of insurance, and the payment of all customary or required costs and expenses related thereto. ADOPTED (23 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

b. Lease Agreement / Guaranty for Lease Agreement

- \$478,000 rent
- Taxes, assessments additional

**PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS FOR
APPROVAL OF THE LEASE AGREEMENT AT
91-06 & 91-08 JAMAICA AVENUE, JAMAICA, NY 11421**

WHEREAS, the Synod Council has previously deemed it desirable and in the best interests of the Synod to establish a mission site in Queen, New York; and

WHEREAS, staff members for the Synod searched and found a property, located at 91-06 & 91-08 Jamaica Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11421, in which to establish said mission, and directed the Synod's counsel, in consultation the Synod's insurance broker, to negotiate a proposed lease agreement with PRASTOS PROPERTIES INC., as landlord; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee of the Synod Council, after discussion and deliberation of the material terms and conditions of the proposed lease terms and conditions, recommend the Synod authorize and approve the lease agreement, substantially in the form attached hereto, between PRASTOS PROPERTIES INC. and MNYS WOODHAVEN MISSION DEVELOPMENT LLC for a portion of certain real property at 91-06 & 91-08 Jamaica Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11421; and

WHEREAS, the Synod Council, after due diligence, inquiry, and deliberation of said recommendation, agree with the Executive Committee of the Synod Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is:

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 authorizes and approves the lease agreement, substantially in the form attached hereto, between PRASTOS PROPERTIES INC. and MNYS WOODHAVEN MISSION DEVELOPMENT LLC for a portion of certain real property at 91-06 & 91-08 Jamaica Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11421; and it is further

RESOLVED, in the event that MNYS WOODHAVEN MISSION DEVELOPMENT LLC shall be established, that any one of the officers of the Synod be, and is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to execute, for and on behalf of the Synod and in its name, and as the sole member and manager of MNYS WOODHAVEN MISSION DEVELOPMENT LLC, said lease agreement and the Synod's Chief Operating Officer and Director for Finance, Administration and Grant Management be, and each hereby is, authorized and directed to take such other and further action and to execute such other and further papers as may, upon advice of counsel to the Synod, be necessary, reasonable, proper or required to carry into effect these resolutions, including without limitation the payment of all customary or required costs and expenses related thereto.

ACTION SC21:01/04

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 authorizes and approves the lease agreement, substantially in the form attached hereto, between PRASTOS PROPERTIES INC. and MNYS WOODHAVEN MISSION DEVELOPMENT LLC for a portion of certain real property at 91-06 & 91-08 Jamaica Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11421; and it is further

RESOLVED, in the event that MNYS WOODHAVEN MISSION DEVELOPMENT LLC shall be established, that any one of the officers of the Synod be, and is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to execute, for and on behalf of the Synod and in its name, and as the sole member and manager of MNYS WOODHAVEN MISSION DEVELOPMENT LLC, said lease agreement and the Synod's Chief Operating Officer and Director for Finance, Administration and Grant Management be, and each hereby is, authorized and directed to take such other and further action and to execute such other and further papers as may, upon advice of counsel to the Synod, be necessary, reasonable, proper or required to carry into effect these resolutions, including without limitation the payment of all customary or required costs and expenses related thereto.

ADOPTED (23 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

**PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS FOR
APPROVAL OF GUARANTY FOR LEASE AGREEMENT AT
91-06 & 91-08 JAMAICA AVENUE, JAMAICA, NY 11421**

WHEREAS, the Synod Council has previously deemed it desirable and in the best interests of the Synod to: (i) form a limited liability company, MNYS WOODHAVEN MISSION DEVELOPMENT LLC, and (ii) approve a certain lease agreement between PRASTOS PROPERTIES INC. and MNYS WOODHAVEN MISSION DEVELOPMENT LLC for a portion of certain real property at 91-06 & 91-08 Jamaica Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11421; and

WHEREAS, in order to induce the landlord, PRASTOS PROPERTIES INC., to enter into said lease agreement with MNYS WOODHAVEN MISSION DEVELOPMENT LLC, said landlord, required the Synod to guaranty certain obligations under the lease and deliver, concurrently with the lease, a guaranty executed by the Synod; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee of the Synod Council, after discussion and deliberation of the material terms and conditions of the proposed guaranty, substantially in the form attached to the lease agreement as Exhibit C, and as reviewed and negotiated by counsel, recommend the Synod approve and authorize the guaranty; and

WHEREAS, the Synod Council, after due diligence, inquiry, and deliberation of said recommendation, agree with the Executive Committee of the Synod Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is:

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 authorizes and approves the guaranty by the Synod to PRASTOS PROPERTIES INC., substantially in the form attached as Exhibit C to the lease agreement between PRASTOS PROPERTIES INC. and MNYS WOODHAVEN MISSION DEVELOPMENT LLC for a portion of certain real property at 91-06 & 91-08 Jamaica Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11421, to induce PRASTOS PROPERTIES INC. to enter into said lease agreement; and it is further

RESOLVED, in the event that MNYS WOODHAVEN MISSION DEVELOPMENT LLC shall enter into said lease agreement, that any one of the officers of the Synod be, and is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to execute, for and on behalf of the Synod and in its name, said guaranty to PRASTOS PROPERTIES INC., and the Synod's Chief Operating Officer and Director for Finance, Administration and Grant Management be, and each hereby is, authorized and directed to take such other and further action and to execute such other and further papers as may, upon advice of counsel to the Synod, be necessary, reasonable, proper or required to carry into effect these resolutions.

ACTION SC21:01/05

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 authorizes and approves the guaranty by the Synod to PRASTOS PROPERTIES INC., substantially in the form attached as Exhibit C to the lease agreement between PRASTOS PROPERTIES INC. and MNYS WOODHAVEN MISSION DEVELOPMENT LLC for a portion of certain real property at 91-06 & 91-08 Jamaica Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11421, to induce PRASTOS PROPERTIES INC. to enter into said lease agreement; and it is further

RESOLVED, in the event that MNYS WOODHAVEN MISSION DEVELOPMENT LLC shall enter into said lease agreement, that any one of the officers of the Synod be, and is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to execute, for and on behalf of the Synod and in its name, said guaranty to PRASTOS PROPERTIES INC., and the Synod's Chief Operating Officer and Director for Finance, Administration and Grant Management be, and each hereby is, authorized and directed to take such other and further action and to execute such other and further papers as may, upon advice of counsel to the Synod, be necessary, reasonable, proper or required to carry into effect these resolutions.

ADOPTED (23 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

c. Architect / Buildout

ACTION SC21:01/06

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the proposed costs of the architectural and construction costs for the Todos Los Santos ministry site.

ADOPTED (23 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

B. Supporting Organization: Evangelical Lutheran

a. Directors

R. Wicklund reported that the Supporting Organization (Evangelical Lutheran) has a nine-member Board of Directors. Nominations for six directors will be presented at the March SC meeting.

C. Kibeta English Medium Primary School / Northwestern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania

R. Wicklund reported that Pr. Perucy Butiku is currently in Tanzania conducting our annual review of the Kibeta English Medium Primary School (KEMPS) and the annual evaluation of our missionary teacher, Alison Gomulka.

Pr. Perucy is also visiting with leaders in the Northwestern Diocese including Bp. Abednego Keshomshahara and General Secretary Kigembe. A formal letter of gratitude from Bp. Keshomshahara regarding the approval of the \$45,000 loan was shared with the SC.

D. Pending Items:

a. Reparations Proposal / discussion

Bishop reported that this issue is being worked on.

8. New Business: there were no new items of business

January 23, 2021
Adopted 3/23/2021

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9. Afterthoughts

a. Devotions (Pr. Squire) / Observer (Pr. Crews) for March 23 meeting

10. Observer's Evaluation

Meeting adjourned at 11:22am.

**Executive Committee Meetings: February 11, 2021 (Special meeting on Budget)
February 27, 2021 (Special meeting on
Mergers/Consolidations)
March 11, 2021
Synod Council Meeting: March 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: March 4, 2021**

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Schoepflin,
Secretary