

## SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

<b>Mr. Leonel E. Avila</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>Ms. Regina Daniels</b>
Mr. Adam A.D. Campbell (Youth)	2021	<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>	<b>Mr. Mark Goodwin</b>
<b>*Bishop Paul Egensteiner</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>Ms. Kaitlin Kowalec</b>
<b>Mr. David Ehlers</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Mr. Roberto Lara</b>
<b>Ms. Hazel Goldstein</b>	<b>2022</b>	<i>Ms. Claire Mazza</i>
<b>The Rev. Marva Jenkins</b>	<b>2022</b>	<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>	
<b>The Rev. Daniel Peter</b>	<b>2022</b>	
<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>	<i>2022</i>	

**Bold = present**

*Italics = excused absence*

\*Member of Executive Committee

## GUESTS

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## MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE

**Opening Devotions:** *Pr. Daniel Peter Penumaka*

**Observer:** *Ms. Emma Turner*

**Call to Order:** *Ms. Renée Wicklund at 5:20pm*

1. **Adoption of the agenda:** adopted as presented.
2. **Draft SC minutes 23 January 2021:** adopted as presented.  
**Draft SC minutes 4 February 2021:** adopted as presented.
3. **Report of the Bishop**

**A. Calls**

- a. **The Rev. Samuel Siliban:** *Chaplaincy Ministry: Eger Lutheran Homes and Services, Staten Island effective 9 February 2021*

**ACTION SC21:03/01**

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to The Rev. Samuel Siliban as Chaplain to Eger Lutheran Homes and Services, Staten Island effective 9 February 2021.

**ADOPTED**

- b. **The Rev. H. Gaylon Barker:** *On Leave from Call status effective 1 December 2020*

**ACTION SC21:03/02**

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant On Leave from Call status to The Rev. H. Gaylon Barker effective 1 December 2020.

**ADOPTED**

- c. **The Rev. Carla Meier:** *On Leave from Call status effective 1 December 2020*

**ACTION SC21:03/03**

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant On Leave from Call status from The Rev. Carla Meier effective 1 December 2020.

**ADOPTED**

- d. **The Rev. Robert Rainis:** *Retirement status effective 1 March 2021*

**ACTION SC21:03/04**

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve retirement status for the Rev. Robert Rainis effective 1 March 2021.

**ADOPTED**

**B. Appointments**

- a. **Ms. Yadira Alguera:** *Financial Management Committee effective Dec 2020 – Dec 2023)*

**b. Committee on Reference Counsel (SA 2021)**

- + **The Rev. Chryll Crews**
- + **S.Dcn. Jean Fucci**
- + **Mr. Eugene Hiigel**
- + **The Rev. John Jurik**
- + **The Rev. James Krauser, Chair**
- + **S.Dcn. Rob Sinanan**

**ACTION SC21:03/05**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council appoint the Rev. Chryll Crews, S.Dcn. Jean Fucci, Mr. Eugene Hiigel, the Rev. John Jurik, The Rev. James Krauser (Chair), Mr. Rob Sinanan, to serve on the 2021 Committee on Reference & Counsel effective 1 April 2021. ADOPTED**

**C. Pastoral Care / Visits**

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

**b. Conference Ministeriums :**

Western Nassau (Jan 25) ; SE Queens (Jan 26); SW Nassau (Feb 18), Western Suffolk (Mar 11)

**c. First Call Theological Retreat (MNYS / Upstate NY Synod) Jan 27, 2021**

**d. Teen Ministry at Hope, Selden Feb 6, 2021**

**e. Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education (LMHE) Trivia Night Feb 26, 2021**

**f. Wagner College Board of Trustees Mar 5, 2021**

**g. Conference of Bishops: Future Church Mar 3 & 4, 2021**

**h. Candidacy Summit Mar 12, 2021**

**i. Bethany, Queens: Food Pantry distribution Mar 20, 2021**

**j. Monthly Black Equity Table (BET)**

**D. Congregation Updates**

**a. Eltingville, Staten Island**

Bishop and other members of staff met with the remaining leaders at Eltingville (Mar 16) to discuss next steps moving toward Holy Closure. Final worship on-site Easter Sunday. Encouraged former members to worship and engage the faith communities of any of their sister congregations. 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary/Rite of Holy Closure is scheduled for August 2021.

**b. Ministry Along the Hudson / Collaborative Ministry**

Pr. Mietlowski reported on work being done on developing this ministry in conjunction with NE Penn Synod.

**c. Ecumenical Advocacy Day: New York Council of Churches Feb 24-25**

**d. Mission Support (FY 2020 – 2021)**

This information was distributed to council members.

**E. Communications / Events :** Roberto Lara reported on the following items.

**a. Monthly worship recordings / Office of the Bishop (through May)**

**b. Chrism Mass: March 30 / Holy Week Resources / Easter Guide**

**c. State of the Synod Webinar : April 21**

**d. Associated Press Article: media outlets**

**e. 2021 Synod Assembly / Digital**

2 half-day sessions (August 20 & 21)

**F. Staff:**

**a. Monthly Property / Legal updates**

Karen Falco reported on work with attorneys on property and legal issues.

**4. Report of the Vice President:** R. Wicklund reported.

**A. Visits**

**B. Weekly meetings**

**C. MNYS Roster Review: Ministers of Word and Sacrament (L-N)**

**5. Strategic Plan Report:** Bishop Egensteiner reported.

**A. Vision 2025**

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

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

**B. Vision Team meeting Feb 2 meeting / Mar 9 meeting**

**6. Treasurer's Report:** J. Litke reported.

**A. FMC meets monthly**

**B. Mission Support**

**a. Fiscal Year Feb 1, 2020 –Jan 31, 2021)**

Mission support was down, but expenses were also down.

**b. February 2021 Mission Support Summary**

February's 2021 Mission Support offerings totaled \$55,260.45, YTD Mission Support actuals Through February 28, 2021 are \$55,260.45, which is \$2,200.69 more than February 2020.

**C. Annual Audit**

Audit is currently in process and will have the Auditor's report for the April SC meeting.

**7. Old Business**

**A. Property Sale: 3122-3134 Baily Avenue, Bronx** (former Kingsbridge Lutheran Church)

R. Wicklund reported that we received three offers for the property on Baily Avenue. The EC recommends that the SC approve the sale of the property to Magnet Management, Inc. for the amount of \$1,700,000.

Our attorneys have prepared the contract for the buyer's review.

Upon final acceptance of the contract, Secretary Schoepflin will complete the Certificate of the Secretary for submittal to the AG's office.

**ACTION SC21:03/06**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the sale of the property located at 3122-3134 Baily Avenue, Bronx to Magnet Management , Inc. for the amount of \$1,700,000.**

**ADOPTED (24 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)**

**B. Property Sale: 427 East 140<sup>th</sup> Street, Bronx**

R. Wicklund reported that the Contract for the sale for the 140<sup>th</sup> Street property has been reviewed and accepted. The Certificate of the Secretary has been prepared and is included in the drop box.

**ACTION SC21:03/07**

**RESOLVED, that the Broker Fee is fair and reasonable and such Broker Fee and the Broker Agreement, is hereby approved; and it is further**

**RESOLVED, that the Agreement, prepared by MNYS's legal counsel, Capell Barnett Matalon & Schoenfeld, LLP, for sale of the Property to Purchaser, for the price of Eight Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$875,000.00), in "as is" condition and subject to all approvals as required by New York law, is hereby approved and authorized; and it is further**

**RESOLVED, that any one of the officers be, and is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to act on behalf of MNYS, to sign, verify and cause to be filed such petition or other paper or papers, as may be required to obtain approval from the Office of the Attorney General of the State of New York and/or the Courts of the State of New York, as may be required by New York State law of such sale to Purchaser, based on the terms and conditions as recited in the Agreement, for the price of Eight Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$875,000.00), in "as is" condition; and, in the event that such approvals shall be obtained, to thereafter execute, acknowledge and deliver a good and sufficient deed and all such other documents as may be required to convey title to the Property and to pay all customary and/or required closing costs, transfer taxes, broker, attorney and other professional fees incurred in connection with the sale of the property; and otherwise do all**

**such things as may, upon advice of Capell Barnett Matalon & Schoenfeld LLP, counsel to MNYS, be reasonable, necessary, proper or convenient in order that the terms, provisions and agreements of the Agreement be fulfilled and the transactions contemplated therein be effectuated; and it is further**

**RESOLVED, that the net proceeds from the sale of the Property, after payment of the customary and/or required closing costs, transfer taxes, broker, attorney and other professional fees relating to the sale, be utilized in furtherance of the religious purposes for which MNYS was formed, in accordance with its Certificate of Incorporation and Constitution and By-Laws; and it is further**

**RESOLVED, that MNYS will not become insolvent following the above-mentioned transaction; and it is further**

**RESOLVED, that the dissolution of MNYS is not contemplated following the above-mentioned transaction.**

**ADOPTED (24 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)**

**C. Supporting Organization: Evangelical Lutheran, Inc. Board of Directors**

- + **The Rev. Chryll Crews**
- + **Mr. Eugene Hiigel (re-election)**
- + **The Rev. Marc Herbst (re-election)**
- + **Mr. Cecil Spurlock-Shackelton**
- + **Mr. Christopher Vergara**

R. Wicklund reported that the formation of a Supporting Organization was presented by our attorneys to the Financial Management Committee in 2016. The FMC's recommendation was approved by the SC for presentation to the Synod Assembly.

The 2017 Synod Assembly deferred back to the Synod Council for approval. The Supporting Organization (Evangelical Lutheran, Inc) was formed in 2018. John Litke spoke about the rationale and the importance of the formation of this entity.

The Board of Directors is comprised on nine members – four from the Synod Council. Currently serving are Wendy Bean Tannenbaum and Pr. Robert Schoepflin through the remainder of their term on Synod Council.

Mr. Jeffrey MacDonagh was elected by the SC to serve a five year term through 2025. We hope to bring the name of the final board member to the SC in April.

**ACTION SC21:03/08**

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod elect the Rev. Chryll Crews, Mr. Eugene Hiigel, the Rev. Marc Herbst, Mr. Cecil Spurlock Shacklelton and Mr. Christopher Vergara to serve on the Board of Directors for Evangelical Lutheran, Inc.

**ADOPTED**

**D. Pending Items:**

**a. Reparations Discussion / BET**

Bishop Egensteiner reported that the Black Equity Table continues to take this under consideration and will present to the Synod Council when a proposal is in place.

**8. New Business**

**A. Art Collection: List for Sale**

R. Wicklund reported that the Synod inherited a Geri Taper collection of artwork (250 pieces) that we have held in a storage unit in Brooklyn. The collection was appraised at \$490,000 in 2005. We are now seeking an art dealer that would assist in listing the pieces for sale.

**ACTION SC21:03/09**

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the listing for sale of the Geri Taper collection.

**ADOPTED**

**B. SBA Payroll Protection Program (PPP) 2<sup>nd</sup> Draw**

R. Wicklund reported that the Synod has applied for the 2<sup>nd</sup> draw for the Payroll Protection Plan.

**ACTION SC21:03/10**

**RESOLVED**, that the following individuals are hereby authorized to executed documents necessary to finalize an SBA PPP loan with ELCA Federal Credit Union: Donna-Mari J. Fieldsa, Karen Falco, John Litke, Renee Wicklund, Gayle Ruege and Robert Schoepflin.

**ADOPTED**

**C. 2021 Synod Assembly Rate schedule**

**ACTION SC21:03/11**

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the rate schedule for the 2021 (Digital) Synod Assembly.

**ADOPTED**

March 23, 2021  
APPROVED 4/24/21

Synod Council of the Metropolitan New York Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
MINUTES

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**D. Synod Council Retreat date change: Sep 24 – 25 (Digital)**

**9. Afterthoughts**

- A. Devotions April (Pr. Garry Squire)**
- B. Observer April (Pr. Chryll Crews)**

**10. Observer's Evaluation**

**Meeting adjourned with prayer by Bishop Egensteiner at 6:54pm.**

**Executive Committee Meeting: April 15, 2021**

**Synod Council Meeting: Saturday, April 24, 2021**

**\*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: April 12, 2021**

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert Schoepflin,  
Secretary