

## SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

<b>Mr. Leonel E. Avila</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>Ms. Regina Daniels</b>
Mr. Adam A.D. Campbell (Youth)	2021	<i>The Rev. Gladys Diaz</i>
<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>
<i>S. Dcn. Steven Daniels</i>	<i>2022</i>	<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>	<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>	<i>The Rev. Kevin Vandiver</i>
<b>Isabel Mendoza-Garcia</b>	<b>2021</b>	
<b>*The Rev. Jeanine Owens</b>	<b>2021</b>	
<i>The Rev. David Parsons</i>	<i>2022</i>	
<i>The Rev. Daniel Peter</i>	<i>2022</i>	
<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. Garry Squire*

**Observer:** *Pr. Chryll Crews*

**Call to Order:** *Ms. Renée Wicklund at 9:43am*

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

**A. Calls**

- a. **The Rev. Jeanne Warfield:** *Retirement status effective 1 Sep 2021*

**ACTION SC21:04/01**

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve retirement status for the Rev. Jeanne Warfield effective 1 September 2021.

**ADOPTED**

- b. **S.Dcn. Karen Nurmi:** *On Leave from Call status effective 7 Feb 2021*

**ACTION SC21:04/02**

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant On Leave from Call status to S.Dcn. Karen Nurmi effective 7 February 2021.

**ADOPTED**

**B. Appointments**

- a. **The Rev. Peter Boehringer:** *Board of Trustees / United Lutheran Seminary (Jul 1 2021 – Jun 30, 2024)*

**ACTION SC21:04/03**

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council elect the Rev. Peter Boehringer to the Board of Trustees of United Lutheran Seminary effective 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2024.

**ADOPTED**

- b. **The Rev. George Dietrich:** *Chair, Geri Taper Art Collection Task Force*

**C. Pastoral Care / Visits / Ecumenical – Interfaith participation**

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

- b. **Candidacy Summit (Mar 12)**

- c. **Conference of Deans (Mar 16 / Apr 12: individual conversations)**

Bishop continued his monthly meetings with the Deans. In preparation for the state of the Synod webinar, he had individual meetings with each Dean to gain

insight into how our pastors, deacons and congregational leaders are faring as well as assessing the pandemic's effect on our congregations.

**d. Preaching with Power Seminars (United Lutheran Seminary)**

Bishop participated in The Urban Theological Institute of United Lutheran Seminary presented the annual Preaching With Power Forum March 14-17. The Preaching with Power seminars present the finest In African American preaching and music.

**e. Orthodox celebration (200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Greek revolution: Mar 25)**

Bishop reported that His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America presided over commemorations of the Bicentennial of the Greek Revolution of 1821. The event took place on March 25 (The Annunciation) at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral.

**f. LIRS Webinar: "Our Call to Care: Supporting Unaccompanied Children at the So. Border)**

Bishop reported that Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services is currently providing care to unaccompanied children at the Southern Border. The webinar he attended provided information about the actions LIRS is taking to support them and ways we can join in the work of protecting them.

**g. Yom Hoshuah Remembrance (Apr 7)**

Bishop participated in virtual Community Commemoration of Yom Hoshuah to remember the 6 million martyrs with a program of readings, music and prayer.

**h. Diakonia class visit**

Bishop visited with Diakonia students during the Pastoral Care / Visitation class module taught by C. Mietlowski.

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

Bishop continued to meet monthly meeting with the Black Pastors group which continues to consider the issue of reparations.

**D. Communications / Events**

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

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

Bishop invited feedback on the webinar from Council members. Webinar was well received.

**c. Associated Church Press Awards of Excellence**

Bishop commended R. Lara on the work he does with communication.

**d. 2021 Synod Assembly / Communications**

**E. Staff**

**a. Cooperative Ministry Guidebook**

Branden Dupree presented an overview of the recently developed Cooperative Ministry Guidebook during the State of the Synod webinar on April 21. The guidebook provides information that will assist congregations in ministry assessment and outlines options for collaborative ministry opportunities.

**b. MNYS Summer Internships**

K. Falco reported that the Synod office would like to engage unpaid summer interns to assist with administrative tasks connected to our Sales Force data conversion and Communications strategy. A job description was distributed to Council members.

**4. Report of the Vice President**

**A. Visits**

VP Wicklund has begun visiting congregations that are worshipping safely in person.

**B. Other activities**

Meetings with Vision 2025 committee and with synod pastors.

**C. Synod Council Procedures**

**D. MNYS Roster Review: Ministers of Word and Sacrament (O-R)**

R. Daniels provided the review.

**5. Strategic Plan Report**

**A. Vision 2025**

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

**b. Vision Team meeting: April 13**

**c. Anti-bias / Anti-racism emphasis:**

Bishop invited discussion on Presiding Bishop Eaton's statement in response to the Derek Chauvin murder verdict. Her pastoral letter was provided to Council members. Bishop was asked to direct members' comments to Bishop Eaton, and he indicated he would do so.

**6. Treasurer's Report**

**A. FMC meets monthly**

J. Litke reported that budget is being prepared and will be presented in the future.

**B. Mission Support EXHIBIT A**

J. Litke reported that March 2021 Mission Support offerings totaled \$102,213.89 and that year to date Mission Support actuals through March 31, 2021 are \$157,474.34, which is \$36,042.26 more than March 2020.

1. **Mission Support YTD Congregation Detail**
2. **Mission Support Contributions March 2021**
3. **Mission Support \$0 March 2021**

**C. Financials (February 2021) EXHIBIT B**

**D. Annual Audit**

J. Litke reported that the audit is still in progress.

**7. Old Business**

**A. Property Sale: 3122-3134 Baily Avenue, Bronx / Certificate of the Secretary**

VP Wicklund reported that at the March SC meeting, the SC approved the offer of \$1.7M from Magnet Management for the sale of the Baily Avenue properties to 3130 Bailey LLC (the "Purchaser"), and that Secretary Schoepflin sign the Certificate of the Secretary upon receipt of the signed contract for submittal to the office of the Attorney General.

**WHEREAS**, the Supreme Court of the State of New York, New York County, under Index No. 156485/2018 entered into an order on March 12, 2019 stipulating that MNYS is entitled to ownership and possession of all property of The Kingsbridge Evangelical Lutheran Church ("Kingsbridge Church"), including the real property located in the State of New York, City of New York, County of Bronx, known as and by street address 3122-3134 Bailey Avenue, and identified on the City of New York, Bronx County tax map records, as Block 3261 and Lots 33 and 36 (the "Property"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Property was transferred to MNYS by Deed, dated March 24, 2021 and recorded April 7, 2021 (CRFN: 2021000125533); and

**WHEREAS**, the Property is surplus property and is not needed by MNYS to conduct the mission and ministry services it provides to the member congregations of MNYS and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in the New York City metropolitan area; and

**WHEREAS**, MNYS has agreed, to pay Richard W. Eaddy of Savills USA, a New York licensed associate real estate broker (License # 10301210923) (the "Broker"), upon the closing of the sale of the Property, a commission fee of five percent (5%) of the total sales price (the "Broker Fee"), pursuant to that certain broker agreement (the "Broker Agreement") attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

**WHEREAS**, in February 2021, having listed the Property for sale, and having received numerous offers to purchase the Property in "as is" condition, the best offer was made by 3130

Bailey LLC (the "Purchaser"), a limited liability company, and unrelated third party bona fide purchaser, to purchase the Property from MNYS, in "as is" condition, for One Million Seven Hundred Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$1,700,000.00); and

**WHEREAS**, on March 23, 2021, MNYS approved the acceptance of an offer for the sale of the Property, and following further negotiations with Purchaser, the Executive Committee of the Synod Council, at its meeting held on April \_\_\_\_, 2021, voted to approve MNYS entering into a contract to sell the Property to Purchaser in "as is" condition, for One Million Seven Hundred Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$1,700,000.00) in cash at closing; and

**WHEREAS**, MNYS, delivered a contract to Purchaser for the purchase of the Property from MNYS, for the price of One Million Seven Hundred Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$1,700,000.00), in "as is" condition; which contract was executed by MNYS and Purchaser, subject to all corporate approvals and approvals as required by New York law and all other terms contained therein (the "Agreement"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Synod Council caused an appraisal of the Property to be conducted by David M. Slosh, MAI, a certified New York real estate appraiser, that concluded that the fair market value of the Property as of November 17, 2020 was One Million Forty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$1,040,000.00) (the "Appraisal"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Synod Council has determined, having considered the Appraisal, the Agreement, and other information including the condition of the Property and the costs of maintaining same, that the said terms of sale are fair and reasonable to MNYS and that the corporate religious activities and purposes of MNYS will be promoted by such sale in that the said consideration will provide funds to enable MNYS to carry on its proper corporate religious activities and purposes, and further authorize the appropriate members of the Synod Council to make an application, on behalf of MNYS, to 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, for approval to sell the Property and to execute any documents and papers considered necessary and appropriate to effectuate that sale.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, it is:

**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 One Million Seven Hundred Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$1,700,000.00), 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 One Million Seven Hundred Thousand and 00/100 Dollars

(\$1,700,000.00), 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.

**ACTION SC21/04:04**

**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 One Million Seven Hundred Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$1,700,000.00), 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 One Million Seven Hundred Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$1,700,000.00), 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 abovementioned transaction.**

**ADOPTED (21 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention)**

**8. New Business**

- A. Supporting Organization: Evangelical Lutheran, Inc. Board of Directors  
+ Denise Rempe Wilson (May 2021 – May 2026)**

**ACTION SC21:04/05**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council elect Denise Rempe Wilson to serve a five year term on the Board of Directors for Evangelical Lutheran, Inc. effective 1 May 2021.**

**ADOPTED**

**9. Afterthoughts**

- A. Devotions May (Lily Sage Mathias)**
- B. Observer May (Wendy Bean Tannenbaum)**

**10. Observer's Evaluation**

**Meeting adjourned at 11:22 am with prayer by Bishop.**

**Executive Committee Meeting: May 11, 2021  
Synod Council Meeting: May 18, 2021 @ 5 pm**

**\*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: May 6, 2021**



April 24, 2021  
APPROVED 5/18/21

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

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Respectfully submitted,  
Robert Schoepflin,  
Secretary