

## SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

<b>Mr. Leonel E. Avila</b>	<b>2021</b>	<i>Ms. Regina Daniels</i>
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>	<i>Ms. Karen Falco</i>
S. Dcn. Steven Daniels	2022	<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>	<i>The Rev. Christopher Mietlowski</i>
<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>	
<i>Mr. Thomas Sargent</i>	<i>2021</i>	
<b>*The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Sect.</b>	<b>2022</b>	
<b>Mr. Cecil (Chip) 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

---

## MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE

**Opening Devotions:** *Lily Sage Mathias*

**Observer:** *Wendy Bean Tannenbaum*

**Call to Order:** *Ms. Renée Wicklund at 5:10 pm.*

1. **Adoption of the agenda:** adopted as presented
2. **Draft SC minutes 24 April 2021:** adopted as presented
3. **Report of the Bishop**
  - A. **Calls**
    - a. **S.Dcn. Doreen Bietter/ Cross of Christ, Babylon:** *On Leave from Call status effective 27 Feb 2021*
    - b. **S.Dcn. William Bello / Emanuel, Pleasantville:** *On Leave from Call status effective 1 Feb 2021*
    - c. **S.Dcn. Barbara Meberg / Emanuel, Pleasantville:** *On Leave from Call status effective 1 Feb 2021*
    - d. **S.Dcn. Nancy Schoener / Emanuel, Pleasantville:** *On Leave from Call status effective 1 Feb 2021*
    - e. **S.Dcn. Victoria Struss / Emanuel, Pleasantville:** *On Leave from Call status effective 1 Feb 2021*
    - f. **S. Dcn. Luanna Schilling:** *On Leave from Call extension through 1 Aug 2021*

**ACTION SC21:05/01**

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant On Leave from Call status to S.Dcn. William Bello, S.Dcn. Barbara Meberg, S.Dcn. Nancy Schoener, and S.Dcn. Victoria Struss effective 1 February 2021; S.Dcn. Doreen Bietter effective 27 February 2021; and an extension of On Leave from Call for S.Dcn. Luanna Schilling through 1 August 2021.

**ADOPTED**

- B. **Appointments**
  - a. **Consultation Committee / New Hope, Jamaica**
    - + *The Rev. Chryll Crews*
    - + *The Rev. Justin Lathrop*
    - + *Mark Goodwin*
    - + *Carol Trower*
  - b. **Nominations & Elections Committee**
    - + *The Rev. Kevin O'Hara, Chair*
  - c. **Diaconate Council**
    - + *The Rev. Rebecca Sheridan*
- C. **Pastoral Care / Visits / Ecumenical – Interfaith participation**
  - a. **Pastoral calls / visits**
    - + **Pastors (active, retired) / synod leaders**

Bishop reported on speaking with several pastors (including many retired) and leaders throughout the month. Deployed Assistants are also in regular contact with pastors and leaders in their assigned conferences.

+ **Congregation Councils**

Bishop met with several congregation councils including the councils of St. Andrew's, West Hempstead and Ascension, Franklin Square following the recent shooting at the Stop & Shop Supermarket in West Hempstead.

+ **Diaper Ministry: Christ, Newburgh**

Bishop and Marianne volunteered at the Diaper Ministry on May 8.

**b. Candidacy / Candidates**

+ **Candidates approved for ordination / individual conversations**

Bishop had individual conversations with each of the candidates that are approaching completion of their candidacy process and who will be presented to the Candidacy Committee for final approval on May 22.

+ **Endorsement panels**

Bishop participated in three Endorsement panels for candidates in the process.

**c. Conference of Deans (May 18)**

Bishop reported that the deans meet monthly with him and his staff.

**d. Update: Lutheran Services New York Alliance**

Bishop Egensteiner and Bishop Lecakes of the Atlantic District met with pastors serving as Chaplains and are now exploring possibilities on a path to transform / restructure LSNYA.

**e. Western Suffolk Diakonia class (May 6)**

Bishop visited and shared about visitation with the Western Suffolk Diakonia class.

**f. TEEM Pastors Pilot Program / M.Div.**

Bishop held a consultation with Pr. Ruben Duran (ELCA Churchwide), Pr. Javier Goitia (Director of Theological formation for seminaries and schools of the ELCA); Mo. Gladys Diaz, and Dr. Samuel Cruz (Union Seminary) regarding the development of a pilot program for Latinx TEEM pastors to earn their M.Div. through a Lutheran seminary.

**g. Wagner College Board of Trustees**

Bishop attended or will attend the following events:

- Academic and Student Affairs Committee (May 10)
- Advancement Committee (May 12)
- Wagner Fellows Gathering (May 12)
- Board of Trustees meeting (May 14)
- Wagner Chai Society Mitzvah Awards (May 19)
- Wagner 2021 Commencement (May 27)

**h. Conference of Bishops and Region 7 Bishops: weekly**

**i. Monthly Black Equity Table (Reparations discussion)**

**D. Communications / Events:** R. Lara reported

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

**b. Public Relations Articles**

**c. Ordinations and Setting Apart of Synodical Deacons: June 19 / St. Peter's, Huntington Station**

There will be two services with the Rite of Setting Apart of Synodical Deacons and a service with the Rite of Ordination scheduled for June 19, 2021 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Huntington Station. All three services will be live-streamed on Facebook and YouTube and recorded. The schedule for the day is as follows:

- 9:30 AM: Rite of Setting Apart of 2020 Synodical Deacons
- 1:00 PM: Rite of Setting Apart of 2021 Synodical Deacons
- 4:00 PM: Rite of Ordination

**d. 2021 Synod Assembly Updates**

R. Lara gave a link to register for Synod Assembly.

**4. Report of the Vice President**

**A. Visits:** R. Wicklund reported on congregations she has visited.

**B. Other activities:** She reported on several meetings with leaders and weekly meetings with Bishop.

**C. MNYS Roster Review: Ministers of Word and Sacrament (S-V):** This will be done at June meeting.

**5. Strategic Plan Report**

**A. Vision 2025**

Bishop held weekly meetings with Pr. William Baum and Renee Wicklund.

**6. Treasurer's Report EXHIBIT A**

J. Litke reported that he is cautiously optimistic about support.

**A. FMC meets monthly**

**B. Mission Support**

J. Litke reported that April 2021 Mission Support offerings totaled \$62,995.36, YTD Mission Support actuals through April 30, 2021 are \$220,469.70, which is 54,145.16 more than April 2020.

- 1. Mission Support YTD Congregation Detail**
- 2. Mission Support Contributions April 2021**
- 3. Mission Support \$0 Feb - Apr 2021**

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

**E. Budgets update**

Budgets will be presented at the June SC meeting

**7. Old Business**

**8. New Business**

- A. Redeemer, Queens Village  
Pr. Vandiver gave an update.

**9. Afterthoughts**

- A. Devotions June: Cynthia Corley
- B. Observer June: Cecil (Chip) Spurlock-Shackelton

**10. Observer's Evaluation**

Meeting adjourned at 6:02 with prayer by Bishop.

Executive Committee Meeting: June 15, 2021

Synod Council Meeting: June 26, 2021 @ 9:30 am (Saturday)

\*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: June 10, 2021

May 18, 2021  
APPROVED 6/26/21

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

Page 6

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert Schoepflin,  
Secretary