

**SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS**

<b>Mr. Leonel E. Avila</b>	<b>2021</b>
Mr. Adam A.D. Campbell (Youth)	2021
<b>*Ms. Cynthia Corley</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>*The Rev. Chryll Crews</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>S. Dcn. Steven Daniels</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>The Rev. George Dietrich</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>*Bishop Paul Egensteiner</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>Mr. David Ehlers</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Ms. Hazel Goldstein</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>The Rev. Marva Jenkins</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>*Mr. John Litke, Treasurer</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Mr. Erich Markert</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Lily Sage Mathias</b>	<b>2021</b>
<i>Isabel Mendoza-Garcia</i>	<i>2021</i>
<b>*The Rev. Jeanine Owens</b>	<b>2021</b>
The Rev. David Parsons	2022
<b>The Rev. Daniel Peter</b>	<b>2022</b>
<i>S. Dcn. Denise Rutherford-Gill</i>	<i>2021</i>
<b>Mr. Thomas Sargent</b>	<b>2021</b>
<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

**STAFF**

**Ms. Regina Daniels**  
**The Rev. Gladys Diaz**  
**Mr. Branden Dupee**  
**Ms. Karen Falco**  
**S.Dcn. Donna-Mari Fieldsa**  
*Mr. Mark Goodwin*  
**Ms. Kaitlin Kowalec**  
**Mr. Roberto Lara**  
*Ms. Claire Mazza*  
**The Rev. Christopher Mietlowski**  
*Ms. Maria Rodas*  
**S.Dcn. Gayle Ruege**  
**The Rev. Kevin Vandiver**

**GUESTS**

**Christopher Vergara**

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**MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE**

**Opening Devotions:** *Cynthia Corley*

**Observer:** *Chip Spurlock-Shackelton*

**Call to Order:** *Ms. Renée Wicklund at 9:38 am.*

1. **Adoption of the agenda:** adopted as amended.
2. **Draft SC minutes 18 May 2021:** adopted.  
**Draft 2019 Synod Assembly minutes:** adopted.
3. **Report of the Bishop**
  - A. **Calls**
    - a. The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Ehrlich: *Associate Dean for Community Life / General Theological Seminary eff. 1 Aug 2021*

**ACTION SC21:06/01**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Ehrlich to serve as Associate Dean for Community Life / General Theological Seminary effective 1 August 2021.**

**ADOPTED**

- b. The Rev. William E. Baum: *Retirement status eff 1 Aug 2021*

**ACTION SC21:06/02**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant retirement status to the Rev. William E. Baum effective 1 August 2021.**

**ADOPTED**

- c. The Rev. Brenda Smith: *Retirement status eff 1 Jun 2021*

**ACTION SC21:06/03**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant retirement status to the Rev. Brenda K. Smith effective 1 June 2021.**

**ADOPTED**

**B. Appointments**

- a. MNYS Nominations and Elections Committee

- *Mr. Leonel Avila*
- *S.Dcn. Jasmine Downer*
- *Ms. Louise Litke*
- *The Rev. Sonja Maclary*
- *S.Dcn. Karen Nurmi*

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

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

Bishop reported he and his staff had made 32 calls, zoom conferences and visits with individual pastors, deacons, and synod leaders.

- b. Candidacy Committee (May 22 / Jun 10)**
- c. Conference of Deans (May 18 / June 15)**
- d. Growing in Faith (Diakonia) / Peconic location (Jun 1)**
- e. Growing in Faith (Diakonia) Graduation (Jun 12) at St. Peter's, Huntington Station**
- f. Conference Ministeriums**
  - *Hudson Conference (Jun 1)*
  - *Western Suffolk (Jun 10)*
- g. Congregation Council consultations / Congregation Celebrations**
  - *Our Redeemer, Queens Village*
  - *St. Peter's, Port Jervis*
  - *Trinity, Staten Island*
  - *Our Savior, Staten Island*
  - *Zion, Staten Island*
  - *Epiphany, Brooklyn*
  - *Grace, North Bellmore: Pr. James Krauser / 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination*
- h. Rite of Ordination: June 19**
  - *The Rev. Dr. Martha Cruz*
  - *The Rev. Abigail Ferjak*
  - *The Rev. Dawn Morello*
- i. Setting Apart of 2020 Synodical Deacons: June 19**
  - *Stephen Bennett: Gustavus Adolphus, Manhattan*
  - *James Blewett: Good Shepherd, Plainview*
  - *Douglas Jenkins: Grace, Yorktown Heights*
  - *Berthe Razafindramaro: Gustavus Adolphus, Manhattan*
  - *Saint Claire Reide, Jr.: Prince of Peace, Cambria Heights*
  - *Renee Hamilton – Taylor: St. Luke's, New Rochelle*
  - *Jameson Wells: St. James, Brooklyn*
  - *Margaret Wenger: Good Shepherd, Plainview*
- j. Setting Apart of 2021 Synodical Deacons: June 19**
  - *Cheryl Alexander-Atsch: St. Stephen's, Brooklyn*
  - *Frances Crusco: St. Luke's, Farmingdale*
  - *David Ehlers: St. John's, Lindenhurst*
  - *Carole Hawkins: Grace, Malverne*
  - *Tracy Hill: Epiphany, Laurelton*
  - *Philip Jenks: St. Paul's, Rye Brook*

- **Mazie Kienemund: St. Stephen's, Brooklyn**
- **William Mennenga: Redeemer, New Paltz**
- **Gwendolyn Miller: Trinity, Astoria**
- **L. Jill Perine: Covenant, Ridgewood**
- **Sharon Tyson: Christ, East Northport**

**k. Installation of Bishop Christopher deForest: Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod**

**l. Monthly BET**

Bishop reported that proposal on reparations is being prepared.

**m. AJC Westchester annual meeting**

**D. Communications / Events**

**a. 2021 Synod Assembly update | June 15, 2021**

**Registration**

- Voting Members: 78 (13% increase from last week)
- Visitors: 10 (0% increase from last week)
- Retired Ministers: 16 (0% increase from last week)
- Guests/Staff: 26 (no change from last two week)

**Donations**

- \$125.00 (no change from last two week)

**Nominations and Elections**

- Conference's Nominations: 5 with closed ballots
  - *Conference's Nominations ended on May 24.*
  - *Open nominations started on May 25*
- Synod Council: 3
- Disciplinary Committee: 0
- Consultation Committee: 1
- Churchwide Assembly: 8

**Reference and Counsel**

- Resolutions Received: 3
- Memorials Received: 1

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

R. Lara reported that these were livestreamed and recorded on Facebook and YouTube.

**E. Staff**

**a. Executive Staff / Strategic planning retreat: June 2-3**

The executive staff participated in an offsite retreat facilitated by Tom Massey.

**b. Summer Intern**

Jai Telymonde (completing his junior year at Xavier High School, NYC) has begun an unpaid summer internship in the Bishop's office. Jai plans to study computer science and was referred to us by Chip Spurlock-Shackelton.

**4. Report of the Vice President**

**A. Visits**

VP Wicklund reported on visits to congregations and with synod leaders and pastors.

**B. Other activities**

**C. MNYS Roster Review: Ministers of Word and Sacrament (W-Z)**

R. Daniels reported that at the September SC meeting, a final report of current additions, changes and transfers to our roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament will be reported.

**5. Strategic Plan Report**

**A. Vision 2025**

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

Bishop reported that vision is being refined in light of current circumstances.

**b. Budgeting process**

Bishop reported that staff is working on budget.

**6. Treasurer's Report**

**A. Ten Year Plan (Continuing Resolution)**

**ACTION SC21:06/04**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council adopt the Ten-Year Plan for 2022-2031 as presented.**

**ADOPTED**

**B. Mission Support**

**1. Mission Support YTD Congregation Detail**

**2. Mission Support Contributions YTD thru May 2021)**

J. Litke noted that 2021 Mission Support is stronger than 2020. May's 2021 Mission Support offerings totaled \$66,838.25. YTD Mission Support actuals through May 31, 2021 are \$287,307.95, which is \$72,799.22 more than May 2020.

**C. Financials (May 2021) EXHIBIT A**

**D. Budgets (FY 2022 & FY 2023) EXHIBIT B**

**ACTION SC21:06/05**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council recommend the revised budget for FY 2022 and the proposed budget for FY 2023 to the Synod Assembly for adoption.**

**ADOPTED**

D. Fieldsa reported that the audit is near completion.

**7. Old Business**

**A. Property: 3420 Giles Place, Bronx / offer**

K. Falco reported that an unconditional offer of \$760,000 has been received for the parsonage of the former Kingsbridge Church. The Synod Council was asked to grant the Executive Committee the authority to accept an acceptable higher offer (should one be received) prior to the execution of signed contracts.

**ACTION SC21:06/06**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council accept an offer of \$760,000 (or higher) for the property located at 3420 Giles Place, Bronx.**

**ADOPTED (19 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstentions)**

**B. Property: 435 East 140<sup>th</sup> Bronx / offer**

K. Falco reported that an offer of \$1,600,000 has been received for the church building of the former St. Peter's Church.. The Synod Council was asked to grant the Executive Committee the authority to accept a higher offer (should one be received) prior to the execution of signed contracts.

**ACTION SC21:06/07**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council accept an offer of \$1,600,000 (or higher) for the property located at 435 East 140<sup>th</sup> Street, Bronx.**

**ADOPTED (20 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstentions)**

**8. New Business**

**A. 2021 Synod Assembly Agenda**

R. Lara presented the proposed agenda for the 2021 Synod Assembly. The agenda was prepared and recommended to the Executive Committee by the Assembly Planning Committee.

**ACTION SC21:06/08**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council present the proposed agenda on August 20, 2021 for adoption by the Synod Assembly.**

**ADOPTED**

**B. 2021 Synod Assembly Standing Rules & Procedures**

R. Lara reported that the 2021 Synod Assembly Standing Rules & Procedures have been prepared for a digital assembly using resources and guidelines provided by the Office of the Secretary at Churchwide and sister synods that conducted digital assemblies in 2020. The proposed Standing Rules have been reviewed by Secretary Schoepflin and Parliamentarian Pr. Andy James.

**ACTION SC21:06/09**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council present the proposed Standing Rules and Procedures on August 20, 2021 for adoption by the Synod Assembly.**

**ADOPTED**

**C. Earth Charter**

C. Vergara reported that our synod was selected to be part of an implementation group for the Charter. Earth Charter is an international declaration of fundamental values and principles that support the building of a just, sustainable and peaceful global society. The Earth Charter was endorsed by the ELCA at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.

**ADOPTED SC21:06/10**

**RESOLVED, that congregations and ministry sites throughout the Metropolitan New York Synod**

- **become acquainted with the Earth Charter and its principles;**
- **consider joining the Earth Charter implementation initiative in our Synod;**
- **prayerfully consider what actions to take to become better stewards of Creation; and**
- **partner and communicate with the Metro NY Earth Charter Leadership Team, Metro NY Earth Charter congregations and ministry sites and Lutherans Restoring Creation to implement actions on behalf of God's Creation, and present and future generations.**

**ADOPTED**

**D. New York Renews membership**

C. Vergara reported that our synod received a grant from ELCA to work on environmental and social issues with other groups and synods. New York Renews is a coalition of over 200 environmental, justice, faith, labor and community groups and the force behind our country's most progressive climate law. He noted that there is no financial cost to membership.

**ACTION SC21:06/11**

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council authorize MNYS membership in the coalition of organizations in New York Renewals.

**ADOPTED**

**9. Afterthoughts**

Emma Turner asked SC members to speak to their congregations about Pinecrest Leadership Camp.

**ACTION SC21:06/12**

**RESOLVED**, that the MNYS Synod Council expresses its gratitude to Ed Wagner for nine years of service on and chairmanship of the Financial Management Committee.

**ADOPTED**

**A. Devotions September: Dave Ehlers**

**B. Observer September: TBD**

**10. Observer's Evaluation**

**Meeting adjourned at 11:51 am with prayer by our Bishop.**

**Executive Committee Meeting: September 16, 2021**

**Synod Council Virtual retreat: September 24-25 2021 **Details to follow.****

**\*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: September 10, 2021**

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert Schoepflin,  
Secretary