

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

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

MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE

Opening Devotions: *Bishop Egensteiner at 9:04 am*

Observer: *S.Dcn. Dave Ehlers*

Call to Order: *Ms. Renée Wicklund at 9:10 am*

1. **Adoption of the agenda:** adopted as presented.
2. **Draft SC minutes 26 June 2021:** adopted as presented.
3. **Report of the Bishop**
Bishop noted important challenges facing our church: exhaustion of leaders during this time, and a shortage of rostered leaders in our Synod. He also noted that many of our congregations are struggling, and the division in our society and congregations. Bishop and his staff are working to address these challenges. He finished by reminding us that “we have enough,” that God continues to provide what we need.

A. Calls

- a. **The Rev. Amanda Nesvold:** *Interim Pastor / Gloria Dei, Huntington Sta. effective 1 Oct 2021*

ACTION SC21:09/01

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to The Rev. Amanda Nesvold as Interim Pastor for Gloria Dei, Huntington Station effective 1 October 2021.

ADOPTED

- b. **The Rev. H. Gaylon Barker:** *Retirement status effective 1 Aug 2021*
- c. **The Rev. Carla Meier:** *Retirement status effective 1 Aug 2021*
- d. **The Rev. Dr. Maritza Ortiz Cruz:** *Retirement status effective 1 Sep 2021*

ACTION SC21:09/02

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant retirement status to The Rev. H. Gaylon Barker effective 1 August 2021; the Rev. Carla Meier effective 1 August 2021; and The Rev. Dr. Maritza Ortiz Cruz effective 1 September 2021.

ADOPTED

B. Appointments

- a. **The Rev. Amanda Nesvold:** *Interim Pastor / King of Kings, Melville effective 1 Oct 2021*
- b. **The Rev. Roger Berner:** *(Intentional) Interim Pastor / Our Saviour, Port Washington eff 28 Nov 2021*

C. Pastoral Care / Visits / Ecumenical – Interfaith participation

- a. **Pastoral calls / meetings / visits with rostered leaders**
 - **Congregation Councils**
 - **St. Andrew’s, West Hempstead**
 - **Ascension, Franklin Square**
 - **Fordham, Bronx**

- **Congregation Visits**
 - **St. Thomas, Central Nyack**
 - **Resurrection, St. Albans**
 - **Emanuel, Pleasantville**
 - **Our Saviour, Mineola (Food pantry distribution)**

- b. Churchwide: New Bishops formation / Weekly Region 7 bishops zoom & annual retreat**
- c. Pinecrest Lutheran Leadership Ministry**
- d. First Call Theological Gathering in partnership with the Upstate NY Synod**
- e. Koinonia Visit: Meeting with Dr. Kathleen Ruen**
- f. Lutheran Services New York Alliance (LSNYA) Board meeting**
- g. Memorial service: Pr. James Corgee / St. Luke's, Farmingdale**
- h. Seafarers International House Board meeting**
- i. Wagner College Board of Trustees**
- j. Installation: Archbishop Emilio Alvarez**
- k. Appeal of Conscience Foundation: Zoom with Sebastian Kurz / Chancellor of Austria**
- l. Monthly BET**

- D. Consultation: Latinx TEEM pastors / MDiv Pilot Program**

With the assistance of Dr. Javier Goitia, Pr. Ruben Duran (Churchwide) and our seminaries (Wartburg, Luther, LTSC. United) our synod has been developing a pilot MDiv program for our Latinx TEEM pastors.

- E. Communications / Events**
 - a. Post 2021 Synod Assembly report: by Roberto Lara**

- 4. Report of the Vice-President**
 - A. Visits:** has made several congregational visits since Assembly
 - B. Other activities:** has met with several members of Synod Council
 - C. ELCA Synod Vice Presidents Working Group**
 - D. Preview of upcoming year / SC member responsibilities**

- 5. Strategic Plan Report (5 min)**
 - A. Vision 2025:**
 - a. Bishop / weekly meetings with Pr. William Baum and Renee Wicklund**
 - b. Tom Massey: Triangle 2 Consulting**
 - c. Re-formed 2025 Vision:** Live Like Christ in our Community. Bishop noted that initial presentation was previewed at the Synod Assembly

1. Vision Team

Bishop Egensteiner reviewed membership of team of which he is the convener.

Vision Team of 12 members: (4) Staff / (4) Synod Council / (4) at-large

Staff: Mo. Gladys Diaz; Roberto Lara; Pr. Chris Mietlowski; Pr. Kevin Vandiver

SC: VP Renée Wicklund; Lily Mathias; Chip Spurlock-Shackelton; Wendy Bean Tannenbaum

At Large: Pr. William Baum (Chair); Pr. Leticia Alanis; Pr. Marc Herbst; S.Dcn. Denise Rutherford-Gill

2. Meeting 16 Oct 2021

The Vision Team will be meeting monthly.

6. Treasurer's Report

A. Mission Support

John Litke reported that August 2021 Mission support offering totaled \$68,723.40 YTD. Mission Support actuals through June 30, 2021 are \$515,280.36.

a. Mission Support Contributions YTD thru August 2021 EXHIBIT A

b. Mission Support \$0 Contribution congregations

John Litke noted that as of August 31, 2021, there are 75 congregations that have contributed \$0 mission support in this fiscal year.

B. Financials (Aug 2021) EXHIBIT B

John Litke shared the the Statement of Financial Position and report of Revenue & Expenses.

At this point we moved to agenda item 7.C.

C. Report of the MNYS Audit Committee

John Litke reported that the Audit Committee reviewed the report of the audit on July 23, 2021.

ACTION SC21:09/03

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council adopt the Financial Statements and Report for the year ending January 31, 2021, prepared by Tait, Weller & Baker, Certified Public Accountants, noting that in the opinion of the auditors the financial statements taken as a whole present fairly the financial position of the Metropolitan New York Synod in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

ADOPTED

D. Tait, Weller, Baker

ACTION SC21:09/04

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod retain the services of Tait, Weller & Baker, Certified Public Accountants, for the year ending January 31, 2022.

ADOPTED

7. Old Business

A. Property: 435 East 140th Bronx / update

Karen Falco reported that due to condition of property, purchaser has significantly reduced its offer. She is working with broker and legal counsel on this issue.

B. Evangelical Lutheran / Supporting Organization

Renee Wicklund reported that on the advice of our legal counsel, a supporting organization (Evangelical Lutheran, Inc) was established in 2017 for the purpose of protecting Synod assets. In succeeding years it was noted that courts have increasingly refused to uphold the protection. She noted that no Synod assets were transferred to the organization.

ACTION SC21:09/05

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council of the Metropolitan New York Synod directs that the supporting organization Evangelical Lutheran, Inc. be dissolved, that all necessary steps be taken to effect the prompt and efficient dissolution of Evangelical Lutheran, Inc., and that the members of the board of Evangelical Lutheran, Inc. be relieved of their duties with thanks for their trustworthy service.

ADOPTED

C. Discussion: Reparations Proposal / Black Equity Table

Pastor Marcia Parkinson-Harrison and Pastor LB Tatum were welcomed to the meeting. They reviewed the proposal with SC.

Discussion was held on the proposal which will be sent to the Vision Team to consider budgetary implications before it is brought to SC for vote at a future meeting.

8. New Business

A. Property / List for sale: 300 Genesee Avenue, Staten Island

Renee Wicklund noted that this is the property of the former Eltingville Lutheran Church and School, and that after the conclusion of a lengthy and expensive litigation we are ready to list the property for sale.

ACTION SC21:09/06

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Counsel list for sale the property located at 300 Genesee Avenue, Staten Island, New York.

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

B. CWA Lay Male voting member: SC voted on the following nominated individuals

- a. Christian Cederstrom (3 votes)
- b. Cecil Spurlock-Shackelton (18 votes)

ACTION SC21:09/07

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod appoint Cecil Spurlock-Shackelton as a lay male voting member to the 2022 Churchwide Assembly.

ADOPTED

C. Election of the Executive Committee

Renee Wicklund announced the following nominations.

- a. Cynthia Corley
- b. Pr. Chryll Crews
- c. Pr. Jeanine Owens
- d. Pr. Garry Squire

ACTION SC21:09/08

RESOLVED, that the following persons are elected to serve on the Executive Committee from September 2021 through June 2022: Pr. Jeannine Owens, Pr. Chryll Crews, Pr. Gary Squire, and Ms. Cynthia Corley.

ADOPTED

9. Afterthoughts (as necessary)

- A. Devotions October: S.Dcn. Dave Ehlers
- B. Observer October: TBD

10. Observer's Evaluation

Meeting adjourned at 11:27 am.

Executive Committee Meeting: October 7, 2021 via zoom (item submitted by Oct 4 2021)

Synod Council Meeting: October 19, 2021 via zoom

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Schoepflin,
Secretary