

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

***Ms. Cynthia Corley** 2024
***The Rev. Chryll Crews** 2022
S. Dcn. Steven Daniels 2022
The Rev. George Dietrich 2024
***Bishop Paul Egensteiner** 2025
S. Dcn. David Ehlers 2022
Ms. Hazel Goldstein 2022
The Rev. Marva Jenkins 2022
***Mr. John Litke, Treasurer** 2022
Mr. Erich Markert 2024
Ms. Lily Sage Mathias 2024
Mx. Anna Moritz (Young Adult) 2024
***The Rev. Jeanine Owens** 2024
The Rev. David Parsons 2022
The Rev. Daniel Peter 2022
Mr. Aiden Sargent (Youth) 2023
Mr. Thomas Sargent 2022
***The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Sect.** 2022
Mr. Cecil (Chip) Spurlock-Shackelton 2022
**The Rev. Gary Squire* 2024
The Rev. Brooke Swertfager 2024
Ms. Wendy Bean Tannenbaum 2022
***Ms. Renee Wicklund, VP** 2022
S. Dcn. Anita Martin-Williams 2022
The Rev. Dr. Kimberly Wilson 2024

STAFF

Ms. Regina Daniels
The Rev. Gladys Diaz
Mr. Branden Dupree
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

Bold = present

Italics = excused absence

*Member of Executive Committee

MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE

Opening Devotions: S.Dcn. Dave Ehlers

Observer: Mr. Tom Sargent

Call to Order: Ms. Renée Wicklund at 5:09 pm (from New Orleans airport!)

1. **Adoption of the agenda:** adopted as presented.
2. **Draft SC minutes 25 September 2021:** adopted as presented.
3. **Report of the Bishop**

A. Calls

- a. **The Rev. Johanna Andritz:** *Retirement status effective 1 Nov 2021*

- b. **The Rev. Dr. Charles Vogeley:** *Retirement status effective 1 Nov 2021*

ACTION SC21:10/01

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant retirement status to The Rev. Johanna Andritz effective 1 November 2021 and The Rev. Dr. Charles Vogeley effective 1 November 2021.

ADOPTED

B. Appointments

- a. **Luís Ivan Echandía:** Pastor / Epiphany, Hempstead and Grace, Uniondale
effective 1 Nov 2021

b. Vision Team: Bishop Egensteiner / Convener

- **Synod Council members:**
 - + **Renée Wicklund**
 - + **Lily Sage Mathias**
 - + **Cecil Spurlock-Shackelton**
 - + **Wendy Bean Tannenbaum**
- **At-Large members:**
 - + **The Rev. William Baum, Chair**
 - + **The Rev. Leticia Alanis**
 - + **The Rev. Marc Herbst**
 - + **S.Dcn. Denise Rutherford Gill**
- **Staff / Office of the Bishop:**
 - + **The Rev. Gladys Diaz**
 - + **Roberto Lara**
 - + **The Rev. Christopher Mietlowski**
 - + **The Rev. Kevin Vandiver**

C. Pastoral Care / Ecumenical & Interfaith participation

- a. **(30) Pastoral calls / meetings / visits with rostered leaders**
 - **Congregation / Councils / Staff**
 - + **Video greeting: Trinity, Rocky Point**
 - + **Saint Peter's, Manhattan**
 - + **Trinity Lower Eastside Parish, Manhattan**
 - + **St. John's, Christopher Street, Manhattan**
 - + **Holy Trinity, CPW, Manhattan**
 - + **King of Kings, Melville**
 - + **Gloria Dei, Huntington Station**
 - + **Resurrection, St. Albans**
 - **Tappan Zee Conference Ministerium**

 - b. **Conference of Bishops**
 - c. **Wagner College Board of Trustees**
 - d. **ELCA Fund for Leaders celebration**
 - e. **Candidacy Committee**
 - f. **Seafarers and International House annual gala / reception**
 - g. **Urban Leaders Institute 2021**
 - h. **United Lutheran Seminary: Pre-Installation events / Dr. Guy Erwin, President**
 - i. **Witness in the Public Square: LCMS annual event**
 - j. **Monthly BET**
- D. Staff / Updates**
- a. **Todos los Santos: Construction and new name**

K. Falco reported that project began today!

 - b. **Synod Owned Properties**

K. Falco reported that 20+ properties are currently under Synod management

 - c. **Legal suits**

K. Falco gave update on lawsuits.

 - d. **MNYS Congregations / updates from deployed assistants**

Bishop gave brief report on congregations currently in call process.
117 congregations out of 178 can be or are being served by a full-time pastor.
- Mother Gladys reported on congregations she is serving that are in transition, and that she is working on building relationship and trust with Synod.

B. Dupree spoke about the changing face and shape of the Church and the opportunities and challenges this presents.

Pr. Mietlowski spoke about anxiety that change is causing in congregations, but also about excitement and hope.

Pr. Vandiver spoke about the number of congregations in his portfolio that are in transition and also about the bright spots.

Bishop commended the deployed assistants and the rest of the staff for the work they are doing.

E. Communications / Events

a. Wellness Day for rostered leaders: Nov 17

R. Lara spoke about the wellness retreat that is being planned for rostered leaders.

4. Report of the Vice-President

VP Wicklund deferred most of her report in the interest of boarding her flight home.

A. Visits

B. Other activities

C. MNYS Operational Ethics Policy / Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement

VP Wicklund asked everyone to download the Policy and the Disclosure Statement, sign and return to Gayle Ruege.

D. Synod Council meeting schedule

5. Strategic Plan Report

A. Vision 2025

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

b. Tom Massey: Triangle 2 Consulting

c. Vision Team orientation and gathering: Oct 16, 2021 / Church of Our Saviour, Manhasset

Bishop reported that a productive meeting with the Vision Team was held on Sat, Oct 16.

d. Overview of the 2025 Vision: Live Like Christ in Our Community

- **Core Values**
 - + **Live the Gospel**
 - + **Love All People**
 - + **Serve God's Children Together**

- **Priorities / Three Society Changing Forces**
 - **Pandemic**
 - **Racism**
 - **Decline**

- **ELCA : Evangelism / Leadership / Congregations / Advocacy**

6. Treasurer's Report

A. Mission Support

a. Mission Support Contributions YTD thru Sep 2021

J. Litke reported that September's 2021 Mission Support offerings totaled \$75,068.24, and that YTD Mission Support actuals through September 30, 2021 are \$590,348.60.

b. Mission Support \$0 Contribution congregations YTD thru Sep 2021

A list of congregations that have provided \$0 in mission support YTD was provided to the SC members.

B. Financials (Sep 2021) EXHIBIT A

7. Old Business

A. Park Church Co-op: Annual ministry report

B. Dupree gave a report on the background of this ministry and then provided the 2021 ministry report and made a recommendation to the Synod Council for action. He asked M. Goodwin to speak about the property issues.

ACTION SC21:10/02

RESOLVED, that Synodical financial support of Park Church Co-op conclude with the close of the January 31, 2022 fiscal year budget.

ADOPTED (unanimous vote)

8. New Business

A. 2022 Clergy Compensation Guidelines

G. Ruege noted that The Bishop's Office prepares Clergy Compensation Guidelines

annually to assist congregations in preparing their budgets for the upcoming year and for congregations in the Call Process.

The guidelines reflect a COLA of 3.7% for 2022 based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics in the Consumer Price Index (September 2021).

ACTION SC21:10/03

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the 2022 Clergy Compensation Guidelines as presented.

ADOPTED

B. Consultation Committee (Clergy – female)

- a. The Rev. Linda Manson
- b. The Rev. Diane Wildow

ACTION SC21:10/04

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council elected The Rev. Linda Manson to serve on the Consultation Committee through May 2026.

ADOPTED

C. Discipline Committee (Clergy – female)

- a. The Rev. Brenda Irving
- b. The Rev. Diane Wildow

ACTION SC21:10/05

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council elected The Rev. Brenda Irving to serve on the Discipline Committee through May 2026.

ADOPTED

D. Executive Committee election (Crews/unexpired term)

ACTION SC21:10/06

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council elected S.Dcn. Dave Ehlers to fill the unexpired term of the Rev. Chryll Crews on the Executive Committee of the Synod Council.

ADOPTED

9. Afterthoughts

- A. Devotions December: Tom Sargent
- B. Observer December: Pr. Brooke Swertfager

10. Observer's Evaluation

October 19, 2021
DRAFT

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

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Meeting adjourned at 6:49 pm with prayer by Bishop.

Executive Committee Meeting: December 9, 2021 via zoom

Synod Council Meeting: December 14, 2021 via zoom

***Proposed items for the Synod Council agenda should be submitted to Gayle Ruege (gruege@mnys.org) for consideration by the Executive Committee by: December 6, 2021**

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Schoepflin,
Secretary