## SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Rev. E. Patricia Avila</td>
<td>2026</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Ms. Cynthia Corley</td>
<td>2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Raymond Cheung</td>
<td>2024</td>
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<td>Ms. Monique Davis</td>
<td>2026</td>
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<td>The Rev. George Dietrich</td>
<td>2024</td>
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<td>*Bishop Paul Egensteiner</td>
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<td>*S. Dcn. David Ehlers</td>
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<td>S.Dcn. Philip Jenks</td>
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<td>*Mr. John Litke, Treasurer</td>
<td>2023</td>
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<td>The Rev. Linda Manson</td>
<td>2026</td>
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<td>Mr. Erich Markert</td>
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<td>Ms. Lily Sage Mathias</td>
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<td>The Rev. Ernst Mossl</td>
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<td>*The Rev. Jeanine Owens</td>
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<td>The Rev. David Parsons</td>
<td>2026</td>
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<td>Mr. Aiden Sargent (Youth)</td>
<td>2023</td>
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<td>Mr. Thomas Sargent</td>
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## STAFF

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<tr>
<td>Ms. Regina Daniels</td>
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<td>The Rev. Gladys Diaz</td>
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<td>Mr. Branden Dupree</td>
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<td>Ms. Karen Falco</td>
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<td>S. Dcn. Donna-Mari Fieldsa</td>
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<td>Mr. Mark Goodwin</td>
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<td>Ms. Kaitlin Kowalec</td>
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<td>Mr. Roberto Lara</td>
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<td>The Rev. Christopher Mietlowski</td>
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<td>Ms. Maria Rodas</td>
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<td>S.Dcn. Gayle Ruege</td>
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<td>Ms. Leticia Silva</td>
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## GUESTS

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*Bold = present*

*Italics = excused absence*

*Member of Executive Committee*

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**Opening Devotions:** Bishop Egensteiner / Martin Luther’s Seven Marks of the Church

**Observer:** S.Dcn. Dave Ehlers

**Call to Order:** VP Vergara

1. **Martin Luther’s Mark #2: Baptism**

2. **Adoption of the agenda:** adopted as presented

3. **Adoption of the Synod Council minutes 21 Jan 2022:** adopted as presented
4. **Stewardship / Mission Support Discussion**

   A. **Mission Support Fiscal Year Feb 1, 2022 – Jan 31, 2023**
      Members broke into breakout rooms to discuss their congregation’s benevolence.

      YTD Mission Support actuals through January 31, 2023, are $914,236.39 which is $85,663.71 less than YTD January 2022.

   B. **Summary Synod Council Congregations Mission Support**

   C. **Christ, Newburgh: 10% tithe of proceeds from sale of property ($26,000)**
      Upon the sale of the property owned by Christ, Newburgh – a tithe of 10% from the proceeds of the sale was gifted to our synod.

5. **New Business**

   A. **2023 Synod Assembly Standing Rules**

      **ACTION SC23:03/01**
      RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council present the Standing Rules and Procedures on May 5, 2023 for adoption by the Synod Assembly.
      ADOPTED

   B. **2023 Synod Assembly Agenda**

      **ACTION SC23:03/02**
      RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council present the proposed agenda on May 5, 2023 for adoption by the Synod Assembly.
      ADOPTED

   C. **Trexler Grant application**

      **ACTION SC23:03/03**
      RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve a Trexler grant for the Rev. Robert Fritch in the amount of $975.
      ADOPTED


   A. **Calls**
      a. The Rev. Rebekah Swanson: *St. John’s, Middletown effective March 16, 2023*
ACTION SC23:03/04
RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to The Rev. Rebekah Swanson to serve as interim pastor for St. John’s Lutheran Church, Middletown effective March 16, 2023.
ADOPTED

b. The Rev. James Krauser: On Leave from Call status effective March 1, 2023

ACTION SC23:03/05
RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant On Leave from Call status to the Rev. James Krauser effective March 1, 2023.
ADOPTED

c. The Rev. Harriet Wieber: Retirement status effective August 1, 2023

ACTION SC23:03/06
RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant retirement status to The Rev. Harriet Wieber effective August 1, 2023.
ADOPTED

d. Dcn. Jacqueline Mize-Baker: Retirement status effective January 1, 2023

ACTION SC23:03/07
RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant retirement status to Deacon Jacqueline Mize-Baker effective January 1, 2023.
ADOPTED

B. Appointments
a. Committee on Reference and Counsel
   (appointed by Bishop with SC consent)
   - The Rev. Dr. Martha Cruz, Co-chair (Bronx)
   - The Rev. Rebecca Pollicino, Co-chair (Suffolk)
   - S.Dcn. Jean Fucci (Delaware-Hudson)
   - The Rev. John Jurik (Nassau)
   - The Rev. Kristin Wuerffel (Westchester)

ACTION SC23:03/08
RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council consents to Bishop Egensteiner’s appointments to the Committee on Reference and Counsel.
ADOPTED
b. Nominations and Elections Committee
(appointed by Bishop with SC consent)
- The Rev. Kevin O’Hara, Chair
- S.Dcn. Jasmine Downer (Brooklyn)
- The Rev. Emilce Erato (Nassau)
- Ms. Louise Litke (Suffolk)
- The Rev. Sonja MacIray (Hudson)
- S.Dcn. Karen Nurmi (Westchester)
- S.Dcn. Robert Wechtenhiser (Manhattan)

ACTION SC23:03/09
RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council consents to Bishop Egensteiner’s appointments to the Nominations and Elections Committee.
ADOPTED

c. Consultation Committee
The Consultation Committee is elected by the Synod Assembly. The following persons have been appointed to serve on the Consultation Team that will review the request for appeal by Immanuel, Manhattan and report to the Synod Assembly.
- The Rev. Justin Lathrop (Suffolk)
- The Rev. Danielle Miller, Chair (Manhattan)
- Ms. Elaine Peters-Guthrie (Queens)
- Mr. Peter Tomasi (Hudson)

B. Pastoral Care / Ecumenical & Interfaith participation
a. Pastoral calls / meetings / visits with rostered & lay leaders / Lutheran Partners (39)
- Congregation visits / Councils
  - Gustavus Adolphus, Manhattan
  - Calvary, Bronx
  - Christ, Fresh Meadows
  - Trinity, 100th Street, Manhattan

b. Ecumenical Participation
- St. Nicolas Greek Orthodox Church / National Shrine
- St. Patrick’s Cathedral
- Ash Wednesday: The Interchurch Center Chapel
- Installation: Pr. Fred Weidmann / Church in the Gardens, Forest Hills (UCC)
c. MNYS Committees & Groups / Lutheran Partners
   • Installation: Pr. Kevin Vandiver / Church of the Reformation, Wash DC
   • Wagner College Board of Trustees
   • Candidacy Committee
   • First Call Theological Planning Team (retreat)
   • Conference of Deans (full)
     o Quad 1 Deans (Hudson, Del-Hudson, Tappan Zee)
     o Quad 3 Deans (Brooklyn & Queens)
   • MNYS Interim Pastors
   • Bronx Ministerium
   • Conference of Bishops (bi-weekly)
   • Region 7 Bishops (weekly)
   • Holy Land Pilgrimage (Bishops / spouses)
   • BET (monthly)

D. Vision Team
   a. Met February 18 / next meeting Apr 1
      • Committee structure
        An initial review of committees was conducted separating our current listing
        into categories of Active / Hibernating / Inactive/ Obsolete. Further review with the development of charters is
        planned in subsequent meetings of the Vision Team.

      • Mission Support / Stewardship
        The Vision Team is also discussing and exploring strategies to improve
        stewardship and Mission Support.

      • Congregational Assessment resources
        The Vision Team will discuss tools and resources that can be used to assess a
        congregation’s vitality.

E. Staff / Updates
   a. Assistant to the Bishop
      A pastor has been identified and has agreed to serve. Once notice is given
      to their congregation, there will be introduction to the Executive Committee
      and official communication to the synod. Anticipated start date is the end
      of April.

7. Report of the Vice-President
8. Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church
   a. SC Nominees: Pr. Justin Johnson and Roberto Lara
      Synod Council conducted a vote via email for nominees to the Commission. The SC Nominees selected were Pr. Justin Johnson and Roberto Lara. Both nominees completed and submitted the required paperwork by the March 9 deadline.

9. Treasurer’s Report
   A. Budget 2024
   B. Financials January 2023
   C. Annual Audit update

10. Afterthoughts (as necessary)
    A. Observer / April

11. Observer’s Evaluation

Executive Committee Meeting: April 13 via zoom
Synod Council meeting: April 22 via zoom

*Proposed items for the Synod Council agenda should be submitted to Gayle Ruege for consideration by the Executive Committee by April 7, 2023

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Schoepflin, Secretary