

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Rev. E. Patricia Avila	2026
*Ms. Cynthia Corley	2024
Dr. Raymond Cheung	2024
Ms. Monique Davis	2026
The Rev. George Dietrich	2024
*Bishop Paul Egensteiner	2025
*S. Dcn. David Ehlers	2026
S.Dcn. Philip Jenks	2026
*Mr. John Litke, Treasurer	2023
Mr. Erich Markert	2024
Ms. Lily Sage Mathias	2024
The Rev. Ernst Mossi	2026
*The Rev. Jeanine Owens	2024
The Rev. David Parsons	2026
Mr. Aiden Sargent (Youth)	2023
Mr. Thomas Sargent	2026
*The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Sect.	2026
<i>Mr. Cecil (Chip) Spurlock-Shackelton</i>	2026
*The Rev. Gary Squire	2024
The Rev. Brooke Swertfager	2024
*Mr. Christopher Vergara, VP	2026
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
The Rev. Christopher Mietlowski
Ms. Maria Rodas
S.Dcn. Gayle Ruege
Ms. Leticia Silva

Bold = present

Italics = excused absence

*Member of Executive Committee

Opening Devotions: *Bishop Egensteiner: Fourth Mark of the Church*

Observer: *Aiden Sargent*

Call to Order: *VP Vergara*

WELCOME to Pastor Angela Shannon!

- 1. Adoption of the agenda**
- 2. Adoption of the Synod Council minutes**
 - A. Regular meeting 22 April 2023** adopted as presented

B. Special meeting 6 May 2023 adopted as presented

C. Edit / Correction: (Approved) SC minutes 21 Jan 2023 (For Report / NO action required).

3. New Business

A. Fordham, Bronx

Branden Dupree (DEM) and Mo. Gladys Diaz presented report to the Synod Council regarding the deteriorating conditions at Fordham. Information was provided by congregation officers, appointed pastors that have served the congregation, and synod staff members that have met with leadership.

ACTION SC23:6/01

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council, pursuant to section 13.24 of the Constitution of the Synod, does hereby impose synodical administration / preservation over Fordham to take charge and control of the property of Fordham, and to hold, manage, and convey that property on behalf of the Synod; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the following are hereby appointed as trustees, with full power to hold, manage and convey the property of Fordham on behalf of the Synod in all regards relating directly or indirectly to the taking charge and control of the property of Fordham and in holding, managing and conveying that property of Fordham on behalf of the Synod, to wit: The Rev. Gladys Diaz, Branden Dupree, Christopher Vergara; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the signatures of any two of the Trustees acting to take charge and control of the property of Fordham and to hold, manage and convey the property of Fordham on behalf of the Synod shall be binding upon and considered as the act of all of the Trustees. No person or party acting in reliance on the signature of one such trustee as binding upon all Trustees shall be charged with notice of any revocation or change of such authority unless he, she or it shall have received actual written notice thereof. No person or party shall be required to look behind the signature of such Trustee.

ADOPTED

B. Unidad y Fe

a. Expenditures

In January 2021 the SC approved the proposed costs (architectural / construction) for the build out of Unidad y Fe (formerly Todos Los Santos) in Woodhaven. At that time, it was not known that the kitchen's industrial oven / stove was not working correctly or within code. A functioning kitchen is a critical element in building community within this newly formed Synodically Authorized Worshiping Community (SAWC) and a tool for outreach to the surrounding neighborhood.

b. Extended Lease

The original lease for the Unidad y Fe property was signed for 5 years (to end in Jan 2026). An extended lease for an additional 5 years with 4% annual rent escalations, as well as an option to renew for an additional 5 years after the extension with 5% annual rent escalation.

ACTION SC23:6/02

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the expenditure of \$100,000 for the Unidad y Fe ministry site and the five-year extended lease with 4% annual rent escalations through January 2031 with the option for an additional five-year extension with 5% annual rent escalations.

ADOPTED

C. Christ Center, Harlem

The Bishop's staff is currently exploring options to present to the Vision Team / EC / SC regarding the Christ Center property located at 70-74 W 126th Street, Harlem. The congregation wasn't in the building for two years during the shutdown and found the building to be unsafe after a handful returned in late 2022. Concerned about safety and liability, we closed the buildings. The congregation is mostly commuters - online worship has worked and continues to work for them. The building is vacant.

We'd like the SC to give authorization to list the property so we may get a sense of the market value and determine if there is any interest in the property.

ACTION SC23:6/03

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council authorize the listing for sale of the properties of the Christ Center, Harlem.

ADOPTED

D. Benevolence Opportunity Proposal (Exhibit A)

Bishop Egensteiner presented a draft proposal to provide our Synod with an opportunity for benevolence using a tithe from the net proceeds from the sale of synod owned properties.

E. Trexler Grants (Exhibit B)

a. The Rev. Dr. Joanne Bond

Pastor / Dean Joanne Bond has requested a \$1000 Trexler Grant to attend the 2023 Rostered Ministers Gathering.

ACTION SC23:6/04

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve a Trexler Grant of \$1000 to the Rev. Dr. Joanne Bond to attend the 2023 Rostered Ministers Gathering.

ADOPTED

F. Election of the Executive Committee (unexpired term)

With the upcoming departure of Pr. Owens and Cynthia Corley, appointment of SC members to fill the unexpired terms on the EC will be presented at the September meeting.

4. Old Business

A. Property sale: 1033-1037 72nd St, Brooklyn / Ratification

Earlier in the agenda we approved the minutes from our special meeting held on Jun 6 at the Synod Assembly documenting the approval of the offer we received from The Church of Grace To Fujianese New York for the former Bethany Church / Leif Erickson Day School (1033 72nd St, Brooklyn).

ACTION SC23:6/05

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council ratify the sale of the property located at 1033 72nd Street, Brooklyn, NY (property of former Bethany/LEDS) to The Church of Grace to Fujianese New York, for \$4,077,777.77 (all cash).

ADOPTED

B. Property: 129 Russell, Brooklyn

K. Falco provided an update on the status of this property

5. Report of the Bishop

A. Calls

a. The Rev. Dr. Martha Cruz: *Intentional Interim Pastor/St. Barnabas, Howard Beach*

ACTION SC23:6/06

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council call the Rev. Dr. Martha Cruz as Intentional Interim Pastor to the congregation of St. Barnabas, Howard Beach effective 10 June 2023.

ADOPTED

b. The Rev. Samuel Silaban: *Interim Pastor / Christ, Fresh Meadows effective 10 Jun 2023*

ACTION SC23:6/05

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council call the Rev. Samuel Silaban as Interim Pastor to the congregation of Christ, Fresh Meadows effective 10 June 2023.

ADOPTED

The following requests for retirement status will be voted *en bloc*

- c. The Rev. Flora Hartford: *Retirement status effective 1 July 2023*
- d. The Rev. Heidi Neumark: *Retirement status effective 1 Jun 2023*
- e. The Rev. Jeanine Owens: *Retirement status effective 1 July 2023*
- f. The Rev. Garry Squire: *Retirement status effective 1 August 2023*

ACTION SC23:6/07

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant retirement status to the Rev. Flora Hartford, effective 1 July 2023; the Rev. Heidi Neumark, effective 1 Jun 2023; the Rev. Jeanine Owens, effective 1 July 2023; the Rev. Garry Squire, effective 1 August 2023.

ADOPTED

B. Appointments

- a. The Rev. Dr. Maritza Ortiz Cruz: *Interim Pastor / St. Paul's, Liberty effective 18 Jun 2023*

C. Staff

a. Executive Staff Reports (Jan – Apr 2023)

- Oral Reports: Diaz / Lara / Ruege

b. Assistant to the Bishop Conference alignment

- The Rev. Gladys Diaz: Bronx / Brooklyn / NE & SW Queens / SW Nassau
- The Rev. Christopher Mietlowski: Del-Hud / Hudson / Manhattan / Staten Island / Tappan Zee
- The Rev. Angela Shannon: Eastern & Western Nassau / Peconic / SE Queens / W Suffolk

c. Stewardship / Mission Support

- Stewardship insights
- Programs: Cultivating Generous Congregations / Lake Institute
Mission Support Deep Dives

D. 2023 Synod Assembly Debrief

E. Pastoral Care / Ecumenical & Interfaith participation

a. Pastoral calls / meetings / visits with rostered & lay leaders (77) *

- **Congregation visits / Councils**
 - Calvary, Hauppauge
 - Christ, Newburgh: Baby Steps Diaper Ministry
 - Immanuel, Staten Island

- Messiah, Staten Island
- St. Barnabas, Howard Beach
- St. Matthew's, White Plains

- Funeral: The Rev. Dr. Frederick Schumacher
- Deacon Ross Murray: Book Launch / "The Everyday Advocate"
- The Rev. Khader Khalilia: Holy Land Pilgrimage (Apr 2024)

b. MNYS Committees & Groups / Lutheran Partners

- Conference of Deans / May 23
- Interim Pastors / May 23
- Western Suffolk Ministerium * (1:1 meetings with 9 pastors)/ May 31
- Peconic Conference * (1:1 meetings with 12 pastors) / Jun 1
- Wagner College: Board of Trustees / Commencement
- Koinonia: 60th Anniversary Celebration Weekend
- BET (monthly)
- Region 7 Bishops (weekly)
- Lutheran Transitional Ministry Association

c. Ecumenical Engagements

- Ordination: Bishop Coadjutor Fr. Matthew Heyd: Cathedral Saint John the Divine

F. Vision Team

Bp. Egensteiner reported on the Vision Team's May 20 meeting

6. Report of the Vice-President Christopher Vergara

7. Report of Treasurer John Litke (Exhibit C)

J. Litke presented the reports

A. Mission Support (May 2023)

May mission support is \$103,233.74

YTD actuals through May 31 : \$254,637.85 (which is \$12,017.63 less than May 2022)

B. Financials

8. Afterthoughts (as necessary)

A. Observer / September

9. Observer's Evaluation

10. Farewell and Godspeed for Cynthia Corley and Pastor Jeanine Owens

June 10, 2023
APPROVED 9/9/2023

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

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Executive Committee Meeting: August 29 via zoom
Synod Council meeting: September 9 (via zoom?)

***Proposed items for the Synod Council agenda should be submitted to Gayle Ruege for consideration by the Executive Committee by August 25, 2023**

S.Dcn. Gayle Ruege
Executive Assistant to the Bishop