Metropolitan New York Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

2018 Metropolitan New York Synod ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

building bridges

" Show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that, some have entertained angels without knowing it. "
–HEBREWS 13-2

SECTION A:

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Building Bridges
Construyendo Puentes

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DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST,

On behalf of the Assembly Planning Committee, welcome to the 2018 Metro New York Synod Assembly! We are so very glad you will be with us for two days of Building Bridges within our synod. We have a full agenda for you, with elections, resolutions, reports and presentations from various committees, task forces and partner organizations, and of course, a chance to meet and listen to our interim bishop, the Rev. Donald J. McCoid. The Planning Committee has been working very hard to assure that although the agenda is full, there will still be time for you to greet old friends, meet new ones and learn a bit more about our synod.

Our agenda group has tried to accommodate every request for agenda time and forum or workshop time. We will have multiple times to attend these, as well as attending hearings on all the resolutions that were submitted by the deadline. Our Friday evening Festival Eucharist will even include an ordination this year!

We are trying to continue to build on themes from past assemblies, and hope that this year's theme of Building Bridges offers you an opportunity to see how our synod is building bridges, not only in our congregations, but also in the world—as it relates to immigration, LGBTQ, racism, hunger, and women's issues. Through our presentations, reports and display tables, you will learn how all these issues, plus many, many more, are being addressed here at MNYS. Together, we can learn how to build bridges between each other and help each other.

In this bulletin of reports, you will find much information about the assembly, our synod's different ministries, our ministry partners, both here within our synod and churchwide. Included in Section A are also the biographies of the nominated persons for Synod Officers, Synod Council, Churchwide Assembly, Consultation Committee, and Discipline Committee.

I hope you enjoy seeing all the pictures of the many different bridges. Who knew there were so many? Let us prayerfully begin our journey and then cross the many bridges within our synod, both symbolically and physically.

In Christ,

Ms. Elizabeth Hoffmann, *Chair*
Synod Assembly Planning Committee

bulletin of reports:
SECTION A

2018 **Metropolitan New York Synod**
ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
PRESIDING BISHOP OF THE ELCA

Dear Friends in Christ,

WE ARE LUTHERAN. For the past year it has been "all Reformation all the time!" So now what? The Lutheran Confessions teach that God freely and graciously creates a trusting relationship between us and Jesus. As we gather to meet in synod assemblies, let us remember that our hope is in the living Christ and share that assurance with the joy of the gospel.

Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are free of the burden of making ourselves acceptable to God. The cross of Christ and the living Christ assure us that God's final word for us is life and freedom in Christ. Lutherans confidently and enthusiastically claim this promise: "For freedom Christ has set us free" (Galatians 5:1). How does this claim affect your faith journey as an individual, a congregation, synod or member of the church universal? Through his death and resurrection, we have a truly living Lord who meets us, forgives us and calls us to follow, and in that we find our freedom.

> *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God."*
> – Ephesians 2:8

Because we are set free in Jesus Christ, we are free from trying to save ourselves and free for loving and serving others. As a church, we walk by faith, trusting God's promise in the gospel and knowing that we exist by and for the proclamation of this gospel word.

"FUTURE DIRECTIONS 2025"
Through "Called Forward Together in Christ – Future Directions 2025," we are addressing the challenges and embracing the opportunities of the church we are becoming – a church that is confident about who we are in Christ and what God is calling us to do. I invite you to lift up these goals and engage how we journey forward in Christ as church together. You can learn more by visiting **ELCA.org/future**.

ELCA YOUTH GATHERING
Many of us will be together at the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston June 27-July 1, 2018. I look forward to sharing in the excitement and energy of our young people as they experience the wonder and joy of being with more than 30,000 Lutherans and grow in their faith formation. For information and resources on the Gathering, go to **ELCA.org/gathering**.

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE ELCA
We are in our final year of Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA. Help us rally to the end! As of Dec. 31, the campaign has received more than $138.6 million in cash and multiyear commitments, representing 70 percent of our $198 million goal. Read more about the campaign's progress at **ELCA.org/campaign**. Thank you for your continued support!

"GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS."
Sunday Sept. 9 is our suggested date for the 2018 dedicated day of service. If your congregation cannot participate on this date, please consider another day. "God's work. Our hands." Sunday is an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace. To order T-shirts or download resources, go to **ELCA.org/dayofservice**.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION
There are two opportunities for you to provide feedback about what this church says on important issues. One is "Draft of a Social Statement on Women and Justice." The draft is in two sections: basic theses and fuller explanations, which speak about how sexism harms us all in church and society. The task force wants to hear from you about the content of the draft and this innovative format. Find the draft, supplementary materials and order information at **ELCA.org/womenandjustice**. The other is on the draft of "A Declaration of our Inter-Religious Commitment: A Draft Policy Statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America." The comment period is open from now until June 30, 2018. Visit **ELCA.org/ecumenical** for more information and the document.

I have shared some of the ways we are loving and serving our neighbor. This is what being free in Christ looks like. This is part of our Lutheran story. This is part of your congregation's story and your synod's story.

Wherever you are for your synod assembly, from the Alaska Synod to the Caribbean Synod, there is something that we all have in common – our life in Christ. We have our life in Christ – in the crucified and risen Savior, in the one who poured out his life for us, the one who gave himself away for the life of the world so we may be free. As Lutheran Christians, we live in the freedom of Christ.

With gratitude,

THE REV. ELIZABETH A. EATON
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Building Bridges
Construyendo Puentes

WELCOME TO THE 2018
MNYS SYNOD ASSEMBLY

IF YOU ENTERED THE FRONT DOOR OF OUR PITTSBURGH HOME, you would immediately see what has been called the Old Testament Icon of the Holy Trinity. It is my favorite depiction of our Triune God. The icon writer is Andrei Rublev. It is based on the story of Abram and the three strangers who are depicted by angels. While depicting God is permitted by the Orthodox Church, this one is the most widely accepted Icon of the Holy Trinity.

As I extend a warm welcome to each person attending this Synod Assembly, I thought of the Rublev Icon and inviting you into our synod family household for this Assembly.

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." Hebrews 13:2 NRSV

Showing hospitality to one another reaches across any barrier that has been created in time and place. Hospitality begins with loving our neighbor and continues by caring about one another. Sharing the stories of our lives and being acquainted with the thoughts and experiences of others should provide us with opportunities to grow in our life together in Christ's love.

I am fully aware that this synod assembly will be different for the members of the Metropolitan New York Synod. There is much to cherish with past leadership. There may be a feeling of uncertainty in this interim time. Where are we and where are we going? Yet, as Christians we are very aware that we are not forsaken. The Holy Spirit continues to call, gather, enlighten, and sanctify the whole Christian Church and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. (Luther's explanation to the 3rd article of the Apostles' Creed).

Calling on the Spirit may we gather in the love of God, showing hospitality to one another, and trusting that what we do will be to the glory of God and the renewing of Christ's Church.

Sincerely in Christ,

Donald J. McCoid

THE REV. DONALD J. MCCOID,
Interim Bishop

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it."

Hebrews 13:2 NRSV

GUESTS TO OUR ASSEMBLY

The Rev. Wyvetta Bullock

ELCA ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP AND EXECUTIVE FOR ADMINISTRATION

The Rev. Wyvetta Bullock is the Executive for Administration in the Office of the Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, headquartered in Chicago, IL.

She is a regular panelist on the "Day1 Diner" television segments originally produced for the Hallmark Channel.

Wyvetta is originally from Philadelphia, Tennessee. She has served on churchwide staff for more than 25 years. She began serving with the former Lutheran Church in America (LCA) in 1981. Since 1988, Wyvetta has served the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). From 1995 until May 2005 she served as executive director of the Division for Congregational Ministries, then served as Executive for Leadership Development in the Office of the Presiding Bishop before assuming her current responsibilities.

Wyvetta is an ELCA pastor. She received her Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry in Preaching from Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Wyvetta received the Distinguished Alumni Award from LSTC in February, 2003. In April, 2004 she was conferred with the Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Grand View College, Des Moines, Iowa.

Wyvetta served a parish in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. She serves as a pastoral associate at her current congregation, Bethel Lutheran Church, Chicago, Illinois. Wyvetta is founder and CEO of Equipping Leaders Ministries, Inc.

Wyvetta is a contributing author in The Evangelizing Church: A Lutheran Contribution, Called Out of Our Comfort Zones, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 2005. She is also an author of articles in ELCA publications, including Lutheran Woman Today, Seeds for the Parish, and the World Hunger Newsletter.

Wyvetta and her husband, Neil, have two children: David and Karen Ann

"Prayer can transform us to see what God is already doing in our midst. Prayer can open us to new possibilities and give us peace in difficult circumstances. Prayer can change our internal images so we can perceive God's answer."

The Rev. Dr. Wyvetta Bullock

Women's History Month 2018

advocacy

Mary Campbell & Alaide Vilchis Ibarra
ELCA AMMPARO MIGRANT CHILDREN REPRESENTATIVES

"Dios es nuestro amparo y fortaleza," ("God is our refuge and strength,") – Psalm 46:1

AMMPARO is a holistic, whole church commitment by the ELCA, as a church in the world, to accompany children today and in the future.

The word "amparo" in Spanish means the protection of a living creature from suffering or damage. The ELCA's strategy to Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO) was envisioned after witnessing the plight of children who are forced to flee their communities because of complex and interrelated reasons, including chronic violence, poverty, environmental displacement and lack of opportunities in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. Due to our connection to companion churches in the region, including companion synod relationships, and existing ministries in the U.S., the ELCA is well-positioned to help ensure that these vulnerable children are protected.

In a holistic, whole church response that connects international and US outcomes, the ELCA has developed this strategy based on the following commitments:
- Uphold and guarantee basic human rights and safety of migrant children and their families;
- Address the root causes of migration in countries from Central America's Northern Triangle and Mexico and the treatment of migrants in transit;
- Work toward just and humane policies affecting migrants in and outside the U.S.; and
- Engage as a church body with all of its companions, affiliates and partners to respond to the migration situation and its causes and to advocate for migrant children and their families.

As brothers and sisters in Christ, the ELCA is called to bear witness to the conditions affecting so many communities and to work to find solutions that will acknowledge the humanity in all of God's children. Join us in making a difference in the lives of vulnerable children and families.

GET INVOLVED

PRAY for the safety of migrant children and families on the journey and for justice as they reach their destinations.
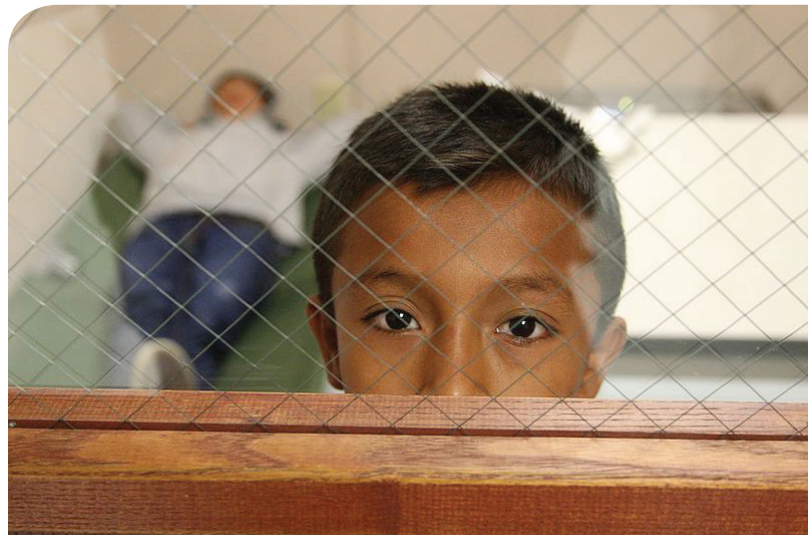
BECOME A WELCOMING CONGREGATION to accompany these children and families through their transition to life in the U.S. Link to resource: **www.elca.org/Resources/AMMPARO**

ADVOCATE for justice for migrant children and families. **www.elca.org/Advocacy**

ACCOMPANY migrant children and families through the Guardian Angel Program as the physical presence of the church in the courtroom. **https://Vimeo.com/157458987**

GIVE to AMMPARO to provide opportunities for children and families in Central America and in the U.S. **https://community.elca.org/donations/ammparo-donate**

South Texas Border - U.S. Customs and Border Protection provide assistance to unaccompanied alien children after they have crossed the border into the United States. Photo provided by: Eddie Perez

REFERENCE & COUNSEL REPORT

Memorials address broad policy issues and are adopted by Synod Assemblies for consideration by the Churchwide Assembly. Resolutions are requests for consideration or action synodically.

For more information, please see the Standing Rules of the Assembly. The order in which they appear here is not necessarily the order which they will be addressed.

The Committee on Reference and Counsel recommends adoption of Resolution 1, Resolution 2 and Memorial 1.

Resolution 3 and Resolution 4 pertain to the ongoing process begun by the resignation of the bishop. The Committee on Reference and Counsel recommends the assembly consider these resolutions as offerings helpful to the discussion and delineation of this process.
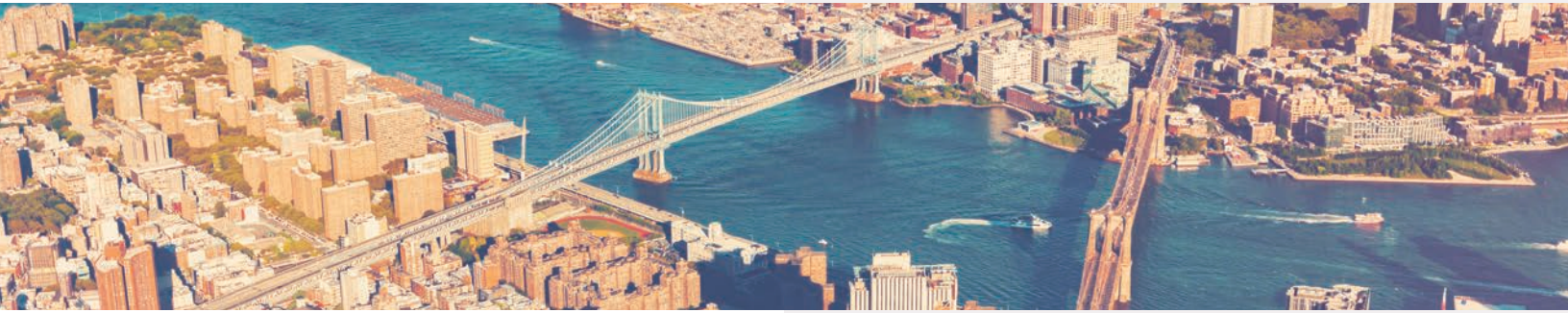
CLICK HERE TO SEE THE COMPLETE REFERENCE & COUNCIL REPORT ▸

NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

CLICK HERE TO SEE THE NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS PAGE ▶

PROCESS FOR ELECTION OF THE BISHOP

METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD – ELECTION OF A BISHOP
Adopted by the Synod Council (April 21, 2018)

Because the resolution for the election of the bishop passed at the 2012 assembly had specific dates relating to the 2014 election of bishop, this process will not be used for any upcoming election.

The synod council approved the pre-identification of pastors as a step in the process for the election of bishop at the 2019 assembly and submits such for affirmation by the Synod Assembly.

*Pre-identification is when a pastor on the roster of the ELCA is identified as having the gifts and skills necessary to serve as bishop. Pre-identification may come through individuals, congregations, conferences.

The election for a new bishop will take place at the 2019 Synod Assembly.

1. While the pre-identification of pastors who could be considered by this synod as our next bishop at the next election is affirmed, an ecclesiastical ballot is the recommendation. In other words, we would approach the election with the first ballot being a nominating ballot. That is, any ELCA rostered pastor can be voted for on the first ballot, regardless of whether that individual was pre-identified in the process discussed below.
2. The Synod Council shall call the synod to prayerful deliberation.
3. The Synod Council shall prepare and distribute information about the Metropolitan New York Synod including its strategic plan and other information that would be helpful for the synod's consideration. Input from synodical members may be directed to the synod council.
4. Pre-identification of possible pastors to be considered may be made by conferences, by individuals, especially voting members to the assembly, and by congregations.
5. Each pre-identified pastor who gives permission to have her or his name considered will be given a form

and common questions to be completed. The pre-identification process will open Feb 1 and close Mar 1 2019. Names and responses will be shared with the synod secretary. The secretary will post the names and responses of individuals on the synod website 45 days prior to the Assembly and will remain posted until the opening of the Assembly. Pre-identified pastors are not to make the rounds of conferences and congregations to campaign for this office, to have an equal footing for the synod's consideration of all pre-identified pastors.

6. During the assembly election process, each of the seven persons who will appear on the third ballot (see paragraph 8 below which sets forth the ecclesiastical ballot process set forth in **S9.04** of the synod constitution) will be given an opportunity to address the assembly. If a fourth ballot is necessary, the three persons who will appear on the fourth ballot will be asked to respond to questions in front of the assembly. Such questions will be developed by the synod council in advance of the assembly with input from members of the synod.
7. The ecclesiastical ballot is defined in the synod constitution under **†S9.04**, which reads:

   †S9.04. The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no one is elected, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes on the second ballot shall be necessary for election. The third ballot shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the second ballot, and two-thirds of the votes cast shall be necessary for election. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of votes on the third ballot, and 60 percent of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. On subsequent ballots a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. These ballots shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the previous ballot.

8. For an ELCA pastor to be on the slate of nominees for bishop, her or his name must be included in the tally of votes received on the first ballot for bishop.

Addendum: The Synod Constitution defines the responsibilities of a synod bishop in **†S8.12**.

†S8.12. As this synod's pastor, the bishop shall: a. Preach, teach, and administer the sacraments in accord with the Confession of Faith of this church. b. Have primary responsibility for the ministry of Word and Sacrament in this synod and its congregations, providing pastoral care and leadership for this synod, its congregations, its ministers of Word and Sacrament, and its ministers of Word and Service. c. Exercise this church's power to ordain (or provide for the ordination by another synodical bishop* of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for the office of ministry of Word and Sacrament (and as provided in the bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America). d. Consecrate (or provide for the consecration of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for service as ministers of Word and Service. e. Attest letters of call for the persons called to serve congregations in the synod, letters of call for persons called by the Synod Council, and letters of call for persons on the rosters of this synod called by the Church Council. f. Install (or provide for the installation of) rostered ministers whose calls the bishop has attested. g. Exercise leadership in the mission of this church and in so doing: **1)** Interpret and advocate the mission and theology of the whole church; **2)** Lead in fostering support for and commitment to the mission of this church within this synod; **3)** Coordinate the use of the resources available to this synod as it seeks to promote the health of this church's life and witness in the areas served by this synod: **4)** Submit a report to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly concerning the synod's life and work; and **5)** Advise and counsel this synod's related institutions and organizations. h. Practice leadership in strengthening the unity of the Church and in so doing: **1)** Exercise oversight of the preaching, teaching, and administration of the sacraments within this synod in accord with the Confession of Faith of this church; **2)** Be responsible for administering the constitutionally established processes for the resolution of controversies and for the discipline of rostered ministers, and congregations of this synod; **3)** Be the chief ecumenical officer of this synod; **4)** Consult regularly with other synodical bishops and the Conference of Bishops; **5)** Foster awareness of other churches throughout the Lutheran world communion and, where appropriate, engage in contact with leaders of those churches; **6)** Cultivate communion in faith and mission with appropriate Christian judicatory leaders functioning within the territory of this synod; and **7)** Be ex officio a member of the Churchwide Assembly. i. Oversee and administer the work of this synod and in so doing: **1)** Serve as the president of the synod corporation and be the chief executive and administrative officer of this synod, who is authorized and empowered, in the name of this synod, to sign deeds or other instruments and to affix the seal of this synod; **2)** Preside at all meetings of the Synod Assembly and provide for the preparation of the agenda for the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, and the council's Executive Committee; (**3)** Ensure that the constitution and bylaws of the synod and of the churchwide organization are duly observed within this synod, and that the actions of the synod in conformity therewith are carried into effect; **4)** Exercise supervision over the work of the other officers; **5)** Coordinate the work of all synodical staff members; **6)** Appoint all committees for which provision is not otherwise made; **7)** Be a member of all committees and any other organizational units of the synod, except as otherwise provided in this constitution; **8)** Provide for preparation and maintenance of synodical rosters containing the names and addresses of all rostered ministers of this synod and a record of the calls under which they are serving or the date on which they become retired or disabled; **9)** Annually bring to the attention of the Synod Council the names of all rostered ministers on leave from call or engaged in approved graduate study in conformity with the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this church and pursuant to prior action of this synod through the Synod Council; **10)** Provide for prompt reporting to the secretary of this church of: (a) additions to and subtractions from the rosters of this synod and the register of congregations; (b) the issuance of certificates of transfer for rostered ministers in good standing who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested, regular letter of call under the jurisdiction of another synod; and (c) the entrance of the names of such persons for whom proper certificates of transfer have been received; **11)** Provide for preparation and maintenance of a register of the congregations of this synod and the names of the laypersons who have been elected to represent them; and **12)** Appoint a statistician of the synod, who shall secure the parochial reports of the congregations and make the reports available to the secretary of this church for collation, analysis, and distribution of the statistical summaries to this synod and the other synods of this church.

NATURAL SYSTEMS PROCESS

Summary of a meeting with the Metro New York Synod, ELCA, and a statement from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

Meeting on Tuesday, April 3, 2018; 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Participants: Interim Bishop Donald McCoid, synod staff, synod executive committee, The Rev. Larry Foster and Deacon Mary Ann Schwabe (17 in attendance)

This meeting at the synod office on April 3, 2018 was scheduled at the suggestion of Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton following her meeting with the synod staff and rostered ministers on Wednesday, February 14, 2018, and subsequently at the request of Bishop McCoid, the synod staff, and the executive committee of the synod council. The purpose of this meeting was to have an opportunity to voice the observations and/or concerns of these two bodies of synod leadership and to prioritize the issues raised.

Larry Foster and Mary Ann Schwabe presented systemic information along with:
- Rabbi Friedman's bi-polar graph of functioning capacities
- Management of change while moving ahead
- Chronic cycle of anxiety/regressed emotional process
- Article on "Secrets"

Two evaluation documents from previous synod consultations were distributed and reviewed - one consultation was conducted in 1991, the other in 2008. Several periods of Q & A occurred throughout the meeting.

Suggestions for action were discussed:
- Appoint an advisory committee with consideration of maturity and diversity criteria.
- Enlist a staff member or synod representative to enroll in the ELCA Systems Academy who would coordinate a wholistic approach to congregational work with a family systems lens and develop a synod resource team as an integral part of that approach.
- Conduct structured town hall meetings in various locations or quadrants.
- Continue consultation as needed.

A STATEMENT FROM PRESIDING BISHOP EATON:

I have reviewed the above information and have conversed with Bishop McCoid, Larry Foster and Mary Ann Schwabe. I am pleased with the engagement of the synod staff and the executive committee of the synod council in this first meeting with Larry and Mary Ann. I believe that this flexible and open approach for ongoing work and consultation with Bishop McCoid, the synod staff and the executive committee will maximize opportunities for thoughtful, calm, and faithful leadership of the Metro New York Synod. I am grateful for your engagement and partnership in ministry and in this process.

-Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton

NATURAL SYSTEM PROCESS: INTRODUCTION FROM INTERIM BISHOP DONALD MCCOID

When Presiding Bishop Eaton was present with our Metropolitan New York Synod on February 15, she offered resource persons to support our synod's assessment of where we are and what directions we might consider.

The following initial statement is shared as information about what has transpired as well as what is planned. It is important to note that two important documents have been shared, including a report from Rabbi Friedman in 1991 and an audit of the synod that was requested in 2008. These reports give background of concerns within the synod. Many of these concerns continue to exist.

Rather than interviewing a select number of synodical persons, a wider opportunity for input from synodical members is proposed. In the four quadrants of our synod, there will be Town Hall meetings. A format and process for participants has been shared by our consultants. There will be an opportunity for participants to offer comments that will include concerns, recommendations, as well as input on what is needed with a new bishop.

More information on the Town Hall meetings will be shared during the Summer and the meetings will be in the Fall. The resource persons offered by Bishop Eaton will continue to support our assessing and addressing the direction for our synod.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

FOLLOWING ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER

The following information is offered as an aid for those seeking assistance in parliamentary procedure. All page references are to the 11th Edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, published by Perseus Publishing. Charts summarizing the motions and the requirements for each appear on page 5.

Agenda, Amendment of, §41, p. 351ff
An item of business can be taken out of its prescribed order a) by adopting, by a two-thirds vote, a motion to suspend the rules, or b) by unanimous consent (p. 363).

Amendments, §12, p. 130ff
A motion may be amended before it is voted upon by inserting words, striking out words, striking out and inserting words, adding words at the end of a sentence, and substituting. A motion to amend must be germane to the motion to be amended. A motion to amend requires a second; is debatable, if the motion to be amended is debatable; can be amended; requires a majority vote even though the motion amended requires a two-thirds vote for its adoption; and can be reconsidered (pp. 112–116, 131–133).

Appeal, §24, p. 255ff
If a member believes that the chair has ruled incorrectly, an appeal may be made. However, an appeal may not be made if the chair has expressed only an opinion (p. 258). An appeal must be made at the time of the ruling; if any debate or business has intervened, it is not in order. An appeal must be seconded; is debatable, unless it addresses a matter of decorum or the matter appealed from is not debatable; is not amendable; and a majority vote or tie sustains the decision of the chair. An appeal may be reconsidered.

Courtesy, §3, p. 22ff
Members always should act with decorum. Members should address only the chair; they should refer to other speakers by title or some other designation, and should avoid mentioning names, if possible. A speaker's motives should not be called into question. During debate, presentations, and remarks from the stage, members should avoid conduct that would disturb the assembly (pp. 22–24, 42–44, 383–385).

Division of a Question, §27, p. 270ff
A motion that focuses on a single question, but consists of several parts, each of which can stand as a distinct proposal, even if separated from the other parts, may be considered and voted upon as separate parts following adoption of a motion to "divide the question." The motion to divide must state clearly the manner in which the question is to be divided (pp. 271–272).

Germane
A "germane" matter is something closely related to or having a bearing on a motion before the assembly. A motion to amend must be germane to the motion to be amended; i.e., no new subject can be introduced under the pretext of a motion to amend (p. 131). In debate a member's remarks must be germane to the question before the assembly; i.e., the statements must have a bearing on whether the pending motion should be adopted (p. 392).

Incidental Motions, §6, p. 69ff, Chapter VIII
Incidental motions usually relate to questions of procedure and, unlike subsidiary motions, do not have a rank. They include:
- Point of order
- Appeal
- Suspend the rules
- Objection to consideration of the question
- Division of a question
- Consideration by paragraph or seriatim
- Division of the assembly
- Motions relating to methods of voting and polls
- Motions relating to nominations
- Parliamentary inquiry
- Point of information
- Request permission to withdraw or modify a motion
- Request to read papers
- Request for any other privilege

Lay on the Table, §17, p. 209ff
A motion to lay on the table, if adopted, would permit the assembly to put aside temporarily a pending question so that a more urgent matter can be considered. This motion requires a second; cannot be debated; cannot be amended; requires a majority vote; and only a negative vote may be reconsidered (pp. 209–212).

A motion to lay on the table should not be made if the intent is to "kill" the pending motion (p. 216). See "Postpone Indefinitely" below.

Limit or Extend Limits of Debate, §15, p. 191ff
The purpose of this motion may be 1) to shorten or to increase the limit placed upon each speaker, 2) to limit the number of speeches, 3) to close debate at a specified time, or 4) to close debate after a specified period of time. This motion requires a second; can be amended; cannot be debated; requires a two-thirds vote; and can be reconsidered (pp. 192–193).

Object to Consideration of a Matter, §26, p. 267ff
This motion is used to test the assembly's desire even to consider an original main motion. It must be made immediately after the question is stated by the chair and before there has been any debate or higher-ranking motion stated by the chair. Its use is to prevent discussion on controversial or personal questions. A member may rise and, without waiting for recognition, say, "I object to the consideration of the question (or motion)." A second is not required, and the motion may not be debated or amended. A two-thirds vote is required to

sustain an objection to consideration. A negative vote can be reconsidered (pp. 267–270).

Obtaining the Floor, §3, p. 29ff
Prior to speaking in the assembly, whether to make a motion or to engage in debate, a member must obtain the floor, i.e., be recognized by the chair as having the right to speak at that time.

Microphones are placed at convenient locations so that members may address the chair when no one else "has the floor." Once recognized by the chair, the member is entitled to speak, subject to the limitations in the Rules of Organization and Procedure.

Persons recognized by the chair are asked to identify themselves by giving their names and the names of their congregations.

In a few instances, it is not necessary to seek recognition of the chair before speaking. These include:
- to appeal a decision by the chair—appeal to be made before any debate or other business has intervened (pp. 255–260);
- to suggest amount, name, place, date, or numbers to "fill blanks" when invited by the chair (pp. 162–167);
- to call for "division," if vote is doubtful (pp. 280–282);
- to call for a count, if the result of the "division" is in doubt (pp. 270–273);
- to extend time for consideration of a pending question or until scheduled recess or adjournment, when the orders of the day are announced or called for (pp. 222–224);
- to call for the orders of the day (pp. 219–224);
- to raise a point of order, or a question of order (pp. 247–255);
- to make a parliamentary inquiry (pp. 293–294);
- to raise a question of privilege, unless a person is speaking or unless such interruption is unavoidable (pp. 224–230);
- to request permission to read a paper or a section of a book (pp. 292–293, 298–299);
- to move reconsideration of a motion previously acted upon (pp. 315–332);
- to request permission to withdraw a motion, or to modify a motion, that has been stated by the chair (pp. 292–298);
- to object to consideration of the question (pp. 267–270).

Orders of the Day, §18, p. 219ff
A motion calling for the "Orders of the Day" is made for the purpose of requiring the assembly to conform to its adopted agenda. The chair will rule on the motion. Upon a call for the "Orders of the Day" by a single member, the assembly must return to the approved agenda, unless by a two-thirds vote the assembly refuses to proceed to the orders of the day or by a two-thirds vote the assembly adopts a motion to suspend the rules.

Point of Order, §23, p. 247 ff
If a member believes that the rules of the assembly are being violated, he or she may rise to a "point of order" or "raise a question of order." This calls upon the chair for a ruling and enforcement of the assembly's rules. A "point of order" may be made by raising a white card from the member's seat, even if someone has the floor; it does not require a second; is not debatable or amendable; is normally ruled upon by the chair; and cannot be reconsidered. It must be raised at the time the alleged breach of rules occurs, unless the breach is ongoing (p. 250).

Postpone Indefinitely, §11, p. 126ff
A motion to "postpone indefinitely" is used for one of three purposes: 1) to dispose of an ill-considered motion without voting on it directly; or 2) to get a "reading" on the strength of those supporting and those opposing a main motion; or 3) to extend the limits of debate on a matter. The effect of the motion, if adopted, is to "kill" the main motion.

The motion to postpone indefinitely requires a second; is debatable; cannot be amended; requires a majority vote; and only an affirmative vote can be reconsidered (pp. 126–130).

Postpone to a Certain Time, §14, p. 179ff
A member has the right to make a motion to postpone action on another motion 1) so that it can be discussed more fully at a more convenient time, or 2) because arguments advanced during debate have indicated the need to make a decision at a later time. The time to which the motion is to be postponed should be stated definitely in this motion. The motion requires a second; is debatable, but only with respect to the proposed postponement; and can be amended. A majority vote is required unless the effect of the postponement is to create a special order, in which case a two-thirds vote is required; however, an amendment to the motion to postpone to a certain time requires only a majority vote. The motion to postpone to a certain time can be reconsidered (pp. 179–191).

Previous Question, §16, p. 197ff
To move the "previous question" is to bring the assembly to an immediate decision as to whether debate on another motion should cease. The maker of the motion must proceed to a microphone and be properly recognized by the chair.

By assembly rule, the motion cannot be made by someone who has first participated in the debate. This motion requires a second; is not debatable; cannot be amended; requires a two-thirds vote; and can be reconsidered before any vote is taken under it. If adopted, the assembly proceeds, without further debate, to vote on the pending question. If the previous question is moved on "all pending questions," and adopted, the assembly proceeds without further debate, to vote successively on each pending question (pp. 197–209).

Privileged Motions, §6, p. 66ff
(In order of precedence from highest to lowest; Charts, Tables, and Lists, p. 5)
1. Fix the time to which to adjourn
2. Adjourn
3. Recess
4. Question of Privilege
5. Call for Orders of the Day

Quasi Committee of the Whole, §52, p. 529ff
The assembly can "go into the quasi committee of the whole" to discuss under conditions of freedom approximating those of a committee a matter that can best be discussed informally (p. 168).

The motion to go into the quasi committee of the whole is a form of the motion to refer, and the motion may specify the format and applicable procedures. No binding decisions may be taken by a quasi committee of the whole; however, it may make recommendations to the assembly. Absent specification in the motion to refer, the rules of debate approved by the assembly apply in the quasi committee of the whole.

The chair of the quasi committee of the whole is the presiding officer (p. 530).

During the period when the assembly is meeting as a quasi committee of the whole, even through the committee consists solely of members having vote and voice, it is technically not the assembly (pp. 538–540).

Reconsideration, §37, p. 315ff
Should it be deemed desirable to return to a motion already voted on, whether adopted or rejected, a motion is made to reconsider the vote on that subject, if such a motion is otherwise in order. Such motion may be offered only by one who voted on the prevailing side of the issue, and may be made only on the day the previous vote on the subject was taken or on the next succeeding day of assembly business. If adopted, the question before the assembly is exactly the same question and it is in the form as at the time the original vote was taken. The motion to reconsider requires a second; is debatable if the motion to be reconsidered is debatable; cannot be amended; requires a majority vote; and cannot be reconsidered (pp. 315–335).

Refer (or Commit), §13, p. 168ff
This motion may be used to commit a main motion, with or without amendments and with or without subsidiary motions, to the Synod Council or to a standing or special committee for study and report back to the present assembly. The motion to refer requires a second; is debatable; can be amended; requires a majority vote; and cannot be reconsidered, if the committee has begun to function (pp. 168–179).

Rescind or Amend Something Previously Adopted, §35, p. 305ff
These two motions may be applied to an earlier action of an assembly. If adopted, the motion to rescind has the effect of nullifying the earlier action; the motion to amend something previously adopted is to be used, if only a part of the earlier action is to be changed. The motion requires a second; is debatable; and can be amended. Under proposed assembly rules, a two-thirds vote is necessary to adopt, and constitution and bylaw amendments, once approved, cannot be rescinded or amended. Only a negative vote can be reconsidered (pp. 305–310).

Standing Rules of the Assembly, Adoption of, §59, p. 618ff
"Standing Rules of the Assembly" cannot conflict with the constitution or bylaws, but they can modify rules contained in the parliamentary authority, as well as other matters. These rules while applying to only the immediate assembly, often have become developed to a point where there is little change from one assembly to another. While the rules are presented under an enacting motion, they are in fact a group of separate main motions. Voting members may request separate consideration of particular rules for purposes of debate, amendment, deletion, or addition. These requests for separate consideration will be held in abeyance without being voted upon until after the remainder of the rules (those for which no requests for separate consideration were made) have been adopted by a two-thirds vote. Then each of the requests will be considered, with a two-thirds vote required if a parliamentary rule from Robert's Rules of Order is being changed or a simple majority vote if no parliamentary rule is involved.

Subsidiary Motions, §6, p. 62ff
(In order of precedence from highest to lowest; Charts, Tables, and Lists, p. 4)
1. Lay on the Table
2. Previous Question
3. Limit Debate
4. Postpone to a Certain Time
5. Refer or Commit
6. Amend
7. Postpone Indefinitely

Substitute, §12, p. 153ff
A motion to strike out an entire paragraph, section, article, or a complete main motion and to insert a different paragraph, section, article, or main motion is a motion to substitute. A motion to substitute is a type of motion to amend.

The motion to substitute requires a second; is debatable, if the motion is debatable; requires a majority vote; and is amendable. Amendments can be made first to the original and then to the substitute motion. Unlike other motions to amend, debate may address both the original text and the substitute (p. 154). When both have been perfected, the vote is taken on whether to substitute the proposed substitute (with any amendments to it that have been adopted) for the original paragraph, section, article, or main motion with any amendments that previously had been adopted. A majority vote is required. If the motion to substitute has been adopted, the substitute becomes the pending paragraph, section, article, or main motion, and then the substituted material cannot be amended except by adding something that does not alter the content of the substituted material. When material has been substituted for other material, the assembly must still vote on whether the substituted material is to be adopted.

Suspend the Rules, §25, p. 260ff
If, by reason of the assembly's rules, it is not possible according to Robert's Rules of Order to take a procedural action (such as bringing forward an action scheduled for later consideration), a member may move to suspend the rules, stating the specific purpose to be achieved, but not the specific rule.

Any such suspension of rules, however, may not conflict with the constitution or bylaws of this church, or with the fundamental principles of parliamentary law. A motion to suspend the rules requires a second; cannot be debated; and cannot be amended. Under a proposed assembly rule, a two-thirds vote is required to adopt. It cannot be reconsidered (pp. 260–267).

Take from the Table, §34, p. 300ff
The purpose of a motion to "take from the table" is to enable renewed consideration of a motion that had previously been laid on the table. Such motion is in order any time after the business that interfered with consideration at an earlier time has been completed, provided no other business is before the assembly. A matter that has been tabled dies at the close of the assembly, if no motion is adopted to take it from the table. A motion to take it from the table requires a second; cannot be debated; and cannot be amended. A majority vote is required to adopt. It cannot be reconsidered (pp. 300–304).

Voting, §4, p. 44ff
The Standing Rules of the Assembly describe voting protocols.

Most motions can be adopted by a majority of the members present and voting, provided a quorum is present.

Under Robert's Rules of Order, the following motions require a two-thirds vote of members present and voting to adopt:
• Amend or rescind something previously adopted, if notice has not been given;
• Close nominations;

- Discharge an order for the day before it is pending;
- Extend time for consideration of pending question, or time until scheduled adjournment or recess;
- Limit or extend limits of debate;
- Make a special order;
- Previous question;
- Refuse to proceed to the orders of the day;
- Suspend the rules;
- Take up a question out of its proper order, or take up an order of the day before the time for which it has been set (Charts, Tables, and Lists, p. 46).

Language for Introducing Motions

For clarity and consistency, voting members should use the standard language of parliamentary procedure when introducing motions on the floor of the assembly. The chart below offers standard phrases used when introducing motions for various purposes.

Notes for Charts on the Following Page:
- *****   Exceptions exist
- **+**   Only an affirmative vote can be reconsidered
- **-**   Only a negative vote can be reconsidered
- **M**   Majority

IF YOU WISH TO . . .	YOU SAY. . .
Close the meeting	I move to adjourn.
Take a break	I move to recess for [specify time duration] OR until [time certain].
Register a complaint	I rise to a question of privilege.
Require the assembly to return to its agenda	I call for the orders of the day.
Lay a matter aside temporarily	I move to lay the question on the table.
Close debate	I move the previous question.
Limit or extend debate	I move that debate be limited to. . .
Postpone to a certain time	I move to postpone the motion to [time certain].
Refer the motion to a committee	I move to refer the motion to [committee name].
Modify wording of the motion	I move to amend the motion by . . .
Kill the main motion	I move that the motion be postponed indefinitely.
Bring business before the assembly	I move that . . . OR I move to . . .
Enforce the rules	Point of order.
Submit a matter to the assembly after a ruling from the chair	I appeal the decision of the chair.
Suspend the rules	I move to suspend the rules.
Avoid a main motion altogether	I object to the consideration of . . .
Divide a motion	I move to divide the question.
Demand a rising vote	I move for a rising vote.
Ask a parliamentary law question	Parliamentary inquiry.
Request for information	Point of information.
Take a matter from the table	I move to take from the table . . .
Reconsider a motion	I move to reconsider . . .
Cancel a previous action	I move to rescind . . .

CHART OF NONRANKING MOTIONS

Name of Motion	Section	Interrupt?	Second?	Debatable?	Amendable?	Vote	Reconsider?
Incidental							
Appeal	24	YES	YES	YES	NO	M	YES
Consider by paragraph/seriatim	28	NO	YES	NO	YES	M	NO
Division of the Assembly	29	YES	NO	NO	NO	DEMAND	NO
Division of a question	27	NO	YES	NO	YES	M	NO
Nominations and polls (reopen)	31	NO	YES	NO	YES	M	YES (-)
Nominations and polls (close)	31	NO	YES	NO	YES	2/3	NO
Objection to consideration of a question	26	YES	NO	NO	NO	2/3	YES (-)
Parliamentary inquiry	33	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO-CHAIR	NO
Point of information	33	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO-CHAIR	NO
Point of order	10	YES	NO	NO*	NO	NO-CHAIR	NO
Ratify/confirm	10	NO	YES	YES	YES	M	YES
Requests to withdraw a motion, read a paper, etc.	33	YES	NO*	NO	NO	M*	YES*
Suspend the rules	25	NO	YES	NO	NO	2/3*	NO
Voting	30	NO	YES	NO*	YES	M*	YES
Bring Back Motions							
Discharge a committee	36	NO	YES	YES	YES	2/3*	YES(-)
Reconsider	37	YES*	YES	YES	NO	M	NO
Rescind or amend something previously adopted	35	NO	YES	YES	YES	2/3*	YES(-)
Take from the table	34	NO	YES	NO	NO	M	NO

CHART OF RANKING MOTIONS

Name of Motion in Order of Rank	Section	Interrupt?	Second?	Debatable?	Amendable?	Vote	Reconsider?
Privileged							
Fix the time to which to adjourn	22	NO	YES	NO*	YES	M	YES
Adjourn	21	NO	YES	NO*	NO*	M	NO
Take a recess	20	NO	YES	NO	YES	M	NO
Raise a question of privilege	19	YES	NO	NO	NO	CHAIR*	NO
Call for the orders of the day	18	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO*	NO
Subsidiary							
Lay on the table	17	NO	YES	NO	NO	M	YES(-)
Previous question	16	NO	YES	NO	NO*	2/3	YES*
Limit or extend limits of debate	15	NO	YES	NO	YES	2/3	YES
Postpone to a certain time	14	NO	YES	YES	YES	M*	YES
Commit or refer	13	NO	YES	YES	YES	M	YES*
Amend	12	NO	YES	YES*	YES*(x1)	M	YES
Postpone indefinitely	11	NO	YES	YES	NO	M	YES(+)
Main motion							
Main motion	10	NO	YES	YES	YES	M	YES

USING YOUR
VOTING DEVICE

On/Off
To turn on/off the remote, press and hold the menu key for about 2 seconds (words will appear on the remote).

Send Key

Battery
"low batt" indicates batteries are needed. Visit the Hospitality Table in the Grand Ballroom for help.

Scroll Keys

Clear Key

Yes/True and No/False Keys

Letter/Numeric Keys

HOW TO VOTE

After it has been announced that voting is open, press "Yes" or "No" or the letter or numeric choice then press the "Send Key."

To change your answer, press the "Clear Key".

Retype your answer and press the "Send Key."

If you accidentally press the "Menu Key" rather than the "Send Key", your remote may say "help," "User ID," or "Session."

Simply use the "Scroll Keys" to scroll to "Exit" and press the "Send Key" to submit your vote.

IF YOUR SCREEN SAYS...

...PUSH KEY
It is in sleep mode.
Push a button to wake the remote up.

...NO NET
Press the "Send Key" to connect.

...LOW BATT
Head to the hospitality table in the Grand Ballroom to switch out your batteries or device.

ANNIVERSARIES

MINISTER OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

5 YEARS
Alexander T. Kennedy
William R. Starkweather

10 YEARS
Danielle L. Miller
Judith Delgado
William R. Kroeze

15 YEARS
Annemarie R. Noto
Carol L. Kessler
Lamont A. Wells
Martin E. Malzahn
Marva M. Jenkins
Rosalind M. Brathwaite

20 YEARS
David M. Grainson
Edward G. Barnett
Laurie B. Cline
Norman D. White
Sonja M. Tillberg Maclary

25 YEARS
J. Elise Brown
Kathleen Rystad Koran
Perry J. Kirschbaum
Rhonda J. Hoehn

30 YEARS
Brooke L. Swertfager
Estelle Coles-Lloyd
Joel K. Brandt
Mark Y. S. Chen

35 YEARS
Garry W Squire
Harriet J. R. Wieber
Heidi B Neumark

40 YEARS
Clint Padgitt
Donald W Lemke
Martin F. Hauser
Ronald M. Klose
Terrence L. Weber

45 YEARS
George F. Handzo
John W. Havrilla
Kam H. Lai
Paul D. Schmiege
Richard O. Hill
William D. Eggers

50 YEARS
George W. Summers
Gerard R. Gaeta
Larry L. Johnson
Robert G. Sonnenberg

55 YEARS
Gary C. Santmire
Paul C. Walley

60 YEARS
Edgar W. Oestreich
Lee H. Wesley
Romaine L. Gardner

MINISTER OF WORD AND SERVICE

20 YEARS
Jacquelyn J. Mize-Baker

30 YEARS
Mary-Elaine K. Leake

35 YEARS
Carol A. Tabatt
Virginia M. Puelle

55 YEARS
Marilyn H. Benner

SYNOD DEACONS

5 YEARS
Coreen Blake
Patricia McDonnell
Eric Faret
Angela Rios
John McDonnell
Gavin Schwen

10 YEARS
Ingrid Compton
Barbara Faraca
Barbara Meberg

15 YEARS
Dorothy Heckler
Iris Hippner
Margaret-Ann O'Donnell

20 YEARS
Edward Basche
Dorothy Kafalas
Margaret Fielding
Paul Lumpkin
Charles Germain
Robert Michaelis
Klaus Jonietz

CONGREGATIONS

125 YEARS
Emanuel Lutheran Church
Our Saviour Lutheran Church

150 YEARS
Christ Lutheran Church
Memorial Lutheran Church
St John-St Matthew-Emanuel Lutheran Church

175 YEARS
Trinity Lutheran Church
Trinity Lower Eastside

THANK YOU!

Metropolitan New York Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.