

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
The Rev. Linda Manson	2026
Mr. Erich Markert	2024
Ms. Lily Sage Mathias	2024
The Rev. Ernst Mossl	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
Mr. Cecil (Chip) Spurlock-Shackelton	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

GUESTS

Bold = present

Italics = excused absence

*Member of Executive Committee

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

Observer: *S.Dcn. Philip Jenks*

Call to Order: *VP Vergara at 9:05 am.*

- 1. Martin Luther's Mark #3: The Lord's Supper / Holy Communion / Eucharist**
Bishop gave enlightening devotion on this topic and closed with prayer.
- 2. Adoption of the agenda:** Adopted as presented

3. **Adoption of the Synod Council minutes**
 - A. **Special meeting 6 March 2023:** Adopted as presented
 - B. **Regular meeting 18 March 2023:** Adopted as presented

4. **New Business**
 - A. **2023 Synod Assembly**

- a. **Standing Rules: edit**

After discussion the final version of the rule will read as follows:

Rule 11. Proposed matters of new business must be submitted to the Secretary prior to the close of the first Plenary Session. Matters will be brought before the Assembly, or referred to Synod Council, as the discretion of the Chair of the Assembly after consultation with the Reference and Counsel Committee and the Secretary.

ACTION SC23:04/01

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council recommend the amended Standing Rules to the 2023 Synod Assembly for approval.

ADOPTED

- b. **Resolution: MNYS Bylaws change**

S10.01.04 The terms of the members of the Synod Council (other than officers) shall begin at the date specified for each elected synod council position.

ACTION SC23:04/02

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council recommend the amended constitutional bylaw to the 2023 Synod Assembly for approval.

ADOPTED

- c. **Budgets 2024**

J. Litke presented the proposed budget for fiscal year 2024.

ACTION SC23:04/03

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council recommend to the Synod Assembly that it adopt the proposed budget for 2024.

ADOPTED

B. Trexler Grants

- a. The Rev. Evelyn Patricia Avila: \$1000 to attend ELCA Rostered Ministers Gathering
- b. The Rev. Romeo Dabee: \$1000 for study trip to Berlin and Wittenberg

ACTION SC23:04/04

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the Trexler Grants for the Rev. Evelyn Avila and the Rev. Romeo Dabee.

ADOPTED

C. Audit

a. Committee Appointees

- Mr. Howard Levy (April 2023 – April 2024)
- The Rev. Garry Squire (April 2023 – April 2024)

ACTION SC23:04/05

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the appointment of Howard Levy and the Rev. Garry Squire to the Audit Committee (Apr 1, 2023 – Apr 1, 2024).

ADOPTED

b. Approval of the Audit Report (FY 2022-2023)

ACTION SC23:04/06

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council receive the Financial Statements and Report for the year ending January 31, 2023 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

c. Tait Weller & Baker renewal

ACTION SC23:04/07

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod retain the services of Tait, Weller & Baker, Certified Public Accountants, for the year ending January 31, 2024.

ADOPTED

5. Report of the Bishop

a. Calls

a. The Rev. Angela Shannon: *Assistant to the Bishop effective May 1, 2023*

ACTION SC23:04/08

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to the Rev. Angela Shannon as Assistant to the Bishop effective May 1, 2023.

ADOPTED

b. Devon Gayle: *Term Call Pastor: St. Paul's in the Flatlands, Brooklyn effective Apr 22, 2023*

ACTION SC23:04/09

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a Term-call to Devon Gayle to St. Paul's, Brooklyn effective April 22, 2023.

ADOPTED

c. George Guinan: *Chair, Diaconate Council effective Apr 22, 2023*

ACTION SC23:04/10

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to Synod Deacon George Guinan as Chair of the Diaconate Council effective April 22, 2023.

ADOPTED

d. Rev. George Summers: *Retirement status effective July 1, 2023*

ACTION SC23:04/11

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve retirement status for The Rev. George Summers effective 1 July 2023.

ADOPTED

e. The Rev. Samuel Silaban: *On Leave from Call effective Apr 3, 2023*

ACTION SC23:04/12

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant On Leave from Call status for The Rev. Samuel Silaban effective April 3, 2023.

ADOPTED

Council went into Executive Session.

- f. The Rev. Anthony Stephens: *On Leave from Call effective Jun 1, 2023***

Council came out of Executive Session.

ACTION SC23:04/13

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council deny the request for On Leave from Call status for the Rev. Anthony Stephens effective April 22, 2023.

ADOPTED

B. Staff

- a. Leticia Silva: Appointed to assist Pr. John Hickey (Synod Youth Gathering Champion)**
Bishop reported this appointment.

b. Legal & Property updates

K. Falco noted that there are no significant legal updates and that we closed on two synod-owned properties.

C. Pastoral Care / Ecumenical & Interfaith participation

a. Pastoral calls / meetings / visits w/ leaders / Lutheran Partners (19)

- **Congregation visits / Councils**
 - **Gustavus Adolphus, Manhattan: Palm / Passion Sunday**
 - **Christ, Newburgh: Baby Steps Diaper Ministry**
 - **Resurrection, Bronx: Good Friday recordings**
 - **Congregation visits / Councils**
- **Chrim Mass: Holy Week**

b. MNYS Committees & Groups / Lutheran Partners

- **Mission Investment Fund / Conf call regarding a congregation**
- **Luther Seminary: Bishop visit**

- **W Suffolk / Peconic / E Nassau Conference Ministerium: Lenten Retreat**
- **Quadrant 2 Deans (Nassau & Suffolk Conferences)**
- **BET (monthly)**

D. Vision Team

a. Met Apr 1 / next meeting May 20

- **Mission Support / Stewardship**
Bishop reported that there has been continued discussion regarding synod mission support and a return to formal stewardship programs.
- **Congregational Health Assessment**
Bishop noted that the Vision Team serves as an advisory group that assists with the evaluation of congregational vitality and next steps for congregations at risk and in crisis.

6. Report of the Vice-President

A. 2025 Assembly voting member registration / meal plan proposal

Council discussed the financial feasibility of covering the costs associated with attending assembly.

Council decided it is committed to enabling congregations to participate in the 2025 Assembly at which there will be an election for bishop.

B. EC / SC remaining meeting dates update

June SC retreat date has been changed to September 8-9. The SC will meet on June 3 via zoom.

7. Treasurer's Report

A. Mission Support (Mar 31, 2023)

Treasurer Litke reported that the March 31, 2023, Mission Support offerings totaled \$100,064.88. YTD Mission Support actuals through March 31, 2023, are \$114,583.24 which is \$42,891.10 less than YTD March 2022.

B. Financials January 2023

C. Annual Audit

8. Observer's Report

A. Observer / June

9. Afterthoughts

Pr. Swertfager raised issue of mail sent to Synod office being returned to senders.
K. Falco noted that this was a problem for all tenants at Interchurch and that it is being worked on with no resolution as yet.

Executive Committee Meeting: May 25 via zoom

Synod Council meeting: June 3 via zoom

***Proposed items for the Synod Council agenda should be submitted to Gayle Ruege for consideration by the Executive Committee by May 20, 2023**

Meeting adjourned at 11:04 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Schoepflin, Secretary