

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Rev. Albert Ahlstrom 2012
Mr. William Anderson 2012
***The Rev. William Baum** 2012
The Rev. Rosalind Brathwaite 2012
Ms. Kelsey Brown 2012
***Mr. Robert Buescher, Treas.** 2012
Ms. Christine Connell, DM 2014
***Ms. Maria del Toro, Vice President** 2014
Dcn Charles Germain 2014
Ms. Hazel Goldstein 2012
Ms. Barbara Hansen 2014
Mr. Gene Hiigel 2014
Ms. Barbara Holm 2012
The Rev. Brenda Jack 2012
***Ms. Barbara Johnson** 2012
The Rev. Perry Kirschbaum 2014
Dr. Carlos Lopez 2014
Dcn. John Malone 2014
***Ms. Minerva Melendez** 2014
The Rev. Craig Miller 2014
***The Rev. Paul Milholland** 2014
Dcn. Bobbi Paulik 2012
Mr. Brian Reardon 2012
***The Rev. Robert A. Rimbo, Bishop** 2014
The Rev. Kit Robison 2014
***The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Sect.** 2014
Mr. Jonathan Westerlund 2012

27 Voting Members

AUXILLIARY MEMBERS

STAFF

The Rev. Perucy Butiku
Ms. Sarah Gioe
The Rev. Dr. Jack Horner
The Rev. Kathleen Koran
The Rev. Jonathan Linman
Mr. John Litke
The Rev. Dr. Gary Mills
Dcn. Gayle Ruege
Ms. Kathleen Schmidt

GUESTS

The Rev. Diane Wildow (Conference of Deans)
Mr. Tom Massey (Daxko T2)
Ms. Lori Swann (Daxko T2)

Bold = present

Italics = excused absence

***Member of Executive Committee**

Devotions: *Deacon John Malone*
Observer: *Ms. Barbara Johnson*

Call to Order at 5:10pm by VP Del Toro.

- 1. Adoption of Agenda.** Adopted as presented.
- 2. Adoption of Minutes: 28 February 2012.** Adopted as presented.
(Note: there was a proposal by Pr. Miller to sell the naming rights of Sarah Gioe's baby in an effort to raise funds for ministry development in MNYS. This motion was unanimously adopted but its implementation may prove to be problematic.)

3. Strategic Plan: Mr. Tom Massey EXHIBIT A

Mr. Massey presented the plan, as revised pursuant to input from SC members and the Executive Committee.

VP Del Toro asked Pr. Ahlstrom to lead the council in prayer before we voted on whether to recommend the strategic plan to the Assembly in May.

VP Del Toro then asked each member of the council to speak to his or her feelings about and ownership of the strategic plan.

Bp led us in singing of the Doxology.

ACTION SC12:03/01

RESOLVED, that the synod council recommend to the Synod Assembly in May 2012 that it adopt the strategic plan as presented.

ADOPTED unanimously.

VP Del Toro announced a 5-minute recess.

4. Bishop's Report

A. Calls

- a. The Rev. Stephen Hultgren: *Australian Lutheran College (eff: July 1, 2012)*

ACTION SC12:03/02

RESOLVED, that The Rev. Stephen Hultgren be called to serve on the faculty of Australian Lutheran College for a period of three years, effective July 1, 2012.

ADOPTED

- b. The Rev. A. David Anglada: *Visiting Nurse Services of New York (eff: February 21, 2012)*

ACTION SC12:03/03

RESOLVED, that The Rev. David Anglada be called to serve as chaplain to the Visiting Nurse Services of New York, effective February 21, 2012.

ADOPTED

- c. The Rev. Romeo Dabee: *Chaplain, Christ for the World Chapel, JFK Int'l Airport (eff: March 20, 2012)*
Bp. Rimbo noted that this call will be acted on at April 2012 SC meeting.

- c. The Rev. Dr. Daphne Burt: *On Leave from Call status (eff: January 24, 2012)*

ACTION SC12:03/04

RESOLVED, that The Rev. Daphne Burt be granted On Leave from Call Status, effective January 24, 2012.

ADOPTED

B. Legal Updates

- a. Property formerly Bethlehem, Brooklyn. Update given by Ms. K. Schmidt.

5. Treasurer's Report

A. Budgets: Revised 2012 / proposed 2013

- Treas. Buescher presented the revised 2012 and proposed 2013 budgets. **EXHIBIT B**

ACTION SC12:03/05

RESOLVED, that the synod council recommend to the Synod Assembly in May 2012 that it adopt the revised budget for 2012 and the proposed budget for 2013.

ADOPTED

6. Constitutions. Secr. Schoepflin reported that the following constitutions have been received and are being reviewed.

- A. St. Paul's, Liberty**
- B. Our Saviour's, Brooklyn**
- C. Gustavus Adolphus, Manhattan**

7. Synod Assembly 2012

A. Nomination for Treasurer

Treas. Buescher gave the background of the proposed nominee.

ACTION SC12:03/06

RESOLVED, that the synod council nominate Mr. Frank M. Suttell to the Synod Assembly in May 2012 for the office of Treasurer.

ADOPTED

- B. 2012 Synod Assembly Agenda **EXHIBIT C****

ACTION SC12:03/07

RESOLVED, that the synod council adopt the Agenda for the May 17-19, 2012 Synod Assembly as presented.

ADOPTED

8. Old Business

A. St. Luke's, Bronx: update

Ms. K. Schmidt gave an update on the status of the litigation and other issues.

B. Grace, North Branch Resolution

Ms. K. Schmidt reported on the amounts loaned to and paid on behalf of this congregation. Some of these amounts were paid during the period Grace was under synod administration. Congregation disputes the fact that it should repay amounts paid when not under administration. Ms. Schmidt noted the unlikelihood that any money would be repaid.

ACTION SC12:03/08

RESOLVED, that the Synod write off the total expenses paid on behalf of Grace Lutheran Church, North Branch, and that Grace be informed that the Synod will not expend any financial resources to acquire the house adjacent to Grace's property.

ADOPTED

- C. Congregations under synod administration **EXHIBIT D****
- D. Congregational Loan Status / Synod Properties update **EXHIBIT E****
- E. Pending**
 - a. Zion/Sion, 119th Street, Manhattan**
 - b. Manhattan Latino Strategy**
 - c. Working Group for Racial and Ethnic Awareness and Sensitivity**

- d. Christ Chinese, Brooklyn
- e. Office Space Task Force

9. New Business

- A. **Statement on Preaching and Sacramental Practices for Congregations EXHIBIT F**
Pr. J. Linman spoke to the background and content of the statement.

ACTION SC12:03/08

RESOLVED, that the council recommends adoption, by the Synod Assembly in May 2012, of the Statement on Preaching and Sacramental Practices as the policy of the Metropolitan New York Synod with respect to preaching and sacramental practices for congregations in the absence of a regularly called and ordained pastor.

ADOPTED

B. LIFT (Living Into the Future Together)

Pr. C. Miller spoke about the LIFT recommendation that all congregations “begin, develop, review or redefine their unique mission plans by the end of 2012.” He presented the following resolution to be presented to the May 2012 Synod Assembly.

Whereas, the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA adopted recommendations from the Living Into the Future Together (LIFT) task force designed to strengthen the ELCA in evangelical mission. Those recommendations include the following:

To invite members, congregations, synods, regions, the churchwide organization, colleges and universities, institutions and agencies, networks, and global, ecumenical, and other partners into deep conversation, prayer, and discernment, as, together, this church commits itself to the following actions to implement the report and recommendations:

1. *To make support for the work of congregations one of the highest priorities of this church. To request congregations, in collaboration with synods, to begin, develop, review or redefine their unique mission plans by the end of 2012, so that each congregation strengthens its capabilities and resources for witness and mission.*

Therefore be it resolved, the Metropolitan New York Synod in assembly calls upon each congregation to begin, develop, review or redefine its unique mission plan, including incorporation of ministry with and to diverse populations as appropriate, and to submit its mission plan to the bishop of the synod; and

Resolved, the Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly directs the synod staff and the Synod Council to create, develop and provide opportunities and resources that congregations may use to develop, review or redefine their mission plans, including provision of individual consultation and assistance to congregations as requested; and

Resolved, the Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly directs the bishop to report to the Synod Council at its meetings, and to the 2013 Synod Assembly, progress toward the goal that 100% of synod congregations begin, develop, review or redefine their unique mission plans by the end of 2012 and that these mission plans be completed and submitted by the end of 2013; and

Resolved, the Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly directs the synod staff and Synod Council to develop a mechanism by which congregations and the synod may measure the efficacy of congregation mission plans as a way to encourage ongoing review and redefinition of congregation mission plans.

Motion made and seconded to table the resolution until after May 2012 Synod Assembly. This motion was defeated.

Motion made and seconded to refer the resolution to the Ministries Committee. This motion ruled out of order since Ministries Committee does not yet exist.

Motion made and seconded to amend resolution as follows. This motion was adopted.

Resolved, the Metropolitan New York Synod in assembly calls upon each congregation to begin, develop, review or redefine its unique mission plan, including incorporation of ministry with and to diverse populations as appropriate; and

Resolved, the Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly encourages ongoing review and redefinition of congregation mission plans.

ACTION SC12:03/09

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council recommends adoption of the resolution, as amended, to the synod Assembly in May 2012.

ADOPTED

9. Other Reports

Pr. A. Ahlstrom spoke to the way we elect members of synod council under our constitution and bylaws and suggested that a better way should be found. Bp. Rimbo suggested that Pr. Ahlstrom and Secr. Schoepflin meet to discuss this matter and bring a proposal to synod council.

10. Announcements/Events

Ms. Sarah Gioe encouraged all to check the website for synod events.

11. Meeting Evaluation

12. Observer's Evaluation

Ms. Barbara Johnson evaluated the conduct of our meeting.

Pr. Perry Kirschbaum closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Schoepflin, Secretary