

**SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**\*The Rev. William Baum** 2016  
**The Rev. Rosalind Brathwaite** 2016  
**Ms. Christine Connell, DM** 2014  
**\*Ms. Maria del Toro, Vice President** 2014  
*The Rev. Khader El-Yateem* 2016  
*Dcn Charles Germain* 2014  
**Ms. Hazel Goldstein** 2016  
**Ms. Barbara Hansen** 2014  
**The Rev. Marc Herbst** 2014  
**Mr. Eugene Hiigel** 2014  
**The Rev. Brenda Irving** 2016  
**\*Ms. Barbara Johnson** 2016  
**Ms. Savannah Lochansingh, Youth** 2014  
*Dr. Carlos Lopez* 2014  
**Dcn. John Malone** 2014  
**\*Ms. Minerva Melendez** 2014  
**\*The Rev. Paul Milholland** 2014  
**The Rev. Craig Miller** 2014  
**Dcn. John Prosen** 2016  
**Mr. Brian Reardon** 2016  
**\*The Rev. Robert A. Rimbo, Bishop** 2014  
**The Rev. Kit Robison** 2014  
*Ms. Terra Rowe* 2016  
**\*The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Sect.** 2014  
**Ms. Abby Triebel, Young Adult** 2016  
**\*Mr. Frank Suttell, Treas** 2016  
**Mr. Christopher Vergara** 2016  
*Ms. Karen Woolley* 2016

**AUXILLIARY MEMBERS**

**STAFF**

*The Rev. Percy Butiku*  
**Ms. Sarah Gioe**  
**The Rev. Kathleen Koran**  
*The Rev. Jonathan Linman*  
**Dcn. Gayle Ruege**  
**Ms. Kathleen Schmidt**  
**Ms. Rebekah Wedge**

**GUESTS**

**The Rev. Leo ("Jay") Longan, Conf. of Deans**  
**The Rev. Joseph Chu, Lutheran Disaster Response**

**Bold = present**

*Italics = excused absence*

**\*Member of Executive Committee**

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*Devotions: Rev. Kit Robison*

*Observer: Rev. Brenda Irving*

*Call to Order: Ms. Maria del Toro at 5:16pm*

- 1. Adoption of the Agenda:** adopted as presented.
- 2. Adoption of the Minutes:** 27 April 2013: adopted as presented.

VP Del Toro asked Pr. Craig Miller to introduce our guest, The Rev. Joseph Chu, of Lutheran Disaster Response. Pr. Chu then addressed the council.

### 3. 2013 Synod Assembly – debriefing

#### A. Summary of Actions

Secretary Schoepflin noted the memorials and resolutions that were adopted, including the revised 2013 budget and the budget for 2014. Bp. Rimbo reported that the memorial concerning an adult catechism will be forwarded to the Church Council, for it to direct the church publishing house to look into this.

#### B. Evaluations

Mr. Vergara noted the importance of developing visual aids relating to the strategic plan.

Ms. Hansen reported disappointment expressed by some that prayer did not precede the selection of the Bishop Election Committee.

There were positive comments regarding the music.

Ms. Rebekah Wedge reported that approximately 140 written evaluations of the assembly have been received.

#### C. 2014 Synod Assembly dates /location

- May 29 – 31, 2014
- Huntington Hilton Hotel, Melville, N Y

#### **ACTION SC13:06/01**

**RESOLVED**, that the 2014 Synod Assembly be held May 29-31, 2014, at the Huntington Hilton Hotel, Melville, NY.

#### **ADOPTED**

### 4. Strategic Plan

#### A. Progress Report / Steering Committee

VP Del Toro distributed a proposed job description for the new staff position for strategic plan implementation in the area of pastoral care, and asked for comments from the council members.

### 5. Bishop's Report

#### A. Properties

##### a. Sion, Harlem: sale of property

Ms. Kathleen Schmidt introduced the resolution for the sale. VP Del Toro noted that this resolution comes from the Executive Committee.

#### **ACTION SC13:06/02**

**RESOLVED**, that the Synod Council approve the sale of the property owned by Zion Lutheran Church at 217 E. 119<sup>th</sup> St., New York, NY for \$3,200,000, or the best offer received; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that pursuant to the Letter of Agreement dated September 4, 2005 between Zion Lutheran Church and the Metropolitan New York Synod, the proceeds of the sale be used first to satisfy the repayment of the monies loaned by the synod to Zion during the period September 4,

2005 through the closing date of the sale of the property, and any other financial obligations of Zion, and the remainder used to set up a Zion Ministry Fund to be held by the synod for the benefit of Zion Lutheran Church.

**ADOPTED: 23 in favor, 0 against, 0 absentions**

- b. St. Luke's, Bronx  
Ms. Schmidt reported that the issues regarding this congregation will be resolved soon.

**B. Calls:**

- a. Rev. Kimberli Lile: On Leave from Call: effective 1 May 2013
- b. Rev. Dr. Gary Mills: Renewal / On Leave from Call: effective 1 July 2012
- c. Rev. Samuel Silaban: On Leave from Call: effective 13 May 2013
- d. Rev. James Smith: On Leave from Call: effective 1 May 2013

**ACTION SC13:06/03**

**RESOLVED**, that Rev. Kimberli Lile be granted On Leave from Call Status, effective May 1, 2013, Rev. Gary Mills be granted renewed On Leave from Call Status, effective July 1, 2012, Rev. Samuel Silaban be granted on Leave from Call Status, effective May 13, 2013, and Rev. James Smith be granted On Leave from Call Status, effective May 1, 2013.

**ADOPTED**

**C. Appointments**

- a. Mr. Jeffrey MacDonogh: Financial Management Committee (6/1/13 – 5/31/16)
- b. Mr. Daniel Nigro: Financial Management Committee (6/1/13 – 5/31/16)
- c. Mr. Jeffrey Peterson: Financial Management Committee (6/1/13 – 5/31/16)

**ACTION SC13:06/04**

**RESOLVED**, that Mr. Jeffrey MacDonogh, Mr. Daniel Nigro, and Mr. Jeffrey Peterson be reappointed to the Financial Management Committee for three year terms.

**ADOPTED**

**6. Treasurer's Report**

**A. Mission Support update**

Treas. Suttell reported that May was a good month for mission support, with many congregations contributing. He noted that the number of commitments for the current year is up. He reported that due to the change over in method of presenting the reports, and due to problems with the computer network in the synod office, there were no printed financial reports.

**B. Investment Policy Statement**

Treas. Suttell introduced the new Investment Policy Statement. **SEE EXHIBIT A**  
VP Del Toro noted that the motion to adopt this policy comes before the council from the Executive Committee and invited discussion.

**ACTION SC13:06/05**

**RESOLVED**, that the Investment Policy Statement be adopted.

**ADOPTED**

## 7. New Business

### A. Election of the Executive Committee

VP Del Toro reported that the Executive Committee is comprised of the four synod officers, plus four at large members elected by the synod council.

She then invited nominations.

Nominated: Ms. Christine Connell, Dcn. John Malone, Pr. William Baum, Pr. Marc Herbst, Pr. Rosalind Brathwaite, Mr. Christopher Vergara, Pr. Brenda Irving.

Election was held by written ballot.

### **ACTION SC13:06/06**

**RESOLVED**, that Pr. William Baum, Pr. Marc Herbst, Pr. Brenda Irving and Mr. Christopher Vergara are elected to serve one year terms on the Executive Committee.

### **ADOPTED**

### C. St. Paul's, Brooklyn (Williamsburg)

Bp. Rimbo reported that the congregation has asked that the synod council take no exception to the sale of its air rights.

In the course of discussion, several questions were raised. A motion was by Pr. Craig Miller to communicate with the congregation regarding our questions, and to authorize the executive committee to take no exception to the sale once assurances are received that the proper due diligence was done in valuing the air rights. This motion was seconded and adopted.

### **ACTION SC13:06/07**

**RESOLVED**, that the synod council communicate its questions concerning the sale to St. Paul's, and that the executive committee is authorized to take no exception to the sale once assurances are received that the proper due diligence was done in valuing the air rights.

### **ADOPTED**

### C. Trexler Grants

- a. Rev. Marva Jenkins
- b. Rev. Percy Butiku
- c. Rev. Paul Block
- d. Rev. Mary Chang
- e. Mr. Winston Dookram
- f. Rev. Brenda Irving
- g. Rev. Jeffrey Kolbo
- h. Rev. Joseph Mantovani
- i. Rev. Daniel Peter

### **ACTION SC13:06/08**

**RESOLVED**, that the proposed Trexler Grants are approved.

### **ADOPTED**

## 8. Old Business

- A. Grace, North Branch: Ltr from Delaware-Hudson Conference

Discussion of letter received from Delaware-Hudson Conference. It was the sense of the council that we would support the congregations of the conference but take no action to change our prior resolution regarding Grace, North Branch.

- C. Congregations under synod administration
  - Ms. Kathleen Schmidt reported on congregations under synod administration.
    - a. Trustee replacement for Pr. Jack Horner

**ACTION SC13:06/09**

**RESOLVED**, that Ms. Kathleen Schmidt be appointed as Trustee (staff) for St. Peter's, Bronx, St. Thomas, Bronx, St. Luke's, Bronx and Grace, North Branch, to replace Pr. Jack Horner.

**ADOPTED**

- C. Congregational Loan Status / Synod Properties
  - a. St. Thomas House, Bronx resolution

**ACTION SC13:06/10**

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council hereby authorizes an additional \$50,000, from the proceeds of the sale of St. Thomas, for the renovation/restoration of the St. Thomas House located at 1942 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY.

**ADOPTED**

- D. Christ Chinese Lutheran Church, Brooklyn resolution
  - Bp. Rimbo noted that the congregation has received a proposal from the ELCA for the repayment of \$294,752 in partnership support given to the congregation. We can resolve to release the congregation from membership in the ELCA pending receipt of the approved payment plan.

**ACTION SC13:06/11**

**RESOLVED**, that Christ Chinese Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, New York, will be released from membership in the ELCA and the Metropolitan New York Synod, pending notification from the ELCA that the Agreement for repayment by the congregation of \$294,752 in partnership support has been confirmed by the ELCA and agreed to by the congregation.

**ADOPTED**

- E. ELCA Macedonia Project Covenant
  - Pr. Craig Miller presented. **EXHIBIT B**

**ACTION SC13:06/12**

**RESOLVED**, that the synod council affirms its support for the Macedonia Project and the work of the Mission Support and Stewardship Table.

**ADOPTED**

- F. Pending:
  - b. MNYS Committee structure analysis
  - c. Process for the Election of the synodical bishop

d. 2013 Churchwide Assembly

## **9. Other Reports**

VP Del Toro called the council into executive session.

## **10. Announcements/Events**

A. Synod-wide Service Day: July 27 @ Oceanside Lutheran Church, Oceanside

B. Malaria Campaign Summit

- November 2: Emanuel, Pleasantville
- November 16: Good Shepherd, Plainview

## **11. Observer's Evaluation**

Meeting adjourned at 8:39pm, with prayer by Bp. Rimbo.