

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. Perucy 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
Mr. Tom Massey, Consultant

Bold = present

Italics = excused absence

***Member of Executive Committee**

Devotions: Rev. Paul Milholland

Observer(s): Ms. Hazel Goldstein and Rev. Craig Miller

Call to Order: Ms. Maria del Toro at 9:35 am

- 1. Adoption of the Agenda:** adopted with change.
- 2. Adoption of the Minutes:** 25 June 2013: adopted as presented.

3. Strategic Plan

- A. Rev. Marsh Drege: Chair, SENT Strategy Committee
- B. Ms. Barbara Johnson: Vice-chair, SENT Strategy Committee

ACTION SC13:9/1

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council appoint the Rev. Marsh Drege as Chair, SENT Strategy Committee and Ms. Barbara Johnson as Vice-Chair, SENT Strategy Committee.

ADOPTED

C. Goals, Objectives, Benchmarks for 2013

Maria reminded the Synod Council of the implementation process. The Strategy Committees present strategy proposals to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee makes recommendation to the Synod Council. The Synod Council's approved proposals/actions are implemented by the Bishop. Applications for the position of Assistant to the Bishop for Strategic Plan are being reviewed.

Pr. William Baum reported on the formation of four teams (sub-committees) within the GATHERED Committee: Resource Team; Leadership Development Team; Innovation Team; Research Team.

Pr. Baum reported on the development of three conference pilot projects. Project proposals and recommendations will be presented to the Executive Committee.

Pr. Emily Scott reported on the formation of four teams (sub-committees) within the CLAIMED Committee: Theology Team; Communication Team; Connection Team; Commitment Team. Each Team is working to address different areas of exploration as defined by the Executive Committee.

Mr. Tom Massey confirmed that we are on schedule. We continue moving in the natural process of implementation .

D. Quadrant 2 (Nassau / Suffolk) Visitation and Leaders Retreat: November 22-24, 2013

Bishop Rimbo and the Exec staff will begin a third round of synod visits, by Quadrant.

Quadrant 2 visit will be Nov 22-24 (locations to be announced). The weekend visit will include:

- Nov 22: Friday evening dinner with ministerium
- Nov 23: Saturday Leader's Retreat (9am – 3pm)
- Nov 24: Sunday congregation visitation

4. Bishop's Report

A. Churchwide Assembly: CWA participants shared their experiences

B. Calls:

- a. Rev. Dr. Laurie Andersen: Chaplain, Memorial Sloan-Kettering, Manhattan: HealthCare Chaplaincy
- b. Rev. Harriet Wieber: Discernment Pastor, St. Stephen's, Brooklyn
- c. Rev. Ivan Gunderman: Intentional Transitional Pastor, St. Andrew's, Smithtown

ACTION SC13:9/2

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council issue a call to the Rev. Dr. Laurie Andersen as Chaplain, Memorial Sloan-Kettering (Manhattan) through HealthCare Chaplaincy of New York City.

ADOPTED

ACTION SC13:9/3

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council issue a call to the Rev. Harriet Wieber as Discernment Pastor, St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, NY.
ADOPTED

ACTION SC13:9/4

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council issue a call to the Rev. Ivan Gunderman as Intentional Transitional Pastor, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Smithtown, NY
ADOPTED

- d. Rev. Danielle Fey: On Leave from Call: effective 29 July 2013
- e. Rev. Frederick Johnsen: On Leave from Call: effective 1 July 2013
- f. Rev. Jeanine Owens: On Leave from Call: effective 10 June 2013
- g. Rev. Daniel Ruth: On Leave from Call: effective 1 August 2013
- h. Rev. Roldano Auguste: Extension (1 year – thru Oct 2014)) On Leave from Call status
- i. Rev. Rebecka Fetters: Annual Renewal / On Leave from Call: effective
- j. Rev. R. Griffin Thomas: Annual Renewal / On Leave from Call: effective
- k. Rev. Robert Modr: Retirement status: effective 18 July 2013
- l. Rev. William Munz: Retirement status: effective 1 November 2013
- m. Rev. Robert Splittgerber: Retirement status: effective 1 October 2013

ACTION SC13:9/5

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant *On Leave from Call* status to Rev. Danielle Fey; Rev. Frederick Johnsen, Rev. Jeanine Owens; Rev. Daniel Ruth;
RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant a one year *On Leave from Call* extension (through Oct 2014) to Rev. Roldano Auguste;
RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve *On Leave from Call* annual renewal to Rev. Rebecka Fetters; Rev. R. Griffin Thomas;
RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council acknowledge retirement status for Rev. F. Robert Modr; Rev. William Munz; Rev. Robert Splittgerber
ADOPTED

C. Appointments

- a. Mr. Eugene Hiigel: Leif Ericson Day School Board
- b. Dcn. John Malone: Leif Ericson Day School Board
- d. Rev. Daniel Ward: Co-chair Tanzania Committee
- e. Rev. Michael Church: Resignation MNYS Historian / MNYS Archives Committee

ACTION SC13:9/6

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the appointments of Mr. Eugene Hiigel and Deacon John Malone to the Lief Ericson Day School board; the appointment of Rev. Daniel Ward as Co-chair, Tanzania Committee; the resignation of Rev. Michael Church as Synod Historian and member of the MNYS Archives Advisory Committee.
ADOPTED

D. Staff

a. Staff Reports (**EXHIBIT A**)

Written reports were provided to the Synod Council . Pr. Jonathan Linman offered a verbal report.

b. Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM) update

Candidates have been vetted. Interviews at the synod office are scheduled for October 1

5. Treasurer's Report (**EXHIBIT B**)

A. Mission Support update

Treasurer Suttell reported that the Financial Management Committee is creating a database to track congregational giving history and identify past and current trends.

B. Financial Report

Treasurer Suttell provided the Synod Council with the Summary Balance Sheet and the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the period ending 31 August 2013.

6. New Business

A. 2014 Pastors Compensation Guidelines

ACTION SC13:9/7

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the recommended COLA of 1.8% for the 2014 Pastors Compensation Guidelines.

ADOPTED

B. Portico Healthcare Options (**EXHIBIT C**)

Congregations and participants in the ELCA Primary health benefits have been notified of the new Portico benefit options created by health care reform. The Executive Committee reviewed the options and supports the ELCA Church Council's recommendation to select the Gold+ option. The Executive Committee recommends that the Synod Council support the ELCA Church Council's recommendation and recommend the Gold+ option to congregations and partner agencies.

ACTION SC13:9/8

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council support the ELCA Church Council's recommendation that ELCA employers offer and pay for the Gold+ Portico health benefit option for participants enrolled with Portico Benefit Services.

ADOPTED

C. Trexler Grant: Rev. Robert Fritch (**EXHIBIT D**)

ACTION SC13:9/9

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve a \$1000 Trexler Grant to Rev. Robert Fritch for a mission trip to Guyana, South America in November 2013.

D. Exec Committee / Synod Council meeting schedule (Sep 2013 – Jun 2014) (**EXHIBIT E**)

APPROVED as presented

7. Old Business

- A. Congregations under synod administration **(EXHIBIT F)**
- B. Congregational Loan Status / Synod Properties **(EXHIBIT G)**
- C. Indonesian Lutheran Church:
Indonesian voted to close on April 28 – final worship on May 12.

ACTION SC13:9/10

RESOLVED, that Indonesian Lutheran Church, East Elmhurst, NY, be removed from the roster of congregations of the Metropolitan New York Synod of the ELCA.

ADOPTED

- D. St. Paul's, Brooklyn
At the June Synod Council meeting – discussion concerning the proposed sale of air rights prompted directives for the staff to contact St. Paul's to discuss the Council's stated concerns. Updated information has been provided by St. Paul's and the Executive Committee voted to take no exception to the sale.
- E. St. Thomas, Bronx

ACTION SC13:9/11

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council authorize our legal counsel to negotiate and prepare a written contract for sale of property located at 222 East 178th Street, Bronx for the price of at least \$945,000 with no financing contingency and that any two of the appointed trustees or officers of the synod are authorized to sign the contract of sale.

ADOPTED / 22 (Yes) – 0 (No)

- F. Zion, Brooklyn: **(EXHIBIT H)**

ACTION SC13:9/12

Whereas, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (the "ELCA"), the successor by merger of three established Lutheran church bodies, is the national church which has jurisdiction and provides religious and mission services to approximately 4.5 million American Lutherans, and is divided into 65 synods in nine geographic regions in the United States, which coordinate the work of the Church's approximately 10,000 Congregations; and

Whereas, the Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (the "Synod") is the local expression of the larger church body, the ELCA, and is the synod which bears primary responsibility for the oversight of the life and mission of the nearly 200 Lutheran churches in New York City, Long Island and Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess, Rockland, Orange, Sullivan and Ulster Counties, which are member congregations of the ELCA and the Synod, including Zion Lutheran Church; and

Whereas, Zion Lutheran Church, a New York religious corporation located at 6307 Fourth Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11220 ("Zion"), is an interdependent member congregation of the ELCA and the Synod; and

Whereas, the Constitution of the ELCA explains that we are one church body organized in three expressions -- each expression has its particular functions but all three together share a common mission. Together, we ensure a strong foundation of leadership that enables faithful gathering and gospel proclamation, community involvement, open dialogue and a culture of support for our members; and

Whereas, the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA and the Synod recognize that the ELCA, the Synod and its congregations are interdependent units that share responsibly in the religious and mission services of the Church; and

Whereas, the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA reflect both the underlying theology of this church as well as its organizational principles and governance structures. They are both ecclesial and legal documents. Thus, they commit this church in each of its expressions—congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization—to the centrality of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ, carrying out Christ’s Great Commission, serving the neighbor in response to God’s love, worshiping God, nurturing members in the Word of God, and manifesting the unity given to God’s people in living together in Christ. At the same time, these governing documents also provide necessary organizational principles, structures and policies for good order and to meet legal requirements. Taken together, these governing documents reflect the organic whole of this church in its interdependent relationships and as part of the one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church; and

Whereas, the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA require that its member congregations adopt constitutions which are not inconsistent with the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA and the Synod; and

Whereas, the Constitution of the Synod provides that the Synod Council shall be the board of directors of this Synod and section 13.24 of the Constitution (“section 13.24”) provides, in pertinent part, that *“if it is the opinion of the Synod Council that the membership of a congregation has become so scattered or so diminished in numbers as to make it impractical for such a congregation to fulfill the purposes for which it was organized or that it is necessary for this synod to protect the congregation’s property from waste and deterioration, the Synod Council, itself or through trustees appointed by it, may take charge and control of the property of the congregation to hold, manage and convey the same on behalf of this synod”*; and

Whereas, such charge and control of the property by the Synod Council as provided in section 13.24, may be through the appointment of trustees; and

Whereas, after due deliberation, it is the opinion of the Synod Council that the membership of Zion has become so scattered and diminished in numbers as to make it impractical for Zion to fulfill the purposes for which it was organized; and

Whereas, the Synod Council has learned that, in addition to the ecclesial and missional concerns, the action of the Synod Council is supported by the Religious Corporations Law of the State of New York; and

Whereas, good cause having been demonstrated, the Synod Council, by virtue of the authority granted to it by section 13.24 of the Synod’s Constitution, has determined that it is necessary for it to impose synodical administration at Zion and, through the appointment of three trustees, to take charge and control of Zion’s property to hold, manage and convey that property on behalf of the Synod.

NOW THEREFORE, it is:

RESOLVED, that for the reasons set forth above, all of which are included and incorporated herein and made a part hereof as if fully set forth, the Synod Council, pursuant to the authority granted to it by section 13.24 of the Synod’s Constitution, does hereby impose synodical administration upon Zion, to take charge and control of Zion’s property 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 the full power and authority to hold, manage and convey the property of Zion on behalf of the Synod in all regards relating directly or indirectly to and in furtherance of synodical administration, by taking charge and control of the property of Zion and holding, managing and conveying that property on behalf of the Synod, to wit: The Rev. David Parsons; Mr. Eugene Hiigel; Ms. Kathleen Schmidt (“Trustees”); and it is further

RESOLVED, that the signature of any two of the Trustees acting for and on behalf of the Synod to take charge and control of the property of Zion and to hold, manage and convey the property of Zion on behalf of the Synod shall be binding upon and considered as the act of all of the Trustees. No person or entity acting in reliance on the signatures of any two of such Trustees 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 entity shall be required to look behind the signatures of such Trustees.

ADOPTED

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

8. Other Reports

- a. Disaster Coordinator: report will be sent to Synod Council via email. **(EXHIBIT I)**

9. Announcements/Events

- A. Synod Council Retreat: October 18-19 / Holy Family Retreat Center, West Hartford, CT

10. Observer’s Evaluation: Hazel Goldstein / Craig Miller

11. Announcements/Events

- A. St. Thomas House Dedication/Open House: Nov 4, 2013 (4 – 8 pm)

Meeting adjourned at 2:27pm with prayer.