

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
Mr. Eugene Hiigel 2014
***The Rev. Brenda Irving** 2016
***Ms. Barbara Johnson** 2016
Ms. Savanah 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
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 Thornhill
The Rev. Marc Herbst
The Rev. Lamont Wells

GUESTS

Pastor Norman White
Mr. Tom Massey
Ms. Mary Heller

Bold = present

Italics = excused absence

*Member of Executive Committee

Observers (AM): Karen Woolley

(PM): Kit Robison

Opening Prayer: Bp. Robert Rimbo

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

- 1. Adoption of the Agenda:** adopted as presented.
- 2. Adoption of the Minutes:** 18 March 2014: adopted as presented.
- 3. Bishop's Report**

A. Congregations

- a. Trinity, White Plains : Pastor Norman White was in attendance to answer questions pertaining to the sale of its parsonage.

ACTION SC14:04/01

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council take no exception to the sale of its parsonage by Trinity Lutheran Church, White Plains.

ADOPTED

- b. St. Luke's, Brooklyn: Ms. Kathleen Schmidt reported.

B. Calls:

- a. Rev. Diane Wildow: *On Leave from Call effective 31 January 2014*

ACTION SC14:04/02

RESOLVED, that the Rev Diane Wildow be granted On Leave from Call status effective January 31, 2014.

ADOPTED

C. Invitation to Extended Service

- a. Rev. Vanessa Cardinale: *annual renewal (Trinity, 46th Street, Brooklyn) thru June 2015*

ACTION SC14:04/03

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council renew the Invitation to Extended Service to the Rev. Vanessa Cardinale serving Trinity Lutheran Church, 46th Street, Brooklyn.

ADOPTED

D. Appointments:

- a. Ms. Leila Johnson: *Reference & Counsel (2014 Synod Assembly)*
b. Ms. Barbara Hansen: *Audit Committee (1 Feb 2014 – 31 Jan 2017)*
c. Rev. Kit Robison: *Audit Committee (re-appointment: 1 Dec 2013 – 30 Nov 2016)*
d. Ms. Eileen Weber: *Audit Committee (re-appointment: 1 Feb 2014 – 31 Jan 2017)*
e. Mr. Marc Karis: *Financial Management Committee (re-appointment: 1 June 2014 – 31 May 2017)*

Bp. Rimbo reported that these appointments had been made. No council action was required.

E. Diaconal Candidates:

The following candidates have been prepared and approved to be set apart as rostered leaders serving in Word and Service ministry. The candidates will be set apart on May 3 – at Holy Trinity, Rockville Centre – at 2pm.

- + Mr. Frank Ali: Eltingville Lutheran Church, Staten Island
- + Ms. Doreen Beitter: Cross of Christ, Babylon
- + Ms. Carole Ann Brosnan: Ascension, Franklin Square
- + Ms. Charlene Drewes: Saint John, Bellmore
- + Dr. Carlos Lopez: Advent, Manhattan
- + Ms. Kathleen Pucci: Abiding Presence, Fort Salonga
- + Mr. Diogenes Vazquetelles Trujillo: St. Paul's, Bronx
- + Ms. Jeanette Surita-Vazquetelles: St. Paul's, Bronx

Bp. Rimbo made this report. No council action was required.

F. Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia

Bp. Rimbo and Ms. Kathleen Schmidt reported on the Estate of the Rev. John Huneke.

Pr. Kit Robison made the following motion:

Whereas, the Rev. John Huneke left a portion of his residuary estate to Reformation Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, NY, and

Whereas, Reformation Lutheran Church was still in existence at the time of the death of John Huneke and therefore the Metropolitan New York Synod will receive this money as part of the property of Reformation, and

Whereas, John Huneke had provided in his will that if Reformation Lutheran Church was not in existence at the time of his death, that bequest would be distributed 50% to the Philadelphia Seminary and 50% to the John Huneke Scholarship Fund.

RESOLVED, that the money the Metropolitan New York Synod receives from the Estate of John Huneke shall be distributed in equal shares to the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and the Fund for Leaders of the Metropolitan New York Synod.

After being seconded and discussed, this motion was defeated.

Mr. Christopher Vergara made the following motion:

Whereas, the Rev. John Huneke left a portion of his residuary estate to Reformation Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, NY, and

Whereas, Reformation Lutheran Church was still in existence at the time of the death of John Huneke and therefore the Metropolitan New York Synod will receive this money as part of the property of Reformation, and

Whereas, John Huneke had provided in his will that if Reformation Lutheran Church was not in existence at the time of his death, that bequest would be distributed 50% to the Philadelphia Seminary and 50% to the John Huneke Scholarship Fund.

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod retain 10% of the money received from the Estate of John Huneke and that the balance be distributed in equal shares to the Fund for Leaders of the ELCA and the Philadelphia Seminary.

After being seconded and discussed, this motion was defeated.

Dcn. John Malone made the following motion:

Whereas, the Rev. John Huneke left a portion of his residuary estate to Reformation Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, NY, and

Whereas, Reformation Lutheran Church was still in existence at the time of the death of John Huneke and therefore the Metropolitan New York Synod will receive this money as part of the property of Reformation, and

Whereas, John Huneke had provided in his will that if Reformation Lutheran Church was not in existence at the time of his death, that bequest would be distributed 50% to the Philadelphia Seminary and 50% to the John Huneke Scholarship Fund.

RESOLVED, that the money received from the Estate of John Huneke because Reformation Lutheran Church was in existence at the time of John Huneke's death, be distributed in accordance with the provisions of the will of John Huneke as if Reformation had been closed, with 50% going to Philadelphia Seminary and 50% going to the John Huneke Scholarship Fund.

After being seconded and discussed this motion was carried.

ACTION SC14:04/04

RESOLVED, that the money received from the Estate of John Huneke because Reformation Lutheran Church was in existence at the time of John Huneke's death, be distributed in accordance with the provisions of the will of John Huneke as if Reformation had been closed, with 50% going to Philadelphia Seminary and 50% going to the John Huneke Scholarship Fund.

ADOPTED

4. Treasurer's Report :

- A. Mission Support update **EXHIBIT A**
- B. March Financials **EXHIBIT B**
- C. Proposed budgets (under New Business)

5. Old Business

- A. Congregations under synod administration/Synod properties **EXHIBIT C**

- a. Property formerly Bethlehem, Bronx (327 Bolton Avenue)

ACTION SC14:04/05

RESOLVED, that a contract may be negotiated and entered into for the sale of the property formerly known as Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 327 Bolton Avenue, Bronx, NY, for a sale price of not less than \$550,000, with formal approval of any sale to be made at a future meeting of the Synod Council.

ADOPTED

- b. Reformation, Brooklyn. Ms. Kathleen Schmidt reported that the Gathered Committee is examining potential uses for this property.

B. Congregational Loan Status: **EXHIBIT D**

C. MNYS Stewardship Plan:

Pr. Craig Miller reported that further amendments need to be made to the Mission Support and Stewardship Plan.

D. Resolution to Create one MNYS Nominations and Elections Committee (from 2013):
This was referred to Executive Committee for approval of resolution to bring to Synod Assembly

E. Grace, North Branch

Grace's request has been placed on the May 13 EC agenda.

6. Synod Assembly

A. SA2014 registration updates: Ms. Rebekah Thornhill reported.

B. SA2014 proposed agenda: this motion was brought by the Executive Committee,

ACTION SC14:04/06

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council adopt the agenda for the May 29 – 31 2014 Synod Assembly as presented.

ADOPTED

C. SA2014 Rules & Procedures

ACTION SC14:04/07

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council adopt the Standing Rules for the May 29 – 31 2014 Synod Assembly as presented.

ADOPTED

D. Nomination(s) for Synod Secretary :

Pr. Edward Barnett's name was put forward Pr. Paul Milholland
Pr. Robert Schoepflin's name was put forward by Pr. William Baum.

ACTION SC14:04/08

RESOLVED, that the Rev. Robert Schoepflin and the Rev. Edward Barnett are nominated for the office of synod secretary.

ADOPTED

E. Bishop Election: VP Del Toro reviewed the responsibilities of the Synod Council with respect to the election at the assembly and leading up to the assembly. She reported that the letter from the Bishop Election Committee and the biographies of the nominees have been translated into Spanish and posted on the Synod website.

She asked members of the Synod Council to volunteer to shadow the nominees and the assembly. Pr. Rosalind Brathwaite, Dcn. John Malone, Pr. Brenda Irving, Mr. Christopher Vergara, Dcn. John Prosen, Ms. Savanah Lochansingh, Mr. Gene Hiigel, Dcn. Carlos Lopez, Ms. Barbara Hansen, and Ms. Barbara Johnson volunteered.

VP Del Toro reported that Ms. Barbara Hansen has been appointed as the Synod Council liaison to work with the Bishop Election Committee as the assembly.

F. Report of the Bishop Election Committee:

Ms. Mary Heller, Chairperson of the Bishop Election Committee reported on the work of the committee and how it made its decision on the six nominees.

7. Strategic Plan / Steering Committee:

A. Report of the Steering Committee :

VP Del Toro and Mr. Tom Massey reported on the presentations that are being prepared for the Synod Assembly and on the Friday evening forums that will be offered at the assembly.

a. Pilot Projects update:

Pr. Marc Herbst reported on the pilot projects.

b. Communications Consultant update given by Pr. Marc Herbst

B. Key Strategy Committee Reports

a. GATHERED:

i. Innovation Team presentation

ii. Proposed grant application forms: **EXHIBIT E**

ACTION SC14:04/09

RESOLVED, that the criteria and application procedures for the Sower's Project, the Ministry Cost-Saving Program, and the Challenge Grant Program for Capital Improvements, Leadership Development, Website Assistance, and Strategic Planning, be adopted as presented by the Gathered Committee.

ADOPTED

iii. Proposed SC resolution to Increase Availability of Facility Development Services to Interested Conferences:

Pr. William Baum presented the following resolution from the Gathered Committee.

Whereas, the Metropolitan New York Synod adopted a resolution (ACTION SC13:12/02) to contract with Daxko / T2 Consulting in a Facility Portfolio Assessment & Re-positioning Initiative of the Bronx Conference, as defined in the Facility Development Services proposal (29 October 2013); and

Whereas it is the strong desire of the synod council that the congregations of the Bronx Conference avail themselves of this initiative and the synod council encourages the gathered committee to communicate this desire to the congregations of the Bronx Conference and find ways to facilitate with the congregations of the Conference conversation about the details of the initiative; and

Whereas, the synod council appropriated funding for the implementation of services that may exceed actual participation of invited congregations within the Bronx Conference; and

Whereas, other conferences throughout the synod have expressed a strong desire for their congregations to avail themselves to services provided through the contractual agreement between the synod and Daxko / T2 Consulting.

Resolved, that the Metropolitan New York Synod approves funding previously authorized for expenditures in any congregation designated through Facility Portfolio Assessment & Repositioning Initiative of the Bronx Conference, as defined in the Facility Development Services proposal (29 October 2013), be made available for similar use in congregations located in other conferences, only if Daxko / T2 Consulting is not provided access for a site visit of a Bronx Congregation on or before June 1, 2014.

ACTION SC14:04/10

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod approves funding previously authorized for expenditures in any congregation designated through Facility Portfolio Assessment & Repositioning Initiative of the Bronx Conference, as defined in the Facility Development Services proposal (29 October 2013), be made available for similar use in congregations located in other conferences, only if Daxko / T2 Consulting is not provided access for a site visit of a Bronx Congregation on or before June 1, 2014.

ADOPTED (1 opposed, 1 abstention)

- b. CLAIMED : no report
- c. SENT :
Ms. Barbara Johnson reported on the information gathered from a survey of congregations that will be shared with the Assembly.
- d. Financial Management Committee (FMC): report given as part of budget presentation.

8. New Business

- A. Trexler Grant: *Rev. James Watrud*

ACTION SC14:04/11

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve a \$1000 Trexler Grant for the Rev. James Watrud for travel to the Festival of Homiletics in Minneapolis, MN in May 2014.

ADOPTED

- B. Revised 2014 Budget : **EXHIBIT F**
- C. Proposed 2015 Budget: **EXHIBIT G**
Mr. Frank Suttell and Mr. Edward Wagner presented the Revised 2014 Budget and Proposed 2015 Budget.

ACTION SC14:04/12

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council recommend to the Synod Assembly on May 31, 2014, that it adopt the revised budget for 2014 and the proposed budget for 2015.

ADOPTED

9. Other Reports

- A. ELCA Church Council: **EXHIBIT H**
- B. MNYS Disaster Coordinator: **EXHIBIT I**

10. Announcements/Events

- A. Bishop Candidate Forums: 6:30 – 8:30 pm
 - May 7: Good Shepherd, Brooklyn
 - May 8: Saint Peter's, Manhattan
 - May 9: St. John's, Poughkeepsie
 - May 10: Gloria Dei, Huntington Station

VP Del Toro thanked the Synod Council members whose term ends with this April SC meeting:

- Christine Connell

April 26, 2014
APPROVED 6/24/14

Synod Council of the Metropolitan New York Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
MINUTES

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- Charlie Germain
- Barbara Hansen (nominated for re-election)
- Gene Hiigel
- Savannah Lochansingh
- Carlos Lopez
- John Malone (nominated for re-election)
- Minerva Melendez
- Pr. Paul Milholland
- Pr. Craig Miller (nominated for re-election)
- Pr. Kit Robison

11. Observer's Evaluation

12. Closing Devotions: Bp. Rimbo led us in closing devotions.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Schoepflin, Secretary