

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Leonel E. Avila 2020
***Ms. Cynthia Corley** 2020
***Ms. Maria del Toro, Vice President** 2018
The Rev. Justin Johnson 2018
Ms. Tabitha Johnson (youth) 2018
The Rev. Amy Kienzle 2018
Mr. John Litke 2018
Dr. Carlos Lopez 2018
Synod Dcn. John Malone 2018
Ms. Karen Maulen 2018
The Rev. Christopher Mietlowski 2020
Mr. Walter Nash 2018
***The Rev. Jeanine Owens** 2020
The Rev. Daniel Peter 2018
Synod Dcn. John Prosen 2020
***The Rev. Robert A. Rimbo, Bishop** 2020
Ms. Denise Rutherford-Gill 2020
**The Rev. Harry Schenkel* 2018
***The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Sect.** 2018
The Rev. Nicole Schwalbe 2020
The Rev. Garry Squire 2020
Ms. Wendy Bean Tannenbaum 2018
Ms. Abby Triebel 2020
Ms. Emma Turner (Young Adult) 2020
***Mr. Christopher Vergara** 2020
Ms. Karen Woolley 2020

AUXILIARY MEMBERS

STAFF

Dcn. Margy Schmitt Ajer
Ms. Susan Brandt
The Rev. Perucy Butiku
Mr. Roberto Lara
The Rev. Jonathan Linman
Synod Deacon Gayle Ruege
Ms. Kathleen Schmidt
The Rev. Lamont Wells

GUESTS

Bold = present

Italics = excused absence

*Member of Executive Committee

Devotions: *Synod Deacon John Malone*

Observer: *Wendy Bean Tannenbaum*

Call to Order: *Ms. Maria del Toro*

1. Adoption of the Agenda: adopted as presented.

2. Adoption of the Minutes: adopted as presented.

A. Synod Council: 23 September 2017

3. Conflict of Interest Policy / Disclosure Statement

Members signed and turned in for filing in Synod office.

4. Tell Your Story: ELCA Deacon Carleen Miller, Senior Director of Operations for Church World Service shared her story. She works in the refugee and immigration program of CWS.

5. Bishop's Report

A. Calls

a. The Rev. Dr. Deborah Hafner DeWinter: *renewal Contract for Extended Service*

ACTION SC17:10/01

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council renew the Invitation to Extended Service to The Rev. Dr. Deborah DeWinter serving First Lutheran Church, Poughkeepsie effective 30 September 2017 – 30 September 2018.

ADOPTED

b. The Rev. Samuel Silaban: *Chaplain, LSSNY effective 1 Nov 2017*

ACTION SC17:10/02

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to The Rev. Samuel Silaban as Chaplain, serving Lutheran Social Services New York and Eger Lutheran Homes and Services effective 1 November 2017.

ADOPTED

c. The Rev. Robert Vogl: *OLFC extension effective 7 September 2017*

ACTION SC17:10/03

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend On Leave from Call Status to The Rev. Robert Vogl for two (2) years, renewable annually effective 7 Sep 2017.

ADOPTED

d. The Rev. Patt Kauffman: *retirement status effective 1 November 2017*

ACTION SC17:10/04

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council acknowledge retirement status for The Rev. Patt Kauffman effective 1 November 2017.

ADOPTED

B. Appointments

a. The Rev. Marianne Tomecek: *Anti-racism Strategy Enabler*

Bishop Rimbo announced that he had made this appointment.

C. Reformation 500 events

Pr. Jonathan Linman reported.

a. October 31 Ecumenical Judicatory gathering

b. November 1 Commemoration / Festival Eucharist

Mr. Roberto Lara reported that event will be live-streamed on several social media sources.

6. Mission Support Report

Ms. Kathleen Schmidt reported that September mission support improved but was still behind projections.

7. Strategic Plan

A. Report of the Strategic Plan Working Group

VP Maria del Toro reported on the work of the planning group. Chairs of the strategic committees will be invited to report at the December SC meeting.

The Strategic Plan Working Group met on Oct 10. Strategy Chairs brought updates and reports as they focus on their priorities defined in the plan refresh.

- Claimed: First Third Ministry (ages 0-30)
- Gathered: Leadership development
- Sent: Anti-racism / immigration and advocacy

B. Congregation Capital Improvement Challenge Grants

Ms. Sue Brandt presented the grants that were recommended by the Grant Review Team and approved by the Executive Committee. 37 congregations submitted proposals for 58 projects. Pr. Chris Mietlowski led council in prayer before the vote.

ACTION SC17:10/05

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the Congregation Capital Improvement Grants proposed by the Congregation Capital Improvement Grant Review Team and recommended by the Executive Committee.

ADOPTED, with 3 abstentions from pastors of congregations that were awarded grants.

8. New Business

Item 8.D. was addressed next.

A. Property formerly Trinity, St. Albans: List for sale

Trinity, St. Albans had its final service on August 27. The Gathered Strategy Committee recommended to the Executive Committee that the properties be listed for sale.

ACTION SC17:10/07

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council list for the sale the properties of the former Trinity Lutheran Church, located at 200-02 119th Avenue, St. Albans, NY and 119-11 200th Street, St. Albans, NY.

ADOPTED

B. HSBC signatories

ACTION SC17:10/08

RESOLVED, that Kathleen Koran, Frank Suttell and Rebekah Thornhill be removed as authorized signatories on the synod's account with HSBC Bank and that Susan Brandt and Margaret Schmitt Ajer be added as authorized signatories on the HSBC account.

ADOPTED

C. Fifth Avenue Committee: contract extension

Ms. Kathleen Schmidt reported on the need for the contract extension.

ACTION SC17:10/09

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend the contract with FAC 6309 Fourth Avenue LP for the property located at 6307 Fourth Avenue, Brooklyn through June 30, 2018 in accordance with the terms of the Second Amendment to Purchase and Sale Agreement.

ADOPTED (18 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

D. Merger Proposal: Incarnation, Cedarhurst / St. John's, Lynbrook

VP del Toro gave the following report:

In the summer of 2015, leaders from Incarnation, Cedarhurst and St. John's, Lynbrook began to explore a merger possibility with the formation of a joint congregation merger committee.

The synod office provided the joint committee with the document titled "Practical Steps and Expectations for Congregations to Consider when Contemplating Congregational Mergers /Consolidations" in May 2016.

The congregations completed their proposal in accordance with the document and submitted the required transitional documents (financial reviews & property assessments) with the proposed Mission Plan to the Bishop's office for review by the Synod Council.

After careful review and prayerful consideration by the Executive Committee, EC recommends to the SC the approval of the proposal for merger of these congregations if the proposed mission plan includes the following stipulations / provisions:

1. Re-evaluate the proposed name of the merged congregation. St. John of the Incarnation is not theologically sound.
2. In acknowledgement of our interdependence, the financial plan should include a stewardship plan for the support of mission in partnership with our synod and churchwide organization. Additionally, the stewardship plan should also consider that a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the Incarnation property be shared with our synod.
3. The members of the merged congregation agree to engage evangelism training with a focus on the great potential for a multicultural expansion as depicted in the demographics of the community.

VP del Toro then invited the pastors and members of the two congregations to address the council.

Pr. Chang led the council in prayer before the vote.

ACTION SC17:10/06

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council consider and approve the proposal for merger submitted by the congregations of the Lutheran Church of the Incarnation, Cedarhurst and St. John's English Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lynbrook with the following provisions:

1. **The merged congregation be named St. John – Incarnation Lutheran Church**
2. **The merged congregation's financial plan include a stewardship plan that supports mission and ministry in partnership with the Metropolitan New York Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.**
3. **The merged congregation gift a portion from the proceeds of the sale of the Incarnation property to the Metropolitan New York Synod.**

ADOPTED

After vote, council returned to adopted agenda.

9. Old Business

- A. Synod Properties / Congregations under synod administration:**
- B. Supporting Organization**
 - 1. Certificate of Incorporation**
 - 2. By laws**
 - 3. Conflict of Interest Policy**

4. Whistleblower Policy

Consideration of this was deferred until the December Synod Council meeting.

C. SA Actions (Pending)

- SA2015:05.08 / MNYS Disaster Response Task Force
- 2016 SA Actions
 1. SA2016:05.4 On Mission Partnerships
 2. SA2016:05.11 On Advocacy and Justice for Refugees

10. Announcements

Pr. Butiko reminded the council of the anti-racism training event on October 21 and the AMMPARO event on November 11.

11. Observers' Evaluation

Meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm with blessing by Bishop Rimbo.

There is NO Executive Committee or Synod Council meeting in November

Next Executive Committee Meeting: Dec 5, 2017 *

Next Synod Council Meeting: Tuesday, Dec 12, 2017

***Proposed items for the Synod Council agenda should be submitted to Gayle Ruege (gruege@mnys.org) for consideration by the Executive Committee on or before Nov 28.**

All committees are to provide a digital copy of meeting minutes to Regina Daniels (rdaniels@mnys.org) for the synod files.

**Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Secretary**