

***MINUTES OF THE
TWENTY-NINTH REGULAR SYNOD ASSEMBLY OF THE
METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA***

+

“WE ARE CHURCH TOGETHER”

August 20-21, 2021

With the wellbeing of voting members a top priority, the Assembly was held virtually. Zoom was used for presentations, discussions, voting and registration. The agenda, reports, budget and other information were presented on the 2021 Synod Assembly Platform.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 2021

PLENARY SESSION I

At 9:02 am Bishop Egensteiner called the first plenary session to order.

Bishop Egensteiner welcomed the voting members and set forth the procedures for this first digital assembly.

Bishop Egensteiner then introduced the Synod Assembly Coordinator, Pastor Paul Johnsen, and Assembly Planning Committee Chair, Ms. Elizabeth Hoffmann, thanking them, along with the entire Assembly Planning Committee, Synod staff, and volunteers for their work in the coordination of the Assembly.

Bishop Egensteiner then introduced the Assembly Chaplain, The Rev. Leticia Alanis, and The Rev. Albert Starr as the ELCA representative to the Assembly.

Bishop Egensteiner then introduced The Rev. C. Anderson James, as Parliamentarian, The Rev. William Kroeze, as Chair of the Worship Committee, The Rev. Kevin O’Hara, as Chair of the Nominations and Election Committee, and The Rev. James Krauser, as Chair of the Committee on Reference and Counsel.

Bishop Egensteiner then introduced the Synod staff:

Ms. Karen Falco, Chief Operating Officer;

S.Dcn. Gayle Ruege, Executive Assistant to the Bishop;

Mr. Branden Dupree, Director for Evangelical Mission;

Mr. Roberto Lara, Assistant for Communications and Development;

The Rev. Gladys Diaz, The Rev. Christopher Mietlowski and The Rev. Kevin Vandiver, Assistants to the Bishop who serve as his deployed staff;

S.Scen. Donna-Mari Fieldsa, Director for Finance, Administration and Grant Management;

Mr. Mark Goodwin, Manager for Synod-owned properties;

Ms. Regina Daniels, Ms. Kaitlin Kowalec, Ms. Claire Mazza, Ms. Maria Rodes, Ms. Nancy Lindeburg, Administrative Support Staff; and Ms. Ardash Heard, Ms. Dee Scholz-Beyer, and Ms. Joan Swartz, office volunteers.

Introduction of Conference of Deans

Bishop Egensteiner introduced the Conference of Deans.

- The Rev. Sonja Maclary: Hudson
- The Rev. Mary Lou Baumgartner: Delaware Hudson
- The Rev. Jennifer Boyd and The Rev. James O’Hanlon: Tappan Zee
- The Rev. Micah Stumme: Eastern Nassau
- The Rev. Robert Cederstrom: Western Nassau
- The Rev. David Anglada: Southwest Nassau
- The Rev. Paul Downing: Peconic
- The Rev. Joanne Bond: Western Suffolk
- The Rev. Marcia Parkinson-Harrison: Southeast Queens
- The Rev. Analyse Triolo: Northeast Queens
- The Rev. Jeanne Warfield (recently retired) and the Rev. Joseph Montobani (newly appointed): Western Queens
- The Rev. David Parsons: Brooklyn Bridges
- The Rev. Harriet Wieber: South Shore Brooklyn
- The Rev. Khader Khalilia: Southwest Brooklyn
- The Rev. Khader Khalilia: Southwest Brooklyn
- The Rev. John Flack: Manhattan
- The Rev. Wolfgang Laudert: Staten Island

The assembly then viewed a video on Parliamentary Procedure followed by a review of Assembly resources published on the 2021 Assembly Platform.

Then followed the introduction of The Rev. Kevin O’Hara, Chair of Nominations and Elections, who gave a report on the election process and noted that the report of the committee is published on the 2021 Assembly Platform.

Digital Voting Process

Mr. Roberto Lara explained the digital voting process and led the voting members through a practice of the process.

Report of the Committee on Registration

Ms. Elizabeth Hoffmann gave the first registration report.

Lay Voting Members	110
Rostered Leaders	87
Total Voting Members	197
Visitors	<u>17</u>
Total Attendance	214

Adoption of Agenda

Bishop Egensteiner gave instructions on the procedure for addressing issues and raising questions, including going to certain breakout rooms on the Zoom platform.

The agenda for the assembly was adopted as presented. View the agenda [HERE](#).

Adoption of Rules of the Assembly

The Rules were adopted as presented.

Introduction of Synod Officers and Synod Council

Bishop Egensteiner introduced the officers and council to the Assembly.

Ms. Renee Wicklund, Vice President
The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Secretary
Mr. John Litke, Treasurer
Mr. Leonel Avila,
Mr. Adam Campbell (Youth Representative),
Ms. Cynthia Corley, (Executive Committee)
The Rev. Chryll Crews, (Executive Committee)
S. Dcn. Stephen Daniels,
The Rev. George Dietrich,
Mr. David Ehlers,
Ms. Hazel Goldstein,
The Rev. Marva Jenkins,
Mr. Erich Markert,
Ms. Lily Sage Mathias,
Ms. Isabell Mendoza-Garcia,
The Rev. Jeanine Owens, (Executive Committee)
The Rev. David Parsons,
The Rev. Daniel Peter Penumaka,
S.Dcn. Denise Rutherford-Gill,
Mr. Thomas Sargent,
Cecil “Chip” Spurlock-Shackelton,
The Rev. Gary Squire, (Executive Committee)
The Rev. Brooke Swertfager,
Ms. Wendy Bean Tannenbaum,
Ms. Emma Turner, and
S. Dcn. Anita Martin-Williams.

Report of the Vice President

VP Renee Wicklund gave her report to the Assembly via video.

Presentation of Revised 2022 Budget and Proposed 2023 Budget

Treasurer John Litke presented the Revised 2022 Budget and Proposed 2023 Budget. He moved adoption of the budgets on behalf of the Synod Council, noting that no second was needed for the motion. View the financial materials [HERE](#).

Anniversaries of Rostered Leaders and Congregations

A video was presented celebrating the anniversaries of 2020 and 2021.

Announcements

Ms. Elizabeth Hoffman made announcements.

Assembly Chaplain, Pr. Leticia Alanis closed the session with prayer at 10:45am.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 2021

PLENARY SESSION II

Bishop Egensteiner opened the second plenary session at 11:02am and asked Pastor Leticia Alanis to lead the assembly in prayer.

Report of the Committee on Registration

Ms. Elizabeth Hoffmann gave the second registration report.

Lay Voting Members	112
Rostered Leaders	96
Total Voting Members	208
Visitors	<u>19</u>
Total Attendance	227

Bishop’s Report

Bishop Egensteiner presented his report by video.

First Common Ballot

Bishop Egensteiner invited Pr. Kevin O’Hara to conduct voting on the first common ball

ACTION SA2021:08.01

Elected to Synod Council:

The Rev. Dr. Kimerly Wilson

The Rev. George Dietrich

The Rev. Brooke Swertfager

The Rev. Gary Squire

Ms. Lily Sage Mathius

The Rev. Jeanine Owens

Mr. Erich Markert

Mx. Anna Moritz

Mr. Aidan Z. Sargent

ACTION SA2021:08.02

Elected to Consultation Committee:
S.Dcn. Paul Lumpkin

ACTION SA2021:08.03

Elected to Discipline Committee:
The Rev. William Baum
S.Dcn. Tracy Hill

Executive Staff Reports

Mr. Brandon Dupree, The Rev. Gladys Diaz, The Rev. Christopher Mietlowski, and The Rev. Kevin Vandiver each presented video reports on their work.

Report of the Committee on Registration

Ms. Elizabeth Hoffmann gave the third registration report.

Lay Voting Members	124
Rostered Leaders	100
Total Voting Members	224
Visitors	<u>13</u>
Total Attendance	237

Reference and Counsel

Bishop Egensteiner explained the procedure for speaking in favor of or opposition to a resolution or memorial by joining the appropriate breakout room. He then invited Pr. James Krauser to present the first item for consideration.

RESOLUTION A:

REMEMBERING THE WORLD IS A VILLAGE: GLOBAL PANDEMIC 21ST CENTURY

Whereas, in 2019 when the world first learned of the severity of this novel coronavirus named COVID-19; and on March 1st, 2020 when the first medically documented case was identified in New York State; and

Whereas, COVID-19 was first located overseas in 2019 and spread quickly throughout the globe showing how interconnected (village) we truly are; and

Whereas, the pandemic uncovered denigrating and discriminatory experiences of many people; and

Whereas, the church is called to reflect in church and society its roles of advocate and model for the respect, dignity, and equal rights due all people; and

Whereas, this church is simultaneously addressing racism and justice in its social statements; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod comprised of 17 unique conferences, which have all suffered the loss of beloved stewards, invite all of our worshipping bodies to commemorate the first Sunday in March 2022 (March 6) and 2025 (March

2) as a joint *Remembrance of the Loss of Our Beloved Siblings to COVID-19* throughout the state and especially within our congregations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Synod and its conferences*:

1. include locally a celebration and special recognition of loved ones; and also
2. honor and lift up first responders; and also
3. honor and lift up essential workers; and also
4. honor and lift up educators; and also
5. continue to fight and advocate for fair medical treatment, practice and affordable care for all persons; and also
6. lift up all persons regardless of race, sexual orientation and class understanding that we are a village and have come to fully realize what happens in one part of the globe can happen globally if we do not act responsibly together.

*-Bronx, Brooklyn Bridges, Delaware Hudson (Orange, Rockland and Sullivan counties), Eastern Nassau, Hudson (Ulster and Dutchess counties), Manhattan, Northeast Queens, Peconic (Eastern Suffolk County), South Shore Brooklyn, Southeast Queens, Southwest Brooklyn, Southwest Nassau, Staten Island, Tappan Zee (Putnam and Westchester counties), Western Nassau, Western Queens, Western Suffolk

*Prayerfully submitted by
The South Shore Brooklyn Conference
The Rev. Harriet Weber, Convener*

Pr. Krauser reported that the Committee on Reference and Counsel recommends adoption, after which Pr. Harriet Weber spoke in support of the resolution.

After the motion to adopt was seconded, the resolution was adopted.

ACTION SA2021:08.04

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod comprised of 17 unique conferences, which have all suffered the loss of beloved stewards, invite all of our worshipping bodies to commemorate the first Sunday in March 2022 (March 6) and 2025 (March 2) as a joint *Remembrance of the Loss of Our Beloved Siblings to COVID-19* throughout the state and especially within our congregations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Synod and its conferences*:

1. include locally a celebration and special recognition of loved ones; and also
2. honor and lift up first responders; and also
3. honor and lift up essential workers; and also
4. honor and lift up educators; and also
5. continue to fight and advocate for fair medical treatment, practice and affordable care for all persons; and also
6. lift up all persons regardless of race, sexual orientation and class understanding that we are a village and have come to fully realize what happens in one part of the globe can happen globally if we do not act responsibly together.

ADOPTED

In Memoriam

A video in remembrance of rostered leaders who entered the Church Triumphant in the last two years was presented.

Following the video Bishop Egensteiner offered a prayer and then invited Ms. Elizabeth Hoffmann to make announcements.

The plenary session was closed with prayer by Pr. Leticia Alanis at 12:50pm.

Service of the Word was held via Facebook and YouTube at 3:00 pm.
A “Virtual Cocktail Hour” was held at 5:00 pm.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 2021

PLENARY SESSION III

Bishop Egensteiner opened the third plenary session at 9:01 am and asked Pastor Leticia Alanis to lead the assembly in prayer.

Report of the Committee on Registration

Ms. Elizabeth Hoffmann gave the fourth registration report.

Lay Voting Members	105
Rostered Leaders	64
Total Voting Members	169
Visitors	<u>11</u>
Total Attendance	180

Second Common Ballot

Bishop Egensteiner invited Pr. Kevin O’Hara to conduct voting on the second common ballot.

ACTION SA2021:08.04

Elected as voting members to Churchwide Assembly:

The Rev. Linda Bell
The Rev. Christopher Mietlowski
S.Dcn. Roberta C. Detmers
Mr. John Litke
Mr. Edgar Guerrero
Ms. Cynthia Corley
Mr. Christopher Vergara
The Rev. Justin Johnson
The Rev. Jennifer E. Boyd
Ms. Hazel Goldstein

ACTION SA2021:08.05

Elected to Synod Council:

Ms. Cynthia Corley

ACTION SA2021:08.06

Elected to Consultation Committee:

The Rev. Khader Khalilia

ELCA Churchwide Report

The Rev. Albert Starr, Director for Ethnic Specific, Multicultural Ministries and Racial Justice Team for the ELCA thanked our Synod for its mission support and then presented a video report.

Reference and Counsel

Bishop Egensteiner once again explained the procedure for speaking in favor of or opposition to a resolution or memorial by joining the appropriate breakout room. He then invited Pr. James Krauser to present the first item for consideration.

RESOLUTION C:

TO EMPOWER AND EDUCATE BELIEVERS ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Whereas, the power to uplift the marginalized was demonstrated in Acts 8 with the conversation with and subsequent baptism of the Ethiopian eunuch, a genderqueer believer of color; and.

Whereas, 1 John 3:18 teaches us “Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action”; and

Whereas, we are called to testify to the presence of God’s gifted people throughout history, many of whom have been/are overlooked and dismissed, yet remain and persevere as witnesses to gospel love; and.

Whereas, oftentimes the unique perspective of Women, particularly Black and Brown Women, Women of Color, and members of the LGBTQIA+ community bring a fuller depth and breadth of perspective as a whole church in Jesus; and

Whereas, the creation of safe, respectful spaces allows open communication for followers of Christ to have a voice for their trauma when empathy is lacking and violence is perpetuated against marginalized people; and

Whereas, honoring Christ’s call to embrace the marginalized in increasingly authentic, respectful, and responsive manners calls us to resist undercutting one another and validate all persons, as lifted in Christ’s prayer from John 17 “protect them in your name...so that they may be one, as we are one”; and

Whereas, our community of faith becomes stronger and further aligned with the teachings of the gospel when we acknowledge diversity and intersectionality within the body of Christ. This is vital for believers in this Metropolitan New York Synod who are particularly gifted for modeling the ultimate value of all people that the Lord graciously gives; and

Whereas, the Voting Members of the 2019 Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly voted to "engage or accept a qualified facilitator from outside this synod to lead us through the Bridgebuilder process" only to have it postponed due to public health closures of 2020; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod create discussion programs, including but not limited to coordinated conference-wide discussion groups, to address the intersection of issues of racial justice and faith by the spring of 2022; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Anti-Racism Committee, Evangelism Task Force, and any other appropriate committees of the Metropolitan New York Synod use their resources to work together to incorporate these issues into a cohesive message of inclusion and acceptance by the 2022 Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly.

Submitted by:

S. Deacon Candidate Lois C. Jenkins, Trinity, Middle Village

*S. Deacon Gwen Miller, Lily Sage Mathias, S. Deacon Roberta Detmers, Congregation Council
Member Maritza Tamayo, Trinity, Astoria/LIC*

The Rev. Analyse Triolo, Pastor, Holy Trinity, Bellerose, Dean, Northeastern Queens Conference

The Rev. Karen Kuttler, Rostered Minister

The Rev. Jeanne R. Warfield, past Dean, Western Queens Conference

The Rev. Leticia Alanis, Pastor/Mission Developer, All Saints/Todos los Santos, Woodhaven.

Pr. Krauser reported that the Committee on Reference and Counsel recommends adoption, after which Ms. Lily Sage Mathius spoke in support of the resolution. After the motion to adopt was seconded, the resolution was adopted.

ACTION SA2021:08.07

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod create discussion programs, including but not limited to coordinated conference-wide discussion groups, to address the intersection of issues of racial justice and faith by the spring of 2022; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Anti-Racism Committee, Evangelism Task Force, and any other appropriate committees of the Metropolitan New York Synod use their resources to work together to incorporate these issues into a cohesive message of inclusion and acceptance by the 2022 Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly.

ADOPTED

Pr. Krauser next presented Memorial A.

MEMORIAL A:

TO EMPOWER AND EDUCATE BELIEVERS ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Whereas, the power to uplift the marginalized was demonstrated in Acts 8 with the conversation with and subsequent baptism of the Ethiopian eunuch, a genderqueer believer of color; and

Whereas, 1 John 3:18 teaches us “Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action”;

Whereas, we are called to testify to the presence of God’s gifted people throughout history, many of whom have been/are overlooked and dismissed, yet remain and persevere as witnesses to gospel love;

Whereas, oftentimes the unique perspective of Women, particularly Black and Brown Women, Women of Color, and members of the LGBTQIA+ community bring a fuller depth and breadth of perspective as a whole church in Jesus;

Whereas, the creation of safe, respectful spaces allows open communication for followers of Christ to have a voice for their trauma when empathy is lacking and violence is perpetuated against marginalized people;

Whereas, honoring Christ’s call to embrace the marginalized in increasingly authentic, respectful, and responsive manners calls us to resist undercutting one another and validate all persons, as lifted in Christ’s prayer from John 17 “protect them in your name...so that they may be one, as we are one”;

Whereas, a community of faith becomes stronger and further aligned with the teachings of the gospel when we acknowledge diversity and intersectionality within the body of Christ;
Whereas, this diversity and inclusion is vital for believers to model the ultimate value of all people that the Lord so graciously gives; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod memorialize the 2022 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to commit to create discussion programs, including but not limited to coordinated church-wide discussion groups, to address the intersection of issues of racial justice and faith; and be it further
RESOLVED, the life and ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America be empowered to use resources to work together to incorporate these issues into a cohesive message of inclusion and acceptance.

Submitted by:

S. Deaconal Candidate Lois C. Jenkins, Trinity, Middle Village

*S. Deacon Gwen Miller, Lily Sage Mathias, S. Deacon Roberta Detmers, Congregation Council
Member Maritza Tamayo, Trinity, Astoria/LIC*

The Rev. Analyse Triolo, Pastor, Holy Trinity, Bellerose, Dean, Northeastern Queens Conference

The Rev. Karen Kuttler, Rostered Minister

The Rev. Jeanne R. Warfield, past Dean, Western Queens Conference

The Rev. Leticia Alanis, Pastor/Mission Developer, All Saints/Todos los Santos, Woodhaven

Pr. Krauser reported that it is a parallel to Resolution C and that the Committee on Reference and Counsel recommends adoption. After Ms. Lily Sage Mathius spoke in favor of the memorial.

After the motion to adopt was seconded, the memorial was adopted.

ACTION SA2021:08.08

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod memorialize the 2022 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to commit to create discussion programs, including but not limited to coordinated church-wide discussion groups, to address the intersection of issues of racial justice and faith; and be it further
RESOLVED, the life and ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America be empowered to use resources to work together to incorporate these issues into a cohesive message of inclusion and acceptance.

ADOPTED

Executive Staff Reports

Ms. Karen Falco, S.Dcn. Gayle Ruege, Mr. Roberto Lara, and S.Dcn. Donna-Mari Fieldsa presented video reports.

Adoption of Revised 2022 and Proposed 2023 Budgets

Bishop Egensteiner invited Treasure John Litke to speak. Mr. Litke reported that no valid amendments to the budgets were received. The budgets were adopted.

ACTION SA2021:08.09

Adopted a Revised Budget of \$4,827,132 for F.Y. 2022
Adopted a Proposed Budget of \$4,335,808 for F.Y. 2023
ADOPTED

Bishop Egensteiner invited Ms. Elizabeth Hoffmann to make announcements, after which Pr. Leticia Alanis closed the session with prayer at 10:41 am.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 2021

PLENARY SESSION IV

Bishop Egensteiner opened the fourth plenary session at 11:00 am and asked Pastor Leticia Alanis to lead the assembly in prayer.

Report of the Committee on Registration

Ms. Elizabeth Hoffmann gave the fifth and final registration report.

Lay Voting Members	118
Rostered Leaders	72
Total Voting Members	190
Visitors	<u>11</u>
Total Attendance	201

Reference and Counsel

Bishop Egensteiner once again explained the procedure for speaking in favor of or opposition to a resolution or memorial by joining the appropriate breakout room. He then invited Pr. James Krauser to present the item for consideration.

RESOLUTION B:

A CONDEMNATION OF STATE-SANCTIONED VIOLENCE

Whereas, hundreds of Black lives are taken by American police every year;

Whereas, Black persons killed by police are more likely to be unarmed than white persons killed by police;

Whereas, Black male teens are twenty-one times more likely to be killed by police than white male teens;

Whereas, over 98% of police killings result in no charges for the officer(s) involved;

Whereas, in Lutheran theology, the state exists to preserve the world by establishing order and reigning in human sinfulness, and when the state fails in its preservative function, it is incumbent upon the church to remind the state of its God-given purpose;

Whereas, the United States has failed in its obligation to protect Black lives. Instead of protecting the rights of Black Americans, it has violated those rights, has criminalized Black people, and has established an intolerable system of police brutality and mass incarceration that targets Black lives;

Whereas, We cannot let police killings of Black people continue with impunity;

Whereas, We refuse to accept the idea that these police killings are inevitable; if the United States cannot put an end to the violence perpetuated by its own law enforcement

agencies, then it contradicts its claim to be a just state or an order of preservation; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America does hereby proclaim:

1. Police killings of Black people is state-sanctioned violence and we condemn it;
2. Jesus was a victim of state-sanctioned violence, and so identifies with all victims of state-sanctioned violence everywhere;
3. To ignore violence against Black people in the U.S. is to ignore the cross of Jesus Christ;
4. American Christians cannot be silent; a system of horror is operating on our watch, and we must stand up and declare it to be an unacceptable reality; it is incumbent upon the people of the United States to call on our government to account for its failure to live up to its God-given responsibility as an order of preservation;
5. We call upon all congregations to reflect on the implications of Jesus' identification with victims of state-sanctioned violence, and to lend their voices in support of those fighting for justice; as Psalm 103 says, "The Lord executes righteousness and justice for the oppressed," so too we should lift up our voices for the oppressed;
6. We call upon President Joseph Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, the U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S. Senate, and the Supreme Court of the United States to recognize the reality of systemic injustice in our criminal justice system, and to recognize that police brutality has become a national emergency;
7. We call upon the United States to change our criminal justice system into a system of justice.

Submitted by:

Rev. Dr. Christian Scharen, Pastor, St. Lydia's Dinner Church

Jack & Debbie Holloway, congregants, St. Lydia's Dinner Church

Elizabeth Norman, congregant, St. Lydia's Dinner Church

Rev. Kelsey Brown, Pastor, Jehu's Table

Mr. Jack Holloway spoke to the resolution. Pr. Krauser reported that the Committee on Reference and Counsel recommends that this resolution be referred to the Synod Council and the Anti-Racism Committee for further study and discussion, possible revision and to resume consideration of this at the 2022 Synod Assembly.

After discussion, the motion to refer to the Synod Council and the Anti-Racism Committee was seconded and approved.

Bishop's Report for the 2025 Vision

After introduction by Bishop Egensteiner, a video was presented.

Greetings from Ecumenical and Inter-faith Partners

Video greetings were presented by:

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros (Lambriniadis) of America Greek Orthodox Archdiocese,

The Right Reverend Lawrence C. Provenzano Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island, and

The Rev. Dr. Cheryl F. Dudley, Regional Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Metropolitan New York.

Final Thoughts from our Bishop

Bishop Egensteiner extended thanks to his staff, Synod Council officers and members, the churchwide representative, the Assembly planning committee, the Assembly chaplain, the Nominations and Elections committee, the Committee on Reference and Counsel, the Worship Committee, the Assembly Parliamentarian, and all the individuals who managed the technology to make the digital assembly possible.

He then closed the session with prayer at 11:52 am and invited the members to attend the Service of the Word for the Closing or the Assembly with the Rite of Installation of Synod Council members.

The Service of the Word for the Closing or the Assembly with the Rite of Installation of Synod Council members was held at 2:00 pm.

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