

**SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS**

<b>Mr. Leonel E. Avila</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>*Ms. Cynthia Corley</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>*Ms. Maria del Toro, Vice President</b>	<b>2018</b>
<i>The Rev. Justin Johnson</i>	<i>2018</i>
<i>Ms. Tabitha Johnson (youth)</i>	<i>2018</i>
<b>The Rev. Amy Kienzle</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Mr. John Litke</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Dr. Carlos Lopez</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>S. Dcn. John Malone</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>S. Dcn. Karen Maulen</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Bishop Donald McCoid</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>The Rev. Christopher Mietlowski</b>	<b>2020</b>
<i>Mr. Walter Nash</i>	<i>2018</i>
<b>*The Rev. Jeanine Owens</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>The Rev. Daniel Peter</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Ms. Denise Rutherford-Gill</b>	<b>2020</b>
<i>*The Rev. Harry Schenkel</i>	<i>2018</i>
<i>*The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Sect.</i>	<i>2018</i>
<b>The Rev. Nicole Schwalbe</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>The Rev. Garry Squire</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Ms. Wendy Bean Tannenbaum</b>	<b>2018</b>
<i>Ms. Abby Triebel</i>	<i>2020</i>
<b>Ms. Emma Turner (Young Adult)</b>	<b>2020</b>
<i>*Mr. Christopher Vergara</i>	<i>2020</i>
<b>Ms. Karen Woolley</b>	<b>2020</b>

**AUXILIARY MEMBERS**

**STAFF**

*Dcn. Margy Schmitt Ajer*  
**Ms. Susan Brandt**  
*The Rev. Perucy Butiku*  
**Ms. Regina Daniels**  
**Mr. Branden Dupree**  
**Mr. Roberto Lara**  
**The Rev. Jonathan Linman**  
**Ms. Maria Rodas**  
**Synod Deacon Gayle Ruege**  
**The Rev. Lamont Wells**

**GUESTS**

**Bold = present**

*Italics = excused absence*

\*Member of Executive Committee

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**Devotions:** *S. Dcn. Carlos Lopez*

**Observer:** *S. Dcn. Karen Maulen*

**Call to Order:** *by VP Maria del Toro at 9:50 am*

- 1. Adoption of the Agenda:** adopted as presented.
- 2. Adoption of the Minutes**
  - A. Synod Council: 20 March 2018:** adopted.

### **3. Thanksgiving for Officers and SC members completing term of service**

The Synod Council acknowledged with thanksgiving the completion of terms of service. Council members completing terms were asked to share a few words about their experience.

- Maria del Toro (completed 2 terms)
- Pr. Justin Johnson (completed an unexpired term)
- Tabitha Johnson (youth representative)
- Pr. Amy Kienzle
- Dr. John Litke (candidate for Treasurer)
- S.Dcn. Carlos Lopez (completed 2 terms)
- S.Dcn. John Malone (completed 2 terms)
- S.Dcn. Karen Maulen
- Mr. Wally Nash
- Pr. Daniel Peter Penumaka (standing for re-election)
- Pr. Harry Schenkel (standing for re-election)
- Pr. Bob Schoepflin (standing for re-election)
- Wendy Bean Tannenbaum (standing for re-election)

### **4. Bishop's Report**

#### **A. Calls**

- a. The Rev. Arden Strasser: Interim Pastor/ St. Luke's, Manhattan effective 1 March 2018**

#### **ACTION SC18:04/01**

*RESOLVED*, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to The Rev. Arden Strasser as Interim Pastor for St. Luke's, Manhattan effective 1 March 2018.

ADOPTED

- b. The Rev. Mary Chang: retired status effective 1 April 2018**

#### **ACTION SC18:04/02**

*RESOLVED*, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve retirement status for The Rev. Mary Chang, effective 1 April 2018.

ADOPTED

#### **B. Appointments**

- a. Mr. Ellis Farmer: MNYS Constitution Review Committee**

#### **ACTION SC18:04/03**

*RESOLVED*, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the appointment of Mr. Ellis Farmer to the Constitution Review Committee.

ADOPTED

**C. Synod Transition / Natural Systems Process (EXHIBIT A)**

At the recommendation of Presiding Bishop Eaton, Ms. Mary Ann Schwabe (ELCA Natural Systems Coordinator) and Dr. Larry Foster met with the Executive Committee and the synod staff on April 3. A summary of the meeting and an outline for conducting Town Hall Quadrant meetings has been provided. This process will be communicated to the synod and Bp. McCoid will inform the Synod Assembly by way of report.

**5. Report of the Strategic Plan Working Group**

The Strategic Plan Working Group met on April 12.

**A. CLAIMED:**

**a. Communications (EXHIBIT B)**

Roberto Lara provided the Council with the first quarter metrics review with the announcement of the launching of the new website.

**B. GATHERED**

Reported that there is interest in the Building for Mission Grant. The next round of applications for Capital Improvement Grants will open June 1.

**C. SENT**

Working on their Synod Assembly forum and immigration emphasis

**D. FMC**

Currently interviewing consultants to assist congregations in developing the required business plans for a redevelopment project.

**E. ANTI-RACISM**

Completed an Anti-racism event in Smithtown in March – had good participation and registration of 55+ people.

**6. Financial Report**

**A. Mission Support Report (March 31, 2018) (EXHIBIT C)**

Sue Brandt provided the following report to the Council:

Contributions for the month of February were \$61,145.05, which is \$3,853.95 less than what was budgeted (65,000). Contributions for the month of March were \$84,416.80, which is \$10,583.20 less than what was budgeted (95,000). Year-to-date mission support received is \$145,562.85, which is \$14,437.15 lower than the budgeted amount of \$160,000.00.

**B. Report of the Audit Committee (EXHIBIT D)**

**ACTION SC18:04/04**

*RESOLVED*, that the Synod Council adopt the Financial Statements and Report for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2018 prepared by Tait, Weller & Baker, certified public accountants, noting that in the opinion of the auditors the financial statements taken as a whole present fairly the financial position of the Metropolitan New York Synod in conformity with generally accepted accounting principals.

ADOPTED

**C. Tait, Weller & Baker / Certified Public Accountants**

**ACTION SC18:04/05**

*RESOLVED*, that the Metropolitan New York Synod retain the services of Tait, Weller & Baker, Certified Public Accountants, for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2019.

ADOPTED

**7. Synod Assembly Update**

On-line registration closed April 20 at midnight. The hotel is at full capacity. The Bulletin of Reports will be published and posted on Friday, April 27.

**8. New Business**

**A. Process for the Election of the Bishop (EXHIBIT E)**

In consultation with ELCA Secretary Chris Boerger, it was determined that the process for the election of the Bishop adopted by the Synod Assembly in 2012 and implemented in 2014 does not apply to subsequent Bishop elections. The process for 2019 will include the pre-identification of possible pastors who exhibit the gifts and skills necessary to serve as bishop.

**ACTION SC18:04/06**

*RESOLVED*, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council adopt the Process for Election of the Bishop to be implemented in 2019 and present it to the 2018 Synod Assembly for affirmation.

ADOPTED

**B. Policy for Synod Investment in Congregation Property (EXHIBIT F)**

VP del Toro presented a proposed policy developed by the Gathered Committee to provide parameters for the synod's investment in congregation property redevelopment projects. After considerable discussion, it was determined that the policy needs additional work and will be presented to the Council at a future meeting.

**9. Old Business**

**A. Synod Properties / Congregations under synod preservation (EXHIBIT G)**

An updated summary was provided

**B. 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. Observers' Evaluation**

S.Dcn. Karen Maulen provided a report

**Next Executive Committee Meeting: May 1, 2018 \***

**Synod Assembly: May 11-12, 2018 (Melville Marriott)**

**Synod Council Retreat: June 22-23, 2018 (Immaculate Conception Seminary, Huntington)**

**\*Proposed items for the Synod Council agenda should be submitted to Gayle Ruege ([gruege@mnys.org](mailto:gruege@mnys.org)) for consideration by the Executive Committee on or before April 27.**

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

**Meeting adjourned at 2:17 pm, with prayer.**

*S.Dcn. Gayle Ruege  
Senior Assistant to the Bishop*