

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Rev. E. Patricia Avila	2026
*Ms. Cynthia Corley	2024
Ms. Monique Davis	2026
The Rev. George Dietrich	2024
*Bishop Paul Egensteiner	2025
<i>*S. Dcn. David Ehlers</i>	<i>2026</i>
S.Dcn. Philip Jenks	2026
*Mr. John Litke, Treasurer	2023
<i>The Rev. Linda Manson</i>	<i>2026</i>
Mr. Erich Markert	2024
Ms. Lily Sage Mathias	2024
The Rev. Ernst Mossl	2026
*The Rev. Jeanine Owens	2024
The Rev. David Parsons	2026
Mr. Aiden Sargent (Youth)	2023
Mr. Thomas Sargent	2026
<i>*The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Sect.</i>	<i>2026</i>
Mr. Cecil (Chip) Spurlock-Shackelton	2026
*The Rev. Gary Squire	2024
The Rev. Brooke Swertfager	2024
*Mr. Christopher Vergara, VP	2026
The Rev. Dr. Kimberly Wilson	2024

STAFF

Ms. Regina Daniels
The Rev. Gladys Diaz
Mr. Branden Dupree
Ms. Karen Falco
S. Dcn. Donna-Mari Fieldsa
Mr. Mark Goodwin
Ms. Kaitlin Kowalec
Mr. Roberto Lara
The Rev. Christopher Mietlowski
Ms. Maria Rodas
S. Dcn. Gayle Ruege
Ms. Leticia Silva
The Rev. Kevin Vandiver

GUESTS

Bold = present
Italics = excused absence
*Member of Executive Committee

Morning Prayer: VP Christopher Vergara
Call to Order: VP Christopher Vergara at 9:06 am
Observer: Cecil "Chip" Spurlock-Shackelton

1. Synod Council: Living into our values

- What are our values?
- What are our synod values?

VP Vergara invited SC members to engage in small group discussion regarding personal core values and provided an opportunity for individual members to share with the whole group.

Bishop Egensteiner restated our Synod's Core Values: Live – Love - Serve

- + Live The Gospel
- + Love All People
- + Serve God's People Together

2. Adoption of the agenda

Adopted as amended

A. Draft SC minutes 10 June 2022

Approved as presented

3. New Business

A. 2023 Synod Assembly / Roberto Lara (EXHIBIT A)

- a. Dates / location: May 5-6, 2023 / Long Island Melville Marriott
- b. Theme: *Live Like Christ in Our Community*
- c. Rate schedule

Early Registration (Mar 7)

\$175 Voting Members
\$ 75 Visitor
\$225 Meal Plan (optional)

Regular Registration (Apr 17)

\$200 Voting Members
\$100 Visitor
\$225 Meal Plan (optional)

On-Site Registration

\$350 Voting Member
\$150 Visitor
No meal plan available

SC22:09/01

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the proposed rate schedule for the 2023 Synod Assembly.

ADOPTED

B. Report of the Audit Committee

The MNYS Audit Committee is appointed by the Synod Council to review the report submitted by an independent accounting firm at the conclusion of MNYS's annual audit. The Audit Committee reviewed the report of the audit on May 20, 2022 and recommends that the Synod Council accept the report for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2022.

SC22:09/02

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council adopt the Financial Statements and Report for the year ending January 31, 2022 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 principles.

ADOPTED

C. Tait, Weller, Baker, LLC

SC22:09/03

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod retain the services of Tait, Weller & Baker, Certified Public Accountants, for the year ending January 31, 2023.

ADOPTED

D. SC Election: Unexpired term (2022-24): Tappan Zee Conference (Lay Man) **(EXHIBIT B)**
The Nominations & Elections Committee received the nomination of Dr. Raymond Cheung, a Member of Trinity, White Plains to serve and complete the Synod Council unexpired term of Lay Man for the Tappan Zee Conference.

SC22:09/04

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council appoint Dr. Raymond Cheung to complete the Synod Council unexpired term for Layman / Tappan Zee Conference effective Oct 1 2022 thru the 2024 Synod Assembly.

ADOPTED

E. 2023 Minimum Expectations for Clergy Compensation **(EXHIBIT C)**
The Minimum Expectations reflect a COLA of 6.6% for 2023 based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics in Consumer Price Index (September 2022), an increase to the stipend for worship pulpit supply and pastors serving as coverage pastors for congregations in transition, and housing allowance.

SC22:09/05

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the 2023 Minimum Expectations for Clergy Compensation as presented.

ADOPTED

4. Old Business

A. Property: 7 Georgia Lane, Otisville, NY 10963

SC22:09/06

RESOLVED, that the Agreement, as prepared and negotiated by MNYS's legal counsel for sale of the Property located at 7 Georgia Lane, Otisville, New York 10963 to Purchaser, in "as is" condition or \$80,000.00 is hereby approved and authorized by the Metropolitan New York Synod Council

ADOPTED (via email vote) Yes: 23 No: 0

B. Property: 300 Genesee Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10312

SC22:09/07

RESOLVED, that the Purchase & Sale Agreement, as prepared and negotiated by MNYS's legal counsel for sale of the Property located at 300 Genesee Avenue, Staten Island, New York 10312 Purchaser, in "as is" condition for \$4,000,000.00 is hereby approved and authorized by the Metropolitan New York Synod Council.

ADOPTED (via email vote) Yes: 23 No: 0

5. Report of the Bishop

A. Calls

a. The Rev. Luis Echandía: Epiphany-Epifania, Hempstead/ Grace, Uniondale: Term Call
Pastor Luis Echandía was appointed in October 2021 to serve as the pastor to the congregations of Epiphany-Epifania, Hempstead and Grace, Uniondale to work and grow a collaborative and cooperative ministry model. The Synod Council is asked to extend a two year Term Call to Pastor Luis to continue to nurture and grow the shared ministry between these congregations.

SC22:09/07

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a Two Year Term-Call to the Rev. Luís Ivan Echandía to serve as pastor to the congregations of Epiphany-Epifania, Hempstead and Grace Uniondale effective Oct 1 2022 – Sep 30 2024.

ADOPTED

b. The Rev. Austin Newberry: Interim Pastor / St. John's, Manhattan effective 15 Sep 2022
Pastor Newberry will serve under Bishop Egensteiner's appointment as the Interim Pastor to St. John's, Manhattan.

SC22:09/08

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to the Rev. Austin Newberry to serve as interim pastor to the congregation of St. John's, Manhattan effective September 15, 2022

ADOPTED.

c. The Rev. Jacob Simpson: On Leave from Call status effective 1 July 2022
Pastor Simpson concluded his call to the Park Church Coop on June 30, 2022.

SC22:09/09

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant On Leave from Call status to the Rev. Jacob Simpson effective June 30, 2022.

ADOPTED

The following Ministers of Word and Sacrament (pastors) and Minister of Word and Service (Deacon) have completed congregational ministry and have requested that the Synod Council grant them retirement status. Retirement status is not automatic- but a privilege granted by the Synod Council to remain on the roster of ordained ministers in the ELCA. Eligibility for retirement status includes attaining 30+ years of ordained ministry or 60+ years of age, with recommendation by the Synod Bishop.

The ministers requesting retirement status are presented en bloc **(EXHIBIT D)**

- d. The Rev. John Jurik: Retirement status effective 1 Jul 2022
- e. The Rev. Peter Rustico: Retirement status effective 1 Dec 2022
- f. The Rev. Thomas Taylor: Retirement status effective 1 Sept 2022
- g. The Rev. Susan Shelhart: Retirement status effective 1 Nov 2022
- h. Deacon Nadine Cordes: Retirement status effective 1 Sep 2022

SC22:09/10

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant retirement status to The Rev. John Jurik effective 1 July 2022; The Rev. Peter Rustico effective 1 December 2022; The Rev. Thomas E Taylor effective 1 September 2022; the Rev. Susan Shelhart effective 1 November 2022 and Deacon Nadine Cordes effective 1 September 2022
ADOPTED

THE SYNOD COUNCIL MOVED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

- i. The Rev. Robert Rainis: Revocation of Retirement Status
In accordance with the Manual of Policies and Procedures for Management of the Rosters of The ELCA, the Synod Council may revoke retired status upon the recommendation of the synod bishop. Revocation of a minister's retired status may occur with a two-thirds vote of the Synod Council present and voting at a legally called and conducted meeting.

SC22:09/11

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council revoke the retirement status of the Rev. Robert Rainis effective 24 September 2022.
ADOPTED YES: 18 NO: 0

- B. Pastoral Care / Ecumenical & Interfaith participation
- a. Pastoral calls / meetings / visits with rostered & lay leaders / Lutheran Partners (46)
- Congregation visits / Councils
 - Long Island Lutheran Middle & High School annual Golf Open
 - Our Savior, Port Washington
 - Gustavus Adolphus, Manhattan
 - Christ, East Northport
 - St. James – St. Matthew's, Ozone Park
 - Trinity-St. Andrew's, Maspeth
 - Holy Cross, Lake Ronkonkoma
 - Wagner College: Board of Trustees
 - New York State Conference of Churches: Peter Cook
 - Cathedral of Saint John the Divine: Ecumenical Initiative / *Community at the Crossing*
 - Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education Garden Party
 - Conference of Bishops (bi-weekly)
 - Region 7 Bishops (weekly)
 - Installation of Bp. Craig Miller: Upper Susquehanna Synod
 - Anti-racism Committee
 - BET (monthly)
 - Interim Pastors Quarterly gathering (Ascension, Deer Park)
 - Conference of Deans (Wartburg)
 - Diakonia / Growing in Faith: Peconic Conference

- D. Staff / Updates
 - a. Synod Owned Properties / Karen Falco
 - b. Legal updates / Karen Falco
- 6. Report of the Vice-President**
 - A. 2022 Churchwide Assembly
- 7. Strategic Plan Report**
 - A. 2025 Vision
 - a. Ministry Legacy Project Manager update
Pastor Bob Wollenburg had his first initial meeting with the staff to develop the interconnected working relationship between the Legacy Project Manager – the Bishop’s staff – the Vision Team and the Synod Council.
 - b. Vision Team meeting scheduled Oct 22, 2022
- 8. Treasurer’s Report**
 - A. Mission Support Report (**EXHIBIT E**)
The August 2022 Mission Support offerings totaled \$62,575.52. YTD Mission Support actuals through August 31, 2022, are \$460,572.50 which is \$54,707.86 less than YTD August 2021.
 - B. Financials (31 July 2022) (**EXHIBIT F**)
- 9. Afterthoughts (as necessary)**
 - A. Devotions / November
 - B. Observer / November: Pastor George Dietrich
- 10. Observer’s Evaluation**

Executive Committee Meeting: Oct 20 and Nov 17 via zoom
Synod Council Team Building: Oct (TBD)
Synod Council meeting: November 29, 2022

***Proposed items for the Synod Council agenda should be submitted to Gayle Ruege (gruege@mnys.org) for consideration by the Executive Committee by Oct 12, 2022**

Adjourned with prayer at 12:11 pm

S.Dcn. Gayle Ruege
Executive Assistant to the Bishop