

**SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Mr. Daquan Baker (Youth)	2016
<b>*The Rev. William Baum</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>The Rev. Rosalind Brathwaite</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>*Ms. Maria del Toro, Vice President</b>	<b>2018</b>
<i>*The Rev. Khader El-Yateem</i>	2016
<i>*Ms. Hazel Goldstein</i>	2016
<b>The Rev. Brenda Irving</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Ms. Barbara Johnson</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>The Rev. Amy Kienzle</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Dr. John Litke</b>	<b>2018</b>
<i>Dr. Carlos Lopez</i>	2014
<b>Dcn. John Malone</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>Ms. Karen Maulen</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>The Rev. Craig Miller</b>	<b>2018</b>
Mr. Walter Nash	2018
<i>Dcn. Lulu Paolini</i>	2018
<b>The Rev. Daniel Peter</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Dcn. John Prosen</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Mr. Brian Reardon</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>*The Rev. Robert A. Rimbo, Bishop</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Ms. Terra Rowe</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>The Rev. Harry Schenkel</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>*The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Sect.</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>*Mr. Frank Suttell, Treasurer</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Ms. Wendy Bean Tannenbaum</b>	<b>2018</b>
<i>Ms. Abby Triebel (Young Adult)</i>	2016
<i>*Mr. Christopher Vergara</i>	2016
<b>Ms. Karen Woolley</b>	<b>2016</b>

**AUXILIARY MEMBERS**

**STAFF**

**The Rev. Percy Butiku**  
**Ms. Sarah Gioe**  
**The Rev. Marc Herbst**  
**The Rev. Kathleen Koran**  
**The Rev. Jonathan Linman**  
**Dcn. Gayle Ruege**  
**Ms. Kathleen Schmidt**  
**Ms. Rebekah Thornhill**  
**The Rev. Lamont Wells**

**GUESTS**

**The Rev. Edward Barnett, Conf of Deans**  
**The Rev. Mark Erson, Sent Comm.**  
**Ms. Louise Litke, Sent Comm.**  
**Ms. Jacqueline Mize-Baker, Sent Comm.**  
**Mr. Gladwyn Lopez, Rubenstien Associates**

**Bold = present**

*Italics = excused absence*

\*Member of Executive Committee

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***Opening Prayer by Bishop Rimbo***

***Observer: Terra Rowe (AM) / Pr. Craig Miller (PM)***

***Call to Order: Ms. Maria del Toro at 9:49 am***

- 1. Adoption of the Agenda:** adopted as presented with times.
- 2. Adoption of the Minutes:** 17 February 2015: adopted as presented.
- 3. Bishop's Report**

**A. Staff**

- a. **The Rev. Perucy Butiku:** *Assistant to the Bishop for Multicultural Mission*

**ACTION SC 15:04/01**

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to the Rev. Perucy N. Butiku as Assistant to the Bishop for Multicultural Mission effective April 15, 2015.

**ADOPTED**

- b. **The Rev. Marc Herbst:** Bishop announced that Pr. Herbst's new position is Chief of Staff and Director of Strategic Plan.
- c. **Mr. Brendan Stanton:** Bishop announced that Mr. Stanton has been hired as communications and public relations director.

**B. Calls**

- a. **The Rev. Vanessa Cardinale:** *Renewal – contract for Extended Services*

**ACTION SC 15:04/02**

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

**ADOPTED**

- b. **The Rev. Dr. Deborah DeWinter:** *Renewal – contract for Extended Services*

**ACTION SC 15:04/03**

**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.

**ADOPTED**

- c. **The Rev. Judith Delgado:** *retirement status (effective April 1, 2015)*
- d. **The Rev. Dr. Richard Jeske:** *retirement status (effective April 1, 2015)*
- e. **The Rev. Donald Lemke:** *OLFC status (effective April 24, 2015)*
- f. **Deacon Penny Liles:** *retirement status (effective March 5, 2015)*
- g. **The Rev. ElizaBeth Nebrasky:** *renewal On leave from Call status*
- h. **Ms. Judith Ressemeyer Hinsch, AiM:** *OLFC status (effective March 7, 2015)*
- i. **The Rev. Gary E. Schulz:** *retirement status (effective April 1, 2015)*
- j. **Rebecca Seely:** *Campus Pastor LMHE (effective May 1, 2015)*

**ACTION SC 15:04/04**

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to Rebecca Seely as pastor of The Vine NYC College Ministry and Executive Director of Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education (LMHE) effective May 1, 2015.

**ADOPTED**

- k. **The Rev. R. Griffin Thomas:** *removal from the ELCA roster, at his request. (effective Feb 5, 2015)*

**ACTION SC 15:04/05**

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council remove the Rev. R. Griffin Thomas from the ELCA roster of ordained ministers effective February 5, 2015.

**ADOPTED**

**l. The Rev. Marianne Tomecek: *Interim Pastoral Ministry, Redeemer, Queens Village (eff March 17, 2015)***

**ACTION SC 15:04/06**

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend the call of The Rev. Marianne Tomecek as Interim Pastor, Redeemer, Queens Village, NY, in accordance with the request of the congregation.

**ADOPTED**

**m. The Rev. Norman D. White: *retirement status (effective May 1, 2015)***

**n. The Rev. Diane Wildow: *renewal On Leave from Call status***

**ACTION SC 15:04/07**

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve On Leave from Call Status to the Rev. Donald Lemke effective 24 April 2015 and Ms. Judith Ressemeyer Hinsch, AiM effective 7 March 2015.

**ADOPTED**

**ACTION SC 15:04/08**

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant On Leave from Call renewal to the Rev. ElizaBeth Nebrasky and the Rev. Diane Wildow.

**ADOPTED**

**ACTION SC 15:04/09**

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council acknowledge retirement status for The Rev. Judith Delgado effective 1 April 2015; The Rev. Dr. Richard Jeske effective 1 April 2015; Deacon Penny Liles effective March 5, 2015; The Rev. Gary E. Schulz effective 1 April 2015; The Rev. Norman D. White effective 1 May 2015.

**ADOPTED**

**C. Appointments:** Bishop announced that the following appointments had been made.

- a. Dr. Carlos Lopez: *Nomination & Elections Committees*
- b. Mr. Alexander Lawrence: *Innovation Team / Gathered Strategy*
- c. The Rev. William Kroeze: *Worship Committee*
- d. Ms. Celeste Wortes: *Worship Committee*
- e. The Rev. Jeanne Warfield: *Chair, Committee on Reference & Counsel*
- f. Mr. Barry Gogel: *Committee on Reference & Counsel*
- g. Ms. Leila Johnson: *Committee on Reference & Counsel*
- h. Judge Daniel Joy: *Committee on Reference & Counsel*
- i. The Rev. Marianne Tomecek: *Committee on Reference & Counsel*
- j. Ms. Meaghan Atkinson: *Committee on Reference & Counsel*
- k. The Rev. Micah Stumme: ***Interim Pastor, All Saints (SW Queens)***

#### **4. Strategic Plan Implementation**

##### **A. Southwest Queens Congregations / Resolutions / Project**

- a. Christ, Ozone Park

**ACTION SC 15:04/10**

**RESOLVED**, that the Synod Council acknowledge that Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, 85-15 101<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Ozone Park, NY has voted to disband and cease to exist as a Congregation effective June 30, 2015; and

**RESOLVED**, that pursuant to Section C7.01 of its Constitution and Section 17-c of the Religious Corporations Law of the State of New York, the members and the congregation council of the congregation authorize the Synod Council of the Synod to take all steps and actions necessary or desirable to effectuate the dissolution of the congregation as a religious corporation and the transfer and conveyance of all of the property of the congregation, including real property and additional assets of the congregation to the Synod for future investment in ministry in Southwest Queens.

**ADOPTED**

**b. St. Luke's, Woodhaven**

**ACTION SC 15:04/11**

**RESOLVED**, that the Synod Council acknowledge that St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 87-34 85<sup>th</sup> Street, Woodhaven, NY has voted to disband and cease to exist as a Congregation effective June 30, 2015; and

**RESOLVED**, That pursuant to Section C7.01 of its Constitution and Section 17-c of the Religious Corporations Law of the State of New York, the members and the congregation council of the congregation authorize the Synod Council of the Synod to take all steps and actions necessary or desirable to effectuate the dissolution of the congregation as a religious corporation and the transfer and conveyance of all of the property of the congregation, including real property and additional assets of the congregation to the Synod for future investment in ministry in Southwest Queens.

**ADOPTED**

**c. St. Philip's, Brooklyn**

**ACTION SC 15:04/12**

**RESOLVED**, that the Synod Council acknowledge that The Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Philip, 85 Forbell Street, Brooklyn, NY has voted to disband and cease to exist as a Congregation effective June 30, 2015; and

**RESOLVED**, That pursuant to Section C7.01 of its Constitution and Section 17-c of the Religious Corporations Law of the State of New York, the members and the congregation council of the congregation authorize the Synod Council of the Synod to take all steps and actions necessary or desirable to effectuate the dissolution of the congregation as a religious corporation and the transfer and conveyance of all of the property of the Congregation, including real property and additional assets of the congregation to the Synod for future investment in ministry in Southwest Queens.

**ADOPTED**

**B. Leadership Development Grants:** Pr. Linman presented the proposed grants.

- a. Hudson Conference (Group Grant / Educational Event: Media)
- b. Jonathan Pryer (Group grant) Clinical Pastoral Care Group
- c. The Rev. Sonja Maclary: Interim Pastoral Ministry Training

**ACTION SC 15:04/13**

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the Leadership Development Grants proposed by the Leadership Development Grant Review Team and recommended by the Executive Committee.

**ADOPTED**

**C. Quadrant Visits:** VP Del Toro announced that there has been great participation in the Quadrant Saturday Workshops – Strategic Planning for your Congregation.

- Feb 27 – Mar 1: Quadrant 3 (Brooklyn, Queens)
- May 1-3: Quadrant 2 (Nassau, Suffolk)
- June 5-7: Quadrant 1 (Hudson, Delaware-Hudson, Tappan Zee)

**5. Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Frank Suttell **EXHIBIT A**

**A. Mission Support Report**

budgeted amount for the two months ending March 31<sup>st</sup> is \$140,396. Our actual receipts were \$174,845, so we are ahead of budget by \$34,449.

The reports themselves have been reformatted so that the four columns are now:

- Yearly Commitment
- Contributions this Year
- Contributions last Year
- Variance to Date (difference between this year and last year)

**B. Revised 2015 budget / proposed 2016 budget EXHIBIT B**

**ACTION SC 15:04/14**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council recommend to the Synod Assembly on May 30, 2015, that it adopt the revised budget for 2015 and the proposed budget for 2016.**

**ADOPTED**

**C. Report of the Audit Committee / acceptance of the audited financials EXHIBIT C**

**ACTION SC 15:04/14**

**RESOLVED, that the Synod Council adopt the Financial Statements and Report for the year ending January 31, 2015 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**

**ACTION SC 15:04/15**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod retain the services of Tait, Weller & Baker, Certified Public Accountants for the year ending January 31, 2016.**

**ADOPTED**

**6. New Business**

**A. Trexler Grant applications:** Pr. Linman presented the applications.

**ACTION SC 15:04/16**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council award a Trexler Grant to the Rev. Dr. William Rusch in the amount of \$500 and to the Rev. Joel Brandt in the amount of \$500 for travel associated with continuing education events in 2015.**

**ADOPTED**

**B. 2015 Synod Assembly:** Ms. Rebekah Thornhill spoke about registration and assembly planning

**a. Registration / display tables / forums**

**b. Proposed Agenda**

In response to a question brought from Pr. Irving from the African Descent Lutheran Association, Ms. Thornhill and Pr. Linman indicated that a portion of the “Indaba” discussions will surround the issue of racial injustice and that there will be a forum on racial injustice. Pr. Limnan invited members of the council to submit questions for the indaba discussions. Bishop Rimbo announced that the pastoral care team for the strategic plan will serve as chaplains for the assembly.

**ACTION SC 15:04/17**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council adopt the agenda for the May 29 – 30, 2015 Synod Assembly as presented.**

**ADOPTED**

**c. 2014 Synod Assembly minutes:** Secretary Schoepflin announced that the minutes were done and will be reviewed by Executive Committee.

**d. CLAIMED: “Walking Together” Tag line presentation and small group discussion.**

**LUNCH**

Pr. Herbst reviewed for the council members the viability norms and procedure for the synod to assume administration of a congregation.

**C. Trinity, St. Albans:** Pr. Herbst reviewed congregation’s request for administration. Pr. Irving led council in prayer before the vote.

**ACTION SC 15:04/18**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod assume temporary administration, under Section 13.25 of the Constitution of the Synod, over Trinity Lutheran Church, St. Albans, New York, in accordance with the request of the congregation, and that the congregation immediately engage in the discernment process, and that The Rev. Percy Butiku, The Rev. Brenda Irving and Dcn. John Prosen be appointed as Trustees.**

**ADOPTED (19 for; 0 opposed; 0 absentions)**

**D. Redeemer, Flushing:** Pr. Wells spoke about need to assume “permanent” administration over this congregation which is already under “temporary” administration. Pr. Peters led council in prayer before the vote.

**ACTION SC 15:04/19**

**RESOLVED, that for the reasons set forth above, all of which are included and incorporated herein and made a part hereof as if fully set forth, the Synod Council, pursuant to the authority granted to it by section 13.24 of the Synod’s Constitution, does hereby impose synodical administration upon Redeemer, Flushing (“Redeemer”), to take charge and control of Redeemer’s property to hold, manage and convey that property on behalf of the Synod; and it is further**

**RESOLVED, that the following are hereby appointed as trustees, with the full power and authority to hold, manage and convey the property of Redeemer on behalf of the Synod in all regards relating directly or indirectly to and in furtherance of synodical administration, by taking charge and control of the property of Redeemer and holding, managing and conveying that property on behalf of the Synod, to wit: The Rev. Daniel Penumaka; Ms. Karen Woolley; The Rev. Lamont Wells (“Trustees”); and it is further**

**RESOLVED, that the signature of any two of the Trustees acting for and on behalf of the Synod to take charge and control of the property of Redeemer and to hold, manage and convey the property of Redeemer on behalf of the Synod shall be binding upon and considered as the act of all of the Trustees. No person or entity acting in reliance on the signatures of any two of such Trustees as binding upon all Trustees shall be charged with notice of any revocation or change of such authority unless he, she or it shall have received actual written notice thereof. No person or entity shall be required to look behind the signatures of such Trustees.**

**ADOPTED (19 for; 0 opposed; 0 absentions)**

**E. Kingsbridge, Bronx:** Pr. Herbst spoke of the reasons for imposing administration on this congregation. Upon motion of Pr. Miller, resolution to impose administration was tabled until the June synod council meeting.

**F. St. Peter’s, 140<sup>th</sup> Street, Bronx:** Pr. Wells set forth for the council why this congregation, which has been under synod administration, should be closed. Pr. Wells led council in prayer prior to the vote.

**ACTION SC 15:04/20**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council close the congregation of St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, 140<sup>th</sup> Street, Bronx, and provide pastoral care and shepherding to the remnant into other local Lutheran congregations.**

**ADOPTED (19 for; 0 opposed; 0 absentions)**

**7. Old Business**

**A. Congregations / properties under synod administration:** report by Ms. Schmidt **EXHIBIT D**

**B. Congregation Loan status:** report by Ms. Schmidt **EXHIBIT E**

Pr. Irving made a motion to forgive the loans to New Hope, Valley Stream and Epiphany, Hempstead. Motion was seconded and discussion ensued.

Pr. Miller made a motion to refer this matter to the Executive Committee for consideration and the drafting of a resolution for synod council to consider. After seconding, this motion to refer was approved.

Mr. Litke called for the orders of the day.

Dcn. Prosen moved that the agenda be revised so that remaining items could be considered. Upon seconding, this motion was approved.

**C. Synod Diaconate Guidelines (revision):** report by Dcn. Prosen **EXHIBIT F**

**ACTION SC 15:04/21**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council adopt the revised MNYS Synod Diaconate Guidelines as presented.**

**ADOPTED**

**D. St. Peter's, Port Jervis**

**ACTION SC 15:04/22**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod satisfy the sum owed by St. Peter's, Port Jervis to the IRS in the amount of \$9278.61 and to New York State in the amount of \$1971.95 for delinquent 2014 payroll taxes.**

**ADOPTED**

**E. Property formerly St. Luke's, Brooklyn**

**ACTION SC 15:04/23**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council ratify the decision of the Executive Committee to enter into contract for the sale of the property located at 259 Washington Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, formerly known as St. Luke's Lutheran Church, to Jeremy Hopwood or an llc that he will designate for the amount of \$8,800,000.**

**ADOPTED (19 for; 0 opposed; 0 absentions)**

**F. Former Zion, Brooklyn / LHC Proposal**

**ACTION SC 15:04/24**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council ratify the decision of the Executive Committee to contract with Fifth Avenue Committee, Inc. in accordance with the terms and conditions defined in the Abstract of Proposal.**

**ADOPTED (17 for; 1 opposed; 0 absentions)**

**G. Pending**

MNYS Committee structure

Report Process for election of a Bishop

**8. Other Reports**

**A. Deans: EXHIBIT G**

**9. Announcements/Events**

**10. Observers' Evaluation**

Pr. Miller moved that trustees of all congregations under synod administration be thanked for their work by the acclamation of the synod council. This motion was adopted by applause.

**Next Synod Council Meeting: June 23, 2015 (LSSNY Board Room – Suite 1244)**

Meeting was adjourned at 3:19 pm. Bishop Rimbo closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Rev. Robert P. Schoepflin, Secretary