

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

AUXILIARY MEMBERS

STAFF

The Rev. Perucy Butiku
The Rev. Marc Herbst
The Rev. Kathleen Koran
The Rev. Jonathan Linman
Dcn. Gayle Ruege
Ms. Kathleen Schmidt
Mr. Brendan Stanton
Ms. Rebekah Thornhill
The Rev. Lamont Wells

GUESTS

Mr. Edward Wagner, FMC

Bold = present

Italics = excused absence

***Member of Executive Committee**

Indaba: Pr. Jonathan Linman read statement of Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton about the murders at Emanuel AME Church and then invited council members into indaba discussion concerning the issue of racism.

Observer: Pr. Khader El-Yateem

Call to Order: by VP Del Toro at 5:39 pm.

1. **Adoption of the Agenda:** adopted as presented.
2. **Adoption of the Minutes:** 25 April 2015: adopted as presented.
3. **Reflections on the 2015 Synod Assembly**
 - A. Summary of Actions (these have been posted on synod web site)
Bp. Rimbo reviewed the actions and indicated what has been done and still needs to be done to address these actions of the assembly.
4. **Bishop's Report**
 - A. Staff
 - a. Sarah Gioe, Director of Communications: Resignation effective 15 June 2015
 - B. Calls
 - a. Aaron Baughman: Mission Developer / St. Peter's, Port Jervis (effective Sep 1 2015)
Pr. Kathleen Koran reported on meeting with candidate.

ACTION SC 15:06/01

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to Aaron Baughman as Mission Developer / Pastor at St. Peter's, Port Jervis, NY effective September 1, 2015.

ADOPTED

- b. The Rev. William Eggers: Interim Pastor / Trinity, White Plains (effective Sep 1 2015)

ACTION SC 15:06/02

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council call the Rev. William Eggers as Interim Pastor, Trinity, White Plains, NY effective September 1, 2015

ADOPTED

- c. Deacon Roberta Detmers: OLFC effective July 1, 2015
- d. Deacon John Malone: OLFC effective June 1, 2015
- e. Deacon Lori Scaffidi: OLFC effective January 26, 2014

ACTION SC 15:06/03

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve On Leave from Call Status to Dcn. Roberta Detmers effective July 1, 2015; Dcn. John Malone effective June 1, 2015; Dcn. Lori Scaffidi effective January 26, 2014.

ADOPTED

- C. Appointments
 - a. The Rev. Paul M. Britton: Interim Pastor / Immanuel, Kingston (effective May 1, 2015)

5. Strategic Plan Implementation:

A. CLAIMED Strategy:

Pr. Marc Herbst spoke about new video being created that will be provided to congregations.

B. GATHERED Strategy

a. Leadership Development Grants proposed by Pr. Jonathan Linman

1. The Rev. Marc Herbst: Festival of Homiletics
2. The Rev. Garret Johnson: 2015 ELCA National Youth Gathering
3. The Rev. Kimberli Lile: Lutheran Seminary Program – Hispanic Ministry Intensive
4. The Rev. Harry Schenkel: Gettysburg Seminary / Senior Pastor Training

ACTION SC 15:06/04

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

b. Bronx Pilot Project

1. Wartburg conversations / identified sites

Pr. Marc Herbst reported that Wartburg has completed their site visits and analysis of Bronx congregations. Wartburg has identified three congregations for possible partnership projects: Fordham, Resurrection, and St. Paul's.

2. **Kingsbridge, Bronx:** Synod Administration

Pr. Marc Herbst presented Congregational Viabilities Norms Review.

ACTION SC 15:06/05

WHEREAS, KINGSBRIDGE LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRONX, NY (KINGSBRIDGE) located at 3130 Bailey Avenue, Bronx, New York is a member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America (ELCA) rostered with the **Synod**, and

WHEREAS, the membership of **KINGSBRIDGE** has declined and dwindled to so few, and become so scattered and diminished in numbers as to make it impractical for **KINGSBRIDGE** to fulfill the purposes for which it was organized, and

WHEREAS, KINGSBRIDGE has been suffering financially, operating in deficit, has and continues to suffer economic distress and as a result of which the Congregation is unable to maintain its properties in title and in proper repair and condition requiring the **Synod** to protect the property of **KINGSBRIDGE** from waste and deterioration, and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the **Synod**, Section 13.24 provides in instances where a congregation's membership has diminished such that it is unable to fulfill its mission and ministry for which it is organized and where economically it is unable to protect its property from waste and deterioration, the **Synod** may take charge and control of the property of such a congregation to hold, manage and convey the same on behalf of this **Synod**,

and

WHEREAS, such charge and control of the property by the **Synod**, as provided in Section 13.24, may be through the appointment by Synod Council of trustees, and

WHEREAS, by virtue of the authority granted it by Section 13.24 of its Constitution, the **Synod** has requested Synod Council to consider applying synodical administration upon **KINGSBRIDGE** pursuant to the terms and provisions of Section 13.24 and to take charge and control of the property of **KINGSBRIDGE**, through the appointment of three trustees, and to hold, manage and convey such property on behalf of the **Synod**.

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**, pursuant to Section 13.24 of its constitution does hereby impose synodical administration over the property of **KINGSBRIDGE LUTHERAN** to take charge and control of the property of **KINGSBRIDGE LUTHERAN** and to hold, manage, and convey on behalf of the **Synod**, and it is further,

RESOLVED, that the following are hereby appointed as trustees, with the with full power to hold and manage the property of **KINGSBRIDGE LUTHERAN** on behalf of the **Synod** in all regards relating directly or indirectly to the taking charge and control of the property of **KINGSBRIDGE LUTHERAN** and in holding, managing and conveying such property of **KINGSBRIDGE LUTHERAN** on behalf of the **Synod**, to wit: Pastor Fernando Otero, Mr. Wally Nash, and Pastor Lamont Wells, and it is further,

RESOLVED, that the signature of any two of the Trustees acting to take charge and control of the property of **KINGSBRIDGE LUTHERAN** and to hold, manage, and convey the property of **KINGSBRIDGE LUTHERAN** on behalf of the **Synod** shall be binding upon and considered as the act of all of the Trustees. No person or party acting in reliance of the signature of one such Trustee 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 party shall be required to look behind the signature of such Trustee.

ADOPTED For: 23 Against: 0 Abstentions: 1

c. SW Queens Pilot Project :

Pr. Marc Herbst provided update on the joining together of the congregations and the opening worship on Pentecost Sunday.

ACTION SC 15:06/06

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council authorize All Saints/Todos Los Santos, Queens, NY to open a congregation bank account in order to deposit offerings and other gifts and pay their financial obligations: listing John Naudus, Eleanore Wagner, Linda Lello and Oscar Sedano as authorized signatories on the account, with all transactions requiring two signatures.

ADOPTED

- List for sale St. Philips, Brooklyn

ACTION SC 15:06/07

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council authorize the listing of St. Philips, 85 Forbell Street, Brooklyn, NY for sale.

ADOPTED

d. Congregation / Ministry Review:
Pr. Kathleen Koran spoke about the congregation viability norms review for the following congregations.

1. Bethany, Elmhurst

ACTION SC 15:06/08

WHEREAS, BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELMHURST, NY (BETHANY) located at 4808 91st Place, Elmhurst, New York is a member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America (ELCA) rostered with the **Synod**, and

WHEREAS, the membership of **BETHANY** has declined and dwindled to so few, and become so scattered and diminished in numbers as to make it impractical for **BETHANY** to fulfill the purposes for which it was organized, and

WHEREAS, BETHANY has been suffering financially, operating in deficit, has and continues to suffer economic distress and as a result of which the Congregation is unable to maintain its properties in title and in proper repair and condition requiring the **Synod** to protect the property of **BETHANY** from waste and deterioration, and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the **Synod**, Section 13.24 provides in instances where a congregation's membership has diminished such that it is unable to fulfill its mission and ministry for which it is organized and where economically it is unable to protect its property from waste and deterioration, the **Synod** may take charge and control of the property of such a congregation to hold, manage and convey the same on behalf of this **Synod**, and

WHEREAS, such charge and control of the property by the **Synod**, as provided in Section 13.24, may be through the appointment by Synod Council of trustees, and

WHEREAS, by virtue of the authority granted it by Section 13.24 of its Constitution, the **Synod** has requested Synod Council to consider applying synodical administration upon **BETHANY** pursuant to the terms and provisions of Section 13.24 and to take charge and control of the property of **BETHANY**, through the appointment of three trustees, and to hold, manage and convey such property on behalf of the **Synod**.

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**, pursuant to Section 13.24 of its constitution does hereby impose synodical administration over the property of **BETHANY** to take charge and control of the property of **BETHANY** and to hold, manage, and convey on behalf of the **Synod**, and it is further,

RESOLVED, that the following are hereby appointed as trustees, with the with full power to hold and manage the property of **BETHANY** on behalf of the **Synod** in all regards relating directly or indirectly to the taking charge and control of the property of **BETHANY** and in holding, managing and conveying such property of **BETHANY** on behalf of the **Synod**, to wit: Pastor Joseph Mantovani, Pr. Kathleen Koran, and Mr. Christopher Vergara, and it is further,

RESOLVED, that the signature of any two of the Trustees acting to take charge and control of the property of BETHANY and to hold, manage, and convey the property of BETHANY on behalf of the Synod shall be binding upon and considered as the act of all of the Trustees. No person or party acting in reliance of the signature of one such Trustee 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 party shall be required to look behind the signature of such Trustee.

ADOPTED For: 24 Against: 0 Abstentions 0

2. Incarnation, Cedarhurst

ACTION SC 15:06/09

WHEREAS, INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH, CEDARHURST, NY (INCARNATION) located at 411 Bayview Avenue, Cedarhurst, New York is a member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America (ELCA) rostered with the **Synod**, and

WHEREAS, the membership of **INCARNATION** has declined and dwindled to so few, and become so scattered and diminished in numbers as to make it impractical for **INCARNATION** to fulfill the purposes for which it was organized, and

WHEREAS, INCARNATION has been suffering financially, operating in deficit, has and continues to suffer economic distress and as a result of which the Congregation is unable to maintain its properties in title and in proper repair and condition requiring the **Synod** to protect the property of **INCARNATION** from waste and deterioration, and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the **Synod**, Section 13.24 provides in instances where a congregation's membership has diminished such that it is unable to fulfill its mission and ministry for which it is organized and where economically it is unable to protect its property from waste and deterioration, the **Synod** may take charge and control of the property of such a congregation to hold, manage and convey the same on behalf of this **Synod**, and

WHEREAS, such charge and control of the property by the **Synod**, as provided in Section 13.24, may be through the appointment by Synod Council of trustees, and

WHEREAS, by virtue of the authority granted it by Section 13.24 of its Constitution, the **Synod** has requested Synod Council to consider applying synodical administration upon **INCARNATION** pursuant to the terms and provisions of Section 13.24 and to take charge and control of the property of **INCARNATION**, through the appointment of three trustees, and to hold, manage and convey such property on behalf of the **Synod**.

NOW THEREFORE, it is:

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, pursuant to Section 13.24 of its constitution does hereby impose synodical administration over the property of **INCARNATION** to take charge and control of the property of **INCARNATION** and to hold, manage, and convey on behalf of the Synod, and it is further,

RESOLVED, that the following are hereby appointed as trustees, with the with full power to hold and manage the property of **INCARNATION** on behalf of the Synod in all regards relating directly or indirectly to the taking charge and control of the property of **INCARNATION** and in holding, managing and conveying such property of **INCARNATION** on behalf of the Synod, to wit: Pastor Edward Barnett, Pr. Perucy Butiku, and Ms. Karen

Woolley, and it is further,

RESOLVED, that the signature of any two of the Trustees acting to take charge and control of the property of INCARNATION and to hold, manage, and convey the property of INCARNATION on behalf of the Synod shall be binding upon and considered as the act of all of the Trustees. No person or party acting in reliance of the signature of one such Trustee 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 party shall be required to look behind the signature of such Trustee.

ADOPTED For: 24 Against: 0 Abstentions 0

3. St. Paul's, Coney Island

Bp. Rimbo recommended instead of imposing administration at this time that an Advisory Panel be appointed to gather information concerning current ministry of congregation.

Dcn. John Prosen moved that we defer consideration of imposing synod administration until September 2015 when the Advisory Panel will provide its report.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

VP Del Toro invited Pr. Kathleen Koran to lead the council in prayer after taking these actions to impose synod administration.

4. Christ, Little Neck

Bp. Rimbo recommended that an Advisory Panel be appointed to gather information concerning current ministry of congregation.

5. Eltingville, Staten Island

Bp. Rimbo recommended that an Advisory Panel be appointed to gather information concerning current ministry of congregation.

e. Partnership Grants 2015: EXHIBIT A

Pr. Lamont Wells presented this report.

C. SENT Strategy

Synod Assembly adopted resolution for Continued Commitment for Addressing Racism in Church and Society

D. Financial Management Committee (FMC): by Mr. Edward Wagner

a. Continuing Resolution for adopting (annually) a 10 Year Financial Plan for MNYS

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan New York Synod's financial circumstances have changed over the last several years and these circumstances are projected to continue to change in the future; and

WHEREAS, these changes are the result of opportunities and challenges faced by the Metropolitan New York Synod's congregations and the Metropolitan New York Synod's strategic plan initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan New York Synod seeks to manage these changes in order to use its resources effectively and efficiently; and

WHEREAS, a financial planning perspective longer than is allowed by single year budgeting processes will allow improved financial management; and

WHEREAS, a ten-year financial plan can provide a roadmap for annual budget decisions.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council shall adopt a Ten-year Financial Plan annually, when it adopts its proposed annual budgets.

ACTION SC 15:06/10

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council shall adopt a Ten-year Financial Plan annually, when it adopts its proposed annual budgets.

ADOPTED

b. Resolution: MNYS 10 Year Financial Plan for 2015 – 2024

Mr. Ed Wagner, chair of FMC, presented the 10 Year Financial Plan to the council.

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan New York Synod Council, by a continuing resolution dated June 23, 2015, resolved to adopt a Ten-year Financial Plan annually.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Ten-year Financial Plan for the period 2015-2024 is approved as follows:

1. OBJECTIVES

a. The Synod shall achieve a sustainable financial condition by 2024.

- i. A sustainable financial condition is defined as follows: planned expenditures will not exceed planned revenues, including withdrawals from the Synod's investment funds not to exceed 4% of the investments' average value, excluding any permanently restricted funds, at the end of each of the previous five fiscal years.
- ii. If, in any year subsequent to 2024, proposed withdrawals from the Synod's investment fund will be greater than 4% of the investments' average value, excluding any permanently restricted funds, at the end of each of the previous five fiscal years, the Synod Council shall, prior to approving the withdrawals, revise the Ten-year Plan to reflect a future sustainable financial condition. In such event, a description of the purposes for which the excessive withdrawals will be used shall be included in the financial reports to the Synod Assembly.
- iii. Synod revenues that normally would be placed into the Synod's investment fund but are above revenues anticipated in the then current Ten-year Plan may be allocated by the Synod Council and reflected in a revised Ten-year Plan.

- b. All net proceeds from the sale of Synod-owned property, and any subsequent investment income from such proceeds, shall be used solely for the mission of the Synod.
- c. Mission support to the ELCA will be increased to 55% of congregational giving to the Synod.
 - i. The Ten-year Plan shall reflect increasing ELCA support by 0.5% annual increments beginning in 2016
- d. The Ten-year Plan shall reflect a target level of Synod funds for grants to congregations through the ELCA Partnership Grant program of 25% of total baseline mission spending.
 - i. Total baseline mission spending includes all spending within the operating budget except ELCA mission support, Strategic Plan Initiatives, Synod Governance and Finance & Administration.

2. PRINCIPAL REVENUE ASSUMPTIONS

- a. Anticipated net proceeds from sales of Synod-owned properties will be \$20.2 million between 2015 and 2020. No sales are expected between 2021 and 2024.
- b. Congregational giving to the Synod for Mission Support will increase 2% per year beginning in 2017
- c. Undesignated revenue will increase to \$300,000 per year by 2020
- d. Baseline withdrawals from investments during 2015 – 2024 at a level of 4% per year will total \$8.0 million
- e. Withdrawals from investments beyond the baseline withdrawals during 2015-2024 will total \$8.1 million

3. PRINCIPAL EXPENSE ASSUMPTIONS

- a. Synod Governance and Finance & Administration expenses (Operations) will be unchanged (excluding inflation) during 2015-2024
- b. Wider Church fund will be expended and no further grants will be given after 2019
- c. Strategic Plan Implementation programs will cost \$3.7 million during 2015-2024
 - i. Staff for Strategic Plan Implementation programs are funded through 2017

Baseline mission spending will be reduced by \$300,000 beginning in 2017.

ACTION SC 15:06/11

RESOLVED, the Ten-year Financial Plan for the period 2015-2024 is approved as follows:

1. OBJECTIVES

- a. **The Synod shall achieve a sustainable financial condition by 2024.**

- i. A sustainable financial condition is defined as follows: planned expenditures will not exceed planned revenues, including withdrawals from the Synod's investment funds not to exceed 4% of the investments' average value, excluding any permanently restricted funds, at the end of each of the previous five fiscal years.
 - ii. If, in any year subsequent to 2024, proposed withdrawals from the Synod's investment fund will be greater than 4% of the investments' average value, excluding any permanently restricted funds, at the end of each of the previous five fiscal years, the Synod Council shall, prior to approving the withdrawals, revise the Ten-year Plan to reflect a future sustainable financial condition. In such event, a description of the purposes for which the excessive withdrawals will be used shall be included in the financial reports to the Synod Assembly.
 - iii. Synod revenues that normally would be placed into the Synod's investment fund but are above revenues anticipated in the then current Ten-year Plan may be allocated by the Synod Council and reflected in a revised Ten-year Plan.
- b. All net proceeds from the sale of Synod-owned property, and any subsequent investment income from such proceeds, shall be used solely for the mission of the Synod.
- c. Mission support to the ELCA will be increased to 55% of congregational giving to the Synod.
 - i. The Ten-year Plan shall reflect increasing ELCA support by 0.5% annual increments beginning in 2016
- d. The Ten-year Plan shall reflect a target level of Synod funds for grants to congregations through the ELCA Partnership Grant program of 25% of total baseline mission spending.
 - i. Total baseline mission spending includes all spending within the operating budget except ELCA mission support, Strategic Plan Initiatives, Synod Governance and Finance & Administration.

2. PRINCIPAL REVENUE ASSUMPTIONS

- a. Anticipated net proceeds from sales of Synod-owned properties will be \$20.2 million between 2015 and 2020. No sales are expected between 2021 and 2024.
- b. Congregational giving to the Synod for Mission Support will increase 2% per year beginning in 2017
- c. Undesignated revenue will increase to \$300,000 per year by 2020
- d. Baseline withdrawals from investments during 2015 – 2024 at a level of 4% per year will total \$8.0 million
- e. Withdrawals from investments beyond the baseline withdrawals during 2015-2024 will total \$8.1 million

3. PRINCIPAL EXPENSE ASSUMPTIONS

- a. **Synod Governance and Finance & Administration expenses (Operations) will be unchanged (excluding inflation) during 2015-2024**
- b. **Wider Church fund will be expended and no further grants will be given after 2019**
- c. **Strategic Plan Implementation programs will cost \$3.7 million during 2015-2024**
 - i. **Staff for Strategic Plan Implementation programs are funded through 2017**

Baseline mission spending will be reduced by \$300,000 beginning in 2017.

ADOPTED as presented with slide presentation attached.

E. 2015 Quadrant Visits

Bp. Rimbo reported that the 2015 Quadrant visits have been completed.

- approximately 265 participated in the Clergy Appreciation dinners
- approximately 450 participated in the Saturday workshops / 80+ congregations
- Bp. Rimbo met with 132 pastors for individual appointments (pastors in congregation calls). He will schedule appointments with pastors on Leave from Call and pastors in specialized ministries in the next round of Conference / Quadrant visits

6. Treasurer's Report : given by Mr. Frank Suttell

- A. Mission Support Report **EXHIBIT B**
- B. May Financials **EXHIBIT C**

7. New Business:

- A. Resolution on Synod Council Leadership Development :

ACTION 15:06/12

RESOLVED, that an individual may not serve concurrently on the Synod Council and as a Conference Dean; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that an individual may not serve concurrently on the Synod Council Executive Committee and as a Chairperson of a Strategic Plan Committee; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that an individual may not serve on the Synod Council Executive Committee while also serving or holding membership in a congregation that is a recipient of a Partnership Grant; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that none of the foregoing restrictions shall work to shorten the current term of any individual Synod Council or Executive Committee member, but in the case of an individual for which one or more such restrictions would apply, such restrictions shall take effect at the conclusion of his or her current term(s).

ADOPTED All in favor except one abstention.

VP Del Toro thanked

B. Executive Committee election

Nominated: Christopher Vergara, Karen Woolley, Hazel Goldstein, Harry Schenkel.

Motion by J Prosen to affirm the ballot. Motion seconded and adopted.

Elected: Christopher Vergara, Karen Woolley, Hazel Goldstein and Harry Schenkel.

ACTION 15:06/13

RESOLVED, that Christopher Vergara, Karen Woolley, Hazel Goldstein and Harry Schenkel are elected to serve on the Synod Council Executive Committee for a term of one year.

ADOPTED

C. Trexler Grant application

ACTION 15:06/14

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve a \$500 Trexler Grant for the Rev. Lamont Anthony Wells to assist with travel expenses to attend a faith-based community organizing training program in July 2015 offered by PICO (People Improving Communities through Organizing).

ADOPTED

D. St. John's, Lindenhurst: sale of property

ACTION SC 15:06/15

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council take no exception to the sale of the property located at 22 East John Street, Lindenhurst.

ADOPTED

E. St. Paul's, Brooklyn: sale of development rights ("air rights")

Proposal was reviewed and found acceptable.

ACTION SC 15:06/16

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council take no exception to the sale of development rights / air rights located at 36 Rodney Street and 334 South 5th Street, Brooklyn, New York

ADOPTED

F. St. Thomas House, Bronx:

Kathleen Schmidt outlined reasons for selling the property, the main reason being the development of neighboring property that will potentially damage the property. Kathleen Schmidt will speak with purchaser about providing space in new building for synod to maintain a ministry presence in the community.

VP Del Toro invited Pr. El-Yateem to pray before the council voted.

ACTION SC 15:06/17

RESOLVED, that a contract be entered into for the sale of the property located at 1942 Grand Concourse, Bronx, New York, known as St. Thomas House, with 1940 Grand LLC or an affiliate thereof for the sale price of \$1,000,000.

ADOPTED For: 16 Against: 7 Abstentions: 0

G. Salam Arabic Lutheran Church, Brooklyn
Pr. Lamont Wells reported on the Comprehensive Ministry Review of the congregation.

WHEREAS, Salam Arabic Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, New York (Salam Arabic), maintains a valuable ministry to Christians from the Middle East who have come to the Metropolitan New York area, many of whom were uprooted from their homes due to political unrest and economic instability; and

WHEREAS, a Comprehensive Ministry Review of Salam Arabic has disclosed that sustainability has been a primary presenting issue since the inception of the congregation; and

WHEREAS, said Comprehensive Ministry Review recommended that Salam Arabic focus on internal congregational development for healthy, vital congregational ministry, develop a Financial Sustainability Plan, and develop and implement an evangelical mission plan; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan New York Synod values the ministry of Salam Arabic Lutheran Church and desires to give financial support to the congregation during this period of development.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED, that up to \$210,000 be made available from the Salam Ministry Fund during the 18 month period commencing October 1, 2015, for the mission and ministry of Salam Arabic, Brooklyn, released conditionally in six month increments of \$70,000 each, upon a satisfactory review with the synod Outreach Table of progress in the previous six month period, which review shall be reported to the Executive Committee of the Synod Council for possible action. The conditions include:

1. Development and implementation of a robust action plan with benchmarks and timelines for contextually relevant implementation of the April 2015 Comprehensive Ministry Review recommendations with a focus on internal congregational development for healthy, vital congregational ministry, and a Financial Sustainability Plan. The Director for Evangelical Mission will accompany the ministry to finalize the action plan (benchmarks and timelines) with the mutual consensus of the congregation's leadership and the synod Outreach Table; and
2. Intentional discernment and planning is a priority in 2015 and 2016 for the development and implementation of an evangelical mission plan by January 2017. The Office of the Bishop of the Metropolitan New York Synod, via the Director for Evangelical Mission, will accompany the ministry to explore evangelical mission plan options for intentional transformation and renewal, including redevelopment ministry, area ministry strategy, and parallel development merger/consolidation.

AND IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that this plan for giving financial support be for a period of 18 months only, and is not renewable.

ACTION SC 15:06/18

RESOLVED, that up to \$210,000 be made available from the Salam Ministry Fund during the 18 month period commencing October 1, 2015, for the mission and ministry of Salam Arabic, Brooklyn, released conditionally in six month increments of \$70,000 each, upon a satisfactory review with the synod Outreach Table of progress in the previous six month period, which review shall be reported to the Executive Committee of the Synod Council for possible action. The conditions include:

- 1. Development and implementation of a robust action plan with benchmarks and timelines for contextually relevant implementation of the April 2015 Comprehensive Ministry Review recommendations with a focus on internal congregational development for healthy, vital congregational ministry, and a Financial Sustainability Plan. The Director for Evangelical Mission will accompany the ministry to finalize the action plan (benchmarks and timelines) with the mutual consensus of the congregation's leadership and the synod Outreach Table; and**
- 2. Intentional discernment and planning is a priority in 2015 and 2016 for the development and implementation of an evangelical mission plan by January 2017. The Office of the Bishop of the Metropolitan New York Synod, via the Director for Evangelical Mission, will accompany the ministry to explore evangelical mission plan options for intentional transformation and renewal, including redevelopment ministry, area ministry strategy, and parallel development merger/consolidation.**

AND IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that this plan for giving financial support be for a period of 18 months only, and is not renewable.

ADOPTED

H. 2016 Synod Assembly: May 19-21, 2016 / Long Island Melville Marriott Hotel, Huntington, NY

The Assembly Planning Committee reviewed three proposals for the 2016 Synod Assembly. It recommended that the 2016 Assembly be held at the The Long Island Melville Marriott for the dates above.

ACTION SC 15:06/19

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the dates and location of the 2016 Synod Assembly as presented by the Assembly Planning Committee.

ADOPTED

- I. Synod Council / Executive Committee meeting schedule 2015 - 2016

ACTION SC 15:06/20

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the meeting schedule set forth for the Executive Committee and the Synod Council as presented.

ADOPTED

8. Old Business

- A. Congregations / properties under synod administration **EXHIBIT D**
a. Reformation, Brooklyn

ACTION SC 15:06/21

RESOLVED, that a contract be entered into for the sale of the property located at 105-107 Barbey St., Brooklyn, New York, formerly known as Reformation Lutheran Church, to Citadel of Praise and Worship, Inc. for the sale price of \$2,300,000.

ADOPTED For: 23 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

- b. Former St. Luke's, Brooklyn
Kathleen Schmidt reported that attorney general has approved the sale.
- c. Former First, Jeffersonville

ACTION SC 15:06/22

Resolved, that the Metropolitan New York Synod ratify the decision of the Executive Committee to enter into contract for the sale of property located at 3 Main Street (Route 52), Jeffersonville, NY formerly known as First Lutheran Church, to Darin K. Vest or someone whom he will designate for the amount of \$87,500.

ADOPTED For: 23 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

- B. Congregation Loan status **EXHIBIT E**

ACTION SC 15:06/23

RESOLVED, that the \$24,600 loan to New Hope Valley Stream be forgiven.

ADOPTED

ACTION SC 15:06/24

RESOLVED, that the \$41,460 loan to Epiphany, Hempstead be forgiven.

ADOPTED

- C. Former Zion, Brooklyn / NYU Lutheran (Term Sheet) **EXHIBIT F**

ACTION SC 15:06/25

RESOLVED, that the MNYS Synod Council approve the Term Sheet and authorize the preparation of a contract for sale of the property formerly known as Zion Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, NY (consisting of 3 tax lots located at 6309 Fourth Ave., 414 63rd St, and 416 63rd St.) to Fifth Avenue Committee, Inc., or its affiliate, for a minimum price of \$6,624,338.

ADOPTED

- D. Grace, North Branch

ACTION SC 15:06/26

Resolved, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council authorize the release of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, North Branch, New York from the roster of the congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America pending receipt of payment of \$15,000 as reimbursement for expenses incurred by the synod; and receipt of a letter signed by the Rev. Norman David stating he will never again become involved with any congregation of the Metropolitan New York Synod.

ADOPTED

E. Pending

- MNYS Committee structure
- Report Process for election of a Bishop
-

9. Other Reports

A. Deans

10. Announcements/Events

11. Observers' Evaluation

Compline led by Pr. Linman

Next Synod Council Meeting: September 26 (Saturday) Location TBD

Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm by VP Del Toro.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Robert P. Schoepflin, Secretary