

**SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**Mr. Leonel E. Avila** 2020  
**Ms. Cynthia Corley** 2020  
**Ms. Muriel Davis** 2020  
**\*Ms. Maria del Toro, Vice President** 2018  
**Ms. Tabitha Johnson (youth)** 2018  
**The Rev. Amy Kienzle** 2018  
**Mr. John Litke** 2018  
**Dr. Carlos Lopez** 2018  
**Dcn. John Malone** 2018  
**Ms. Karen Maulen** 2018  
**The Rev. Christopher Mietlowski** 2020  
The Rev. Craig Miller 2018  
Mr. Walter Nash 2018  
**The Rev. Jeanine Owens** 2020  
*Dcn. Lulu Paolini* 2018  
**The Rev. Daniel Peter** 2018  
**Dcn. John Prosen** 2020  
**\*The Rev. Robert A. Rimbo, Bishop** 2020  
**Ms. Denise Rutherford-Gill** 2020  
**\*The Rev. Harry Schenkel** 2018  
**\*The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Sect.** 2018  
**The Rev. Nicole Schwalbe** 2020  
**\*Mr. Frank Suttell, Treasurer** 2020  
*Ms. Wendy Bean Tannenbaum* 2018  
*Ms. Abby Triebel* 2020  
**Ms. Emma Turner (Young Adult)** 2020  
**\*Mr. Christopher Vergara** 2020

**AUXILIARY MEMBERS**

**STAFF**

**Ms. Susan Brandt**  
**Mr. Branden Dicks**  
**The Rev. Perucy Butiku**  
**The Rev. Kathleen Koran**  
**The Rev. Jonathan Linman**  
**Dcn. Gayle Ruege**  
**Ms. Kathleen Schmidt**  
**Ms. Rebekah Thornhill**  
**The Rev. Lamont Wells**

**GUESTS**

**Mr. Eugene Hiigel, LEDS Board**

**Bold = present**

*Italics = excused absence*

\*Member of Executive Committee

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**Opening Devotions:** *Bp. Robert Rimbo led Evening Prayer*

**Installation of newly elected Synod Council members**

**Observer:** *The Rev. Jonathan Linman*

**Call to Order:** *Ms. Maria del Toro*

**1. Introduction of Members**

VP Del Toro welcomed newly elected members and the guest at the meeting.

**2. Adoption of the Agenda**

Secretary Schoepflin moved two amendments to the agenda; one to accept the resignation of The Rev. Brenda Irving, and the second to allow for the election of an individual to fill the vacant seat until the May 2017 Synod Assembly. The agenda, as amended, was adopted.

Upon motion made and seconded, the resignation of The Rev. Brenda Irving as a member of the Synod Council was accepted.

Upon motion made and seconded, The Rev. Garry Squire was elected to fill the vacant seat on Synod Council until the May 2017 Synod Assembly, when an election for the seat will be held.

**ACTION SC16:06/01**

**RESOLVED, that The Rev. Garry Squire is elected to fill the vacant seat on Synod Council until the May 2017 Synod Assembly, when an election for the seat will be held.**

**ADOPTED**

- A. Expectations of members: Manual for SC Training & Formation: Gayle Ruege noted changes to the Manual.

Upon motion made and seconded, the revisions to the Manual were approved.

**ACTION SC16:06/02**

**RESOLVED, that the revisions to the Synod Council Manual are approved.**

**ADOPTED**

Members signed the Council Member Covenant of Conduct.

- B. Conflict of Interest – Disclosure Statement : completed and signed by members

**3. Adoption of the Minutes:** 23 April 2016: adopted as presented.

**4. Synod Assembly review:** Rebekah Thornhill showed the video. VP Del Toro invited members to comment on the video and the assembly.

VP Del Toro asked all persons present at the meeting to introduce themselves, indicating home congregation and what they hoped to bring to the Synod Council.

**5. Bishop's Report**

A. Calls

- a. **The Rev. Maritza Ortiz-Cruz:** *Mission Developer, New Hope for All Saints, Bronx effective July 1, 2016.*  
Bp. Rimbo invited Pr. Lamont Wells to describe the work of a Mission Developer in this ministry site.

**ACTION SC16:06/03**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to Maritza Ortiz-Cruz as Mission Developer for New Hope For All Saints, Bronx effective 1 July 2016.**

**ADOPTED**

- b. **Ms. Leticia Alanis:** *Mission Developer, All Saints – Todos Los Santos, SW Queens effective August 1, 2016*  
Bp. Rimbo invited Pr. Jonathan Linman to briefly describe the TEEM process and Pr. Lamont Wells to describe the vision for this ministry site.

**ACTION SC16:06/04**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve All Saints - Todos Los Santos as an approved mission site for TEEM candidate Leticia Alanis as Mission Developer effective 1 August 2016.**

**ADOPTED**

- c. **Dcn. Gayle Ruege:** *Senior Assistant to the Bishop effective 16 June 2016*

**ACTION SC16:06/05**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to Dcn. Gayle Ruege as Senior Assistant to the Bishop effective 16 June 2016.**

**ADOPTED**

- d. **Dcn. Peter Slingerland:** *OLFC effective 28 June 2016*

**ACTION SC1606/06**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve On Leave from Call Status to Dcn. Peter Slingerland effective 28 June 2016.**

**ADOPTED**

**B. Appointments**

- a. Ms. Suzanne R. Hoglund: *Financial Management Committee (June 1, 2016 – May 31, 2018)*
- b. Mr. Jeffrey MacDonagh: *Financial Management Committee (June 1, 2016 – May 31, 2019) / 3<sup>rd</sup> term*
- c. Mr. Jeffrey Peterson: *Financial Management Committee (June 1, 2016 – May 31, 2019) / 2<sup>nd</sup> term*
- b. Dcn. John Malone: *MNYS Diaconate Council*

**C. Appeal Process (update)**

- a. Eltingville, Staten Island  
Bp. Rimbo gave an update on where this congregation was in its process to appeal the imposition of synod administration.
- b. St. Paul's, Coney Island  
Bp. Rimbo gave an update on where this congregation was in its process to appeal the imposition of synod administration.
- c. St. Peter's, Bronx

Bp. Rimbo gave an update on where this congregation was in its process to appeal the imposition of synod administration.

D. Office construction:

Ms. Kathy Schmidt reported on work that will be done in the synod office.

**6. Strategic Plan Implementation**

A. Claimed Committee

a. 2017 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration:

Pr. Jonathan Linman reported on events and programs being planned

B. Gathered Committee

a. SW Queens Strategy: Pr. Lamont Wells reported.

b. Bronx Strategy

- Epiphany, Bronx: Pr. Jonathan Linman reported that an advisory panel met with the congregation, and that the congregation is now worshipping in a store front location with success.

Ms. Kathy Schmidt reported on Fordham, Resurrection and St. Paul's, and their work toward redevelopment of their properties, and presented resolutions of Executive Committee for partnership grants.

Mr. Frank Suttell moved to amend all three resolutions by removing a reverter clause contingency. This motion was seconded.

Upon discussion, the motion to amend was adopted.

**ACTION SC16:06/07**

**RESOLVED, that Fordham Lutheran Church, Bronx be approved grant funding not to exceed \$50,000 for the period of July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 to be used for basic operating expenses during the crafting of a redevelopment proposal that will include a comprehensive business plan and long range mission plan.**

**RESOLVED, that the Director for Evangelical Mission, will work with the congregation on an ELCA Partnership Support Covenant.**

**ADOPTED**

**ACTION SC16:06/08**

**RESOLVED, that Resurrection Lutheran Church, Bronx be approved grant funding not to exceed \$50,000 for the period of July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 to be used for basic operating expenses during the crafting of a redevelopment proposal that will include a comprehensive business plan and long range mission plan.**

**RESOLVED, that the Director for Evangelical Mission, will work with the congregation on an ELCA Partnership Support Covenant.**

**ADOPTED**

**ACTION SC16:06/09**

**RESOLVED, that St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Bronx be approved grant funding not to exceed \$50,000 for the period of July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 to be used for basic operating expenses during the crafting of a redevelopment proposal that will include a comprehensive business plan and long range mission plan.**

**RESOLVED, that the Director for Evangelical Mission, will work with the congregation on an ELCA Partnership Support Covenant.**

**ADOPTED**

c. Epiphany Church & School, Brooklyn

Ms. Kathy Schmidt reported on work on redevelopment plan and need on the part of the congregation for a grant to carry them until plan can be carried out

After resolution for grant from Executive Committee was presented, Mr. John Litke moved to defer the resolution to the next Synod Council meeting. This motion was seconded. After discussion, motion to defer was defeated.

Mr. Suttell moved to amend resolution to include a resolve that synod will retain a consultant to prepare a compilation of the congregation's financials. This amendment was adopted.

Dcn. Prosen moved to amend resolution to make grant contingent upon the approval of a loan from the Mission Investment Fund. This amendment was adopted.

**ACTION SC16:06/10**

**RESOLVED, that the Synod Council commend Epiphany Lutheran Church for the submission of a proposal that includes a comprehensive business plan and long range mission plan for the redevelopment of their property. RESOLVED, that Epiphany Lutheran Church, Brooklyn be approved for grant funding not to exceed \$500,000 over a two (2) year period (2017/2018) for its carrying costs to offset the school's deficit, current debt obligations and toward payment of construction loan interest, contingent upon approval of plan by the congregation and approval of a loan from the Mission Investment Fund.**

**RESOLVED, that the Director for Evangelical Mission, will work with the congregation on an ELCA Partnership Support Covenant.**

**RESOLVED, that the Synod will retain an outside consultant to prepare, at Synod's expense, a compilation of the congregation's financials.**

**RESOLVED, that Epiphany Lutheran Church, Brooklyn grant funding is contingent upon the inclusion of a deed reverter clause.**

**ADOPTED**

d. Stewardship & Mission Support Table: *Synod Stewardship Table recommendations for SC* Report will be given at September meeting.

C. Sowers Initiative Grant: *Redeemer, New Paltz*

Sower's grants are reviewed and recommended by the Innovation Team to the Bishop for approval. A sower's grant has been awarded to Pr. Tobias Anderson / Redeemer, New Paltz to offer an arts-based summer camp in the New Paltz area.

D. Sent Committee

a. Anti-Racism Initiative

- Crossroads Antiracism training workshops (June 11, September 10, November 12)  
Pr. Perucy Butiku reported on the June 11 workshop at Ascension, Deer Park.

E. Financial Management Committee (FMC)

Mr. Frank Suttell reported about work of committee on Epiphany, Brooklyn grant.

**7. Treasurer's Report**

A. Mission Support Report

Mr. Frank Suttell reported that we are slightly under budget in mission support.

**8. New Business**

A. Executive Committee elections

**ACTION SC16:06/11**

**RESOLVED, that The Rev. Harry Schenkel, Mr. Christopher Vergara, Dcn. Carlos Lopez, and The Rev. Amy Kienzle are elected to the Executive Committee of the Synod Council.**

**ADOPTED**

B. Leif Ericson Day School, Brooklyn:

- LEDS / MNYS Covenant
- Amended By-Laws

Mr. Gene Hiigel gave council background information on school, noting that congregation has closed and synod is the "owner" of the school. In fact, this is only school in ELCA not sponsored by a congregation. He presented the covenants and the amended bylaws.

**ACTION SC16:06/12**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the amended by-laws of Leif Ericson Day School and adopt the Covenantal Relationship of the Metropolitan New York Synod and Leif Ericson Day School as presented.**

**ADOPTED**

C. Synod Council Sep 2016 – June 2017 meeting schedule  
Paperless meetings

D. Formation of a Constitution Review Committee (resolution)

**ACTION SC16:06/13**

**RESOLVED, that under the authority vested in it by Section S11.23 of the Constitution of the Metropolitan New York Synod, the Synod Council hereby establishes a Constitution Review Committee consisting of the Secretary of the Synod and up to three other members appointed for three year terms by the bishop with the advice and consent of the Synod Council; and it is further,**

**RESOLVED, that the Constitution Review Committee will review annually the Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Metropolitan New York Synod and provide a report to the Synod Council noting areas in which the Synod is not operating in compliance and, as appropriate, recommend amendments to the Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions; and it is further**

**RESOLVED, that the Constitution Review Committee will review all congregation constitutions on file with the Synod to determine compliance with the Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA, including the Model Constitution for Congregations, and make recommendations to congregations for amendment to their constitutions to bring them into compliance; and it is further**  
**RESOLVED, that the Constitution Review Committee will assist the Secretary of the Synod in reviewing amendments to congregation constitutions when they are submitted in accordance with C16.04, C17.03 or C17.04 of the Model Constitution for Congregations, and make report of such reviews to the Synod Council.**  
**ADOPTED**

**9. Old Business**

- A. Congregations / properties under synod administration: Ms. Kathy Schmidt reported.  
a. Former Redeemer, Flushing property: *contract for sale*

**ACTION SC16:06/14**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the contract for sale to Golani Development Group LLC for \$2,375,000 for the property located at 157-16 65<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Flushing Hgts, NY.**  
**ADOPTED ( 22 for 0 against 0 abstentions)**

- b. Former Bethlehem, Bronx property: *contract for sale*

**ACTION SC16:06/15**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the contract for sale to The New Move of God Pentecostal Church for \$555,000 for the property located at 327 Bolton Avenue, Bronx, NY.**  
**ADOPTED ( 22 for 0 against 0 abstentions)**

**ACTION SC16:06/16**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod is authorized to accept any bid of \$2 million or more for the property formerly known as St. Luke's, Woodhaven.**  
**ADOPTED ( 22 for 0 against 0 abstentions)**

- B. ELCA / MNYS Campaigns:  
a. Feasibility Study RFP  
Pr. Lamont Wells reported that some proposals have been received but funding needs to be looked at.
- C. Synod Assembly  
a. Special Assembly: 15 October 2016  
Bp. Rimbo reported that this date has been reserved for a special assembly to hear congregational appeals. The congregations that have requested an appeal have engaged the synod in civil litigation and have not responded to synod communications to begin the ecclesial process.
- b. 2017 Synod Assembly: May 11-13, 2017 / Westchester Marriott, Tarrytown, NY

**ACTION SC16:06/17**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the dates of May 11-13, 2017 and the location of the Westchester Marriott, Tarrytown, NY for the 2017 Synod Assembly.**  
**ADOPTED**

D. SA Actions (Pending)

- SA2015:05.08 / MNYS Disaster Response Task Force
- 2016 SA Actions

1. SC16:04/07 Supporting Organizations

This action was approved by the Synod Council in April 2016 (SC16:04/07).

2. SA2016:05.4 On Mission Partnerships

This resolution was brought to the Assembly by the Western Suffolk Conference Ministerium. Gayle Ruege and Sue Brandt are schedule to meet with them on September 20.

3. SA2016:05.09 On Committee Minutes

Sue Brandt has taken the responsibility of monitoring / managing incoming minutes from synod committees.

4. SA2016:05.11 On Advocacy and Justice for Refugees

No action taken yet.

E. Pending

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

**8. Observer's Evaluation**

Closing prayer was led by Bp Rimbo.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm by VP Del Toro.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Robert P. Schoepflin, Secretary