

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Leonel E. Avila 2020
The Rev. William Baum 2017
Ms. Cynthia Corley 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
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
The Rev. Garry Squire 2017
***Mr. Frank Suttell, Treasurer** 2020
Ms. Wendy Bean Tannenbaum 2018
Ms. Abby Triebel 2020
Ms. Emma Turner (Young Adult) 2020
***Mr. Christopher Vergara** 2020
Ms. Karen Woolley 2017

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

Bold = present

Italics = excused absence

*Member of Executive Committee

Devotions: *The Rev. Amy Kienzle*

Observer: *Dcn. Carlos Lopez*

Call to Order: *Ms. Maria del Toro*

1. **Adoption of the Agenda**
2. **Adoption of the Minutes:** 13 December 2016
3. **“Tell your story”**
Ms. Tabitha Johnson shared
4. **Bishop’s Report**
Bp. Rimbo
 - A. **Calls**
 - a. **The Rev. Jon Overvold: *Senior Director of Mission & Spiritual Care /NYU Langone Health System***

ACTION SC17:02/01

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to The Rev. Jon Overvold, as Senior Director of Mission & Spiritual Care / NYU Langone Lutheran Health System, effective 15 February 2017.

ADOPTED

- b. **The Rev. Rebecca Pollicino: *Intentional Interim / Holy Trinity, Bellerose effective 14 Feb 17***

ACTION SC17:02/02

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to The Rev. Rebecca Pollicino as Interim Pastor of Holy Trinity, Bellerose, effective 14 February 2017.

ADOPTED

B. Appointments

- a. **The Rev. Joel Brandt: *Chair, Reference & Counsel / renewal of appointment – 2nd year***
- b. **The Rev. Chryll Crews: *Reference & Counsel / renewal of appointment – 2nd year***
- c. **Mr. Eugene Hiigel: *Reference & Counsel***
- d. **Ms. Meaghan Atkinson: *Reference & Counsel***
- e. **Mr. Rob Sinanan: *Reference & Counsel***
- f. **The Rev. John Jurik: *Reference & Counsel***

ACTION SC17:02/03

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council appoint The Rev. Joel Brandt, Ms. Meaghan Atkinson, The Rev. Chryll Crews, Mr. Eugene Hiigel, Mr. Rob Sinanan, and The Rev. John Jurik to serve on the 2017 Committee on Reference & Counsel effective 15 February 2017.

ADOPTED

- g. The Rev. Dr. Rosalind Brathwaite: *Co-Chair Tanzania Companionship Committee*
- h. The Rev. Carol Fryer: *Co-Chair Tanzania Companionship Committee*
- i. Dcn. Coreen Blake: *Leadership Development Grant Review Team*

These appointments required no Synod Council action.

C. Staff

a. staff reports (Sep 2016-Jan 2017)

Bp. Rimbo noted that Assistants to the Bishop have consistently provided reports to the Synod Council twice a year in the months of January and September – in addition to an annual report printed in the Synod Assembly Bulletin of Reports.

b. Assistant to the Bishop for Congregations

Bp. Rimbo announced the retirement of The Rev. Kathleen Koran, effective April 30. The posting of the position for Assistant to the Bishop for Congregations has been communicated in our e-letter and forwarded to the ELCA to post as an open position. Applications will be received and interviews made during the month of March and a recommendation will be made to the Executive Committee. The eventual candidate for the position will be presented to the Synod Council.

D. Wider Church Grants

Bp. Rimbo noted that The Wider Church Fund was established by the Synod Council in 2004 and funded through a 10% tithe of the net proceeds from property sales. These grants are intended to help fund programs outside of our synod's regular operating budget. A grant review team (Bp. Jim Sudbrock; Pr. Brenda Irving, Pr. John Backe and Ms. Sarah Beatty) along with Kathy Schmidt and the Bishop review applications and award grant requests.

A listing of this year's recipients is attached as **EXHIBIT A**.

E. Transfiguration, Harlem

Bp. Rimbo reported that the congregation of Transfiguration, Harlem has been without a full time pastor since the resignation of Pr. Barbara Kearse in 2006 (for health reasons). Since that time pastoral ministry has been provided on a part-time / coverage basis with a Sunday supply. Pastors that have served in this part-time / coverage capacity have been: Pr. Faith Ballenger; Pr. Barrie Lawless; Pr. Martin Malzahn; Pr. Dan Ruth; Pr. Harry Schenkel; Pr. Anna Reike, and currently, Pr. John Flack (Dean). Synod time and resources have been expended over the years to assist the congregation. (Kathy Schmidt, Pr. Koran and Pr. Wells have consulted and met with them on several occasions. Concerns expressed by an elected officer of the congregation prompted the appointment of an Advisory Panel. The Panel interviewed members of the congregation and provided a report on their findings with recommendations. The Bishop sent a letter on January 31 to the Congregation Council which summarized their current ministry and his recommendations for future action. The congregation council to meet with the Bishop to discuss the letter and recommendations. The meeting is scheduled for February 28.

5. Strategic Plan Implementation

VP Del Toro reported that all of the Strategic Committees have been working on their proposed budgets for 2017 and 2018.

A. CLAIMED Committee

VP Del Toro reported that the Claimed Committee is continuing to focus on Reformation 500 planning & events. Many events have already taken place. Focus for the retreats of our rostered leaders, Deans, Synod Council and staff include a Reformation 500 theme and educational emphasis.

The committee is also planning to develop an Initiative for First Thirds Ministry (ages 0-30) in our synod.

B. GATHERED Committee

VP Del Toro reported that the Gathered Committee is continuing with the Congregation Capital Improvement Grants, the Leadership Development Grants and the Sowers Grants. Leadership Development is the priority.

C. SENT Committee

VP Del Toro reported that the top priority of the Sent Committee is to continue with Anti-racism trainings and develop an Immigration Initiative.

D. FMC

VP Del Toro reported that the FMC is working with budget requests to finalize a budget for presentation to Synod Council and Synod Assembly.

E. Anti-racism Initiative / Enabler

VP Del Toro noted that this was reported previously under SENT committee and that the hope is to schedule 3 more trainings in 2017 with presenters from Crossroads to equip pastors and lay leaders.

F. Congregation Council Training Events (Feb 4, 11, 18)

G. Ruege reported that the three February Congregation Council Training events have been completed. 86 evaluations were completed and submitted by participants on-site at the conclusion of the training. There was not a single negative comment.

She went on to note that even though titled as training events, they were also congregation council appreciation events. Council members left feeling valued and acknowledged for their commitment to this important work of governance in their congregations.

6. Treasurer's Report

A. Mission Support through 31 January 2017 EXHIBIT B

Treasurer Suttell reported that contributions for the year totaled \$1,171,321, which was \$7,433 higher than what was received in the prior fiscal year. However, the budgeted amount for our fiscal year ending 1/31/17 was \$1,225,000, so we ended the year under budget by \$53,679.

He noted that Ms. Kathleen Schmidt is preparing the financial report for the auditors.

He reported that we are close to developing the supporting organization approved by the Synod Council.

7. Secretary's Report

A. Constitution Review Committee

Secr. Schoepflin noted that we are seeking nominations for both the overarching Committee and Quadrant review teams.

8. New Business

A. Named Funds Consolidation

Ms. Kathleen Schmidt spoke of the need and wisdom of consolidating certain of the permanently restricted funds.

ACTION SC17:02/04

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve that certain permanently restricted funds, namely the Martin Luther Kling Fund, the E. Kreider Fund, the Kreider Memorial Fund, the Weiskotten Fund, the Bishop James Graefe Fund, the Ministerial Education Fund, the St. James/Stechman Fund, the Berwager Fund, and the Magda Bratland Fund, be changed to temporarily restricted funds and that their balances be transferred to funds of like purpose, following appropriate notification to the NYS Attorney General.

ADOPTED

B. Trexler Grant: *The Rev. Peter Rustico*

ACTION SC17:02/05

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council award a Trexler Grant for \$1000 to the Rev. Peter Rustico to assist with expenses for a study tour of sacred and secular sites in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

ADOPTED

C. Conference re-assignment / re-alignment

a. Epiphany, Brooklyn

ACTION SC17:02/06

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the re-assignment of Epiphany, Brooklyn from the Brooklyn Bridges Conference to the South Shore Brooklyn Conference.

ADOPTED

b. SW Queens Conference and NW Queens Conference

ACTION SC17:02/07

RESOLVED, that the Southwest Queens Conference and the Northwest Queens Conference be merged to form one new Western Queens Conference.

ADOPTED

9. Old Business

A. Synod Properties / Congregations under synod administration **EXHIBIT C**

Ms. Kathleen Schmidt reported on status of properties under contract or in litigation.

a. Property lot: 85-15 101st Ave, Ozone Park, NY / List for saACTION

SC17:02/08

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve that the property located at 85-15 101st Ave, Ozone Park, New York be listed for sale.

ADOPTED (For: 26 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0)

B. ELCA/ MNYS Joint Campaign / Ratio split

ACTION SC17:02/09

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the proposed distribution of funds from the ELCA/MNYS Joint Campaign: to wit, 80% to the MNYS Campaign and 20% to the ELCA campaign.

ADOPTED

C. SA Actions (Pending)

- SA2015:05.08 / MNYS Disaster Response Task Force
- 2016 SA Actions
 1. SC16:04/07 Supporting Organizations
 2. SA2016:05.4 On Mission Partnerships
 3. SA2016:05.09 On Committee Minutes
 4. SA2016:05.11 On Advocacy and Justice for Refugees

10. Announcements / Other

- Congregation Council Training events
 - Mar 4, 11, 18
 - Encourage your congregation council to participate
 - Synod Council members are invited

11. Observer's Evaluation

Next Synod Council Meeting: March 21, 2017 (Meeting room C-D)

Next Executive Committee Meeting: March 7, 2017 *

*Proposed items for the Synod Council agenda should be submitted to Dcn. Gayle Ruege (gruege@mnys.org) for consideration by the Executive Committee on or before February 28.

As of September 2016, all committees are to provide a digital copy of meeting minutes to Susan Brandt (sbrandt@mnys.org) for the synod files. A template is available for committee use <http://www.mnys.org/committees/>

Adjourned at 7:05pm, with prayer by The Rev. Amy Kienzle.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Secretary