

***MINUTES OF A
SPECIAL SYNOD ASSEMBLY OF THE
METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA***

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May 6, 2022

A special assembly of the Synod was called by the Synod Council for the purpose of electing officers, synod council members, consultation committee members, and discipline committee members. Voting members of the 2021 Regular Assembly were the voting members for this Special Assembly. The plenary session of the assembly was held via Zoom, and the opening and closing worship via Facebook and YouTube.

Service of the Word and Opening of the Assembly was held at 9:45am.

FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2022

PLENARY SESSION

At 10:02 am Bishop Egensteiner called the plenary session to order.

Bishop Egensteiner welcomed the voting members and set forth the procedures for this digital assembly.

Bishop Egensteiner then introduced the Synod Assembly Coordinator, Pastor Paul Johnsen, the Assembly Parliamentarian, The Rev. C. Anderson James, the chair of the Worship Committee, The Rev. William Kroeze, and the chair of the Nominations and Election Committee, The Rev. Kevin O'Hara, and thanked them for their work.

Bishop Egensteiner then introduced the Synod staff:

Ms. Karen Falco, Chief Operating Officer;

S.Dcn. Gayle Ruege, Executive Assistant to the Bishop;

Mr. Branden Dupree, Director for Evangelical Mission;

Mr. Roberto Lara, Assistant for Communications and Development;

The Rev. Gladys Diaz, The Rev. Christopher Mietlowski and The Rev. Kevin Vandiver, Assistants to the Bishop who serve as his deployed staff;

S.Scen. Donna-Mari Fieldsa, Director for Finance, Administration and Grant Management;

Mr. Mark Goodwin, Manager for Synod-owned properties;

Ms. Regina Daniels, Ms. Kaitlin Kowalec, Ms. Claire Mazza, Ms. Maria Rodes, Ms. Nancy Lindeburg, Administrative Support Staff; and

Ms. Ardath Heard, Ms. Dee Scholz-Beyer, and Ms. Joan Swartz, office volunteers.

Bishop Egensteiner introduced the Conference of Deans.

The Rev. Jeffrey Koenig: Hudson

The Rev. Mary Lou Baumgartner: Delaware Hudson

The Rev. Jennifer Boyd and The Rev. James O’Hanlon: Tappan Zee
 The Rev. Micah Stumme: Eastern Nassau
 The Rev. Robert Cederstrom: Western Nassau
 The Rev. Martin Nale: Southwest Nassau
 The Rev. Paul Downing: Peconic
 The Rev. Joanne Bond: Western Suffolk
 The Rev. Marcia Parkinson-Harrison: Southeast Queens
 The Rev. Analyse Triolo: Northeast Queens
 The Rev. Paul Milholland: Western Queens
 The Rev. David Parsons: Brooklyn Bridges
 The Rev. Kelsy Brown: South Shore Brooklyn
 The Rev. Khader Khalilia: Southwest Brooklyn
 The Rev. Denielle Miller and The Rev. William Kroeze: Manhattan
 The Rev. Wolfgang Laudert: Staten Island
 The Rev. Jeanine Owens: Bronx

Bishop Egensteiner noted that the rules of procedure adopted at the 2021 Regular Synod Assembly would be followed at this Special Assembly.

Robert Lara then explained the digital voting procedure.

The Rev. Kevin O’Hara, Chair of Nominations and Elections, gave a report on the election process and noted that the report of the committee is published on the 2021 Assembly Platform.

First Report on Registration and Attendance

Lay Voting Members	83
Rostered Leaders	88
Total Voting Members	171
Visitors	<u>9</u>
Total Attendance	179

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda for the assembly was adopted as presented.

2022 DIGITAL SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY AGENDA

FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2022

9:45 am

Service of the Word + Opening of the Assembly
[Facebook](#) & [YouTube](#)

10:00 am - 1:00 pm | Plenary Session
 Welcome

Synod Assembly Resources + Digital Voting Process
Introduction of 2022 Nominations and Elections
Registration and Attendance
Adoption of the Agenda
Introduction of Synod Officers and Synod Council
Report of the Vice-President
Moment of Thanksgiving
Prayer for Officers' Election
Common Ballot I
ELCA Churchwide Report
Common Ballot II
Bishop's Report
Common Ballot III *OR* End of Plenary Session
End of Plenary Session

1:00 pm

Service of the Word for the Closing of the Assembly with the Rite of
Installation of Our New Synod Council

Adoption of Rules of the Assembly

The Rules were adopted as presented.

Introduction of Synod Officers and Synod Council

Bishop Egensteiner introduced the officers and council to the Assembly.

Ms. Renee Wicklund, Vice President
The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Secretary
Mr. John Litke, Treasurer
Ms. Cynthia Corley (Executive Committee)
S.Dcn. Steven Daniels
The Rev. George Dietrich
Mr. David Ehlers (Executive Committee)
Ms. Hazel Goldstein,
The Rev. Marva Jenkins
Mr. Erich Markert
Ms. Lily Sage Mathias
Mx. Anna Moritz (young adult)
The Rev. Jeanine Owens (Executive Committee)
The Rev. David Parsons
The Rev. Daniel Peter Penumaka
Mr. Aiden Sargent (youth)
Mr. Thomas Sargent
Cecil "Chip" Spurlock-Shackelton
The Rev. Gary Squire (Executive Committee)
The Rev. Brooke Swertfager

Ms. Wendy Bean Tannenbaum
S. Dcn. Anita Martin-Williams
The Rev. Dr. Kimberly Wilson

Report of the Vice President

VP Renee Wicklund gave her report to the Assembly, after which Bishop Egensteiner spoke warm words of thanks for her leadership.

VP candidate Christopher Vergara addressed the Assembly.

Second Report on Registration and Attendance

Lay Voting Members	94
Rostered Leaders	96
Total Voting Members	190
Visitors	<u>10</u>
Total Attendance	200

First Common Ballot

Bishop Egensteiner invited Pr. Kevin O’Hara to conduct voting on the first common ballot.

ACTION SA2022:05.01

Elected as Vice President: Mr. Christopher Vergara

Elected as Secretary: The Rev. Robert Schoepflin

Elected to Synod Council:

- The Rev. Linda Manson
- The Rev. Patty Avila
- The Rev. Ernst Moss
- The Rev. David Parsons
- Ms. Monique Davis
- S.Dcn. Dave Ehlers
- Mr. Tom Sargent
- S.Dcn. Philip Jenks
- Mr. Cecil Spurlock-Shackleton
- Mr. Aiden Sargent

ELCA Churchwide Report

The Rev. Dr. Ruben Duran, ELCA Senior Advisor for New Ministry Development addressed the Assembly and presented a video address of Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

Second Common Ballot

Bishop Egensteiner invited Pr. Kevin O’Hara to conduct voting on the first common ballot.

ACTION SA2022:05.02

Elected to Consultation Committee:

The Rev. Marcia Parkinson-Harrison

The Rev. John Saraka

Ms. Elaine Peters-Guthrie

Mr. Peter Tomasai

Elected to Discipline Committee:

The Rev. Dr. Joann Heaney-Hunter

The Rev. Alex Raabe

Ms. Jeanne Matson

Bishop's Report

Final Thoughts from our Bishop

Bishop Egensteiner extended thanks to his staff, Synod Council officers and members, the churchwide representative, the Assembly planning committee, the Assembly chaplain, the Nominations and Elections committee, the Worship Committee, the Assembly Parliamentarian, and all the individuals who managed the technology to make the digital assembly possible.

He then closed the session and invited voting members and guests to attend the Service of the Word for the Closing of the Assembly with the Rite of Installation of new Synod Council at 1:00 pm, via Facebook or YouTube.

The Service of the Word for the Closing or the Assembly with the Rite of Installation of Synod Council members was held at 1:00 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Robert Schoepflin
Secretary, MNYS*