

**SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS**

<b>Mr. Leonel E. Avila</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Mr. Adam A.D. Campbell (Youth)</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>*Ms. Cynthia Corley</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>The Rev. Chryll Crews</b>	<b>2022</b>
<i>S. Dcn. Steven Daniels</i>	<i>2022</i>
<b>Mr. David Ehlers</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Ms. Monica Gavryszewski</b>	<b>2019</b>
<i>Ms. Hazel Goldstein</i>	<i>2022</i>
<b>The Rev. Marva Jenkins</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>*Mr. John Litke, Treasurer</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>*Bishop Donald McCoid</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>The Rev. Christopher Mietlowski</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>S. Dcn. John Ogren</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>*The Rev. Jeanine Owens</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>The Rev. David Parsons</b>	<b>2022</b>
<i>*The Rev. Daniel Peter</i>	<i>2022</i>
<b>S. Dcn. Denise Rutherford-Gill</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Mr. Thomas Sargent</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>*The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Sect.</b>	<b>2022</b>
<i>The Rev. Nicole Schwalbe</i>	<i>2020</i>
<i>Mr. Cecil Spurlock-Shackelton</i>	<i>2022</i>
<b>The Rev. Garry Squire</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Ms. Wendy Bean Tannenbaum</b>	<b>2022</b>
<i>Ms. Emma Turner (Young Adult)</i>	<i>2020</i>
<b>*Mr. Christopher Vergara</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>*Ms. Renee Wicklund, VP</b>	<b>2022</b>
<i>S. Dcn. Anita Martin-Williams</i>	<i>2022</i>
<b>Ms. Karen Woolley</b>	<b>2020</b>

**STAFF**

**Dcn. Margy Schmitt Ajer**  
**Ms. Susan Brandt**  
*The Rev. Percy Butiku*  
**Ms. Regina Daniels**  
**Mr. Branden Dupree**  
**Mr. Roberto Lara**  
*The Rev. Jonathan Linman*  
**Ms. Maria Rodas**  
**Synod Dcn. Gayle Ruege**  
**The Rev. Lamont Wells**

**Guests**

**Bold = present**

*Italics = excused absence*

\*Member of Executive Committee

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***Opening Devotions:*** Pastor David Parsons

***Observer:*** Pastor Christopher Mietlowski

***Call to Order:*** Ms. Renee Wicklund at 5:12 pm.

**1. Adoption of the Agenda:** adopted as presented.

**2. Adoption of the SC Minutes (11 December 2018)  
2018 Synod Assembly minutes**

**ACTION SC19:01/01**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the minutes of the 2018 Synod Assembly as presented.**

**ADOPTED**

**3. Bishop's Report**

**A. Distribution of the Report of the Advisory Group**

Bp. McCoid expressed gratitude for the members of the Advisory Group for their willingness to serve in their role as listeners at the eight Town Hall meetings that were held across our synod.

He noted that 7 of the 10 members of the Adv. Group were former SC members that completed their terms of service at the May 2018 Assembly. The other three were: VP Renee Wicklund; Cynthia Corley and Pr. John Jurik, who serves on our synod's team of trained Bridge Builders.

The Advisory Group worked to develop a concise report that was released to the Synod today. Each SC member was provided a hard copy.

- The document describes the process
- The document provides the synod profile
- The Adv. Group also developed questions for pre-identified pastors to answer and submit to Secretary Schoepflin for posting on the website 45 days prior to the Assembly.

**B. Resources for the Election of the Bishop**

Bp. McCoid said a worship resource was developed by Pr. Jonathan Linman to be used by individuals, congregations, conferences as we journey this season of discernment. On Jan 15, Pr. Linman engaged the Deans in the use and practice of the resource, with the encouragement to return to their conferences and promote the resource and plan a conference event.

A targeted email containing links for the Report of the Town Hall Meetings, the Synod Site Profile (prepared by Dcn. Margy in consultation with the Deans and Synod Council ) and the Worship Resources was launched today.

**C. Calls**

- a. The Rev. Wilbert Miller: *Retirement status effective 1 Feb 2019***

**ACTION SC19:01/02**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve retirement status for The Rev. Wilbert Miller effective 1 February 2019.**

**ADOPTED**

b. The Rev. Michael Poole: *Intentional Interim Pastor/Christ, Islip Terrace effective 13 Jan 19*

**ACTION SC19:01/03**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to The Rev. Michael Poole as Intentional Interim Pastor for Christ, Islip Terrace effective 13 January 2019.**

**ADOPTED**

c. The Rev. Ann Tiemeyer: *On Leave from Call status effective 26 Jan 2019*

**ACTION SC19:01/04**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant On Leave from Call status for The Rev. Ann Tiemeyer effective 26 January 2019.**

**ADOPTED**

d. The Rev. Marianne Tomecek: *On Leave from Call status effective 16 Jan 19*

**ACTION SC19:01/05**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council ratify the Executive Committee's action to grant The Rev. Marianne Tomecek On Leave from Call status effective 16 January 2019.**

**ADOPTED**

**D. Appointments**

a. Committee on Reference and Counsel: 2019 Synod Assembly

- The Rev. Joel Brandt, Chair
- The Rev. Chryll Crews
- Mr. Eugene Hiigel
- Dcn. Judy Hinsch
- The Rev. John Jurik
- Mr. Rob Sinanan

**ACTION SC19:01/06**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council appoint the Rev. Joel Brandt, the Rev. Chryll Crews, Mr. Eugene Hiigel, Dcn. Judy Hinsch, the Rev. John Jurik, and Mr. Rob Sinanan, to serve on the 2019 Committee on Reference & Counsel effective 1 February 2019.**

**ADOPTED**

b. Bishop's Election Committee (BEC): 2019 Synod Assembly

The Rev. Kevin O'Hara, Chair of MNYS Nominations and Elections Committee

Bp. McCoid said that the Bishop's Election Committee is a separate committee formed specifically for the task of facilitating the election of a bishop.

Pastor Kevin O'Hara as chair of the synod's Nominations and Elections Committee will join VP Renee Wicklund, SA Coordinator Pr. Paul Johnson, Assembly Planning Committee chair, Liz Hoffman, and synod staff responsible for Synod Assembly coordination, for a group Informational conference call hosted by Walter May and Secretary Boerger regarding procedures and protocols for a bishop's election on Jan 28.

An overview of the responsibilities of the BEC will be discussed on this call. Bishop Election Committee appointees will be presented to the SC for appointment at the February meeting.

**E. Communications: 3Q metric review:**

Given by Mr. Roberto Lara.

**4. Report of the Vice President:**

**A. Visits and Consultations**

VP Wicklund spoke of the visits to congregation and conversations she has had with pastors and lay leaders in our synod.

**B. Synod Council visitation teams / mission support: Sign –up**

VP Wicklund noted that the Town Hall Meetings revealed a common desire for increased synod presence and visibility in our congregations. Visits to congregations by members of our Synod Council can help address that need and give us the opportunity to make that important connection with sisters and brothers around our synod.

Churchwide will send staff familiar with the Mission Interpreters Program to provide training for our SC members that will equip us to make congregation visits with confidence. The training will include talking points and resources.

**C. Lenten Devotions project**

Individuals from across our synod will be asked to submit Lenten devotions that will be posted daily during the Lenten season as we prayerfully prepare for the election of a bishop. SC members are encouraged to participate.

**5. Treasurer's Report :**

**A. Study / Trend Analysis**

Mr. John Litke prepared a Synod Trend Analysis that was distributed to each SC member.

**B. Mission Support (31 Dec 18) EXHIBIT A**

Mr. Litke noted it is still below what was expected.

**C. Financials (30 Nov 18) EXHIBIT B**

**6. Report of the Strategic Plan Working Group**

**A. Joint meeting held on 19 January**

VP Wicklund reported that The Strategic Committees had a joint meeting on January 19. A report to the SC is forthcoming.

**B. Committee Reports / Appointments**

**a. CLAIMED:**

Mr. Roberto Lara reported on communications strategy. Dcn. Margy Schmitt Ajer reported on efforts in First Thirds Ministry.

**b. GATHERED**

VP Wicklund spoke about the proposal to increase the budget for Leadership Development grants to include housing assistance for interns, and scholarships for MNYS candidates attending non-ELCA seminaries.

Dcn. Margy Schmitt Ajer reported on work being done to provide pastoral care for closing congregations.

**c. SENT**

VP Wicklund reported that the committee continues to focus on immigration and providing services to refugees.

**d. FMC**

Mr. Litke reported that the budget will be presented to the SC in March.

**e. ANTI-RACISM**

Pr. Marva Jenkins reported on work and training and the development of a resource bank on anti-racism.

**7. Old Business**

**A. Leif Ericson Day School**

**a. Educational Epiphany / Assessment – Audit of the school**

VP Wicklund reported that the assessment by Dr. Donyall Dickey began on January 2 – and the EC anticipates a report in February. The property assessment was completed and the report will be also be shared at the February meeting.

**B. Resolution: Reallocation of funds / Enhancing Immigration Initiative**

**Resolution: Enhancing Immigration Initiative / Sanctuary Fund**

**Whereas**, Scripture reminds us of God's call to welcome and be hospitable to the strangers among us and

**Whereas**, the Metropolitan New York Synod Council has declared this a Sanctuary Synod and a Welcoming Synod of the ELCA's AMMPARO Network and

**Whereas**, there is a present and growing need to support and accompany minors and young adult immigrants held in or recently released from detention.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod establish a board restricted Sanctuary Fund with an initial resource of \$50,000 from unexpended funds in the 2018 budget and

That the Sanctuary Fund be a resource for synod ministers to provide legal fees, application processing fees, bonds, and other critical resources for minors and young adults in or recently released from detention and

That any residuum of the fund at the beginning of a fiscal year that is less than 5% of peak funding be returned to operating assets and

That disbursement of funds be at the discretion of the office of the Bishop including the Assistant to the Bishop for Global and Multicultural Mission and sanctuary ministry designees of the office of the Bishop.

**ACTION SC19:01/07**

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod establish a board restricted Sanctuary Fund with an initial resource of \$50,000 from unexpended funds in the 2018 budget and

**That the Sanctuary Fund be a resource for synod ministers to provide legal fees, application processing fees, bonds, and other critical resources for minors and young adults in or recently released from detention and**

**That any residuum of the fund at the beginning of a fiscal year that is less than 5% of peak funding be returned to operating assets and**

**That disbursement of funds be at the discretion of the office of the Bishop including the Assistant to the Bishop for Global and Multicultural Mission and sanctuary ministry designees of the office of the Bishop.**

**ADOPTED**

**C. Extension of SC terms: Gabryzewski and Sargent through SA 2020**

**ACTION SC19:01/08**

**RESOLVED**, that the terms of Monica Gabryzewski and Tom Sargent be extended through the 2020 Assembly when members for the next Synod Council cycle will be elected.

**ADOPTED**

**D. Property Sale: former Trinity, St. Albans**

**WHEREAS**, the Synod Council by resolution dated June 10, 2017 exercised imposition of Section 13.24 of the Synod Constitution upon Trinity located at 200-02 119<sup>th</sup> Avenue as further identified on the City of New York, Queens County tax map as Block 12656, Lot 1 and 119-11 200<sup>th</sup> Street, St. Albans, New York, as further identified on the City of New York, Queens County tax map as Block 12656, Lot 55 (collectively, the “Property”), and took charge and control over the personal and real property of Trinity, including the Property, where worship and other mission and ministry functions were conducted; and

**WHEREAS**, title to the Property vested in the Synod upon imposition of Section 13.24 of the Synod Constitution and as provided in Sections 17-c 2(a)(ii) and (iii) and 17-c 2(c)(ii) of the Religious Corporations Law of the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS**, the Property is surplus property and is not needed by the Synod to conduct the mission and ministry services it provides to the member congregations of the Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in the New York metropolitan area; and

**WHEREAS**, in September 2018, having listed the Property for sale, and having received numerous offers to purchase the Property in “as is” condition, the best offer was made by the Northeastern Conference Corporation of Seventh-Day Adventists (“Purchaser”), a New York religious Corporation and unrelated third party *bona fide* purchaser, to purchase the Property from the Synod in “as is” condition, for \$1,800,000.00, and the Synod Council, at its regular meeting held on September 22, 2018, at which a quorum was present, duly adopted a resolution to enter into a contract to sell the Property to Purchaser in “as is” condition, for \$1,800,000.00 in cash at closing; and

**WHEREAS**, the Synod delivered a contract to Purchaser for the purchase of the Property from the Synod, for the price of \$1,800,000.00, in “as is” condition; which contract was executed by the Synod and Purchaser, subject to all approvals as required by New York law and all other terms contained therein (the “Agreement”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Synod Council caused an appraisal of the Property to be conducted by a certified New York real estate appraiser, that concluded that the fair market value of the Property as of October 1, 2018 was \$1,575,000 (the “Appraisal”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Synod Council has determined, having considered the Appraisal, the Agreement, and other information including the condition of the Property and the costs of maintaining same, that it is in the best interest of the Synod to sell the Property and further authorize the appropriate members of the Synod Council to make application to the Attorney General of the State of New York for approval to sell the Property and to execute any documents and papers considered necessary and appropriate to effectuate that sale.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, it is:

**RESOLVED**, that the Agreement negotiated and prepared by the Synod’s legal counsel,

Capell Barnett Matalon & Schoenfeld, LLP, for sale of the Property to Purchaser, for the price of \$1,800,000.00, in "as is" condition and subject to all approvals as required by New York law, is hereby approved; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that the execution of the Agreement by the Rev. Robert P. Schoepflin, as Secretary of the Synod, and acting solely and on behalf of the Synod, be and hereby is ratified; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that any one of the Officers of the Synod acting solely and on behalf of the Synod, be and hereby is authorized, empowered and directed to sign, verify and cause to be filed such Petition or other paper as may be required to obtain the approval as required by New York law of such sale to Purchaser based on the terms and conditions as recited in the Agreement, for the price of \$1,800,000.00, in "as is" condition; and, in the event that such approvals shall be obtained, to thereafter execute, acknowledge and deliver a Deed of Conveyance and all such other documents as may be required to convey title to the Property and to pay all customary and/or required closing costs, transfer taxes, broker, attorney and other professional fees incurred in connection with the sale of the property; and otherwise do all such things as may, upon advice of Capell Barnett Matalon & Schoenfeld LLP, counsel to the Synod, be reasonable, necessary, proper or convenient in order that the terms, provisions and agreements of the contract of sale be fulfilled and the transactions contemplated therein be effectuated; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that the net proceeds from the sale of the Property, after payment of the customary and/or required closing costs, transfer taxes, broker, attorney and other professional fees relating to the sale, be utilized in furtherance of the purposes for which the Synod was formed, in accordance with its Certificate of Incorporation and Constitution and By-Laws; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that the dissolution of the Synod is not contemplated following the transfer of the Property.

**ACTION SC19:01/09**

**RESOLVED**, that the Agreement negotiated and prepared by the Synod's legal counsel, Capell Barnett Matalon & Schoenfeld, LLP, for sale of the Property to Purchaser, for the price of \$1,800,000.00, in "as is" condition and subject to all approvals as required by New York law, is hereby approved; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that the execution of the Agreement by the Rev. Robert P. Schoepflin, as Secretary of the Synod, and acting solely and on behalf of the Synod, be and hereby is ratified; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that any one of the Officers of the Synod acting solely and on behalf of the Synod, be and hereby is authorized, empowered and directed to sign, verify and cause to be filed such Petition or other paper as may be required to obtain the approval as required by New York law of such sale to Purchaser based on the terms and conditions as recited in the



Agreement, for the price of \$1,800,000.00, in "as is" condition; and, in the event that such approvals shall be obtained, to thereafter execute, acknowledge and deliver a Deed of Conveyance and all such other documents as may be required to convey title to the Property and to pay all customary and/or required closing costs, transfer taxes, broker, attorney and other professional fees incurred in connection with the sale of the property; and otherwise do all such things as may, upon advice of Capell Barnett Matalon & Schoenfeld LLP, counsel to the Synod, be reasonable, necessary, proper or convenient in order that the terms, provisions and agreements of the contract of sale be fulfilled and the transactions contemplated therein be effectuated; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the net proceeds from the sale of the Property, after payment of the customary and/or required closing costs, transfer taxes, broker, attorney and other professional fees relating to the sale, be utilized in furtherance of the purposes for which the Synod was formed, in accordance with its Certificate of Incorporation and Constitution and By-Laws; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the dissolution of the Synod is not contemplated following the transfer of the Property.

ADOPTED (19 for; 0 against; 0 abstentions)

**8. New Business**

**A. Trexler Grants**

a. The Rev. Perucy Butiku

b. The Rev. Sonja Maclary

**ACTION SC19:01/10**

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve Trexler Grants in the amount of \$1000 to the Rev. Perucy Butiku to assist with travel to attend the 10<sup>th</sup> Asian Lutheran International Conference, Thailand and \$1000 to the Rev. Sonja Maclary to assist with travel related costs to the Quitman Archives at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

ADOPTED

**B. Consultation Committee / Panel Appointments**

**St. Paul's, Rye Brook / Mr. William Ross**

VP Wicklund reported that the following were appointed:

- + Mr. Gene Hiigel
- + Pr. Sonja Maclary
- + Pr. Peter Rustico

- + Dcn. Dorothy Scholz-Beyer
- + Ms. Madelyn Soussoudis

**C. Advent, Manhattan – Building for Mission Grant**

Ms. Sue Brandt reported that the Gathered Committee recommends a \$200,000 Building for Mission Grant to Advent Lutheran Church, Manhattan, contingent on congregational approval of this project at their annual meeting.

**ACTION SC19:01/11**

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve a **Building for Mission Grant** in the amount of \$200,000 to Advent Lutheran Church, Manhattan, contingent on the congregational approval of the project at the annual meeting.

**ADOPTED**

**9. Afterthoughts**

**10. Observers' Evaluation**

**Next Executive Committee Meeting: February 7, 2019\***

**Synod Council Meeting: February 26, 2019**

\*Proposed items for the Synod Council agenda should be submitted to Gayle Ruege ([gruege@mnys.org](mailto:gruege@mnys.org)) for consideration by the Executive Committee on or before Feb 4.

All committees are to provide a digital copy of meeting minutes to Regina Daniels ([rdaniels@mnys.org](mailto:rdaniels@mnys.org)) for the synod files.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm with prayer by Pr. Jeanine Owens.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Secretary