

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Leonel E. Avila 2020
Mr. Adam A.D. Campbell (Youth) 2020
***Ms. Cynthia Corley** 2020
The Rev. Chryll Crews 2022
S. Dcn. Steven Daniels 2022
***Bishop Paul Egensteiner** 2015
Mr. David Ehlers 2022
Ms. Monica Gavryszewski 2020
Ms. Hazel Goldstein 2022
The Rev. Marva Jenkins 2022
***Mr. John Litke, Treasurer** 2022
The Rev. Christopher Mietlowski 2020
S. Dcn. John Ogren 2020
**The Rev. Jeanine Owens* 2020
The Rev. David Parsons 2022
***The Rev. Daniel Peter** 2022
S. Dcn. Denise Rutherford-Gill 2020
Mr. Thomas Sargent 2020
***The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Sect.** 2022
The Rev. Nicole Schwalbe 2020
Mr. Cecil Spurlock-Shackelton 2022
The Rev. Garry Squire 2020
Ms. Wendy Bean Tannenbaum 2022
Ms. Emma Turner (Young Adult) 2020
***Mr. Christopher Vergara** 2020
***Ms. Renee Wicklund, VP** 2022
S. Dcn. Anita Martin-Williams 2022
Ms. Karen Woolley 2020

STAFF

Dcn. Margy Schmitt Ajer
Ms. Susan Brandt
The Rev. Perucy Butiku
Ms. Regina Daniels
Mr. Brandon Dupree
Mr. Roberto Lara
The Rev. Jonathan Linman
Ms. Maria Rodas
S. Dcn. Gayle Ruege

Guests

Bold = present

Italics = excused absence

*Member of Executive Committee

Opening Devotions: Pr. Jonathan Linman led us in Morning Prayer.

Observer: Tom Sargent (AM) / Chip Spurlock-Shackelton (PM)

Call to Order: Ms. Renee Wicklund at 9:50 am, with a warm welcome to Bishop Egensteiner.

1. Adoption of the Agenda: adopted.

2. Adoption of the SC Minutes 14 June 2019: adopted.

3. Bishop's Report

Bishop began by thanking all for their service. Spoke briefly about his transition. He then gave the following report of his activities since taking office:

Administrative

6/5 – Media Training
6/5 – Meeting with Bishop Lecakes, Atlantic District, Missouri Synod
6/6 – Attend meeting of Synod Executive Committee
6/6 - Meeting with Bishop McCoid
6/14 – Meeting with Pastor Eric Olsen
6/25 – MNYS Churchwide Assembly Orientation
7/29 – Meet with Bishop McCoid and Renato Matos
7/15 – Meeting with Molly Blancke, Lutheran Social Services
8/26 – Meeting with Pastors Trubey-Weller and Seeley and Dcn. Margy Schmitt-Ajer re: The Vine
8/28 – Meeting of Installation Planning Committee
9/5 – Synod Executive Committee
9/9 – Meeting with Deacon Ross Murray
9/9 – Meeting with Michael Cooper-White
9/10 – Mission Driven Development at CBMS Law Offices
9/11-9/12 – Deans' Retreat
9/16 – Greetings to meeting of ELCA National Chinese Pastors gathering at Christ, Little Neck

Public Relations

6/11 - News 12 Brooklyn Interview
6/13 – Wartburg Fundraiser “Jazz in June”
6/20 – Daily News Interview
7/1 – Radio/Podcast Interview

Conference/Congregation/Pastor Visitation

6/4 - Manhattan Conference
6/8, 6/25 – Pastor Ülf Lünow, Albert Einstein Medical Center
6/23 – Attend Gay Pride Mass at St. John, Christopher St.
6/27, 8/19, 8/27 – Pastor Jay Longan ay NYU Langone
7/2 – Lead Prayer Service for Pastor Ülf Lünow at Schuyler Funeral Home
8/14 – Pinecrest Visit
8/17 – Baptism for Carlena Dietrich

8/24 – Worship at St. John, Middletown
8/25 – Worship at Prince of Peace, Cambria Heights
8/28 – Meeting with St. Luke, Times Square Call Committee
9/1 – Worship at Trinity, Middle Village
9/7 – Preach at Funeral of Pastor Ülf Lünow, First Lutheran Church, Throggs Neck
(Pr. Jonathan Linman presiding)
9/14 – Preside at Funeral for Pastor Jay Longan at St. Peter, NYC
9/14 – Earlean’s Promise at Jehu’s Table

Advocacy

6/20 – Participate in Jericho Walk
6/30 – Participate in Gay Pride Parade

Ecumenical/Interfaith

6/22 – Attend Enthronement of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros at
Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity with Bishop McCoid and the Rev. Bill
Rusch
9/4 – Lunch with other ecumenical guests at Timothy Cardinal Dolan’s

Churchwide

6/25 – Phone call with Paul Baglyos re. Candidacy
7/9 – 7/12 New Bishops’ Formation, Chicago
8/3-8/10 - Churchwide Assembly, Milwaukee

A. Churchwide Assembly

Bishop believes that MNYS has and should have a leading role in ELCA.

B. Installation Update

Pr. Will Kroeze is doing an excellent job of planning.

C. Calls

a. **The Rev. Ann Tiemeyer:** *Intentional Interim pastor / Grace, Scarsdale (7/22/19)*

ACTION SC19:09/01

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to The Rev. Ann Tiemeyer as Interim Pastor for Grace, Scarsdale effective July 22, 2019.

ADOPTED

b. **The Rev. Marianne Tomecek:** *Intentional Interim pastor / Epiphany, Hempstead (8/15/19)*

ACTION SC19:09/02

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to The Rev. Marianne Tomecek as Interim Pastor for Epiphany, Hempstead effective August 15, 2019.

ADOPTED

c. The Rev. Rebecca Pollicino: *Intentional Interim pastor / St. Peter's, Huntington Station (10/15/19)*

ACTION SC19:09/03

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to The Rev. Rebecca Pollicino as Interim Pastor for St. Peter's, Huntington Station effective October 15, 2019.

ADOPTED

d. The Rev. Kimberli Lile: *Interim Director of Spiritual Care / Wartburg, Mt. Vernon (8/27/19)*

ACTION SC19:09/04

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to The Rev. Kimberli Lile as Interim Director of Spiritual Care / Wartburg effective August 27, 2019.

ADOPTED

e. S.Dcn. Gayle Ruege: *Synod Ministry of Word and Service in the Office of the Bishop (9/1/19)*

ACTION SC19:09/05

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to S.Dcn. Gayle Ruege for her ministry of Word and Service in the Office of the Bishop effective Sep 1, 2019.

ADOPTED

f. The Rev. Rodney Eberhardt: *retirement status effective 9/1/16*

ACTION SC19:09/06

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve retirement status for The Rev. Rodney Eberhardt, effective September 1, 2016.

ADOPTED

D. Appointments (FOR REPORT)

a. The Rev. Laurie Cline: *Interim Pastor/ Calvary, Hauppauge (9/1/19)*

b. The Rev. William Koeze: *Worship Committee, Chair (8/1/19).*

c. Tanzania Companionship Committee (9/1/19)

- *The Rev. Donald Lemke*
- *The Rev. Paul Schmiede*

- *Ms. Blessing Tawengwa*
- *Mr. Robert Schnut*

E. Staff

a. Staffing plan

Bishop reported that he is working on a staffing plan that reflects the synod priorities identified during the Town Hall meetings (Evangelism, Leadership, Congregations, Advocacy).

Bishop spoke about the need to develop relationships with our 190 congregations.

4. Report of the Vice President

A. Activities and Visits

VP Wicklund reported that she spent only two summer Sundays at home, and that business and family took her to Austin, Texas; Chestertown, Maryland; Rosarito, Mexico; Washington, D.C.; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Termas Chillán & Santiago, Chile; Rapa Nui (Easter Island).

She has made the following visits to congregation:

7/28 - Emmanuel Pleasantville for Bishop Egensteiner's final service in that congregation.

8/11 - Our Savior, Port Washington (home church) for update on CWA.

9/1 - Trinity Middle Village to attend the first service following Pastor Jay Longan's passing and to speak with congregation.

9/8 - St. Andrew's Smithtown to welcome Susan Shelhart in her new call.

On 9/22 she plans to be at Our Savior, Manhasset for a joint service with Marsh Drege of Seafarers' and International House.

She also reported the following activities as vice president:

6/25 - orientation for churchwide assembly.

6/27 - lunch with Tom Sargent.

7/2 - Dear Church launch party, St. Lydia's Brooklyn.

7/29 - project calls for mission-driven development sites.

8/4-8/10 - churchwide assembly in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

9/9 - Lunch with the Rev. Ed Barnett.

9/11 - Garden Party to benefit SAFH at Trinity Lower East Side.

B. Churchwide Assembly

VP Wicklund spoke of the leadership of MNYS at the Assembly.

5. Park Church Co-op Proposal: Pr. Katrina Foster, Dean / Brooklyn Bridges Conference

Pr. Katrina Foster and representatives of Park Church Co-op addressed the council.

6. Treasurer's Report

A. Mission Support Report (31 August 19)

Treasurer Litke reported that Mission Support received in August totaled \$81,302.67, which is \$20,941.48 more than budgeted for August.

Mission Support received year-to-date is \$510,135.14, which is \$3,766.86 more than budgeted year-to-date.

B. Financials (31 July 19) **EXHIBIT A**

7. Strategic Plan Update

A. Priorities / Emphases

VP Wicklund noted that the 2018 Town Hall Meetings identified priorities and emphases that will drive our Strategic Plan over the next few years - Evangelism, Leadership, Congregations, Advocacy.

Strategic Committee Chairs have all completed their terms. She reported that we are in need of new leadership to chair these Committees as well as the appointment of a chair for the Strategic Plan. Tom Massey will continue in his role as consultant for the Strategic Plan.

B. Leadership Development Grants: **EXHIBIT B**

ACTION SC19:09/07

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the 2019 Leadership Development Grants reviewed by the Leadership Development Grant Review Team and recommended by the Executive Committee.

ADOPTED

C. Congregation Capital Improvement Grants: **EXHIBIT C**

ACTION SC19:09/08

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the 2019 Congregation Capital Improvement Grants proposed by the Congregation Capital Improvement Grant Review Team and recommended by the Executive Committee.

ADOPTED

ACTION SC19:09/09

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve a one-year extension of the 2018 Congregation Capital Improvement Grant awarded to Christ Lutheran Church, Staten Island by the Metropolitan New York Synod Council in September 2018.

ADOPTED

ACTION SC19:09/10

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve a one-year extension of the 2018 Congregation Capital Improvement Grant awarded to Christ Lutheran Church, Freeport by the Metropolitan New York Synod Council in September 2018.

ADOPTED

Report from AM Observer Tom Sargent

Break for working lunch.

8. Communications Metrics Review: 2Q Presentation (over lunch) / Roberto Lara

9. Old Business

A. SAWC Presentation: Branden Dupree

Branden Dupree explained the bases and procedures for SAWCs, explained changes in ELCA policy and practice, and that a SWAC could now shift into a permanent SAWC or a recognized congregation, since the status of “congregation under development” was eliminated by the ELCA.

a. Jehu’s Table, Brooklyn / recognize as a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community: Mission Developer – Pastor Lenny Duncan

ACTION SC19:09/11

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod recognize Jehu’s Table, Brooklyn as a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community (SAWC).

ADOPTED

b. Mision Latina de Ascension, Deer Park / recognize as a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community: Mission Developer Pr. Evelyn “Patty” Avila

ACTION SC19:09/12

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod recognize Mision Latina de Ascension, Deer Park as a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community (SAWC).

ADOPTED

B. Park Church Co-op: Branden Dupree

Branden Dupree explained that Park Church Co-op could be granted permanent SAWC (Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community) status under these parameters:

1. A permanent SAWC is semi-autonomous. They would continue to be a group gathered to worship to the expectations of the Synod. There would be no restrictions as to whom they could call.
2. Park Church Co-Op would be responsible for all their funding - Rostered leader's salary, benefits, insurance etc. Considering the Messiah property belongs to the Synod, Synod Council could make that a negotiable factor.
3. Although mostly autonomous, Park Church Co-Op would remain a SAWC which Synod Council has 51% authority over.
4. Park Church would remain under the purview of the DEM. Only after an annual review will the DEM recommend they continue for another year.

After extensive discussion, the vote on offering Park Church Co-op the opportunity to become a permanent Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community (SAWC) under the oversight of the MNYS Director for Evangelical Mission was split 12-12.

Bishop will meet with congregation representatives before next meeting.

C. Guidelines for Financial Agreement: ELCA / MNYS / SAWC in synod owned properties: Sue Brandt

Sue Brandt reported that she has been working to develop protocols and procedures for our mission redevelopment projects. An item of priority has been to develop guidelines that clarify the financial agreement and subsequent responsibilities of each of the ministry partners: Churchwide / Synod / SAWC.

The Guidelines presented for approval were developed in accordance with resources provided by Churchwide to manage and support new mission starts and SAWC's.

ACTION SC19:09/13

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the Guidelines for

Financial Agreement: Churchwide / MNYS / SAWC reviewed and recommended by the Executive Committee.

ADOPTED

D. Former Eltingville Property

VP Wicklund reviewed legal actions and current status.

a. Charter School

VP Wicklund reported on lease that was signed with leaders of former congregation.

b. LLC

VP Wicklund noted that we create a single owner LLC for each Synod owned property. With the court decision to release the Eltingville property – the creation of MNYS 300 Genesee LLC is required.

ACTION SC19:09/14

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council hereby approves of the formation by the Metropolitan New York Synod of MNYS 300 Genesee LLC, a limited liability company organized under the laws of the State of New York, in which the Metropolitan New York Synod is and shall continue to be the sole member and manager, with the intention of conveying to MNYS 300 Genesee LLC title to the Property. To the extent possible, it is the Synod Council's intention that, as a single member limited liability company, with the Metropolitan New York Synod as the sole member, MNYS 300 Genesee LLC shall be tax exempt and shall not be required to file separate tax returns. No other assets shall be placed in MNYS 300 Genesee LLC and MNYS 300 Genesee LLC shall have no liabilities. The sole purpose of MNYS 300 Genesee LLC is and shall continue to be to hold, manage, and convey title to the Property formerly of Eltingville Church and School for, on behalf of, and at the direction and convenience of the Metropolitan New York Synod; and it is further

RESOLVED, that based upon the facts recited and for the reasons set forth above, all of which are included and incorporated herein and made a part hereof as if fully set forth here, the Synod Council hereby approves of the transfer of title to the Property formerly of Eltingville Church and School from the Metropolitan New York Synod to MNYS 300 Genesee LLC, a single member limited liability company organized under the laws of the State of New York, of which the Metropolitan New York Synod is and shall continue to be the sole member and manager, to hold, manage, and convey that real property on behalf of and at the direction and convenience of the Metropolitan New York Synod, its sole member and manager; and it is further

RESOLVED, the Trustees are relieved of their duties and the full power and authority to hold, manage and convey the property of the former Eltingville Church and School now exists solely

with the Metropolitan New York Synod, and any of the officers of the Metropolitan New York Synod are authorized and empowered to execute any document in connection with the former property of Eltingville Church and School with the approval of the Synod Council

RESOLVED, that the dissolution of the Metropolitan New York Synod is not contemplated following the transfer of the Property to MNYS 300 Genesee LLC.

ADOPTED (25 for, 0 opposed)

E. Transfer of Properties into LLC's

1. MNYS 763 Prospect LLC

ACTION SC19:09/15

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod transfer the parsonage of the former Transfiguration, Bronx, located at 750 Kelly Street to MNYS 763 Prospect LLC, which already holds the former church property.

ADOPTED (25 for, 0 opposed)

2. MNYS West 126 LLC

ACTION SC19:09/16

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod transfer the properties of the former Transfiguration, Harlem, located at 70, 72, 74, and 78 West 126th Street to MNYS West 126 LLC.

ADOPTED (25 for, 0 opposed)

10. New Business

A. LMHE Grant

ACTION SC19:09/17

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve a grant in the amount of \$16,630 to Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education.

ADOPTED

B. 2020 Clergy / Pastors Compensation Guidelines

ACTION SC19:09/18

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the 2020 Clergy Compensation Guidelines as amended.

ADOPTED

C. Discipline Committee

Clergy (female): The Rev. Chryll Crews through May 2020
Clergy (male): The Rev. Romeo Dabee through May 2024

ACTION SC19:09/19

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council appoint The Rev. Chryll Crews to fill the vacancy for female clergy on the Disciple Committee through May 2020 and appoint The Rev. Romeo Dabee to fill the vacancy for male clergy on the Discipline Committee through May 2024.

ADOPTED

D. MNYS Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy

ACTION SC19:09/20

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the MNYS Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy as presented.

ADOPTED

E. Supporting Organization Directors

ACTION SC19:09/21

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod appoint Jeffrey MacDonagh to a five year term and renew the appointment of Wendy Bean Tannenbaum and The Rev. Robert Schoepflin through the completion of their term of service on Synod Council in May 2022 to the Board of Directors for Evangelical Lutheran, Inc.

ADOPTED

F. EC/SC meeting dates 2019-2020

11. Afterthoughts

12. PM Observer's Evaluation

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm, with prayer by Bishop.

Next Executive Committee Meeting: October 10, 2019*

Synod Council Meeting: November: October 15, 2019

***Proposed items for the Synod Council agenda should be submitted to Gayle Ruege**

(gruege@mnys.org) for consideration by the Executive Committee on or before October 4.

All committees are to provide a digital copy of meeting minutes to Regina

Daniels (rdaniels@mny.org) for the synod files.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Secretary