

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Rev. E. Patricia Avila	2026
*Ms. Cynthia Corley	2024
Dr. Raymond Cheung	2024
Ms. Monique Davis	2026
The Rev. George Dietrich	2024
*Bishop Paul Egensteiner	2025
*S. Dcn. David Ehlers	2026
S.Dcn. Philip Jenks	2026
*Mr. John Litke, Treasurer	2023
<i>The Rev. Linda Manson</i>	2026
Mr. Erich Markert	2024
Ms. Lily Sage Mathias	2024
The Rev. Ernst Mossl	2026
*The Rev. Jeanine Owens	2024
<i>The Rev. David Parsons</i>	2026
Mr. Aiden Sargent (Youth)	2023
Mr. Thomas Sargent	2026
<i>*The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Sect.</i>	2026
Mr. Cecil (Chip) Spurlock-Shackelton	2026
*The Rev. Gary Squire	2024
The Rev. Brooke Swertfager	2024
*Mr. Christopher Vergara, VP	2026
<i>The Rev. Dr. Kimberly Wilson</i>	2024

STAFF

Ms. Regina Daniels
The Rev. Gladys Diaz
Mr. Branden Dupree
Ms. Karen Falco
S. Dcn. Donna-Mari Fieldsa
Mr. Mark Goodwin
Ms. Kaitlin Kowalec
Mr. Roberto Lara
The Rev. Christopher Mietlowski
Ms. Maria Rodas
S.Dcn. Gayle Ruege
Ms. Leticia Silva

GUESTS

Bold = present

Italics = excused absence

*Member of Executive Committee

MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE

Opening Devotions: *Bishop Egensteiner / Martin Luther's Seven Marks of the Church*

Observer: *Tom Sargent*

Call to Order: *VP Vergara*

- 1. Martin Luther's Mark #1:** The Word of God. The Church is a place where the Word of God is "preached, believed, professed, and lived."
- 2. Discussion: Synod Council Community Agreement / Covenant (EXHIBIT A)**

ACTION SC23:1/01

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council adopt the Synod Council Community Agreement.

ADOPTED

3. **Adoption of the agenda:** adopted as presented
4. **Adoption of the Synod Council minutes 29 November 2022 :** adopted as presented

5. **Legal and Property updates**

Karen Falco and Joseph Milano provided updates.

6. **New Business**

A. **Messiah Lutheran Church: sale of properties (EXHIBIT B)**

Messiah, Staten Island has requested that the Synod Council take no exception to the sale of two vacant lots.

ACTION S23:01/02

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council takes no exception to the sale of Lot 75 / Ionia Avenue, Staten Island NY and the Lot @ Route 374, Saranac NY by the congregation of Messiah Lutheran Church, Staten Island.

ADOPTED

B. **Trexler Grant applications (EXHIBIT C)**

Applications were presented for approval.

ACTION S23:01/03

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the (8) Trexler grant applications that have been reviewed, presented and recommended for approval by the Trexler Grant review team.

ADOPTED

C. **Appointment of John Litke as Interim Treasurer**

Treasurer John Litke's term as Treasurer concluded in May 2022 and has agreed to serve in an interim capacity.

ACTION S23:01/04

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council appoint John Litke to serve as the Interim Treasurer for the Metropolitan New York Synod effective May 6, 2022.

ADOPTED

7. **Report of the Bishop**

A. **Calls**

- a. **The Rev. Andrea Hickey: Chaplain Catholic Health Systems effective Apr 1, 2022**

ACTION S23:01/05

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to The Rev. Andrea Hickey to serve as a chaplain employed by Catholic Health Systems / Good Shepherd Hospice effective April 1, 2022.

ADOPTED

b. The Rev. Ann Tiemeyer: *Renewal On Leave from Call status January 15, 2023*

ACTION S23:01/06

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council renew On leave from Call status for The Rev. Ann Tiemeyer effective January 15, 2023.

ADOPTED

c. The Rev. Amanda Nesvold: *On leave from Call status effective February 1, 2023*

ACTION S23:01/07

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant On leave from Call status for The Rev. Amanda Nesvold effective February 1, 2023.

d. Deacon Janet Scheiper: *On Leave from Call status retroactive Jun 1, 2010 – Oct 17, 2010 Retirement status retroactive Oct 17, 2010*

ACTION S23:01/08

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant Deacon Janet Scheiper On leave from Call status retroactively from June 1, 2010 – Oct 17, 2010 and retired status retroactively effective October 17, 2010.

ADOPTED

e. S.Dcn. Camille Holman: *On Leave from Call status effective January 1, 2023*

ACTION S23:01/09

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant On leave from Call status for S.Dcn. Camille Holman effective January 1, 2023.

ADOPTED

D. Appointments

a. The Rev. John Hickey: 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering Synod Champion

Pastor Hickey was appointed as the Gathering Synod Champion (GSC) and will serve as a primary resource person for our synod, promoting the Gathering, sharing important event information, and equipping and supporting congregational adult leaders as they prepare to bring young people to the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering.

B. Pastoral Care / Ecumenical & Interfaith participation

a. Pastoral calls / meetings / visits with rostered & lay leaders / Lutheran Partners

• Congregation visits / Councils

- St. Jacobi Chinese Ministry, Brooklyn
- Saint Peter's, Manhattan: Our Lady of Guadalupe
- St. Andrew's, West Hempstead
- Funeral: The Rev. Dr. Ralph Peterson
- Grace, Malverne: ADLA Service – Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Seafarers and International House Board meeting
- Wagner College
- Candidacy Committee
- Conference of Bishops (bi-weekly)
- Region 7 Bishops (weekly)
- BET (monthly)
- Quadrant 4 Deans (Bronx, Manhattan, Staten Island)

D. Vision Team

a. Scheduled to meet February 18, 2023

- **Committee structure**

The Synod Council gave the Vision Team authorization to review the current committee structure, dissolve inactive committees and develop charters for the remaining committees.

- **Mission Support**

As mission support has become a critical issue, the Vision Team will also work to develop a strategy for increased giving.

- **Congregational Assessment resources**

The Vision Team will review the 2012 Congregational Viability Norms adopted by the 2012 Synod Assembly along with the Congregation assessment resource that was drafted by the Congregations Working Group in 2019-2020.

E. Staff / Updates

a. Executive Staff Reports

- Pr. Christopher Mietlowski, Assistant to the Bishop
- Karen Falco, Chief Operating Officer
- Branden Dupree, Director for Evangelical Mission

8. Report of the Vice-President

A. Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church

At the 2022 Churchwide Assembly last August, voting members adopted a memorial concerning restructuring the ELCA's governance. In November, the Church Council responded by establishing a Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church. Synod Councils are asked to provide two nominees for consideration to serve on the Commission before the March 9 deadline.

9. Treasurer's Report

A Mission Support essay (EXHIBIT D)

John Litke presented his essay. Discussion ensued.

B Mission Support Report (Dec 31, 2022) (EXHIBIT E)

The December 2022 Mission Support offerings totaled \$31,796.68. YTD Mission Support actuals through December 31, 2022, are \$696,248.93 which is \$126,042.19 less than YTD December 2021.

January 21, 2023
APPROVED 3/18/23

Synod Council of the Metropolitan New York Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
MINUTES

Page

C. Financials November 2022 (EXHIBIT F)

John Litke presented the financials for the period ending Nov 30, 2022

D. 2024 budget update

The budget will be presented at the March meeting.

10. Afterthoughts (as necessary)

A. Observer / March

11. Observer's Evaluation

Executive Committee Meeting: March 9 via zoom

Synod Council meeting: March 18 via zoom

***Proposed items for the Synod Council agenda should be submitted to Gayle Ruege for consideration by the Executive Committee by March 3, 2023**

Submitted by S.Dcn. Gayle Ruege, Executive Assistant to the Bishop

January 21, 2023
APPROVED 3/18/23

Synod Council of the Metropolitan New York Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
MINUTES

Page