

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
Mr. David Ehlers 2022
Ms. Monica Gavryszewski 2020
Ms. Hazel Goldstein 2022
The Rev. Marva Jenkins 2022
***Mr. John Litke, Treasurer** 2022
***Bishop Donald McCoid** 2019
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. 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

Opening Devotions: Pastor Marva Jenkins

Observer: Pastor Garry Squire

Call to Order: Ms. Renee Wicklund at 5:30 pm.

1. Adoption of the Agenda: adopted as presented.

2. Adoption of the SC Minutes 26 February 2019: adopted as presented.

3. Bishop's Report

A. Election of the Bishop / update

Bishop McCoid reported that the pre-identification period of pastors has concluded. Pre-identified pastors were provided with a link that directed them to complete and submit biographical information and answer questions. Submissions will be posted on our website on April 1

B. Invitation to Extended Service

Bishop McCoid explained that ministers of Word and Sacrament in a full communion partner church can serve an ELCA congregation under contract for an extended period of time, and still remain on the roster of ordained ministers of that church body. This service is secured via contract between the congregation and minister of Word and Sacrament with the recommendation of the synodical bishop and approval by the Synod Council.

a. The Rev. Michael Vanacore: Invitation to Extended Service / Associate Pastor serving Trinity Lutheran, 46th Street, Brooklyn

Bishop McCoid reported that in accordance with the Formula of Agreement between the ELCA and the United Church of Christ, the Rev. Michael Vanacore has been recommended by the Bishop and approved by the congregation to serve Trinity, 46th Street, Brooklyn under contract for extended services.

ACTION SC19:03/01

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the Invitation to Extended Service to the Rev. Michael Vanacore serving Trinity Lutheran Church, 46th Street, Brooklyn effective 1 January 2019.

ADOPTED

b. The Rev. Dr. Deborah DeWinter: Invitation to Extended Service (annual renewal) / Pastor serving First Lutheran, Poughkeepsie

Bishop McCoid reported that Pastor DeWinter is a UCC pastor that has been faithfully serving First, Poughkeepsie since December 2012. The congregation has renewed the contract for extended services effective 1 March 2019 through 28 February 2020.

ACTION SC19:03/02

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council renew the Invitation to Extended Service to the Rev. Dr. Deborah DeWinter serving First Lutheran Church, Poughkeepsie effective 1 March 2019 – 28 February 2020.

ADOPTED

C. Appointments: Bishop McCoid announced the following appointments.

a. The Rev. John Jurik: Interim Pastor / St. Andrew's, West Hempstead

b. Sanctuary Initiative

- + **The Rev. E. Fabian Arias, Sanctuary Ministry Coordinator**
- + **S.Dcn. Ingrid Compton**
- + **The Rev. Heidi Neumark**
- + **The Rev. Juan Carlos Ruiz**
- + **Christopher Vergara**

4. Report of the Vice President

A. Visits and Consultations

VP Wicklund reported on the congregational visits she has made since the last SC meeting.

B. Working Groups for the Mission Driven Redevelopment Projects

VP Wicklund reported that Working Groups for the following redevelopment projects have been established and will meet for orientation on Saturday, March 30. Each WG includes the Mission Developer, a representative from the Exec Committee, Gathered Committee, Financial Management Committee, and Anti-racism Initiative. MNYS staff, consultants and legal counsel are members of all the working groups.

- Christ Center, Harlem
- Fordham, Bronx
- Mission Walk, Bronx
- Jehu's Table, Brooklyn
- Todos Los Santos, Woodhaven (Queens)

The Working Groups charge is to ensure that all facets of the project are working in partnership toward a successful and fruitful ministry site.

D. Synod Assembly Update

- Early registration closed on March 6 / on-line registration will close April 24
- Currently 430 voting members registered / 51 visitors registered
- Assembly Planning Committee will present the Agenda to the SC for recommendation to the Synod Assembly at the April EC / SC meeting.

a. Standing Rules for the Assembly

Secretary Schoepflin explained the additions being recommended for the Standing Rules.

- Authorization of the ELCA representative to facilitate the election of the Bishop
- Addition to section C: (Pertaining to) Resolutions

ACTION SC19:03/03

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council recommend the Standing Rules to the 2019 Synod Assembly as presented.

ADOPTED

5. Treasurer's Report

A. Mission Support Report (28 Feb 19) EXHIBIT A

Treasurer Litke reported that mission support continues to decline, but there is great fluctuation in what is received on a month to month basis.

B. Audit was conducted week of Mar 4-8

C. Proposed revised 2019 budget / proposed 2020 budget EXHIBIT B

Treasurer Litke presented the revised and proposed budgets.

ACTION SC19:03/04

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council recommend to the Synod Assembly that it adopt the proposed revised budget for 2019 and the proposed budget for 2020.

ADOPTED

D. Adoption of Ten-year Financial Plan for 2019-2028 EXHIBIT C

Treasurer Litke presented the revised ten year plan.

ACTION SC19:03/05

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Ten-Year Plan for 2019-2028 be adopted as presented.

ADOPTED

6. Report of the Strategic Plan Working Group

A. Meeting held on Mar 5

VP Wicklund reported on the work at the meeting.

B. Leadership Development Grants EXHIBIT D

Pastor Linman reported on the recommended grants.

ACTION SC19:03/06

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

ADOPTED

7. Old Business

A. Leif Ericson Day School

VP Wicklund reported on the following actions relating to the decision made at the February SC meeting:

- Conference call on 27 Feb (Bp. McCoid, Renee Wicklund, Christine Hauge, Gene Hiigel)
- Meeting with faculty / staff at LEDS on 5 March (Wicklund, Litke, Owens)
- Letter from Bp. McCoid provided for distribution concerning the SC decision to discontinue funding
- Assistance with providing options for relocation:
 - Lutheran Elementary School – Bethlehem Lutheran (Ovington Ave, Bklyn – 1 mile away)
 - Five (5) Catholic Academies (K-8). Three in the immediate area
- Contacted Lutheran Counseling Center regarding grief counseling for faculty / staff / students
- Contacted the Brooklyn Diocese regarding recommendations for job counseling and assistance for relocation of faculty and staff
- Financial requests from Principal Hauge – under Old Business

a. Staff / faculty contracts through 1 Sep 19

Principal Hauge has requested synod funding to honor the faculty contracts through Sep 1, which would include payroll, health and pension benefits: \$124,450.

b. Severance

Principal Hauge has requested severance for faculty / staff: \$50,000

c. Grief Counseling

We received a proposal from Lutheran Counseling Center to provide grief counseling for faculty / staff / students for a two day period: \$2700

Bishop McCoid spoke about letter that he sent regarding the need for the school board to act in closing the school. He received a response from Mr. Gene Hiigel, a board member, stating that it should be the synod council's responsibility to close the school. Bishop indicated that before we can take action in this regard we must seek the advise of legal counsel.

ACTION SC19:03/07

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve funding to Leif Ericson Day School in the amount, as requested, of \$177,150.

ADOPTED

B. Consultation Panel: St. Paul's, Rye Brook / William Ross (update)

VP Wicklund reported.

C. Sanctuary Resolution: Memorialize 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly

In June 2017, the Synod Council adopted: To Care for the Stranger and Alien in Our Midst / A Metropolitan New York Synod Immigration Advocacy Strategy. The final resolve directs the synod to memorialize the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to adopt a similar resolution for the ELCA. This resolution will be presented for consideration to the Synod Assembly.

ACTION SC19:03/08

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council recommends adoption of SC17:06/06 by the 2019 Synod Assembly.

ADOPTED

D. Supporting Organization update

a. Annual meeting / election of officers

VP Wicklund reported that the Board of Directors for the Supporting Organization held their annual meeting on Jan 24, 2019.

Officers were elected:

- + The Rev. Marc Herbst: President
- + Mr. Eugene Hiigel: Vice President
- + Ms. Barbara Hansen: Treasurer
- + The Rev. Robert Schoepflin: Secretary

8. New Business

A. Mission Walk: An Episcopal Lutheran Journey/ recognize as a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community

ACTION SC19:03/09

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod in full partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of New York, accept Mission Walk (MW), an Episcopal/Lutheran Journey as a multicultural, bilingual, assets-based Mission Development / Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community (SAWC) that will maintain a footprint within and reflect the South Bronx in all its diversity based on the grounded strategy for a transformative ministry.

ADOPTED

B. Removal of trustees from properties under synod preservation

a. MNYS 585 East 163 LLC (former All Saints, Bronx)

ACTION SC19:03/10

RESOLVED, the Trustees are relieved of their duties and the full power and authority to hold, manage and convey the property of All Saints 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 property of All Saints with the approval of the Synod Council; and

RESOLVED, that the dissolution of the Metropolitan New York Synod is not contemplated following the transfer of the Property to MNYS 585 East 163 LLC.

ADOPTED (21 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, 0 ABSTENTIONS)

b. MNYS 2424 Linden LLC (former Church of the Holy Redeemer, Brooklyn)

ACTION SC19:03/11

RESOLVED, the Trustees are relieved of their duties and the full power and authority to hold, manage and convey the property of Holy Redeemer 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 property of Holy Redeemer with the approval of the Synod Council; and

RESOLVED, that the dissolution of the Metropolitan New York Synod is not contemplated following the transfer of the Property to MNYS 2424 Linden LLC.

ADOPTED (21 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, 0 ABSTENTIONS)

c. MNYS 129 Russell LLC (former Messiah, Brooklyn)

ACTION SC19:03/12

RESOLVED, the Trustees are relieved of their duties and the full power and authority to hold, manage and convey the property of Messiah 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 property of Messiah with the approval of the Synod Council; and

RESOLVED, that the dissolution of the Metropolitan New York Synod is not contemplated following the transfer of the Property to MNYS 129 Russell LLC.

ADOPTED (21 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, 0 ABSTENTIONS)

d. MNYS 763 Prospect LLC (former Transfiguration, Bronx)

ACTION SC19:03/13

RESOLVED, the Trustees are relieved of their duties and the full power and authority to hold, manage and convey the property of Transfiguration 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 property of Transfiguration with the approval of the Synod Council; and

RESOLVED, that the dissolution of the Metropolitan New York Synod is not contemplated following the transfer of the Property to MNYS 763 Prospect LLC.

ADOPTED (21 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, 0 ABSTENTIONS)

e. 6309 Fourth Ave, Brooklyn (former Zion, Brooklyn)

ACTION SC19:03/14

RESOLVED, the Trustees are relieved of their duties and the full power and authority to hold, manage and convey the property of Zion Brooklyn 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 property of Zion Brooklyn with the approval of the Synod Council; and

RESOLVED, that the dissolution of the Metropolitan New York Synod is not contemplated following the transfer of the Property to MNYS 6309 Fourth LLC.

ADOPTED (21 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, 0 ABSTENTIONS)

C. ELCA Trustworthy Servants Document

Bishop McCoid reported that a draft of the Trustworthy Servants Document had been released by the ELCA after review by the Conference of Bishops. Input from congregations and rostered leader was solicited.

VP Wicklund reported that a resolution for Synod Councils to memorialize the ELCA Church Council has been circulating. She has received resolutions from the following to date:

- Trinity, 100th Street, Manhattan
- Saint Peter's, Manhattan
- Tappan Zee Conference
- St. Lydia's, Brooklyn
- Gustavus Adolphus, Manhattan
- Trinity Lower Eastside Parish

➤ St. John's, Manhattan

The following memorial was presented for consideration:

WHEREAS the Conference of Bishops and Churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America discerned a pastoral need to address both the deficiencies of *Vision and Expectations* and the ways in which this document has been applied in the life of this Church; and

WHEREAS the Conference of Bishops and Churchwide organization engaged in processes to draft, review and issue a replacement document for *Vision and Expectations* titled *Trustworthy Servants* and made this document public on March 7, 2019, invited a comment period concluding March 17, 2019, and seeks action at the meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on April 4, 2019; and

WHEREAS the Conference of Bishops and Churchwide organization embarked on drafting *Trustworthy Servants* understanding this initiative to be for the building up of the church; and

WHEREAS the Conference of Bishops and Churchwide organization undertook this entire process—draft, review and issue—without the substantial involvement of pastors, deacons and candidates for rostered ministry, particularly persons whose faith and vocation have been negatively affected by *Vision and Expectations*; and

WHEREAS the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is an interdependent church where “Each expression of this church—churchwide, synod, and congregation—is held together in a relationship of interdependence that encourages each to respond to its context” (Secretary Wm Chris Boerger, Introduction to *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, August 18, 2016 4-2018, pg. 9)

Therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Synod Council of the Metropolitan New York Synod memorialize the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to:

Take no action at this time either to affirm *Vision and Expectations* or to adopt *Trustworthy Servants*; and

Create a task force comprising members of the Council and Conference of Bishops as well as pastors, deacons, and lay members of this Church. A majority of this task force shall be persons who self-identify as LGBTQIA+, persons of color, and/or persons whose first language is other than English; and

Charge this taskforce to receive as information *Trustworthy Servants* and all related information and commentary conveyed to the Conference of Bishops and the Churchwide organization as well as to any other interested parties (e.g. Reconciling Works, Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries); and

Charge this taskforce to discern and propose an inclusive process reflecting the interdependence of this Church to discern faithful ways forward; and

Request that the proposed process be reported to the Church Council, petitioning Synod Councils and petitioning Congregation Councils for review and comment.

ACTION SC19:03/15

RESOLVED that the Synod Council of the Metropolitan New York Synod memorialize the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to:

Take no action at this time either to affirm *Vision and Expectations* or to adopt *Trustworthy Servants*; and

Create a task force comprising members of the Council and Conference of Bishops as well as pastors, deacons, and lay members of this Church. A majority of this task force shall be persons who self-identify as LGBTQIA+, persons of color, and/or persons whose first language is other than English; and

Charge this taskforce to receive as information *Trustworthy Servants* and all related information and commentary conveyed to the Conference of Bishops and the Churchwide organization as well as to any other interested parties (e.g. Reconciling Works, Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries); and

Charge this taskforce to discern and propose an inclusive process reflecting the interdependence of this Church to discern faithful ways forward; and

Request that the proposed process be reported to the Church Council, petitioning Synod Councils and petitioning Congregation Councils for review and comment.

ADOPTED

9. Afterthoughts

10. Observers' Evaluation

Next Executive Committee Meeting: April 11, 2019*
Synod Council Meeting: Saturday, April 27, 2019

March 19, 2019
APPROVED 4/27/19

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

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***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 Apr 3.**

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm with prayer by Pr. David Parsons .

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