

**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** 2025  
**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. Percy 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 prayer by Bishop Egensteiner at 5:15 pm.***  
***Observer: Emma Turner***  
***Call to Order: Ms. Renee Wicklund***

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

2. **Draft SC minutes 21 Sep 19:** adopted as presented.

3. **Report of the Bishop**

**A. Conference Visit / Schedule**

Bishop reported that the priority of pastoral presence is being implemented with scheduled visits to each Conference of our synod beginning this month and ending in November 2020.

The visit is designed to include:

- + worship in one or more congregations
- + Schedule 30 minute individual meetings with each pastor
- + Meet on Sunday afternoon with conference leaders (both lay and rostered) to present a future vision for the synod
- + Gather with pastors as a group for Pericope study and lunch

Met with the Bronx pastors last week. The Bronx conference meeting with rostered ministers and lay leaders will be Sunday, November 3. Traveling to the Delaware Hudson Conference this weekend.

Still confirming dates and locations with Conference Deans. Once completed, the conference visit dates will be posted on our website.

**B. Calls**

a. **Dcn. John Hinsch: *retirement status effective 1 Sep 19***

**ACTION SC10:10/01**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve retirement status for Dcn. John Hinsch, effective September 1, 2019.**

**ADOPTED**

**C. Appointments**

a. **The Rev. Roger Berner: *Intentional Interim Pastor / Emanuel, Pleasantville (eff 1 Sep 19)***

b. **S.Dcn. Sharon Tyson: *Environmental Stewardship Committee***

c. **S.Dcn. George Guinan: *MNYS Diaconate Council, Co-chair***

**D. Staff**

a. **Presentation of the Staffing Plan:**

- + 5 Assistants to the Bishop include:

- Asst for Communications & Development (Roberto Lara) and DEM (Branden Dupree)
- Three (3) Assistants will be semi-deployed staff with office / home base in the Bishop's office. Each will have responsibilities for specific geographic areas and ministry focus:
  1. The Rev. Christopher Mietlowski
  2. The Rev. Kevin Vandiver
  3. Yet to be confirmed
- + Addition of a Chief Operating Officer
- + S.Dcn. Ruege will be the Executive Assistant to the Bishop
- + Sue Brandt as Director for Finance and Grant Management
- + Pr. Perucy will be quarter time to manage Tanzania relationship
- + Property Manager (Mark Goodwin), will be increased to full time position
- + Addition of a Communications Assistant for Roberto Lara (Assistant to the Bishop for Communications and Development)
- + (3) Administrative Assistants (Maria Rodas, Regina Daniels, additional person)

**ACTION SC19:10/02**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to the Rev. Christopher Mietlowski as Assistant to the Bishop effective January 6, 2020.**

**ADOPTED**

**ACTION SC19:10/03**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to The Rev. Kevin Vandiver as Assistant to the Bishop effective January 2, 2020.**

**ADOPTED**

**4. Report of the Vice President **EXHIBIT A****

- A. Activities and Visits**
- B. Western Queens Update**

**5. Strategic Plan Report**

**A. Re-vision of the plan / theme / structure / leadership**

Bp. Egensteiner presented his vision for the future of the synod's strategic plan.

a. Theme: Habakkuk 2:3 : For there is still a vision for the appointed time.

Priorities include:

*E = Evangelism*

*L = Leadership*

*C = Congregations*

*A = Advocacy*

b. Formation of two (2) Advisory Groups to shepherd the priorities:

One advisory Group to focus outwardly for the sake of the World (Evangelism, Advocacy)

One Advisory Group to focus inwardly for the sake of the Church (Congregations, Leadership)

**B. Leadership Development Grant EXHIBIT B**

**ACTION SC19:10/04**

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

**ADOPTED**

**6. Treasurer's Report**

**A. Mission Support Report (30 September 2019)**

Treasurer Litke reported that Mission Support received in September totaled \$72,002.28, which is \$8,643.10 less than budgeted.

Mission Support received year-to-date is \$582,137.42 which is \$4,876.24 less than budgeted year-to-date.

**B. Financials (31 August 2019) EXHIBIT C**

**7. Old Business**

**A. New Hope for All Saints property (163<sup>rd</sup> Street, Bronx)**

VP Wicklund reported that we have not yet received a signed contract from the developer whose offer the SC approved in July. Should the approved offer be withdrawn, the SC will be presented with additional offers to consider in November.

**B. Park Church Co-op**

Bp. Egensteiner, S. Brandt, and B. Dupree met with leaders from Park Church on 10/9/19. They have agreed to the criteria to operate as a permanent synodical worshipping community.

- A permanent SAWC is semi-autonomous. They would continue to be a group gathered to worship in accordance with the expectations of the Synod.
- There would work in partnership with the Bishop's office to secure a part time pastor. The SC will extend the call to the pastor and provide real viability benchmarks to be met.
- 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, negotiate the rental agreement for facility use with the Synod.
- Although mostly autonomous, Park Church Co-Op would remain a SAWC which Synod Council has 51% authority over.
- Park Church would remain under the purview of the DEM. Only after an annual review will the DEM recommend they continue for another year.

**Pr. David Parsons led SC in prayer prior to vote.**

**ACTION SC10:10/05**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod recognize Park Church Co-op, Brooklyn as a permanent Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community (SAWC) under the oversight of the MNYS Director for Evangelical Mission.**

**ADOPTED**

**(16 for, 4 against, 2 abstentions)**

**C. Eltingville Update**

VP Wicklund said that our attorneys have reported that the self-appointed leaders of Eltingville have appealed the decision of the Appellate Division to the New York Court of Appeals (New York's highest court).

**D. Amendment to contract for former Zion, Brooklyn**

VP Wicklund reported that the Developer (Fifth Avenue Committee) and the School Construction Authority are negotiating final terms that will amend the contract. The contract is scheduled to close this month. It was hoped we would have the amendment for today's SC meeting.

She requested that the Synod Council authorize the Executive Committee to approve the amendment to the contract in the coming weeks and subsequently bring to the Synod Council to ratify in November.

**8. New Business**

**A. 2020 Synod Assembly Rate Schedule**

S. Dcn. Ruege presented the proposed rate schedule.

**ACTION SC19:10/06**

**RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the proposed rate schedule for the 2020 Synod Assembly.**

**ADOPTED**

**B. Conference Visits / SC members**

Tom Sargent reported on his visit to St. Stephen's, Hicksville as a SC member, and to their Eastern Nassau conference meeting.

**9. Afterthoughts**

**10. Observers' Evaluation**

**Meeting adjourned with prayer by Pr. Mietlowski at 6:50 pm.**

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

**Synod Council Meeting: November 19, 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 November 1.**

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