

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
<i>Mr. David Ehlers</i>	<i>2022</i>
Ms. Monica Gavryszewski	2020
<i>Ms. Hazel Goldstein</i>	<i>2022</i>
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 Penumaka	2022
S. Dcn. Denise Rutherford-Gill	2020
Mr. Thomas Sargent	2020
<i>*The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Sect.</i>	<i>2022</i>
The Rev. Nicole Schwalbe	2020
Mr. Cecil Spurlock-Shackelton	2022
<i>The Rev. Garry Squire</i>	<i>2020</i>
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: S.Dcn. Denise Rutherford-Gill

Observer: Cynthia Corley

Call to Order: Ms. Renee Wicklund

1. Adoption of the Agenda

2. Adoption of the SC Minutes 19 March 2019

3. Bishop's Report

A. Calls

- a. **The Rev. Dr. Maritza Ortiz Cruz: Term-call / Redeemer, Queens Village effective 1 Jan 19**

ACTION SC19:04/01

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a Term-call to The Rev. Dr. Maritza Ortiz Cruz to Redeemer Lutheran Church, Queens Village effective 1 January 2019.

ADOPTED

- b. **The Rev. Dr. Gary E Mills: retirement status effective 1 Jul 19**

ACTION SC19:04/02

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve retirement status for The Rev. Dr. Gary Mills, effective 1 July 2019.

ADOPTED

B. Appointments

a. Congregational Finance Task Force

This Task Force was formed in accordance with 2018 Synod Assembly action SA 2018:05.08 Congregational Finance and Accounting.

+ <i>The Rev. Edward Barnett</i>	<i>St. Peter's, Baldwin</i>
+ <i>Carol Campbell</i>	<i>Good Shepherd, Roosevelt</i>
+ <i>S.Dcn. Donna-Mari Fieldsa Christ, Freeport</i>	
+ <i>Gary Hack</i>	<i>Christ, Woodstock</i>
+ <i>John Litke</i>	<i>St. Peter's, Huntington Station</i>
+ <i>The Rev. Kevin Vandiver</i>	<i>The Christ Center, Harlem</i>
+ <i>Hans Vogel</i>	<i>Christ, Wantagh</i>

ACTION SC19:04/03

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council consents to the appointment of The Rev. Edward Barnett; Carol Campbell; S.Dcn. Donna-Mari Fieldsa; Gary Hack; John Litke; The Rev. Kevin Vandiver; Hans Vogel to the Congregational Finance Task Force.

ADOPTED

b. Bishop's Election Committee

The Bishop's Election Committee is responsible for the process related to the election of the synod bishop separate from the Synod's Election Committee. The BEC will work with Bp. Eaton and the BEC chair to facilitate and oversee the election process during the Synod Assembly. The responsibilities of the committee include:

- Contacting nominated absentee candidates
- Obtaining biographical information from candidates
- Working with tellers and counters during the election in the distribution and counting of ballots
- Assist candidates throughout the process
- Drafting questions for presentation to the three final candidates during the Question & Answer period. (Questions submitted by voting members).

+ <i>The Rev. Evelyn Avila</i>	<i>Mision Latina de Ascension, Deer Park</i>
+ <i>S.Dcn. Karen Conlon</i>	<i>Grace, Yorktown Heights</i>
+ <i>S.Dcn. Sarajeon Grainson</i>	<i>Holy Trinity, Rockville Centre</i>
+ <i>The Rev. Wolfgang Laudert</i>	<i>Christ, Staten Island</i>
+ <i>Emma Porter</i>	<i>New Hope, Jamaica</i>
+ <i>Rob Sinanan</i>	<i>Trinity, Long Island City</i>
+ <i>The Rev. Ann Tiemeyer</i>	<i>Advent, Manhattan</i>

ACTION SC19:04/04

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council consents to the appointment of The Rev. Evelyn Avila; S.Dcn. Karen Conlon; S.Dcn. Sarajeon Grainson; The Rev. Wolfgang Laudert; Emma Porter; Rob Sinanan; The Rev. Ann Tiemeyer to the 2019 Bishop's Election Committee.

ADOPTED

C. Staff

a. The Rev. Lamont Anthony Wells

Pastor Lamont Wells has resigned his position as MNYS Director for Evangelical Outreach effective May 1, 2019. He has served as our Synod's DEM for 6 years. An announcement was included in the weekly MNYS e-letter.

b. Branden Dupree

Branden had been serving as the Assistant to the DEM for almost 2 years. He will serve as the Interim DEM beginning May 1.

4. Report of the Vice President

A. VP Wicklund gave a report of her visits to congregations and with rostered leaders from Mar 19-Apr 26

B. Project Redevelopment Working Groups

Orientation was held on Saturday, Mar 30, for the newly formed Working Groups assigned to each project redevelopment. Each group met for 1 hour to receive an overview of the project, anticipated timeline, and identify next steps. Questions were answered and clarifications made about the process.

C. Transition Matters

5. Report of the Secretary / Constitutions (under review)

A. Good Shepherd, Plainview

B. Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Patchogue

6. Treasurer's Report

A. Mission Support Report (31 March 2019) EXHIBIT A

Mission Support received in March totaled \$96,886. Mission Support year-to-date is \$139,974

B. Financials (31 March 2019) EXHIBIT B

C. Audit Report EXHIBIT C

ACTION SC19:04/05

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council adopt the Financial Statements and Report for the year ending January 31, 2019 prepared by Tait, Weller & Baker, Certified Public Accountants, noting that in the opinion of the auditors the financial statements taken as a whole present fairly the financial position of the Metropolitan New York Synod in conformity with generally accepted accounting principals.

ADOPTED

D. Budget adjustments

The audit necessitated some changes to the budgets presented last month. There were changes made to revenue lines in both the 2019 and 2020 budgets. An informational sheet listing the changes is provided in the dropbox.

ACTION SC19:04/06

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approves the auditor's adjustments to the revised budget for 2019 and the proposed budget for 2020 and recommends the revised budget for 2019 and the proposed budget for 2020 to the Synod Assembly for adoption.

ADOPTED

E. Tait Weller Baker

ACTION SC19:04/07

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod retain the services of Tait, Weller & Baker, Certified Public Accountants, for the year ending January 31, 2020.

ADOPTED

7. Report of the Strategic Plan Working Group

A. Joint meeting held on April 13

B. Congregation Capital Improvement Grants EXHIBIT D

ACTION SC19:04/08

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

ADOPTED

C. Communication metrics review 1Q 2019 EXHIBIT E

Roberto Lara, Director for Communications, presented metrics review for the first quarter of 2019.

8. 2019 Synod Assembly

A. Proposed Agenda EXHIBIT F

The proposed agenda prepared by the Synod Assembly Planning Committee is presented to the Synod Council for recommendation to the Synod Assembly for adoption.

ACTION SC19:04/09

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council present the proposed agenda on May 16, 2019 for adoption by the Synod Assembly.

ADOPTED

B. Updates

- On line registration closed on Wed, April 24 at midnight
- 472 Voting members / 63 Visitors
- Targeted informational emails to voting members and visitors are scheduled

9. Old Business

A. Leif Ericson Day School update

a. Special meeting of the Board

A special meeting of the Members of the Corporation will take place immediately following the SC meeting.

b. Tenants

We've requested from Principal Hauge any written agreements with renters.

c. Student Placement assistance

Lutheran Elementary School of Bay Ridge / Founded by Bethlehem Lutheran Church

- March 13: Principal Corinne King visited Leif Ericson to attend Chapel and observe classes
- March 14: LES held an open house for Leif Ericson parents – they were invited to attend LES chapel and Mrs. King gave a tour of the school
- March 18: LES / Leif Ericson Buddy Day for grades 2-5
- March 19: LES / Leif Ericson Buddy Day for grades 6-8
- Distributed approx. 50 applications / LES accepting those already submitted
- Deadline for applications for the LES 2019-2020 school year is April 12

B. Consultation Panel: St. Paul's, Rye Brook

The Consultation Panel completed their work – a report to the Synod Council is forthcoming.

C. Legal Update: St. Peter's, 140th Street / market property

The Synod received a favorable decision on March 21 2019. Deeds transferring the property have been recorded. A zoning analysis was conducted. A redevelopment is not financially worthwhile – and the properties fall within a historical district which limits development. The properties are in extreme disrepair. The recommendation from the Gathered Committee with support from the Executive Committee is that the properties be listed for sale.

ACTION SC19:04/10

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the listing for sale of the properties located at 427 East 140th Street and 435 East 140th Street, Bronx.

ADOPTED

D. Immigration Project update EXHIBIT G

Christopher Vergara provided an update on the Sanctuary Ministry to date.

E. Western Queens Response EXHIBIT H

The letter from Western Queens dated Oct 2018 and response from the Synod Council regarding the SW Queens project was discussed. The response will be sent.

10. New Business

The Synod Council has deferred action until June SC meeting pending clarifying information from the Domestic Mission Unit, ELCA regarding the Model SAWC constitution and other governing questions.

- A. Jehu's Table, Brooklyn / recognize as a Synodically Authorized Worshiping Community: Mission Developer – Pastor Lenny Duncan
- B. Park Church Co-Op, Brooklyn / recognize as a Synodically Authorized Worshiping Community: Mission Developer – Coverage / Pr. Elsa Marty
- C. Mision Latina de Ascension, Deer Park / recognize as a Synodically Authorized Worshiping Community: Mission Developer Pr. Evelyn "Patty" Avila

D. Formation of MNYS West 126th LLC / Removal of trustees **EXHIBIT I**

This resolution has been prepared by our attorneys for the former congregation of Transfiguration, Harlem (now, Mission Development: The Christ Center) to create the LLC, remove the appointed trustees and grant the synod the ability to manage the properties legally.

ACTION SC19:04/11

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 formation by the Metropolitan New York Synod of MNYS West 126th 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 West 126th 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 West 126th LLC shall be tax exempt and shall not be required to file separate tax returns. No other assets shall be placed in MNYS West 126th LLC and MNYS West 126th LLC shall have no liabilities. The sole purpose of MNYS West 126th LLC is and shall continue to be to hold, manage, and convey title to the Property formerly of Transfiguration 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 Transfiguration from the Metropolitan New York Synod to MNYS West 126th 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 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 former property of Transfiguration 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 West 126th LLC.

ADOPTED / FOR: 24 AGAINST: 0

E. Supporting Organization resolution

The Financial Management Committee and the Executive Committee recommend the transfer of \$20,000,000 to Evangelical Lutheran, Inc.

ACTION SC19:04/12

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council authorize the transfer of \$20,000,000 to the supporting organization Evangelical Lutheran, Inc.

ADOPTED / FOR: 21 AGAINST: 0 ABSTAINED: 3 (*Directors on the Evangelical Lutheran, Inc. Board*)

11. Afterthoughts

12. Observers' Evaluation

Next Executive Committee Meeting: June 6, 2019*
Synod Council Retreat, June 14-15, 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 Jun 1.**

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

Gayle Ruege
Senior Assistant to the Bishop