

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Rev. Albert Ahlstrom	2012
<i>Mr. William Anderson</i>	2012
<i>*The Rev. William Baum</i>	2012
The Rev. Rosalind Brathwaite	2012
<i>Ms. Kelsey Brown</i>	2012
*Mr. Robert Buescher, Treas.	2012
<i>Ms. Christine Connell, DM</i>	2014
*Ms. Maria del Toro, Vice President	2014
Dcn Charles Germain	2014
Ms. Barbara Hansen	2014
Mr. Gene Hiigel	2014
Ms. Barbara Holm	2012
The Rev. Brenda Jack	2012
*Ms. Barbara Johnson	2012
<i>The Rev. Perry Kirschbaum</i>	2014
<i>Dr. Carlos Lopez</i>	2014
Dcn. John Malone	2014
*Ms. Minerva Melendez	2014
<i>The Rev. Craig Miller</i>	2014
*The Rev. Paul Milholland	2014
Dcn. Bobbi Paulik	2012
<i>Mr. Brian Reardon</i>	2012
<i>*The Rev. Robert A. Rimbo, Bishop</i>	2014
The Rev. Kit Robison	2014
*The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Sect.	2014
<i>Ms. Janet Siry</i>	2014
Mr. Jonathan Westerlund	2012

27 Voting Members

AUXILLIARY MEMBERS

STAFF

The Rev. Percy Butiku
Ms. Sarah Gioe
The Rev. Dr. Jack Horner
The Rev. Kathleen Koran
The Rev. Jonathan Linman
Mr. John Litke
The Rev. Dr. Gary Mills
Dcn. Gayle Ruege
Ms. Kathleen Schmidt

GUESTS

The Rev. Diane Wildow (Conference of Deans)

Bold = present

Italics = excused absence

*Member of Executive Committee

Worship

Call to Order by VP Maria del Toro at 10:27 am

- 1. Adoption of Agenda.**
Adopted, as amended.

- 2. Orientation/Synod Council Training and Formation (EXHIBIT A)**

Pr. Linman led us through the Manual after speaking of the work of the committee. He asked whether a *Covenant of Conduct* should be something members sign. The Council agreed that this would be a good practice. In discussion of Spiritual Engagement and Discussion section, Pr. Milholland suggested that devotions or worship not always be at the beginning of meeting, and that we pause for prayer before important decisions or votes.

It was pointed out by Dcn. Malone that this Manual could also be of help to congregation councils.

ACTION SC11:09/01

RESOLVED, that the Manual for Synod Council Training and Formation be adopted, as modified through discussion.

ADOPTED.

**3. Adoption of Minutes: 14 June 2011.
Adopted, with editorial corrections**

4. Bishop's Report

A. Written Report (May – August 2011) (EXHIBIT B)

B. Staff Reports (EXHIBIT C)

C. Appointments

- a. Candidacy Committee: Rev. William Eschen; Rev. Rosalind Brathwaite; Ms. Janet Siry
- b. Bishop's Benevolence Task Force: Rev. Brenda Jack; Rev. James Sudbrock;
Ms. Kathleen Schmidt
- c. Salam Ministry Fund Board: Rev. Donald Stiger; Ms. Kathleen Schmidt;
Mr. Adnan Naum; Mr. Sadek Nakleh
- d. Seafarers & International House Board (Bp. rep): Rev. James Sudbrock
- e. Financial Management Committee: Rev. Craig Miller; Mr. Edward Wagner
- f. MNYS Youth Representation Task Force: Dcn. Charles Germain, Chair
- g. MNYS Sexual Misconduct first contact: Rev. Toby Tobias; Ms. Antonia Clemente

ACTION SC11:09/02

RESOLVED, that appointments be approved *en bloc*.

ADOPTED.

D. Calls

- a. Mr. James Smith: Chaplain, Wagner College

ACTION SC11:09/03

RESOLVED, that Mr. James Smith be called as Chaplain to Wagner College, Staten Island, NY, and that a grant of \$25,000 per year for two years be provided from the Mission Redevelopment Fund to Wagner toward the compensation and benefits package of the chaplain.

ADOPTED.

- b. Rev. Rose Ann Vita: removal from ELCA roster

ACTION SC11:09/04

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council invoke Bylaw 8.72.15D to remove the Rev. Rose Ann Vita from the ELCA roster upon her reception onto the roster of the United Church of Canada.

ADOPTED.

E. Lutheran Music Program Challenge Grant

Ms. Kathleen Schmidt spoke on this in the Bishop's absence. Bp. Rimbo has authorized a \$7,500 grant to the Lutheran Music Program from Wider Church Fund.

5. Treasurer's Report (EXHIBIT D)

A. Financial Report

Treasurer Buescher led us through the following reports:

- Summary of Significant Items
- Property Assets
- Non-Property Assets & Invested Portion
- Net Income and Operations Plan
- Net Expenses of Synodical Administration
- Mission Support

B. Congregation Partnership Report (EXHIBIT E)

Treasurer Buescher led us through the partnership report.

C. MNYS Audit Committee

- a. Resolution related to 2010 Audit Committee Report

WHEREAS, the Audit Committee has met with the Synod's Independent Certified Public Accountants, and reviewed the report of that organization and financial statements for the fiscal year 2011, ending January 31, 2011, and,

WHEREAS the Audit Committee has recommended the first 2 following resolutions.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Synod Council accept and adopt the Independent Certified Public Accountants report, and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Synod Council again appoint Tait, Weller & Baker LLP as Independent Certified Public Accounts for the year 2011, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Audit Committee be commended for its efforts in this task.

ACTION SC11:09/05

BE IT RESOLVED that the Synod Council accept and adopt the Independent Certified Public Accountants report, and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Synod Council again appoint Tait, Welles & Baker LLP as Independent Certified Public Accounts for the year 2011, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Audit Committee be commended for its efforts in this task.

ADOPTED.

D. Office Space Task Force

Treasurer Buescher reported that the Task Force will meet Tuesday, September 20 and requested additional SC members volunteer to participate on the Task Force.

ACTION SC11:09/06

RESOLVED, that Dcn. John Malone, Pr. Paul Milholland, Ms. Barbara Johnson, and Pr. Kit Robison be appointed to the Office Space Task Force.

ADOPTED

6. Old Business

A. MNYS Strategic Plan

VP Maria del Toro reported on work of Executive Committee in selecting a consulting firm to work with SC in developing our strategic plan.

ACTION SC11:09/07

RESOLVED, that Mr. Tom Massey and Daxko T2 Consulting be retained to assist the Metropolitan New York Synod in the development of a strategic plan, and authorize project expenditures be taken from the Mission Redevelopment Fund not to exceed \$100,000.

ADOPTED.

B. Synod Philanthropy

VP Maria del Toro reported that the Executive Committee recommends that the work of Rita Fuerst Adams and the Synod Philanthropy Committee cease during the strategic planning process. Creating a culture of philanthropy within the synod will be integrated into the strategic plan. The following resolution was moved and seconded:

WHEREAS, work on philanthropy is important for our Synod, and
WHEREAS, the development of a strategic plan is deemed to be required before our work on philanthropy can be continued, and
WHEREAS, it is the intention to again focus on philanthropy once the strategic plan has been developed and adopted by the synod.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED, that the contract with Rita Fuerst Adams, Charitable and Philanthropic Management Counsel, be terminated.

ACTION SC11:09/08

RESOLVED, that the contract with Rita Fuerst Adams, Charitable and Philanthropic Management Counsel be terminated.

ADOPTED

C. Proposal for MNYS-LSSNY Development Projects (EXHIBIT F)

Pr. Horner presented the proposal for a policy to govern cooperative development projects between LSSNY and MNYS. G. Hiigel recommended adding language to clarify that cooperation will take place only if MNYS determines to develop a site with LSSNY.

Pr. Horner noted that this proposal will be re-examined in June 2012 and revised as necessary after the adoption of a strategic plan by the synod.

ACTION SC11:09/09

RESOLVED, that the Outline of Proposal for MNYS-LSSNY Development Projects, as amended, be adopted.

ADOPTED

D. Procedures for Synod Administration (EXHIBIT G)

Pr. Horner presented proposed procedures for synod administration under Section 13.24 and Section 13.25. He indicated that there are three different scenarios, requiring three differing procedures.

- a. Procedures for “Permanent” Synod Administration Requested by Congregation (S13.24)

ACTION SC11:09/10

RESOLVED, that Procedures for “Permanent” Synod Administration Requested by the Congregation (S13.24), be referred back for revision and rewording.

ADOPTED

- b. Procedures for “Permanent Synod Administration Imposed by Synod Council (S13.24)
Mr. Buescher proposed that the Review Step in procedure be amended as follows:
Mindful of the significant cost associated with maintaining a property, the Bishop’s staff, trustees, and the Mission Strategy Table will review the properties for potential reuse as a new start or social ministry site. Following that review the trustees may offer recommendations to the Synod Council. If no reuse is directed, the property will be listed for sale.

This amendment was seconded and adopted.

ACTION SC11:09/11

RESOLVED, that Procedures for “Permanent” Synod Administration Imposed by Synod Council (S13.24), as amended, be adopted.

ADOPTED

- c. Procedures for “Temporary” Synod Administration (S13.25)

ACTION SC11:09/12

RESOLVED, that Procedures for “Temporary” Synod Administration (S13.25) be adopted.

ADOPTED

E. Oceanside Lutheran Church, Oceanside

Letter received from congregation requesting that it be removed from synod administration.

ACTION SC11:09/13

RESOLVED, that Oceanside Lutheran Church be removed from synod administration.

ADOPTED

F. Synod Loans to Congregations Update

Ms. Kathleen Schmidt reported on congregations with outstanding loans from Synod.

- a. St. Stephen’s, Brooklyn
b. St. Michael, Amagansett

ACTION SC11:09/14

RESOLVED, that the loan to St. Michael’s, Amagansett be extended through December 31, 2011.

ADOPTED

G. Congregations under synod administration (monthly report) (EXHIBIT H)

Ms. Kathleen Schmidt reported.

- a. Sion, 119th Street update
- b. St. Luke's, Brooklyn

Pr. Horner announced that the synod has secured a Mission Developer to develop young adult ministry in the Greenpoint area of Brooklyn, though an agreement between the Synod and the ELCA. A proposal that would provide housing for the Mission Developer at St. Luke's, Brooklyn was presented to the SC for consideration.

The following resolution was moved and seconded:

WHEREAS, St. Luke's, Clinton Hill, Brooklyn has a parsonage apartment that is not in use; and
WHEREAS, a one bedroom apartment rents for approximately \$2,000/month in Clinton Hill; and
WHEREAS, the apartment is in need of renovation for occupancy; and
WHEREAS, the MNYS needs housing for a mission developer for the Young Adult Ministry in Greenpoint; therefore be it
RESOLVED, that the Synod Council approve an expenditure of not more than \$50,000, to be taken from the Mission Redevelopment Fund, for the renovation of the St. Luke's, Clinton Hill, Brooklyn apartment (2nd floor) which will be used to house the mission developer of the Young Adult Ministry in Greenpoint; and be it further
RESOLVED, that in conjunction with the expenditures for the repairs, synod will enter into an agreement with St. Luke's whereby the renovation expenses incurred by MNYS be credited as rent for the apartment at the rate of \$2,000/month; and that once the apartment renovation expenses have been fully amortized, the debts owed by St. Luke's to MNYS will be reduced at the rate of \$2,000 per month in lieu of rent for the apartment, until the earlier of the synod vacating the apartment or the debt owed by St. Luke's to MNYS has been fully paid off. R. Buescher made a motion to amend the resolution. This amendment was defeated.

ACTION SC11:09/15

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council approve an expenditure of not more than \$50,000, to be taken from the Mission Redevelopment Fund, for the renovation of the St. Luke's, Clinton Hill, Brooklyn apartment (2nd floor) which will be used to house the mission developer of the Young Adult Ministry in Greenpoint; and be it further

RESOLVED, that in conjunction with the expenditures for the repairs, synod will enter into an agreement with St. Luke's whereby the renovation expenses incurred by MNYS be credited as rent for the apartment at the rate of \$2,000/month; and that once the apartment renovation expenses have been fully amortized, the debts owed by St. Luke's to MNYS will be reduced at the rate of \$2,000 per month in lieu of rent for the apartment, until the earlier of the synod vacating the apartment or the debt owed by St. Luke's to MNYS has been fully paid off.

ADOPTED

c. St. Peter's, 140th Street:

The Executive Committee reported to the Synod Council that the synod would not pay the estimated amount of \$200,000. to recover the property currently held by the City of New York located at 421 East 140th Street, Bronx on behalf of St. Peter's, Bronx.

d. St. Luke's, Bronx

H. MNYS Resolution to ELCA Church Council: Campus Ministry (EXHIBIT I)

The ELCA Church Council took action on resolution submitted by MNYS Synod Council.

I. Pending

- a. Property of former Bethlehem, Brooklyn
- b. Grace, North Branch
- c. Congregations that voted to leave the ELCA / Dual rostering
- d. Committee on the Election of the Bishop
- e. A Call to Celebrate and Support LMHE (October 2011 SC meeting)

J. Report of Congregational Viability Norms Committee

Dcn. John Malone reported that the Committee will schedule a meeting with the consultant who will be assisting us with our strategic plan, and will begin communicating with the Conference of Deans to assist in the articulation and delineation of the viability norms.

7. New Business

A. St. Lydia's (SAWC)

Pr. Horner reported on the request of this worshipping community to formally join the ELCA. The executive committee has authorized St. Lydia's as a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community (SAWC). This is the first step in becoming a congregation of the ELCA.

ACTION SC11:09/16

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Metropolitan New York Synod officially designates St. Lydia's as a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community (SAWC) of the Metropolitan New York Synod, ELCA and designates Emily Scott as their servant leader.

ADOPTED.

B. Clergy Compensation Guidelines 2012 (EXHIBIT J)

Ms. Kathleen Schmidt presented proposed guidelines for 2012 clergy compensation. Discussion ensued concerning the Department of Labor's CPI-W index of 4.1% as a reference point for setting the COLA reflected in the proposed 2012 guidelines. Given the continued weakness in the labor market, the Synod Council voted to recommend a COLA of 2.0% for 2012. Proposed guidelines reflected an increase in the minimum housing allowance from \$15,000 to \$18,000. A motion to amend housing increase from \$15,000 to \$15,500, rather than \$18,000 was defeated. Guidelines also reflect increase in rates for honoraria for Supply Pastors.

ACTION SC11:09/17

RESOLVED, that proposed compensation guidelines for 2012, reflecting a COLA of 2% to base salary, minimum housing allowance of \$18,000 and increase in rates for honoraria for Supply Pastors be adopted.

ADOPTED.

C. Redeemer, Queens Village / Saint Peter's, Manhattan partnership (EXHIBIT K)

A covenant for Mission and Stewardship Growth with Pastoral Care between the Metropolitan New York Synod, Redeemer Lutheran Church and Nursery School, Queens Village and Saint Peter's Church, Manhattan was presented to the Synod Council for review, support and approval.

ACTION SC11:09/18

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approves and supports the covenant agreement between Redeemer Lutheran Church, Queens Village, Saint Peter's Church, Manhattan and the Metropolitan New York Synod, ELCA as described in the provided document.

ADOPTED.

D. Trexler Grant

a. Rev. Karen Kuttler \$1000

ACTION SC11:09/19

RESOLVED, that the proposed Trexler Grant for the Rev. Karen Kuttler be approved.

ADOPTED.

Pr. Linman reported that a Trexler Grant, approved in June 2011, for Rev. Stephen Beyer will be used for travel to Germany instead of Tanzania.

8. Other Reports

A. Lutheran Men in Mission (EXHIBIT L)

A written report on Lutheran Men in Mission's 9th Triennial Gathering in Denver was submitted by Judge Daniel Joy.

B. Dcn. Charles Germain announced the ELCA Youth Ministry Extravaganza

Two scholarships of \$1000 each will be provided for youth leaders/pastors to attend The Youth Ministry Extravaganza in New Orleans.

9. Announcements/Events

A. Living Partnerships for Living Church (October 15, 2011)

B. Western Nassau Conference Visit (October 23-24, 2011)

C. Bishop's Retreat (November 16-18, 2011)

D. Dcn. John Malone asked for our prayers as Holy Trinity, Brooklyn votes to extend him a diaconal call.

10. Meeting Evaluation

Meeting was adjourned at 3:47pm, with prayer by Pr. Paul Milholland.

The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Secretary