

**SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**\*The Rev. William Baum** 2016  
**The Rev. Rosalind Brathwaite** 2016  
*Ms. Christine Connell, DM* 2014  
**\*Ms. Maria del Toro, Vice President** 2014  
*The Rev. Khader El-Yateem* 2016  
*Dcn Charles Germain* 2014  
**Ms. Hazel Goldstein** 2016  
*Ms. Barbara Hansen* 2014  
**\*The Rev. Marc Herbst** 2014  
**Mr. Eugene Hiigel** 2014  
*\*The Rev. Brenda Irving* 2016  
**Ms. Barbara Johnson** 2016  
*Ms. Savannah Lochansingh, Youth* 2014  
*Dr. Carlos Lopez* 2014  
**Dcn. John Malone** 2014  
**Ms. Minerva Melendez** 2014  
**The Rev. Paul Milholland** 2014  
**The Rev. Craig Miller** 2014  
**Dcn. John Prosen** 2016  
**Mr. Brian Reardon** 2016  
**\*The Rev. Robert A. Rimbo, Bishop** 2014  
**The Rev. Kit Robison** 2014  
**Ms. Terra Rowe** 2016  
**\*The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Sect.** 2014  
*Ms. Abby Triebel, Young Adult* 2016  
**\*Mr. Frank Suttell, Treas** 2016  
**\*Mr. Christopher Vergara** 2016  
**Ms. Karen Woolley** 2016

**AUXILLIARY MEMBERS**

**STAFF**

*The Rev. Percy Butiku*  
**Ms. Sarah Gioe**  
**The Rev. Kathleen Koran**  
**The Rev. Jonathan Linman**  
**Dcn. Gayle Ruege**  
**Ms. Kathleen Schmidt**  
**Ms. Rebekah Thornhill**

**GUESTS**

**The Rev. Leo (Jay) Longen, Conf. of Deans**

**Bold = present**

*Italics = excused absence*

**\*Member of Executive Committee**

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*Devotions: Dcn. John Malone*

*Observer: Ms. Barbara Johnson*

*Call to Order: Ms. Maria del Toro at 5:21pm.*

- 1. Adoption of the Agenda:** adopted as presented.
- 2. Adoption of the Minutes:** 18 October 2013: adopted as presented.

### 3. Synod Council Retreat (debrief)

Bp. Rimbo led discussion on location, timing of business meeting, Saturday visioning session, and most importantly, the bocce tournament. Positive feedback about retreat center and holding business meeting on Friday night instead of Saturday. The visioning session was structured well and produced many good ideas that were passed on to the Sent Strategy Committee. It was determined that the bocce tournament was "rigged," but thoroughly enjoyable.

### 4. Strategic Plan

#### A. Report of the Steering Committee

VP Del Toro gave report. There will be a meeting of all strategic plan committees on December 7 at Saint Peters, Manhattan. It was requested that each of the committees give a report at the December synod council meeting.

#### B. Quadrant Visit weekends

- January 10-12 (Quadrant 4: Bronx / Manhattan / Staten Island)
- February 7 – 9 (Quadrant 1: Delaware- Hudson / Hudson / Tappan Zee)
- March 7-9 (Quadrant 3: Queens, Brooklyn)

### 5. Bishop's Report

#### A. St. Thomas House dedication / open house (November 4)

Bp. Rimbo reported that approximately 70 persons were in attendance at the dedication, including former congregation members, former pastors, synod council members and others, including some local political leaders.

#### B. Calls:

- a. Rev. Krista Vingelis: *On Leave from Call effective 14 October 2013*

### ACTION SC13:11/01

**RESOLVED, that the Rev. Krista Vingelis be granted On Leave from Call status, effective October 14, 2013.**

### ADOPTED

#### C. Appointments

- a. Rev. Dr. Laurie Andersen: *Intentional Interim / Redeemer, Flushing effective 1 November 2013*
- b. Rev. F. Robert Modr: *Interim / Christ Islip Terrace effective 1 November 2013*
- c. John Daggan, MNYS Archivist: *Affiliated Director to the Lutheran Archives @ Philadelphia*
- d. Jack Martz: *Recommend for election as Non-affiliated Director to the Lutheran Archives @ Philadelphia*

Bp. Rimbo announced these appointments (no council action necessary).

#### D. MNYS Group / India Pilgrimage

BP. Rimbo announced that the following individuals are on a pilgrimage that was organized by Pr. Daniel Peter: Pr. Percy Butiku, Pr. Paul Block, Pr. Jeff Kolbo, Pr. Mary Chang, Pr. Brenda Irving, Mr. John Ogren, Dcn. Kamy Moghbeli, Dcn. Anita Williams, Dr. Fitzchaud Grant, Mrs. Marcia Grant, Dr. Jihana Grant and Ms. Camille Grant.

**6. Treasurer's Report (EXHIBIT A)**

A. Mission Support update

There was considerable discussion about mission support and congregations that do not make a commitment or fail to honor their commitments.

B. Financial Report

**7. New Business**

A. 2014 Synod Assembly Fees:

- Voting Members: \$140
- Visitors: \$75
- Meal Package: \$200 (excluding breakfast)

**ACTION SC13:11/02**

**RESOLVED, that the fees for the 2014 Synod Assembly be set as presented.**

**ADOPTED**

B. Executive Committee (vacant seat / Dec 2)

Pr. Marc Herbst announced his resignation, effective December 1, 2013, from the Synod Council/Executive Committee due to his call to synod staff. Pr. Craig Miller nominated Barbara Johnson to complete Pr. Herbst's unexpired term on the Executive Committee. Nominations were closed and Ms. Johnson elected by acclamation.

**ACTION SC13:11/03**

**Barbara Johnson was elected to fill, effective December 2, 2013, the unexpired seat on the Executive Committee (seat left vacant due to the call of The Rev. Marc Herbst to synod staff).**

**ADOPTED**

**8. Old Business**

A. Congregations under synod administration/Synod properties

Bp. Rimbo reported meeting with Reformation, Brooklyn to discuss synod administration. Congregation voted unanimously to request that synod council apply synod administration, with the intent that congregation will close. Bp. Rimbo moved that synod council apply permanent synodical administration, pending receipt of written request, under the following resolution.

**WHEREAS, ENGLISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REFORMATION (REFORMATION)** located at 105 Barbey Street, Brooklyn, New York is a member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America (ELCA) rostered with the **Synod**, and

**WHEREAS, the membership of REFORMATION** has declined and dwindled to so few, and become so scattered and diminished in numbers as to make it impractical for **REFORMATION** to fulfill the purposes for which it was organized, and

**WHEREAS, REFORMATION** has been suffering financially, operating in deficit, has and continues to suffer economic distress and as a result of which the Congregation is unable to maintain its properties in title and in proper repair and condition requiring the **Synod** to protect the property of

**REFORMATION** from waste and deterioration, and

**WHEREAS**, at a joint meeting of the Members and the Congregation Council of **REFORMATION** duly called, held on November 14, 2013 at which quorums of both the Congregation Council and the membership of **REFORMATION** were present, a resolution was duly adopted for **REFORMATION** to request the Synod to apply permanent synodical administration and to disband and, pursuant to its Constitution, turn over its assets to the **Synod**, and

**WHEREAS**, the Constitution of the **Synod**, Section 13.24 provides in instances where a congregation's membership has diminished such that it is unable to fulfill its mission and ministry for which it is organized and where economically it is unable to protect its property from waste and deterioration, the **Synod** may take charge and control of the property of such a congregation to hold, manage and convey the same on behalf of this **Synod**, and

**WHEREAS**, such charge and control of the property by the **Synod**, as provided in Section 13.24, may be through the appointment by Synod Council of trustees, and

**WHEREAS**, for good cause having been demonstrated the **Synod** has elected to apply synodical administration upon **REFORMATION** and to take charge and control of **REFORMATION'S** property to hold, manage, and convey the same on behalf of the **Synod**, and

**WHEREAS**, by virtue of the authority granted it by Section 13.24 of its Constitution, the **Synod** has requested Synod Council to consider applying synodical administration upon **REFORMATION** pursuant to the terms and provisions of Section 13.24 and to take charge and control of the property of **REFORMATION**, through the appointment of three trustees, and to hold, manage and convey such property on behalf of the **Synod**.

**NOW THEREFORE**, it is:

**RESOLVED**, that for the reasons set forth above, all of which are included and incorporated herein and made a part hereof as if fully set forth, the **Synod** pursuant to Section 13.24 of its constitution does hereby apply synodical administration over the property of **REFORMATION** to take charge and control of the property of **REFORMATION** and to hold, manage, and convey on behalf of the **Synod**, and it is further,

**RESOLVED**, that the following are hereby appointed as trustees, with the with full power to hold and manage the property of **REFORMATION** on behalf of the **Synod** in all regards relating directly or indirectly to the taking charge and control of the property of **REFORMATION** and in holding, managing and conveying such property of **REFORMATION** on behalf of the **Synod**, to wit: Ms. Kathleen Schmidt, Pastor David Parsons (Dean), and Pastor Marc Herbst (Synod Council) and it is further,

**RESOLVED**, that the signature of any two of the Trustees acting to take charge and control of the property of **REFORMATION** and to hold, manage, and convey the property of **REFORMATION** on behalf of the Synod shall be binding upon and considered as the act of all of the Trustees. No person or party acting in reliance of the signature of such Trustees as binding upon all Trustees shall be charged with notice of any revocation or change of such authority unless he, she or it shall have received actual written notice thereof. No person or party shall be required to look behind the signature of such Trustees.

**ACTION SC13:11/04**

**RESOLVED**, that for the reasons set forth above, all of which are included and incorporated herein and made a part hereof as if fully set forth, the **Synod** pursuant to

**Section 13.24 of its constitution does hereby apply synodical administration over the property of REFORMATION to take charge and control of the property of REFORMATION and to hold, manage, and convey on behalf of the Synod, and it is further,**

**RESOLVED, that the following are hereby appointed as trustees, with the with full power to hold and manage the property of REFORMATION on behalf of the Synod in all regards relating directly or indirectly to the taking charge and control of the property of REFORMATION and in holding, managing and conveying such property of REFORMATION on behalf of the Synod, to wit: Ms. Kathleen Schmidt, Pastor David Parsons (Dean), and Pastor Marc Herbst (Synod Council) and it is further,**

**RESOLVED, that the signature of any two of the Trustees acting to take charge and control of the property of REFORMATION and to hold, manage, and convey the property of REFORMATION on behalf of the Synod shall be binding upon and considered as the act of all of the Trustees. No person or party acting in reliance of the signature of such Trustees as binding upon all Trustees shall be charged with notice of any revocation or change of such authority unless he, she or it shall have received actual written notice thereof. No person or party shall be required to look behind the signature of such Trustees.**

**ADOPTED 20 in favor; 0 opposed; 0 abstentions.**

Ms. Kathy Schmidt reported on other congregations under administration. **(EXHIBIT B)**

B. Congregational Loan Status **(EXHIBIT C)**

C. St. Lydia's, Brooklyn: Bank account

Pr. Schoepflin reported that we are awaiting direction on this matter from Congregational and Synodical Mission in Chicago.

D. Pending:

b. MNYS Committee structure analysis

VP Del Toro noted that report will be brought to December council meeting.

c. Process for the Election of the synodical bishop

Ms. Thornhill (synod administrative support to this committee) reported that the work of committee is on schedule. Four nominations have been received thus far. Up to seven nominees will be announced on April 1.

## **9. Other Reports**

A. Child Youth & Family Ministry Network **(EXHIBIT D)**

B. Pr. W. Baum reported on the dedication at St. Barnabas, Howard Beach, of the post-Sandy work and restoration.

C. Ms. Christine Connell submitted report of the actions of the Church Council (ELCA) **(EXHIBIT E)**

## **10. Announcements/Events**

A. Quadrant 2 Leaders Retreat (23 Nov 2013): St. Paul's, East Northport (8:30 am – 3:00 pm)

**11. Observer's Evaluation**

**Meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm, with prayer by Pr. Marc Herbst.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert Schoepflin, Secretary