

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Daquan Baker (Youth) 2016
***The Rev. William Baum** 2016
The Rev. Rosalind Brathwaite 2016
***Ms. Maria del Toro, Vice President** 2018
***The Rev. Khader El-Yateem** 2016
**Ms. Hazel Goldstein* 2016
Ms. Barbara Hansen 2018
The Rev. Brenda Irving 2016
Ms. Barbara Johnson 2016
The Rev. Amy Kienzle 2018
Dr. John Litke 2018
Dr. Carlos Lopez 2014
Dcn. John Malone 2014
The Rev. Craig Miller 2018
Mr. Walter Nash 2018
Dcn. Lulu Paolini 2018
The Rev. Daniel Peter 2018
Dcn. John Prosen 2016
Mr. Brian Reardon 2016
***The Rev. Robert A. Rimbo, Bishop** 2020
Ms. Terra Rowe 2016
The Rev. Harry Schenkel 2018
**The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Sect.* 2018
***Mr. Frank Suttell, Treasurer** 2016
Ms. Wendy Bean Tannenbaum 2018
Ms. Abby Triebel (Young Adult) 2016
**Mr. Christopher Vergara* 2016
Ms. Karen Woolley 2016

AUXILLIARY MEMBERS

STAFF

The Rev. Perucy Butiku
Ms. Sarah Gioe
The Rev. Marc Herbst
The Rev. Kathleen Koran
The Rev. Jonathan Linman
Dcn. Gayle Ruege
Ms. Kathleen Schmidt
Ms. Rebekah Thornhill
The Rev. Lamont Wells

GUESTS

Bold = present

Italics = excused absence

***Member of Executive Committee**

Observers: Barbara Johnson (AM) / Dcn. John Prosen (PM)

Opening Prayer: Dcn. John Malone

Call to Order: Maria del Toro

1. Adoption of the Agenda: adopted as presented

2. Adoption of the Minutes: 24 June 2014: adopted as presented

3. Bishop's Report

A. Calls

Specialized Ministry:

- a. Rev. Martin Malzahn: Chaplain, Wagner College (eff 1 Aug 2014)

ACTION SC14:09/01

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council call the Rev. Martin Malzahn as Chaplain, Wagner College, Staten Island, NY effective 1 Aug 2014.

ADOPTED

- b. Rev. Henry Morris: Intentional Interim Ministry, Good Shepherd, Pearl River (eff 1 Sep 2014)

ACTION SC14:09/02

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council call the Rev. Henry Morris as Intentional Interim Pastor, Good Shepherd, Pearl River, NY effective 1 Sep 2014

ADOPTED

- c. Mr. Eric Mull: Developer / Ascension Table Ministry, Bronx (effective 1 Oct 2014)

ACTION SC14:09/03

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council call Mr. Eric Mull as Developer/Pastor of the Ascension Table Ministry, Bronx, NY effective 1 Oct 2014

ADOPTED

- d. Ms. Anna Rieke: Developer / Two or Three Project, Harlem (effective 1 Nov 2014)

ACTION SC14:09/04

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council call Ms. Anna Rieke as Developer/Pastor of the Two or Three Project, Harlem, NY effective 1 Nov 2014.

ADOPTED

- e. Mr. Gary Schaeffer, AiM: Executive Director/ Camp Koinonia, Highland Lake, NY (eff. 1 Sep 2014)

ACTION SC14:09/05

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council call Mr. Gary Schaeffer as Executive Director / Camp Koinonia, Highland Lake, NY effective 1 Sep 2014.

ADOPTED

- f. Rev. Kristina Schaeffer: Pastor / Camp Koinonia, Highland Lake, NY (effective 1 Sep 2014)

ACTION SC14:09/06

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council call the Rev. Kristina Schaeffer as Pastor of Camp Koinonia, Highland Lake, NY effective 1 Sep 2014.

ADOPTED

On Leave from Call:

- g. Rev. Kit Robison: OLFC status effective 15 Jul 2014
- h. Rev. Samuel Adi Kristo Silaban: OLFC annual renewal (effective 13 May 2014)

- i. Rev. Ann Tiemeyer: OLFC status (effective 1 Sep 2014)
 - j. Rev. Harriet Wieber: OLFC status (effective 1 Oct 2014)
- On Leave from Call (annual renewal / extension):
- k. Rev. James Smith: OLFC annual renewal (1 May 2013)
 - l. Rev. Griffin Thomas: OLFC annual renewal (1 July 2012)
 - m. Rev. Judith Delgado: OLFC extension/ 2 years /renewable annually
- Roster status / change:
- n. Rev. John Havrilla: retirement status effective 1 Sep 2014

ACTION SC14:09/07

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve *On Leave from Call Status* to the Rev. Kit Robison effective 15 July 2014; the Rev. Samuel Silaban effective 13 May 2014; the Rev. Ann Tiemeyer effective 1 September 2014; the Rev. Harriet Wieber effective 1 October 2014;

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant *On Leave from Call* renewal to the Rev. James Smith and the Rev. Griffin Thomas;

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve an extension of *On Leave from Call* status for the Rev. Judith Delgado for two years through March 2017 (with annual renewal), pending approval from the Conference of Bishops, and to forward this request to the Roster Committee of the Conference of Bishops;

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council acknowledge retirement status for The Rev. John Havrilla effective 1 September 2014

ADOPTED

B. Appointments

- a. Rev. Rosalind Brathwaite: *Tanzania Committee effective June 2014*
- b. Ms. Terra Rowe: *Environmental Stewardship Committee effective Jul 2014*
- c. Scott Paradise: *Assembly Planning Committee SA2015 – SA2017 (2nd term)*
- d. Hazel Goldstein: *Assembly Planning Committee SA2015 – SA2017*
- e. Kevin O'Hara: *Assembly Planning Committee SA2015 – SA2017*
- f. Rev. Jennifer Richards: *Eger Board of Trustees / Bishop's representative (effective Sep 2014)*
- g. Mr. Eric Mill: *Pastor-in-Residence, St. Thomas House, Bronx, NY (effective October 2014)*

Appointments to the Strategic Plan Committees are made by the Executive Committee. Past practice has been for the SC to ratify the appointments of the Chairs of the Key Strategy Committees and Strategy Enablers.

- h. Dcn. John Malone: Chair, CLAIMED Strategy Committee

ACTION SC14:09/09

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council ratify the appointment of Deacon John Malone by the Executive Committee as Chair of the CLAIMED Strategy Committee effective October 1, 2014.

APPROVED

- i. Rev. Benjamin McKelahan, Chair, Innovation Team

ACTION SC14:09/10

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council ratify the appointment of Rev. Benjamin McKelahan by the Executive Committee as Chair of the Innovation Team effective September 27, 2014.

APPROVED

- i. Capital Improvements Grant Review Committee

- Rev. Joanne Bond
- Rev. John Flack
- Mr. Mark Goodwin
- Mr. William Henderson
- Rev. Kathleen Koran, Convener
- Mr. Walter Nash
- Rev. Jeanine Owens
- Dcn. John Prosen
- Rev. Gary Schulz, Chair
- Mr. Frank Suttell, MNYS Treasurer
- Ms. Wendy Bean Tannenbaum
- Rev. Robert Wollenburg

- j. Leadership Development Grant Review Committee

- Rev. Elise Brown
- Rev. Amandus Derr, Chair
- Dcn. Meg Fielding
- Rev. Jonathan Linman, Convener
- Dcn. Gayle Ruege, staff
- Rev. Harry Schenkel
- Rev. James Watrud

- k. Congregation Strategic Planning Committee

- Rev. Tobias Anderson
- Rev. Marc Herbst, Convener
- Rev. Jennifer Richards
- Ms. Rebekah Thornhill, staff
- Mr. Edward Wagner, FMC
- Ms. Karen Wolley, Chair

- l. Website Development Grant Review Committee

- Ms. Monique Byam
- Mr. Branden Dicks, staff
- Ms. Sarah Gioe, Convener
- Rev. Richard Hill, Chair
- Mr. Erich Markert
- Mr. Nicholas Sollom
- Ms. Abby Triebel

C. Staff Reports **(EXHIBIT A)**

Executive staff reports Jan – Aug 2014 were provided to the Synod Council for review. Pastor Lamont Wells was the designated staff person to provide an oral report.

D. Report of the Coordinator for MNYS Disaster Response **(EXHIBIT B)**

Pastor Craig Miller's report was provided to the Synod Council.

E. Augustana / Grace Merger

The merger between Grace, Astoria and Augustana, East Elmhurst has been approved by the State Supreme Court. An order was issued last week. A final service in Augustana's building will be scheduled in November. Augustana's building has been listed for sale.

4. Strategic Plan / Steering Committee

A. Report of the Steering Committee

a. Rev. Emily Scott: resignation as CLAIMED Chair **(EXHIBIT C)**

b. Pilot Projects update

- SW Queens

Pr. Herbst / Pr. Koran have been meeting with pastors of the project area.

- Western Nassau

Pastors met on an overnight retreat. Steering Committee has been formed to plan conference wide events. Congregation clusters have been formed: Northern Group / Central Group / Southern Group. Each cluster has begun plans for shared congregational ministry.

- Hudson

Engaged the services of Gallagher Bassett Services, Inc. Gallagher provided an appraisal for the congregation properties in Hudson Conference. Gallagher set to review existing coverage policies with congregation leaders. Goal of this review is to promote proper insurance coverage for the congregations. combined with reduced costs. November 15 event planned.

c. Bronx Conference (Daxko Report)

Daxko provided a full report on Sep 2 to: Bp. Rimbo , Executive Committee, Steering Committee, Executive staff, Pastoral Care Team, Pilot Project Deans, Bronx Conference pastors. The report is a comprehensive review of the physical condition – worship attendance – community based programming offered by each of the Bronx congregations.

d. Pastoral Care Team

The Steering Committee met with the Pastoral Care Team on Sep 2 (Derr, Erato, Irving, Jurik, Moss). The Pastoral Care Team supports the Strategic Plan and cross-cuts all the Strategy Committees. Bp. Rimbo will gather the PCT to formally define the scope of the ministry and create a written document that provides mutually agreed expectations and ministry guidelines.

e. Gathered Strategy **(EXHIBIT D)**

- Proposed SC Resolution on Pastoral Responsibilities & Accountability

Pastor William Baum facilitated an initial discussion of the draft SC Resolution on Pastoral Responsibilities & Accountability with the Synod Council.

- Update: LSS Proposal (Reformation, Brooklyn)

- Update: Lutheran HealthCare Proposal (Zion, Brooklyn)

f. Grant Applications

Pastor Herbst reported that applications have been received:

- (13) Capital Improvement Grant applications
- (12) Ministry Cost Savings Program applications
- (2) Congregation Strategic Plan applications

g. Quadrant Visits: SC participation

Planning of the 2015 Quadrant Visits is in progress . Dates and Quadrant assignments will be announced soon. The Saturday event will focus on Congregation Strategic Planning – which will include training for pastors and lay leaders in each congregation.

- B. Report on the Visioning / Planning Retreat (Sep 15-16, 2014), Seminary of the Immaculate Conception
Participants included: Steering Committee, Executive Committee, Exec staff, key members of the Strategy Committees, Pr. Craig Miller (Stewardship Table). The purpose of the retreat was to review and evaluate the Strategic Plan's progress and set goals and objectives moving forward. Tom Massey facilitated the retreat.

C. Innovation Team: Strategy Enabler

ACTION SC14:09/11

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council designate the Innovation Team as a Strategy Enabler of the Metropolitan New York Synod Strategic Plan.

ADOPTED

D. Communications

- a. Holy Cross, Commack (**EXHIBIT E**)
- b. Newsday Op-ed (**EXHIBIT F**)
- c. Ascension, Deer Park (Newsday) (**EXHIBIT G**)

5. Treasurer's Report

A. Mission Support / August Financials (**EXHIBIT H**)

YTD we have received \$582,443 versus a budgeted YTD amount of \$611,374. Mr. Suttell Provided the Synod Council with the Summary Balance Sheet and Statement of Revenues and Expenditures as of 31 August 2014

B. Audit Committee

Mr. Suttell reported that the Audit Committee's recommendation to secure Tait Weller & Baker for fiscal year 2014 – 2015

ACTION SC14:09/12

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod retain the services of Tait, Weller & Baker, Certified Public Accountants for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2015.

ADOPTED.

6. Constitutions

The congregations listed below have submitted updated constitutions for Sect. Schoepflin's review.

- A. Grace, Yorktown Heights
- B. New Hope, Jamaica
- C. Our Redeemer, Seaford
- D. St. James – Matthew- Emmanuel, Brooklyn
- E. St. John's, Poughkeepsie

7. Old Business

- A. Congregations under synod administration/Synod properties **(EXHIBIT I)**
- B. Congregational Loan Status **(EXHIBIT J)**

8. New Business

- A. Pastor's Compensation Guidelines 2015 – COLA 1.6%

ACTION SC14:09/13

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the recommended COLA of 1.6% for the 2015 Pastors Compensation Guidelines.

ADOPTED

- B. Messiah, Flushing: Request for Synod Administration **(EXHIBIT K)**

A written request from Messiah, Flushing asking the Synod Council to apply temporary synod administration was reviewed by the Executive Committee. The Exec Committee recommends that Messiah seek permanent synod administration as the congregation pursues a proposal for property re-development with the Wartburg.

- C. Reformation, Brooklyn: list for sale

ACTION SC14:09/14

RESOLVED, that the property owned by the Synod located at 105 Barbey Street, Brooklyn, New York, formerly known as Reformation Lutheran Church, be listed for sale.

ADOPTED

9. Other Reports

- A. Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO): Daquan Baker
 - Commitment to support (via fundraisers) The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
 - Executive Board elections
 - Pinecrest : successful annual gathering August 10-17.
- B. Climate March: Terra Rowe
 - Huge success / 10,000 participants in the interfaith block / 450,000 total participation
 - Participant housing was offered in private homes and congregations in Metro NY / NE Synod.
 - Lutheran Advocacy, Washington DC staff was present at the March
- C. Mid-East Working Group
 - Screening of the Stones Cry Out on Sat. Nov 15 from 10 – 1 pm at Good Shepherd, Brooklyn

10. Announcements/Events

- A. October 25, 2014: Synod Council Retreat
George Mercer, Jr. Memorial School of Theology
65 4th Street
Garden City, NY 11530

9 am – 4 pm

Growing Deeply in Faith: Five Years of God's Creative Grace! Focus of the retreat will be Mutual Conversation and Consolation. Retreat schedule to be finalized by the Executive Committee on October 14.

11. Observer's Evaluation

12. Closing Devotions: Dcn. John Malone

Deacon Gayle Ruege
Executive Assistant to the Bishop