

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Rev. E. Patricia Avila	2026
Ms. Aniah Benitez	2028
Dr. Raymond Cheung	2024
Ms. Monique Davis	2026
The Rev. George Dietrich	2024
*Bishop Paul Egensteiner	2025
*S. Dcn. David Ehlers	2026
S.Dcn. Philip Jenks	2026
*Mr. John Litke, Treasurer	2023
Mr. Erich Markert	2024
Ms. Lily Sage Mathias	2024
The Rev. Ernst Mossi	2026
The Rev. David Parsons	2026
S.Dcn. Denise Rutherford Gill	2028
Mr. Thomas Sargent	2026
*The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Sect.	2026
Mr. Cecil (Chip) Spurlock-Shackelton	2026
*The Rev. Gary Squire	2024
The Rev. Brooke Swertfager	2024
*Mr. Christopher Vergara, VP	2026
The Rev. Dr. Kimberly Wilson	2024
The Rev. Kristin Wuerffel	2028

Bold = present

Italics = excused absence

*Member of Executive Committee

STAFF

Ms. Regina Daniels
The Rev. Gladys Diaz
Mr. Branden Dupree
Ms. Karen Falco
S.Dcn. Donna-Mari Fieldsa
Mr. Mark Goodwin
The Rev. Christopher Mietlowski
Ms. Maria Rodas
S.Dcn. Gayle Ruege
S.Dcn. Lori Scaffidi (Ret.)
The Rev. Angela Shannon
Ms. Leticia Silva

GUESTS

Joseph Milano, Esq.
Tom Massey

Opening Devotions: *Bishop Egensteiner / Seventh Mark of the Church*

Observer: *Pr. Garry Squire*

Call to Order: *VP Vergara at 9:09 am*

1. **Adoption of the Agenda:** adopted as presented
2. **Adoption of the Synod Council minutes 18 November 2023:** adopted as presented
Adoption of the Synod Council minutes / special meeting 20 January 2024: adopted as presented

3. Old Business

A. 2025 Budget

John Litke and Donna-Mari Fieldsa presented the budget.

ACTION SC24:01/01

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the budget for fiscal year Feb 1, 2024 – Jan 31, 2025 as presented.

ADOPTED

B. Immanuel, Manhattan

Whereas, the Metropolitan New York Synod Council rescinded action SC22:03/05 that applied section S13.24 of the MNYS constitution to Immanuel Lutheran Church, 122 # 88th Street, New York, NY at a special meeting of the Synod Council convened on January 20, 2024; and

Whereas, the congregation of Immanuel Lutheran Church, 122 E 88th Street, New York, NY satisfied the constitutional requirements for disaffiliation of a congregation from the ELCA by securing a 2/3 majority on January 21, 2024; be it

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council release the congregation of Immanuel Lutheran Church, 122 E 88th Street, New York, NY.

ACTION SC24:01/02

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council release the congregation of Immanuel Lutheran Church, 122 E 88th Street, New York, NY.

ADOPTED (21 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

4. New Business

A. Trexler Grants

- a. The Rev. Justin Lathrop: \$1000
- b. The Rev. Maritza Ortiz Cruz: \$1000
- c. The Rev. Joseph Mantovani: \$1000

ACTION SC24:01/03

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant Trexler grants to the Rev. Justin Lathrop, the Rev. Dr. Martiza Ortiz Cruz, the Rev. Joseph Mantovani.

ADOPTED

B. St. Luke's, New Rochelle: Request sale of property

ACTION SC24:01/04

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council take no exception to St. Luke's, New Rochelle regarding the sale of the property located at 114 Eastchester Road, New Rochelle, NY 11801.

ADOPTED (18 in favor, 2 opposed, 0 abstentions)

C. The Executive Committee / Synod Council 2024 meeting schedule

ACTION SC24:01/05

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the 2024 Executive Committee / Synod Council meeting schedule as presented.

ADOPTED

5. Report of the Bishop

A. Presentation: 2024-2025 Priorities

B. Calls

a. The Rev. Mary Button: *On Leave from Call effective 31 Dec 2023*

ACTION SC24:01/06

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant On Leave from Call status to the Rev. Mary Button effective December 31, 2023.

ADOPTED

b. The Rev. Ann Tiemeyer: *Retirement status effective 1 Feb 2024*

ACTION SC24:01/07

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant retirement status to the Rev. Ann Tiemeyer effective February 1, 2024.

ADOPTED

C. Appointments

a. The Rev. David Dockweiler: *Candidacy Committee effective 1 Feb 2024*

D. Staff

a. Staff transitions

- **Roberto Lara:** completed his work on staff at the end of December
- **Lori Scaffidi:** MNYS Director of Communications
- **Maria Rodas:** MNYS Director of Events and Data Management
- **S.Dcn. Donna-Mari Fieldsa:** Assistant to the Bishop for Finance

b. Executive staff reports

- **Karen Falco: Chief Operating Officer**
 - Operations
 - Legal and Property updates
- **Branden Dupree: Director for Evangelical Mission**
 - Synodically Authorized Worshiping Communities
 - Bronx strategy
 - Stewardship
- **The Rev. Angela Shannon: Asst to the Bishop**
 - Peconic and W Suffolk Conferences
 - Eastern Nassau and Western Nassau Conferences
 - Southwest Queens Conference

E. Pastoral Care / Ecumenical & Interfaith participation

a. Pastoral calls / meetings / visits with rostered & lay leaders (32) *

- **Congregation visits / Councils**
 - Our Saviour, Jamaica: Pr Fritch retirement
 - St. Paul's International, Floral Park: anniversary
 - Redeemer, Queens Village: anniversary
 - Grace, Malvern: Farewell & Godspeed / Pr. David Anglada
 - St. Luke's, New Rochelle: congregation council
 - St. Stephen's, Brooklyn: anniversary
 - Saint Peter's: Our Lady of Guadalupe
 - Holy Trinity, Rockville Centre: anniversary
 - Trinity, 100th Street, Manhattan: Call meeting

b. MNYS Committees & Groups / Lutheran Partners / Ecumenical or Interfaith

- Staten Island Ministerium (1:1 meetings with 6 pastors)
- Western Queens (Lower) Ministerium (1:1 meetings with 5 pastors)
- Day of Mourning, MA
- Koinonia weekend
- Wagner Board of Trustees
- African Descent Lutheran Association (ADLA): Martin Luther King, Jr. service
- St. Vartan Cathedral / Week of Christian Unity ecumenical service

E. Vision Team

a. Proposed meeting: February 24, 2024

6. Report of the Vice-President

7. Treasurer's Report

A. Mission Support (YTD Dec 2023)

The December 31, 2023, Mission Support offerings totaled \$52,454.06. YTD Mission Support actuals through December 31, 2023, are \$713,494.43 which is \$17,245.50 more than YTD December 2022.

B. Financials (Dec 2023)

8. Afterthoughts

A. Observer for March 2024 meeting

9. Observer's Evaluation

Executive Committee Meeting: March 5 2024

Synod Council meeting: March 16, 2024

Meeting adjourned with prayer by C. Vergara at 12:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Schoepflin, Secretary