

**SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS**

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

**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**

**Tom Massey**

---

**Opening Devotions:** *Bishop Egensteiner / "What is the Church (for)?"*

**Observer:** *Erich Markert*

**Call to Order:** *VP Vergara at 9:42am*

1. **Adoption of the Agenda:** adopted as presented
2. **Adoption of the Synod Council minutes 27 January 2024:** adopted as presented

**3. Old Business**

**A. St. Paul's, Coney Island / Brooklyn**

**ACTION SC24:03/01**

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council appoint Karen Falco (MNYS Staff); John Litke (Synod Council); the Rev. Khader Khalilia (Dean); as the Trustees for St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Coney Island, Brooklyn effective 16 March 2024.

**ADOPTED** (18 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention)

**4. New Business**

**A. Property sale request: St. John's, Poughkeepsie**

**ACTION SC24:03/02**

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council take no exception to the sale of the property located at 274 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 by the congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church, Poughkeepsie.

**ADOPTED** (17 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention)

**5. Report of the Bishop**

**A. Calls**

- a. The Rev. Anna Gordy: *Interim Pastor / Messiah, Staten Island effective 15 Mar 2024***

**ACTION SC24:03/03**

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to the Rev. Anna Gordy as Interim Pastor for the congregation of Messiah, Staten Island effective 15 March 2024.

**ADOPTED**

- b. The Rev. Jacob Simpson: *Priest in Charge: Sts. John, Paul, Clement, Mount Vernon effective 31 Dec 2023***

**ACTION SC24:03/04**

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to the Rev. Jacob Simpson to serve as Priest-in-Charge for Sts. John, Paul, Clement Episcopal Parish In Mt. Vernon, NY.

**ADOPTED**

**c. The Rev. Marianne Tomecek: *On Leave from Call effective 29 Feb 2024***

**ACTION SC24:03/05**

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant On Leave from Call status to the Rev. Marianne Tomecek effective 29 February 2024.

**ADOPTED**

**d. The Rev. Claudia Raggie: *Retirement status effective 1 Jul 2024***

**ACTION SC24:03/06**

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant retirement status to The Rev. Claudia Raggie effective 1 Jul 2024.

**ADOPTED**

**e. S.Dcn. George Guinan: *Renewal of Call effective 1 Apr 2024***

**ACTION SC24:03/07**

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council renew the diaconal call of S.Dcn. George Guinan as Chair of the MNYS Diaconate Council effective 1 Apr 2024.

**ADOPTED**

**f. S.Dcn. Cyrilene Mathurin: *Retirement effective 1 Mar 2024***

**ACTION SC24:03/08**

**RESOLVED**, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant retirement status to S.Dcn. Cyrilene Mathurin effective 1 Mar 2024.

**ADOPTED**

**B. Appointments**

- a. The Rev. Gladys Diaz: *MNYS Bronx Strategy Coordinator***
- b. The Rev. Martha Cruz: *MNYS Interim Ministry Coordinator***
- c. Branden Dupree: *MNYS Advocacy Coordinator***

**C. Synod Events**

**a. Congregation President Gatherings: Mar 9 / April 27**

Bishop reported that the first of two gatherings was held at the Wartburg last Saturday with 25 congregation presidents and Pr. Leticia Alanis from the Vision Team and Pr. Garry Squire from the SC. The response from the event was overwhelmingly positive.

The next event will be held on Apr 27 at Holy Trinity, Rockville Centre.

**b. Chrism Mass: Mar 26 / Emanuel, Pleasantville**

**c. Ordination / Setting Apart of Synod Deacons: Apr 20 / St. Peter's, Hunt. Sta.**

There are two approved candidates for ordination and five diaconal candidates to be set-apart. Ordination at 10 am / Setting -Apart at 2 pm.

**D. Pastoral Care / Ecumenical & Interfaith participation**

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

- **The Rev. Dr. Rosalind Brathwaite: Funeral**
- **The Rev. Michael Ross: Funeral**
- **Congregation visits / Councils**
  - **Redeemer – St. John's, Brooklyn: Pr. Khader Khalilia (15<sup>th</sup> anniv)**
  - **St. James, Gerritsen Beach, Brooklyn**
  - **Covenant, Ridgewood**
  - **Calvary, Hauppauge**
  - **Our Savior, Patchogue**
  - **St. Andrew's, Yorktown Heights: Pr. David Dockweiler (15<sup>th</sup> anniv)**
  - **Trinity Lower Eastside Parish, Manhattan / Ash Wednesday**
  - **Advent, Manhattan / Ash Wednesday**
  - **Dobbs Ferry Council**

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

- **Conference of Deans**
- **Interim Pastors**
- **Koinonia annual meeting**
- **Wagner Board of Trustees Retreat**
- **Western Suffolk Ministerium**
- **Peconic Conference Ministerium**
- **Manhattan Ministerium**
- **Tappan Zee Conference ministerium retreat**
- **Quad 1 Deans / Quad 4 Deans**
- **Conference of ELCA Bishops**
- **Bishops visit to United Lutheran Seminary – Philadelphia Campus**
- **Martin Zimmann and Conor Brooks: United Lutheran Seminary**
- **Installation of Bishop Matthew Heyd: Episcopal Diocese of New York**

**E. Property / Legal Updates**

Karen Falco gave updates

- F. Vision Team**
  - a. Meeting: February 24, 2024**
  - b. Meeting: March 23, 2024**

**G. Consultant Report:**

**a. Survey results / report**

Tom Massey reported on the SC survey and shared the common themes raised. These will be used to shape future strategies.

**6. Report of the Vice-President**

- A. Congregation Visits**
- B. ELCA Vice Presidents Gathering**

**7. Treasurer's Report **John Litke****

**A. Mission Support (Fiscal Year Feb 1, 2023 – Jan 31, 2024)**

J. Litke noted that mission support came in as expected. Still many congregations not supporting or not committing to support.

**B. Financials (January 2024)**

**C. Annual Audit**

**8. Afterthoughts**

- A. Observer for June 1 meeting: Lily Sage Mathias**

**9. Observer's Evaluation**

**Executive Committee Meeting: May 23, 2024 (via zoom)**

**Synod Council meeting: June 1, 2024 (via zoom)**

Meeting adjourned with prayer by C. Vergara at 11:06 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert Schoepflin, Secretary