

SYNOD COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Rev. E. Patricia Avila 2027
Mr. Devon Brooks 2029
Ms. Monique Davis 2026
Ms. Mary Downing 2029
***Bishop Paul Egensteiner 2025**
***BS.Dcn. David Ehlers 2027**
S.Dcn. Philip Jenks 2027
***Mr. John Litke, Treasurer 2024**
The Rev. Sonja Maclary 2029
Ms. Lily Sage Mathias 2029
The Rev. Kevin O'Hara 2029
The Rev. David Parsons 2027
Ms. Cynthia Roberti 2029
S.Dcn. Denise Rutherford Gill 2029
Mr. Thomas Sargent 2027
***The Rev. Robert Schoepflin, Sect. 2027**
Mr. Cecil (Chip) Spurlock-Shackelton 2027
The Rev. Arden Strasser 2029
***The Rev. Gary Squire 2029**
Mr. Peter Teichmann 2029
***Mr. Christopher Vergara, VP 2027**
The Rev. Kristin Wuerffel 2029
The Rev. Ernie Mossi 2029

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
S.Dcn. George Guinan

Bold = present

Italics = excused absence

*Member of Executive Committee

9:00 am *Opening Devotions: Bishop Egensteiner / Fruit of Spirit: Love, Joy*

9:15 am *Welcome: Devon Brooks, Mary Downing, Pr. Sonja Maclary, Pr. Arden Strasser,
Peter Teichmann, Pr. Kevin O'Hara*

9:30 am *Mission Forward: Bishop Egensteiner / Tom Massey*

10:15 am **BREAK**

10:30 am *Synod Council / Business Meeting*

Call to Order: VP Vergara at 10:36 am

Observer: S.Dcn. Denise Rutherford Gill

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

3. **New Business**

A. Grace, Uniondale: Holy Closure / Synod Preservation (S13.24)

The congregation leadership had been working with the Bishop and staff for several months in discerning the congregation's viability as they were evaluating their declining membership, current financial status, and deferred property maintenance. The congregation council discerned they were no longer viable and recommended holy closure to the congregation, which was unanimously approved by the congregation on July 21.

The service of Holy Closure took place on Sep 1. Many of the congregation members are now worshipping at Epiphany – Epifania, Hempstead. With the congregation's closure, our synod will manage and take charge and control of the property and any of the remaining assets of the former congregation.

ACTION SC24:09/01

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council manage and take charge and control of the property and remaining assets of Grace Lutheran Church, Uniondale. ADOPTED (20 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

B. St. Peter's, Port Jervis: sale of parsonage

ACTION SC24:09/02

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council take no exception to the sale of the property located at 41 West Main Street, Port Jervis by the congregation of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Port Jervis. ADOPTED (20 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absentions)

C. Trexler Grant: The Rev. Ann Tiemeyer

ACTION SC24:09/03

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve a \$1000 Trexler grant to the Rev. Ann Tiemeyer for her participation in the Encore Transition Program through Union Seminary.

ADOPTED

D. 2025 Synod Assembly

a. Date / location / Rate Schedule

The 2025 Synod Assembly (Moving Forward together in Christ) is scheduled to be held May 2-3 at the Long Island Marriott, Melville, NY. The assembly agenda will be presented to the SC in January along with the Standing Rules for the assembly.

Early Registration (through Feb 11)

- New attendees: \$100
- Voting members: \$175
- Visitor: \$175

Regular Registration (through Apr 7)

- New attendees: \$150
- Voting member: \$250
- Visitor: \$175

Onsite Registration

- Voting member: \$350
- No visitor

Meal Plan \$225

ACTION SC24:09/04

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the proposed rate schedule for the 2025 Synod Assembly scheduled to be held on May 2-3, 2025, at the Long Island Marriott, Melville, NY

ADOPTED

b. Bishop Election Process

ACTION SC24:09/05

RESOLVED, that the election process as set forth, including the pre-identification of rostered ministers of Word and Sacrament who could be considered for election as bishop will be used.

ADOPTED

c. Bishop Election Committee Charter

ACTION SC24:09/06

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the proposed Bishop Election Committee Charter as presented.

ADOPTED

d. MNYS Discernment Process

ACTION SC24:09/07

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the proposed Synodical Discernment Process.

ADOPTED

e. 2025 Clergy Compensation Guidelines

ACTION SC24:09/08

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council approve the 2025 Minimum Expectations for Clergy Compensation Guidelines as presented.

ADOPTED

4. Report of the Bishop

A. Calls

a. The Rev. Kerstin Weidmann: Pastor / Old Steeple Community Church, Aquebogue eff 15 Oct 2024

ACTION SC24:09/09

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to the Rev. Kerstin Weidmann to serve as Pastor for Old Steeple Community Church (UCC), Aquebogue effective 15 October 2024.

ADOPTED

b. The Rev. Charbel Zgheib: Pastor / Salam Arabic, Brooklyn eff 21 Sep 2024

ADOPTED SC24:09/10

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council extend a call to the Rev. Charbel Zgheib to serve as Pastor for Salam Arabic Lutheran Church, Brooklyn effective 21 September 2024.

ADOPTED

c. The Rev. Winston Dookram: Retirement status eff 1 Jul 2024

ACTION SC24:09/11

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant retirement status to The Rev. Winston Dookram effective 1 July 2024.

ADOPTED

d. The Rev. Marva Jenkins: Retirement status eff 1 Oct 2024

ACTION SC24:09/12

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant retirement status to The Rev. Marva Jenkins effective 1 October 2024.

ADOPTED

e. The Rev. Jon Overvold: Retirement status eff 1 Oct 2024

ACTION SC24:09/13

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant retirement status to The Rev. Jon Overvold effective 1 October 2024.

ADOPTED

f. The Rev. Alexander Raabe: On Leave from Call status eff 10 Aug 2024

ACTION SC24:09/14

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant On Leave from Call status to the Rev. Alexander Raabe effective 10 August 2024.

ADOPTED

g. The Rev. J. Lena Warren: On Leave from Call status eff 25 Aug 2024

ACTION SC24:09/15

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council grant On Leave from Call status to the Rev. J. Lena Warren effective 25 August 2024

ADOPTED

h. The Rev. Robert Weber: Resignation from the ELCA roster eff 16 Sep 2024

ACTION SC24:09/16

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council accept the resignation of the Rev. Robert Weber from the ELCA roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament and remove him from the roster of the Metropolitan New York Synod effective 16 September 2024.

ADOPTED

B. Appointments

- a. The Rev. Dr. Julius Carroll: Intentional Interim Pastor: Our Saviour, Jamaica
eff 1 Jun 2024***
- b. Bishop's Advisory / Listening Panel: Hope, Selden***
 - The Rev. Angela Shannon, Coordinator***
 - S.Dcn. Dave Ehlers***
 - The Rev. John Jurik***
 - S.Dcn. Wendy Bean Tannenbaum***
- c. The Rev. Mary Button: MNYS Worship Committee***

C. Synod Events

- a. 2024 Bishop's Retreat for pastors / synod deacons (Oct 21-25)
Mission Forward focus. Three dynamic presenters:***
 - Pr. Kevin Vandiver / Reformation, Washington DC***
 - Fr. Guillermo Arboleda / Churchwide***
 - Nick Tengen / Minneapolis Synod***

D. Congregation Updates

- a. Epiphany-Epifania, Hempstead***

***The congregation leadership is working with the Office of the Bishop in
evaluating their viability and sustainability***

E. Bronx strategy update

Mo. Gladys, Branden Dupree and Karen Falco were appointed to develop a Bronx mission strategy. Mo. Gladys Diaz is the appointed Coordinator of the strategy – and will provide new council members with a brief presentation on the genesis of the project and provide a status update for all members of the SC on the project's movement.

F. Staff

- a. Annual staff reviews conducted***

Annual staff reviews were conducted during the month of August and first week of September.

- b. Office of the Bishop Staff retreat has been postponed due to a Covid
exposure.***

c. Executive Staff reports

- **Branden Dupree: Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM)**
- **Karen Falco: Chief Operating Officer (COO)**
- **Pr. Christopher Mietlowski: Asst to the Bishop (A2B)**

F. Bishop: Pastoral Care / Ecumenical & Interfaith participation

a. Pastoral calls / meetings / visits with rostered & lay leaders (89)

• **Congregation visits / Councils**

- **Trinity, Astoria**
- **Prince of Peace, Cambria Heights**
- **St. Luke's, Farmingdale**
- **Holy Cross, Commack**
- **Grace, Uniondale**
- **Epiphany-Epifania, Hempstead**
- **Trinity, Rocky Point**
- **Saint Peter's, Manhattan**
- **St. Lydia's, Brooklyn**

b. MNYS Committees & Groups

- **Manhattan Ministerium**
- **Black Equity Table (BET)**
- **ELCA Youth Gathering / New Orleans**
- **Wartburg: Jazz in June event**
- **Growing in Faith NY Diakonia Graduation**
- **MNYS First Call pastors gathering**
- **Lutheran Partners**
- **Koinonia Youth Camp**
- **Pinecrest Lutheran Leadership Camp**
- **Long Island Lutheran Middle & High School Ribbon Cutting (Academic Building)**
- **ELCA Holy Land Delegation to Holy Land**
- **Region 7 Bishops weekly zoom**
- **ELCA Conference of Bishops zoom**
- **New England Synod Assembly**
- **New England Installation of Bishop**

- ***Southeast Pennsylvania Retirement celebrations: Rev. Dr. Patricia Davenport***
- ***Southeast Pennsylvania Installation of Bishop***
- ***United Lutheran Seminary: Dr. Guy Erwin / Conor Brooks***
- ***Global Refuge: Bp. Stephen Bouman***

- ***Ecumenical / Interfaith***
- ***9/11 Ecumenical Service: Saint Nicolas Greek Orthodox Church / National Shrine***

E. Property / Legal Updates (Karen Falco)

5. Report of the Vice-President

A. Conflict of Interest Disclosure Declaration / Statement

B. ELCA Churchwide participation

a. Synod Vice Presidents Gathering

b. ELCA Youth Gathering / New Orleans

c. Latiné Leadership Summit: A Time of Empowerment and Connection / Chicago

• ***Leadership Tools & Skills***

• ***A Radically Welcoming Church***

d. Bible study / devotional

C. November SC meeting

a. Election of the Executive Committee

Members of the EC will be elected at the November meeting.

Nominations from the SC will be solicited via email from the SC and a ballot will be presented at the November meeting.

b. Synod Council Member Community Covenant / Agreement

c. Bishop's Election Committee appointments

Appointees for the Bishop Election Committee will be presented at the November meeting in accordance with the Bishop Election Committee Charter and the Bishop Election process.

6. Treasurer's Report

A. Mission Support (31 August 2024)

B. Financials (31 August 2024)

C. Fiscal Year Feb 1 2025 – Jan 31 2026 Budget preparations

Budget preparations will begin next month with an anticipated budget

presented to SC in March for presentation to the Synod Assembly in
May.

7. Afterthoughts

A. Observer for November meeting:

8. Observer's Evaluation

Executive Committee Meeting: November 12, 2024 (via zoom)

Synod Council meeting: November 23, 2024 (via zoom)

Meeting adjourned with prayer by Bishop at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Schoepflin, Secretary