



**LONG ISLAND
COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, November 18, 2021

10:00 A.M.

Zoom Meeting Call

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LONG ISLAND COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
ANNUAL MEETING – NOVEMBER 18, 2021
COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Greetings in the name of the Risen Christ to this our 2nd Annual Meeting by Zoom! As we decided last year this meeting has been held at this time rather than in the spring to more adequately reflect our financial and ministerial facts and future. We do, however, miss the face-to-face gathering of the community of faith to conduct our annual business and reflect on ministry for the coming year and beyond and hope that our next meeting in 2022 will be “in the flesh” and not digital. The digital realities during COVID have been a mixed blessing for our committees – some were more able to attend because of Zoom while a smaller group was excluded because of lack of access. We shall see how we plan and do committee and council work in the future given those realities.

Looking Back: The 2021 calendar was one of mixed realities. As we moved into a time where vaccines became more readily available, the population seeking assistance at our doors began to shrink somewhat though still remaining high (see report). In one month (May) of 2020 we served about 112,000 meals to our neighbors in need. This was almost as many meals as had been served during 2018 and about a third of what was served in all of 2019. The total for 2020 was over 600,000 while the total for 2021 looks like it will approach 500,000. The drop may be only temporary, however, as special unemployment funds have expired and the delay on rent and mortgage may similarly be no longer available. Both of these could cause a significant increase in need. The inflation that besets us as we move back to “normal” we likely have a negative effect of the size of the population that needs this food ministry in southern Nassau (and all of Long Island).

I want, on behalf of the Council, to thank all of the agencies, churches and individual who stepped up their giving, enabling us to respond adequately to the need. As reflected above, we may well need to encourage similar generosity going forward into 2022. We want to specifically thank The Jeanine Heller Foundation, Inc., Nassau County Bar Association, WE CARE, Newsday Charities, Inc., and People’s United Community Foundation for their special effort in assisting us.

The Public Issues Committee has reflected on and responded to a variety of wider concerns that face us (see report) including health care, jail sentence reform, climate change and our energy response :toward a more just society in keeping with our common faith imperatives will be dictated in these and other areas as the year brings them forth.

Our finances have paradoxically done well this past year. The generosity of the faith community has been adequate to meet needs and allowed us to think of some other possibilities (more on this below). We will be dealing with interim budget at this meeting that reflects lower expenditures for 2021 (see the budget and report). But, as we have seen above, the uncertainties both in giving and demand in 2022 make that only a projection – which may not fully reflect our realities. More conversation needs to be given o some compensation issues by both Personnel and Finance to come to a final budget in January of next year.

Looking Ahead: Since the closing of our office and pantry site in Riverhead four years ago due to a lack of available resources, we have been looking for an opportunity and the means to once more participate – in a cooperative relationship with those programs providing aid to the East End of Long Island. Interest for this endeavor has been expressed by some churches in the area and conversations have begun toward that end. As the “Long Island” Council we feel a responsibility to fulfill our calling and our identity to turn in this direction.

Our work with the Multi-Faith Forum has been in hiatus during COVID as have our visits to various sites of other faith communities and our dialogue/study to become more aware and appreciative of what we hold in common as much as that which is “other” in how we express and practice our faith. Hopefully the new year will bring a return to all of this.

Board and Committee development continues to be a concern for the leadership – as we can only function well and enhance our ministry with full and vibrant committees working on our behalf. This past year saw changes in our membership. Our long time member and friend, Rev. Dr. Eugene Purvis was “called home to glory” at the beginning of this year and we will all miss his passion for and faith in the LICC. Molly Blancke left due to work demands. Rev. Dr. Richard Visconti retired and moved away. Mrs. Irene Goodman “retired” with thanks for the opportunity to serve with us. Rev. Dr. Marcus Tillery moved to new responsibilities and is unable to serve. We will miss all of these as well for the gifts and graces they shared with the LICC. We have some new (and not so new) names coming on board with us in the next year (see report) and look forward to their presence and sharing among us.

WITH MUCH GRATITUDE: We want to thank our four staff people for both their hard work and their creative responses to the COVID crisis. Anthony and Yolanda have had to deal with an increased load at the same time as volunteers were more available and to do so with restrictions/preparations that made delivery of services more difficult. They have handled this crisis with great ability and assurance. Without their hard work and commitment this ministry at the Freeport Pantry would not have been possible. Likewise, Nancy and Larry, our jail chaplains, have had to deal with the vagaries of this pandemic...including a period of time when the jail facility was closed. Their commitment and creativity enabled them (and the LICC) to continue to provide meaningful ministry to the inmates at the Nassau County Incarceration facility. We owe each of these our earnest gratitude.

Congratulations are also due to Anthony Achong for completions of Associate Degree in Criminal Justice and to his ordination as Deacon within the Malvern Presbytery Church.

Finally, I thank you for the opportunity to act as chairperson for the LICC Administrative Council and look forward to another year of shared mutual ministry as a part of our common ministry to the people of Long Island as representatives of the grace and mercy Jesus Christ. It is my hope that we may lend support to building up a more justice and equal society even as we seek to meet the needs of the least among us.

Rev. Erik Rasmussen

Chairperson, Long Island Council of Churches

**DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION
& OPERATIONS REPORT**
Submitted by Deacon Anthony Achong
November 18, 2021

Working with the Long Island Council of Churches for the past six years has been deeply rewarding and has been a wonderful challenge heeding to its Holy Vocation and aspiring to the same vision of Jesus Christ by feeding, clothing, welcoming and uplifting those most vulnerable. Each week brings new opportunities to help as we continue *servicing our Neighbors in Need* and by continuing the mission of working with diverse Christians to work together to help Christians and non-Christians to understand one another better.

During this past year, the LICC had to make considerable changes in the way we serve as we had to endure the COVID-19 Pandemic alongside our *Neighbors*. This has been an incredible challenge as our volunteers and Work Experience Program (WEP) staff have been cut in half due to the pandemic for safety precautions. However, we have managed to stay open the entire time with special thanks to volunteer Jeanne Oates, Yadelin Martinez, Urban League worker Carol Campo and WEP workers Emmanuel Hernandez, Gary Reed, Herbert Williams, Shermel Vance, and Steven Stoffers. We are grateful that they choose to stay and help us to keep our doors open.

With the help of our invaluable staff we had to use that time wisely which allowed us to be able to feed more people in the Freeport Emergency Food Center (Food & Services Boutique). As of October 2021, we have fed 42,147 individuals 380,637 meals which has close to meeting 2020's numbers as compared to all of 2020 in which we fed 66,736 individuals 600,624 meals. In addition, in 2020 and part of 2021 we distributed hundreds of Thanksgivings and Christmas baskets, distributed thousands of household items, and helped people with rent and mortgage assistance, transportation, and other problems.

In our effort to continue to safeguard the dignity and safety of each and every one of our *Neighbors*, we had to switch from a "food choice" modality to pre-picked cart with a wide variety of food items, which at times includes fresh produce and bakery items, as well as household items and clothing. We kept our *Neighbors* as safe as we could offering curbside service in which we were able to continue to provide an atmosphere that was "welcome and warm", eliminating the language "intake process" with instead a "welcome reception".

The support of every one of you, our gracious donors, the LICC Administrative Board, support of the LICC staff, AHRC Nassau, is why **WE** are all *Neighbors, servicing our Neighbors in Need*.

I thank you so very much for your dedication, commitment, and continuing support.

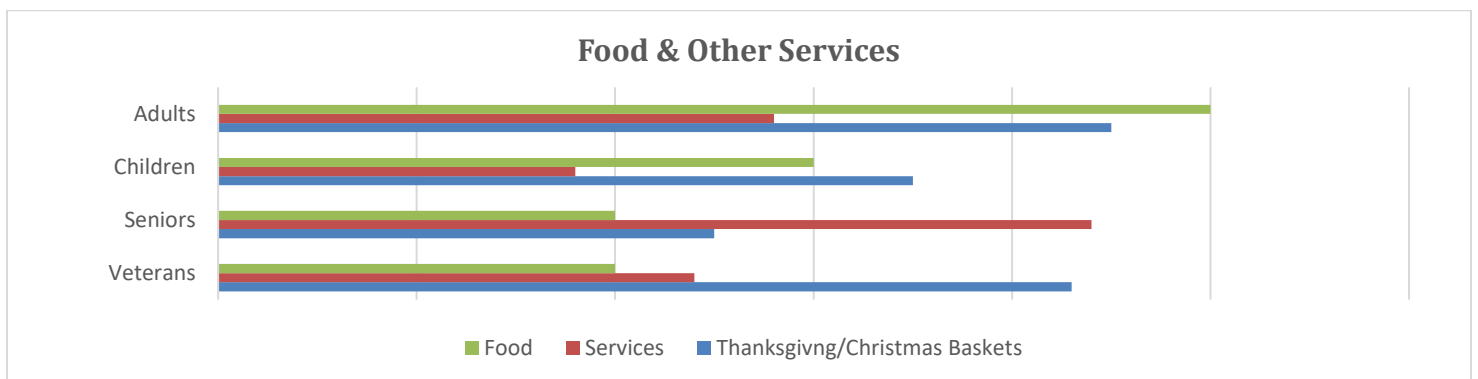
FREEPORT EMERGENCY FOOD CENTER REPORT

Submitted by Yolanda Murray, Pantry & Community Resources Coordinator

We are so thankful for the Churches, Organizations & Individuals that stuck with us through this past year while our numbers of families supported were higher than they have been due to the pandemic. Special thanks this year goes to Wantagh Memorial Congregational Church, Garden City Community Church, Rob & Mary Hallam & Associates and the Long Island Running Club for their continuous contributions to keep the Emergency Food Pantry & Outreach Program from going without. We are grateful for all who participated in helping us to provide services to the families in need. As always, we appreciate you and hope that everyone is enjoying some sort of normalcy amid this pandemic.

Long Island Council of Churches Food Statistics

MONTH	HOUSEHOLDS	CHILDREN	ADULTS	SENIORS	INDIVIDUAL	MEALS
Jan-20	419	1105	1606	240	2951	26559
Feb-20	410	1112	1688	264	3064	27576
Mar-20	346	1062	1690	363	3115	28035
Apr-20	562	1987	2319	602	4908	44172
May-20	2413	6440	5086	965	12491	112419
Jun-20	1769	2591	3713	713	7017	63153
Jul-20	1353	1966	3144	526	5636	50724
Aug-20	971	1418	2213	384	4015	36135
Sep-20	1063	1992	3114	592	5698	51282
Oct-20	1573	1751	2815	592	5158	46422
Nov-20	1687	2757	4074	551	7382	66438
Dec-20	1196	1938	2877	486	5301	47709
TOTAL 2020	13762	26119	34339	6278	66736	600624



NICE Transportation Assistance: 31 Individuals

Project Warmth Utility Assistance 18 households

EFSP Eviction/Foreclosure & Utility Shutoff Prevention helped 27 families

School Supplies for 200 families • Children's Easter Baskets: 60 children

Thanksgiving Food Baskets for 460 families

Christmas Food Baskets for 265 families

250 families received Christmas Toys & Gift for Children

Thank you for your continued support.

**Long Island Council of Churches
Pastoral Care Committee 2021 Annual Report
Submitted by: Thomas Regan, BS, MS, BCC
November 18, 2021**

The Covid virus arrived in the United States in February 2020. Over 700,000 Americans died from the disease and many still suffer from what is called “Long Covid.”. Fear and caution changed many lives and pastoral care procedures in hospitals and care facilities. A vaccine was developed, and many people tried desperately to get it for protection and peace of mind. But a group of people are against getting vaccinated and protest groups developed. Another protective measure was to wear a mask so germs would not be spread as easily. There was resistance to this, also. But thank goodness the number of Covid cases and deaths has gone down a great deal and hospitals and pharmacy companies have developed procedures that lessen the severity of the disease. As I write this, vaccines are now available for children as young as five and more compromised adults can get a booster vaccine to raise their level of immunity.

Pastoral Care procedures changed dramatically during Covid. Staff in hospitals, care facilities, assisted living complexes and offices and clinics were strictly regulated. Visitation was limited. Dress and mask protocol were strict. I spoke to chaplains in hospitals, and they still gown up and wear special masks when visiting Covid patients.

Slowly and cautiously, hospitals and other facilities began to allow a limited number of visitors and chaplains. A questionnaire needed to be answered about exposure to Covid or travel outside the United States, temperatures were taken, the number of visitors in the building or at a bedside was strictly limited. The time for visiting was short.

Pastoral visitors from churches were not encouraged for the safety of the patients, staff, and the visitors. Slowly regulations are easing but staff, visitors and patients have stories to share, and the memories are vivid. People in our country are less secure now. We feel more vulnerable . . . similar to what we felt after 911. How could something like this happen in the United States? How could so many people get so sick and die?

LONG ISLAND COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT 2021
November 18, 2021

2021 was another year of added difficulties caused by COVID. The Personnel Committee is pleased to report that as they did in 2020, our staff rose to these challenges. Our staff ensured that families and individuals who came to us for services and support received that with grace from the Council's staff.

At the Freeport Food Pantry, Yolanda Murray acts as our Coordinator and Anthony Achong serves as our Director of Administration and Operations. Although the requests for food assistance decreased slightly as 2021 progressed, our staff still served significantly more individuals and families than before the pandemic. Yolanda Murray and Anthony Achong stepped up and met this increased need without additional staff or volunteers. Instead, due to Covid, for most of the year, Yolanda and Anthony actually worked with fewer volunteers and fewer workers whom the Nassau County Department of Social Services normally assigns to us. Fortunately, during the past month, that pattern has reversed.

For the prisoners in the Nassau County jail, Rev. Schaffer and Rev. Swenson serve as LICC's chaplains. They have continued their part-time ministry under very difficult constraints. Relying on their many years of experience, they found ways to be a source of comfort and to offer support to the many incarcerated people who reached out to them.

Regarding compensation and benefits, at the beginning of the year, the Board of the Council approved Cost of Living increases for the full-time staff. In addition, the Council provided increased health insurance coverage. The Personnel Committee began to explore the provision of a modest retirement benefit for full-time staff within the constraints of the budget. Unlike our food pantry staff, the chaplains' salaries are set not by LICC, but by Nassau County. Once again, in spite of our continued advocacy on their behalf, our chaplains received no increase in their compensation.

Finally, the Personnel Committee commends Anthony Achong for ensuring the fiscal stability of the Council and his efforts to increase grants and donations to us. As Thanksgiving approaches, the Board of LICC and its members give thanks for the dedication of its staff and the fruits of their labor.

TO: LI Council of Churches
FROM: Claire Deroche, Chair, LICC Public Issues Committee
DATE: November 18, 2021
RE: Activities of Public Issues Committee from January 2021– November 2021

From January 2021 through November 2021 the PIC addressed the following issues:

- Response to COVID-19
- Support for Release Aging Persons in Prison/RAPP
- Support for Passage of HALT Solitary Confinement Act until it was passed and signed into law on March 31, 2021
- Promotion of the passage of NY Health.
- Immigration
- Response to Hurricane Ida

Actions Taken

- Responses to COVID-19:
We supported The Fund for Excluded Workers passed on April 6, 2021, as part of the NYS Budget. This fund was established to help workers not eligible for any other COVID-19 relief funding. These excluded workers benefited community by continuing to work, saved lives.

- Immigration

ISSUES AT THE BORDER

The numbers are astounding: According to figures released by Customs and Border Protection, almost 19,000 unaccompanied minors were apprehended at the border in March compared to just around 9,000 in February. The number of families has also climbed to new levels but most if not all of these families are still being returned to Mexico under pandemic laws enacted previously. Some parents are forced to take extreme measures to have their children enter the US, demonstrating the incredible desperation these families face. The increase in immigrant families is so great that families are just being bused to locations and released without any due process. This is an opportunity to fix the immigration system. US involvement in regions of Northern Triangle and Climate Change are causes of this migration.

The Biden admin doing as much as it can. In the last 4 years, the previous administration dismantled much of the immigration infrastructure. The US need for labor is increasing and will increase with jobs programs. We need these people because of large number of Americans are retiring.

We continued to monitor changes in the immigration situation and share information with LICC members.

- Health Care

In addition to monitoring the progress of the NY Health Act, we shared important information about changes to NYC retirement plan health care benefits that would turn them over to medical advantage plans. This would affect many LI residents who are retired from city jobs.

Co-sponsored Program on the NY Health Act

This virtual program was held on Sunday, April 18, 2021 from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM. The speaker was YuLing Koh Hsu, Co-Director of the Campaign for NY Health. Participants learned how The New York Health Act [A6058 / S5474] will provide comprehensive health coverage for every resident and full-time worker in New York. YuLing is a clear and enthusiastic presenter. She also handled the many questions posed by members of the audience and proposed ways for them to support the bill. Twenty-two individuals registered and 12 participated. Here is the link for the program:

https://zoom.us/rec/share/lu3xU0a7fAZFf6Lx_WuP4EKPrMhwwVdSvvO16MajjJ1Wx3mJLjMuaC3HlhRdaiFJ.d6XQI-sRoFTgplxJ

- Criminal Legal Reform

On March 31, 2021, Governor Cuomo signed the HALT Solitary Confinement Act into law. The Act goes into effect on April 1, 2022, and between now and then, prisons and jails across the state must comply with the law. No longer will incarcerated individuals be condemned to indeterminate lengths of time in solitary cells. The maximum stay in solitary will be 15 days. Those who need to be separated but not isolated will be housed in Residential Rehabilitation Units where they will receive 7 hours per day of out-of-cell programming and trauma informed care, to address the underlying actions that resulted in their discipline. The HALT Campaign continues to monitor the implementation of the law.

The HALT Campaign will also continue working in collaboration with organizations that are advocating for other needed reforms in the criminal legal system: these include Fair and Timely Parole, Elder Parole, Clean Slate and Post-Conviction Relief.

- Parole Reform

In addition to supporting bills for Elder Parole and Fair and Timely Parole, the PIC sent a letter (see attachment) to the NYS Parole Commissioner on behalf of Mr. Thomas Burns (98A1483.) His attorney had contacted us and shared his case with us. We agreed that he should be granted parole and sent a letter supporting his parole.

- Response to Hurricane Ida

In September 2021 the “remnants” of Hurricane Ida caused torrential rain and serious flooding in New York City. Basement apartments were flooded with loss of life. Because of this situation NY housing organizations circulated a sign on letter urging the passage A-4854/S-4547, a statewide framework for building, legalizing, and helping fund safe Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) creation and conversions, including basement apartments. We signed on to this letter. (See attachment.)

Long Island Council of Churches
Western Area Steering Committee Report for Annual Meeting
November 18, 2021

The Western Area Steering Committee is currently comprised of Board Member Ms. Jessica Haselkorn, Elder Isoken Irowa (Christ First Hempstead Presbyterian Church), Rev. Moira Ahearne (Presbyterian Churches of Merrick and Freeport) and Board Member Rev. Janice Moore (Community Presbyterian, Malverne).

Due to busy schedules and the year in general we were only able to meet one or two times this year, but we ended the year how we began - with a focus on rebranding the Freeport Emergency Food Pantry above and beyond its relationship with the Council, to increase awareness and donations. We are currently interviewing like-minded digital marketing professionals who may be willing to take on the project.

We can continue to be on hand to support Anthony Achong as strategic advisors.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Janice Moore

FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS & INSTITUTIONAL DONORS IN 2020

\$1 - \$99

United Methodist Church of Merrick
Unity Church of Long Island

\$100 - \$499

Ardenne High School Alumni Association
B&B Custom Furniture Inc
Community Church of Little Neck
DiCosimo General Contracting, Inc.
First United Methodist Church
FMTC, IRA Custodian
JRC Builders, Inc.
M.C. Construction Services, Inc.
Merrick Kitchen & Bath
Old South Haven Presbyterian Church
Parking Systems Plus Inc
People's Church
Peter McArdle Building Corp.
PST Consulting Inc.
Saint Paul's United Methodist Church
Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ
Sayville United Methodist Church - United Methodist Women
Stop & Shop Community Bag Program
Summerland Church of Lightm NSAC
The Ethical Humanist Society of Ling Island
The Presbytery of Long Island
United Methodist Church - Floral Park
United Methodist Church of Seaford
United Methodist Women - Westbury
Unity Church of Hempstead - Unity Long Island

\$500 - \$999

Beach United Methodist Church
Brennan Development Corp.
Caroline Church of Brookhaven
Compass Construction of New York
Eastern States Joint Board
First Church Cong. Society in Southold / First Prebsy. Church
PSEG Power of Giving Campaign
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Union United Methodist Church
United Presbyterian Church - Levittown
Westhampton Presbyterian Church

FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS & INSTITUTIONAL DONORS IN 2020

\$1,000 - \$4,999

A to Z Impact Foundation
Bellmore Presbyterian Church
Bethany Congregational Church
Bob's Discount Furniture Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Church World Service
Cold Spring Harbor Construction Corp.
Community Church of East Williston World Service
Community Church of Syosset
Community Presbyterian Church of Merrick
Community Reformed Church at Manhasset
Community United Methodist Church
Congregational Church of Manhasset
First Presbyterian Church - Oceanside
First Presbyterian Church of Baldwin General Missions
First Presbyterian Church of Smithtown
Long Island Cares, Inc.
Network for Good
New York Yearly Meeting
Religious Society of Friends Westbury Monthly Meeting
Ridgewood Savings Bank
Roslyn Presbyterian Church
The First Presbyterian Church of Port Jefferson
The Fried I. and Gilda Nobel Foundation, Inc.
Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock
United Church of Rockville Centre

\$5,000 - \$9,999

People's United Community Foundation
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Wantagh Memorial Congregational Church

\$20,000 - \$39,999

Nassau Bar Foundation Inc. WE CARE
The Jeanine Heller Foundation, Inc.

Long Island Council of Churches

Proposed 2022 Budget

Income

Congregations & Denominations	70,275.00
Individuals	47,550.00
Agencies & Businesses	19,950.00
Foundations	41,000.00
Government Contracts (Chaplaincy, DSS)	40,000.00
Government Contracts (EFSP) Nassau	67,500.00
Grants (New anticipated)	15,000.00
Interest & Other Income	4.00
Total Income	<u>301,279.00</u>

Expense

Payroll Expense (includes taxes)	116,500.00
Chaplaincy Salaries/Exp	40,000.00
Benefits	27,655.00
Professional Services	8,000.00
Office Expense	13,000.00
Community Resources Expense	28,465.00
Publicity/Development	3,000.00
Emergency Food - Purchase	30,000.00
Emergency Food & Shelter Program (EFSP)	50,000.00
Exchanges & Other Exps	2,750.00
Total Expense	<u>319,370.00</u>

Net Income

-18,091.00

THE LONG ISLAND COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2021

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD – Chair – Rev. A. Erik Rasmussen, Vice Chair – Rev. Forrest Parkinson.,
Treasurer – Rev. Ron Garner, Secretary – Rev. Janice Moore-Caputo

RED DENOTES CHANGES

Episcopal Representative	T.B.D.
Branch, Isodora, Rev. <i>AME Zion Rep.</i>	Jackson Memorial AME Zion Church, Hempstead - Tentative
Deroche, Claire <i>Public Issues Chair</i>	Shelter Rock Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Dewar, Ms. Mary <i>United Church of Christ Rep.</i>	Garden City Community Church
Ford, Rev. Brenda <i>Pastoral Care Co-Chair</i> <i>African Methodist Episcopal Rep</i>	Stony Brook University-Protestant Campus Ministry
Garner, Rev. Ron Treasurer <i>Finance Chair</i>	Wantagh Memorial Congregational Church
Grisafi, Father Jason Participant/Observer	St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Babylon
Haselkorn, Jessica <i>At-Large</i>	Wantagh Memorial Congregational Church
King, Rev. Jack <i>United Methodist Representative</i>	Beach United Methodist Church
Kotowski, Jr., Rev. Frank, <i>At-Large Member</i>	Summerland Church of Light
Mascari, Michael <i>Personnel Chair</i>	Manhasset Meeting, Religious Society of Friends
Moore-Caputo, Rev. Janice <i>Secretary</i> <i>Western Area Steering Chair</i> <i>Presbyterian Denominational Rep.</i>	Malverne & Great Neck Presbyterian Churches
Murray, Sean, Rev. <i>At-Large Member</i>	First Congregational Church of Riverhead (UCC)
Parkinson, Rev. Forrest Vice-Chairperson	Community Church in Syosset (ICCC)

THE LONG ISLAND COUNCIL OF CHURCHES NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2021 con't

Rasmussen, Rev. A. Erik
Chair
At-large Member

New York Annual Conference, United Methodist
(Wading River/Retired) Retired U.M.C.

Regan, Chaplain Tom
Pastoral Care Co-Chair

Notre Dame Catholic Church, New Hyde Park)

Sheridan, Rebecca, Rev.
Lutheran Rep.

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Syosset

TenClay, Rev. Dr. Tim
Reform Church Denom. Rep

Community Reformed Church of Manhasset (RCA)

Valenzuela, Luis
Executive Director LIIA

Long Island Immigrant Alliance

Vetrano, Rev. Justin
Denom. Rep

The Life Lutheran Church (LCMS)

Vora, Arvind
LI Multi-Faith Forum

Williams, Lisa, Rev.
At-Large Member

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Setauket