

**The Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod
Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting
May 20, 2011**

The Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod Council met at the Hilton Hotel in Galveston, Texas, on May 20, 2011. This SC meeting was held prior to the Synod Assembly on May 20-22, 2011, in Galveston, Texas.

In attendance:

Council Members: Evan Moilan; Bishop Mike Rinehart; Kurt Goedecke; Don Hodde; Paul Monroe; Pastor Sue Beall; Sue Moehring; Grace Banks; Corey Heidt; Pastor Barb Simmers; Diane Campbell; Dudley Piland; Pastor Bradley Fuerst; and Arthur Murphy.

Synod Staff: Pastor Don Carlson.

Guest: Pastor Sherman Hicks, ELCA Representative to the Synod Assembly.

Absent: Gregory Goedecke; Pastor Pete Lopez; Assistant to the Bishop Peggy Hahn; and Interim Director of Evangelical Mission Raymond LeBlanc.

Evan Moilan called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Evan Moilan reported to SC on the status of congregations in the ELCA. As of May 5, 2011, 794 congregations have taken first votes to leave the ELCA. These 794 congregations have taken a total of 851 first votes. Of the first votes taken, 598 passed and 253 failed. (The failure rate of about 30% remains relatively constant.) There have been 497 second votes; 472 passed and 25 failed. Of those congregations in which a second vote has passed, 449 have completed the termination process and are no longer on the roster of congregations of the ELCA.

Evan Moilan also reported to the SC that five congregations of the 794 that have taken votes to leave the ELCA are from within our synod. The synod has reported these five to the ELCA as the votes occurred.

SC.11.05.01 Motion that the SC requests the MEF return \$21,000 to the synod of the temporarily restricted funds. Motion by Paul Monroe. Motion passes.

SC.11.05.02 Motion to receive the financials as presented by Paul Monroe. Motion by Dudley Piland. Motion passes.

SC.11.05.03 Motion to authorize the Bishop and the Vice President of the synod to execute the contract with Kairos in the amount of \$21,000, plus travel expenses of Kairos, for strategic planning and visioning among the synod, synod congregations, and Kairos. Motion by Dudley Piland. Motion passes.

Note: Phase I of the Kairos contract is for the amount of 21,000, plus expenses. Phase II is contemplated as a part of the contract, but has not yet been approved, or funded by the SC yet, because it is contingent on Phase I.

SC.11.05.04 Motion to receive the SC Minutes of April 1-2, 2011 as presented. Motion by Sue Moehring. Motion passes.

Discussion of pastors of five congregations who have left the ELCA and this synod. A pastor has 45 days to go off roster after he or she is no longer pastoring an ELCA congregation with an ELCA call.

SC.11.05.05 Motion that the SC affirms and supports Bishop Rinehart's actions to inform the pastors of congregations that have withdrawn from the ELCA that they are no longer on the roster of the ELCA. Motion by Paul Monroe. Motion passes.

SC.11.05.06 Motion to recommend adoption of Resolution 3 to the Synod Assembly to celebrate the formation of Celebration Lutheran Church in Cypress, Texas, as led by Pastor Chris Markert. Motion by Barb Simmers. Motion passes.

SC.11.05.07 Motion to approve the Board Members of the ELCA Campus Ministry for the Brazos Valley Board, comprised of: Rev. Sue Beall, Chair, Dr. John Fackler, Vice Chair, Pam Schneider, Treasurer, Stephanie Gossett, Secretary, Kris Pool, Rev. Jim Abbott, Jonathon Berry, Rev. Mindy Roll, Rev. Lawrence Bade, Dr. Louise Abbott, Scott Wieding, and a Faculty/Staff Advisor to be appointed later, and a Student Representative to be elected annually by the student body of the Campus Ministry. Motion by Sue Beall. Motion passes.

SC.11.05.08 Discussion of Synod Assembly preparations and SC assistance during the meeting of the SA. Discussion of new Director of Evangelical Mission to be announced in a few weeks.

SC.11.05.09 Motion to adjourn. Motion by Kurt Goedecke. Motion passes.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. for the 2011 Synod Assembly to follow on Friday-Sunday, May 20-22, 2011, in Galveston at the Galveston Convention Center.

Respectfully Submitted,

Arthur Murphy
TLGC Synod Secretary