

TLGC Synod Council Meeting

Minutes

July 11—12, 2008

The Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod Council and Staff met at Lutherhill Ministries in LaGrange, Texas, for a weekend retreat on Friday evening and Saturday, July 11—12, 2008.

In attendance:

Council Members: Erika Canham, Bishop Mike Rinehart, Karee Viergutz, Kurt Goedecke, Rev. Pete Lopez, Rev. Robin McCullough-Bade, Sue Moehring, Arthur Murphy, Darrell Reimer, Rev. Barbara Simmers, Dorothy Menke Smith, and Rev. David Tart

Synod Staff: Rev. Don Carlson, Peggy Hahn, Jessica Noonan, Rev. Fred de Oliveira, and Evan Moilan

Retreat Presenter: ELCA Secretary David Swartling

Absent: Nancy Cook, David Hollrah, and Arwin Strehlow

Friday evening was a retreat with dinner at Lutherhill, followed by informal introductions of the new Synod Council, reflections on the 2008 Synod Assembly, and Worship at the Carby Chapel. A wine and cheese reception was then held in the Ark.

Saturday morning began with breakfast, followed by a worship service of confession, hymn, and prayer in the Carby Chapel.

On Saturday, July 12, Erika Canham called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. We then engaged in a learning event and conversation with ELCA Secretary David Swartling concerning role clarification among the Synod Council, visioning, strategic planning, constitutional and legal issues, collaborative and synergistic leadership, the Carver governance model, and the nature of the Church. After lunch, David Swartling was heartily thanked for his presentation, and he left to return to Chicago.

Erika Canham called the meeting back to order after a lunch recess at 1:15 p.m.

SC.08.07.01 Motion to rescind the Synod Council Governance Policies, and create a Strategic Plan in its place. Motion by David Tart. After discussion of subdividing or amending the motion, the motion failed.

SC.08.07.02 Motion to rescind the Synod Council Governance Policies. Motion by Arthur Murphy. After discussion, David Tart moved to close debate, which passed by a 2/3 vote. A vote was then taken on the main motion. **Motion passed.**

SC.08.07.03 Motion to commission the current Synod Visioning Team and anyone deemed appropriate by the Bishop to begin creating a Strategic Plan to present at the next Synod Council meeting for review; and further move that the Bishop and Staff and anyone deemed appropriate by the Bishop develop an annual ministry action plan for the next Synod Council meeting based on current synod needs. Motion by David Tart. **Motion passed.**

SC.08.07.04 Bishop Mike Rinehart gave his Council report, attached. He highlighted four vision areas that the 2008 Synod Assembly discussed as priorities: (1) Evangelism/Outreach; (2) Spiritual Growth/Discipleship; (3) Worship; and (4) Inter-generational Ministry. Teams are forming in each area, and a leadership event will be held in October. He also discussed a new Latino strategy for training leaders and starting a new congregation. Additional synod committees that the Bishop would like to prioritize are: (1) Conflict; (2) New Congregations/Outreach; (3) Sexual Misconduct; and (4) Justice. Finance and mutual ministry committees were also recommended during the discussion of the Bishop's report. The Bishop also reported on consultations with First Lutheran Church of El Campo and Grace Lutheran Church of Houston.

SC.08.07.05 Motion to peacefully release First Lutheran Church of El Campo, Texas from the roster of congregations in the ELCA. Motion by Bishop Mike Rinehart. **Motion passed.**

SC.08.07.06 Bishop Mike Rinehart discussed the desire of Grace Lutheran Church to call Lura Groen, an unrostered seminary graduate. He has had several discussions and is in consultation with Grace. He wanted to make the Council aware of the consultation and will revisit this issue with the Council again. The Council expressed support for the Bishop in his consultation with Grace Lutheran Church.

SC.08.07.07 Motion to commission a Finance Committee to assist the Bishop in overseeing the finances of our Synod, to be appointed by Erika Canham. **Motion passed.**

SC.08.07.08 Motion to approve the 2008 Synod Assembly minutes, as corrected. See attached minutes. **Motion passed.**

SC.08.07.09 Motion to reappoint Pastor Mary Lewis to serve a third term (through 2011) on the LSTC Board of Directors. **Motion passed.**

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m. for a service of prayers and covenants, followed by Eucharist.

Respectfully Submitted,

Arthur Murphy
Synod Secretary

Attachments:

1. Corrected Minutes of 2008 Synod Assembly
2. Bishop's Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Synod Constitution, amended 2008
5. Synod Council contact information
6. Handout from David Swartling on Energizing Leaders
7. Handout from Rev. Robin McCullough-Bade on LSSDR updated statistics for Louisiana

(Minutes approved Nov. 15, 2008)