

## TLGC Synod Council Meeting

### Minutes

November 15, 2008

The Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod Council met at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Lake Charles, LA., on November 15, 2008.

In attendance:

Council Members: Erika Canham, Bishop Mike Rinehart, Kurt Goedecke, Rev. Robin McCullough-Bade, Sue Moehring, Arthur Murphy, Rev. Barbara Simmers, Nancy Cook, and Rev. David Tart

Synod Staff and Visitors: Rev. Don Carlson, Rev. Herb Palmer, Rev. Erbey Gonzalez, and Reyna Pereira

Absent: Rev. Pete Lopez, Darrell Reimer, Dorothy Menke Smith, David Hollrah, Karee Viergutz, and Arwin Strehlow

**Erika Canham called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.** We began with prayer.

For the Good of the Church: Bishop Mike Rinehart

Bishop Mike discussed the Synod-wide participation in the workdays on Galveston Island in response to Hurricane Ike. He described the hope for a response of only about one hundred workers for the hastily called first workday. Then, as the numbers grew to about four hundred, he realized the outpouring of Christian love for the churches and people in Galveston. St. Paul, Zion, and First were deeply grateful for the work done for their sanctuaries and member's homes. Bishop Mike noted the heartfelt response, and the connectivity in the synod that we have not seen in a while. The second workday of over one hundred workers was equally successful.

Gospel Reading and group discussion of Mt. 25:14:30: The text is about mission. In trying times, take what you have and do well with it. If the future is uncertain, now is the time to really invest and be the church.

**SC.08.11.01** Motion to approve all SC minutes from April, May, July, and September 2008, as corrected. Motion by David Tart. **Motion Passed.**

**SC.08.11.02** Bishop's report

Bishop Mike asked each Council member to review his or her involvement. Ask yourself: are you getting what you want out of this leadership? Sue Moehring noted that the calling of churches on behalf of the Synod was very helpful. Nancy Cook

enjoyed the contacts once before and again this time. Barbara Simmers said that it helped volumes that the synod came to visit and help us in Louisiana. Just your presence was tremendous. Also, that the Presiding Bishop (Bishop Hanson) was in New Orleans just this week was also very important. Mike Rinehart said that holding these meetings around the synod is very important as well. Kurt Goedecke discussed seeing Christ the Servant's rapid response team, and that it happened because a member of council was pushing them to be there. Mike Rinehart noted the helpful discussion, and that the need for volunteers is great. How do we put people in place? David Tart also asked how do we clarify our leadership and vision? There was a consensus to spend more time and energy on Council business and visionary leadership, and return to the two-day format to ensure that we are getting all the business accomplished that is entrusted to the Council.

**SC.08.11.03** SALM (Synodically Authorized Lay Ministers) Presentation by Erbey Gonzalez and Herb Palmer.

Herb Palmer explained the SALM ministry, its successes and challenges. He noted that most instruction, annual authorizations of SALMs, and encouragement toward candidacy and ordination of SALMs had not been accomplished in the past. We currently have 14 Lay Ministers that we are looking at for candidacy potential, with 17 SALMs in total. Robin McCullough-Bade encouraged Herb and Erbey to go back and add ELCA provisions to the SALM documents. The Synod Council will eventually appoint the board. At the January SC meeting, the Council will review and approve SALM contracts for Feb. 1 signatures.

**SC.08.11.04** Report by Don Carlson.

Don Carlson reported on first call assignments; internships; interim and pastors from other denominations in communion with the ELCA. Also, he described the reworking of the synod call process in preparation for the 2009 Synod Assembly. Finally, Don reported on the Vision Team's progress to date on behalf of the team and Peggy Hahn. He noted that the Vision was not as far along as hoped, but that it takes leadership and collaboration and collegiality among our leaders or we will never have it for our congregations. Conflict and catastrophes brought us together in Louisiana. Getting the pastors on board is the first priority. The next Leadership event will bring ownership of the vision with rostered and key lay leadership. The theme for the next Synod Assembly in 2009 will be "methods, models, and equipping" of our congregations for Evangelism.

**SC.08.11.05** Motion to appoint to the Nominating Committee Mike Aus as convener, Brad Otto, and Beth Hartfiel, along with one additional member to be appointed by Erika and Bishop Mike at a later date. Motion by Sue Moehring. **Motion Passed.**

(Those serving a two-year term and continuing this year are Eric Klimpel, Janie Marin, and Nathan Hoffman.)

**SC.08.11.06** Assignments to synod teams were made by SC members as follows:  
Erika Canham: Justice; Sue Moehring: Justice; David Tart: Evangelism; David  
Hollrah: Worship.

**SC.08.11.07** The next SC meeting was moved from Jan. 17 to Jan. 24, 2009 to  
accommodate Bishop Mike Rinehart's trip to Israel.

**SC.08.11.08** Discussion of Disaster Response and new funding and necessary skills  
for Disaster Coordinator.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Arthur Murphy  
Synod Secretary