

The Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod
Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting
November 13—14, 2009

The Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod Council met at Christ Lutheran Church in El Campo, Texas, on November 13—14, 2009.

In attendance:

Council Members: Bishop Mike Rinehart, Paul Monroe, Grace Taylor, Kurt Goedecke, Rev. Robin McCullough-Bade, David Hollrah, Arthur Murphy, Rev. Barbara Simmers, Rev. David Tart; Rev. Pete Lopez, and Don Hodde.

Synod Staff and Visitors: Don Carlson, Peggy Hahn, Kerry Nelson, Glenn Holdt, Kurt Senske of LSSS, Pastor Jake Fain, Mandy Faucett, and Reyna Pereira.

Absent: Evan Moilan, Karee Viergutz, Sue Moehring, and Jennifer Grove.

Summary of Actions:

Friday, November 13, 2009

Bishop Mike Rinehart called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. We sang a hymn, and Bishop Mike led an opening devotion on Romans and First Corinthians, followed by prayer.

SC.09.11.01 We met with Pastor Jake Fain of Christ Lutheran Church in El Campo.

SC.09.11.02 Motion by Paul Monroe to accept agenda. Motion passed.

SC.09.11.03 One year action plan was presented by Bishop Mike. Discussion. The one year action plan was revised and finalized.

SC.09.11.04 Minutes of September SC meeting. Several corrections were made to attendance and the presentation by Mark Minnick. Motion to receive the minutes as corrected. Motion by Pete Lopez. Motion passed.

SC.09.11.05 Financial and treasurer's report by Paul Monroe. Discussion on amount of data presented to council as opposed to an abbreviated summary.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Saturday, November 14, 2009

Bishop Mike Rinehart called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. We sang a hymn and Bishop Mike led an opening devotion on Genesis 19 and Ezekiel, followed by prayer.

SC.09.11.06. Continued discussion of one year action plan. Further discussion was held on the one year action plan and financial reporting to SC from the prior evening.

SC.09.11.07 Kurt Senske presentation on Lutheran Social Services of the South (LSSS). The ELCA realized that there was no formal structure for helping congregations in disaster response after Katrina in 2005, and it is working on a new structure to do that for the next disaster. The BE REAL program in Louisiana is for children aging out of the foster care system at age 18, with no parental support. It is an innovative, pilot program to serve these initial ten children, with \$100,000 per year in interest from a \$2 million endowment from a private donor. Kurt also presented and discussed a strategic plan for LSSS for 2009-2011. A discussion was held on how the SC can partner with LSSS. The need for mental health counseling in LA. was discussed. Kurt noted that this is a huge need, but the difficulty is funding. Prior donated and government funding has run out and Kurt cannot find adequate funding.

SC.09.11.08 Discussion resumed on the financial issues in the one year action plan.

SC.09.11.09 Schedule for SC Meeting dates in 2010 was discussed. Changes were made to proposed dates. Arthur will email all 2010 dates to SC members.

SC.09.11.10 Melancthon Institute discussion. Kurt Goedecke presentation of committee and early workings with Pastor Moore at Christ the King. Motion that the subcommittee be authorized to act as a nominating committee for board members of the Melancthon institute. Motion by Kurt Goedecke. Motion passed.

SC.09.11.11 Bishop's Report. Bishop Mike reported on staff evaluations; mission support review with ELCA Churchwide; a newly created "Why Synod?" document; a new synod logo; the process for Director of Evangelical Mission (DEM) selection; and then, gave a welcome to Kerry Nelson as the new DEM for the synod.

SC.09.11.12 Don Carlson presentation on compensation guidelines, and need for SC assistance prior to SA.

SC.09.11.13 Larry Petershagen presentation on Lease Team Proposal. A motion was made as follows:

Resolved, that the Synod Council, as the duly constituted governing body of the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, hereby authorizes Larry Petershagen to negotiate, and Arthur Murphy and/or Mike Rinehart to sign an office lease for the Synod Office, under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable and in the best interests of the Synod. Motion by David Hollrah. Motion passed.

SC.09.11.14 Mission Endowment Fund presentation by Larry Petershagen on the need for a new director on the Board of the Fund. Motion to approve the nomination of Steve Quill as a director of the Mission Endowment Fund for a term ending Jan. 31, 2011. Motion by Paul Monroe. Motion passed.

SC.09.11.15 Synod Assembly update and status report by Bishop Mike and Mandy Faucett.

SC.09.11.16 Motion that Paul Monroe be nominated for Treasurer of Synod Council for next Synod Assembly. Motion by David Hollrah. Motion passed.

SC.09.11.17 Constitution update by 2009 CWA. Presentation by Arthur Murphy. Discussion of Nominating Committee and the need for youth and young adult members to be elected to SC at the next SA.

SC.09.11.18 Closing devotion by Bishop Mike Rinehart on Leviticus 18; Acts 10; and Acts 15.

The meeting was adjourned after prayer and Eucharist in the Christ Lutheran sanctuary at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Murphy
TLGC Synod Secretary

(Minutes received as corrected by SC on January 30, 2010)