

The Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod
Minutes of the 26th Synod Assembly
May 16-18, 2013

The 2013 Synod Assembly of the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod was held at Camp Allen, Texas on May 16-18, 2013.

Thursday, May 16, 2013

SA.13.01. The first session of the Synod Assembly began at 3:30pm with the Order for Opening the Assembly. The meeting was then called to order by Bishop Mike Rinehart. Staff, Synod Council, and Deans were introduced, along with special guests.

SA.13.02. The Assembly gave special recognition to Mandy Faucet, Synod Events (including Assembly) planner for 6 years.

SA.13.03. The Bishop provided instructions on using the electronic voting tablets, which proved to be highly problematic throughout the Assembly.

SA.13.04. Credentials report by Dudley Piland. Adopted. See attached.

SA.13.05. Standing rules adopted.

SA.13.06. Proposed agenda presented by Mandy Faucet. Adopted as amended.

SA.13.07. Lawrence Bade presented report of the Nominating Committee. All nominees presented were accepted by the Assembly, without modification.

SA.13.08. John Turnquist explained the procedure for electing a bishop. Pastor Malpica-Padilla, representing the ELCA churchwide expression, spoke about election of a bishop. He called upon Eileen Doll to lead the Assembly in prayer. First ballot for election of bishop held.

SA.13.09. Charles Parnell led the Assembly in elections of open Synod Council positions. The Assembly elected Evan Moilan Vice President, Robert Rivera Member at Large Lay Male, Brad Fuerst Member at Large Male Clergy, Elizabeth Menke Youth member, Linda Marten Member at Large Lay Female. A division of the house was called on announcement of the election of Robert Rivera, who won again on the subsequent revote.

SA.13.10. Elections to Consultation Committee:

Jim Drees	Lay Male
Jennifer Seaks – Finley	Lay Female
James Abbott	Clergy Male
Tammy Sharp	Clergy Female

SA.13.11. Elections to Discipline Committee
Kathy Patrick Lay Female

Randy Bratsven
Jill Vivroux
William Schwertlich

Lay Male
Clergy Female
Clergy Male

SA.13.12. Pedro Suarez introduced Pr. Raphael Malpica-Padilla from the ELCA churchwide, keynote speaker. The keynote speaker addressed the Assembly with the keynote address.

SA.13.13. After a break in the meeting, a further Credentials report was presented and adopted. See attached. John Turnquist, Elections Committee chair, and Pr. Malpica-Padilla took the stage to present results of the bishop's election. Mile Rinehart was elected to a further 6 year term, with what was believed to be the largest majority on a first ballot ever recorded. See attached ballot summary. Pr. Rinehart was anointed as bishop by Pr. Malpica-Padilla.

SA.13.14. The Assembly recessed at 5:50pm.

Friday, May 17, 2013

Morning session

SA.13.15. The Assembly began at 9:00am with greetings and opening prayer by Pr. Pat Lehrer. Pr. Liz Stein and Director Javier Alanis brought greetings from LSPS.

SA.13.16. Mark England addressed the Assembly on behalf of the ELCA health assessment and health care reform and introduced Paul Aebischer from Portico who spoke about health care and church leader health insurance plans. (Janelle Hooper won iPod in drawing for clergy who had completed health assessments.)

SA.13.17. The Bishop explained ELCA Mission Investment Fund and called on Pam Dorman, regional manager for MIF. She thanked the Synod, congregations and individuals for participation in MIF and explained function of the Fund. A video was presented.

SA.13.18. The Synod Assembly recessed temporarily and became the Lutherhill board meeting. Brett Carlton, chairman, shared a Lutherhill video and then introduced Matt Kindsvatter, Executive Director of Lutherhill. He presented a brief report on programs and attendance for the past year. The Assembly elected 4 board members.

SA.13.19. Peggy Hahn introduced the morning's keynote speaker, Sunitha Mortha. Her address followed.

SA.13.20. Meeting recessed for break, workshops and lunch.

Friday, May 17, 2013

Afternoon session

Session commenced at 1:30pm

- SA.13.21.** After an opening hymn, the Assembly viewed a video about Camp Hope.
- SA.13.22.** Peggy Hahn presented representatives of the Central African Republic and Peru, who presented reports about their churches. Peggy then called on Judy Bissell who offered a report on the ELCA malaria campaign.
- SA.13.23.** Credentials report, Jenny Kindsvater. Adopted. See attached.
- SA.13.24.** Treasurer's report, Paul Monroe.
- SA.13.25.** Audit report, Paul Monroe.
- SA.13.26.** 2014 Synod budget presented by Paul Monroe. Budget as presented was adopted by the Assembly.
- SA.13.27.** Mission Endowment Fund report and video presented by Steve Quill.
- SA.13.28.** The Bishop announced that Mitri Paheb, pastor of Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, Palestine, would be visiting Texas in a few weeks, preaching at Living Word, Katy, and lunching at Salem the next day.
- SA.13.29.** A highly creative Campus Ministry report was presented by Brad Fuerst and Mindy Roll.
- SA.13.30.** Kathy Patrick reported about Mosaic, which provides and organizes services to people with disabilities, concluding with a video. . Mosaic offices in the Synod are in Bryan and Alvin.
- SA.13.31.** State of the Synod reports were given, first by Bishop Rinehart and then by VP Evan Moilan. They presented a video about the Synod Strategic Plan.
- SA.13.32.**The Bishop called on Peggy Hahn to describe progress in designing and developing LEAD, Living Each Day as Disciples. She was joined by Rich Nelson.
- SA.13.33.** The Bishop called on Pedro Suarez to present a report on congregational development in the Synod, especially new congregations. Pedro described specifically the success at St James Lutheran, beginning new Spanish language services. The congregation went from weekly attendance of 15-20 to 85. He also presented a video.
- SA.13.34.** The Assembly recessed for the day at 3:30.

Saturday, May 18, 2013

Morning session

- SA.13.35.** Pr. Blair Lundborg led opening devotion at 9:00.

SA.13.36. The Brenham Mission Society brought greetings and a report that they had over the last 25 years raised over \$1 million.

SA.13.37. Pr. Raphael Malpica-Padilla brought greetings and report from ELCA Churchwide.

SA.13.38. Credentials report from Jen Kindsvatter. Adopted. See attached.

SA.13.39. Don Carlson was recognized to welcome new pastors and seminary graduates into the Synod. He also offered compensation guidelines for pastors in congregations. He then called forward pastors celebrating from 25-60 years of service. Some were not in attendance.

SA.13.40. At the conclusion of Don's report, the Bishop led the Assembly in recognition of Pr. Carlson's retirement after long service in and to the Synod.

SA.13.41. The Assembly concluded with closing worship at 10:30.

Respectfully submitted,
David Hollrah, Synod Secretary