

**The Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod**  
**Minutes of the Synod Council Retreat**  
**September 14-15, 2012**

The Synod Council of the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod held the annual weekend retreat at Lutherhill Camp and Retreat Center, LaGrange, Texas, beginning at 6:30pm Friday, September 14, 2012 and concluding at 2:28pm Saturday, September 15.

Present: Bishop Mike Rinehart, Vice President Evan Moilan, Secretary David Hollrah, Treasurer Paul Monroe, and members-at-large Stefanie Wehring, Dudley Piland, John Turnquist, Don Hodde, Brad Otto, Brad Fuerst, Barb Simmers, Eileen Doll, Sara Witte, Sarah Flores and Diane Campbell. Also present were Synod staff members Don Carlson, Peggy Hahn and Pedro Suarez.

Absent: Sue Beall

The Friday evening session began after dinner. Council members introduced themselves and provided pertinent biographical information. Staff members reported about conditions in Louisiana after hurricane Isaac.

There followed an extensive review of the ministry and function of the Synod. The Synod staff has developed and now must implement a Strategic Plan to Help Congregations Grow. Presentations were made by the Bishop, Peggy Hahn and Pedro Suarez, both of whom are Assistants to the Bishop. An acronym the staff suggested as guidance for staff and Council is **Share**

**H**old Synod staff accountable

**A**ssist the staff

**G**ive Every Council member should contribute to this plan for at least one year.

Saturday morning began with devotions at 8:45am.

The Council received and approved minutes of Council meetings from April and May 2012, and received financial reports dated August 2012. The Council met in executive session with respect to former staff.

Dan Lee and Cheryl Phillip of Lutheran World Relief made a presentation about efforts and activities of LWR.

The Bishop's report was received, as were reports of Assistants to the Bishop Peggy Hahn, Don Carlson and Pedro Suarez.

Judith Richey, Director of Planned Giving, presented a report on her activities and plans for future contacts with members and congregations.

MSC That the Council appoint a Design Team to participate in the design of a Synod program temporarily known as the Partnership for Ministry Excellence.

The Council took roster management action as follows.

Accepted on-leave from call status for:

- a. Bill Mosley – effective Feb. 13, 2012
- b. Gary Anholt – effective June 11, 2012
- c. Dale Olson – effective June 1, 2012

Accepted retired status for:

- a. Anton Kern – effective July 1, 2012
- b. Marcus Otterstad – effective July 1, 2012

The meeting adjourned at 2:28pm and was followed by worship and communion.

Respectfully submitted,

David Hollrah, Secretary  
September 18, 2012