

**The Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod
Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting
February 8, 2014**

Present: Sarah Ray, Paul Monroe, Bishop Mike Rinehart, Eileen Doll, Don Hodde, Linda Martens, Barb Simmers, Robert Rivera, Brad Fuerst, Diane Campbell, David Hollrah

Guests: Assistants to the Bishop Blair Lundborg, Peggy Hahn and Pedro Suarez, office manager Rebecca McDonald

The Synod Council met at New Hope Lutheran Church in Missouri City, Texas on Saturday, February 8, 2014. Greetings were offered by Pr. Richard Wolf and Pr. Julia Miller, pastors at New Hope. After opening devotions led by Pr. Wolf, Pr. Pedro Suarez and Bishop Rinehart, the meeting was called to order at 9:15 by the Bishop, who served as Chairman of the meeting in the absence of Vice President Evan Moilan. Minutes of the November 2013 meeting were accepted without amendment.

The financial report by Treasurer Paul Monroe was received.

MSC That McGill, Power, Bell & Associates, LLP be accepted as auditors of Synod financials for a 3 year engagement, beginning with the 2014 financials.

The leadership report was received from Blair Lundborg .

MSC That Pr. Sam Brannon be approved to take on-leave-from-call status for the ensuing year.

MSC That Pr. Walt Erhart be approved to take retired status.

MSC That Aura Suarez be accepted as a Synodically Authorized Lay Minister.

A report was received from Peggy Hahn, as director of LEAD. They are starting a new Acadamia to provide adult training for Spanish speaking persons. Pr. Nadia Bolz-Weber, famously tattooed on both arms, is to be at an event March 20, 2014. Registration is filling up quickly and the event is widely anticipated.

The report from Pedro Suarez was received with respect to synod congregations and evangelical matters.

The Council recessed to attend the funeral of Pr. Gilbert Olivarez in his home congregation of Hope Lutheran Church in Beasley, Texas.

Upon reconvening the Council received the Bishop's report. He reported that Leon Philpot had served as a SALM in Louisiana for the last several months and was not filling the position as intended. The Bishop may replace Philpot with an intentional interim minister.

MSC That the Synod release Providence Church from the ELCA, subject to the terms of agreement among such congregation, the local Presbytery and the Synod.

MSC That the Gift Acceptance Guidelines submitted by the Synod office be adopted by the Synod. Such guidelines may be modified in future in accordance with comments made by Council members at the meeting.

MSC That housing allowances of the Bishop and Blair Lundborg be adopted as proposed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 with communion and prayers.