

Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod
Synod Council Agenda
April 17-18, 2009
7:00 - 9pm / 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Christ the Servant Lutheran Church
2400 Wilcrest Drive, Houston, TX 77042
(713) 784-6620 <http://www.christtheservant.net/>

TLGC Synod Council Meeting
Minutes
April 17-18, 2009

The Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod Council met at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church in Houston, Texas, on April 17 and 18, 2009.

In attendance:

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

Synod Staff and Visitors: Don Carlson, Peggy Hahn, Kerry Nelson, and Reyna Pereira

Absent: Darrell Reimer, Karee Viergutz

Summary of Actions:

V.P. Erika Canham called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

- 1. SC.09.04.01 Minutes of January 2009 SC meeting approved, as corrected. Motion by Nancy Cook. Motion passed.**
- 2. SC.09.04.02 Resolutions for 2009 Synod Assembly discussed. The Reference and Counsel Committee of the SA will handle the resolutions at Assembly. There will be a Committee of the Whole session at SA to allow everyone to have a say in an informal setting on the first day of the Assembly before a formal debate is held on the second day of the Assembly on the specific wording of the resolutions.**
- 3. SC.09.04.03 Interim Director of Evangelical Mission Kerry Nelson was introduced and welcomed by the SC. We are happy to have him join us for six months. He will work on mission outreach and stewardship for the synod. Further development of his position will be determined at a later date.**
- 4. SC.09.04.04 We may have a new Treasurer soon. Paul Monroe has begun to work with Arwin and Melissa, and may assume the position in June or July.**
- 5. SC.09.04.05 A Synod Office Staff Evaluation process was discussed for**

- year-end 2009. A draft process document will be copied and distributed tomorrow (Saturday) for initial review by SC. Further review and approval will be conducted at the summer retreat or at the September 2009 meeting.
6. SC.09.04.06 Motion to approve all candidates applying for on leave from call roster for the year 2009, with the exception of Karl Johnson, whose on leave from call request is denied. Those approved are Gary Morgan-Gohlke, Teresa Davis, Ricardo Sinisterra, William D. Jones, Tom Glasoe, Pamela Brouker, Michael Burns, Beth Marie Halvorsen, and Lisa Gaye. Motion by David Tart. Motion passed. Erika Canham abstained.
 7. SC.09.04.07 Motion to table consideration of Cynthia Scott's specialized call and the approval of the Synodically Authorized Worshiping Community ("SAWC") in Orange, Texas, to a future SC meeting. Motion by David Tart. Motion passed.
 8. SC.09.04.08 Motion to approve Robin McCullough-Bade as a new specialized call. Motion by Bishop Mike Rinehart. Motion passed. Robin McCullough-Bade abstains.
 9. SC.09.04.09 Motion to renew Erbey Gonzales for a specialized call. Motion by Bishop Mike Rinehart. Motion passed.
 10. SC.09.04.10 Motion to table George Brookover until his annual review. Motion by Bishop Mike Rinehart. Motion passed.
 11. SC.09.04.11 Motion to approve retired status for Harvey Bongers, Stan Eckermann, John Hunsicker, Cheng Hsi Pan , and Beverly Collinsworth. Motion by Bishop Mike Rinehart. Motion passed.
 12. SC.09.04.12 Presentation of Healthy Leaders Report and Healthy Pastor Congregation Task Force Charter by David Tart. Discussion of the work of the task force. Motion to approve task force charter, as amended, for presentation to SA. Motion by David Tart. Motion passed.
 13. SC.09.04.13 Motion to refer a proposed change in the rules for housing in the clergy compensation guidelines to the compensation guideline committee. Motion by Bishop Mike Rinehart. Motion passed.

Meeting recessed until Saturday, April 18, 2009. V.P. Erika Canham called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

14. SC.09.04.14 Motion by Robin McCullough-Bade to adopt Peru Task Force proposal items 1, 2, and 3, and to table item 4 on expanding financial support.
15. SC.09.04.15 Motion to divide previous motion into items 1-3 and item 4 for separate votes. Motion by David Hollrah. Motion passed.
16. SC.09.04.16 Motion to approve first part of Peru Task Force proposal on

items 1-3 as follows:

Item 1. Expanding Leadership Development through a Pastor Exchange for 15 pastors from each synod to spend a minimum of two weeks in each other's synod, with the details to be worked out by a team of pastors in the next year; and through a Student Trip by July 2010 for senior high students as part of our synod's youth & family ministry.

Item 2. Expanding Congregation to Congregation Relationships by focusing this relationship on prayer, (Familia y Family) leadership development, and spiritual growth. Our goal in the next three years should be to develop a clear guideline that supports a ministry of accompaniment and that attaches at least one TLGC congregation to every ILEP Congregation and Community of Faith. Currently there are 14 congregations and 3 Communities of Faith. Seven have one or more partners from our synod, but at least ten more partner congregations are needed, if not more.

Item 3. Expanding Future Seekers by launching an ILEP/TLGC team (representing current partners) to study the realities of poverty in Peru for the purpose of expanding this important ministry to engage systems of poverty. We can learn from SEPEC, a program that supports children, families and schools in Peru, as well as other organizations in Peru.

Original motion by Robin McCullough-Bade as divided on a motion by David Hollrah. Motion passed.

17. SC.09.04.17 Motion to approve item four of Peru Task Force proposal as follows:

Item 4. Expanding Financial Support strategically by raising \$25,000 to help raise Pastors' salaries, along with funds for Peru synod staffing to assist in the coordination of Peru congregations and mission trips to and from Peru.

Motion by David Hollrah. Motion passed, with two nays and one abstention by David Tart.

18. SC.09.04.18 Motion to have Peru Team give SC at its summer meeting a full report on financial and relationship issues with the companion synod in Peru. Motion by Arthur Murphy. Motion passed.

19. SC.09.04.19 Bishop's Report to SC.

Bishop Mike gave an overview of the Synod Vision Plan that will be presented to the SA. Discussion ensued, and suggestions were made for the presentation to the SA.

Bishop Mike introduced Pastor Kerry Nelson as the Interim Director of Evangelical Mission. He has agreed to take on mission and stewardship for six months, and he and the Bishop will reevaluate at that time. The SC thanked Kerry for taking the position.

Bishop Mike discussed evangelism and the declining Lutheran population in the growing gulf coast. Mike gave the SC a lease report by the lease committee. The recommendation is to continue to lease for the next 3-5 years to maintain flexibility in an uncertain economic climate and to be responsive to localized need for synod ministry moving every few years, or at least having that option.

St. Paul in Galveston is closing and is a possible retreat center for meetings and retreats and disaster response.

The Melancthon Institute was also discussed as an outreach opportunity.

- 20. SC.09.04.20 Motion to support Bishop Mike Rinehart's ideas to have St. Paul deed their property to the synod or another Lutheran organization, including Lutherhill, for a retreat center. Motion by Kurt Goedecke. Motion passed as amended.**
- 21. SC.09.04.21 Arwin Strehlow presented the proposed Budget for 2010. There are new budget categories and a new financial accounting system. Kerry Nelson was invited to discuss evangelism and stewardship on budget priorities:
 - 1. The ELCA is the first priority.**
 - 2. Synod leadership is the second priority**
 - 3. Programming and bill paying is third.**Arwin noted that he will present the new accounting with revised budget categories to the SA.**
- 22. SC.09.04.22 Motion to approve proposed budget for 2010. Motion by David Tart. Motion passed.**
- 23. SC.09.04.23 Motion to ask staff to prepare a challenge budget for 2010. Motion by David Tart. After discussion, motion failed. David Tart asked that two yea votes be noted in the minutes.**
- 24. SC.09.04.24 Motion that Bishop Mike appoint a personnel committee. Motion by Arthur Murphy. Motion passed.**
- 25. SC.09.04.25 Report on Transition Process Manual by Don Carlson. Twenty transition call consultants, including four new lay members, are**

expected to be trained in the near future. Four in the New Orleans area are to be trained as a part of this group. They will be installed at a SA worship service for recognition by synod congregations and visibility. The SC will be asked to approve the Transition Manual at its May SC meeting.

Additional Notes and Information of Meeting:

1. **Discussion of On Leave From Call Roster.**
2. **Discussion of Specialized Calls and synod approval process.**
3. **Report on Companion Synods (Peru and C.A.R.) by Peggy Hahn. Peggy presented a report on her activities and mission trips to companion synods and a proposal for a new expanded relationship with Peru based on a growing relationship.**
4. **Pastor Kerry Nelson discussed his new position as Interim Director of Evangelical Mission.**
5. **Additional discussion was held on St. Paul in Galveston's anticipated closing.**
6. **Google Group Training by David Tart was able to take place with several SC members despite an early adjournment of the SC meeting due to bad weather in the area.**

Meeting adjourned with prayer concerns at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Arthur Murphy
Synod Secretary

Upcoming meetings:

EC—May 6, 2009 @ Synod Office, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

SC—May 28, 2009 (9:30 a.m.—11:45 a.m.)—Marriott Town Square Hotel, Sugar Land, TX

SC—June 26-27, 2009—Lutherhill Retreat, LaGrange, TX

SC—September 18-19, 2009—Prince of Peace, Houston, TX

SC—November 13-14, 2009—Christ Lutheran, El Campo, TX

(Minutes Approved May 28, 2009)