

**The Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod
Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting
January 29, 2011**

The Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod Council met at Peace Lutheran in College Station, Texas, on January 29, 2011.

In attendance:

Council Members: Evan Moilan; Bishop Mike Rinehart; Pastor Barb Simmers; Pastor Pete Lopez; Don Hodde; Paul Monroe; Sue Moehring; Pastor Bradley Fuerst; Dudley Piland; Gregory Goedecke; and Arthur Murphy.

Synod Staff: Pastor Don Carlson; Pastor Ray LeBlanc; and Peggy Hahn.

Absent: Pastor Sue Beall; Kurt Goedecke; Diane Campbell; Corey Heidt; Grace Banks.

We were welcomed by Peace Lutheran Church, provided with breakfast, and were invited to lunch with their leaders. Evan Moilan, Bishop Mike, and the rest of the Synod Council thanked them for their hospitality.

Vice President Evan Moilan called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Bishop Mike led a devotion on the Beatitudes in Matthew.

SC.11.01.01 Motion to receive minutes of SC meeting from November 2010 as corrected. Motion by Dudley Piland. Motion passed.

SC.11.01.02 Financial report by Paul Monroe. Last year's financial picture is ending up fairly strong. The MEF will contribute their repayment of 35,000 as requested by SC at the November meeting. The year end financial picture will be fairly break even. Motion to receive treasurer's report. Motion by Sue Moehring. Motion passed.

2012 Budget Presentation by Paul Monroe. Paul thanked the synod staff for its hard work in reducing the budget totals as far as possible.

Questions and discussion by Pastor Bradley Fuerst on varying support for campus ministry in four college locations in Texas and Louisiana. Peggy Hahn noted that a new ministry team for campus ministry synod-wide is being formed to discuss this in the future.

SC.11.01

SC.11.01.03 Motion by Paul Monroe to increase other income by 1000, and add a new budgeted contribution line for the Seaman's Mission. Motion passed.

Administrative Finance and Benefits had 62,000 budgeted for Melissa and Reyna, and that has been reduced to 36,000 for Melissa only.

SC.11.01.04 Motion to approve proposed budget for presentation to synod assembly, as amended. Motion by Paul Monroe. Motion passed.

SC.11.01.05 Motion to approve initial on leave from call status for Paul Bohot, Kiho Song, and Skip Stutts. Motion by Barb Simmers. Motion passed.

SC.11.01.06 Motion to approve annual renewals of on leave from call status for Gary Morgan-Gohlke, Joseph Winston, Thuong Le, Beth Marie Halvorsen, Mary Lewis, Donald Cole, Karen Wilhelm, Lydia Patterson, Pedro Lopez, Sharon Burns, and Bill Bentzinger. Motion by Arthur Murphy. Motion passed.

SC.11.01.07 Motion to reapprove synod council calls to the synod for specialized calls of: Liz Stein, Blair Lundborg, Kathy Hauiesen, Walt Ehrhardt, Peggy Hahn, Don Carlson, Dafinn Magnus, Robin McCullough-Bade, Tom Minor, David Stouter, Craig Borchardt, Amy Zietlow, and George Bement. Motion by Sue Moehring. Motion passed.

SC.11.01.08 Motion to approve housing allowances for Bishop Rinehart and Assistant to the Bishop Carlson in the amounts of 25,000 and 35,000, respectively. Motion by Paul Monroe. Motion passed.

SC.11.01.09 Motion to approve appointment of Mission Endowment Fund directors: Kathy Hauiesen, Steve Quill, David Roschke, Carolyn Jones, and Edna Thompson. Motion by Dudley Piland. Motion to table by Paul Monroe. Motion to table passed. Brief recess to discuss appointment of a board member from Louisiana. Motion to take from the table. Motion by Dudley Piland. Motion passed. Discussion of SC options for appointment of MEF Board members and constitutional powers. Barb Simmers will attempt to find a Louisiana candidate for the MEF Board and consult with the Board and SC thereafter. Original motion to approve appointment of MEF directors passed.

Bishop's Report. Bishop Mike introduces Pastor Ray LeBlanc who is the new DEM for the TLGC Synod. Pastor Ray LeBlanc was welcomed and introduced himself. The SC introduced themselves to Pastor LeBlanc. Bishop Mike discussed our companion synods in the Central African Republic and Peru, and an upcoming trip to the CAR. He discussed congregations in transition and pastoral transitions at Grace in Eagle Lake, All Saints in Stafford, and Peace in Pasadena with Pastor David Tart's resignation. Bishop Mike discussed congregations in discernment, including Salem of Welcome, St.

Matthew of Sandy Hill, Peace in Rosenberg, St. Paul in Rosenberg, and Joy in Richmond.

Break for Lunch

Call to order at 12:45 p.m. Bishop Mike read Micah for an afternoon devotion.

Continuation of Bishop's Report. Page two of report discusses importance of health assessment of congregations, and financial incentives for congregations to do this. Bishop reports on his pilgrimage to Israel, and the life-changing experience it can be for all clergy and laity. New information after written report is that Jim Shears is stepping down from Gethsemane in Chalmette. An interim will be appointed there soon. Bishop presented the synod's strategic plan draft and its revision for discussion by SC.

Peggy Hahn's Report. Update on the synod trip to the companion synod of Peru. Twelve persons went to Peru, and Peggy shared their stories of the trip. She discussed the status of the Central African Republic (CAR) and Peru companion synods. Perhaps over 100,000 has been gathered from our synod for support of the CAR and Peru in 2010. Peggy will send a letter out thanking the synod's congregations for the tremendous support they have provided to these two companion synods. There are a Peru team and a CAR team to discuss the ways to use future funding for these synods. Caroline Jacobs chairs the CAR team and Jim Young chairs the Peru team. Peggy will send an email to SC with the names of the members of the teams for the SC's information.

Don Carlson's Report. Thirteen congregations are currently in transition. There is a new contract for congregations and interim ministers. Don reviewed the roster of all clergy and SALM's. Our goal is to get all SALM's into TEEM ministry. Meetings with all SALM's occurred at the Tri-synodical Theological Conference in Galveston. Most will be going into TEEM ministry training. First Call Theological education also occurred in Galveston, which focused on worship and was led by Don, Kerry Nelson, and Mark Mummert. The Tri-synodical Theological Conference in Galveston was also a huge success, with Marcus Borg as the speaker, and a large attendance of over 385. Four first call people have been assigned to our synod this year. Two are probably taking calls in other synods, and the other two are seeking calls throughout other synods as well.

Pastor Ray LeBlanc's Report. He will revisit with the strategy teams and talk about breaking through barriers with them. Barb Simmers is interested in the status of ELCA

SC.11.01

Churchwide grants for the next year. Ray will attempt to obtain that information for the next meeting.

Evan and Bishop Mike are interested in a capital campaign for the synod as a matter of synod leadership and stewardship. Consultants will be brought in to discuss proposals for a synod capital campaign. Someone from outside the synod may be a fresh pair of eyes to see the strengths and weaknesses of our synod.

New Business: the location of our next SC meeting, scheduled for April 2, 2011, needs to be decided. That meeting will be followed by a May 20 meeting in Galveston, one day prior to Synod Assembly. We will meet on April 2 in Lafayette, LA.; May 20 in Galveston before the Synod Assembly; and Sept. 23-25 at Lutherhill.

Meeting adjourned to Peace Lutheran's sanctuary at approximately 2:15 p.m. for worship and Eucharist.

Respectfully Submitted,

Arthur Murphy
TLGC Synod Secretary