

The Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod
Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting
September 18—19, 2009

The Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod Council met at Prince of Peace (Iglesia Luterana Principe de Paz) in Houston, Texas, on September 18—19, 2009.

In attendance:

Council Members: Bishop Mike Rinehart, Evan Moilan, Paul Monroe, Grace Banks, Kurt Goedecke, Rev. Robin McCullough-Bade, David Hollrah (Friday), Sue Moehring, Arthur Murphy, Rev. Barbara Simmers, Jennifer Grove, Rev. David Tart; Rev. Pete Lopez (Saturday), and Don Hodde (Saturday).

Synod Staff and Visitors: Kerry Nelson, Don Carlson, Glenn Hohlt (Saturday), Carol Spencer (Saturday), Mark Minnick (Saturday), and Reyna Pereira.

Absent: Karee Viergutz.

Summary of Actions:

Vice President Evan Moilan called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and Bishop Mike Rinehart led us in a devotion and prayer.

SC.09.09.01 Evan Moilan led a discussion on the Synod Council (SC) one-year action plan. After a review of the types of leaders serving on similar nonprofit boards, we asked, “Who is not here on our board now? Who do we need to recruit to council next year?” We also discussed Key Result Areas (KRA’s) for the action plan. Several breakout sessions resulted in over 10 KRA’s for the SC to work on over the next year. Evan would prioritize and report back tomorrow morning on a draft plan for further discussion. We also discussed the creation of a “Why Synod” document for congregations, SC visits to congregations, and council and synod staff interaction.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

On Saturday, September 19, 2009, Evan Moilan called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

SC.09.09.01 continued. Evan continued the discussion of the SC one-year action plan with a draft plan on three KRA’s of Synod unity; Fiduciary/management issues; and Spiritual Discipline, which included Re-Rooting and the WISE synod priorities of Worship, Intergenerational Ministry; Spiritual Growth; and Evangelism.

SC.09.09.02 Mark Minnick made a presentation on behalf of LSSS to the council. He discussed the efforts of LSSS to try several things to work with state government in Louisiana, and insurance carriers. The political situation in Louisiana made it difficult for LSSS to gain access to provide services. In addition, rates in Louisiana are low and do

not allow for quality care up to LSSS standards. Mark also announced the launch of the BE REAL program in New Orleans with seven clients for children at risk. Disaster response has been a long road as well. There have been a number of mistakes along the way with the unprecedented disaster response process following Katrina and Rita. There has also been “disaster fatigue” with inadequate money and volunteers needed to provide services. Further discussion centered around how we can partner together as a council and agency to expand and improve services in Louisiana.

SC.09.09.03 Bishop’s Report. Bishop Mike discussed the schedule for 2010 SC dates of meetings; the Bishop’s new blog; and ministry policy feedback on the 2009 Churchwide decisions. He noted that a few congregations were in turmoil, but there were many with no controversy at all. He advised the SC of the handful of pastors available for call in the LCMC, and to let disgruntled congregations know what their odds are if they join LCMC and leave the ELCA. He encouraged greater conversation between the SC and congregations. The congregational presidents lunches are very successful and popular. The Fall Leadership event got huge positive evaluations.

SC.09.09.04 Glenn , Disaster Response Coordinator, gave a presentation to the council on Rapid Response Teams, recovery, and disaster preparedness. He will be working on doubling the RRTs, and disaster recovery; preparedness; and grant-writing for funding his position past the two years of current ELCA funding.

SC.09.09.05 Kerry Nelson, interim Assistant to the Bishop for Evangelism and Stewardship, presented a report on an Evangelism and Missional Strategy. See his written report.

SC.09.09.06 Carol Spencer made a presentation and report on the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA.

SC.09.09.07 Paul Monroe presented the Treasurer’s report. Motion to receive treasurer’s report by Don Hodde. Motion passed.

SC.09.09.08 Don Carlson presented a report on the Compensation Guidelines for 2010. Motion that we adopt the compensation guidelines for 2010 with the following modifications: delete footnote 1 on page 2 and remove the asterisk and de-italicize the numbers in the table on page two. Motion by Paul Monroe. Motion passed.

SC.09.09.09 Foundational principles for future compensation guidelines presented by Don Carlson. Motion to endorse the Principles for Developing the 2011 Rostered Leader Compensation Guidelines as presented. Motion by Arthur Murphy. Motion passed.

SC.09.09.10 Nominating Committee appointments by SC. A vote was taken on many qualified candidates after discussion, and the SC elected Pam Tamburello, Nancy Cook, David Roschke, and Pete Lopez to the Nominating Committee for 2010.

SC.09.09.11 Kurt Goedecke made a presentation on the Melanchthon Institute. Motion that SC create a subcommittee to explore how the TLGC Synod can work with the Melanchthon Institute to make the Institute an integrated educational center within the Synod. Subcommittee would be comprised of Kurt Goedecke; Paul Monroe; Sue Moehring; and Evan Moilan. Motion by Kurt Goedecke. Motion passed.

After prayer and Eucharist, the meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Murphy
Synod Secretary

Received as corrected by Synod Council on November 13, 2009.