

**The Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod  
Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting  
November 10, 2012**

The Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod Council met at House of Prayer Lutheran Church, Clear Lake City, Texas, on November 10, 2012.

In attendance:

Council Members: Evan Moilan, VP ; Bishop Mike Rinehart; David Hollrah, Secretary; Paul Monroe, Treasurer; John Turnquist; Don Hodde; Barb Simmers; Sue Beall; Diane Campbell; Bradley Fuerst; Elaine Doll; and Sara Witte.

Synod Staff: Don Carlson, Assistant to the Bishop; Pedro Suárez, Director of Evangelical Mission; and Peggy Hahn, Assistant to the Bishop.

Absent: Dudley Piland; Brad Otto; Sarah Flores; and Stephanie Wehring.

Guests: Ann Nicholson, WELCA; and Liz Cutice and Beverly Cutice of host congregation House of Prayer Lutheran Church.

Evan Moilan called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. on Saturday, November 10, 2012..

Devotion. Bishop Mike Rinehart led the SC in a prayer and devotion.

Minutes of the last meeting held at the Lutherhill retreat September 14-15 were received and approved.

The report of the Synod treasurer was received.

### **Strategic Plan**

The Council then moved *en masse* to the name of the church for presentation of videos to be used in implementation of the Strategic Plan. Discussion ensued about the videos as well as the Strategic Plan.

After moving back into the meeting room, Council received an extensive report from Peggy Hahn about results of a survey of Synod leaders. Pedro Suarez spoke about the objective to plant a new worshipping community in the Synod each year and how Synod leadership would help enable that. Discussion of the Plan concluded with a presentation of the Bishop about possible ways to implement the Plan after it was adopted. The Council reviewed various uses of funds for implementation of the Plan.

### **Synod Staff Reports**

Pedro Suarez gave a report on his recent activities and plans for the near future. MS Motion to give Pedro Suarez *carte blanche* authority to do what he finds needful to enable Resurrection Lutheran in Houston to survive.

MSC Friendly amendment agreed by mover and second to authorize Pedro to work with Executive Committee within the scope of constitutionally approved authority to enable Resurrection Lutheran (now known as Community Church in Houston) to act as a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community until January 19, 2013, the date of the next Synod Council meeting, at which time Pedro would present a report to SC.

Don Carlson gave his report about activities involving new pastors, interim ministry persons and other candidacy and leadership matters.

Peggy Hahn presented her report about activities involving the malarial fund drive, ministry in Peru, use of grant funds received from the ELCA and other matters.

The Bishop began his report, continued after lunch.

Council recessed for lunch, ably and amply prepared by ladies of the congregation of House of Prayer. Lunch was indeed a treat and Council members were heard to say all future Council meetings should be at HOP.

Upon reconvening

MSC To affirm Peggy Hahn's proposed plan for use of funds from the ELCA.  
See attachment 1.

Council approved the retirement of Pr. Paul Bohot, effective January 1, 2013.

The Synod dropbox on the internet contains a toolkit on Synod bishop elections. John Turnquist will coordinate the election process for the Synod.

Names were suggested for the 4 members of the Nominations Committee to be elected in 2013.

MSC To authorize Evan Moilan to work through the list of names suggested to narrow it down to 3 persons who would be capable and willing to serve.

Adjourned at 2:05pm.

The meeting concluded with communion in the church nave.