

**The Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod
Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting
April 12, 2014**

Present: Bishop Mike Rinehart, Evan Moilan, Paul Monroe, Eileen Doll, Sara Ray, Don Hodde, Linda Martens, Robert Rivera, Diane Campbell, Elizabeth Menke, Peter Warmanen, John Turnquist

Guests: Assistants to the Bishop Blair Lundborg and Pedro Suarez, AiM Beth Hartfiel, office manager Rebecca McDonald (acting as secretary pro tem)

Absent: David Hollrah, Sue Beall, Brad Fuerst, Barb Simmers

The Synod Council met at Living Word Lutheran Church in Katy, Texas on Saturday, April 12, 2014. Pr. Jeremy Freye, associate pastor at Living Word, offered greetings and led opening devotions. Pr. Pete Warmanen was introduced to the council. Pr. Emmanuel Jackson, senior pastor, spoke about congregational life at Living Word.

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 by Vice President Evan Moilan, chair. Minutes of the February 2014 meeting were received with the following correction: Leon Philpot has served Grace (New Orleans) for seven years, not several months.

MSC to accept the corrected February minutes.

The financial report by Treasurer Paul Monroe was received. At this time of year, YTD numbers are as to be expected. Eventually the budget presentation will change to accommodate the reorganization of LEAD.

MSC to accept the financial report.

A report was received from Beth Hartfiel, Director of Faith Formation for LEAD. Highlights of the program include the widespread reach of the online 10 Minute Toolbox. Goals for 2014 were presented. The event with Nadia Bolz-Weber was very successful and provided insight into ways to manage future leadership events.

The leadership report was received from Blair Lundborg. SALM Leon Philpot will move to retirement status to maintain Portico connections. The make-up of the candidacy committee is under revision.

MSC that Pr. Lorin Darst be approved to begin on-leave-from-call status for the ensuing year.

MSC that Pr. Dale Olson be approved to continue on-leave-from-call status for the third year.

MSC to present, as written, the 2015 Compensation Guidelines to the 2014 Synod Assembly for approval

The report from Pedro Suarez was received with respect to synod congregations and evangelical matters. Updates were provided on new starts, redevelopments, and the Latino Lay Academy. Local area mission strategies are underway and will be presented by the conference deans at Synod Assembly. Stewardship thank you dinners held thus far have been well received.

The Council received the Bishop's report. He reiterated the vision for new starts as stated in the strategic plan, that each new start be supported in some way by every congregation in the synod. Leadership is critical. Participation is encouraged in God's Work Our Hands Sunday on September 7, the Leadership Gathering on October 11, and Lutherhill's 60th anniversary on May 31. The ELCA is planting a gift planner in our area.

Characteristics of exceptional boards were discussed, based on the 12 Principles of Good Governance.

Plans for engaging in the ELCA Campaign were discussed.

MSC to send the 2015 budget to the Synod Assembly for approval.

MSC to accept the nomination of Carol Flores and Allen Johnson to the Mission Endowment Fund board.

MSC to approve the release of Providence Church from the ELCA, as defined in the written agreement.

MSC to accept the 2014 Synod Assembly agenda, subject to change.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 with communion and prayers.