

**The Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod
Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting
November 23, 2013**

Present: John Turnquist, Sarah Ray, Paul Monroe, Evan Moilan, Bishop Mike Rinehart, Eileen Doll, Don Hodde, Linda Martens, Barb Simmers, Sue Beall, Robert Rivera, Brad Fuerst, David Hollrah

Guests: Assistants to the Bishop Blair Lundborg, Peggy Hahn and Pedro Suarez

The Synod Council met at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in The Woodlands, Texas. Vice President Evan Moilan called the meeting to order at 8:30am after an opening devotion. The Council approved minutes of the prior meeting.

Pastor Gary Heath, Senior Pastor of Lord of Life Lutheran Church, greeted and welcomed the Council to their church. The Council thanked him for the congregation's gracious hospitality.

The resignation of Brad Otto as a Council member was accepted by the Council, with regret.

The financial report by Treasurer Paul Monroe was received.

The Bishop's report was received. Among other matters, he stressed that the Synod needs to devote much more time to developing leadership in congregations, finding the right pastor for each individual congregation. The 500th anniversary of the reformation is coming in 2017. The Synod is seeking personnel to coordinate the effort and develop media talking points.

The report of Peggy Hahn was received. She is devoting much of her time to the development and implementation of LEAD. The leadership team has been largely assembled and the first board meeting recently held.

The report of Blair Lundborg on Synod leadership was received. Proposed changes to the Synod pastoral roster were approved. Pr. Derrick Dursten was called by the Synod to a specialized ministry with the Synod. The Council discussed and approved synodical/congregational guidelines about addictions and substance abuse. See attached.

The Council received the report of Pedro Suarez on new start ministries and other developmental efforts of the Synod.

Council approved changing the status of the congregation of Santiago Apostol from Synodically Authorized Worshiping Community to Congregation Under Development.

Council approved nominees and returning directors of the Mission Endowment Fund. See attached.

The Bishop reported on the ELCA 25TH anniversary campaign. He outlined ELCA funding priorities and ministries of the Churchwide organization. The ELCA is embarking on a capital fund appeal to the synods, directed to mission of the Church in general.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15pm.

Communion was held afterward in the nave of Lord of Life church.