

**The Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod
Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting
(Pre-Synod Assembly)
April 16, 2015**

Present: John Turnquist, Paul Monroe, Evan Moilan, Bishop Mike Rinehart, Eileen Doll, Don Hodde, Sue Beall, Sara Ray, Peter Warmenan, Lura Groen, Brad Fuerst, Robert Rivera, Diane Campbell, David Hollrah

Guests: Mikka McCracken (ELCA rep), Matt Kindsvatter, Assistant to the Bishop Blair Lundborg and Jim Drees

The Synod Council met at 9:00am at the Hilton North Hotel in Houston immediately before the opening of the 2015 Synod Assembly.

The meeting was called to order by Evan Moilan, Vice President of the Council and chair of the meeting.

The Bishop led a brief devotion.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

The Bishop led the Council in an overview of the proposed agenda for the Assembly.

Evan led a discussion about the ELCA “pilot project” where certain funds collected by the Synod are remitted to Churchwide and then sent back to the Synod to support various Synod projects and people. The project would allow the Synods participating (there are 5) to keep those funds and support the same projects, in the same amounts. The project will carry on for 3 years, beginning in 2016.

Paul Monroe, Treasurer, went over the proposed budget for 2016 that would be submitted to the Assembly if approved by Council.

MSC: That the proposed budget as presented be submitted to the Synod Assembly.

Chairs of the Standing Committees of the Assembly were approved, as follows.

Elections:	Mark England
Nominations:	Sue Beall
Credentials:	Don Hodde
Reference and Counsel:	Jim Abbott

MSC: That Synod Council approve issuance of a call to Pr. Chris Markert to serve as a Mission Developer at a new start in Galveston.

Matt Kindsvatter, director of Lutherhill, discussed new developments at the still-developing Zion Retreat Center in Galveston, now proposed to open in Fall 2015. Chris Markert will serve part time as director of the Center and will also work with the Order of Lutheran Franciscans. Matt presented a booklet showing results of a feasibility study for the Lutherhill campaign. There was discussion about an earlier idea that the Lutherhill capital campaign and the ELCA Always Being Made New campaign be conducted together.

MSC: To separately conduct the Lutherhill campaign and the Always Being Made New campaign.

MSC: To allow Lutherhill to conduct a fundraising campaign in the congregations of the Synod.

Council turned to consideration of what to do with certain surplus funds, in the amount of \$68,000. In connection therewith, Jim Drees, a member of the Board of Directors of LEAD, addressed Council about the financial state of LEAD, and the need for additional funding to maintain and grow the program. It was pointed out that certain suggested uses of the surplus funds, which included support of LEAD, were consistent with the current Strategic Plan.

MSC: That the surplus funds, in the amount of \$68,000, be allocated thus:

LEAD	\$20,000
New starts and Redevelopment	\$48,000

There was a brief report about the situation in Danevang. No action was taken.

Roster changes as listed in the Council agenda, attached, were all approved as presented, except that action with respect to Pr. Dale Olsen was deferred.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15.

Respectfully submitted,

David Hollrah, Secretary