

**The Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod
Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting
November 7, 2015**

Present: Paul Monroe, Evan Moilan, Bishop Mike Rinehart, Eileen Doll, Peter Warmanen, Diane Campbell, David Hollrah, Kyle Seitzinger, Valerie Lloyd.

Guest: Beth Hartfiel

The Synod Council met at St. John's Lutheran Church, Bellville, TX on November 7, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

The Council was welcomed by John Mollenkamp, church musician at St. John's.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Evan Moilan, Vice President.

Opening devotion was led by Bishop Rinehart.

The minutes of the previous meeting were revised to correct for perceived stylistic errors in word usage, and to indicate clearly that the period of Synodical Administration of Grace Lutheran in Houston would be November 2015 through January 2016. Minutes approved as amended.

Council was advised of the resignation of Lura Groen as a member of Council. The resignation was accepted.

David Hollrah led an eagerly anticipated review of Chapter 6 of the Synod Constitution. The length of said chapter precluded the review of further provisions. There was some indication of support for a nap after the review but Council determined to push on.

The financial report by Paul Monroe was accepted.

Bishop Rinehart presented his report on recent activities. He discussed Council member visits to congregations and congregational councils, as well as boundary workshops for rostered leaders.

The Bishop offered the report for Blair Lundborg, who could not be present. Four congregations are in redevelopment, none in intentional interim ministry or mere interim ministry. (There was discussion of the difference.) Thirteen congregations are in transition, 4 with new pastoral leadership. Hope Lutheran Church in Beasley may withdraw from the ELCA; counseling is in progress.

MSC: To provisionally place Pr. Steve Rieke on leave from call pending his ultimate decision.

MSC To call Ashley Dellagiacomma to serve as pastor of Grace in Houston.

To remove an impediment to her service as a pastor, Council then approved her ordination.

MSC: That Ashley Dellagiacomma be ordained as a pastor in the ELCA. Unanimously approved!

Membership of the Candidacy Committee has been revised.

MSC: That the new membership of the Candidacy Committee is approved.

The Bishop presented the report of DEM Chris Markert in his absence. Chris will be moving into full time congregational pastoral service by the end of January 2016.

MSC: That the Council approve new members of the TLU board, Bret Carleton, Carol Flores, Kathy Patrick and Kathy Toensing.

Beth Hartfiel presented the report for LEAD. They have several contracts and pending contracts with other synods for Tune-In coaching contracts, in which they arrange and pay for coaches at locations around the country as needed. They are also expecting grants in the future. The Bishop expressed great personal and professional admiration for LEAD programs and personnel.

Paul Monroe reported on the Synod's arrangement to secure a loan in the amount of \$45,000 from Mission Investment Fund to restart Grace Houston.

MSC: That the Synod borrow \$45,000 from the Mission Investment Fund, according to the text of resolutions provided in the attached forms from the Fund, which are hereby adopted as resolutions of the Synod Council as fully as if set forth verbatim herein.

MSC: The Synodical Administration team responsible for Grace is instructed to consult with counsel to determine the feasibility of the Synod taking a deed of trust of Grace property to secure the credit borrowed by the Synod for the benefit of Grace.

The Bishop explained the current ELCA Campaign, which includes a number of points of emphasis, two of which are World Hunger and funding new start congregations. Synods, congregations and individuals are being asked to participate in the campaign. Council agreed this Synod should participate.

MSC: That the Synod participate in the ELCA Campaign by raising funding for World Hunger and new start congregations.

The next Synod Council meeting was set for January 30, 2016 a Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church in The Woodlands, beginning at 8:30 a.m.
Meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.