

# Synod Council Minutes 2016

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## Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting February 13, 2015

Present: Bishop Mike Rinehart, Evan Moilan, Diane Campbell, Robert Rivera, John Turnquist, Rev. Pete Warmanen, Kyle Seitzinger, Valerie Lloyd, Paul Monroe

Present by Skype: Eileen Doll, Kim Nunez

Guest (after lunch): Peggy Hahn

Absent by prearrangement: David Hollrah, Kami Wagner.

The meeting was called to order at Spirit of Joy! In the Woodlands at 9:43. Rev David Hansen greeted the council and gave an introduction to the congregation, currently in redevelopment.

Bp. Rinehart led devotions.

Council was advised of the resignation of Rev. Brad Fuerst to serve Lutheran Campus Ministry at UT- Austin. The resignation was accepted.

Minutes from the previous meeting November 7, 2015 were approved. Bp. Rinehart confirmed that Pr. Steve Rieke had resigned his previous call and is properly on leave from call status.

A lengthy treasurer's report was given, encompassing the financial results from the fiscal year just ended and the budget to be proposed to Synod Assembly for fiscal year ending Jan 31, 2018. The disposition of the LEAD deficit for the fiscal year just ended (namely \$7,692 absorbed by the synod and \$29,093 funded from restricted funds for start-up costs) was discussed. No action was taken on the overall surplus from the fiscal year just ended, meaning it will be included in the synod's general fund pending possible further action by synod council.

The proposed budget for fiscal year ending Jan 31, 2018 was discussed, particularly staff compensation and performance, and increasing projected mission support from the congregations over the staff's estimate to balance the budget. Both parts of the treasurer's report were accepted; final adoption of the proposed budget is deferred to the synod council meeting in April.

During lunch, Peggy Hahn joined us in person, and Eileen Doll left the meeting. Kim Nunez continued to attend by Facetime.

After lunch, Bp. Rinehart gave his report, the report of the Assistant to the Bishop for Leadership, and the DEM report. Of particular note was the turmoil at St John's in Waller, where a vote to disaffiliate failed, and Pr. Lundborg's good work with several major congregations in the Metro Houston conference in or about to enter transition.

MSC: to grant retirement status to Donald Cole, Sandie Guthans, Diane Campbell, and Paul Geye.

MSC: to place Julia Miller in OLFC status.

Peggy Hahn reported on the current and future activities of LEAD. This segued into a discussion of the process of reviewing and possibly revising the synod's Strategic Plan. Changes to be made to LEAD's proposal to the November 2015 synod council meeting were discussed, particularly shifting the cost of Phase 1 individual meetings with congregational councils to the congregations.

MSC: that Bp. Rinehart is authorized to negotiate and accept the LEAD bid. Evan Moilan disclosed a conflict of interest, of a business relationship with a principal in GSB, the other bidder, and recused himself. Robert Rivera recused himself as a board member of LEAD.

Bp. Rinehart stated he would appoint a replacement delegate to the churchwide assembly to replace Bradley Hooper who has resigned. John Turnquist and Paul Monroe self-nominated.

MSC: to set 2016 housing allowance for Bp Rinehart at \$31,000; Pr. Lundborg at \$36,000; and Pr. Dellagiacoma at \$22,000.

MSC: to appoint Paul Monroe and Rebecca McDonald as Online Administrators and Paul Monroe as Enrollment Officer for Mission Investment Fund. Bp. Rinehart to sign the certification.

Future meetings set: April 16, Bridge City; September 24, Zion Retreat Center, Galveston; November 5, in western sector,

Bp. Rinehart suggested personal and congregational disciplines for the Lenten Challenge as part of the ELCA campaign.

Meeting adjourned 3:05. Respectfully submitted, Paul Monroe, acting secretary.