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**The Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod  
Minutes of the Synod Council Meeting  
(Pre-Synod Assembly)  
May 19, 2016**

Present: John Turnquist, Kami Wagner-Stone, Evan Moilan, Bishop Mike Rinehart, Eileen Doll, Chris Markert, Kyle Seitzinger, Peter Warmanen, Robert Rivera, Diane Campbell, David Hollrah

Guests: Rozella White (ELCA rep), Matt Kindsvater, Assistant to the Bishop Blair Lundborg

The Synod Council met at 9:00am at the Hilton North Hotel in Houston immediately before the opening of the 2016 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 and welcomed Rozella White, ELCA representative at the Assembly.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

The Bishop gave a brief background on the Keynote Speaker, the Rev Dr. John Nunes.

The Bishop led the Council in an overview of the proposed agenda for the Assembly. The Agenda was adopted as proposed.

The Council approved all chairpersons proposed for the four Assembly committees—Minutes, Elections, Credentials and Reference & Counsel.

The proposed Synod budget for the 2017 fiscal year was approved.

Proposed compensation guidelines were approved.

Roster changes: Retirement of David Roschke approved. Approved call to a 1 year intentional interim ministry of Duane Larson, who will serve at Christ the King, Houston. Three pastors were approved for on-leave-from-call. Approved issuance of a call to Chris Markert as Director of Evangelical Mission, aka in this synod as the Synod Mission Catalyst. Approved \$20K as Housing Allowance for the Mission Catalyst.

Agreed to grant voice and vote to Dennis Shaw, SAM, leader at Agape, Cleveland.

Approved appointment of Pr. Emmanuel Jackson to LSTC board.

Approved appointment of Curtis Bradbury as Voting Member at Churchwide Assembly.

The surplus amount of \$18,000 from the 2015 budget was approved for designation to a special account for Strategic Planning.

The Bishop advised he would be doing exit interviews with departing Council members, and requested that continuing Council members also participate.

Evan introduced Jane Triplett, who will lead a Synod strategic planning process. She described what she and her co-workers would be doing leading the planning team from the Synod. Part of the planning will make use of focus groups of lay persons and clergy. Synod Council members are encouraged to participate. Council will approve the resulting plan and hold the Bishop accountable for its enforcement.

The Council recognized Pete Warmanen and David Hollrah, who are finishing their terms on Council.

We are still seeking replacement for the Synod Treasurer.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20.