

TEXAS-LOUISIANA GULF COAST SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING

Date of Meeting: September 24, 2016

Venue: The Cenacle Retreat House, Houston

Attendees: Bishop Mike, Evan Moilan, John Turnquist, Eileen Doll, Kathy Collins, Rev. Liz Hanley, Rev. Rod Thom, , Kami Stone, Valerie Lloyd, Robert Rivera, Rev. Mark Warpmaeker, Rev. Diane Campbell (Note: Kyle Seitzinger resigned his position on the Synod Council.)

Staff: Pr. Blair Lundborg; Pr. Chris Markert

Absent: Renee Alfaro, Kim Nunez

Minutes of Meeting

1. Bishop Mike called the meeting to order at 9:05AM.
2. Bishop Mike led us in prayer and devotions.
3. The agenda for this meeting and both the minutes of the meeting on May 19, 2016 prior to the 2016 Synod Assembly and the minutes of the Assembly itself (May 19-21, 2016) were approved without dissent. [Note: My notes show the results of the vote but not who made the motion or who seconded it. *Mea culpa.*]
4. Bishop Mike began the report on the current status of the ongoing strategic planning initiative. Our planning team includes himself, Evan, Liz, Mark, Rebecca, Scott Quinlan, Mindy Roll, Jennifer Veres-Schecengost (as a Methodist, she is one of our ecumenical connections) and our LEAD coach, Jane Triplett (Ruling Elder, Presbyterian Church, she is the other ecumenical connection). Liz and Mark reported that the team has been quite actively working. For instance, members conducted interviews across a broad spectrum of community leaders, including, elected leaders, school principals, realtors, and first responders. One disturbing result of these interviews: in too many places, local Lutherans are unknown. The team has also participated in focus groups in each of our Conferences and will meet again in October. Among other things, the plan at that meeting is to draft outcomes with accompanying metrics.
5. Bishop Mike also reported on the drive to raise \$500,000 by the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in support of World Hunger initiatives. He urged each member of the Council to contribute to the Synod's effort and too

emphasized the importance of Council members visiting congregations within the Synod if not on Sundays, then perhaps at a Congregation Council meeting.

6. Evan reported on the 2016 Churchwide Assembly (hereinafter CWA). Of note were (i) the election of a new ELCA Vice-President, William Horne of Clearwater, Florida; and (ii) the ELCA's "Plan for Today" is about 60% accomplished.

7. John reported on the constitutional amendments approved by the 2016 CWA, both the required and recommended changes to the constitutions of synods and of congregations. John noted that he would work with Rebecca to get all of the required changes inserted in our synod's constitution as expeditiously as possible. As regards the recommended (not required) amendments, Robert moved and Kami seconded that consideration be deferred until the Council's November meeting. The motion passed without dissent. John further noted that a memorandum would be going to each of our congregations urging them to ensure their local constitution complies with the ELCA's Model Constitution for Congregations circa 2013 and attached will be the 2013 Model Constitution, the ELCA's *Guide for the Use of the Model Constitution for Congregations*, and the amendments to the 2013 Model Constitution approved by the 2016 CWA.

8. Robert moved and Rod seconded that Kathy Collins, VP for Finance, Rice University, be appointed as Synod Treasurer for a 4 year term. That motion enthusiastically passed without dissent.

9. Kathy presented the Treasurer's Report. Of note were the following: with 58% of the budget year gone, we have received 54% of the budgeted income. Diane moved and Eileen seconded that we accept the Treasurer's report. The motion passed with dissent.

We adjourned at 12:10 PM for lunch and reconvened at 1:15 PM.

10. Blair brought the following matters to the Council for consideration:

a. Roster Matters.

OFLC status – Rev. Lura Groen (second year), Rev. Sandra Barnes, Rev. Jill Vivroux, and Rev. Bonnie Parker. Diane moved and Eileen seconded that we approve these requests. The motion passed without dissent.

Retirement Requests - Rev. James Echols and Rev. Espiridion Elizondo. Robert moved and Diane seconded that these requests be approved. The motion passed without dissent.

Specialized call to ministry – Rev. Mark Warpmaeker and Rev. Dr. Duane Larson. Rod moved and Kami seconded that these calls be approved. The motion passed without dissent.

b. Other matters:

The Council also discussed The Guidelines for Sabbaticals for Rostered Persons. After that discussion, Robert moved and Diane seconded that the Council approve the Guidelines. The motion passed without dissent.

11. Chris gave the Mission Catalyst report. Among other matters, he noted that he was working on materials on “The Marks of a Disciple” and that he needed Council members to sign up to visit congregations in the Colorado and Brazos Valley Conferences.

12. The Council voted to reappoint AiM Beth Hartfiel and Rev. Kerry Nelson to TLU Corporation.

13. The following schedule for upcoming meetings was approved:

Saturday, September 24, 2016, 8:30 AM -3:30 PM - The Cenacle

Saturday, November 5, 2016, 8:30 AM -3:30 PM – East: Good Shepherd, Bridge City

Saturday, February 4, 2017, 8:30 AM -3:30 PM - South

Saturday, April 1, 2017, 8:30 AM -3:30 PM - Central

Thursday, May 18, 2017 - 9:00 AM - noon - Hilton Houston N. (Synod Assembly)

June - new council orientation TBA

Saturday, Sept. 16, 2017 - 8:30 AM -3:30 PM - West

Saturday, Nov. 11, 2017 - (Thanksgiving is Nov. 23) - North

Saturday, Feb. 3, 2018 - 8:30 AM -3:30 PM – East

14. The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM after which we celebrated the Eucharist.

Respectfully submitted:

C. John Turnquist

Secretary