

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

Date of Meeting: April 7, 2018

Venue: St. John Lutheran Church of Rutersville, La Grange, TX

Attendees: Bishop Mike, Robert Rivera, John Turnquist, Kathy Collins, Eileen Doll, Pr. Mark Warpmaeker, Pr. Diane Campbell, Tom Wildrick, Ismael Danforth, Renee Alfaro, Paul Antolik, Alex Norden

Absent: Shelli Williamson, Pr. Rodwell Thom,

Staff: Pr. Blair

Minutes of Meeting

I. Actions Taken:

1. Consent Agenda:

- a. Agenda approved.
- b. Minutes approved.
- c. Pr. Jeremy Freye's request to go On Leave from Call was approved.
- d. Pr. Marlo Peterson's request for transfer the SW Texas Synod was approved.
- e. A Call to Specialized Ministry was extended to Pr. Jen Kindsvatter (to serve at Lutherhill) and Pr. Ben Groth (to be the Mission Developer, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, New Orleans LA).

2. Other Actions Taken:

- a. The Synod Council approved (Motion/Renee, Second/Diane) McGill, Power, Bell and Associates, Franklin, PA, to be the Synod's auditors.
- b. The Synod Council approved (Motion/Paul, Second/Eileen) sending \$11,000 from surplus funds to Churchwide.
- c. The Synod Council approved (Motion/Tom, Second/Paul) to go to the 2018 Synod Assembly the 2019-2020 draft budget keeping that draft budget at the same levels as the 2018 budget.

d. The Synod Council approved (Motion/Diane, Second/Eileen) submitting the Proposed Compensation Guidelines for 2018-2019 to the 2018 Synod Assembly.

II. Meeting Notes:

a. Bishop Mike noted that the pilot program under which Pr. Chris is working is likely to be extended for another year.

b. He reported that there has been progress on all aspects of the Strategic Plan, although the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey has resulted in that progress being somewhat uneven.

c. He reported that he expected to extend an offer this coming week to fill the opening of communications director for the Synod.

d. He cautioned, however, that as income drops, we have to go to five staff members.

e. As regards the survey of Council members, he noted that we likely will have to take such a survey every other year or so in order to establish credible baselines.

f. He will engage the Executive Board with several of the questions with low ratings and return with suggestions for the Council concerning how to deal with those subjects in order to improve the ratings.

g. We received a report from Dr. Liz Johnson, Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest.

h. Pr. Blair noted that we are sharing ministry, not just sharing pastors; that of the fifteen congregations in the call process, only four are looking for full-time pastors; and that Pr. Marcia Kifer asserts that a call to a shared ministry (such as the Shared Ministry of Fayette County) is far more attractive than a call to one small congregation by itself.

i. We were informed that LEAD is continuing to move toward financial independence.

j. We discussed the situations at All Saints, Stafford, and at Freeport, both significant real property issues. We are awaiting the vote from All Saints whether they will close. Once we have the results of the vote, we will have to deal with whether to sell the former parish's property (which reverts to the Synod) or start a new mission at that site. The question at Freeport is whether to sell the property. Because of potential liability issues, we will move with all due diligence to make the decisions that protect the Synod.

Respectfully submitted,

John Turnquist

Secretary