

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

**Date of Meeting:** February 3, 2018

**Venue:** Light of Life Lutheran Church, La Porte

**Attendees:** Bishop Mike, Robert Rivera, John Turnquist, Kathy Collins, Eileen Doll, Pr. Rodwell Thom, Pr. Mark Warpmaeker, Pr. Diane Campbell, Tom Wildrick, Renee Alfaro, Paul Antolik,

**Absent:** Alex Norden Shelli Williamson, Ismael Danforth

**Staff:** Pr. Blair, Pr. Chris

**Minutes of Meeting**

**I. Actions Taken:**

- a. Agenda approved – Motion: Paul, Second: Kathy
- b. Minutes approved – Motion: Kathy, Second: Pr. Mark
- c. On Leave from Call requests from Pastors Julia Miller (Year 3), Jill Vivroux (Year 2), Laura Olson (Year 2), Liz Hanley (Year 1), Sabina Lamar (Year 1), and Emily Clamser (Year 1) **approved** – Motion: Pr. Rodwell, Second: Kathy
- d. Retirement requests from Pastors Larry Beck and Mark Moore **approved** – Motion: Paul, Second: Pr. Diane
- e. Approval of Retirement Status for Pastors Marcia Kluger (2015), Jeff Zetto (2015), Donald Cole (2016), Sandie Guthans (2016), Diane Campbell (2016), Paul Geye (2016), David Roschke (2016), Espirdion Elizondo (2016), John Boldt (2017), Pat Lehrer (2017), Ken Shuman (2017), James Echols (2017), and Robert Sorenson (2017) **approved** – Motion: Renee, Second: Kathy
- f. Renewed Calls for Specialized Ministries of Pastors George Bement, Craig Borchardt, Sandra Barnes, Mary Brown, Lisa Ann Gaye, Beth Marie Halvorson, Blair Lundborg, Christopher Markert, Mindy Roll, William Schwertlich, Dennis Shaw, Kristin Springmeyer, David Stouter, and Deacons Peggy Hahn and Bethany Hartfiel **approved** – Motion; Pr. Mark, Second: Kathy
- g. Nominating Committee members (Evan Moilan (Chairperson), Pr. Diane Campbell, Pr. Arthur Murphy, John Turnquist, Adan Plata, and Paul Antolik) **approved** – Motion: Kathy, Second: Pr. Mark

h. Housing Allowance requests for 2018 for Bishop Mike (\$31,000) and Pastors Blair (\$25,000) and Chris (\$30,000) **approved** – Motion: Paul, Second: Pr. Diane

i. New ELCA Fund A Signature Authorities (Remove Paul and Edna, add Kathy - new authorities thus being the Bishop (sign in front of a notary), Pr. Blair, Kathy) **approved**: Motion: Tom, Second: Paul

j. \$1.355 million Spending Plan for 2018 (with the expectation that the staff and Kathy would keep revenues and expenditures in balance) **approved** – Motion: Paul, Second: Pr. Rodwell

## **II. Meeting Notes:**

a. Bishop Mike presented a proposed survey that he asked each of the Council members to take.

b. He also reported that Faith Formation in the Home would be focus of the Synod Assembly.

c. Robert reported that Pr. Liz Hanley resigned her Council position. The Council decided that the Nominating Committee would include this position in those presented to the Synod Assembly.

d. Robert urged every Council member to think strategically instead of just focusing on what needed to be approved at any given meeting.

e. He led a discussion of the subject of attendance at meetings.

f. Pr. Blair noted that we have fifteen congregations in the call process, but only three of them are looking for a full-time pastor.

g. We were graced with the presence of the Synod's Disaster Recovery Coordinator, Ele Clay, who presented her first report.

h. Pr. Chris discussed three of our congregations which have entered into a redevelopment and revitalization process.

i. He noted that we are no longer living the old model of "church", namely, a ten-acre campus with at least two pastors. Instead, the markers of "success" are (1) worshipping size; (2) reaching financial stability and responsibility; and (3) matching community demographics.

Respectfully submitted,

John Turnquist, Secretary