

Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod
Synod Council Minutes
September 24-25, 2004
Lord of Life Lutheran Church
The Woodlands, Texas

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

SC04.09.01 to approve the amendment of C13.05 to the Constitution of Christ Lutheran Church in Lake Jackson, Texas. **Motion:** *Blom*; **second:** *Moehring*
ADOPTED.

SC04.09.02 to approve the amended Constitution and bylaws of St. Paul Lutheran Church of Rehburg (Burton), Texas. **Motion:** *Blom*; **second:** *Groenke* **ADOPTED**

SC04.09.03 to remove the names of *Pr. Beverly Collinsworth and Pr. Gerald Westerbuhr* as signers of the Assembly Fund Account. **Motion:** *Blom*; **second:** *Moehring* **ADOPTED**

SC04.09.04 to issue a one year term Letter of Call to *Pr. Erbey Gonzales* from the Synod Council as part-time Interim Pastor to lead Ascension Lutheran Chapel, a Synod Authorized Worshiping Community in the Tomball, Texas area, effective April 16, 2004. **Motion:** *Blom*; **second:** *Groenke* **ADOPTED**

SC04.09.05 to identify New Life Ministries, Orangefield, Texas, as a Synod Authorized Worshiping Community. **Motion:** *Blom*; **second:** *Groenke* **ADOPTED**

SC04.09.06 to issue a one year term Letter of Call to *Pr. Cindy Scott* from the Synod Council to as part time Interim Pastor to lead New Life Ministries Chapel, a Synod Authorized Worshiping Community in Orangefield, Texas, effective September 24, 2004. **Motion:** *Blom*; **second:** *Eckermann* **ADOPTED**

SC04.09.07 to issue a Letter of Call to *Pr. Scott Cigich* from the Synod Council to serve as Mission Developer for the new ministry in The Woodlands, Texas effective October 1, 2004 (as approved by the Division for Outreach, ELCA). **Motion:** *Blom*; **second:** *Moehring* **ADOPTED**

SC04.09.08 to issue a Letter of Call from the Synod Council to *Pr. Thomas Minor* to serve as Interfaith Relations Manager for Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston effective August 16, 2004. **Motion:** *Blom*; **second:** *Moehring* **ADOPTED**

SC04.09.09 to extend for one more year the terms of the following persons on leave from Call:

Ordained Roster:

Pr. Espiridon "Pit" Elizondo - February 23, 2003

Pr. James A. Olson - March 15, 2003

Pr. Harvey A. Bongers - March 31, 2003

Pr. Harvey Chi - July 31, 2003

Pr. Beth Warpmaeker - October 31, 2003

Pr. Laura Olson - February 8, 2004

Pr. Cynthia Beck - December 7, 2003

Pr. Lisa Hackler - April 12, 2004

Pr. Robert L. Sorensen – July 20, 2004
Pr. George Bement – August 1, 2004

Lay Roster – Associate in Ministry

Bruce Elijah – January 18, 2004

Motion: *Blom*; **second:** *Groenke* **ADOPTED**

SC04.09.10 to re-designate the Freedom Fund into the Partners Freed to Serve Fund. **Motion:** *Blom*; **second:** *Groenke* **ADOPTED**

SC04.09.11 to approve the Minutes of the June 10, 2004, Synod Council meeting. **Motion:** *Strehlow*; **second:** *Moehring* **ADOPTED**

SC04.09.12 to approve the Minutes of the August 12 Executive Committee meeting. **Motion:** *Eckermann*; **second:** *Navarro* **ADOPTED**

SC04.09.13 to extend the term of *Pr. Harvey Bongers* for one year and the terms of *Pr. Barbara Bartley and Juanita Blezinger* for two years on the Nominating Committee. **Motion:** *Eckermann*; **second:** *Groenke* **ADOPTED**

SC04.09.14 to endorse the Synod Council Election Parameters Plan and to recommend it to the Synod Nominating Committee. **Motion:** *Strehlow*; **second:** *Groenke* **ADOPTED with one negative vote**

SC04.09.15 to accept the Resolutions from the Synod Global Mission Task Force concerning our Companion Synods. **Motion:** *Blom*; **second:** *Navarro* **ADOPTED**

SC04.09.16 to adjourn **Motion:** *Borchardt*; **second:** *Hollrah* **ADOPTED**

AGENDA NOTES:

- A. *Pr. Craig Borchardt* reported for the Synod Office Task Force. The recommendation is that when the present lease ends in March, 2006, it be extended for 18-24 months. In March – July, 2005, an agent should be retained to renegotiate the lease or seek a lower cost lease elsewhere. The recommendation is passed to the Office of the Bishop for implementation.
- B. The Treasurer's Report presented by *Arwin Strehlow* showed good receipts in August but indicated that at the present rate of receipts the Reserve Fund will be depleted by year's end.
- C. Vice President *Bill Krejci* lead the Council members through self-introductions and presented a summary of the members' Leadership Style. He also announced two resignations from the Synod Council. *Pr. Paul Kersten* accepted a Call outside the TLGC Synod. *Delbert Boeker* cited personal time restraints making it difficult to attend the meetings. The Executive Committee submitted Parameters for the TLGC Synod Council elections which are aimed at restoring balances in the three year terms and seeking female/male equalization and respecting the clergy/laity ratio. The number of members on the Synod Council will be 15 (4 officers, 10 members at large, and 1 youth.) Suggested names were solicited for consideration by the Nominating Committee to fill vacancies and to nominate for election at the annual Synod Assembly. The Synod Office Task Force was commended for the work in arriving at their recommendation. A Congregation Visit Report Form was displayed and explained with the encouragement to be

filled out for any contact visits by Synod Council members. A revised Nominations Form was presented.

- D. The text of the Global Mission Task Force that was presented by chair, *Susan Giesecke* and adopted by the Synod Council is:

WHEREAS, God has created all things and declared them good, and
WHEREAS, the ELCA has established this Companion Synod Program,
and

WHEREAS, the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod has developed significant relationships to the mutual benefit of those involved with both our Companion Synod in Peru and in the Central African Republic (CAR),
and

WHEREAS, the Global Mission Task Force has discovered great interest in our Synod for global work on the congregational level and that providing more Companion Synod opportunities seems to encourage creative response on the congregational level, and

WHEREAS, a desire exists to develop a project, in cooperation with our Companion Synods in Peru and CAR and with the Division for Global Mission, on a Synod to Synod basis for Peru, a “Safe House Project” and a “Women’s Center” in CAR,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we propose to introduce to the 2005 Synod Assembly a project to inform our members about our Companion Synods, educate about the needs, and raise funds to assist these Synods in their efforts to reach into their communities with the love of God, and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we additionally propose to seek to develop a third Companion Synod relationship with the Lutheran Church in Hungary.

- E. *Pr. Pete Lopez* and members of the Latino/Hispanic Coalition gave a report on their efforts to develop this ministry. They had two questions for the Office of the Bishop. The first was “when will it be possible to have someone come to the Coalition to explain the new Synod structure?” The second was, “If Hispanic ministry is a priority of the Synod, what will be the marks of that priority?” A third related matter had to do with communications.
- F. *Pr. Mike Rinehart* one of the Synod’s two Mission Interpreters (*Jim Bailey* in Louisiana) explained the program of visits just begun in our Synod.
- G. *Pr. Kevin Meyer*, a pastor of Lord of the Life in The Woodlands shared the history and the Purpose, Mission and Vision of the congregation. He led us on a tour of the facilities.
- H. A block of time was given to the new Governance model under which the Synod Council is now operating. The first section of the third draft of policies related to this new governance was studied (Outcomes – Strategic Focus). It might take a special meeting of the Synod Council to reflect upon and refine the Policies document.
- I. There was a brief critique of this first meeting conducted under the new governance model.

J. Pr. Rob Moore was congratulated on the 20th anniversary of his ordination.

ATTENDANCE: Akerman, Blom, Borchardt, Eckermann, Groenke, Herrmann, Hollrah, Krejci, McCary, Moehring, Navarro, Strehlow (one or both sessions)

ABSENT: Lewis

2 VACANCIES: (Boeker and Kersten)

GUESTS: Weidner; Moore; Petershagen; Contos; Rinehart; Lopez and Coalition members; Giesecke, Meyer

Respectfully submitted,

Pr. H. Eldon Akerman, Secretary

DATES TO REMEMBER:

January 14-15, 2005	Synod Council	7-9; 8:30 – 3:00	TBA
April 8 – 9, 2005	Synod Council	7-9; 8:30 – 3:00	TBA
June 2, 2005	Synod Council	10:00 – noon	Marriott, Woodlands
June 2 – 4, 2005	Synod Assembly		Marriott, Woodlands