

## TEXAS-LOUISIANA GULF COAST SYNOD

### Synod Council Meeting Minutes

September 14 – 15, 2007

Christ Lutheran Church, Brenham, Texas

And St. John Lutheran Church, Bellville, Texas

#### Summary of Actions:

**SC.07.09.01** to affirm the e-meeting decision of the Executive Committee of August 21, 2007. (EC.07.08.01 to apply for a grant from the Louisiana Family Recovery Corps to support youth in crisis from Katrina and to name *Peggy Contos Hahn* the appointee from the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to initiate, negotiate, and sign contracts between the Louisiana Family Recovery Corps and the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod.) **MOTION:** *Tart*; second, *Moehring*. ADOPTED

**SC.07.09.02** to approve the minutes of the May 31, 2007, Synod Council meeting. **MOTION:** *Hollrah*; second: *Goedecke*. ADOPTED

**SC.07.09.03** to approve the recommendation of the Executive Committee to set the compensation package for *Bishop Michael Rinehart* beginning August 20, 2007. (Base-\$50,000; Housing Allowance-\$25,000; FICA-\$11,000 = total of \$86,000 plus 10% Pension; plus full coverage for family in ELCA Health Plan, plus the use of a synod owned automobile.)

**MOTION:** *Executive Committee*; second: *Goedecke*. ADOPTED

**SC.07.09.04** to refer a request to the Executive Committee to initiate a study to investigate a plan to better compensate the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod bishop. **MOTION:** *Tart*; second: *Hollrah*. ADOPTED

**SC.07.09.05** to have the Secretary write letters of thanks to members of the Management Team as they end their service to the Synod – beginning with *Pr. David Morrell, Sr.* **MOTION:** *Menke Smith*; second: *Moehring*. ADOPTED

**SC.07.09.06** to authorize *Bishop Rinehart* to investigate and complete the pending application of *Pr. Thoung Ngoc Le* for a scholarship from the Lutheran World Federation Department for Mission and Development to do mission work in Vietnam. (*Pr. Le* is a pastor of the TLGC Synod and has been serving out of Love Lutheran Church in New Orleans, Louisiana,)

**MOTION:** *Hollrah*; second: *McCullough-Bade*. ADOPTED

**SC.07.09.07** to appoint *Mr. Arthur Murphy*, a member of Faith Lutheran Church, Bellaire, Texas, as Parliamentarian for the Synod Assembly. **MOTION:** *Rinehart*; second: *McCullough-Bade*. ADOPTED

**SC.07.09.08** to designate retiring bishop *Paul Blom* as Bishop Emeritus. **MOTION:** *Rinehart*; second: *Hollrah*. ADOPTED

**SC.07.09.09** to request *Bishop Rinehart* to develop a Disaster Planning Team and to develop a plan for disaster response and to give an interim report at the January, 2008, Synod Council meeting. **MOTION:** *Tart*; second: *Moehring*. ADOPTED

**SC.07.09.10** to request a representative from LSS to attend the January, 2008, Synod Council meeting providing a report on financial matters related to Katrina/Rita and the plan for the disaster response in the future. **MOTION:** *Goedecke*; second: *Moehring*. ADOPTED

**SC.07.09.11** to request *Bishop Rinehart* to write a letter to *ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson* stating the concerns of the Synod Council in support of “Being the Church in a Post-Katrina World” – a Consensus Report from the New Orleans-Baton Rouge Area Clergy ELCA, February, 2007. **MOTION:** *Cook*; second: *Strehlow*. ADOPTED

**SC.07.09.12** to designate the offering received at the Installation Service for *Bishop Rinehart* on September 29, 2007, to support the development of the multicultural ministry with the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod. **MOTION:** *Rinehart*; second: *Lambeth*. ADOPTED

**Other meeting items:**

*Pr. Mike Button* of Christ Lutheran, Brenham, gave greetings.

*Bishop Rinehart* led the Synod Council members in a devotional period with Holy Communion shared.

*Peggy Contos Hahn* led the Synod Council members through several exercises aimed at helping with introductions and sensing attitudes toward the common work of the Council.

*Pr. Jennie Jones and Pr. David Henske and Dorothy Menke Smith* gave a tour of the St. John Lutheran Church Retreat Center, Bellville, Texas, as the Synod Council journeyed to Bellville for the Saturday session.

Per the agreement with *Arwin Strehlow* to serve as Synod Treasurer for one year (2007) there is a need to select a candidate to be elected at the 2008 Synod Assembly.

*Bishop Rinehart* will present an updated report on rostered persons without call by the January, 2008, Synod Council meeting.

*Pr. Robin McCullough-Bade* gave a report and led discussion on a summary of the two years since Katrina.

The five Resolutions adopted at the 2007 Synod Assembly that relate directly to TLGC matters were discussed. These Resolutions were #1 “African American Descent Strategy; #16 “Community of Respect” an Anti-Defamation League proposal; #17 “Focus on New Starts”; #11 “Bishop to establish a mission partnership between congregations in western half of the TLGC Synod with congregations affected by Katrina/Rita”; and #12 “Prayer Pilgrimage to New Orleans.”

*Pr. Cliff Akerman* reviewed Transition matters including plans for the Bishop’s Installation.

Co-chairs are to be named for the 2008 Synod Assembly.

The Treasurer’s Report shows receipts are in line with those anticipated and favorable in terms of expenditures.

**Attendance:** *Akerman; Cook; Goedecke; Hollrah; Lambeth; Lopez; McCullough-Bade; Moehring; Reimer; Rinehart; Soechting; Menke Smith; Strehlow; Tart. Viergutz* was unable to attend

**Future Meetings:** February 8-9, 2008; April 18-19, 2008; May 29, 2008; September 19-20, 2008. The 2008 Synod Assembly will be held May 29-31.

Respectfully submitted,

*Pr. H. Eldon Akerman “Cliff”*

Synod Secretary