

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

Date of Meeting: January 22, 2022

Venue: Living Word Katy

Attendees: Bishop Mike, Paul Antolik, Tom Wildrick, Rev. Chris Michaelis, Rev. Ariel Otterstad, Caleb Parks (Zoom), Julie Peltier (Zoom), Adan Plata, Rev. Chon Pugh, Calea Wirley

Absent: Robert Rivera, Deirde Hayes, Rev. Rodwell Thom, Taylor Rivera, William Walker, Shelli Williamson

Staff: Rev. Tracey Breashears-Schultz

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 by Bishop Mike

opening prayer/devotions were led by Caleb Parks.

Actions Taken

1. Approved the Consent Agenda. [Motion: Rev. Ariel, Second: Caleb]
 - The consent agenda included the agenda, Nov. 13, 2021 Council Minutes, on leave from call requests, retirement requests, and affirmed the vote of the October 15, 2021 email vote for synod delegates to the churchwide assembly.
 - There were no changes to the draft agenda.
2. Accepted the Bishop's Report and the Bishop's Associate in Ministry report.
3. Approved housing allowances for the Bishop (\$40,000.00), the Bishop's Associate for Leadership (\$30,000.00), and the Bishop's Associate for Ministry (\$30,000.00). [Motion: Paul; Second: Tom]
4. Approved appointing Pr. Arthur Murphy and Pr. Pat Dietrich to the Live On board. [Motion: Rev. Chris; Second: Rev. Chong]
5. Approved the Treasurer's Report. [Motion: Rev. Chris; Second: Adan]

Discussion

7. Rev. Ariel gave a summary of activity at Living Word. Highlights included the beginning of a virtual campus with activities about 50% live and 50% prerecorded.
8. Bishop's Report:
 - a. Discussed the status of the Youth Gathering and the Synod Assembly.
 - b. He described the concept behind the Bishop's endowment, noting that his family had put in an initial gift, and that it would not benefit him.
 - c. He discussed the housing for the March Council meeting at Bethlehem in New Orleans.
9. Vice President's Report
 - a. Asked Council members to submit nominations for Council positions.
 - i. Diedre is willing to serve another term, Julie will not be able to serve another term.
 - b. Also needed are people willing to serve on the Discipline Committee and the Consultation Committee
 - c. Immigration Task Force – Council supports the direction of the task force
 - i. They want to hold a women's retreat
 - ii. Conduct a school to develop leaders
 - iii. Hold a youth retreat
10. Secretary's Report – None Submitted
11. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Operating Revenues are less than expected, and less than 2020. There is a \$40,000 deficit through December.
 - b. The 2023 budget is under development, and looks to be 2.2% larger than 2022.
12. Bishop's Associate for Ministry Report
 - a. Council discussed activities at Bethlehem in New Orleans and Hosanna in Mandeville
 - b. Stewardship
 - i. Currently soliciting support for disaster relief staffing
 - ii. Appeal focus for 2022 was discussed. Council decided the focus should be on helping retire seminary debt. Discussion also noted the need and benefit of funding an internship for underrepresented groups.

13. Bishop's Associate for Leadership Report
 - a. Described the Candidacy Retreat. The highlight was having Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton take questions from the candidates and talk about the state of the church.
14. Policy Discussion
 - a. Conflict of Interest form were solicited from Council members who had not submitted them yet.
 - b. Insurance policies were reviewed, and no changes were suggested.
 - c. The Ordination Guidelines for Deacons and Pastors were reviewed, and no changes were suggested.

Meeting adjourned at 11:47 am. [Motion: Paul; Second: Tom]

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Antolik
Secretary