

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

Date of Meeting: May 18, 2023

Venue: Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Woodlands, TX

Attendees: Bishop Mike, Robert Rivera, Paul Antolik, Tom Wildrick, Deidre Hayes, Rev. Anthony Chatman, Irene Del Arco, Adele Montgomery, Rev. Ariel Otterstad, Caleb Parks, Rev. Chon Pugh, Taylor Rivera, Rev. Sergio Rodriguez, Calea Wirtley

Absent: Adan Plata

Staff: Rev. Ele Clay, Rev. Tracey Breashears-Schultz, Rev. Chris Markert
Others: Conference Deans (for assembly overview)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Robert Rivera,

Opening prayer/devotions on the Ascension were led by Rev. Sergio Rodriguez.

Actions Taken

1. Approved the Consent Agenda. Motion: Sergio, Second: Paul.
 - The consent agenda included the agenda, March 18, 2023 Council Minutes, and minutes of the April 28, 2023 electronic meeting.
2. Approved the Assembly Agenda. Motion: Sergio, Second: Chon.
3. Approved appointing the following Assembly Committees:
 - o Reference and Council: Wade Wallinger, Chair; Pr. Jay Grave, Karen Hazlaris, staff: Pr. Tracey Breashears-Schultz
 - o Elections: Pr. Sergio Rodriguez, Chair; Pr. Anthony Chatman, Caleb Parks, Adan Plata
 - o Minutes: Paul Antolik, Synod Secretary, Chair; Pr. Morgan Gates, Anne Sasko
 - o Credentials: Adele Montgomery, Chair; Beth Morris, Beth HartfieldMotion: Tom, Second: Deidre
4. Approved the nomination of Calea Wirtley for Synod Council, youth member.
Motion: Anthony, Second: Taylor.

5. Approved appointing Aaron Guerrero as Synod Attorney.
Motion: Bishop Mike, Second: Sergio
6. Approved Recommendation of the 2024 Budget to the Synod Assembly.
Motion: Tom, Second: Paul.
7. Approved Recommendation of the updated compensation guideline grids to the Synod Assembly.
Motion: Anthony, Second: Tom.
8. Approved extending a specialized call to Pr. Mark England as the interim minister for Living Word Lutheran Church, Katy TX.
Motion: Sergio, Second: Taylor.
9. Authorized the Synodical Administration of First Taiwanese Lutheran Church in Houston.
Motion: Caleb, Second: Adele.

Discussion

Bishop's Report:

- Presented an overview of the Synod Assembly and reviewed the three resolutions submitted for the Synod Assembly.
- Review of the Assembly agenda resulted in the approval of the agenda as noted in the Actions Taken section.

Vice-President's Report – Robert

- Noted the resignation of William Walker from the Synod Council.
- Presented the Nominating/Elections Committee report resulting in the appointments to the committees noted in the Actions Taken section.

Secretary's Report – Paul

- Reviewed the changes to the Synod Constitution caused by the update to the Model Constitution for Synods. The only changes were to required sections of the Synod Constitution. Per the constitution, such changes are automatically included in the Synod Constitution without the need for a vote.

Treasurer's Report - Tom

- Presented the current status of the finances.
- The audit was field work has been completed, but the audit is still not final.
- Reviewed the proposed 2024 budget, resulting in the recommendation of the budget to the Assembly as noted in the Actions Taken section.

Bishop's Associate for Leadership Report - Rev. Tracey

- Reviewed the revised compensation guidelines resulting in the recommendation of the guidelines to the Assembly as noted in the Actions Taken section. Guides reflect an increase of 5.6% for rural and 3.5% for urban congregations.
- Gave an update on the congregations in leadership transistions.

Bishop's Associate for Mission Report: Friar Chris

- Reviewed activities of the Synod Mission Table.
- First Taiwanese Lutheran Church in Houston was discussed resulting in Synodical Administration as noted in the Actions Taken section.
- Reviewed activities of the Disaster Response Team.

Policy Discussion

- Compensation Guidelines discussion resulted in the recommendation of the guidelines to the Assembly as noted in the Actions Taken section.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm. Motion: Caleb, Second: Taylor.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Antolik
Secretary