

TEXAS-LOUISIANA GULF COAST SYNOD
Synod Council Meeting
September 16-17, 2005
St. Martin's Lutheran Church, Sugar Land, Texas

Summary of Actions:

SC05.09.01 to adopt the agenda as corrected. **Motion:** *Groenke*; Second: *Moehring*
ADOPTED

SC05.09.02 to adopt the Minutes of the June 2, 2005, Synod Council meeting.

Motion:

Groenke; Second: *Hollrah* ADOPTED

SC05.09.03 to appoint a task force to recommend a method of election of the synodical bishop at the 2007 Synod Assembly. **Motion:** *Groenke*; Second: *Lopez* ADOPTED

SC05.09.04 to defer action on the annual review of rostered leaders to the January, 2006, Synod Council meeting. **Motion:** *Blom*; Second: *Moehring* ADOPTED

SC05.09.05 to reappoint all members of the Synod Nomination Committee for 2005-2006, and to have the Executive Committee name a person to replace Pastor Harvey Bongers who has served two terms. **Motion:** *Blom*; Second: *Hollrah* ADOPTED

SC05.09.06 to reelect *Judy Biffle, Jo Murphy, Esther Staats, and Joanne Vorphal* and to elect *the Rev. Kimberly Little-Brooks* as TLGC Synod members to the Texas Lutheran University Board. **Motion:** *Blom*; Second: *Moehring* ADOPTED

SC05.09.07 to adopt an amended procedure for this Synod Council to allow electronic response to matters of routine nature between regular Synod Council meetings.

Motion: *Akerman*; Second: *Moehring* ADOPTED

Agenda Items:

Pastor Stephen Kelly of our host St. Martin's Lutheran Church conducted the opening devotions, gave an account of the history of the St. Martin's congregation, and gave Synod Council members a tour of the new church facilities of this relocated congregation.

Vice President *Erika Soechting* called the meeting to order and led the Synod Council members through an icebreaker exercise of becoming acquainted with one another.

Synod Secretary, "*Cliff*" *Akerman*, reported on Synod Constitution changes mandated by the 2005 Churchwide Assembly.

S14.14; S14.15; S14.16; S14.17, and S14:18 are now marked as required provisions for consistency in practice related to the oversight of synods in the pastoral care of congregations:

‡S14.14; ‡S14.15; ‡S14.16; ‡S14.17, and ‡S14:18

S14.18 was amended to clarify the meaning related to required provisions. This required section now reads:

†S18.11. Certain sections of this constitution incorporate and record therein required provisions of the constitution and bylaws of this church. (*Remainder of provision unchanged.*)

and

The following recommended amendment to the *Constitution for Synods* may be adopted by the Synod Assembly on a majority vote at one assembly under †18.12.:

S7.26. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit representatives of mission settings formed with the intent of becoming chartered congregations and authorized worshiping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw 10.02.03., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21. ~~Such authorized~~ Authorized worshiping communities, acknowledged under criteria, policies, and procedures ~~of the ELCA Division for Outreach and approved by~~ the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall accept and adhere to the Confession of Faith and the Statement of Purpose of this church, shall be served by leadership under the criteria of the church, and shall be subject to the discipline of this church.

(Action on presenting this recommended amendment to the 2006 Synod Assembly is deferred to the January, 2006, Synod Council meeting.)

and

There are amendments to the Model Constitution for Congregations approved at the 2005 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. These will be conveyed to the synod congregations in an appropriate mailing from the synod office.

and

Voting Members for the 2007 Churchwide Assembly in Chicago (August 6-12) must be elected at the 2006 Synod Assembly. The Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod is allotted 11 Voting Members of which 2 are the Bishop and the Vice President.

The amended proposal allowing electronic voting for the Synod Council is as follows:

The Synod Council may be convened by email to act on routine matters in a timely manner. These matters are proposed by the Synod Bishop and must include the rationale for action. The Synod Vice President shall dispatch an email to each Synod Council member. It will include the action proposed and its rationale. Each Council member will be given one week to respond. The vote will be tallied by the Vice President and reported to the Secretary. Each action will need an affirmative response from each Council member.

In the event a matter receives any negative vote(s), the matter must be held for consideration and action at the next or special Synod Council meeting. In the event there is any question that is determined to be debatable by any Synod Council member concerning the rationale for the proposal, the matter must be held for consideration and action at the next regular or special Synod Council meeting.

Bishop Blom has asked *Dr. John Marsh*, Director of Worship/Music at Kinsmen Lutheran Church to chair a Task Force to introduce “Renewing Worship” to our synod.

Bishop Blom will name a Task Force from the Texas side of the synod to dialogue with members of the ADL.

Pr. Marlo Peterson has been added to the Leadership Team to oversee the Synodically Authorized Ministers’ training and supervision process.

Pr. Robert Groenke, Jr. gave a preliminary report on how to fulfill Section 1.5 of the Policy Based Governance “Report and Listening to the Stewards.”

Matters referred to the Executive Committee include:

1. to name a member to the Nomination Committee to replace *Pr. Harvey Bongers*.
2. to appoint a Task Force to recommend a method for the election of the Bishop in 2007. The Task Force shall report its recommendation to the April Synod Council, and the recommendation must be presented to the voting members of the 2006 Synod Assembly.
3. to see that guidelines are developed for Section 3.3.2 of the Policy Based Governance document.
4. to see that a written policy and guidelines are developed for Section 2.4. 5.7.

Guests addressing the Synod Council meeting were *Pr. Carol Spencer* and *William Bentzinger* of the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA; *Alan Sigl* of the Bishop’s Management Team (Stewardship); and *Pr. John Boldt* who has accepted the Call to be the deployed Stewardship person for our area.

ATTENDANCE: *Akerman, Blom, Cook, Goedecke, Groenke, Hollrah, Lambeth, Lewis, Lopez, Moehring, Reimer, Soechting, Menke-Smith, Strehlow.*

ABSENT: *Herrmann*

GUESTS: *Prs. Steve Kelly; Carol Spencer; William Bentzinger; and John Boldt; Alan Sigl; Joyce Weidner*

Respectfully submitted,

Pr. H. Eldon Akerman “Cliff”
Secretary

Planning Dates:

October 27, 2005	Executive Comm.	11:00-1:00 Synod Office
January 20-21, 2006	Synod Council	7-9; 8:30-3:00 – Chinese Lutheran, Alief
April, 2006	Synod Council	TBA
June 1, 2006	Synod Council	10:00-Noon – Sugar Land Marriott
June 1-3, 2006	Synod Assembly	Sugar Land Marriott