

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

Date of Meeting: Sept. 26, 2020

Venue: Zoom (electronic)

Attendees: Bishop Mike, Robert Rivera, Tom Wildrick, Shelli Williamson, Carol Flores, Rev. Marcia Kifer, Rev. Chris Michaelis, Julie Mulkey, Adan Plata,

Absent: Paul Antolik, Rev. Rodwell Thom, Deidre Hays, Caleb Parks, Adelaide Herman

Staff: Tracey Breashears Schultz

Actions Taken:

1. Approved Consent Agenda
  - a. Approved Council Minutes
  - b. Approved on leave from call request for Katrina Walther
  - c. Approved retirement requests for Grant Housewright and Mike Button
2. Motion from Exec. Cmt. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Marcia: Authorize Bishop Mike to use equivalent of sabbatical leave over time and to advance Continuing Education budget up to \$8,000 in support of pursuit of doctoral degree. **MOTION PASSED**

Discussion:

1. Bishop's Report: Discussed plans for an all-digital 2021 assembly regardless of state of pandemic. He discussed his plans to redirect his sabbatical time towards the pursuit of a doctoral degree with a focus on Ecumenical & Intercultural Studies. Provided a COVID status report and update along with an update around Hurricane Laura recovery. Raised the question of consideration of two new funds within the endowment fund: A reparations fund and a Bishop's Salary fund.
2. Vice President's Report: Robert highlighted to work of synod congregations during the pandemic; Update regarding the work of the Holy Trinity Immigration Center. Update regarding the Racism Task Force with focus on Synod Council listening sessions, addressing salary equity, partnerships with TLU to support students of color, and raising leaders of color.
3. Received Treasurer's Report
4. Bishop's Associate for Leadership Report: Reported that installations and ordinations are happening although delayed due to pandemic. Highlighted 50/40/10 sermon series highlighting ELCA anniversaries allowing the ordination of women, women of color, and LGBTQ persons.
5. Reviewed Conflict of Interest Policy and Gift Acceptance Policy

6. Proposed 2021 meeting dates

Adjourned: 11:40 am

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Flores in Paul Antolik's absence