

**MINUTES OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL  
SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS SYNOD, ELCA  
ZOOM MEETING  
June 9, 2025**

Vice President Leigh Ingram called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm and the meeting opened with a faith practice led by Deacon Darcy Mittelstaedt based on Pentecost from Acts 2:1-4.

Secretary Monica Buie called the roll and established a quorum.

**Members Present**

Bishop Sue Briner	Leigh Ingram	Monica Buie
Leslie Blalock	Carol Semper	Elva Villalpando Cope
Rudy Losoya	Mike Stallings	Johnnie Jordan
Deacon Lisa Diana	Rev. Gary Conklin	Rev. Lisa Hoelscher
Michelle Schlinke	Rev. Hephzibah Penumaka	Denise Schulz
Greg Althaus	Tim Clark	Deacon Brianna Morris-Brock

**Advisory Members Present**

None

**Staff Present**

Deacon Darcy Mittelstaedt	Brother Chris Markert	Deanna Zitelman
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**Guests Present**

Hilda Santiago

**Members Absent**

Nate Thomas	Ann Schwartz	Mike Saulnier
Ronny Dentler	Bianca Blaney	

**Advisory Members Absent**

Dennis Hickey	Rebecca Guengerich	Rev. Candace Combs
Rev. Jake Fain	Lisa Lopez	

**Staff Absent**

Rev. Ricardo Jimenez Reyes

**VOTED**

**SC25.06.01 To adopt the Agenda.**

## **Consent Agenda**

Approve Synod Council ZOOM minutes of April 28, 2025

Exhibit A-1

Approve Synod Assembly minutes of May 3, 2025

Exhibit A-2

Roster and SAM Report

Exhibit B-1

### **Approve:**

#### **• On Leave from Call:**

- The Rev. Allyson Pryer 06/02/2025 – 06/01/2028
- The Rev. Harold Vanicek 07/28/2025 – 07/27/2028

#### **• Retired:**

- The Rev. Anne Kolmeier 07/01/2025

#### **• Synod Council Call:**

- The Rev. Jessica Cain as Director of Neighborhood Engagement, Southside Community Center

Exhibit B-2

## **Action Items**

Approve Removal from the Retired Roster:

Exhibit B-3

- The Rev. Rick Hartmann

Authorize Holy Cross, Austin, as a Strategic Ministry Site

Exhibit C-1

Authorize the San Antonio Mission Lab as a New Mission Initiative

Exhibit C-2

Authorize Expenditures of up to \$300,000 for San Antonio Mission Lab from Lord of Life, San Antonio, proceeds

Approve Faith Lutheran Church, Austin, constitution

Exhibit C-3

## **VOTED**

### **SC25.06.02 To adopt the Consent Agenda.**

At approximately 7:50 pm Rick Hartmann was granted admittance to the Zoom meeting and was given three minutes for remarks regarding his status on the Retired Roster. After his remarks, Mr. Hartmann answered questions put forward by synod council members.

At 8:17 pm Vice President Ingram recessed the meeting into Executive Session.

At 8:53 pm the meeting returned to open session.

## **VOTED**

### **SC25.06.03 To accept the recommendation from the Committee of Deans to remove Pastor Rick Hartmann from the retired roster.**

**VOTED**

**SC25.06.04** To amend the language of the motion *“To accept the recommendation from the Committee of Dean’s to remove Pastor Rick Hartmann from the Retired Roster”* to read *“To accept the recommendation from the Committee of Deans to remove Rick Hartmann from the retired roster on the grounds of lying on his disclosure form at the Gulf Coast Assembly and not honoring his agreement with Bishop Ray Tiemann to not perform pastoral acts or seek another call.”*

**VOTED**

**SC25.06.05** To authorize Holy Cross, Austin, as a Strategic Ministry Site

**VOTED**

**SC25.06.06** To authorize the San Antonio Mission Lab as a New Mission Initiative.

**VOTED**

**SC25.06.07** To amend the language of the motion *“To authorize expenditures of up to \$300,000 for the San Antonio Mission Lab from Lord of Life, San Antonio, proceeds”* to read *“To authorize expenditures of up to \$100,000 for the first year of San Antonio Mission Lab from Lord of Life, San Antonio, proceeds with financial review from the Administration and Finance Committee.”*

**VOTED**

**SC25.06.08** To approve Faith Lutheran Church, Austin, constitution.

Bishop Briner shared an update on the More than Enough Fund and Vice President Ingram went over upcoming calendar items.

Deacon Mittelstaedt closed the meeting with a blessing at 10:05 pm.