MISSION COUNCIL MEETING
(formerly known as Synod Council)
Briarwood Retreat Center
September 24-25, 2010

***DiscipleLife*:** **Living DiscipleLife Celebrations** will be held around our mission territory to allow pastors and lay leaders to gather in bible study, conversation, worship and prayer to discern the stirrings of the Holy Spirit in the various mission outposts (members and congregations) for mission in our back yards. Sites of these celebrations will be Marshall, Waco, Lubbock, Fort Worth, Richardson, and Avoca, Texas. Being mission outposts (congregations) in a mission territory (synod) living out Jesus' Great Commission, "go and make disciples of all people" is the only reason the Church exists. It is our great challenge. Jesus did not give his disciples a step-by-step plan but they did know Jesus' heart and his self-giving love. He calls us be current disciples, to learn of Him through bible study and prayer, and so be transformed into the likeness of Christ in order to love and serve the world to the glory of God.

Actions: The Mission Council formally acted to (1) Approve the name change to First Sagrada Familia Lutheran Church, Garland. (2) Approve establishing Abiding Grace Lutheran Chapel in Grapevine, Southlake, Colleyville area. (3) Approve the 2011 Mission Assembly (formerly Synod assembly) to be in Hurst, Texas and the assembly offering to be given to the DiscipleLife Alive! Initiative. (4) Approve the 2012 Mission Assembly to be held in the metroplex, then the 2013 Assembly to be held in another part of our NT-NL Mission Area , and thereafter continue alternating as before. (5) Approve our first NT-NL Fund for Leaders scholarships to be given to Jesus Escamilla (TEEM seminarian and synodically authorized worship leader (evangelist) of Iglesia Lutherana San Gabriel), also to Jealaine Marple (fourth year Wartburg seminarian from Faith Lutheran, Wichita Falls). (6) Approved partnering with ELCA Global Outreach for Pr. Kate Warn, who is willing to serve a third year as missionary-in-residence in Sierra Leone and pledged to provide for Kate's housing and transportation through special gifts/non-budgeted monies (approximately $2000/month). (7) Approve new board members for Briarwood and Mission Endowment Funds. (8) Approve roster changes including – accepted with thanks the retirement of Pr. Don Kingman (Zion, Priddy), Pr. Charles Meyer (Beautiful Savior, Amarillo), approved On Leave Requests for Pr. Terry Atkins, Pr. Julio Cruz, Pr. Angelina Daniel, Pr. Debra Loudin McCann, Pr MeLinda Morton; approved extending a call to Pr. Suzanne Guinn as Chaplain for Lutheran Sunset Ministries and Pr. Jeffrey Vayda as Chaplain for hospice of the South Plains, and removed Pr Justin Kvanli who had exceeded the three year limit for On Leave-from-Call, and accepted the resignation from the roster of ELCA pastors of Pr. Timothy Fong. (9) Approve the withdrawal from the ELCA of Living Word, Grapevine (former LCA congregation).

Information: (1) Two mission starts, Spirit of Grace in Haslet and Church of the Resurrection in Roanoke/Keller, have merged with the new ministry called Resurrection Church, led by Pr. Douglas Schoelles. (2) Two former ALC congregations have voted to withdraw from the ELCA – Trinity, Haskell and Grace, Snyder. (3) NT-NL mission support income is down significantly. The Finance Committee is watching and managing finances very carefully and hopes that no new cuts will be necessary in 2010. The 2011 Spending Plan approved at the 2010 Assembly could face revisions. (4) St. Paul, Farmers Branch (disbanded May 30th) presented checks from the sale of the property - $40,000 to ELCSL ministries, $15,000 to Pr. Kate Warn, $2,500 to the Hispanic coalition, $300,000 to begin the DiscipleLife Alive! Initiative, and $100,000 to Briarwood.

The NT-NL Mission Council is a group of leaders from across the synod elected by the Synod Assembly to carry on the work of the NT-NL in between assemblies. They are charged with the tasks of caring for our present ministries, planning for the future mission work, and connecting congregations, leaders and conferences to each other and to the ministry we share.