

MINUTES
of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minnesota North District
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
Brainerd, Minnesota

December 3-4, 2017

MISSION STATEMENT: *“The Minnesota North District exists to further the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) and to assist congregations as Great Commission Churches.”*

Sunday, December 3, 4:45 p.m.

1. OPENING DEVOTIONS/BIBLE STUDY

Mr. T. Browning

In Mr. Browning's absence, Pres. Fondow lead the board in an opening prayer.

2. ROLL CALL/MINUTES

Rev. M. Mably

a. ROLL CALL

- i. **Members Present:** President Fondow; Vice Presidents Cloeter, K. Lee and Weber; Secretary Mably; Treasurer Uran; Lay Members Hansen, Kading, Meyer, Moldenhauer, and Mowrey; Advisory Members Miller and Revs. J. Lee and M. Meyer.
- ii. **Members Absent:** Mr. T. Browning

b. MINUTES – Board of Directors Regular Meeting – September 24-25, 2017 (attached)

- i. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Approve the Minutes of the September 24-25, 2017, Board of Directors meeting, with correction to 2.b.1. to read ‘with correction to include...’
- ii. **ACTION:** Motion carried.

3. CONGREGATIONAL CARE COUNSELOR REPORT

Rev. L. Harvala

Rev. Harvala presented his report (attached) and highlighted his work in 2016 and 2017. There is currently 1 church scheduled for 2018. Although, there are several other churches with whom he hopes to work in the future.

Rev. Harvala highlighted the kind of work that he does with congregations.

He serves the District as the need arises.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. M. Uran

- a. Mr. Uran shared the "Receipts from Congregations" report, dated November 15, 2017, (attached). The District continues within the trend of the last 5 years.
- b. Mr. Uran shared the "Investment Schedule," dated November 28, 2017, (attached).
- c. Mr. Uran shared the "Financial Statement" report dated November 15, 2017 (attached). Under accounts receivable, he noted that the numbers fluctuate, varying according to the time of year, and is nothing unusual. He noted that the cash accounts are strong at this time.
- d. **MOVED and SECONDED** (Monday) Accept the Financial Statement as presented, with one minor correction.
ACTION: Motion carried.

BREAK – Fondow called for a recess and led a prayer for a meal prepared by Angie Ringstrom.

- e. Mr. Uran reported on the joint meeting with the LIC Board. Rev. K. Lee and Bill Hansen were also at the meeting. Since that day, there has been communication with the group. There has been positive discussion.
- f. Regarding the St. Cloud property, the City of St. Cloud has turned down the developer's request for the rezoning of the property. The developer is working on a new proposal with fewer units. The current purchase agreement expires at the end of 2017. A response from the developer is awaited.
- g. Following the Finance Committee meeting on Monday morning, Mr. Uran presented recommendations for housing allowances for Rev. J. Lee (\$36,000), Pres. Fondow (40%), Rev. Meyer (50%) and Barbara Hertling (50%).
 - i. **MOVED and SECONDED** (Monday) Accept the housing allowances for 2018 as presented.
 - ii. **ACTION:** Motion carried.
- h. Mr. Uran presented a recommendation for housing allowance for Rev. Meyer (50%) for the remainder of 2017.
 - i. **MOVED and SECONDED** (Monday) Accept the housing allowance for Rev. Meyer for the remainder of 2017 as presented.
 - ii. **ACTION:** Motion carried.

- j. Mr. Uran shared that the staff recommendations for distribution of The Minnesota North District Endowment Fund earnings as follows.
 - i. President Fondow - 25%, split evenly between Main Street Living and the Cross appeal
 - ii. Rev. Jeff Lee, - 25% to the Main Street Living North
 - iii. Rev. Monte Meyer – 25% to the Cross Appeal
 - iv. Office Manager, Mr. Miller - 15% for office technology
 - v. The remaining 10% will remain in the fund to continue its growth.
 - vi. **MOVED and SECONDED**: Accept the staff recommendation for the distribution of the Minnesota North District Endowment Fund as presented.
 - vii. **ACTION**: Motion carried.

6. OFFICE MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. G. Miller

Mr. Miller distributed a proposal from HY-TECH Construction, regarding repairs to be done to Breezy Point Chapel (attached). The recommended cost for repairs is \$42,000. Insurance will cover the cost, less the \$5,000 deductible.

- a. **MOVED and SECONDED** Accept the proposal from HY-TEC for repairs to Breezy Point Chapel.
- b. **ACTION**: Motion carried.

Mr. Miller distributed an email regarding the Church Mutual Insurance recommendations on tentative policy changes for the District and for Lutheran Island Camp to work towards a separate policy of their own.

7. GIFT PLANNING REPORT

Mr. G. Miller

No Report

8. LCEF

Mr. G. Miller

a. Status Report

- i. Mr. Miller shared the 7.1.17 to 9.30.17 LCEF Financial Report (attached).
- ii. Mr. Miller shared the December 17 LCEF Investment Interest Rates & Loan Interest (attached).
- iii. He shared ongoing investment programs (attached).

b. Loan Applications - None

He also spoke about the most recent LCEF Fall Leadership Conference in New Orleans.

RECESS: President Fondow closed the evening by sharing thoughts on NBC's recent coverage of the LCMS church in Klein, TX. He read Romans 15:13. He spoke about an elderly woman, Anna (aka Grandma Moses), her hard life and how she shared hope late in life through her artwork. We all experience difficult times. This is why Jesus came. Because of what he has done, He carries us and shows us the hope we have in him. He closed in prayer.

Monday, December 4, 8:30 a.m.

RECONVENE: Opening devotion was led by Rev. Paul Cloeter. He led the group in LSB's Morning Prayer. The board read responsively, Psalm 19 and sang LSB 508, verses 1-2. He wished everyone a happy new church year and focused on the First Sunday in Advent Gospel's (Mark 13: 24-37) focus on Christ's second coming and the end of time, particularly. He spoke about prevailing theories on how the world is going to end. There is not much to gain on talking about how and when. The answer to the question of why should be the focus of the church. The answer or purpose is always to be found in God's Word and the Good News of Jesus Christ. The who, Jesus, in the reading, encourages us to be ready for Him to return, when He will gather us up.

The devotion concluded with singing LSB 508, verses 5 and 7. He lead the group in prayer and the conclusion of Morning Prayer.

9. DIVISION OF MISSION and CONGREGATIONAL OUTREACH [MaCO]

Rev. J. Lee

Rev. J. Lee reported that MaCo has not met since before the last Board of Directors meeting. There is a joint meeting scheduled for January 4.

He spoke of two potential mission starts in Alexandria and Isanti. Isanti would be a joint venture with the Minnesota South District.

He spoke of recent and upcoming Re:Vitality efforts.

He reported on the recent FORO in West Des Moines, IA on November 6-7. Rev. J. Lee shared that Rev. Matthew Ruesch who had been serving in Puerto Rico has accepted a call to Michigan. Despite the devastation of the hurricanes, God is bringing blessings in the work that is being done there.

He shared that the Reformation service at CSP was a great success.

Rev. Lee shared that there will be an Engaging Your Community Event at Shepherd of the Pines in Rice, MN on January 27.

He spoke about "Everyone His Witness," the latest evangelism material which is published by CPH. An "Everyone His Witness" event is being scheduled in Staples in late January or early February.

Rev. J. Lee met with school principals on November 17. They are excited to be working with the new Facilitator and they provided insight into some of their expectations as they work with Rev. Meyer going forward.

Finally, he also reported that there will be a responsibility shift as Rev. Meyer will be taking over Campus Ministry, with his experience as a campus pastor, and Rev. Lee will be taking care of Stewardship.

There is an upcoming conference for parish nurses, with Jim Otremba, on June 9 in Fairhaven.

The District Bible Bowl will be held, at Concordia University, St. Paul, on April 14.

10. DIVISION OF PARISH LIFE and NURTURE [PLaN] REPORT

Rev. Meyer

Rev. Meyer was a part of a recent video conference with Pres. Fondow and Rev. J. Lee with a layman from Living Savior, Lake Shore.

He attended the recent LEA Conference in Mankato.

Rev. Meyer shared that he would be exploring how the schools and preschools can be better utilized as an outreach tool.

He is calling pastors and DCE's in the District, to visit with them. He spoke about how ready the pastors have been to share what is going on in their churches, which is a testament to the positivity of the District.

Regarding communications, he is wanting to have the local churches 'like' the District's Facebook page and to utilize social media to promote all that the District does.

He is also working on creating videos to highlight what churches are doing to get out into the community.

Rev. Meyer proposed that the Board submit an Overture encouraging the churches in the District to read through the basic stories in the Bible, with discussion questions.

11. LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP REPORT

Rev. K. Lee

Rev. K. Lee shared handouts from Lutheran Island Camp and a Report (attached), highlighting the new staff and the 2018 theme, "By Faith," which is based on Hebrews 11.

He spoke about videos that have been developed for both LIC and Christ Serve Ranch. In addition, with the support of a family foundation from the Twin Cities, LIC is working on a Christian Radio campaign in the Twin Cities and Fargo.

He shared that the capital campaign is close to \$4 million for its comprehensive campaign, which includes ongoing operating support.

12. MINISTERIAL HEALTH COMMISSION REPORT

Rev. D. Fondow

Pres. Fondow reviewed the minutes from the October 10, 2017, meeting of the Ministerial Health Commission Meeting (attached).

He highlighted the use of *Built on the Rock* by Ted Kober.

Rev Fondow also shared with the Board the top 10 discouragements of pastors.

There is discussion of having Dr. Stephen Saunders to do a workshop for the District.

14. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Rev. D. Fondow

Rev. Fondow spoke about the basic need to encourage our people to be in God's Word. In so doing, we'll be encouraged and strengthened as we face the future. The Lord continues to work and call us to share His Word and Good News.

He asked for a Motion to request exemptions for the Bemidji, Park Rapids, and Wheaton Circuits that will be sent by the District Secretary to President Harrison in preparation for the 2019 Synodical convention.

- a. **MOVED and SECONDED** Request exemptions for the Bemidji, Park Rapids and Wheaton Circuits to the Synod in preparation for the 2019 Synodical Convention.
- b. **ACTION:** Motion carried.

Rev. Fondow shared the Synodical numbers for vacancies and seminary numbers for expected candidates for this spring.

He shared current numbers and updates for the Minnesota North District and also the new staff at the District office: Rev. Meyer and Diana Roupp, and information on the District' campus ministries as well as our Lutheran schools.

Regarding Deaf Ministry, Rev. Fondow is in discussion with the North Wisconsin District regarding what will happen when Rev. Knaack no longer is serving the deaf communities in the districts.

Regarding Rev. Fred Hinz work, Rev. Fondow shared that there are now a couple of individuals in our District that are trained to go into congregations and share a PowerPoint presentation on physician assisted suicide.

He updated the Board on the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling regarding a LCMS church in Missouri.

He also shared that Rev. Greg Seltz (former Lutheran Hour Speaker) is now working in Washington with the Synod's Center for Religious Liberty, including providing resources for congregations.

President Fondow, President Nadasdy (Minnesota South District) and Rev. Hinz will be meeting with the Catholic Archbishop and Bishops in the Twin Cities as they are coming to the realization that the Catholic church is closer in theological understanding of moral and social issues with the LCMS than with the ELCA.

Rev. Fondow highlighted the upcoming events.

- January 29-30, 2018 – Circuit Visitor's Conference at Lutheran Island Camp
- February 16-18, 2018 – "Men of Christ" Men's Retreat at Lutheran Island Camp
- March 3, 2018 – Floor Committee Meeting at District Office
- April 9-11, 2018 - 23rd Convention of the Minnesota North District (Theme: "Here We Stand: On Christ Alone...Our Cornerstone"), Arrowwood Conference Center, Alexandria, MN (handout included)
- April 14, 2018 – MNN/MNS Bible Bowl, Concordia University, St. Paul
- June 18-20, 2018 - LWML MN District Convention, Bemidji, MN

Rev. Fondow shared again the great response of the LCMS for the recent natural disasters.

Rev. Fondow closed with thoughts regarding living according to all the blessings we have by faith in Christ based of on 1 Peter 4. He closed with a prayer and the Board sang verses 1, 4 and 5 of LSB 341.

15. ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING:

DATE: April 8, 2018

TIME: 4:00 p.m. at Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center, Alexandria, MN

DEVOTION/BIBLE STUDY LEADER: Rev. Don Fondow

16. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED & SECONDED: Adjournment

ACTION: CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Marty Mably, M.A., M.Div., Secretary
Minnesota North District
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod