

MINUTES

of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

February 11-12, 2018

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, February 11, 4:00 p.m.

1. OPENING DEVOTIONS/BIBLE STUDY

Rev. J. Lee

Rev. J. Lee led the Board in LSB Responsive Prayer 1. The Board sang LSB 414, verses 1-3. He read the Epistle for Transfiguration Sunday, 2 Corinthians 3:12-13, 4:1-6. Rev. Lee spoke about significance of the Greek indicating that the Transfiguration was the beginning of a new exodus, leading people to be freed from sin. We see Moses and Elijah. We see the human reaction of selfishness, rather than what God is doing for salvation. Rev. Lee spoke of the unique opportunity Christians have this Ash Wednesday as it is also Valentine’s Day, although, much of society focuses more on Fat Tuesday and sinning, it’s about the Jesus who was transfigured, died and risen again for us. Rev. Lee encouraged the Board to let this penitential season help them to see Jesus. The Board concluded with singing the last 2 verses of LSB 414 and 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, Moldenhauer, and Mowrey; Advisory Members Miller and Revs. J. Lee and M. Meyer.
- ii. **Members Absent:** Mr. T. Browning, D. Meyer

b. MINUTES – Board of Directors Regular Meeting – December 3-4, 2017 (attached)

- i. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Approve the Minutes of the September 24-25, 2017, Board of Directors meeting, with correction to items 9, removing “and PARISH LIFE and” and 14, removing “off” at the bottom of page 6.
- ii. **ACTION:** Motion carried.

3. YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. M. Uran

- a. Mr. Uran shared the "Receipts from Congregations" report, dated January 15, 2018 (attached). The District was blessed to receive above the projected receipts from the congregations, 104.22%. 50% of the overage was sent to Synod and the other 50% for work in the District.
- b. Mr. Uran shared the "Investment Schedule," dated February 6, 2018, (attached).
- c. Mr. Uran shared the "Financial Statement" report dated January 15, 2018 (attached). The District ended 2018 very strong, financially, the 4th consecutive year with a surplus.
- d. **MOVED and SECONDED** (Monday) Accept the Financial Statement as presented.
ACTION: Motion carried.
- e. Regarding the St. Cloud property, the developer will again be requesting the rezoning of the property. The purchase agreement has been extended to May 31, 2018.

4. ESTABLISH 2018 DISTRICT BUDGET

Mr. G. Miller

Mr. Miller went through the 2018 District Budget Memo (attached). He then went through the 2018 Budget Program. As proposed the 2018 budget shows a projected shortfall of \$144,177. The shortfall will be balanced using eight different Temporary Restricted Funds.

- a. **MOVED and SECONDED** (Monday) Accept the 2018 District Budget as proposed, including the shortfall and plan to balance it as presented.
ACTION: Motion carried.

5. OFFICE MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. G. Miller

Mr. Miller, went through a memo, "New Lutheran Service Book for Breezy Point Chapel" requesting that new hymnals be purchased for use this summer at Breezy Point Chapel. (attached.)

- a. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Purchase new hymnals for Breezy Point Chapel.
ACTION: Motion carried.

6. GIFT PLANNING REPORT

Mr. G. Miller

Mr. Miller indicated that the MNN District has been notified of a future gift from the Estate of Evelyn Adelia Burk. The hearing is scheduled for April 12, 2018, at the Becker County Courthouse in Detroit Lakes, MN. More to follow after this hearing.

7. LCEF

Mr. G. Miller

a. Status Report

- i. Mr. Miller shared the 7.1.17 to 12.31.18 LCEF Financial Report (attached).
- ii. Mr. Miller shared the February 2018 LCEF Investment Interest Rates & Loan Interest (attached).

b. Loan Applications

- i. Mr. Miller presented Joy Lutheran Church's (Cambridge, MN) LCEF approval letter (attached).
- ii. **MOVED and SECONDED**: Approve loan for Joy Lutheran, Cambridge.
ACTION: Motion carried.

8. DIVISION OF PARISH LIFE and Nurture [PLaN]

Rev. M. Meyer

- a. Rev. Meyer reported on his meetings and visits around the district. He also distributed PLaN's 2018-2021 Strategic Plan from their January meeting. (attached)

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

9. LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP REPORT

Rev. K. Lee

Rev. Lee distributed the 2018 Camp Brochure (attached) and a few copies of the flyers for the upcoming Men's Retreat.

He reported that summer staff selection is going well. October 26-27 there will be a Creation Symposium at Camp. The camp is doing extensive radio advertising in the Twin Cities on KTIS, funded by a private donor. LIC has rented the Birch Lake Camp near Elk River for a week-long Creation science camp this summer. The fundraising campaign is going well. Monies coming in include operational funding and funding for the expansion. He discussed some of the ongoing expansion plans.

Rev. Lee distributed a Draft Resolution regarding the Management Agreement between the District and the Camp. Mr. Uran reported a couple comments that the Camp had regarding the Draft Resolution which the Board reviewed.

10. MINISTERIAL HEALTH COMMISSION REPORT

Rev. D. Fondow

As the Commission has not met since the last Board of Directors meeting, there is no report.

11. DIVISION OF Mission and Congregational Outreach [MaCO] REPORT

Rev. J. Lee

There was a joint meeting of PLaN and MACO on January 4. Rev. Lee went through the report (attached). He emphasized the importance of the Everyone His Witness program being more than a 1-time use program. He talked about the Re:Vitality program, Rural and Small Town Ministry, current Church Planting efforts in the District, Ethnic Ministries, Specialty Ministries, Support of Church Work Students.

12. CONVENTION OVERTURES AND MATTERS

Rev. D. Fondow

President Fondow distributed the proposed Convention Agenda.

RECESS: President Fondow concluded the evening with reading Matthew 11:28 and sharing a story regarding The Statue of Liberty and the poem engraved on its base, *The New Colossus*, by Emma Lazarus. With that poem, the purpose of the statue was changed. Likewise, our status has been changed, by Jesus death and resurrection. He closed in prayer.

Monday, February 12, 8:30 a.m.

RECONVENE: Opening Devotion was led by Rev. Fondow (attached). Rev. Fondow spoke of Jesus' final supper just before his betrayal, death and resurrection. He spoke of love, the different types of love. In the text he shared, it is agape love about which is stated. Agape love is the only kind of love that needs to be created and called forth. We can't, on our own, love with an agape love. God does love us this way and we get to be in that love. First, we remain on the receiving end of God's love. How? Live in our baptism, hear His word, and receive His body and blood. This is a concrete kind of love where Jesus lives, dies and rises again. We cannot claim to love Jesus and despise His Word and sacraments. Agape love is not an option. It goes with the flow. We love as He has loved us. Agape love never ends. Jesus does not command His disciples to love, but to abide in His love. Rev. Fondow used the analogy of a fruit tree that when the fruit is visible, you know what kind of tree it is.

The Devotion concluded with singing LSB 508, verses 5 and 7. He led the group in prayer and the conclusion of the Devotional Service.

13. CONSTITUTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON

Rev. M. Mably

The Board made the following comments and suggestions:

- On page 3, article 7.4, it is suggested removing the first "such" since there is no referent.
 - Also, on page 3, article 8.2, "10 (5) voting members" needs to be clarified.
 - On page 6, article 15.5, please clarify "An individual may hold only one elective office at a time" in regards to the members of the Council being elected Elders (Articles 15.3 & 15.4)
 - In the same context, please address whether the Elders and Trustees are included in the Church Council.
 - On page 10, the very last line, please address what appears to be a typographical error, "at the as requested."
- i. **Moved and Seconded:** Approve Constitution for Trinity Lutheran Church, Hewitt, conditionally upon making the changes as noted.
 - ii. **Action:** Motion carried.

15. CONVENTION OVERTURES AND MATTERS

Rev. D. Fondow

Rev. J. Lee briefly reviewed three Overtures coming from the MaCO board.

Rev. Meyer went through an Overture from PLaN that he proposed come from the Board of Directors. Small changes were made.

- i. **MOVED and SECONDED**: Propose the PLaN Overture to the 2018 District Convention.
- ii. **ACTION**: Motion carried.

Mr. Miller went through two Overtures that were reviewed for approval.

- i. **MOVED and SECONDED**: Propose the following Overture at the 2018 District Convention, "To Encourage Congregations to Participate in the Mission and Ministry of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund" (attached)
- ii. **ACTION**: Motion carried.
- iii. **MOVED and SECONDED**: Propose the following Overture at the 2018 District Convention, "To Encourage the Use of the Minnesota North District Gift Planning Services" (attached)
- iv. **ACTION**: Motion carried.

Rev. Fondow shared 2 Overtures from the Oklahoma District that the Board considered for the 2018 District Convention. A decision was made to take no action on them.

Mr. Uran presented a Draft Resolution from the Board, regarding the LIC Management Agreement, with minor changes.

- i. **MOVED and SECONDED**: Propose the following Resolution at the 2018 District Convention, "LIC Agreement", with minor changes.
- ii. **ACTION**: Motion carried.

Rev. Fondow reviewed with the Board a number of Overtures for the 2018 District Convention that have been received.

Rev. Fondow reviewed the Reports that were distributed (Convention Agenda, A Primer of Parliamentary Procedure, District President's Report, Report of the District Archivist, Report of the Committee on Congregational Constitutions and District Membership, District Ministerial Health Report, Report of the Division of Mission and Congregational Outreach (MaCO), Report of the Division of Parish Live and Nurture (PLaN), Lutheran Island Camp Report, attached). The board approved the Reports with minor changes.

The Board reviewed the Overture regarding physician assisted suicide, from Rev. Hinz, District Public Policy Advocate.

- i. **MOVED and SECONDED**: Put forward the Overture, "In Opposition to Physician-Assisted Suicide and In Support of Enhanced Palliative Care," with minor changes, to the 2018 District Convention.
- ii. **ACTION**: Motion carried.

President Fondow reviewed the Vacancy Pastor Guidelines (attached) that was presented to the Circuit Visitors.

Mr. Miller reviewed the 3 reports: LCEF 12.31.15 thru 12.31.17 for 2018 District Convention, 2018 LCEF Use & Distribution of Operating Results Report and the 2018 District Gift Planning Report.

- i. **MOVED and SECONDED**: approved the Reports for submission to the 2018 District Convention.
- ii. **ACTION**: Motion carried.

16. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Rev. D. Fondow

Rev. Fondow thanked Stephanie Erlandson for her work on the Convention logo. Rev. Mably has submitted a request to Pres. Harrison regarding an exemption for the 2019 Synodical Convention for the Bemidji, Park Rapids and Wheaton Circuits. He reviewed the Synod vacancies, 482, as of February 6, 2018 as well as Rostered Church Workers in the District, District Congregations in the Calling Process, Congregational Changes, New District Staff, PLaN, Campus Ministries, Schools, Cross Appeal results to date, MaCO, Stewardship Bible Studies, Deaf Ministry, Anyuak Ministry, Student Financial Aid, Congregational Health Ministry, Congregational Care Counselor, Church Worker Care Coordinator, Synod District Life Coordinator, District PALS Coordinator, Public Policy Advocate MNN & MNS Districts, Main Street Living North, Sower's Fund, Auxiliary Organizations, Summer Ministry, Daily Dozen, Mission Partnerships, Rev. James Kollie, Jamesetta and Gifty Kollie, Church and School Project in Liberia, Project 24 – Kenya, Christ's Care for Children: Kenya/Project 24; Missionaries with Minnesota North Connections; Minnesota North Chaplains, Delano and Linda Meyer and Dr. Jacque Breman (Agricultural Missionary Workers in East Africa), and Emeritus Pastors Serving Internationally.

Rev. Fondow highlighted the upcoming events:

- February 16-18, 2018 – “Men of Christ” Men's Retreat at Lutheran Island Camp
- March 3, 2018 – Floor Committee Meetings 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
- May 23, 2018 – District Treasurer's Workshop at the District Office
- June 9, 2018 - Parish Nurse Mental Health Conference at Concordia Lutheran Church, Fairhaven
- June 18-20, 2018 - LWML Minnesota North District Convention, Bemidji, MN
- August 8-9, 2018 - New Worker's Orientation
- August 9, 2018 - Retired Workers Appreciation Luncheon
- September 23-24, 2018 - Circuit Visitors Conference at the District Office

Rev. Fondow closed by reflecting on Mark 11:18. In a society that seems to want to banish Christ and where communism outlaws Christ, still, our Lord is alive, bringing awareness of sins and forgiveness. Here we stand on Christ alone, our Cornerstone. He concluded with a prayer. The Board sang LSB 728, verses 1, 2 and 5.

17. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED & SECONDED: Adjournment

ACTION: CARRIED.

19. 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

Respectfully submitted,

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