

MINUTES
of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minnesota North District
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center

April 8, 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, April 8, 4:00 p.m.

1. OPENING DEVOTIONS/BIBLE STUDY

Rev. D. Fondow

Rev. Fondow led the Board in the opening devotion. He read from Romans 3 and led a discussion on powerful speeches, such as Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address. They inspire the audience present and people in the future. The most powerful declaration, not likely found on anyone’s list, was the declaration made without words of the resurrection on Easter morning. Death declares our life with an end. Sin declares we are not good enough. Satan declares that we fall short. Although they declare loudly in our lives, they were silenced on Easter morning. Listen to His word, His declaration that death is defeated, sin is paid for. Let this declaration ring in our lives and our mouths as it serves as our cornerstone. He led the board in “The Creed of the Resurrection” (attached) and in prayer. The board sang LSB 466 “Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia.”

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 Browning, Hansen, Kading, Meyer, Moldenhauer, and Mowrey; Advisory Members Miller and Revs. J. Lee and M. Meyer.
- ii. **Members Absent:** None

b. MINUTES – Board of Directors Regular Meeting – February 11-12, 2018 (attached)

- i. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Approve the Minutes of the February 11-12, 2018 Board of Directors meeting with minor corrections to the Opening Devotions.
- ii. **ACTION:** Motion carried.

3. DISTRICT SECRETARY ITEMS

Rev. M. Mably

With only one lay person on the ballot for the Board of Directors from the Arrowhead region, Rev. Mably was able to nominate another candidate which completes the necessary number needed.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. M. Uran

- a. Mr. Uran shared the "Receipts from Congregations" report, dated March 15, 2018 (attached). Early this year, receipts are trailing a little more than usual.
- b. Mr. Uran shared the "Investment Report," dated March 15, 2018, (attached). This is newly redesigned, hopefully easier to follow with the other reports. Mr. Uran spent some time explaining the report and answering questions from the board. One correction was noted.
- c. Mr. Uran shared the "Financial Statement" report dated March 15, 2018 (attached).
- d. **MOVED and SECONDED** Accept the Financial Statement as presented.
ACTION: Motion carried.

5. OFFICE MANAGER'S REPORT/LCEF 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

No activities to report.

7. LCEF

Mr. G. Miller

a. Status Report

- i. Mr. Miller shared the 7.1.17 to 2.28.18 LCEF Financial Report (attached). He noted the continuing loss in investors.
- ii. Mr. Miller shared the April 2018 LCEF Investment Interest Rates & Loan Interest (attached). He noted that interest rates have gone up for investments and for loans. The rate increases are marginal and have not occurred in 8 years.
- iii. He presented and spoke regarding the “Invest In The Church’s Future” sheet (attached).
- iv. Mr. Miller presented a sheet (attached) regarding the Church Improvement Loan Program, showing the benefits of LCEF’s Loan Program. He noted that he had 10 loan fees available to cover the cost of loan application.
- v. He spoke about the Kaleidoscope Fund (attached).
- vi. Mr. Miller reported that the work being done on Breezy Point will be finished in approximately 2 weeks.

b. Loan Applications

- i. Mr. Miller presented Our Savior’s Lutheran Church’s (McGregor, MN) LCEF approval letter (attached).
- ii. Mr. Miller presented Our Redeemer Lutheran Church’s (Moorhead, MN) LCEF approval letter (attached).
- iii. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Approve loans for Our Savior, McGregor and Our Redeemer, Moorhead.
ACTION: Motion carried.

8. DIVISION OF PARISH LIFE and Nurture [PLaN]

Rev. M. Meyer

Rev. Meyer reported that he has finished visiting all of the District’s Day Schools. He also sat in on an accreditation process for one school. He reported that the schools of the District are strong and a great mission project. All of the schools are also in ‘survival mode.’ He intends to help them to focus on excellence and outreach, particularly how the pastors can be of assistance, looking beyond the immediate future. Rev. Meyer is also working with Stacy Lung of Christ Serve Ranch, on a science curriculum for the schools. Included in this is an incentive program to encourage the teachers to focus on excellence.

Rev. Meyer spoke about campus ministry programs. Campus ministries will be strongly encouraged to be present on campus and increase accountability for these subsidized programs.

He spoke to the program that will be presented as a resolution to the Convention, “Bring It Home,” that encourages families to be reading the great stories of the Bible.

Lastly, Rev. Meyer encouraged the board and the district to focus on success rather than on struggles.

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

Rev. J. Lee

Rev. Lee reported that MaCO did not meet since the last board meeting but did conduct business via email, finalizing their resolutions to the convention.

An “Engaging Your Community” event was held in Sabin. There was a strong turnout. Also, an “Everyone His Witness” workshop was held in Staples. A Doxology Stewardship event will be held at Holy Cross, St. Cloud in the fall. A “Connect to Discipleship” event, part of the Synodical Re:Vitality program at Prince of Peace, Baxter has been postponed.

10. LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP REPORT

Rev. K. Lee

Rev. Lee reported that Stacy Lung and Louis Blocker have been a blessing to the camp as newer staff members.

The capital campaign is still in the ‘quiet’ stage. Finally, Camp staff has been conducting jamborees around the district.

11. MINISTERIAL HEALTH COMMISSION REPORT

Rev. D. Fondow

President Fondow highlighted two items on the report (attached). Rev. Fondow reported his involvement on the Synodical Worker Wellness program. He also spoke regarding Dr. Steven Saunders and a Kaleidoscope grant application to have Dr. Saunders make presentations in the district on mental health.

12. CONVENTION ITEMS

Rev. D. Fondow

President Fondow gave a brief history of the updates to the District Handbook. He spoke to the 2 proposals that will be made to the Convention. The proposals for the Articles of Incorporation will require approval at the 2018 and 2021 District Conventions.

- i. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Propose the Resolutions “**To Clarify, Update and Amend paragraphs of the Articles of Incorporation of the Minnesota North District” and To Clarify, Update and Amend paragraphs of the Bylaws of the Minnesota North District.**” at the 2018 District Convention.
- ii. **ACTION:** Motion carried.

13. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Rev. D. Fondow

Rev. Fondow reported that in a recent conversation with Max Philips of Lutheran Family Service of Iowa, that the agency is looking to become regional and that this would be of benefit to the district in terms of counseling, adoptions services, marriage, relationships and parenting.

Call night and placement services are coming up the week of April 21st. There are approximately 90 students with requests of 115-120. The district is requesting 4 candidates: Trinity, Carlos; St. Paul’s, Hinkley; St. Paul’s, Evergreen; and an associate pastor at St. John’s in Park Rapids.

Rev. Fondow updated the board on the current calling congregations in the district.

Rev. Cloeter shared a few remarks as this is likely his last meeting as a member of the Board of Directors. He reflected on today's Gospel lesson and how that group, much like the board, spoke of talk and fears of the future. Jesus comes to the group, as He had sent for them to be there that night, and He speaks His peace, accomplished by His death and resurrection, and that now He sends them. It is the same for us, as we gather in Convention and go forth.

Rev. Fondow thanked the outgoing members for their service to the board and the district.

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED & SECONDED: Adjournment

ACTION: CARRIED.

15. ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING:

DATE: April 11, 2018

TIME: Immediately following the conclusion of the Convention.

DATE: June 4, 2018

TIME: 10:00 a.m. at the District Offices in Baxter, MN

DEVOTION/BIBLE STUDY LEADER: President Fondow

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Marty Mably, M.A., M.Div., Secretary
Minnesota North District
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