

**MINUTES**  
**of the**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
  
**Minnesota North District**  
**The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod**  
**Brainerd, Minnesota**

**June 4, 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.”*

**Monday, June 4, 10:00 a.m.**

**1. OPENING DEVOTIONS/BIBLE STUDY**

**Rev. D. Fondow**

Rev. Fondow led the Board in an opening devotion (attached). His homily was based on 1 Kings 3:5-14, which the board read verse by verse. He spoke about how Solomon was given the opportunity to ask whatever he wanted out of God's grace and mercy. He encouraged the Board to ask God for wisdom and a discerning heart. Like David and Solomon, the board has been placed in a position of authority and, like all Christians ought to pray as Solomon did. We are humbled, forgiven saints and sinners, who God sees as righteous because of Jesus Christ. So, God will equip us as we need as he did Solomon.

**2. ROLL CALL/MINUTES**

**Rev. M. Mably**

**a. ROLL CALL**

- i. **Members Present:** President Fondow; Vice Presidents Finnern, K. Lee and Weber; Secretary Mably; Treasurer Uran; Lay Members Browning, Kading, Meyer, Moldenhauer, and Rydberg; Advisory Members Miller and Revs. J. Lee and M. Meyer who joined the board after concluding a meeting with district school principals.
- ii. **Members Absent:** Rick Gilbertson

**b. MINUTES – Board of Directors Regular Meeting – April 8 & 11, 2018 (attached)**

- i. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Approve the Minutes of the April 8, 2018 Board of Directors meeting with minor corrections.
- ii. **ACTION:** Motion carried.
- iii. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Approve the Minutes of the April 11, 2018 Board of Directors meeting.
- iv. **ACTION:** Motion carried.

### 3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. M. Uran

- a. Mr. Uran shared the "Receipts from Congregations" report dated May 15, 2018 (attached). The receipts have been up and down, and overall slightly behind past years.
- b. Mr. Uran shared the "Investment Report," dated May 15, 2018, (attached). This document shows the District's current account status.
- c. Mr. Uran shared the "Financial Statement" report dated May 17, 2018 (attached). He went through the document, explaining items, line by line, for new Board Members.

On page three, he corrected the dates to read, January 16, 2018 To May 15, 2018.

Mr. Uran updated the Board on the St. Cloud property (map attached), noting that the same developer has put forward a new proposal and is awaiting approval from the City Council.

Mr. Miller, updated the Board on the Breezy Point property, sharing pictures showing the recent work done to the chapel. The insurance company decided to pay for the work, minus the deductible.

- d. **MOVED and SECONDED** Accept the Financial Statement as presented.  
**ACTION:** Motion carried.

### 4. Organization of the Board of Directors

Rev. D. Fondow

Rev. Fondow distributed the District's Handbook, noting that Rev. Mably will be producing a new one soon. He noted the responsibilities of the Board of Directors.

He presented a slide show, noting the responsibilities and work of the Board of Directors on behalf of the District.

### 5. District Convention Resolutions Assignments

Rev. M. Mably

Rev. Fondow distributed the assignments of the 2018 District Convention.

### 6. 2018 District Convention Review & Discussion of 2021 Convention

Rev. D. Fondow  
Mr. G. Miller

Mr. Miller discussed Resolution 3-5, regarding the 2021 Convention being held in the Grand Forks, ND/Thief River Falls, MN area, noting concerns about Thief River Falls regarding housing and meals. There are limited opportunities for places that offer meeting spaces, housing and meals. Alerus Center in Grand Forks would be a good location, but the cost was a concern. Bemidji was also considered as an option. Discussion followed, concerning costs, locations and viability.

### 7. Overview – Sexual Harassment Law Suits

Mr. D. Priebe

Mr. Priebe made a presentation regarding 2 sexual harassment lawsuits in which the District has been named. (attached). There has been mediation but no settlement. There was a correction to the attachment, changing Lutheran Mutual to Church Mutual. The insurer has assumed defense on behalf of the District.

## 8. DIVISION OF PARISH LIFE and Nurture [PLaN]

Rev. M. Meyer

Rev. Meyer reviewed PLaN's responsibilities for the board. He spoke about the members of the PLaN Board. Rev. Meyer spoke regarding the District's efforts for communications, especially social media. A LCEF Kaleidoscope grant application has just been submitted for mental health efforts for all ages. Rev. Meyer spoke of efforts to emphasize campus ministries being active on campus. He spoke of the importance of schools, daycares and preschools and the current successes in the District. Pastors play an important role. Rev. Meyer has concluded his initial visits in all seven of the district's schools.

He spoke regarding the "Bring It Home" initiative (reading the great stories of the Bible) which will begin this fall.

Rev. Meyer encouraged the preaching of the Gospel in our District and applying it to people's lives.

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

Rev. J. Lee

Rev. Lee reviewed the results of the most recent MaCO meeting on May 30, 2018. Rev. Lee attended the Multi-Ethnic Conference this spring. He gave an update on the FORO, including 3 sites in Puerto Rico that were purchased for mercy ministries. September 20-21, the FORO meeting will occur at the District Office. He spoke of MaCO's suggestions for LCEF year-end distributions. He reminded the Board of programs available to congregations like EveryOne His Witness, Re:Vitality, and VisionPath. Rev. Lee spoke attended the Stewardship conference in February. The Parish Nurses are hosting a Mental Health Conference on June 9 in St. Cloud. This fall, there will be events to encourage parishes to include parish nursing in their ministries.

The board is addressing board vacancies.

## 10. OFFICE MANAGER'S REPORT/LCEF Report

Mr. G. Miller

### a. Status Report

- i. Mr. Miller shared the 7.1.17 to 4.30.18 LCEF Financial Report (attached). The trend of the loss of investors is beginning to change. Mr. Miller reported that the District's program is in excellent shape.
- ii. Mr. Miller shared the June 2018 LCEF Investment Interest & Loan Interest Rates (attached).
- iii. He spoke about the Kaleidoscope Grant Program (attached).
- iv. Mr. Miller shared a memo (attached) regarding the District Staff's recommendations for distribution of LCEF Earnings from 2016-17.
  1. **MOVED and SECONDED**: Approve the District Staff's recommendations for the 2016-17 LCEF Earnings Distribution as presented.  
**ACTION**: Motion carried.

### b. Loan Applications

- i. Mr. Miller presented an unsecured loan for Our Redeemer Lutheran Church (Cloquet, MN) for \$35,000 new playground equipment and a revised loan request from Joy Lutheran Church (Cambridge, MN) for \$375,000.
- ii. **MOVED and SECONDED**: Approve loans for Our Redeemer, Cloquet and Joy, Cambridge.  
**ACTION**: Motion carried.

## 11. LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP REPORT

Rev. K. Lee

Rev. Kirk Lee reviewed updates from the Camp (attached). Financially, the Camp is a little behind due to added staff. There have been public school students at Christ Serve Ranch for environmental education programs. The LIC Board is beginning to look forward, long term, at staffing as a couple of employees are approaching retirement age. The Camp is applying for RSO status with the Synod. The building campaign continues in the 'quiet' stage. Summer staff is in their second week of staff training. On October 26-27, the Camp will host a Creation Symposium.

## 12. MINISTERIAL HEALTH COMMISSION REPORT

Rev. D. Fondow

There is nothing new to report, except ongoing Synod efforts.

## 13. REPORT OF CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Rev. M. Mably

Two sets of Constitution and Bylaws were recommended for approval to the Board by the Committee on Congregational Constitutions and District Membership (Rev. Carnicorn, chairman): St. Paul Lutheran Church of Montevideo and Trinity Lutheran Church of Millerville Township, Evansville, MN.

- a. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Approve the Constitution and Bylaws of St. Paul Lutheran Church of Montevideo, MN with one minor change, 7.4 on page 3, to remove the word "such".
- b. **ACTION:** CARRIED.
- c. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Approve the Constitution and Bylaws of Trinity Lutheran Church of Millerville, MN (counsel - council) with two minor changes, 7.4 on page 5, remove the word "such" and on page 7, 9.3.1 to change "counsel" to "council."
- d. **ACTION:** CARRIED.

## 14. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Rev. D. Fondow

Rev. Fondow reviewed the District by numbers, highlighting the District's positive rankings amongst other Districts, especially as the top District in care of Called Workers. He went through past and current District Office locations and Presidents. He reviewed with the Board what a synod is, our synod's mission and that of the District. He also reviewed the 6 points of the Synod's "Witness, Mercy and Life Together" focus. Rev. Fondow reviewed current trends in membership and attendance and the societal changes that are driving those trends. He shared that the District received 4 seminary candidates and a Deaconess from the recent Seminary Call Days. He also updated the Board on the current Calling Congregations in the District and the current number for Church Workers in the District. Rev. Fondow reviewed current ministries, the Kollie family, and mission efforts.

Finally, he reviewed upcoming District events.

Rev. Fondow shared some concluding thoughts regarding how the church is under attack, yet endures because the temple is Christ Himself. He closed with a prayer.

## 15. ADJOURNMENT

**MOVED & SECONDED:** Adjournment  
**ACTION:** CARRIED.

**16. ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING:**

**DATE:** September 23-24, 2018 at the District Office

**TIME:** 4:00 p.m. & 8:30 a.m.

**DEVOTION/BIBLE STUDY LEADER:** Rev. Kirk Lee

Respectfully submitted,

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