

MINUTES
of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

September 23-24, 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, September 23, 4:00 p.m.

1. OPENING DEVOTIONS/BIBLE STUDY

Rev. B. Finnern

The Board began with singing LSB 611, “Chief of Sinners Though I Be.” Rev. Finnern led the Board in the Early Evening Prayer service, reading Mark 9:30-37. He led a discussion regarding the ‘greatest’ Green Bay Packer or Minnesota Viking ever, which led into the gospel and the disciples’ argument about who was the greatest. Rev. Finnern mentioned that the discussion is always subjective. This continues amongst us today. It also happens in and amongst churches. Jesus says that the greatest must be the last and servant of all. In so doing, He points back to Himself. Jesus takes a child and says that one who serves one of these, the least of society, also serves Christ. Even as a Board, Rev. Finnern shared, we are to be of the same mind, that of Christ. All is Christ’s, including our church, our District. This, he stated, is not subjective. Rev. Finnern led the Board in prayer and singing LSB 699, “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say.”

2. Installation of Treasurer and 2 Board Members

Rev. D. Fondow

Rev. Fondow installed Rick Gilbertson, Rob Rydberg as lay members of the District Board of Directors and Mike Uran as Treasurer of the District.

3. 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, Gilbertson, Kading, Meyer, Moldenhauer, and Rydberg; Advisory Member Miller
- ii. **Members Absent:** Advisory Members Revs. J. Lee and M. Meyer due to the death of an aunt.

b. MINUTES – Board of Directors Meeting – Monday, June 4, 2018 (attached)

- i. A correction was noted on page 3, number 9, “Rev. Lee spoke regarding attending...”
- ii. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Approve the minutes of the June 4, 2018, Board of Directors meeting with one correction.
- iii. **ACTION:** Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. M. Uran

- a. Mr. Uran shared the "Receipts from Congregations" report, dated 09/15/2018 (attached). Mr. Uran noted that the receipts are running roughly 5% behind where the District has been at this point in past years.
- b. Mr. Uran shared the "Investment Schedule," dated 09/15/2018 (attached) and the "Financial Statement," dated 09/15/2018 (attached) together. He noted that the account at Bremer Bank no longer exceeds FDIC limits.
- c. Mr. Uran updated the Board regarding the St. Cloud property as the sale of the property continues to proceed. The closing on the property is expected before the end of the year.
- d. Mr. Uran and Mr. Miller gave a brief description on each of the properties owned by the District.
- e. Mr. Uran reported that the District is, after researching options, planning to use an online payment option, offered through the Lutheran Federal Credit Union.
- f. Mr. Uran distributed copies of the Annual Audit (attached). According to the auditors, everything looks good. He noted several statements from the included letter.
- g. Mr. Uran distributed a Concordia Plan Services Compensation Guidelines tool (attached).
- h. **MOVED and SECONDED** (Monday) Accept the Financial Statement as presented.
ACTION: Motion carried.
- i. **MOVED and SECONDED** (Monday) Accept the Annual Financial Audit as presented.
ACTION: Motion carried.

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

- j. Mr. Uran distributed a revised and restated draft, dated September 25, 2018, of the Lutheran Island Camp Management Agreement. He provided a brief history of the management agreements between Lutheran Island Camp and the District up to today. Mr. Uran highlighted certain elements of the agreement for the Board.

MOVED and SECONDED (Monday) Approve the proposed (September 25, 2018) Lutheran Island Camp Management Agreement with minor changes to be presented to the Lutheran Island Camp Board Chairman and Director.

ACTION: Motion carried.

RECESS: President Fondow concluded the evening with reading John 6:66-68. Using the account of conjoined twins, he spoke of how difficult situations cause some to turn away from Christ, asking difficult 'Why?' questions. Yet, Jesus, chooses to conjoin himself with us in a womb, knowing that He would suffer and die for us. We see, at the cross, that God will stand by our side in every situation. He led the Board in prayer. The Board concluded, singing LSB 889 "Before the Ending of the Day"

RECONVENE: President Fondow led the Board in the Morning Daily Prayer service, page 295. The Board sang LSB #848, "Lord, Whose through Love Humble Service" He read Ephesians 2:19-22 and spoke about how people in a fallen world hurt others. This is not different in the church. It is only Jesus, who, hurt by the sins of all, loved us, died for us and rose so that we, being in Christ, are now a new creation, not perfect, but new. Now, after Pentecost, we are to respond to His love, forgiveness and work, by being the church. We're not the best building materials, in our sin, but God wants to use us to build His church, by the power of the Creator and Holy Spirit with the nail-scarred hands of the Redeemer. We're not perfect, but by God's grace, we are making a difference. The Board and guests confessed the faith in the words of the Apostle's Creed, prayed the Lord's Prayer. President Fondow led the group in prayer.

4. OFFICE MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. G. Miller

Mr. Miller, presented and reviewed the Fall Report for the Breezy Point Chapel. (attached)

He also presented and reviewed a project proposal from Anderson Brothers Construction Company to fix the District's driveway and parking lot (attached), with the work to be completed next summer. He informed the board that the driveway and parking lot will be sealed after the work is done.

5. GIFT PLANNING REPORT

Mr. G. Miller

Mr. Miller updated the Board regarding the cash gift from the Estate of Evelyn Adelia Burk. It is currently in probate which typically takes approximately six months.

6. LCEF

Mr. G. Miller

a. Status Report

- i. Mr. Miller shared the 7.1.17 to 6.30.18 LCEF Financial Report (attached).
- ii. Mr. Miller shared the October 2018 LCEF Investment Interest Rates & Loan Interest (attached).

b. Loan Applications

- i. Mr. Miller presented four unsecure loads for ratification by the Board. (attached)
 1. Living Savior, Lake Shore - \$35,000
 2. St. Paul's, Ogilvie - \$11,000
 3. Trinity, Twin Valley - \$5,000
 4. Grace, Hibbing - \$30,000
- ii. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Approve unsecured loans for Living Savior, Lake Shore; St. Paul's, Ogilvie; Trinity, Twin Valley; and Grace, Hibbing.
ACTION: Motion carried.
- iii. Mr. Miller presented the Board with a loan application for Holy Cross Lutheran Church, St. Cloud. (attached)

1. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Approve loan for Holy Cross Lutheran Church, St. Cloud
ACTION: Motion carried.

- c. Mr. Miller presented the Board with an information sheet on a new offering, 40-month note at 4%. (attached)
- d. Mr. Miller asked for Board approval to send \$5,000 to LCEF to match its offer of donating \$100,000 from the Kaleidoscope Fund to help with hurricane recovery in the Carolinas.
 - i. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Approve sending \$5,000 to LCEF to assist with hurricane recovery in the Carolinas.
ACTION: Motion carried.

7. Division of Mission and Congregational Outreach [MaCO] REPORT

Rev. J. Lee

Rev. J. Lee noted that the MACO Board met May 30, 2018.

The Parish Nurse Conference planned for June 9 was cancelled due to lack of registrations. A Parish Nurse Convocation was held at Zion Lutheran in Sauk Center on September 23 and another will be held at St. Matthews in Esko on October 6.

Rev. Lee reported that the Deaf ministry continues with Rev. Knaack. Rev. Lee met with a pastor in the District regarding potentially continuing with the deaf ministry when Rev. Knaack and his wife decide to step away from the ministry.

Rev. Lee is working with Lord of Glory Lutheran in Elk River for the LCEF Consecrated Stewards program as a small capital and stewardship campaign.

He reported that Doxology is presenting a stewardship workshop in St. Cloud, November 30 - December 1.

Rev Lee noted that stewardship materials are available online.

He also reported on the recent FORO conference held at the District Office and the mission and recovery work in Puerto Rico. Future FOROs will be March 23-24, 2019, in Puerto Rico and October 10-11, in Orlando, Florida.

Evangelism workshops continue throughout the District and are being well received.

Rev. Lee is meeting with pastors in Esko on October 9 regarding the possibility of a church plant in West Duluth. He also reported that he is exploring the potential for a church plant in Longville, due to turmoil in the local ELCA church.

The Anyuak ministry continues to go well, as the ministry continues to become more self-supporting.

Rev. Lee also talked about the ongoing Synod's Re:Vitality program and Rural and Small Town Ministry program and upcoming conference.

8. DIVISION OF PARISH LIFE and Nurture [PLaN]

Rev. M. Meyer

Rev. Meyer reported regarding the 2019 National Youth Gathering. DCE Chris Brown is the District Coordinator.

He reported that he is working with the District's schools and preschools (7 schools, 19 preschools), regarding what Millennial parents are looking for: an excellent education, strong student and parent relationships with teachers, safety, and that the school be Christ-centered. He encourages the District and schools to emphasize these.

He reported that, currently, \$500 is being offered to anyone who writes a science or history curriculum.

Rev. Meyer is encouraging schools to not operate with a mindset of scarcity and survival.

He reported on the Campus Ministries in the District. There is now a monthly accountability report to be completed by the campus missionaries. The goal is to provide accountability so that mission dollars be used in the best and faithful way possible and improve ministry visibility.

Rev. Meyer is currently working on a Mental Health Initiative for the District.

Rev. Phil Hoppe is the new Lutheran Witness Insert Editor.

Rev. Meyer updated the Board on the Bring It Home initiative. Weekly emails will begin this week. The Board viewed a video that was recently produced for the initiative. Rev. Meyer thanked Rev. Brady Finner for his initial idea and goal to get people into the Word. Rev. Meyer asked the Board for input and direction to help cover the cost of the program, given the excellent response.

MOVED and SECONDED: Authorize President Fondow and Treasurer Uran to locate moneys within the District's budget to pay the remaining cost.

ACTION: Motion carried.

Rev. Meyer reported that there will be a 2nd year of the program focusing on devotions.

Rev. Meyer also reported that he is working with Rev. Kirk Douglas for preparing new pastors and their churches as they begin their ministries together.

9. LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP REPORT

Rev. K. Lee

- a. Rev. Lee highlighted a number of items from the Lutheran Island Camp Report (attached).
- b. He distributed a brochure for the Creation Conference on October 26-27 (attached).

10. MINISTERIAL HEALTH COMMISSION REPORT

Rev. D. Fondow

The Commission meets next week. Therefore, there is no report.

11. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Rev. D. Fondow

Rev. Fondow began with sharing that nostalgia may be one of the struggles of the church today. As Christians, our best days are always ahead. Faith is the very heartbeat of our life.

He reviewed the current statistics for the District and Synod.

He highlighted Main Street Living media ministry that will soon be broadcast across the state on myTV, channel 29. (attached)

Rev. Fondow also distributed the Good Shepherd Update (attached), the last report of retiring Director, Bruce Glanzer.

Rev. Fondow highlighted the following upcoming events:

- September 27-29 - Church Worker Wives Retreat, Lutheran Island Camp
- October 14 – Main Street Living Sunday – October 14
- October 26-27 - Creation Science Seminar, Lutheran Island Camp
- October 27 - Faith in Action Mercy Conference, Fargo, ND
- November 8-10 – National Rural and Small Town Ministry Conference, Kansas City, MO
- November 30 – December 1 – Doxology Stewardship Conference, Holy Cross, St. Cloud
- May 13-15, 2019 - State Pastors Conference, Madden's, Brainerd
- June 20-23, 2019 - LWML National Convention, Mobile, AL
- July 11-15, 2019 – National Youth Gathering, Minneapolis, MN
- July 21-25, 2019 – LCMS National Convention, Tampa, FL

President Fondow noted that there are over 1,000 children in Lutheran schools in Asia, 35 churches throughout the world that the LCMS is currently partnered with, 30 allied churches, and 13 emerging relationships.

He encouraged the board to read the Synodical Convention Essay: “Joy:fully Lutheran”.

He reported on continuing discussion with the Alerus Center in Grand Forks, ND and the Sanford Center in Bemidji, MN regarding the next District Convention.

12. CONSTITUTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON

Rev. M. Mably

Two Constitutions and Bylaws have been recommended for approval to the Board by the Committee on Congregational Constitutions and District Membership (Rev. Carnicorn, chairman): Mission of the Cross Lutheran Church, Crosslake, MN and Zion Lutheran Church, Brainerd, MN.

Regarding the Constitution and Bylaws for Mission of the Cross Lutheran Church, Crosslake, MN, the board recommended the following changes.

- a. On page 3 of the Bylaws, Article II, A. 1., change ‘service’ to ‘serve.’
 - b. On page 3 of the Bylaws, Article II, b. 1. should note that the Congregational Chairman will serve on the Board of Spiritual Life, according to Bylaw Article VII, F on page 6.
 - c. On page 14-15, Addendum Section II, E. 6. and 12., change ‘elder’s’ to ‘elders.’
- i. **MOVED and SECONDED**: Approve Constitution for Mission of the Cross Lutheran Church, Crosslake, MN, as amended with the recommended changes.
 - ii. **ACTION**: Motion carried.
 - iii. **MOVED and SECONDED**: Approve Constitution for Zion Lutheran Church, Brainerd, MN as presented.
 - iv. **ACTION**: Motion carried.

13. President Fondow shared closing thoughts regarding the importance of a strong foundation for buildings and the church. We have a firm foundation, Jesus Christ and the teachings recorded about Him in the Scriptures. God is always working to bring people to faith in Christ. Jesus is the chief

cornerstone on which God builds His church. When we stand firmly on Jesus and His Word, we stand strong.

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED & SECONDED: Adjournment

ACTION: CARRIED.

15. ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING:

DATE: December 2-3, 2018

TIME: 4:00 pm & 8:30 am

DEVOTION/BIBLE STUDY LEADER: Rev. Kirk Lee

Respectfully submitted,

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