

MINUTES
of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

December 2-3, 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, December 3, 4:00 p.m.

1. DEVOTIONS/BIBLE STUDY

Rev. J. Lee

Rev. J. Lee led the Board in a devotion (attached). The Board opened with singing verses 1 & 3 of “The Advent of Our King” (LSB 331). Rev. Lee’s mediation was based on the Gospel lesson for the first Sunday of Advent, Luke 19:28-44. He spoke regarding how Jesus came at Bethlehem, He continues to come to us each and every day through His Word and Sacraments, and He will come again. The Pharisees did not recognize or know Him. We know Him, by faith and have His peace. And we look forward to the celebration of His coming in the celebration of Christmas. The Board closed by singing verses 2 and 4 of “The Advent of Our King” (LSB 331).

2. ROLL CALL/MINUTES

Rev. M. Mably

a. ROLL CALL

- i. **Members Present:** President Fondow; Vice Presidents Finnern and Weber; Secretary Mably; Treasurer Uran; Lay Members Gilbertson, Kading, Meyer, Moldenhauer, and Rydberg; Advisory Members Miller, Revs. J. Lee and M. Meyer.
- ii. **Members Absent:** Lay Member Browning. Vice President K. Lee was late due to a funeral.

b. MINUTES – Board of Directors Meeting – Sunday, September 23 - Monday, September 24, 2018 (attached)

- i. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Approve the minutes of the September 23-24, 2018, Board of Directors meeting with minor corrections.
- ii. **ACTION:** Motion carried.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. M. Uran

- a. Mr. Uran shared the "Receipts from Congregations" report, dated 11/15/2018 (attached). Mr. Uran noted that the receipts are running behind where the District has been at this point in past years. This is being watched as the District comes to the close of its fiscal year.
- b. Mr. Uran shared the "Investment Report," dated 11/15/2018 (attached) and the "Financial Statement," dated 09/15/2018 (attached) together. He noted that money was taken from Lutheran Federal Credit Union to take advantage of the recent LCEF 40 month at 4% offer.
- c. Mr. Uran informed the Board that the sale of the St. Cloud property should be completed before the end of the year.
- d. Mr. Uran shared that the Lutheran Island Camp Board has responded regarding the Management Agreement that the District Board recently sent to them for review. They are requesting to have a working group from both Boards meet and review the proposal.
- e. The Finance Committee makes the following recommendations for approval, regarding ministry staff housing allowances:
 - i. President Fondow - 40% of his salary
 - ii. Rev. Monte Meyer - 50% of his salary
 - iii. Rev. Jeff Lee - \$36, 000
 - iv. Barbara Hertling - 50% of her salary
 - v. **MOVED and SECONDED** - Accept the housing allowances for 2019 as presented.
 - vi. **ACTION:** Motion carried.
- f. 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 the Cross Appeal and the Sower's Fund.
 - ii. Rev. Jeff Lee, - 25% to the District's mission trips to Puerto Rico later this year.
 - iii. Rev. Monte Meyer – 25% to curriculum development for and by teachers in our District schools.
 - 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.
- g. Mr. Uran reviewed information regarding questions about the Concordia Plan Services Compensation Guidelines tool that he presented at the last meeting. Mr. Uran indicated a desire for the Board to decide at the February or May Board Meeting whether or not the District would begin using this in the future.
- h. President Fondow distributed the new 2018 District Handbook. (attached)

4. OFFICE MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. G. Miller

Mr. Miller presented information regarding the 2019 Synodical Convention in Tampa, Florida and spoke to difficulties regarding the convention schedule and flight schedules for District Delegates.

- a. **MOVED and SECONDED**: That Mr. Miller continue with arranging for delegates to arrive the same day that the Convention begins.
- b. **ACTION**: Motion carried.

5. LCEF

Mr. G. Miller

a. Status Report

- i. Mr. Miller shared the 7.1.18 to 9.30.18 LCEF Financial Report (attached).
- ii. Mr. Miller shared the December 2018 LCEF Investment Interest Rates & Loan Interest (attached).
- b. Mr. Miller presented the Board with an information sheet on an ongoing offering, 40-month note at 4%. (attached)
- c. Mr. Miller presented (on Monday) Two Unsecured Loans for approval:
 - i. Bethlehem - Warroad - \$10,000
 - ii. St. John - Thief River Falls - \$63,000
 - iii. **MOVED and SECONDED**: Approve the loans as presented..
 - iv. **ACTION**: Motion carried.

BREAK – Fondow called for a recess and led a prayer for a meal prepared by Rev. Kirk & Mrs. Tammy Douglas and Trinity Lutheran Church, New York Mills. The Board thanked them for their generosity.

6. GIFT PLANNING REPORT

Mr. G. Miller

No report

7. Appointment and Ratification of District Mission and Ministry Facilitators, Committees, Positions and Division Members (attached)

- a. **MOVED and SECONDED**: Approve the appointments as presented.
- b. **ACTION**: Motion carried.

8. Division of Mission and Congregational Outreach [MaCO] Report

Rev. J. Lee

Rev. J. Lee reviewed the minutes from the November 28 MaCO meeting. (attached)

Regarding two teams going to Puerto Rico for mission work this year, it is recommended that the Minnesota North District cover the \$8,000 required for the two teams. The cost for each team member is approximately \$1,000.

He spoke to efforts regarding Parish Nursing in in the District.

Regarding Financial Aid for students preparing for fulltime Church work, Rev. Lee reported that the committee has spent \$35,000 of the budgeted \$42,000 in financial Aid.

Rev. Lee spoke regarding Deaf Ministry, Evangelism/Witnessing, Stewardship efforts and events, and current church planting possibilities in the District.

9. DIVISION OF PARISH LIFE and Nurture [PLaN]Rev. M. Meyer

Rev. Meyer spoke regarding Campus Ministry efforts in the District. With the intention of accountability, he has set the goal that paid staff be on the campus four times a week. He reported that currently the District is spending \$2,600 per student per year and he is challenging the District to do better. Currently, he is working on a new model for campus ministry and is looking for input and feedback.

Rev. Meyer talked about the upcoming Technology Fair on June 8, 2019.

Two District schools recently received accreditation through the LCMS, Immanuel Lutheran School, Walker, and Redeemer Lutheran Preschool, Willmar.

Rev. Meyer has located District funds for starting new preschools and several churches are looking at starting new preschools and daycares.

Rev. Meyer is working on efforts to help new pastors coming into the District, to acclimate to their new communities.

Rev. Meyer has identified and hopes to begin working with Pastors in the District who are doing innovative activities to get out and into their committees and help them to influence others to do the same.

He reported that Bring It Home is a great success. He is currently working on year two.

Rev. Meyer also distributed examples of Bring It Home promotional materials.

RECESS:

President Fondow asked the Board if anyone, especially the new members, had any questions regarding the work of the District which they wanted to learn more about. There was some discussion regarding time and efforts towards visioning, etc.

President Fondow concluded the evening with reading Romans 15:13. He spoke about the importance of hope. Sin and Satan make us think that things are hopeless. God did not abandon

us. Instead, he sent his Son, who removed our sins forever and with them despair that he replaced with hope. Our life is in Christ, filled hope that ends in victory.

The Board concluded by singing “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” LSB 338.

Monday, December 3, 8:30 a.m.

RECONVENE:

President Fondow led the board in the morning devotion (attached). The Board sang “The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns” LSB 348, verses 1-3, He read from 1 Thessalonians 3, the Epistle from Advent 1. As the canticle (see attached), the Board sang “Holy God, We Praise Thy Name” LSB 940. Pres. Fondow shared a verse from a hymn by Paul Gerhart. In the midst of sorrow and dark days we find peace and hope in Christ. He talked about the importance of hope, especially hope beyond this life to Christ’s eternal kingdom. Paul Gerhart lived through the 30 years war. We have our own battles today, especially culturally and spiritually. Using selected scripture verses read by those in attendance, Rev. Fondow talked about how we are to live in this world, being careful to not be of the world, guided by and reflecting His light, as Christ is the light of the world, those who live in darkness. Jesus is the light of the world, having come into the world, paying the price for all our sin, our guilt, our darkness. The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness shall never overcome it. (John 1) Rev. Fondow led the Board in prayer. Devotions concluded with singing verses 4 and 5 of “The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns” LSB 348.

10. LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP REPORT

Rev. K. Lee

- a. Rev. K. Lee highlighted a number of items from the Lutheran Island Camp Report (attached).
- b. The following board members have been appointed by the Camp Board.
 - i. Region 1 - David Robbins, incumbent
 - ii. Region 2 - Vacant (camp is in contact with a potential person)
 - iii. Region 3 - Len Palek, incumbent
 - iv. Region 4 - Dawn Stach, incumbent
 - v. **MOVED and SECONDED**: Approve the appointments as presented.
 - vi. **ACTION**: Motion carried.
- c. Rev. K. Lee shared “Observations and Feedback from the LIC Board of Directors meeting (November 16, 2018) related to the Minnesota North District Management Proposal (September 25, 2018)” (attached). Discussion followed.

11. MINISTERIAL HEALTH COMMISSION REPORT Rev. D. Fondow

- a. The Commission met October 1st. Rev. Fondow is still looking for someone to fill the Church Worker Care Coordinator position.
- b. He encouraged the Board to visit a new Synod website dedicated to worker wellness.

12. CONSTITUTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON

Rev. M. Mably

One Constitution and Bylaws have been recommended for approval to the Board by the Committee on Congregational Constitutions and District Membership (Rev. Carnicorn, chairman): Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Cohasset, MN

The board recommended the following changes:

- a. On page 6, IX, a, include the Chairman and Recording Secretary.
- b. On page 8, 1, clarify whether the Assistant Recording Secretary is a member of the Church Council or just when acting in the stead of the Recording Secretary.
- c. On page 9, 4.2, insert “the” before congregation.
- d. On page 10, 7.4, include leaving membership in the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
- e. MOVED and SECONDED: Approve Constitution and Bylaws for Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Cohasset, MN, as amended with the recommended changes.
- f. ACTION: Motion carried.

13. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Rev. D. Fondow

Rev. Fondow began talking about the decline of churches and Christianity and that we no longer live in a context that knows, assumes or is looking for the basics of Christianity.

He spoke to the good work of the District’s Circuit Visitors.

He also spoke regarding current statistics for the District and Synod.

From Rev. Fred Hinz, Public Policy Advocate, for MNN and MNS District has recommended the following:

1. *Gosnell* ... an expose of Planned Parenthood and the abortion industry in general.
2. *Big Fertility: It’s All About the Money* ... a documentary about assisted fertility available at the Center for Bioethics and Culture website.
3. *Fatal Flaws* ... a documentary on physician-assisted suicide in Canada.

Rev. Fondow highlighted current ongoing activities and efforts within the District.

He spoke about the new managing Director, Rev. Dr. Wilhelm Weber, for the International Lutheran Center in Wittenberg, Germany, who is currently working in the schools.

Rev. Fondow highlighted the following upcoming events

- a. February 16, 2019 - EveryONE His Witness Workshop at St. Matthews, Esko
- b. February 23, 2019 – MN North Schools Bible Bowl, Immanuel Lutheran School, Walker
March 9, 2019 – MN North Schools Knowledge Bowl, St. John’s, Thief River Falls
- c. March 22-25, 2019 - FORO Meeting, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico
- d. April 6, 2018 - State Bible Bowl, Concordia University, St. Paul
- e. May 13-15, 2019 - State Pastors Conference at Madden’s, Brainerd
- f. May 17, 2019 – MN north District Schools Track Meet, St. Paul’s, Perham
- g. June 20-23, 2019 - LWML National Convention, Mobile, AL

- h. July 11-15, 2019 – National Youth Gathering, Minneapolis, MN
- i. July 21-25, 2019 – LCMS National Convention, Tampa, FL

He encouraged the board to read the upcoming Synodical Convention essay, “*Joy: Fully Lutheran, A Message to the Church about the Challenges We Face and How to Face Them*”. It can be downloaded here: <https://blogs.lcms.org/2018/message-to-the-church-about-challenges-we-face-and-how-to-face-them/>

In closing, he spoke of focusing on efforts to get our people into the Word. He spoke to 1 Corinthians 1:8 and how we cannot “see the end” of our struggles. Christ is with us in the midst of our struggles as our best friend, our Savior. We will complete our journey. He closed with a prayer. The Board closed with signing “Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing” (LSB 737).

14. ADJOURNMENT

- a. **MOVED & SECONDED:** Adjournment
- b. **ACTION: CARRIED.**

15. ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING:

- a. **DATE:** February 10-11, 2019
- b. **TIME:** 4:00 pm & 8:30 am
- c. **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