

MINUTES
of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

September 22-23, 2019

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 22, 4:00 p.m.

1. DEVOTIONS/BIBLE STUDY

Mr. Delano Meyer

Mr. Meyer led the Board in a devotion, beginning with singing LSB 526 “You Are the Way; through You Alone”. He then led the group through Responsive Prayer 1. He then shared a summary reading of Rev. Dr. Matthew Richard’s book, “Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up?” which describes 12 modern misunderstandings about who Jesus is. (attached) He then concluded with leading the group through the conclusion of Responsive Prayer 2. The group closed the devotion with singing LSB 567 “Not What These Hands Have Done”

2. Rev. Fondow noted that the current December meeting dates fall on Thanksgiving weekend. The Board of Directors agreed to move the December meeting to December 8-9.

3. ROLL CALL/MINUTES

Rev. M. Mably

a. ROLL CALL

- i. **Members Present:** President Fondow; Vice Presidents Lee and Weber; Secretary Mably; Treasurer Uran; Lay Members Browning, Gilbertson, Kading, Meyer, Moldenhauer and Rydberg; Advisory Members Revs. J. Lee, M. Meyer, and Miller. Lay member Rydberg joined the meeting in progress Sunday evening.
- ii. **Members Absent:** Vice President Finnern. Vice President Weber and Lay member Browning were unable to attend the meeting on Monday.

b. MINUTES – Board of Directors Meeting – Sunday, May 19 - Monday, May 20, 2019 (attached)

- i. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Approve the Minutes of the May 19-20, 2019, Board of Directors meeting with one minor misspelling changes (page 3, 7 “Committee” to Committee.)
- ii. Later. Vice President Lee noted that point e. of the Lutheran Island Camp report should read “4.5 million”, not “2.5 million”.
- iii. **ACTION:** Motion carried.

4. YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT/TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. M. Uran

- a. Mr. Uran shared the "Receipts from Congregations" report, dated 9/15/2019 (attached). He noted that the District was just shy of 60% for the year.
- b. Mr. Uran presented the "Financial Statement," dated 9/15/2019 (attached). He commented on a few minor changes to the report. He noted that the Note Payable for Tulaby was paid off early. He also noted that the current deficit will likely decrease as congregational giving typically increases towards the end of the year.
- c. Mr. Uran also distributed a copy of the letter received from the recent, yearly audit by Justin Clasen & Company, Ltd. (attached) Mr. Uran noted that it was a 'clean' audit and no concerns were expressed.
- d. **MOVED and SECONDED** Accept the Financial Statements as presented.
ACTION: Motion carried.
- e. Mr. Uran spoke to the Board regarding opening a credit card, rather than using staff's personal credit cards. Recently, a company wanted a business credit card in order to make a purchase as a tax-exempt organization. He requested the Board's approval for the District to explore options for credit cards for District use.
- f. **MOVED and SECONDED** that the District explore options for obtaining a credit card.
ACTION: Motion carried.
- g. Mr. Uran distributed a document "Potential payoff of loan on the Two Harbors Property" describing current obligations for the property and options for paying off the loan early to save future interest payments. He noted that paying off the loan early would save the district roughly \$4,000 to \$4,500 per year in interest.
- h. **MOVED and SECONDED** that the District pay off balance of the Two Harbors property loan using unrestricted funds as staff determines.
ACTION: Motion carried.

5. LCEF

Mr. G. Miller

- a. **Status Report**
 - i. Mr. Miller went through the 2019 Breezy Point Chapel Fall Report (attached).
 - ii. Mr. Miller shared the to 7.1.18 to 6.30.19 LCEF Financial Report (attached).
 - iii. Mr. Miller shared the October 2019 LCEF Investment Interest Rates & Loan Interest Rates sheet (attached). He noted the significant changes with a few investment programs.
- b. **Mr. Miller presented one loan for ratification.**
 - i. St. Peter's Lutheran, Swanville, MN for a \$175,000 secured loan.
 - ii. **MOVED and SECONDED**: Ratify the loan as presented.
 - iii. **ACTION:** Motion carried.
- c. **Mr. Miller presented the LCEF 2019 Voting Delegates (attached).**

- i. **MOVED and SECONDED**: Approve the LCEF 2019 Voting Delegates.
- ii. **ACTION**: Motion carried.

6. OFFICE MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. G. Miller

No Report

7. GIFT PLANNING REPORT

Mr. G. Miller

No Report

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

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

Rev. J. Lee

Rev. J. Lee distributed and went through a report on recent MaCO activities (attached). He apologized for any typos.

9. LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP REPORT

Rev. K. Lee

- a. Rev. K. Lee distributed information on upcoming Camp events, including the Building New Bridges campaign (some are attached).
- b. He also gave updates from the recent Camp Board meeting, including that the Camp is working with a human resources specialist. The Camp is also working to hire a head cook.
- c. Rev. K. Lee spoke regarding a survey of parents of youth who attended Camp this summer and how positive the results were.
- d. Stacy Lung has started a pastors' online forum and discussion group. The response has been good.
- e. Rev. Fondow reported that he and several others recently gave depositions this summer regarding a lawsuit in which the Camp and the District are named.

RECESS:

President Fondow spoke briefly regarding the two congregations petitioning to become a part of the Minnesota North District.

Rev. Fondow read John 6:66-68. He spoke about how unlike years past, members when leaving a congregation because of being upset, are less likely to find another church. Also, some leave the church when disaster comes into their life. Yet, our Savior was conjoined Himself with a sinful world. Many would walk away from Him. Yet nothing would stop Him from saving us. We don't

receive all the answers when we look at the cross, but we have the answers that we need. Rev. Fondow concluded with prayer.

The Board concluded by singing LSB 737 “Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing.”

Monday, September 23, 8:30 a.m.

RECONVENE:

President Fondow led those in attendance in the morning devotion (attached). He spoke about how one of the lowest attended worship services of the year is the Sunday after Easter. “Why?” he asked. Is it that the Sunday after Easter is a let-down? Life is full of letdowns. Rev. Fondow read from 1 Peter and spoke about a cross he received from a member in Menahga, made of nails. “Dead as a doornail” is a well-known saying that comes from a nail driven into wood, bent over, and unusable because it is ‘bent in on itself.’ Rev. Fondow observed that we are bent in on ourselves like those nails, dead. So is our world. Nothing can change it, except Christ. Peter’s message of hope is in the midst of a struggle in a world that is helpless. Whether in peace or struggle, God is our hope. Although, satan works hard, Peter says to not sweat the struggles. They pale in comparison to the hope and joy that awaits us. The reality check is that this world is passing away. We can expect trials to come, but they are momentary battles in the midst of victory, victory in Jesus’ death and resurrection. We have a living hope in a dead as doornails world.

He led the group in prayer.

10. DISCUSSION REGARDING CAMPUS MINISTRY AT Saint Cloud State University
Rev. B. Timm

Rev. Timm presented how Redeemer Lutheran, St. Cloud might be a part of the campus ministry at Saint Cloud State University (SCSU). After asking about the current arrangement with the campus ministry at SCSU, He spoke on behalf of his congregation, regarding possible future plans for the campus ministry, their congregation, and calling a church worker. Discussion followed.

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

Rev. Meyer went through PLaN notes that were distributed before the Board meeting.

- a. He highlighted and walked the Board through the “Bring It Home...And Highlight It!” program and how it works. He stated that the goal of the program is to enhance Biblical literacy.
- b. Rev. Meyer also highlighted the “Someone You Know” program.
- c. He spoke regarding a MN North Youth Gathering at LIC in the summer of 2020.
- d. Rev. Meyer spoke regarding the new campus pastor at Bemidji State, Eli Voigt.

12. CONSTITUTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON

Rev. M. Mably

Three Constitutions and sets of Bylaws have been recommended for approval to the Board by the Committee on Congregational Constitutions and District Membership (Rev. Carnicorn, chairman): St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Perham, MN; Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, Giese, MN; and Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Sandstone, MN.

Regarding St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Perham, MN, the Board had the following suggestions.

- a. In Article 7.4, remove the word "such" in the 1st sentence.
- b. In Article 12.1.3, change the word "acquired" to "required"
- c. Article 15.4, change the word "officer" in the 2nd sentence to "board member."
- d. In the Addendum to the Constitution and Bylaws, Duties of Officers and Boards, Board of Education, 12, please define "CEA."
- e. **MOVED and SECONDED**: Approve Constitution and Bylaws for St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Perham, MN, upon satisfactory resolution of the suggestions raised by the Board.
- f. **ACTION**: Motion carried.

Regarding Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, Giese, MN, the Board had no questions or concerns.

- a. **MOVED and SECONDED**: Approve Constitution and Bylaws for Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, Giese, MN, as presented.
- b. **ACTION**: Motion carried.

Regarding Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Sandstone, MN, the Board had no questions and concerns.

- a. **MOVED and SECONDED**: Approve Constitution and Bylaws for Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Sandstone, MN
- b. **ACTION**: Motion carried.

The Committee on Congregational Constitutions and District Membership recommended for approval the Constitution Guidelines for the Minnesota North District.

The Board had the following questions and requests.

- a. It is asked that the reference to the Committee on Congregational Constitutions and District Membership as Constitution Committee be noted in the first paragraph on page 1 and be carried throughout the document. (In conversation with Rev. Carnicom, it was later noted that the notation requested is on page 1, paragraph 2.)
- b. The board asked for the contact information for the chairman of the committee, just the email be listed.
- c. In Article 5.4.2 "those" in the last sentence be changed to "the voters" for consistency.
- d. On page 11, article 8.2, it was requested to strike the second "constitution committee" after MNN District.
- e. On page 12, add "by the District's Board of Directors" at the end of the first paragraph. (After discussion with Rev. Carnicom, it was decided to remove this sentence.)
- f. **MOVED and SECONDED**: Approve Constitution Guidelines for the Minnesota District upon resolution of the questions and comments listed.
- g. **ACTION**: Motion carried.

13. MINISTERIAL HEALTH COMMISSION REPORT

Rev. D. Fondow

Rev. Fondow shared information regarding efforts for church workers regarding emotional intelligence.

14. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Rev. D. Fondow

Rev. Fondow, following approval of their Constitutions, presented the following.

- a. **Request for membership by Trinity Lutheran Church, Sandstone and Immanuel Lutheran Church, Giese**
 - i. **MOVED and SECONDED**: Approve request for membership by Trinity Lutheran Church, Sandstone and Immanuel Lutheran Church, Giese.
 - ii. **ACTION**: Motion carried.

He shared slides showing the current distribution of LCMS congregations and members throughout the country, as well as demographics, and church planting. He also shared information on the "Making Disciples for Life" program by the Synod.

President Fondow highlighted the following upcoming events:

- Church Worker Wives Retreat, Lutheran Island Camp - September 26-28, 2019
- Puerto Rico FORO in Orlando, FL - October 10-14, 2019
- Rural & Small Town Ministry Conference, Minneapolis - November 14-16, 2019
- Pre-Retirement Workshop, District Office - February 4, 2020
- MN State Pastors Conference, Madden's in Brainerd - May 11-13, 2020

15. ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING:

- a. **DATE**: December 8-9, 2019
- b. **TIME**: 4:00 pm & 8:30 am
- c. **DEVOTION/BIBLE STUDY LEADER**: Rev. Monte Meyer

Rev. Fondow led the Board in a closing devotion (attached). The Board sang their meal prayer to the tune of the Doxology.

16. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

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