

MINUTES
of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

May 8, 2022

MISSION STATEMENT: *“The Minnesota North District exists to further the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) and to assist congregations as Great Commission Churches.”*

1. DEVOTION/BIBLE STUDY

Rev. D. Fondow

Rev. Fondow read for the Board, Philippians 1:2-11. He spoke about how the word ‘fellowship’ is used often in the church, but lacking the importance and depth that Scripture brings with it. Fellowship is more than just socializing. It is a ‘partnership in the Gospel’ with one another and with the Holy Spirit, a gift given to us. Living in an ‘atomized’ world, people eventually will seek a kind of fellowship in any group at any cost. Our Lord gives us a fellowship, a peaceful binding together. It is a true gift. Paul calls it a “partnership of the Gospel.” It is something for us to rejoice in and celebrate. The source and meaning of this fellowship is in the Gospel. Paul knew that Satan would be seeking to destroy it, whose best tools are false doctrine, doctrinal indifference and not treating each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. In Jesus’ high priestly prayer, Jesus prays that we are kept together in him and in the truth. If one hurts, falls, we help and lift up. If one rejoices, we rejoice. When one sins, we seek to restore and forgive. Rev. Fondow thanked the Board for that fellowship, stating, “We truly are in that fellowship in Christ.”

He concluded the devotion with prayer.

2. ROLL CALL/MINUTES

Rev. M. Mably

a. ROLL CALL

- i. **Members Present:** President Fondow; Vice Presidents Finnern, Lee and Weber; Treasurer Uran; Secretary Mably; Lay Members Euren, Hansen, Kading, Moldenhauer and Rydberg; Advisory members Rev. J. Lee and Rev. M. Meyer.
- ii. **Members Absent:** Lay member Browning

b. MINUTES – Board of Directors Meeting – February 13-14, 2022 (attached)

- i. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Approve the minutes of the Meeting as presented.
- ii. **ACTION:** Motion carried.

3. DISTRICT SECRETARY ITEMS

Rev. M. Mably

- a. Secretary Mably asked for ratification of the email vote conducted by the Board, on February 28, 2021, authorizing Treasurer, Michael Uran, and/or President, Rev. Fondow (or those individuals duly elected to these positions at the upcoming District Convention), to accept any purchase agreement or contract for deed that is equal to or greater than the purchase price of \$625,000 and authorized said individuals to act on its behalf in all matters pertaining to the sale of the approximately 25 acres of District property located in Two Harbors, Minnesota. The Board also authorized these individuals to incur reasonable expenses on behalf of the District to subdivide the property and obtain a clear Title for the sale of the property.
 - i. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Ratify unanimously affirmative E-Mail vote regarding the Purchase Agreement or Contract for Deed for the District property in Two Harbors, Minnesota and incurring reasonable expenses on behalf of the District to subdivide the property and obtain a clear Title for the sale of the property.
 - ii. **ACTION: Motion carried.**
- b. Secretary Mably asked to ratify the E-mail vote on March 14, 2022, accepting the transfer of Zion Lutheran Church, Claire City SD, a dual parish with Zion Lutheran Church, Brown's Valley, MN from the North Dakota District to the Minnesota North District.
 - i. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Ratify E-Mail vote approving the transfer of Zion Lutheran Church, Claire City SD from the North Dakota District to the Minnesota North District.
 - ii. **ACTION: Motion carried.**
- c. Rev. Fondow requested that the Board approve Rev. Philip Houser, Trinity Lutheran Church, Lake George, MN to serve as the MN North District representative for Operation Barnabas.
 - i. **MOVED and SECONDED:** approve Rev. Philip Houser, Trinity Lutheran Church, Lake George, MN to serve as the Minnesota North District representative for Operation Barnabas.
 - ii. **ACTION: Motion carried.**

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. M. Uran

- a. Mr. Uran stated that to date, receipts were slightly behind last year's receipts, but still ahead of previous years.
- b. He stated that cash flow and expenditures are equal, within \$200, for the year.

5. LCEF

Rev. J. Lee

- a. Rev. Lee noted that there are no loans to approve at this time.
- b. He noted that next week there will be a meeting for District LCEF representatives.
- c. Rev. Lee noted for the Board that there are currently three congregations in the District going through LCEF's Ministry Solutions process.

6. DIVISION OF MISSION AND CONGREGATIONAL OUTREACH [MaCO]

Rev. J. Lee

- a. Rev. Lee spoke regarding recent meetings of North American Mission Endeavors in Orlando, including District Mission Executives, and the FORO in Puerto Rico.
- b. He reported that Alive! Lutheran Church in Monticello held its first service in its new space on the first Sunday in April.
- c. The Breezy Point Chapel will resume Worship Services for the summer, beginning Memorial Day weekend. There are plans to paint this year and possibly purchase new chairs.

7. DIVISING OF PARISH LIFE AND NURTURE [PLaN]

Rev. M. Meyer

- a. Rev. Meyer noted that there is a Technology conference being planned for the fall.
- b. He noted that Campus Ministry is going well. He spoke regarding the Resolution coming before the convention, including grant opportunities.
- c. Rev. Meyer continues to work with congregations receiving Seminary Candidates.
- d. The District's schools are doing well. Prince of Peace in Baxter is pausing its efforts in starting a school.
- e. Rev. Meyer's work at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Pequot Lakes is going well.

8. LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP REPORT

Rev. K. Lee

- a. Rev. Lee noted that the Camp Board will meet this Friday.
- b. Tim Kurth, from LCEF, will be attending to do some Board training and to discuss the capital campaign.
- c. The Camp is undergoing a strategic planning process, including studying the facility plan, especially the kitchen and dining facilities.
- d. Summer camp registration numbers are good. The Camp, like most other summer camps, is struggling to hire summer staff.
- e. Rev. Lee noted that the Camp is doing ok financially and that the debt that was addressed last fall is now down to under \$50,000.
- f. He stated that the management agreement, proposed by the District Board of Directors, will be presented and discussed at the upcoming meeting.

9. Ministerial Health Commission

Rev. D. Fondow

- a. Rev. Fondow noted that the Synod currently has a \$1 million grant to send rostered workers to Doxology Respite Retreats.

10. Convention Items

Rev. M. Mably/Rev. D. Fondow

- a. Rev. Mably noted there was nothing significant regarding the proposed changes to the District Constitution and Bylaws.
- b. Rev. Fondow noted that the number of Resolutions are not as high as in the past.
- c. Mr. Moldenhauer will caucus with the Advisory Delegates, Ordained, Specific Ministry Pastors, and Candidates regarding the 2023 Synodical Convention.
- d. Mr. Euren will caucus with the Commissioned Delegates regarding the 2023 Synodical Convention.
- e. Rev. Fondow thanked Revs. Finnern and Weber, regarding letter addressing Resolution 4-1 from the 2018 District Convention.
- f. Rev. Fondow proposed to the Board that, with Angie R. retiring and with Albert B. still new to his position, Mike U., who is retiring this fall, be hired to work 20 hours per week, two days in the office, as Office Manager. The District would pay Mr. Uran's pension, but not health insurance. Mr. Uran would start this summer.
 - i. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Hire Mr. Uran as Office Manager, beginning in July 2022.
 - ii. **ACTION: Motion carried.**

11. President's Report

Rev. D. Fondow

- a. Rev. Fondow spoke regarding the recent Seminary placement. Between the two Seminaries, there were 75 Master of Divinity Candidates placed. The Minnesota North District received four candidates. He spoke about each candidate.
- b. He also spoke regarding the two Vicars that were assigned to the District.
- c. Rev. Fondow spoke regarding the presenters for this year's Convention.
- d. He noted the Synod's \$2 million dollars designated for church planting and \$1 million life ministry initiative.
- e. He spoke regarding statistics for the Synod, comparing them to the ELCA.
- f. It was recently the Synod's 175th anniversary, which started with just 14 congregations.
- g. Rev. Fondow noted the Synod's growing relationships with church bodies across the globe. Currently, the largest Lutheran church body is in Madagascar. The Commission on Theology and Church Relations is currently working with the Lutheran churches in Ethiopia and Uganda.

Rev. Fondow closed in prayer.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

13. ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING:

- a. **DATE:** May 11, 2022
- b. **TIME:** Immediately following the Convention at the front of the ballroom
- c. **LOCATION:** Madden's

Respectfully submitted,

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