

MINUTES
of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

October 10, 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. PRAYER SERVICE AT PRINCE OF PEACE, BAXTER **Rev. Karl Weber**

The Board began the day at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Baxter with a service, led by Rev. Weber.

The Board transitioned to the District Office and continued with the meeting.

2. ATTENDANCE **Rev. M. Mably**

- a. Members Present: President Finnern; Vice Presidents Lee, Timm and Weber; Treasurer Uran; Secretary Mably; Lay Members Euren, Hansen, Kading, Kessler, and Moldenhauer; Advisory members Rev. J. Lee and Rev. M. Meyer
- b. Members Absent: Lay Member R. Rydberg

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes to June 3, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting
- b. Approval of District member church Constitution and Bylaws
 - i. Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, New York Mills, MN
 - ii. St. John’s Lutheran Church, Akeley, MN
 - iii. Redeemer Lutheran Church, Menahga, MN
 - iv. St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, Benson, MN
- c. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Remove Trinity, Sauk Rapids from the Consent Agenda.
- d. **ACTION:** Motion carried.
- e. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Accept the modified Consent Agenda as presented.
- f. **ACTION:** Motion carried.
- g. Questions were raised regarding terms used in the Synodical and District Constitution and Bylaw templates, such as “Scandalous Life,” “False Doctrine,” “Matters of Doctrine and Conscience,” and “Domineering in Office.” Revs. Timm and Mably and Mr. Euren will research these terms and report back to the Board at its December meeting.

4. OVERVIEW OF BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

Rev. B. Finnern

- a. President Finnern distributed the “Responsibilities of the MN North Board of Directors” from the 2022 District Handbook (attached) and also the District Handbook. A discussion followed regarding the purposes and tasks of the Board of Directors. President Finnern indicated that this discussion will continue into next year.
- b. President Finnern confirmed that the Executive Committee will consist of the District President (Finnern), Secretary (Mably), Treasurer (Uran), and 2 lay members (Mr. Hanson and Euren).
- c. President Finnern discussed the responsibilities for Long Range Planning.
- d. He discussed the various appointments for the District.

5. TREASURER’S REPORT

Mr. M. Uran

- a. Mr. Uran presented and reviewed the Receipts from Congregations for the Work of District and Synod dated 9/15/2022 (attached), noting that the receipts are currently 2% behind last year, but ahead of where receipts are on average for this time of year.
- b. He also reviewed the District Balance Sheet (attached), dated 9/15/2022. He noted that it reflects that the funds for the Our Savior’s Endowment Fund have been moved to the LCMS Foundation.
- c. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Accept Treasurer’s report as presented.
ACTION: Motion carried.
- d. Mr. Uran noted that information will be forthcoming to the Board regarding assessments for the Synodical Convention.
- e. Mr. Uran will be reviewing insurance needs for the District.
- f. Regarding the Two Harbors property, Mr. Uran reported that there is a purchase agreement signed, but there is still much work to be completed.

6. LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP

Mrs. Stacy Lung

Mrs. Lung spoke to the Board, thanking the Board especially for last year’s debt reduction effort. With long-term debt being reduced from \$250,000 to under \$40,000, she can confidently say that the Camp will survive, whereas last year she had serious concerns. She also spoke to how staffing needs were met for the past summer. She talked about some of the updates on the Island. They are beginning to focus on their purpose and mission. The Camp is celebrating its 70th anniversary. Mrs. Lung reported that the Lutheran Island Camp Foundation is being dissolved to streamline and simplify the financials and save money for the Camp. The hope for the Building Bridges campaign is to, with current funds raised and a \$450,000 matching grant, update the Camp’s Retreat Center.

President Finnern and the Board thanked Mrs Lung and prayed for the Camp.

7. 2022 DISTRICT CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS REVIEW **Rev. M. Mably**

- a. President Finnern distributed and reviewed with the Board the 2022 District Convention Resolution 1-1, “To Study Shared Ministry among Congregations” (attached). He discussed the increasing shortage of pastors available for calls and to fill pulpit supply and vacancy needs.
- b. Secretary Mably reviewed with the Board the “Completion of Convention Resolutions Assigned” (attached), highlighting that he and Pres. Finnern will work on submitting Resolutions 4-1 “To Confess the doctrine of Closed Communion and encourage its practice” and 4-2 “To affirm the Biblical doctrines of Creation, Original Sin and Redemptions and to reject Critical Theory” to the Synod for its 2023 Convention.

8. LUNCH

9. 2023 SYNOD CONVENTION OVERVIEW **Rev. M. Mably**

- a. Rev. Mably updated the Board on preparation within the District for the 2023 Synodical Convention, including the election of voting delegates (ordained and lay) by each of the District’s Circuit Forums.
- b. He will confirm the election of the Non-voting delegates (ordained and commissioned) and the District’s Advisory Representatives to the Convention.

10. DIVISION OF PLaN **Rev. M. Meyer**

- a. Rev. Meyer distributed a proposed Campus Ministry Plan ‘application’ form (attached) for review by the Board.
- b. Rev. Meyer reported that the schools are doing very well in the District.
- c. Rev. Meyer shared that “Bring it Home, What does this mean?” is still in the compositional stage. Although this is his last week in the office as District Mission Facilitator, he reassured the Board that he would ensure that the project is completed.
- d. Rev. Meyer expressed his appreciation for the Board and his time serving at Mission Facilitator for the past 5 years.

11. HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

- a. Pres. Finnern reported that the Spring Pastors Conference will be at Maddens in 2023. Doxology will conduct a Respite Retreat as the main focus of the conference. The planners are working towards Flame performing in conjunction with the conference as a concert/youth event.
- b. Pres. Finnern spoke regarding the visit to the Teacher's Conference at LIC this past summer and his goal for the Board, as able, to visit the ministries that the Board supports.
- c. Pres. Finnern discussed with the Board, as part of its meeting in February, jointly meeting with the Lutheran Island Camp Board on Friday, February 17.
- d. Concerning Mileage Reimbursement, two handouts were distributed (attached) regarding a Travel Expense Reimbursement Policy. Mr. Uran spoke to the proposal for the District. Discussion followed. This is the first reading of the proposal. Discussion will continue at the next meeting.
- e. Constitution and Bylaws - Trinity Lutheran Church, Sauk Rapids, MN
 - i. Concerns were raised and discussed regarding Article 6.5.
 - ii. **MOVED and SECONDED**: Consult with Pastor Beck and Pastor Hinz regarding Article 6.5 and the Ted Kober material regarding church constitutions to gain further clarification and seek to resolve Board concerns.
ACTION: Motion carried.

12. PRESIDENTS REPORT AND MOVING FORWARD

Rev. B. Finnern

- a. Referencing 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Pres. Finnern asked Board members to share joys in their congregations.
- b. After reading Acts 15:36-41, President Finnern spoke about visiting the churches. He reflected how it doesn't solve every problem, but it is what we (District) do.
- c. Pres. Finnern shared that the Board will begin discussing the District's ministry moving forward in December.
- d. Referring to Matthew 9:35-38, President Finnern emphasized the importance of prayer regarding the need for workers in the District.
- e. The Board looked at Luther's Small Catechism, the unit on Prayer and THE Introduction to the Lord's Prayer.

13. DIVISION OF MaCO & LCEF

Rev. J. Lee

- a. **LCEF**
 - i. Rev. Lee spoke regarding the Church Worker stewardship account, now offering an interest rate of 2.5% for up to \$50,000.
 - ii. He and LCEF are working to encourage lending to churches. There have been no major loans in recent years, but there have been several church improvement loans.
 - iii. Rev. Lee noted that there have been a number of Rostered Church Worker Loans, approximately 1 million from the District.

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

- i. Rev. Lee noted that the Financial Aid Committee met in July and awarded \$34,000 in financial aid. The Committee always saves some funds for last minute requests.
- ii. Regarding FORO, Rev. Lee noted that Puerto Rico just had another hurricane.
- iii. Also, for the hurricane that just went through the Florida-Georgia District, about one half of the churches in Ft. Meyers, Florida were severely damaged. Financial support is being solicited
- iv. Regarding ministry to the Sudanese, the MN South LCMS District has an ordained clergy from Sudan, who has begun a ministry at Holy Cross Lutheran in St. Cloud, every other Sunday afternoon.
- v. Stewardship letters are going out this week to congregations to encourage First Fruits giving, instead of a “do what we did last year” mentality.
- vi. Rev. Lee continues to encourage use of the Concordia Publishing House “Everyone His Witness” evangelism materials.
- vii. He noted that the Re:Vitality program is no longer presenter based, but is an online resource for congregations.
- viii. Rev. Lee reported that Rev. Knaack continues to serve in the deaf ministry. They are looking to reduce ministry to deaf as the deaf population is becoming much more integrated into mainstream society.

14. PRAYER

- a. After taking individual prayer requests, President Finnern led the Board in the Litany (LSB 288).

15. ADJOURNMENT

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

16. Arrangements for Next Meeting

DATE: Monday, December 5, 2022 – 10:00am – 3:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

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