

MINUTES
of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

December 5, 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. SERVICE AT PRINCE OF PEACE, BAXTER** **Rev. Kirk Lee**
The Board began at 9:00 am at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Baxter with a service, led by Rev. Kirk Lee.

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, Moldenhauer, and Rydberg; Advisory members Rev. J. Lee and Mr. Kai Larson, LCEF
 - b. Members Absent: None

- 3. CONSENT AGENDA**
- a. Minutes to October 10, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting
 - b. Approval of District member church Constitution and Bylaws
 - i. Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Baxter, MN
 - c. Appointments for the next three years - By-law-3.42, f. 1-8 (p.30)
 - i. Mission Facilitators: Rev. Jeff Lee.
 - ii. Personnel for PLAN and MACO:
 - 1. PLaN: Rev. Paul Dare, DCM Caleb Kunze, Mrs. Stacy Lung, DCE Emily Sagissor
 - 2. MaCO: Rev. Kirk Douglas, Rev. David Edge, Rev. Brett Hartwig, Rev. Travis Lauterbach, Mr. Delano Meyer, Rev. Jake Gillard
 - iii. District LW Editor: Rev. Travis Lauterbach
 - iv. District Historian: Rev. Mark Maunula
 - v. District Bylaw and Constitution Commission: Rev. Gregg Coop, Mr. David Mowrey, Rev. Marty Mably (ex-officio)
 - vi. Congregational Constitutions and District Membership: Rev. John Beck (chairman), Mr. Tim Duin, Rev. Marty Mably (ex-officio)
 - vii. Long Range Planning - 3.42, d (p.30)

1. Rev. Brady Finnern, Rev. Karl Weber, Rev. Kirk Lee, Rev. Bruce Timm, Rev. Jeff Lee, _____, _____
- d. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Accept the modified Consent Agenda with the removal of Trinity Lutheran Church, Sauk Rapids, MN.
- e. **ACTION:** Motion carried.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT - MOVING FORWARD **Rev. B. Finnern**

- a. The Board of Directors each shared the joys of things going on in their congregations.
- b. Rev. Finnern distributed and went through his printed report (attached).
- c. He spoke of how making visitations to the congregations, schools, and pastors of the District (in one triennium 6 visits per month) is a priority.
- d. Rev. Finnern went through a list of congregations, etc. that he has visited, sharing highlights.
- e. He spoke about his personal plan for daily reading of Scriptures, the Confessions and prayer to begin on January 1st. He asked the Board for their ongoing encouragement with the plan.
- f. Rev. Finnern went through the list of vacancies (attached).
- g. Rev. Finnern also discussed the work of the Council Of Presidents.

5. LONG RANGE PLANNING - LCEF MINISTRY SOLUTIONS **Rev. Billy Brath**

- a. The Board reviewed a video from Rev. Brath and a handout (attached), giving more details into the process. Discussion followed. The Board will decide whether or not to engage LCEF in this process at its February meeting.
- b. The goal is that this process will help the Board address how it operates as a District, as well as questions about what is the purpose of the District and long range planning.

6. RESPONSIBILITIES OF MISSIONS FACILITATOR **Rev. Jeff Lee**

- a. Rev. Lee distributed "Mission and Congregational Outreach 2023." (attached)
- b. Regarding Stewardship, he plans to renew his focus on stewardship, working with new seminary graduates, including 3 classes on stewardship, and mentoring.
- c. Rev. Lee noted that the commitment letters have gone out to each congregation and commitments are due by December 15.
- d. For Outreach, Rev. Lee wants to do "Engaging Your Community" presentations in each region in the District. He also has plans to visit 10 churches near casinos to explore Native American outreach.
- e. Campus Ministry will continue with the grant process for local churches that desire to do campus ministry.
- f. Rev. Lee noted that the Student Financial Aid committee usually meets in July. The committee always tries to award generously, but save some money for late applications.
- g. He also noted that FORO Puerto Rico meets twice each year. Rev. Lee plans to only attend one of those meetings. Due to recent years' struggles and natural disasters, Puerto Rico remains a place that needs support.
- h. The MaCO Division meets four times per year. Rev. Lee also tries to meet with circuits to offer resources for missions.

- i. He noted that the Breezy Point Chapel continues to be a joyful endeavor for the District.
- j. Regarding Rev. Lee preaching and teaching, he tries to be available to preach and teach 3 Sundays per month.
- k. Rev. Lee tries to attend NAME (North American Mission Endeavors) as often as possible.

7. LCEF EARNINGS DISTRIBUTIONS

Mr. Uran

- a. LCEF distributes earnings each year to districts to utilize the funds. The distribution is determined by the number of loans and investments within the District. The 2023 LCEF Earnings Distributions (attached) with staff recommendations was distributed.
 - i. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Accept staff recommendations for 2023 LCEF Earnings Distributions.
 - ii. **ACTION:** Motion carried.

8. TRAVEL EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

Mr. Uran

- a. Mr. Uran reviewed the proposed travel expense reimbursement policy, including using the IRS mileage reimbursement rate.
 - i. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Accept the proposed travel reimbursement policy.
 - ii. **ACTION:** Motion carried.

9. 2022 DISTRICT CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS REVIEW

Rev. Finnern

Rev. Finnern stated that he intends to review the resolutions and the District's progress on these at each Board meeting. He spoke specifically regarding 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." The Board discussed ideas on how to accomplish these resolutions. Rev. Timm will write a letter on the Doctrine of Closed Communion.

10. LCEF

Kai Larson

- a. Mr. Larson introduced himself to the Board as the newly restructured Minnesota region LCEF representative.
- b. He spoke regarding LCEF's Church Worker Steward Account, a savings account, Rostered Church Worker Home Loans, Church Improvement Loans, and the SMART loan, particularly for schools for \$150,000 or less.
- c. He also spoke regarding LCEF's Real Estate Solutions Team for any project regarding property.

11. LUNCH

12. TREASURER'S/OFFICE MANAGER REPORT

Mr. M. Uran

- a. Mr. Uran presented and reviewed the Receipts from Congregations for the Work of District and Synod dated 11/15/2022 (attached), noting that expenses are actually low. A number of questions were asked and discussed.
- b. The District's Independent Audit results (attached) were presented and discussed.
 - i. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Accept Independent Auditor's reports as presented.
 - ii. **ACTION:** Motion carried.
- c. He also reviewed the District Balance Sheet (attached), dated 11/15/2022.
 - i. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Accept Treasurer's report as presented.
 - ii. **ACTION:** Motion carried.
- d. Regarding the Two Harbors property, Mr. Uran indicated that the developer exercised their option to keep the purchase agreement in force. He also discussed the process for transferring 2.9 acres of the property to Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church, Two Harbors.
 - i. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Approve the transfer of 2.9 acres to Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church, Two Harbors. and authorize Mr. Uran to act on behalf of the Board to complete the transaction.
 - ii. **ACTION:** Motion carried.
- e. Mr. Uran presented the Grant Funds Reallocation (attached) proposal to the Board for discussion.
 - i. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Accept Grant Funds Reallocation proposal as presented.
 - ii. **ACTION:** Motion carried.
- f. It was noted by the Board to have a discussion in the future regarding what are reasonable restrictions on the President's discretionary funds.
- g. Mr. Uran presented a proposal for up to \$5,000 for Painting and Drywall repair in the District offices to be spent from the Building Depreciation Reserve restricted fund.
 - i. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Accept the proposal for up to \$5,000 for painting and drywall repair for the District office.
 - ii. **ACTION:** Motion carried.
- h. Mr. Uran presented a 2023 District Staff Compensation Proposal for the Administrative Assistant, Bookkeeper, Treasurer/Office Manager, Mission & Ministry Facilitator, and District President.
 - i. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Accept the 2023 District Staff Compensation Proposal as presented.
 - ii. **ACTION:** Motion carried.
- i. Mr. Uran presented the Proposed 2023 Budget to the Board, noting changes to Sower's Fund and Temporary Restricted Funds.
 - i. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Accept the Proposed 2023 District budget.
 - ii. **ACTION:** Motion carried.
- j. Mr. Uran presented proposals for Housing Allowances for Rev. Lee and Rev. Finnern as follows: Finnern - \$42,000, Lee - \$36,000
 - i. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Accept the 2023 Proposed Housing Allowances as presented.
 - ii. **ACTION:** Motion carried.

- k. Mr. Uran reported that he met with the District insurance agent, making minor changes to the policy.
- l. Mr. Uran presented to the Board a proposal for the MN District Endowment Fund Distribution.
 - i. Rev. Finnern (50%) proposed funding for updates and improvements in the District's technology setup including data backup, networking, and security
 - ii. (15%) - general office also to support technology setup
 - iii. Rev. Lee proposed his portion of the distribution (25%) be disbursed as follows:
 - 1. $\frac{2}{3}$ of the funds to Main Street Living
 - 2. $\frac{1}{3}$ of the funds to Our Savior Lives
 - iv. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Accept MN District Endowment Fund Distribution proposal as presented.
 - v. **ACTION:** Motion carried.

13. HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

Rev. Finnern

- a. Synod Convention Details
 - i. Floor Committees. June 9-12, Milwaukee, WI.
 - ii. LCMS Convention. July 27 - August 3, Milwaukee, WI
- b. The Board will meet jointly with the Lutheran Island Camp Board on February 17 at Lutheran Island Camp.
- c. Approval of District member church Constitution and Bylaws
 - i. Trinity Lutheran Church, Sauk Rapids, MN
 - ii. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Accept the updated Constitution and Bylaws for Trinity Lutheran Church, Sauk Rapids, MN.
 - iii. **ACTION:** Motion carried.
- d. Rev. Timm presented a paper "Domineering in Office: What does this mean?" (attached), which included some notes on "Removal from Office for Financial Reasons to the Board." There was a brief discussion and more will follow.

14. PRAYER

- a. After taking individual prayer requests, President Finnern led the Board in the Litany (LSB 288). The Board sang LSB 343 "Prepare the Royal Highway".

15. ADJOURNMENT

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

16. Arrangements for Next Meeting

DATE: Friday, February 17, 2022 – 10:00am – 3:00pm