

MINUTES
of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minnesota North District
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

February 17, 2023 @ Lutheran Island Camp, Henning, MN

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 Lutheran Island Camp Chapel** **Rev. Daniel Larsen**
The Joint Boards began at 10:00 am with a service, led by Rev. Dan Larsen from St. Paul, Henning. His message focused on the Foundation of Jesus Christ serving as the foundation for both Lutheran Island Camp and the Minnesota North District past, present and future.

- 2. ATTENDANCE**
 - a. MN North District Members Present: President Finnern; Vice Presidents Lee, Timm and Weber; Treasurer Uran; Lay Members Euren, Kading, Moldenhauer, and Rydberg; Advisory members Rev. J. Lee
 - b. MN North District Members Absent: Secretary Mably; Lay Members Kessler and Hansen
 - c. LIC Board Members Present: Mr. Gary Weckwerth, Rev. Noah Wehrspann; Rev. Andrew Ratcliffe; Mrs. Susan Borglum; Rev. David Hinz; Rev. Scott Brown; Mr. Rod Thalmann; Ms. Bev Timm-Lannon; Mr. Len Palek; Mr. Craig Nelson (via Zoom). Members absent: Mr. Brent Fassett.

- 3. JOINT MEETING**
 - a. Ice Breakers – Mixed small groups entertained discussion questions regarding LIC and the MN North District.
 - b. History of relationship between Lutheran Island Camp & MN North District 80-present. (see attachments)
 - c. Management Agreement Discussion. Several items were shared with the group:
 - i. LCEF working with the camp on management issues.
 - ii. The District/LIC relationship was compared to a landlord/renter type arrangement; this comparison is difficult because capital improvements and building maintenance are handled by LIC.
 - iii. Proposed management agreement has been in limbo for approximately 5 years.
 - iv. Lutheran Island Camp owns 80 acres; Friends of Creation, LLC owns 277 acres; Minnesota North District owns 70 acres of current camp properties (including Christ Serve Ranch).

- v. Partnership terminology is problematic legally.
- vi. Term of the arrangement is a concern; annual renewal and 90-day termination puts the camp at a possible disadvantage.
- vii. Draft agreement was prepared by David Priebe on behalf of both organizations. (attached)
- viii. It was mentioned that under the current arrangement, LIC has access to Concordia Plan Services for their employees.
- ix. Stacy Lung talked about LIC's plans to pursue RSO Status giving the camp the opportunity to issue Calls to LCMS rostered workers.
- d. Roles and Responsibilities
 - i. District: Doctrinal Oversight, support the mission of the camp in Word and deed. Protect the camp and District in assuring that things are done 'right'.
 - ii. LIC: extension of the work of the church. Serve the mission of the Camp. Provide a unique Christ-centered experience and build relationships.
- e. Discussion concluded with President Finnern asking for a vote of confidence for the camp to continue to pursue RSO status and for the combined Boards continue discussions regarding the management agreement. The request was granted by those in attendance at the joint meeting.

4. LUNCH

The MN North Board of Directors continued with their business meeting after lunch.

5. MINUTES FROM DECEMBER MEETING

- a. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Accept minutes as written.
- b. **ACTION:** Motion carried.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Rev. B. Finnern

- a. The Board of Directors each shared the joys going on in their congregations.
- b. Rev. Finnern distributed and went through his printed report. (attached)
- c. He shared details of his reading plan "This we believe. This we confess. This we read." and how he values the accountability to be in the Word.
- d. Rev. Finnern went through a list of congregations, circuits etc. that he has visited, sharing highlights. He also shared his upcoming appointments.
- e. Rev. Finnern went through the list of vacancies in the District and provided updates. (attached)
- f. Rev. Finnern also discussed the work of the Council of Presidents, specifically concerning the placement process.
- g. He talked about the upcoming Synod Convention "We Preach Christ Crucified".
- h. He reported that Alive! Lutheran Church in Monticello has voted to close. He thanked Rev. Peter Gueldner for his service as interim pastor. Their closing service will be on March 12, 2023 in the afternoon.
- i. Rev. Finnern led a discussion on reflections on the morning discussions with the Lutheran Island Camp Board.

7. LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP APPROVAL OF REGIONAL LAY MEMBERS TO THE BOARD.

- a. **MOVED AND SECONDED:** Ratify the appointment to the LIC Board: Craig Nelson, Grand Rapids, MN; Len Palek, Zimmerman, MN; Rod Thalmann, Ottertail, MN; Gary Weckwerth, Benson, MN.
- b. **ACTION:** motion carried.

8. CONSTITUTION QUESTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- a. Rev. Timm provided background for the use of the term ‘domineering’. (attached)
- b. Rev. Finnern proposed that we as a Board review the model constitution and the responsibilities of the Constitution Committee.
- c. Rev. Timm will continue to pursue this together with the Constitution Committee.

9. RESPONSIBILITIES OF MISSIONS FACILITATOR

Rev. Jeff Lee

- a. Rev. Lee presented and discussed his report. (attached)
- b. Rev. Lee reported on the recent Congregational Commitment to the District process. He shared that we are currently about \$6000.00 behind last year’s total commitments.
- c. He recently attended the stewardship conference in Phoenix, AZ. He reported that attendance this year was good and shared information on Stewardship by God’s Design program that he found value in.
- d. He shared that he is serving in Wadena once a month and will start at Faith, Fergus Falls filling in once a month as well.
- e. Rev. Lee reported that he is still working with pastors serving near Native American reservations to provide resources.
- f. He talked about congregations going through visioning process with LCEF: St. Paul’s, Perham, MN.

10. TREASURER’S/OFFICE MANAGER REPORT

Mr. M. Uran

- a. Mr. Uran reviewed the year end District Balance Sheet (attached), dated 1/15/2023.
 - i. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Accept Treasurer’s report as presented.
 - ii. **ACTION:** Motion carried.
- b. He proposed closing Lutheran Brotherhood/Foundation account and the PCW & Family Wellness Retreat account and move those funds to unrestricted funds and the Sower’s Fund, respectively.
 - i. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Approve the transfer of funds as proposed.
 - ii. **ACTION:** Motion carried.
- c. Mr. Uran Presented a 2023 Budget Update Report. (attached)
- d. Mr. Uran presented a Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest and Acceptance of Gifts Policies. He asked all Board members to sign that they have received the policy.
- e. Mr. Uran presented for discussion the funds in the Stepping Out in Faith Steward Account. The SOIF funds were designated for 6 specific categories. (Church Worker Recruitment, Rural and Small Town Ministry, Preschool Ministry, American Indian Outreach, New Missions, and Lutheran Island Camp). He proposed moving these funds to restricted funds according to their intended purpose and requested permission to invest funds with the LCMS Foundation as appropriate.

- i. **MOVED and SECONDED:** Authorize the transfer of American Indian Outreach SOIF Funds, Preschool Ministry and Gesch American Indian Endowment Funds to LCMS Foundation Endowment Funds.
- ii. **ACTION:** Motion carried.
- f. Mr. Uran presented proposed changes to the Bylaws governing Endowment Funds of the Minnesota North District. Discussion will continue at next meeting.
- g. He thanked Albert Boldt, bookkeeper for his contributions to our Financial Controls Procedure.
- h. Mr. Uran shared that the District received a significant gift from St. John's, Akeley in memory of member Robert Warnke.
- i. He shared that the District has contracted ON Solutions for managed IT services.
- j. He reported that the congregational assessment memo for the Synod Convention has been sent out. He is working on drafting a Synodical Convention reimbursement policy for the District.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Rev. Finnern

- a. Mileage for this meeting will be reported to Diana and she will submit for reimbursement.

11. PRAYER

- a. President Finnern led the Board in Prayer and a Blessing.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

13. Arrangements for Next Meeting

DATE: Monday June 5, 2023 – 9:00am – 3:00pm
Worship at Prince of Peace/Meeting at District Office

Respectfully submitted by: Diana Ruopp