

Minutes: Board of Directors Meeting – Approved by the Board on 5.7.2019
Minnesota South (MNS) District
Saturday, February 2, 2019, 10:00am – 4:00pm
MNS District Office, Burnsville, MN

Mission Statement

Cultivating leaders intentionally engaged in the mission of God.

1. OPENING DEVOTION

Rev. Loel Wessel, Pastor of First English Lutheran Church in Spring Valley, Minnesota, led the opening devotion based on the dedication of Jesus as a firstborn son in the temple from Luke chapter 2. We used LSB “Daily Prayer Morning.” Finally, we sang Hymn 519 “In His Temple Now Behold Him.”

2. PARLIAMENTARY OBLIGATIONS

a) Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 10:015 a.m. by the President, Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

b) Roll Call

Present: Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford; Rev. Thomas Evans; Rev. Harold Storm; Rev. Dr. Brent Parrish; Rev. Keith Grimm; Mr. Rick Marko; Rev. Christopher Horton; Mr. Daniel Thao; Dr. Gary Elsesser; Rev. Steven Wheeler; Ms. Rosa Summers; Mr. John Branstad; Rev. Loel Wessel; Mr. Dave Kenow; Rev. Dennis Heiden; Mr. Benjamin Hagemann; Mr. Neal Breitbarth; Mr. Leland Huebner

Staff: Mr. Sean Martens; Dr. Phil Johnson; Mr. Kai Larson; Rev. Fred Hinz

Excused: Mr. Joel Landskroener; Rev. David Mumme; Rev. Robert Schulze; Ms. Sara Sorenson; Mr. Matt Steiner; Rev. Dr. William Utech

c) Approval of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. The motion was carried.

d) Approval of the Minutes of Past Meeting – *(prepared by Keith Grimm, Secretary)*

A motion was made and seconded to approve the BOD minutes from December 4, 2018. The motion was carried.

e) Correspondence

- Rev. Dr. John W. Sias, Secretary of Synod, informed us that Rev. Dr. Harold Senkbeil has resigned his position on the Board of Regents at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. His term runs from Sept. 1, 2016, through Aug. 31, 2022. If anyone from the BOD would like to nominate an ordained candidate to fill this vacancy, please contact President Woodford as soon as possible.
- The deadline to submit congregational nominations for President, First Vice-President and Regional Vice-President for the 2019 Synod Convention is Feb. 20, 2019. The deadline to submit overtures for the Synod Convention is March 2, 2019.
- Given that there are no official guidelines for minutes taken by committees and boards by the Synod, the BOD recommended that templates of healthy minutes be shared with them by the District Secretary in the future.

3. VISIONING / STUDY ITEMS / PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Phil Johnson led us through a review of Tod Bolsinger’s book *Canoeing the Mountains, Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory*. Similar to Lewis and Clark discovering on their expedition that “what got us here won’t get us there,” Christians now are in uncharted territory. Adaptation and gaining the trust of others is vital as we try to reach an unchurched culture that doesn’t know Jesus. The “way we do things around here” has to be adapted and described constantly. The code of a church (it’s DNA) is neither healthy nor unhealthy. The culture that comes from a church’s code can be damaging. So how can churches keep doing the things they are called to do in ways that resonate, connect, serve and challenge people who otherwise wouldn’t pay any attention? Every church has to decide what is or isn’t essential for effectively reaching, serving and connecting with the lost.

Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford led us through a review of Ted Kober’s book *Built on the Rock, The Healthy Congregation*. A congregation’s true health is revealed during times of conflict. Will the church oust someone or try to work through the process of reconciliation? The goal of the book is urging churches to implement the Biblical model of reconciliation – especially confessing sins and applying Christ’s forgiveness. The Holy Spirit can bring about change through the Word of God. There is a direct correlation between Biblical ignorance and an unhealthy congregation. Healthy congregations have leaders who are regularly engaged with and rooted in God’s Word. Although conflict resolution is important, reconciliation is even more vital. Reconciliation prevents future conflicts from easily reigniting. Finally, President Woodford distributed a handout that helps congregational leaders and us as a BOD to assess our current situation in regards to conflict and absolution.

4. POLICY FORMATION & REVIEW

Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford led a presentation to refresh our understanding of “Policy Based Governance.” He shared an article written by James Galvin titled “The Five Types of Governance in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.” We looked especially at the “Governing Board” model to review policy-based governance. The article emphasized

that board members must stay out of staff work and let the policies do the work for them. The temptation is for governing boards to be pulled into operational issues. The BOD requested that the Policy Committee lead a discussion of various policies in the District manuals/handbooks throughout the year in board meetings.

5. REPORTS

- a) Mr. Bob LaCroix, Director of Camp Omega, summarized that 128 events were held in 2018 serving nearly 6,000 guests. The campaign total for the Family and Adult Retreat Center is \$2,070,000 (\$1.5 million is cash). The “Polar Plunge” goal is \$80,000. Ten acres of additional land were recently purchased behind the dining hall. The tornado last summer downed 200+ trees and insurance estimated \$45,000 worth of damage.
- b) Update: District Triennium Initiatives
Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford gave an update of how the staff is sharpening the eleven 2018-2021 Minnesota South District Initiatives. Dr. Phil Johnson mentioned that some of the District circuits are over 50% vacant. So discussions are taking place on how to manage and collaborate ministry in this new territory. Sean Martens mentioned how he is trying to coordinate visits with numerous schools, centers and commissioned ministers. He is challenging them to be mission minded and asking how he can assist and pray for them. He is also encouraging several people to go through the School Leadership Development (SLED) program, which develops administrative and leadership skills. Rev. Fred Hinz highlighted how pastors are experiencing pressure to speak (or not to speak) about controversial topics today including the LGBT community, same-sex marriage rights, abortion, politics, etc. Secondly, Fred gave federal and state updates on life issues, physician-assisted suicide and religious liberty issues concerning marriage, family and sexuality.
- c) President’s Report
Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford shared a handout of his meetings and presidential acts over the past three months. He also highlighted some staff position reorganizations. The District is also studying potential changes to the process of pastor background checks.
- d) Treasurer’s Report
Mr. Rick Marko, District Treasurer, provided financial reports as of December 31, 2018. The District was under budget in annual receipts and expenses. The fourth quarter of 2018 created losses in our investments. Finally, the District is in a positive cash-flow position.
- e) LCEF Report and Delinquent Loan Report
Mr. Kai Larson, LCEF Vice President, shared that currently there are no delinquent LCEF loans in the District. There are now 4,422 LCEF investors in the Minnesota South District. There are several congregational loans in the pipeline.

- f) Mr. John Branstad gave the Finance Committee report. A motion was made and seconded to ratify the loans given to Immanuel, Gaylord; New Creation, Shakopee; and Cross View, Edina. The motion was carried. The Finance Committee also mentioned that discussions are underway to assist Camp Omega in their ministry that would be mutually beneficial.
- g) Reminder to Standing Committees and Sub-Committees to schedule meetings in time to have their Minutes ready by the 20th of the month previous to the BOD Meetings (January, April, August and November) for inclusion in the Board of Directors packets.

6. INFORMATION AND DECISION ITEMS

- a) Rev. Harold Storm and Ms. Rosa Summers reported that the Congregational Constitutions and Bylaws Committee reviewed four constitutions this quarter. It was moved and seconded to approve these two congregational constitutions:
 - a. Our Savior Lutheran Church, Excelsior, MN
 - b. St. Peter Lutheran Church, Lakefield, MNThe motion carried.
- b) Mr. Rick Marko, District Treasurer, and Rev. Steve Wheeler reported that the Endowment Committee recommends that 80% of the earnings from the previous year's Quasi Endowment Fund (\$10,000) be designated for the Oromo Evangelical Lutheran Mission Society (OELMS) Conference taking place in the Twin Cities from June 20-23, 2019. The motion was moved and seconded. The motion carried. It was also moved and seconded to give \$3,000 of the earnings from the previous year's Quasi Endowment Fund to support an outreach oriented speaker for the Saints Alive Growing Ever Serving (SAGES) Conference from May 6-7, 2019. The motion carried.

7. ROUND TABLE

Several prayer requests were shared by Board members.

8. CLOSING PRAYER

Rev. Loel Wessel led us in a closing prayer. We sang LSB hymn 937 - "Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace."

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned by President Woodford at 3:58pm. Rev. Dennis Heiden will lead the opening devotion at the May BOD meeting.

2019 BOD MEETINGS (10:00A - 4:00P)

Tuesday May 7, 2019

Monday-Tuesday, September 9-10, 2019 (Retreat and Meeting)

Tuesday, December 3, 2019 (December 5 is weather alternative date)