

**Minutes**  
**LCMS North Dakota District Board of Directors**  
**February 2, 2018 – First Quarter Meeting**

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**CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING DEVOTION**

The February 2, 2018 First Quarter meeting of the LCMS North Dakota Board of Directors was called to order at Zion Lutheran Church in Bismarck, by Rev. Tom Marcis, Chairman at 10:00 a.m. Members present: Rev. Arie Bertsch, District President; Rev. Kirk Peters, 1st Vice President; Rev. Steve Schulz 2nd Vice President; Rev. Tom Marcis, Chairman; Mr. John Riley, Vice Chairman; Rev. Joshua Reimche, Secretary; Mr. Leon Bladow, Treasurer; Mr. Bob Luebke, Mr. Kirk Rosin, Mrs. Kay Kreklau, Mr. Paul Huber, Rev. Adam Moline, Mrs. Tami Ulland, Business Manager; Mr. Jason Paradis. Absent: Mrs. Tina Davidson.

President Bertsch opened with a reading and meditation from 1 Timothy, and with a prayer for the Church.

**AUGSBURG CONFESSION STUDY**

President Bertsch led a study on the Augsburg Confession Article 1 – God, with special emphasis on what it means to confess the Christian faith in often challenging situations.

**AGENDA REVIEW AND ADOPTION**

Chairman Marcis reviewed the agenda. The agenda was adopted as presented.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairman Marcis called the board's attention to the proposed consent agenda in order to expedite addressing some of the regular business of a board meeting. Opportunity was provided for board members to request the removal of specific items from the consent agenda to be discussed during the meeting, no items were removed for discussion at the meeting. It was moved, seconded and carried to adopt the consent agenda, which includes the following items:

- Minutes from October 27, 2018 and December 7, 2018
- Convention Minutes from Wednesday January 24, 2018
- Report on Ed Bean's Activities\*
- Approval for Amended Constitution and Bylaws for St. Matthew, Hazen
- 2018-2020 Tentative Meeting Schedule
  - Board Meeting April 6, 2018 in Fargo
  - Planning Council & Board Meeting Aug 16 & 17 in Jamestown
  - Board October 26, 2018 in Bismarck

\*Items attached to these minutes as Appendix A

## **BOARD ACTION ITEMS**

**Work Plan/Budget Approval.** The preliminary budget was not available to be reviewed at the October meeting as usual. Therefore, the finance committee reviewed the preliminary budget and presented their proposed budget to the Board at this time. There remains a roughly \$60,000 shortfall in the annual budget, which does not include the Triennial Mission projects adopted by the convention. It was moved, seconded and passed to release board designated funds to balance the annual budget. Subsequently it was moved, seconded and passed to approve a temporary budget without funding Kenya or Chile, and to revisit the budget at the April meeting and the adopt a budget for the remainder of the fiscal year.

**Task Force Chairmen.** President Bertsch will review the District Task Forces and make his appointments in the near future.

**Conflict of Interest Forms.** All board members signed and submitted a Conflict of Interest form as required by district bylaws.

**Appointment of Lay Members.** It was moved, seconded and passed to reappoint Mr. Jason Paradis to the board for the triennium. It was moved, seconded and passed to reappoint Mrs. Tina Davidson to the board for the triennium.

**Election of Board Chairman and Vice Chairman.** Rev. Tom Marcis was nominated to serve as Board Chairman, all voting yes, Rev. Marcis will serve as Board Chairman. Mr. John Riley, was nominated to serve as Board Vice Chairman, all voting yes, Mr. John Riley will serve as Board Vice Chairman.

### **Convention Resolutions for Board Action.**

*Resolution 1-01 To Establish the Location of the Offices of the District President and the District Business Manager.* This resolution directed that the location of the District President and the Business Manager offices would be left to the discretion of the board in consultation with the District President and Business Manager. It was moved, seconded and passed to locate the District President's office at President Bertsch's home in Minot, and the Business Manager's physical office at Beautiful Savior in Fargo, though she will primarily work out of her home office in Minto.

*Resolution 2-01 To Faithfully Support Convention Resolutions and the Church's Mission.* This resolution directed the Board to fund Triennial Mission projects as funds become available. By consensus the Board decided that 1 year of full funding must be in hand before enacting the project designated as the top priority by the convention, which is Kenya then Chile.

### **Appoint Standing Committees.**

*Executive Officers.* Rev. Tom Marcis, Chairman, Mr. John Riley, Vice Chairman; Rev. Joshua Reimche, Secretary; Mr. Leon Bladow, Treasurer, as stated in the bylaws.

*Governance Committee.* Rev. Joshua Reimche, Secretary; Rev. Adam Moline, Mr. Jason Paradis, and Mr. Bob Luebke.

Finance Committee. Mrs. Tami Ulland, Mr. Leon Bladow, Treasurer; Mrs. Kay Kreklau, and Mr. Kirk Rosin.

## **BOARD EDUCATION**

**Fiduciary Responsibility.** Chairman Marcis reviewed the responsibilities of board members. As a board member, there is a fiduciary responsibility to put all interests of the corporation above an individual member's personal interests or any other interests that they may represent. The board makes corporate decisions as a body, and an individual member is not qualified to speak for the board apart from or in contrast to the corporate board's public statement or decisions.

**Policy Based Governance.** Chairman Marcis reviewed what Policy Based Governance is and how it functions. The district in convention and the Board of Directors on behalf of the district, set boundaries and guidelines for the District President, who is then charged with carrying out the goals of the district. The board is not organized to micromanage the duties and actions of the District President.

**Board Policy Manual.** There was no review of the Board Policy Manual at the February meeting. The Governance Committee will present Section 2 of the Manual for review at the April meeting.

## **BOARD MONITORING ITEMS**

### **Management Report – District President**

President Bertsch's last day at St. Paul in Minot will be February 11, 2018. He has been busy getting his office set up and addressing the final matters of transition. A full report will be given at the April meeting.

### **Management Report – Business Manager**

- **Business Manager Report.** Mrs. Ulland is getting finances in order to close out the fiscal year which ended on January 31. And then will begin preparing for the annual audit which will take place in April.
- **Financial Report.** Convention costs and registration fees will have to be evaluated before the next convention because the district incurred a loss of \$9,000 between expenses and income, and not all bills have presented for payment at this time.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Marcis at 4:08 pm.

Sub Cruce,

*Rev. Joshua D. Reimche*  
Rev. Joshua D. Reimche, District Secretary

Director of Biblical Finances  
December, 2017 – Ed Bean

Tami: What a whirlwind ending to 2017! I don't know if was because of the impending federal tax law changes or if people are very generous in their gifting. I think I helped facilitate almost every kind of gift planning this month. People gifted thru a Donor Advised Fund (DAF), two funded gift annuities-one cash and one appreciated stock transfer, gifting of real estate to a Charitable Remainder Unitrust, and a Will bequest.

Every one of the above except the Will bequest qualify for the 40% North Dakota tax credit incentive by funding the gifting instrument in which North Dakota ministries or charities will benefit at maturity(death of the donors).

I apologize for the tardiness of this December and year ending report. The gifts were completed in 2017 but it took me some time to finish the paperwork, ensuring that every "t" was crossed and every "i" dotted!

2018 brings additional hopes and promises. I certainly have enough people waiting for my personal visits from the 3 church presentations I did in the final two months of 2017 plus I have a presentation scheduled for February 11<sup>th</sup> in Hillsboro.

I am still working on the potential mineral rights transfers from the now closed Flaxton church to our North Dakota two parochial schools. Also in the works that should close in January is a fairly large Will bequest that will fund two endowment funds benefitting local and national LCMS ministries.

It seems like there is never a dull moment...I wouldn't want it any other way! The good Lord keeps touching the hearts of His people and then connects them to my work. I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve His church. I sincerely appreciate the support of yourself and the ND District-LCMS. Next stop-Dickinson! I'll see you there!

Blessings,

Ed Bean