

Minutes
LCMS North Dakota District Board of Directors
April 6, 2018 – Second Quarter Meeting

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING DEVOTION

The April 6, 2018 Second Quarter meeting of the LCMS North Dakota Board of Directors was called to order at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Fargo, by Rev. Tom Marcis, Chairman at 10:01 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, Mrs. Tina Davidson. Absent: None.

President Bertsch opened with a prayer, reading and meditation from 1 Peter 3, regarding the joys of Easter which are ours in Christ, even in the midst of suffering.

AUGSBURG CONFESSION STUDY

President Bertsch continued the 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, it was requested to move the Wittenberg and Watford City reports to the regular agenda for discussion during the meeting. With the exception of the items removed, it was moved, seconded and carried to adopt the consent agenda, which includes the following items:

- Minutes from February 2, 2018
- Ed Bean, Financial Gift Planner Report*
- 2018 – 2020 Tentative Meeting Schedule
 - Planning Council & Board Meeting August 16 – 17, 2018 in Jamestown
 - Board of Directors October 26, 2018 in Bismarck

*Items attached to these minutes as Appendix

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

Budget Review and Approval

Budget Deficit Review. At the February meeting the board resolved to release temporarily restricted funds in order to make up the deficit for current standing mission projects, thus providing a temporary balanced budget without funding the Triennial Mission projects (Kenya and Chile) which were adopted at the convention. This temporary budget was to then be reviewed at the April meeting. There continues to be an ongoing budget deficit of \$55,707 which can only be funded with temporarily restricted board designated funds. Upon review of the financial status of the district, the board took no action to fund the Triennial Mission Projects at this time, therefore as of April 2018, no funds have been forwarded to these projects.

District Salaries. It was brought to the board's attention that the compensation figures for President Bertsch and Pastor Suelzle had not been properly calculated. It was moved, seconded and passed to adjust the compensation packages for President Bertsch and Pastor Suelzle to accurately reflect the district guidelines.

Budget Approval. It was moved, seconded and passed to adopt the budget as amended (*regarding district salaries*), and use board designated funds to cover the budget deficit, not including the Triennial Mission projects adopted by the 2018 convention and to re-examine the Triennial Mission budget at the next board meeting.

Task Force Chair Appointments

President Bertsch presented his appointments for District Task Force Chairmen. Rev. Steve Schulz will chair the newly formed Task Force for commissioned worker salary scale, and Rev. Kirk Peters will chair the newly formed Task Force for The District Practices Handbook. Rev. Clark Jahnke, Life Together; Rev. Dan Voth, Stewardship; Rev. Rick Jones, International Mercy. The Task Force for Local Mercy remains vacant at this time.

State of the District Report

By consensus of the board, the State of the District Report will be produced by Tami for distribution in June of 2018, in addition to the regular monthly news in the pews.

Strategies for Funding Report

It was decided by consensus that such a report does not accomplish as much as having the District President visit congregations and tell them the story of what the District does. Therefore, no report will be assembled. The Board Policy Manual will need to be amended to reflect this change. *Note: There is nothing in the Policy Manual about this specific report.*

Watford City Report

Pastor Heide submitted a report that only dealt superficially with the work being accomplished in Watford City, with no information provided regarding attendance, outreach contacts, or specific plans for the mission start. Extended discussion took place on the Watford City mission start as to whether or not the 2015 District Convention

resolution is being faithfully fulfilled now that a dual parish has been formed between Grassy Butte and Belfield, which is in addition to the mission start that was to be conducted with the support of Grassy Butte alone. Furthermore there have been very few reports from Pastor Heide regarding the mission start and his work in Watford City, and what has been reported does not sound encouraging.

It was moved, seconded and passed to have President Bertsch and Vice President Peters visit Grassy Butte and Belfield to clearly layout the goals and expectations of the district's financial support and the ministry of a mission start in Watford City, according to the original convention resolution. And furthermore, to clarify that the sliding scale will take effect in January 2019, and that all funding will end five years from that date. Report attached in the appendix.

Wittenberg Chapel Report

Pastor Suelzle submitted a very good report with clear goals and plans in mind. However, there was extended discussion about the need to be clear about to whom Pastor Suelzle is accountable, and who decided that there would not be services at Wittenberg during the summer months. President Bertsch will clarify that Pastor Suelzle needs to fulfill the board's original resolution that Wittenberg will hold services during the summer and academic breaks in so far as it is possible, and furthermore to conduct intentional outreach in the community during the summer months. Report attached in the appendix.

BOARD EDUCATION

Board Policy Manual. Section 2 of the Policy Manual was reviewed. Clarifications for the sake of understanding were discussed, a few minor amendments were made by consensus as follows: Section 2.6.3 "telephone, mail ballot or email" were replaced with "electronic means". Various references to "Quarters" that also included a stated month were amended to refer only "Quarter" and no longer specify "month". References to incorrect bylaw numbers were corrected.

BOARD MONITORING ITEMS

Management Report – District President

President Bertsch has been visiting many of the congregations during Lenten Midweek services and Sundays, simply to get to know the people and is making plans to visit more congregations to inform them about the work and mission of the district. The number of eligible seminary Candidates is low, thus there will be a shortage of new graduates. The number of vicars is high, and there are not enough placements for them. One North Dakota congregation has applied for a candidate, two others have requested vicars. Between the two seminaries there will be 91 candidates, 110 congregations applied for candidates. Report attached in the appendix.

Management Report – Business Manager

- **Activity Report.** Tami will be visiting Bismarck congregations to follow up on requests that originated with the convention. She will be going to Chile the end of May with President Bertsch for the Chile Mission Foro.
- **Financial Report.** Refer to the discussion under “Budget Review”.

BOARD VISIONING

John Hagge, Grace Lutheran School principal joined the meeting to report on the work of the Red River Lutheran Association. Grace has 71 students this year, a decrease from 82 last year. The school hopes to see an average enrollment around 75 students. Finances are always a challenge, however their future looks bright and they are exploring the possibility of starting a Lutheran High School and expanding preschools in the Fargo congregations.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:39 by Chairman Marcis. The next meeting will be in Jamestown August 16 and 17.

Sub Cruce,

Rev. Joshua D. Reimche, District Secretary