

Minutes
LCMS North Dakota District Board of Directors
August 17, 2018 – Third Quarter Meeting

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING DEVOTION

The August 17, 2018 Third Quarter meeting of the LCMS North Dakota Board of Directors was called to order at Concordia Lutheran Church in Jamestown, by Rev. Tom Marcis, Chairman at 2:17 p.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, Mr. Jason Paradis, Mrs. Tina Davidson, Mrs. Tami Ulland, Business Manager; Absent: None.

AGENDA REVIEW AND ADOPTION

Chairman Marcis reviewed the agenda. The District's withdrawal from and termination of Synod RSO status regarding North Dakota Lutheran Social Services was added to the agenda. The agenda was adopted as amended.

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 April 6, 2018
- Ed Bean Reports*
- 2018 – 2020 Tentative Meeting Schedule
 - Board of Directors October 26, 2018 Zion Bismarck
 - Board of Directors February 15 Beautiful Savior Fargo
 - Board of Directors April 5 St Paul Minot
 - Planning Council & Board August 15-16 Messiah Mandan
 - Board of Directors October 25 Beautiful Savior Fargo
 - Board of Directors February 7 Zion Bismarck
 - Board of Directors April 3 Beautiful Savior Fargo
 - Planning Council & Board August 20-21 St Paul Minot
 - Board of Directors October 30 Beautiful Savior Fargo
 - District Convention January 25-27 2021 - Fargo

*Items attached to these minutes as Appendix A

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

Task Force and Standing Committee Appointments

President Bertsch presented his appointments: Rev. John Bonine was appointed as pastoral advisor to the Youth Ministry Task Force, Marie Johnson was appointed to Standing Committee on Constitution and Bylaws. It was moved, seconded and carried to affirm President Bertsch's appointments. The Task Force for Local Mercy remains vacant at this time.

State of the District Report

Tami reported that the work is largely completed with only a few items to verify, therefore the report should be available by the end of September. The report will then be delivered to every congregation with encouragement for the congregations to share it with everyone of their members.

Watford City Report

Pastor Heide submitted a report that once again only dealt superficially with the work being accomplished in Watford City, with no information provided regarding outreach contacts or specific plans for the future of the mission start.

It was moved, seconded and passed to reaffirm the April 2018 resolution regarding the Watford City Mission and have President Bertsch and Vice President Peters report on their assessment of the situation to the board at the October 2018 meeting. *[April 6, 2018 Resolution: "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.]*

Wittenberg Chapel Report

Pastor Suelzle had little to report since Wittenberg did not hold services during the summer, though no approval was given for this by the board or the District President. With President Bertsch's approval, Pastor Suelzle will be serving the vacancy at Hillsboro. Upon extended discussion about lines of accountability on the part of district employees and maintain the focus of their work on the duties the board has called them for; it was moved, and seconded that when a full time district employee serves a congregational vacancy, the vacancy salary will be paid to the district. The motion was defeated.

Board Vacancy Appointment

Rev. Dr. Matt Richard was nominated and seconded to fill the board position vacated by Rev. Adam Moline who accepted a call out of the district. It was moved, seconded and carried to appoint Rev. Dr. Matt Richard to the Board of Directors.

Ordained Salary Guidelines

Tami presented the updated guidelines. It was moved, seconded and carried to adopt the ordained guidelines as presented.

Commissioned Salary Guidelines

Rev. Steve Schulz reviewed the newly proposed commissioned church worker compensation guidelines that were authorized by the 2018 District Convention. It was moved, seconded and carried to adopt the guidelines as presented.

District Articles of Incorporation

Resolution 3-01 adopted at the 2018 District Convention amended and restated the Articles of Incorporation for the LCMS North Dakota District, these articles now must be filed with the North Dakota Secretary of State. Rev. Josh Reimche and Tami will work on filing the restated and amended Articles with the Secretary of State.

Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota

President Bertsch reported that due to ever increasing doctrinal disunity between the Lutheran church bodies which are represented on the board of directors for Lutheran Social Service of North Dakota, it became necessary to terminate their RSO status within the LCMS and for the LCMS North Dakota District to withdraw from any further involvement with the organization. It was moved, seconded and carried to affirm the action taken by President Bertsch.

BOARD EDUCATION

Board Policy Manual. Section 3 of the Policy Manual was reviewed. One typo was corrected in section 3.2. The section was then discussed in detail to make certain that the board is following proper policy in regard to board monitoring and lines of accountability. No other changes were made.

BOARD MONITORING ITEMS

Management Report – District President

President Bertsch reviewed the mission work of the district and international partnerships with Kenya and Chile. He will continue to visit the congregations of the district to help them understand the important mission and ministry work that we do together as a district.

Management Report – Business Manager

- **2019 Projections.** Synod has notified the district that North Dakota's share for the 2019 Synod convention in Tampa, FL is \$22,374; which does not include travel expenses and per diem costs for North Dakota delegates attending the convention. By consensus, the board agreed that the district congregations should be notified of an estimated annual amount which they could then contribute each year toward the synod convention instead of being asked to come up such a large amount every three years.

- **Church Worker Training Assistance Program.** The board clarified that the CTAP program is a loan program where one year's loan award is forgiven for each year of rostered service by a church worker, so long as the recipient enters fulltime church work. In the past, it appears that some recipients have not entered church work and have not paid back the loans. President Bertsch will appoint a committee to review CTAP policy and financial future of the program.
- **District Archives.** Tami presented a list of records that are held in the district archives. Concordia Historical Institute has no interest in any of the documents. Therefore, it was moved, seconded and carried that with the exception of old congregation constitutions and bylaws, minutes from past pastors' conferences, district tax records going back to 1992, and school records; the rest is to be disposed of.

Financial Report – Finance Committee

- **Audit Report and Approval.** Leon reviewed the audit report. For FY 2017 the district ran a deficit of approximately \$40,000 after making adjustments for not having a fulltime District President or Business Manager, and also not counting principal funds held by the LCMS Foundation that will never be available for use by this district. The audit discovered no significant issues that need to be addressed. It was moved, seconded and carried to adopt the audit report a presented. Attached as appendix
- **Budget Report.** Leon reviewed the budget. At this time of year congregational giving is usually erratic, therefore no helpful conclusions can be drawn. He also reviewed that while \$194k is currently listed as board designated funds, those funds have been designated by a previous board to be used for CTAP funding, these funds may be re-designated by the current board for other uses. The district currently has approximately \$600k in cash on hand, but since the board is required to have at least three months operating expenses in reserve, this leaves approximately \$100,000 available for use as board designated funds. Attached as appendix

BOARD VISIONING

Ed Bean reported on the work he has been doing in the district. He has been thinking of how the transition will be handled when he decides to fully retire.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 p.m. by Vice Chairman Riley.

Sub Cruce,

Rev. Joshua D. Reimche, District Secretary