

# **LCMS North Dakota District Board of Directors**

## **Second Quarter Meeting Minutes** **16 April 2021**

### **Concordia Lutheran Church, Jamestown, ND**

Members present at the meeting were: Rev. Arie Bertsch, District President; Rev. Steve Schulz, Second Vice President; Rev. Tom Marcis, Chair; Mr. John Riley, Vice Chair; Rev. Daniel Voth, Secretary; Mr. Leon Bladow, Treasurer; Mr. Paul Huber; Mrs. Kay Kreklau; Mr. Tom Langer; Mr. Jason Paradis; Mr. Kirk Rosin; Rev. Lester Wolfgram; and Mrs. Tami Ulland, Business Manager.

Absent was Rev. Kirk Peters, First Vice President.

Chairman Marcis called the meeting to order at 1:25 p.m. CDT.

President Bertsch opened with a prayer for the work of the board.

A special presentation was made by the Rev. Max Phillips from Lutheran Family Services on the services provided by LFS including but not limited to: adoption services, pregnancy counseling, mental health counseling, life advocacy work, healthy marriage congregational presentations, and elder care via Perry Lutheran Homes in Perry, Iowa.

### **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 moved, seconded, and passed to adopt the consent agenda which included the following items:

- ◆ Minutes from February 4, 2021 & March 1, 2021 (DB)
- ◆ Message in the pew (DB)
- ◆ 2021 – 2023 Tentative Meeting Schedule
  - Beautiful Savior, Fargo, ND August 20, 2021 10:00am-6pm
  - Minot, October 29, 2021 10am-6pm
  - District Convention Fargo, ND, Jan 23-26, 2022
  - Beautiful Savior, Fargo, February 4, 2022 10am-6pm
  - Long Range – St. Paul's, Minot, April 28, 2021 2:30pm
  - St. Paul's, Minot, April 29, 2022 2:30pm-6pm
  - Bismarck/Mandan, August 19, 2022 10:00am-6pm
  - Beautiful Savior, Fargo, October 28, 2022 10am-6pm
  - Long Range — Bismarck/Mandan, February 2, 2023 2:30pm
  - Bismarck/Mandan, February 3, 2023 2:30pm-6pm
  - Beautiful Savior, Fargo, April 14, 2023 10am-6pm
  - St. Paul's, Minot, August 25, 2023 2:30pm-6pm
  - Beautiful Savior, Fargo, October 27, 2023 10am-6pm

## **Board Action Items**

### **President Task Force Appointments**

As a task force refers to a limited time and task focused group, they have been renamed “Standing Committees”. Mr. Paradis will review the “Standing Committees” document provided by Pres. Bertsch for grammatical corrections and clarification to present at a special Zoom meeting of the board of directors before the August 2021 meeting.

## **Unfinished Business**

### **Task Force on Convention**

Chairman Marcis will be having a Zoom meeting with the task force and have a full report in August.

### **VP Regions**

Current bylaws for vice president nominations state that congregation in each region (East: Southeast, Northeast, and East Circuits; West: Central, Northwest, and Southwest Circuits) are allowed to nominate one ordained minister from the region in which the congregation is located. Since the vice presidents represent the entire district, for the last several conventions the practice has been to allow congregations to nominate an ordained minister from each region regardless of the region in which the congregation is located.

**Motion:** In order to reflect the current practice of nominating Vice Presidents from each region by all voting congregations in the district, the bylaws of the North Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod shall be amended to read:

2.9.7.1. Nominations for the office of Regional Vice President shall be made in the following manner:

- Each voting congregation shall be entitled to nominate ~~an~~ **ONE (1)** ordained minister; from ~~its~~ **each** region; as a Regional candidate for the office of Vice President;

and

2.9.7.2. Candidates for the Office of Regional Vice President

Candidates for the Office of Regional Vice Presidents shall be in each instance the **TWO (2)** ordained ministers within each region receiving the greatest number of nominations from the nominating ballots of the congregations ~~in that region~~. The Secretary of the District shall notify each candidate and shall secure his approval in writing for inclusion of his name on the convention ballot. Each candidate shall reply within ten....

Motion was seconded and passed.

### **Review from Planning Council**

There was much discussion on past activities such as Faithful Families Conventions and Great Commission Convocations with a desire to do something similar once again for the congregations of the District. Pres. Bertsch was instructed to gather two or three standing

committees to work together on a proposal for bringing in speakers, activities, etc. for an October 2022 event to the board of directors by August 2021.

### **Bylaw changes to District overtures**

No actions taken.

### **Parsonage Repairs**

Repairs to the upstairs bathroom have been completed by Scott Connely for a cost of \$542. Repairs needed to the ceiling in the living room are beyond his capabilities. Rev. Voth and Rev. Suelzle will continue to seek a contractor for those repairs.

### **Committee Staffing**

Chairman Marcis is visiting with both the President and Business Manager on their administrative assistant/secretary needs to be compiled in written form and recommendation presented in August 2021.

Blenda, administrative assistant to President Bertsch, has been working on a job description and compiling a list of duties she carries out as part of this process.

### **Board Education**

No action taken.

### **Board Monitoring Items**

#### **Management Report — District President**

No additions or questions to report.

#### **Management Report — Business Manager**

As of the end of March, we are \$29k in the black. This is uncharted territory.

Quarterly payments to International missions will be made, a first for Tami this early in the financial year.

#### **Financial Report — Finance Committee**

As noted in the business manager report, in spite of the ongoing COVID restrictions, congregation giving is very generous.

#### **Standing Committee Liaison Reports**

No reports.

## **New Business**

Shepherd's Hills at the Crossroad hosts an annual Confirmation Retreat in the fall taught by North Dakota pastor(s). Rev. Bonine, Director, has requested the use of the North Dakota District name to be attached to the retreat this fall, as is done with the District Encounter Camp, with the desire to attract more participants.

**Motion:** To allow Shepherd's Hills at the Crossroads to advertise the fall confirmation retreat as the North Dakota District Confirmation Retreat.

Motion seconded and passed.

A request was presented to Chairman Marcis for support and aid to the Higher Things® Retreats held in the North Dakota District. Support was clarified to pray for the churches that are working on Higher Things®, assistance with advertising in the District and encouraging church to send youth. Aid was clarified as offering to help with registration, take registration money, and pay the bills, including the \$10 per participant fee sent to Higher Things®. Questions regarding collecting and sending money to an Recognized Service Organization of Synod were raised.

**Motion:** To pray, advertise, and encourage youth from the North Dakota congregations to attend Higher Things® retreats and conferences.

Motion was seconded and passed.

President Bertsch was given the request to include a pastor associated with the Higher Things® retreats in North Dakota to be appointed to the Standing Committee subcommittee of Youth and Young Adults.

Having heard several presentations during the Planning Council gathering about the services offered by Lutheran Family Services, there was discussion on what benefit they may be able to provide to the members, congregations, and pastors of the District. Could the North Dakota District partner with Lutheran Family Services to bring some of their services to North Dakota or would it be better to look for local organizations/businesses/individuals in the state to partner with and what role could the services provided by the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch play in this on-going conversation?

**Motion:** To have Vice President Schulz with assistance from Chairman Marcis and President Bertsch, in communication with the congregations of the District and their needs, to pursue conversations with Lutheran Family Services about partnering with the North Dakota District to provide services in the areas of mental health counseling and other social services to be reported to the board on or before the August 2021 board meeting.

Motion was seconded and passed.

Chairman Marcis adjourned the meeting at 3:34 pm CDT.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Daniel C. Voth". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Rev. Daniel C. Voth  
Secretary of the North Dakota District LCMS