

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

## **Third Quarter Meeting Minutes      20 August 2021**

### **Messiah Lutheran Church, Mandan, ND**

Present at the meeting were Rev. Arie Bertsch, District 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. Kirk Rosin; Rev. Lester Wolfgram; and Mrs. Tami Ulland, Business Manager.

Present via Zoom was Mr. Jason Paradis.

Absent were Rev. Kirk Peters, First Vice President; and Rev. Steve Schulz, Second Vice President. Also in attendance were Mr. Ted Kober, President of Ambassadors of Reconciliation; and Vern Hoggarth.

Chairman Marcis called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. CDT.

President Bertsch opened with devotion on the Body of Christ and prayer.

### **Board Visioning**

Mr. Ted Kober, President of Ambassadors of Reconciliation, presented on “Governance in the LCMS Districts” regarding policy based governance. During his presentation, he did address the concerns the Commission on Constitutional Matters has raised with the North Dakota District Bylaws and Board Policy Manual. The presentation concluded:

“Based on the governing documents of the Synod, Ambassadors of Reconciliation recommends that the responsibilities of the District President and Board of Directors be separated in District Bylaws and Policies to best fulfill their different functions.”

### **District President**

The District President is responsible for all areas under ecclesiastical and spiritual functions of the District. Accordingly, the District President should supervise and manage all staff, boards, and commissions related to those functions, such as:

- District President’s Administrative Assistant.
- Ecclesiastical supervision of ordained and commissioned ministers and member congregations.
- Representing the Synod to the District
- Life Together (coordinating District – Circuit – Congregation relationships)
- Witness and Evangelism
- Missions
- Christian education including the schools and education of stewardship
- Worship
- Mercy – Human Care (This area could possibly be assigned to the Board)

- Congregation Constitutions and Bylaws (in accord with Synod Bylaw 2.2)

The District President may report to the Board of Directors on his work in the above areas, but he is not accountable to the Board of Directors for these functions.

### **District Board of Directors**

The District Board of Directors is responsible for managing the business and legal affairs of the District. This board is a governing board and can utilize policy governance for the functions specifically delegated to it.

Accordingly, the Board of Directors should supervise and manage all staff and boards related to those functions, such as:

- Finances (all staff and boards responsible for budgets, bookkeeping and accounting). This would include a business manager or administrative officer. This also includes stewardship functions not related to education.
- Asset and property management (for assets including cash and other financial investments, buildings, and other major assets).
- Legal matters (including contracted attorneys, any staff or boards that relate to legal business, contracts, etc.)
- Human resources (developing District staff employee policies and all other HR issues)
- Risk management (managing insurance coverage)
- Appointing four District reconcilers (in accord with Synod Bylaw 1.10.10)

**Motion:** The North Dakota District Board of Directors hire Mr. Ted Kober of Ambassadors of Reconciliation to look at the bylaws and policies of the district to meet the requirements of Synod and workable within the district.

Motion was seconded and passed.

Copies of Mr. Kober's documents can be found in Dropbox.

## **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 April 16, 2021 and August 9, 2021 (DB)
- ◆ Message in the pew (DB)
- ◆ 2021 – 2023 Tentative Meeting Schedule
  - 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 Standing Committee Appointments**

Rev. Daryl Rothchild has been appointed Stewardship Committee Chair.

### **District Employee Benefits**

Various options to the health care coverage from Concordia Health Plans of the district employees was presented.

**Motion:** To continue with the current HDHP plan for district employees.

Motion seconded and passed.

## **Unfinished Business**

### **Pay Scale**

Discussion of the pay scale as presented by Tami Ulland, which in addition to the steps for years of service included a two percent (2%) cost of living adjustment for both ordained and commissioned workers.

**Motion:** To accept the ND District Salary Guidelines 2022 for Pastors as presented.

Motion was seconded and passed with one dissension.

**Motion:** To accept the Commissioned Minister Salary Schedule as presented.

Motion was seconded and passed with one dissension.

### **Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads**

A presentation was made to the board by Mr. Vern Hoggarth, a member of Messiah Lutheran Church, Mandan, on the condition and possibilities for SHCR. No action was taken. It was noted that any support of a Recognized Service Organization must be done by an overture to convention. The board commends Mr. Hoggarth for his enthusiasm and commitment to the camp.

### **Task Force on Convention**

no report

## **District Support Staff**

Chairman Marcis has met with district president and business manager. No recommendation at this time.

## **Bylaw Changes to District Overture**

Will wait for the work of Mr. Koberg before making any overtures. Chairman Marcis and Secretary Voth will check minutes for overtures from the board regarding mission and funding.

## **Parsonage Repairs.**

At this time, there is no contractor in Grand Forks willing to take on the parsonage ceiling repair. Condensation is not an issue for the Suelzle family but does need to be addressed for the upkeep of the property.

## **Faithful Families Convocation**

Currently in the idea stage. Rev. Wolfgram has assembled much of the committee membership for the Mercy Subcommittee and is seeking one final member. This committee will work with Lutheran Education committee on the convocation.

Rev. Wolfgram also shared the work that the Mercy Subcommittee has been doing.

**Motion:** To send Mr. Steve Carbone (Our Savior Lutheran, Minot) to the three day training event in St. Louis with LCMS Disaster Response in October and pay all expenses associated with the trip.

Motion seconded and passed.

## **Board Monitoring Items**

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

The Bottineau, Willow Creek, and Ruby tri-parish is now vacant. Rev. Jon Bonine will be serving the vacancy. They have had their first meeting to begin the call process.

Trinity Lutheran Church in Lamoure has voted to close.

Redeemer Lutheran Church in Lisbon continues to have conversation with district president about calling a candidate from the seminary.

Updates from the Council of Presidents include encouragement to congregations to not organize trips to Haiti without a recognized organization due to the extreme danger of working in country; we have no official work happening in Afghanistan; and no official position on the COVID injections.

Plans for district convention continue. The previous parliamentarian has declined the invitation to serve once again, so the search for a new parliamentarian has begun. The organist for convention has also moved out of the area and so President Bertsch will be working with the convention chaplain to find an organist. Rev. Jon Vieker is scheduled to

present an essay at the convention, but with a new call to the St. Louis seminary, President Bertsch needs to follow up with him to see if he will be able to attend. Slate of candidates for election has been set and biographies and signed Conflict of Interest documents are being collected.

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

Vicki Peihl in the Fargo office will be retiring no later than October, 2022.

The Subaru district vehicle has approximately 176,000 miles on it and has fully depreciated.

**Motion:** To authorize Tami to find a vehicle that suits her needs as the business manager of the district and present for purchase via a special Zoom meeting.

Motion seconded and passed.

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

The month of July continued the trend of doing very well. At this time, the district income is \$60,000 above last year at the same time.

Audit went well from LCMS Internal Audit.

**Motion:** To accept the official Audited Financial Statements for the North Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for the year ended January 31, 2021 and 2020.

Motion seconded and passed.

Proposed budget for 2022-2023 will be presented at the October board meeting.

### **Standing Committee Liaison Reports**

Only report submitted was by Mercy, as noted above.

### **New Business**

No new business was presented.

Chairman Marcis adjourned the meeting at 3:16 p.m. CDT

Respectfully submitted,



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