

Minutes
LCMS North Dakota District Board of Directors
October 25, 2019 – Fourth Quarter Meeting

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING DEVOTION

The October 25, 2019 Fourth Quarter meeting of the LCMS North Dakota Board of Directors was called to order at Beautiful Savior in Fargo, 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. Kirk Rosin, Mrs. Tina Davidson, Mrs. Tami Ulland, Business Manager; Mr. Jason Paradis, Mr. Tom Langer, Mr. Paul Huber, Mrs. Kay Kreklau, Rev. Dr. Matt Richard. Absent: Mr. Bob Luebke, due to resignation.

President Bertsch opened with a devotion from John 1. The board continued the study of The Augsburg Confession on Article 4, Justification.

Chairman Marcis reviewed the agenda. The agenda was initially adopted without amendment, however three items were added to the agenda from the consent agenda.

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 move The Wittenberg Report; August 16, 2019 Minutes, and Ed Bean's Report to the regular agenda for discussion. The consent agenda, which includes the following items was thus approved:

- 2018 – 2020 Tentative Meeting Schedule
 - 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

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

August 16, 2019 Minutes

Corrections were made as to which board members had been assigned to which Task Forces. However the Secretary was not paying close enough attention, and while he made the corrections, he has no recollection of what those corrections in fact were. Something else was corrected in regard to CTAP Committee recommendations about future loan awards. Again see a little bit above. He is telling the truth. He is not lying.

Ed Bean Report

Ed requested a reduction in compensation starting in Feb of 2020 from \$4,050 to \$3,250 per month. He plans to officially retire February 1, 2021 and will be looking for a replacement before that. It was moved, seconded and passed to reduce his compensation accordingly. Full report attached as Appendix A.

Wittenberg Report

Pastor Sulezle indicated that the parsonage is in need of some wiring corrections and has water issues. Because the district owns the parsonage, Suelzle is considered a renter and thus the house must be inspected by the city of Grand Forks. It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the Wittenberg Report.

The parsonage is in need of updates. Other than necessary maintenance, there have been few updates to the house. It was moved, seconded and passed to form a committee to examine the housing and parsonage situation in Grand Forks.

Niagara Constitution and Bylaws

The District Committee for Constitution and Bylaws recommended approval of Niagara's recent amendments. It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the amendments to Niagara Constitution and Bylaws.

CTAP Update

It was discussed that the program be changed to tuition reimbursement program. It was moved, and seconded to form a committee to have a conversation with LWML for the planning and formation of a North Dakota LCMS Tuition Reimbursement Program, with the intent of reporting back to the Board in 2020. Motion was defeated.

The CTAP committee will bring options for collecting outstanding loan balances and also clarify to borrowers the nature of the loan. The possible need to involve a collection agency was discussed and will be under consideration by the CTAP Committee.

Mineral Rights Epworth

St. Paul Lutheran Church in Epworth closed in the 1940's, therefore the land defaulted to the ND District, however ownership has not been officially established. It was moved, seconded and passed to establish official ownership of the congregational property in Epworth which includes surface and mineral rights.

Conventions and Assessments

Synod Convention

Adrian, Kensal, Woodworth, Pettibone, Cross Pointe, Fargo; Lamour, Grafton, and West Fargo have not paid their assessment for the 2019 Synod Convention. With income thus far from congregations which have paid their assessment, there is approx. \$5,000 on hand to direct toward the next synod convention.

The board discussed billing annual assessments to congregations for the Synod Convention which would enable congregations to budget for the triennial expense,

annually. The Synod convention assessment is based on communicant membership. Statements will be sent to district congregations this fall with their annual assessment for the next Synod Convention.

District Convention

The 2018 District Convention had a deficit of approximately \$13,000. The 2021 District convention registration is anticipated to be approximately \$600 per registrant, in order to cover the convention cost. The board was concerned about the high registration fee. The 2021 convention is already set to be held at the Delta Hotel in Fargo. The possibility of cancelling the contract with the Delta and holding the convention at Immanuel in Fargo was discussed, however at this time exact cancellation fees are unknown.

It was moved, seconded and passed to form a committee to explore cost saving measures including but not limited to: location, meals, and lodging for the 2021 convention and to present recommendations on future district conventions to the 2021 convention.

BOARD MONITORING ITEMS

Management Report – District President

- “Everyone His Witness”, Synod’s new evangelism program has been received and President Bertsch is examining it for evangelism training in the district. He is also exploring synod’s “Here I Stand” initiative to continue celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.
- Pastoral letters were sent to congregations concerning congregational giving, and simply to ask how things are going.

Management Report – Business Manager

- **Activity Report.** The office has been busy. We never get bored! Vicki has been plugging along at the vault. Lots of decisions to make on what to keep, what to throw, what to send to St. Louis. Ed took several boxes of archival stuff to St. Louis with him in October.

In August, I took a trip up to the Rolla Golf Course for the Shepherd’s Hill Retreat Golf scramble. I also presented a LCEF Signature Series Sponsorship grant at Immanuel, Fargo for the information center screen and hardware in the welcome hall. Board meeting, conference calls, online training and few other meetings kept me going from here to there.

In September, I was in St. Louis for a week for LCEF training. I had an LCEF Sunday at St. John, Oakes and attended the LWML Fall retreat at Shepherd’s Hill Retreat. I went for a drive around Mountrail County looking for a closed church site. Epworth shows up on Google maps, but not on a road map. I found the church site – and the oil well we are supposed to be getting royalties from. We have funds sitting in ND unclaimed property and EOG Resources has some for us.

The problem is proving we are the successor to the mineral rights. I hope to get this cleared up. It was a headache for Bill too... Vicki and Larry both had successful surgeries and are healing well.

October has brought pastors conference, the LWML Mission grant meeting, a blizzard, and flooding. I attended the Middle school gathering over teachers' convention in Bismarck. I also presented for LCEF and on the District missions at Shepherd of the Valley, Bismarck and stopped in at Peace, Garrison to talk about the District missions.

- **Employee 403b Contributions.** Concordia Plans requires board approval to allow CRSP contributions directly from employee payroll checks. It was moved, seconded and passed to approve initiation of the deduction of CRSP contributions for district employees.
- **CTAP Request.** John Schmelser missed the deadline to apply for CTAP funds, but would still like to be considered for the program. It was moved, seconded and passed to decline any CTAP funds to him, because he missed the deadline to apply and because available funds have already been distributed.

Financial Report – Finance Committee

- A tentative budget would normally be reviewed, however the committee did not have an opportunity to assemble the budget for this meeting. There will be a video conference in late November or early December to review the initial budget.

Task Force Liaison Reports

- **Rev. Kirk Peters - Ordained and Commissioned Ministers.** Nothing to report.
- **Leon Bladow - Stewardship Report.** The 1.1.1 campaign has been initiated and presented at the Fall Pastors' Conference. No specific budget request at this time. Looking to make a video promoting the campaign.
- **Rev. Steve Schultz - Local Mercy and Life.** Involved in 40 days for life. Encouraging each congregation to have a life display with life related resources, and possibly have a Life Advocate.
- **Rev. Tom Marcis - International Mercy.** Working toward assembling information and publicity for Kenya and Chile.
- **Rev. Dr. Matt Richard – Youth & Young Adults.** Pat Sebastian sent a written report. Matt reported that there is a \$6,000 deficit after the recent District Youth Gathering and an additional \$2,800 in outstanding expenses for training in St. Louis, yet to be submitted for reimbursement. It was moved, seconded and passed amend the budget and use unrestricted funds to pay the deficit of the youth gathering.
- **Kay Kreklau – Lutheran Education.** Nothing to report.
- **Josh Reimche – Plant and Revitalize.** Nothing to report.

BOARD VISIONING AND COLLABORATION

Ken Koehler joined the meeting at 2:14pm to talk about the work and ministry of Main Street Living. Quite a few ND pastors have been participating as their schedules allow. Thus far in 2019, production costs are outpacing income by \$5,700. Publicity and promotion would be appreciated.

Executive Session

Board entered executive session at 4:49. Exited executive session at 4:56

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m. by Chairman Marcis.

Sub Cruce,



Rev. Joshua D. Reimche, Secretary

DIRECTOR OF BIBLICAL FINANCE

ND DISTRICT, ED BEAN

Dear Tami – Another month has rapidly gone by! I have had another successful month visiting with God's people in North Dakota. I could say it has been a routine month but in the development business there is no routine! Each family has their own thoughts, ideas, and desires on how to support the Lord's work here on earth and to gift to their loved ones.

As you well know, Norma Moulsoff was recently called to her eternal home. Many, many thanks to Pastor Daenzer for visiting with her in the Breckenridge nursing home and for him to contact me to visit with her. She gifted an annuity (\$155,000) to the ND District restricted to church worker scholarships. The full details of the restriction will be forwarded to you after I meet with Pastor Daenzer to ensure that what we both heard is what Norma really wanted.

Also the \$2.7 million gift that I showed you at pastor's conference in Minot will be reported in October's results after I finalize the gift with LCMS Foundation this coming week while I am in St. Louis. The gift is fairly complex including some immediate distribution upon surviving spouse's death and some deferred gifting going through a charitable trust.

The following is documentation of our verbal discussion this past week: Starting in February, 2020 please reduce my wage and expense package to \$3450 per month for a full year. I plan to officially retire February 1, 2021. I will keep my eyes open for an appropriate potential candidate. I truly believe there is full time work for a development officer within the ND District. The LCMS Foundation thoroughly trains people in the gift planning profession. After 2021 I would like to stay connected to the ND District to help train a successor and assist any family who may call in requesting Will or trust services. Also in 2021 I would like to implement a current ND District gifting program depending upon the 1-1-1 mission success. I started here in the ND District in October, 1995...25+ years of God's blessings through gift planning!

That's my story and I'm sticking to it...Ed Bean

2019 Annual Results By Month

	ND Dist	SHCR	GLS	MLS	LCMS Churches	LCMS Ministries	Secular Charities	Totals	# Of Ministry Gifts	YTD Ministry Gifts
January	\$ 12,458.00		\$ 4,856.00	\$ 4,856.00	\$ 125,964.00	\$ 52,678.00		\$ 200,812.00	6	6
February	\$ 9,462.00		\$ 4,287.00	\$ 4,287.00	\$ 101,264.00	\$ 48,742.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 173,042.00	8	14
March	\$ 18,746.00		\$ 7,642.00	\$ 7,642.00	\$ 246,218.00	\$ 352,824.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 634,072.00	12	26
April	\$ 11,689.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 5,151.00	\$ 5,151.00	\$ 246,821.00	\$ 129,487.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 410,299.00	9	35
May	\$ 14,629.00				\$ 229,864.00	\$ 148,679.00		\$ 393,172.00	6	41
June	\$ 8,429.00				\$ 194,872.00	\$ 164,257.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 371,558.00	6	47
July	\$ 16,546.00				\$ 207,846.00	\$ 179,542.00		\$ 403,934.00	8	55
August	\$ 22,438.00				\$ 365,742.00	\$ 298,541.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 694,721.00	10	65
September								\$ -		
October								\$ -		
November								\$ -		
December								\$ -		
Totals	\$ 114,397.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 21,936.00	\$ 21,936.00	\$ 1,718,591.00	\$ 1,374,750.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 3,281,610.00		

October, 2019 Monthly Report

Director of Biblical Finances, Ed Bean

Good morning, Tami! It feels like we missed fall weather...yikes, it is cold out there!

As stated in my September monthly report, this month I finalized the documentation for the \$2.75 million gift. The gift is quite complex with direct gifting, charitable trust, and two endowment funds. We had to ensure all the loopholes were covered because of potential family concerns after the Lord calls these people home.

I am still working on another portion that hasn't been covered. We had a very long discussion when I had asked for a gift for the ND District. The couple are thinking about and praying about designating to the ND District 160 acres of land fairly close to oil country. They are contemplating gifting the land to the district but gifting the mineral rights to family. This portion of their estate will be finalized in Spring, 2020 after the couple return from wintering in warmer climates.

In the meantime, there is a potential even larger gift that is being worked on which will include a substantial gift to district church worker scholarships. This couple has been procrastinating for 10 years! When I told them I was retiring in 2021 then they decided they had better get moving on their estate gifting!

I have many irons in the fire that need to be finalized over the next 15 months! So best I sign off and get moving!

Blessings! Ed Bean

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March	\$ 18,746.00		\$ 7,642.00	\$ 7,642.00	\$ 246,218.00	\$ 352,824.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 634,072.00	12	26
April	\$ 11,689.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 5,151.00	\$ 5,151.00	\$ 246,821.00	\$ 129,487.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 410,299.00	9	35
May	\$ 14,629.00				\$ 229,864.00	\$ 148,679.00		\$ 393,172.00	6	41
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July	\$ 16,546.00				\$ 207,846.00	\$ 179,542.00		\$ 403,934.00	8	55
August	\$ 22,438.00				\$ 365,742.00	\$ 298,541.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 694,721.00	10	65
September	\$ 14,892.00				\$ 221,459.00	\$ 165,428.00		\$ 401,779.00	6	71
October	\$ 19,652.00				\$ 375,426.00	\$ 2,437,624.00	\$ 12,969.00	\$ 2,845,671.00	9	80
November								\$ -		
December								\$ -		
Totals	\$ 148,941.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 21,936.00	\$ 21,936.00	\$ 2,315,476.00	\$ 3,977,802.00	\$ 32,969.00	\$ 6,529,060.00		