

# LCMS North Dakota District Board of Directors

## Second Quarter Meeting Minutes    26 August 2022

### Messiah Lutheran Church, Mandan, ND

Present at the meeting were Rev. Arie Bertsch, district president; Rev. Kirk Peters, second vice-president; Mr. Tom Langer, Vice-chair; Rev. Daniel Voth, secretary; Rev. Dr. Adam Filipek; Mrs. Tana McKenna; Mr. Jason Paradis; Mr. Scott Pfennig; Mr. Eric Poppinga; Mr. Marty Visto; Rev. Lester Wolfgram; and Mrs. Tami Ulland, Business Manager.

Present via Zoom: Rev. Steve Schulz, first vice-president, chair; Mrs. Kay Kreklau, treasurer.

Also present: Denise Wolfgram, Principal, Martin Luther School, Bismarck, ND.

## **1.0 Life Together**

Vice-chairman Langer called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. CDT.

President Bertsch opened with Morning Daily Prayer (LSB 295), the hymn “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less” (LSB 575), and a study of Jude 1-13.

No items were added to the agenda.

## **2.0 Board Action Items**

### **2.1 Consent Agenda**

Vice-chairman Langer 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:

2.1.1 Minutes from May 20, 2022 (*Dropbox*)

2.1.2 Message in the Pew (*Dropbox*)

2.1.3 Meeting schedule 2022 – 2025

• Beautiful Savior, Fargo		October 28, 2022	10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
• Bismarck/Mandan	Planning Council	February 2-3, 2023	2:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
• Bismarck/Mandan		February 3, 2023	1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
• Beautiful Savior, Fargo		April 14, 2023	10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
• Minot		August 25, 2023	10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
• Beautiful Savior, Fargo		October 27, 2023	10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
• Beautiful Savior, Fargo	Planning Council	February 1-2, 2024	2:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
• Beautiful Savior, Fargo		February 2, 2024	1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
• Bismarck/Mandan		April 12, 2024	10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
• Beautiful Savior, Fargo		August 23, 2024	10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
• Minot		October 25, 2024	10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
• District Convention, Minot		January 19-22, 2025	

2.1.4 Wittenberg report (*Dropbox*)

Discussion of the Wittenberg parking lot surface was discussed and a recommendation was made to look into crushed asphalt to be added atop the current crushed rock.

## 2.2 Action Items

### 2.2.1 Board Standing Committee appointments.

No new appointments have been made.

### 2.2.2 Board Task Forces

#### 2.2.2.1 Staff Salary

Finance committee reviewed district salary guidelines for ordained and commissioned workers as found in Dropbox. Recommended a three percent increase, with the note that congregations may increase salary, etc. due to actual inflation increases above district guidelines.

**Motion:** To approve the North Dakota District salary guidelines for 2023 as presented.

Motion seconded and adopted.

Business manager will distribute the guidelines to the congregations and have them posted on the district website.

Salary review committee also presented a report on business manager and hourly staff salary recommendations. Report found in Dropbox.

**Motion:** To approve the Business Manager scale as presented and to continue the district president salary at the 600+ baptized level for years since ordination plus five percent.

Motion seconded and adopted.

**Motion:** For the district president to offer his administrative assistant up to \$18 per hour; and for the business manager to offer the office manager up to \$21 per hour for the remainder of the year.

Motion seconded and adopted.

**Motion:** To authorize between forty to sixty hours of training for the new office manager at \$16-18 per hour in the month of October.

Motion seconded and adopted.

Salary review committee also presented a report on health care plans from Concordia Health Plans with recommendations. Report found in Dropbox.

**Motion:** To move the district staff from CHP discontinued HDHP plan to Healthy Me B with HSA Contribution in the amount of \$4,400 annually.

Motion seconded and adopted.

#### 2.2.2.2 Youth Events Budget

No budget has been submitted from the Youth and Young Adult subcommittee for any upcoming events. Treasurer Kreklau will continue to seek budgets for upcoming events. Discussion of the district budget which on line item 73230 includes \$20,000 for the junior high gathering in October, which is budgeted for an expected income of \$15,000.

### **2.2.2.3 Part-time District President**

Summary of findings in Dropbox. Currently only one district has a part-time district president. Several other districts reported that when they studied the issue, they quickly abandoned the study as it was clear it was not feasible.

### **2.2.3 District Constitution and Bylaws Committee**

Secretary Voth reported the standing committee had reviewed constitution and bylaw revisions for Peace Lutheran, Barney; Peace Lutheran, Garrison; St. Paul's Lutheran, Minot; and Immanuel Lutheran, Grand Forks. Secretary Voth had recused himself from the review of the discussions for Immanuel Lutheran, Grand Forks as he serves said congregation. Committee members recommend adoption for all revisions.

**Motion:** To approve the updates to the constitutions and/or bylaws for Peace Lutheran, Barney; Peace Lutheran, Garrison; St. Paul's Lutheran, Minot; and Immanuel Lutheran, Grand Forks as reviewed by the committee.

Motion seconded and adopted.

### **2.2.4 Appointment of New Members.**

None at this time.

## **2.3 Board Unfinished Business**

### **2.3.1 Family Convocation**

Four registrations have been received for the "Love Abounds" family convocation October 21-22, 2022 in Bismarck. Publicity has been sent out to all congregations.

### **2.3.2 LFS Partnership**

Nothing new until after the Fall Pastors' Conference, when representatives from LFS will be presenting to the district pastors.

### **2.3.3 Evangelism Convocation**

Rev. Peters presented on the planning for the "Tell the Good News about Jesus" evangelism convocation to be held in Bismarck February 10-11, 2023. Several vendors and speakers, from inside and outside the district, have been secured on a variety of topics related to the planning council goals identified at the second quarter meeting. Treasurer Kreklau requested a budget for the event.

**Motion:** To authorize the business manager to sign contract with the Ramada Hotel in Bismarck for the February 2023 convocation.

Motion seconded and adopted.

## **4.0 Board Monitoring Items**

### **4.1 District President's report**

Nothing to add to report in Dropbox.

### **4.2 Business Manager report**

Nothing to add to report in Dropbox.

### **4.3 Financial reports**

Reports are found in Dropbox. Giving is behind budget but close to average giving, which has not changed much in the last twenty years.

### **4.4 Board of Directors Subcommittee reports**

Stewardship report was in Dropbox. Board continues to work on clear expectations of each subcommittee.

## **5.0 Board Visioning**

### **5.1 Planning council goals**

#### **5.1.1 Family catechesis**

This will be a major emphasis of the “Tell the Good News about Jesus” convocation in February, 2023.

#### **5.1.2 Out reach**

This will be a major emphasis of the “Love Abounds” convocation in October, 2022.

#### **5.1.3 Rural/Small Town task force**

No action at this time. This will be a major emphasis of the “Love Abounds” convocation in October, 2022.

#### **5.1.2 In reach**

This will be an emphasis of the “Tell the Good News about Jesus” convocation in February, 2023.

### **5.2 Martin Luther School**

Mrs. Denise Wolgram, principal of Martin Luther School, Bismarck, presented on the transition the school has made to a classical model of education. Students, parents, and teachers have all been receptive to the move and have seen great benefits on state testing, home life, and overall academics. After several years without a middle school, they have again added a sixth grade class and will continue to add one grade level for the next several years, evidence of the family, school, and church support of this model of instruction.

## **3.0 Board Education**

### **3.1 Review Board Policy Manual section 1 - Outcome Policies**

Discussion around policy 1.3.4.1 and the definition of the meaning of “revitalized”. Several suggestions were offered for continued discussion at the next meeting. They were as follows:

“To be revitalized means ... to impart new life; to restore vitality.

This is done by the Word and Sacraments alone.

How do I put this into practice?

- within the district, congregations maintain a clear and concise Communion statement that is used in the service and follow with adherence to the practice of “close[d] communion”
- within the district, congregations maintain routine, regular, not occasional use of the liturgies contained in the LSB

- within the district, congregations maintain alignment of practice and materials (LS Bible & Small Catechism) used for the catechesis of confirmands
- within the district, congregations instill a routine and consistent effort to graduate to and educate the post-confirmation congregants with The Book of Concord, LSB, etc.”

“To be revitalized means that a majority of the congregation, the body of Christ, are regularly living their life together in Christ by gathering around Him in Word and Sacrament which are administered in the Divine Service and then using their God-given gifts to proclaim Him to all who they encounter in their daily vocations.”

“To be revitalized means having a renewed and ongoing focus on (1) the Word and Sacraments and (2) service to neighbor and community.”

Discussion was held regarding the order and wording of the Mega-outcomes, as well as changes within several outcomes to better reflect Lutheran theology.

**Motion:** To reverse the order the two mega-outcomes; change the wording of mega-outcome “All people will be saved” to “God desires all people to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4)”; include Matthew 28:18-20 with mega-outcome one; and change the wording of outcome 1.3.1 from “an increasing percentage of targeted people” to “an increasing number of targeted people”.

Motion seconded and adopted.

## **6.0 Adjournment**

Vice-chairman Langer adjourned the meeting at 5:36 p.m. CDT.

President Bertsch closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Rev. Daniel C. Voth  
Secretary  
LCMS North Dakota District