

LCMS North Dakota District Board of Directors
First Quarter Meeting Minutes 3 February 2023
Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND

Present at the meeting were Rev. Arie Bertsch, district president; Rev. Steve Schulz, first vice-president, chair; Rev. Kirk Peters, second vice-president; Mr. Tom Langer, vice-chair; Rev. Daniel Voth, secretary; Mrs. Kay Kreklau, treasurer; Rev. Dr. Adam Filipek; Mrs. Tana McKenna; Mr. Jason Paradis; Mr. Scott Pfennig; Mr. Eric Poppinga; Rev. Lester Wolfram; and Mrs. Tami Ulland, Business Manager.

Mr. Marty Visto joined via Zoom.

Members absent: Rev. Dr. Adam Filipek

1.0 Life Together

Chairman Schulz called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. CST.

President Bertsch opened with prayer.

President Bertsch has been asked to attend the Chile *foro* in March. This discussion was added to the agenda as 2.2.7.

2.0 Board Business

2.1 Consent Agenda

Chairman Schulz 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 October 28, 2022; November 7, 2022; and November 29, 2022 (*Dropbox*)

2.1.2 Message in the Pew (*Dropbox*)

2.1.3 Meeting schedule 2023 – 2025

• Messiah, Mandan	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*)

The suggestion was made to add Grand Forks to the meeting schedule and to meet at Wittenberg Chapel. Suggestions were August (no students) or October (fits into a rotation throughout the district). With the 60th Anniversary of the chapel occurring in 2024, this was encouraged and would provide time to discuss what the district could do to celebrate this milestone.

2.2 Action Items

2.2.1 Board Standing Committee appointments.

2.2.2.1 Witness

Rev. Heath Trampe has stepped down from leading the rural ministry task force for family reasons. President Bertsch is to contact the following to ask if they would serve on this standing committee: Rev. Chris Brademeyer, Rev. Mark Chepulis, Rev. Tom Marcis, and Rev. Paul Preus.

Rev. Daniel Suelzle has expressed some interest in leading the Lutheran Education standing committee. Chairman Schulz will speak to him more about this position.

2.2.2.2 Mercy

No appointments to report.

2.2.2.3 Life Together

No appointments to report.

2.2.2 Board Task Forces

2.2.2.2 Part-time District President

Committee continues its work and discussions with other districts with part-time presidents. They have also spoken with representatives from the congregation(s) which submitted the resolution.

2.2.3 District Committees

2.2.3.1 Constitutions and Bylaws

Nothing to report.

2.2.3.2 Stewardship

Nothing to report

2.2.4 Appointment of New Members of BOD

None at this time.

2.2.5 Mission Giving within the District

Questions have been raised concerning the dollars given to the district for Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads (SHCR or camp). The originator of the resolution in convention believed that district support would come in addition to the pass through monies sent into district to be forwarded to the center. Last spring, the board chose to treat the center like other district missions, in other words, any money coming into the district on behalf of the mission would be counted toward the district commitment, providing consistency in all our mission dollars. This practice will be retained.

Motion by President Bertsch: As the Lord has blessed the North Dakota District with additional funds at the end of the fiscal year, an additional gift in the amount of \$5,000 shall be given to each of the following missions of the district: Christ Care for Children — Kenya; Chile Mission; and Shepherd's Hills at the Crossroads.

Motion seconded and adopted.

2.2.6 2023 Budget Update and Approval

Presentation and discussion of the 2023-2024 North Dakota District Budget was held. Much discussion was around the possibility of partnering with Lutheran Family Service (LFS) in the areas of counseling services and adoptions.

Motion by President Bertsch: To allow Lutheran Family Service use of the North Dakota District office in Fargo for a mailing address and to keep a locked file cabinet for adoption records on site as required by the State of North Dakota for the purposes of seeking an adoption license and to pay the \$500 filing fee.

Motion seconded. Motion was adopted after a ballot vote of 7 in favor and 4 opposed.

Motion by Secretary Voth: To adopt the 2023-2024 North Dakota District budget as presented with addition that the BOD Designated Assets be released to balance the budget per our bylaws.

Motion seconded and adopted with 2 opposed.

2.2.7 President Bertsch Travels to Chile *Foro*

President Bertsch has been asked to attend the upcoming *foro* in Chile as part of our continued partnership this spring.

Motion by Treasurer Kreklau: To release restricted funds for over seas travel to attend international *foros* to allow President Bertsch to attend the upcoming Chile *foro*.

Motion seconded and adopted.

2.3 Board Unfinished Business

2.3.1 Lutheran Family Service Partnership

Work continues to pursue a partnership with Lutheran Family Service, as directed by convention. Having heard a presentation from Mrs. Kim Laube, Associate Executive Director of LFS, on adoption services, Crisis and Pregnancy support services, and Voice in the Public Square, during the planning council, in addition to question and answer time with Rev. Dr. Steven D. Turner, President of the Iowa West District, the board would like to see what the cost would be to partner with LFS for both Telehealth and in-person counseling services for pastors and members of the NDD at our next regularly scheduled meeting.

2.3.1 Tell the Good News About Jesus Evangelism Convocation

Due to a lack of registrations, this convocation has been cancelled. This convocation does meet many of our goals. Reconsidering of a different date, location, and/or format will be discussed at upcoming meetings.

3.0 Board Education

3.1 Review Board Policy Manual section 2 - Self-Governance Policies

Discussions were had regarding policy. The following changes were suggested:

2.1 “and the custodian of all property of the district” struck

2.1.9 “or action that they believe is in non-compliance” was struck as it was an accidental repetition

2.1.12 strike “them” from first line

2.6.5 “counsel” corrected to “council”

2.9.1 second line “quarterly” changed to “monthly” as matches current practice

2.13.1 “an amount agreed upon by the board, but not to exceed” struck to match current practice

2.15.1 “proposed motions” changed to “agenda items” submitted to chair “and secretary”

2.16.5 Second sentence does not relate to first, so moved to a new line item and all numbers sequential updated.

There was discussion of the meaning of 2.8.2.1.1. Secretary Voth has contacted Dr. Teb Kober of Ambassadors of Reconciliation who helped refine this policy manual for clarification.

Motion by Mrs. McKenna: To accept suggested changes to the BOD Policy Manual as discussed.

Motion seconded and adopted.

4.0 Board Monitoring Items

4.1 District President’s report

Nothing additional to report in addition to the report in Dropbox.

4.2 Business Manager report

Nothing additional to report in addition to the report in Dropbox.

4.3 Financial reports

Congregational giving in 2022 was very good. In addition, district expenses were \$75,000 below budget.

4.4 Standing Committee reports

Reports from all standing committees were given at planning council.

5.0 Board Visioning

5.1 Planning council goals

5.1.1 Family catechesis

With the cancellation of the “Tell the Good News about Jesus” convocation in February 2023, more thought needs to be given on implementation.

5.1.2 Out reach

No action at this time.

5.1.3 Rural/Small Town task force

No action at this time.

5.1.4 In reach

With the cancellation of the “Tell the Good News about Jesus” convocation in February 2023, more thought needs to be given on implementation.

Chairman Schulz suggested that the board consider adding a fifth goal related to enhancing communication within the district at all levels. This will be discussed in greater detail at the next meeting. All current goals will continue into 2023 as the board believed the work done one year ago is still very urgent and worth our time.

6.0 Adjournment

Chairman Schulz adjourned the meeting at 4:02 p.m. CST.

President Bertsch closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel C. Voth". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Rev. Daniel C. Voth
Secretary
LCMS North Dakota District