

**NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT  
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS  
August 6, 2019  
District Office - Wausau, Wisconsin**

**MINUTES**

**In Attendance**

Mr. Bruce Plautz, Chairman  
Rev. Dr. Timothy Roser, 1<sup>st</sup> VP  
Rev. William Plautz, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP  
Rev. Timothy Shoup, 3<sup>rd</sup> VP  
Rev. Donald Engebretson, Secretary  
Mr. Richard Bartanen  
Rev. Aaron Gehrke  
Mrs. Karol Selle

**Unable to Attend**

Mr. Dave Ackerman, Treasurer  
Mr. Paul Duerst  
Mr. Stephen Fisher  
Mrs. Sharon Voight

**A.M. Meeting Only**

Mr. Brian Betts  
Mrs. Kathy Strasser

**District Staff**

Mr. Bill Jordan  
Mrs. Lori Kavajecz  
Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck, President  
Mr. DJ Schult

Chairman Plautz called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Opening Devotion** – Rev. Engebretson provided the Opening Devotion based on 1Thesolonians 5:16-18.

**Adoption of Agenda**

The agenda was adopted as presented. A **motion** was made and seconded to approve the agenda. **APPROVED.**

**Approval of Consent Voting Agenda**

Approval of May 6 & 7, 2019 Minutes

A **motion** was made and seconded to approve the above Consent Voting Agenda as presented. **APPROVED.**

**Financial Update**

Mr. Jordan stated that the District remains in a strong financial position as indicated on the year-to-date income & profit/loss statements; additionally, the statement of cash flow for June 2019 indicates the District has adequate cash on hand to satisfy all its financial obligations. In regard to unrestricted income, an area of concern is congregational giving which has experienced a precipitous decline in recent years.

**Epiphany, Stanley**

Mr. Jordan shared that Epiphany is now closed. Prior to closing they voted to send all its assets, after all financial obligations are satisfied, to the North Wisconsin District of the LCMS. Mr. Jordan is working on finalizing these details on behalf of the District.

## Camp Luther

### Nominating Process for Camp Luther Board

Chairman Plautz stated that at our next meeting in November, this Board is responsible to fill the position of Member at Large to replace Amy Pflieger whose term will end on the Camp Luther Board. He asked members to be thinking about who might be a good fit. It was noted that a good candidate would be someone who is knowledgeable about Camp Luther, as well as someone who will keep the interests of the North Wisconsin District in mind. Mrs. Kavajecz will send a reminder and more information on this in the future.

### District Representative Report

Rev. Gehrke stated that he was not able to attend the meeting in July. He did follow up with Camp and provided the following updates:

- ❖ When the Camp Board and the District Board met in April the bids for the new dining hall came in higher than expected. Since then, Camp has done a lot of trimming in areas to get the price back down to the original goal of \$2.8 million.
- ❖ Groundbreaking is set for September 1<sup>st</sup> – all are welcome.
- ❖ Camp is still looking for a semi-trailer to use for the nine months of construction to store their kitchen items.

### Constitution & Bylaw Changes

Secretary Engebretson recommended the following Constitutions for approval as received:

- ❖ Zion – Eland
- ❖ Trinity – Prentice

Secretary Engebretson recommended the following Constitutions with provisional approval upon the below stated changes being implemented, received and approved by him.

- ❖ St. Paul – Cumberland  
Add the name of the city to Article I and “called workers” should be noted as only those on the LCMS roster.
- ❖ Zion – Oneida  
The constitution states that called workers may be removed from office “in Christian and lawful order”. It is recommended that they add “*by a two-thirds majority vote of the voters’ assembly*”.
- ❖ St. John – Almond  
Under excommunication it is recommended that the additional provision be added: “*A two-thirds majority vote of the voter’s assembly is required.*” And also a similar provision under Article VIII, Pastoral Office, C. where the reasons for removal of office are given.
- ❖ St. Peter & Paul – Houghton  
Recommend same verbiage as above for the 2/3 vote provision be included for those removed by excommunication

A **motion** was made and seconded to approve the Constitution & Bylaw changes for Zion-Eland, Trinity-Prentice, St. Paul-Cumberland, Zion-Oneida, St. John-Almond and St. Peter & Paul-Houghton as noted above. **APPROVED.**

## **2019 Synod Convention Report**

Mr. Betts provided a written review of convention actions which included a chart created by Mr. Schult of all the resolutions that were presented. Those who attended the convention were given an opportunity to share their experiences with the Board.

## **Wolf River Lutheran High School Update**

Rev. Shoup provided the history of the school. He also shared the challenges they face, as well as a recruitment plan that they wish to put in place. Rev. Shoup then presented a grant proposal to the Board.

A question was asked about how these types of requests are brought to the Board. The Board asked Senior Staff to create a policy for individuals to bring forward mission opportunities to the President for review prior to bringing to the Board.

Board members had a discussion on how to fund these types of mission opportunities.

A **motion** was made and seconded that President Lueck and staff consider up to an additional 4% of congregational giving income (reducing Synod giving from 39% to 35%) to be available or allocated for special mission projects within the District. **APPROVED.**

## **Standing Committee Updates**

### **Administrative Services Committee**

Rev. Plautz shared that he and the District have been receiving lots of phone calls regarding the new CPS tool. He has been in contact with Concordia Plan Services and they will be putting together a Q&A sheet for us to put on our website as a reference. It was also requested to direct individuals to the "Additional information not shared in the CPS Tool" document first and then take them to the CPS tool so that it doesn't get overlooked. This may help alleviate some of the questions. There was also a request to add verbiage to the "Additional information" sheet that states: *"being in line with District guidelines will assist in the retention of workers"*.

### **Audit & Investment Management Committee**

Mr. Plautz provided the following information:

- ❖ The first 6 months' performance of the two largest scholarship funds has yielded an 11.1% increase
- ❖ In 2019-20 37 scholarships totaling \$101,000 were awarded.

### **Governance Committee**

Dr. Roser walked the Board through Section 1 of the Board Policy Manual to review our outcomes and goals to make sure they are still in alignment with the direction we wish to be going. The following suggestion was made:

- ❖ Under Outcome #2: Congregations – Add a 4<sup>th</sup> goal as follows: *"Goal 4. Encourage congregations to take care of their pastor."*

It was also suggested that we should look into creating a "master list" of all Chaplains in our District.

## Stewardship Committee

Mr. Jordan stated that there is nothing to report at this time.

## **Ongoing Board Education & Training**

President Lueck provided the Board with the book “The Forgotten Church” which focuses on rural ministry. He stated that our District is very rural and we need to start preparing pastors on how to adjust to the demands of this changing ministry area. He asked the Board to read the book and be ready to discuss at our November meeting. Revs. Roser & Engebretson volunteered to be on a task force that will look at how to prepare pastors and congregations for the ever changing rural church.

## **President’s Report**

President Lueck shared an overview of the Gift Planning Services report he received for the second quarter. He also handed out his president’s report to share with members.

## **Staff Reports**

### DJ Schult

Mr. Schult shared the following highlights:

- ❖ FLAME – 9 candidates, 3 years – Future principals training, FLAME regional or SLED national
- ❖ Colloquy – 8 teachers, 3 years – Lutheran training – join roster or ethos development
- ❖ TEC21 – 106 teachers, 5 years – Classroom technology integration
- ❖ Curriculum Trak – 15 schools, 5 years – Curriculum mapping tool
- ❖ Ministry Safe – Sexual abuse awareness video training. Money set aside for the next 3 years to provide this training to several groups throughout the District.
- ❖ Early Childhood Regional meeting – August 8<sup>th</sup> in Ishpeming
- ❖ All School Summit – August 15<sup>th</sup> in Bonduel

### Bill Jordan

This position is now under a 60/40 split. 60%-LCEF and 40%-District. He shared the following highlights:

- ❖ Working on finalizing several loans that Dennis Johnson had handed off.
- ❖ Just learned that the LCEF goal for North Wisconsin District for new loans is set at \$4 million.
- ❖ NWD Golf Outing on July 29<sup>th</sup> – success
- ❖ Open to coming to your congregations to discuss Joyful Response, LCEF Sunday or any other financial topic where there is a need.

Rev. Engebretson closed the meeting in prayer

Meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.