

**NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS
August 11, 2020
District Office – Via Zoom**

MINUTES

In Attendance

Mr. Bruce Plautz, Chairman
Rev. Dr. Timothy Roser, 1st VP
Rev. William Plautz, 2nd VP
Rev. Timothy Shoup, 3rd VP
Rev. Donald Engebretson, Secretary
Mr. Dwayne Maroszek, Treasurer
Mr. Brian Betts
Rev. Aaron Gehrke
Mrs. Karol Selle
Mrs. Sharon Voight

Unable to Attend

Mr. Paul Duerst
Mrs. Kathy Strasser
Mr. Richard Bartanen

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. Shoup provided the Opening Devotion based on Psalm 1.

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 5, 2020 Minutes

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

Financial Update

Unaudited June 2019 and audited December 2019 financials and consolidated profit and loss statements were provided.

Camp Luther

Nominating Process for Camp Luther Board

Chairman Plautz stated that at our next meeting in November, the NWD Board is responsible to fill the positions of ordained minister and member at large. Rev. Dwain Thomsen is the current ordained minister and is eligible for re-election. Terry Hanstedt's term as member at large will end in December 2020. 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 provided an update on Camp Luther.

Constitution & Bylaw Changes

Secretary Engebretson recommended the following Constitutions for approval:

- ❖ Trinity - Wausau
- ❖ Immanuel - Merrill

A **motion** was made and seconded to approve the Constitution & Bylaw changes as presented for Trinity-Wausau and Immanuel-Merrill. **APPROVED.**

Mission Grant Report

Rev. Shoup reminded the Board that this Committee had \$18,000 of grant monies to distribute to applicants. The committee received 10 applications. The committee met to review and discuss them. He stated that one of the requests was for an amount of \$25,000 which would only allow the committee to distribute one grant. The Committee determined to honor 9 of the 10 requests. A report was provided to show how much and where monies were distributed.

Convention

President Lueck shared the *theme Labor of Love/Nehemiah 6:3* has been chosen for the 2021 District Convention. Dr. Larry Rast of Fort Wayne seminary will be our essayist. The 2021 registration fee per congregation will be \$340.

NWD Scorecard 2020

DJ Schult walked the Board through the work that has been done on a measuring tool for District staff. He shared that the two points senior staff came up with for this scorecard are our effectiveness and sustainability. He stated that they feel the long-term measurements are pretty good but will need to do a little work on the annual targets; this is a working document.

Conflict of Interest

Chairman Plautz reminded members to complete Attachment H – Conflict of Interest and return to Mrs. Kavajecz by the end of the week.

Standing Committee Updates

Administrative Services Committee

Rev. Plautz shared that the Additional Information to the Compensation Tool was included in the Board packet. The Committee did not have any changes. President Lueck stated that the Guest Preacher fee has been increased annually in the past and suggested that this be taken into consideration. The following increases were proposed:

- ❖ One service; \$155 plus IRS mileage
- ❖ Two services and a Bible class; \$245 plus IRS mileage

A **motion** was made and seconded to increase the guest preacher fees as outlined above. **APPROVED.**

Audit & Investment Management Committee

Mr. Plautz stated there is no report at this time.

Governance Committee

Dr. Roser shared that at the Synod Convention last summer the following new initiative was adopted: *“Making Disciples for Life.”* Our District policies still reflect the previous initiative of *“Witness, Mercy, Life Together.”* While this emphasis has not been abandoned, Mr. Roser asked the Board if they wish to update our policies in accord with this new initiative.

A **motion** was made and seconded to approve the new initiative verbiage and for changes to be reflected in our Board Policy Manual as presented to the Board. **APPROVED.**

Stewardship Committee

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

President’s Report

President Lueck directed members to the State of the District Report he provided prior to the meeting.

Staff Reports

DJ Schult

Mr. Schult shared the following highlights:

- ❖ 28 scholarships awarded this year with an average gift of \$3,200
- ❖ Ministry Safe is offered again to our schools, preschools and childcares
- ❖ Continues to Zoom with principals to discuss concerns
- ❖ Meeting with Preschool directors later this week; one already closed
- ❖ Late staffing moves; 6 teacher openings
- ❖ Rev. Dan Kohn, district counselor has been beneficial to schools and staff

Bill Jordan

Mr. Jordan shared the following highlights:

- ❖ Haven’t received as many COVID-19 relief call as anticipated; not sure why
- ❖ LCEF is offering many options for assistance through these COVID-19 times:
 - Expedited lines of credit; church only pays interest on credit drawn
 - Loans with attractive interest rates and payment plans
 - Congregations with current loan; offering deferred payments
- ❖ District is up in investments by 1.5%
- ❖ Loans:
 - St. Jakobi, Shawano
 - Peace, Antigo
 - Others in discussion stage
- ❖ Church worker debt grant; hope to have available by September 15
- ❖ Haven’t had to dip into our reserves; bills are getting paid

Rev. Shoup closed the meeting in prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.