

**NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS
August 8, 2023
District Office**

MINUTES

In Attendance

Mr. Craig Timm, Chairman
Rev. Ryan Fehrmann, 2nd VP
Rev. Preston Paul, 3rd VP
Rev. Donald Engebretson, Secretary
Mr. Dwayne Maroszek, Treasurer
Mr. Brian Betts
Mr. Bryon Graff
Mr. David Mellem
Dr. Jeffrey Nielsen
Mrs. Althea Wirtala

Unable to Attend

Rev. Timothy Shoup, 1st VP
Rev. Aaron Gehrke

District Staff

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

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

Opening Devotion –Rev. Ryan Fehrmann provided the Opening Devotion.

Adoption of Agenda

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

Approval of Consent Voting Agenda

- Approval of May 1 & 2, 2023 NWD Board Minutes

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

Board Training

Board members were asked to read Part 3 of the book *Built On The Rock*. Members broke into small groups to discuss and then came back together to share something from their discussion with the large group. The assignment for November is to read Part 4. Since this will be the end of the book, it was requested that District leadership be ready to share the next training opportunity.

District Employee Handbook and Job Descriptions

Mr. Timm shared that both the District Employee Handbook and Job Description booklets are out on the counter and available for members to review at their leisure.

NWD Board Vacancies

Mr. Timm shared that we have two vacant 'lay' positions on our Board. A handout was provided as information for members as they begin talking with potential candidates to fill these positions. Discussion took place regarding the type of skill set that could enhance our Board. Members are asked to send nominations to Mrs. Kavajecz to be included in the November Board packet. She will resend the biography form to all members to be completed by all nominees.

Approved at the November 7, 2023, North Wisconsin District Board meeting.

November 5, 2024 Board Conflict

Mr. Timm shared that there is a conflict with the November 5, 2024 Board meeting. He proposed to reschedule for either October 29th or November 7th. Consensus by the group was to change this meeting to October 29, 2024.

Labor of Love Campaign

Board members viewed the short video that will be shared with congregations to promote this campaign to help NWD church workers with education debt reduction. Brochures and pledge cards were distributed as President Lueck asked members to prayerfully consider supporting.

Budget Discussion

DJ Schult shared that President Lueck felt that we could do a better job of assisting the Board with understanding the budget process. Budget information from the Board Policy Manual and sample questions were shared with the group for reference. The District Treasurer, Mr. Dwayne Maroszek, also gave a presentation on various aspects of the budget, comparing budget best practices from the LCMS and how they apply to the NWD budget. The presentations and discussion will better prepare the Board to consider the budget presented for adoption at the November meeting.

Conflict of Interest

Board members were asked to review and sign the Conflict of Interest form that was provided and return it to Mrs. Kavajecz by the end of the meeting.

District Reconciler Appointments

President Lueck shared that according to Synod Bylaws each district board of directors shall appoint and maintain a district roster of four reconcilers (ministers of religion-ordained, ministers of religion-commissioned and laypersons). The term of service shall be six years, renewable immediately following every even numbered regular Synod convention (68th in 2023) without term limits. President Lueck reached out to our three current reconcilers to ask if they are willing to continue to serve. They have all agreed to continue their service. President Lueck also reached out to Rev. Brad Thomas who has been an institutional chaplain since his ordination to see if he would be willing to serve in the fourth open spot; he has agreed. A motion was made and seconded to approve Rev. Kevin Hoogland, Rev. Brad Thomas, Mr. Raymond Slatton and Mr. Jeff Young as district reconcilers for the North Wisconsin District.

APPROVED

NWD Unaudited June 2023 Financials & Consolidated P & L

Mr. Maroszek provided the Board with an overview of the Operating Statement and offered an opportunity for questions.

Camp Luther

District Representative Report

Rev. Gehrke was unable to attend. Board members were directed to the July meeting report that was shared prior to the meeting.

Unaudited June 2023 Financials

Mr. Maroszek provided a brief overview of Camp finances and offered an opportunity for questions.

Approved at the November 7, 2023, North Wisconsin District Board meeting.

Constitution & Bylaw Changes

Secretary Engebretson presented his report and recommended provisional approval of the Constitution & Bylaws for Christ-Marshfield upon completion of recommended changes. A motion was made and seconded to provisionally approve the Constitution & Bylaws for Christ-Marshfield.

APPROVED

Mission Mini Grants

Pastor Shoup was unable to attend. Mr. Schult shared that to date 11 applications have been received. The deadline for application submission is August 15, 2023. Those receiving mini grants will be notified in September. A final report will be shared at the November Board meeting.

Synod Convention Debrief

We had 6 members of our Board that attended and served on floor committees at the national Synod convention. President Lueck asked those in attendance to provide a brief highlight or take away that they experienced.

Standing Committee Updates

Administrative Services Committee

As required by the District Bylaws and Board Policy Manual, Mr. Betts, on behalf of the ASC, presented the recommended 2024 salary and housing allowance for the district president.

The ASC will continue to work on a new evaluation tool for the district president to be presented in November.

The ASC will continue to review the Additional Information Compensation Tool and provide recommendations at the November meeting.

Audit & Investment Management Committee

Mr. Mellem shared that the AIM committee will be working on moving some of our funds into a 'middle of the road' investment status.

Governance Committee

Section 4 – Board Policy Manual Discussion

Mr. Graff walked the Board through the proposed changes submitted by the Governance Committee for sections 4 and 5 of the Board Policy Manual. The below changes reflect Board discussion.

4.1.2.5 Change to read as follows: *President shall identify tools and establish a schedule of activities to solicit feedback from member congregations.*

4.3 The Committee recommends removing this section in its entirety.

4.5.1.1 Committee recommends combining 4.5.1.1 through 4.5.1.5 to make one entry for 4.5.1.1.

4.8.2 Committee recommends removing 4.8.2 as content is assumed in 4.8.1.

4.8.4 Committee recommends removing.

Approved at the November 7, 2023, North Wisconsin District Board meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the changes as presented in Section 4, as discussed and noted above. **APPROVED**

Section 5 – Board Policy Manual Discussion

Mr. Graff presented the recommended changes for Section 5, and it was determined that this section would be tabled for the November meeting.

Stewardship Committee

Rev. Fehrmann stated there was no report.

President's Report

President Lueck shared highlights from his written report which was shared with members at the meeting.

Staff Reports

DJ Schult

Mr. Schult shared the following highlights:

- Driveway asphalt
- Went through technology upgrade – new server and laptops.
- AC Unit out after a storm; insurance claim filed; repairs scheduled.
- Budget prep with Peace Campus prior to school start
- Concordia Plans – working on plans and costs for 2024.
- Staff annual evaluations will be scheduled this fall.
- Student grant letters were sent and monies to be distributed soon.
- Hired 6 new principals out of 21.
- 8 schools going through accreditation.
- All School Summit in Bonduel
- Meeting with Lori & Sandie – Prep office admin conference
- Zooms: Treasurers-Business Managers-going well; New Zoom group-Pastors with schools

Bill Jordan

Mr. Jordan shared the following highlights:

- LCEF fiscal year runs July through June—ended well.
- New loan and investment goals have been set.
- Identified 21 congregations to connect with potential needs.

Thrivent Discussion

This item is tabled for our November meeting. A request to have language available for our congregations to share; asking district president and vice presidents to create verbiage.

Rev. Paul closed the meeting in prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Donald Engeberetson, District Secretary

Approved at the November 7, 2023, North Wisconsin District Board meeting.

Lori A. Kavajecz, Recording Secretary

Approved at the November 7, 2023, North Wisconsin District Board meeting.