

**NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS
August 3, 2021
District Office**

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
Mr. Paul Duerst
Rev. Aaron Gehrke
Mr. Craig Timm
Mrs. Sharon Voight

Unable to Attend

Mrs. Karol Selle

District Staff

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

Chairman Plautz called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Opening Devotion – Rev. Roser provided the Opening Devotion.

Welcome New NWD Board Member - Chairman Plautz welcomed Mr. Craig Timm who is replacing the vacancy left by Kathy Strasser.

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 4, 2021 Minutes
- ❖ NWD Unaudited June 2021 Financials & Consolidated P&L
- ❖ NWD Audited December 2020 Financials & Consolidated P&L

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

Vacant NWD Board Position – Chairman Plautz shared that due to health reasons, Richard Bartanen has resigned his position on the Board. Since Paula Krueger had previously agreed to serve for the vacancy of Kathy Strasser, President Lueck reached out to Paula to see if she would be willing to fill Richard's position; she agreed. A **motion** was made and seconded to approve Paula Krueger to fill this vacant position.

APPROVED.

Camp Luther

Request for Land Purchase

Camp Luther was contacted by a neighbor inquiring about purchasing less than ½ acre of land from the NWD. The offer came in at \$1,500. Camp contacted a local realtor who shared that the offer is lower than the value of the land. It is the recommendation of Camp Luther that this offer not be accepted. A **motion** was made, seconded and approved to decline the Offer to Purchase. **APPROVED.**

Land Easement

Brian and Deana Scheid are requesting the following easements:

- ❖ Access to the edge of the property from the South off of Woody Lane.
- ❖ Up to 75' of property to the North of their property to allow for a larger buildable area.

Several questions were raised and the Board shared that they needed further clarification before they could proceed. Chairman Plautz tabled this item and shared that he and Mr. Duerst would contact Camp on the break to seek answers to the questions.

After the break, further explanation was shared with the Board after a conversation with Woody. A **motion** was made, seconded and approved to grant a permanent conditional easement approximately 75' in length extending from the private road known as Woody Lane to the Southwest corner of the Scheid property contingent upon approval of an easement agreement. **APPROVED.**

Mrs. Voight abstained from this vote.

It was agreed that there were several questions that will need to be answered and included in the easement before it is approved.

Nominating process for Camp Luther Board

Chairman Plautz shared that there will be two vacant positions on the Camp Board at the end of 2021. Rev. Steve Hulke (Member at Large) and Mr. Thane Bublitz (Member at Large). These are positions that the NWD Board appoints. Begin to think of individuals that could serve in these positions. It would be nice to have 2-4 individuals on the ballot. Please let Lori know names of those individuals who you believe would be willing to serve. We will be voting on these positions at the November meeting.

District Representative Report

Rev. Gehrke provided the following highlights from Camp:

- ❖ Blessed with many financial gifts this past year
- ❖ Camp is operating at 60-70% bed usage this summer
- ❖ Received a \$100,000 grant from the Batterman Foundation to finish the lower level of the Community Center
- ❖ 75th Anniversary was celebrated

Constitution & Bylaw Changes

Secretary Engebretson recommended contingent approval for St John Tigerton after alterations are made. A **motion** was made and seconded to approve the Constitution & Bylaw changes contingent upon alterations as presented for St John-Tigerton.

APPROVED.

Management & Lease Agreement Review

Rev. Roser shared that materials were sent out to task force members. Task force members from the NWD will be working closely with Camp Luther and dialogue to agree on a revised agreement. It is the intent to have a new agreement to present and share at the May 2022 Board meeting up at Camp.

Mission Grant Report

Rev. Shoup stated that DJ Schult had shared information with the task force. It is the intent to have the new application available by September with a deadline in October. The announcement of recipients will take place in November. A few questions on eligibility were raised. DJ will incorporate suggested revisions and share with the task force.

Budget Discussion

Gift Planning Services (GPS)

President Lueck provided the history of our relationship with GPS. He shared that the scholarships that the District is able to provide comes mainly from the endowment dollars raised by GPS. GPS has recently been purchased by Apex Legacy Consultants. Our contract with GPS runs through the end of 2021. We will be reviewing this service to see what direction to take in 2022.

New Remittance Form

President Lueck shared that staff have gone through a revision to the remittance form that used by congregation treasurers to designate monies. Staff felt that clarity was needed to better portray where the congregational money was being designated.

Labor of Love

The North Wisconsin District Labor of Love grant is entering its second year. Current information is available on the website, and the application will go live on September 15, 2021. The worker Debt Fund currently has \$140K, with about half of that invested and drawing interest only. The plan is to grant about \$20K per year, which ensures liquidity for perhaps four years. The fund is in need of continued enrichment.

Committee Vacancies

President Lueck shared that due to the resignations from NWD board positions there are vacant positions on our committees. President Lueck shared the appointment of the following individuals:

- ❖ Audit & Investment Committee – Craig Timm
- ❖ Administrative Services Committee – Paula Krueger
- ❖ Sexual Harassment Committee – Sharon Voight

Board Overtures to the District Convention

- ❖ Recognize and Thank the LCMS for Soldiers of the Cross COVID Initiative
- ❖ Strengthen Advisory Participation of Commissioned Workers at Convention
- ❖ Initiate a National Lutheran Teacher Student Debt Forgiveness Program

A **motion** was made, seconded and approved to accept the amendments to the above overtures previously approved for the 2022 District Convention. **APPROVED.**

Conflict of Interest

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

Board Education – Campus Ministry & Disaster Response

Rev. Andy Weden and Mr. Scott West, Student Organization Advisor for UW Stevens Point, joined the meeting to provide an overview of Peace Campus Ministry and changes within higher education over the last decade.

Rev. Weden also shared about Disaster Response and encouraged individuals to be proactive instead of reactive. People want to help in a time of emergency but find that they can't because they don't have the required training. This year the District helped to promote Disaster Response Sunday with our congregations to help bring awareness to training and opportunities to assist in these times of need. It is the intent to continue this program each spring.

Standing Committee Updates

Administrative Services Committee

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

Audit & Investment Management Committee

Mr. Jordan shared that we have used Wipfli to perform both the Camp Luther and the District annual audits and receive two separate invoices. We are reevaluating this service and have recently sent out Requests for Proposal (RFP) to five different accounting agencies (including Wipfli) to secure a three-year commitment of a combined audit with Camp Luther with only one invoice. The deadline for these RFPs is August 15th.

Governance Committee

Rev. Roser stated that there is no report at this time.

Stewardship Committee

Mr. Jordan stated that there is no report at this time.

President's Report

President Lueck distributed his report to all attendees – see attached.

Staff Reports

DJ Schult

Mr. Schult shared the following highlights:

- ❖ Early Childhood Conference (every 3 years) – Friday, August 6th
- ❖ FLAME – regional principal development group met in July. No NWD candidates for 2021.
- ❖ National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) – 8 schools accredited this year. 20 of the 21 NWD schools participate in NLSA.
- ❖ Beginning to hold Board trainings
- ❖ School visits happening
- ❖ Newer Teacher Gathering will be held this fall

Bill Jordan

Mr. Jordan shared the following highlights:

Approved at the 11/2/2021 North Wisconsin Board of Directors Meeting

LCEF

- ❖ Offering a church improvement loan
- ❖ Offering an introductory CD with a 2.125% fixed rate available to ministries and individuals
- ❖ Consecrated Stewards is being revamped and will be offered to congregations. This is a four-week biblical program based on the need of the giver to give – see Bill if interested.

NWD

- ❖ We have recently been blessed with many gifts to help with seminary scholarships, worker debt and mission work

Rev. Roser closed the meeting in prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m.