

NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT LCMS
Board of Directors Meeting
Camp Luther, Three Lakes
May 1-2, 2023
Minutes

NWD Board Members Present

Mr. Craig Timm, Chairman
Rev. Ryan Fehrmann, 2nd VP
Rev. Donald Engebretson, Secretary
Brian Betts
Bryon Graff
David Mellem
Althea Wirtala

Rev. Timothy Shoup, 1st VP
Rev. Preston Paul, 3rd VP
Mr. Dwayne Maroszek, Treasurer
Rev. Aaron Gehrke
Chrystal Lindeman
Dr. Jeffrey Nielsen

NWD Staff Present

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

NWD Unable to Attend

Monday, May 1, 2023

Opening Devotion

Mr. Timm shared the opening devotion.

Adoption of Agenda

A **motion** was made, seconded and approved to adopt the agenda as presented. **APPROVED**

Board Training – Built on the Rock (Part 2)

Board members were asked to read Part 2 of the book *Built On The Rock*. Members broke into small groups to discuss and then came back together for a time to share with the entire board. The assignment for August is to read Part 3.

Consent Voting Agenda

❖ Approval of February 14, 2023 Minutes

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

APPROVED

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Maroszek took Board members through the audit results provided by Hawkins Ash. He provided a brief overview of the Management Letter and the Financial Statements. He gave members a chance to ask questions.

A **motion** to accept the audit as presented was made, seconded and approved. **APPROVED**

NWD Unaudited March 2023 Financials & Consolidated P & L

Mr. Maroszek pointed the Board to the Operating Statement. He shared that congregational giving is up and that overall we are on track with our budget.

Constitution & Bylaw Changes

Secretary Engebretson provided a brief report for the following congregations:

- Redeemer – Amery
- Peace-Arbor Vitae
- Trinity-Port Edwards

He is requesting various changes for each and requesting they be implemented and brought back for approval at our August meeting.

The North Wisconsin District Board adjourned at 8:03 pm.

The North Wisconsin District and Camp Luther Boards gathered in the Dining Hall for a joint meeting with introductions and updates provided; fellowship followed.

Tuesday, May 2, 2023

Opening Devotion

Rev. Donald Engebretson shared the opening devotion.

NWD Board Annual Review Results

Chairman Timm provided a brief overview of the results and comments of the annual review that Board members completed prior to the meeting.

NWD Annual Board Self Review Tool

Mr. Timm asked the group for their thoughts on how the tool is working. The following thoughts were shared:

- A different type of scale—meets expectations is tough.
- Need to know what the expectations are to be able to meet them.
- Not sure this evaluation is helpful—what can we do differently?
- The comments provided are helpful; allows us to know where improvement is needed.
- What is our role as the Board?

NWD District President Annual Review Results

Chairman Timm provided a brief overview of the results and comments of the annual review that Board members completed prior to the meeting.

NWD District President Annual Review Tool

Mr. Timm asked the group for their thoughts on how the tool is working. The following thoughts were shared:

- Different type of scale?
- Is the expectation of the person or the position?

Labor of Love Update

President Lueck provided a brief overview of the steps taken in the capital campaign to present. DJ shared that a video was recorded and will be shared with the Board at our August meeting. He also stated that the pledge cards will be going to print, the website is ready to roll, and we are getting closer to 'the ask'.

Board Policy Manual Review – Section 3

Rev. Gehrke stated that the updates on this section were minimal. The following items were discussed:

3.2.3 – external auditor selection – Mr. Maroszek shared that we currently have a three-year contract with Hawkins Ash and that after the three years is up we can certainly ask for bids at that time if we wish to look at other firms.

3.2.4 – general counsel selection – Mr. David Piehler is our current counsel; this position can be reviewed at any time.

3.3.4 – District President job description – The Board Policy Manual outlines the job duties for the District President; there is not a separate job description.

Camp Luther – Unaudited March 2023 Financials

Mr. Maroszek provided a brief overview of Camp financials. He states that he continues to work through some of the processes with them to help them understand the reasons behind them.

Standing Committee Updates

Administrative Services Committee

Mr. Betts shared that he has no report at this time.

Audit & Investment Management Committee

Mr. Maroszek excused himself to attend the Camp Board so he shared his report with Chairman Timm to report out. Mr. Timm stated that our annualized rate of return was 17-22% positive and that we moved \$200,000 into an LCEF 4.5% return account.

Stewardship Committee

Rev. Fehrmann stated that he has no report at this time.

President's Report

President Lueck shared his written report with all members ahead of time. He provided a brief overview of his recent visit to Peru.

Staff Reports

DJ Schult

Mr. Schult provided the following updates to his respective area:

- Ministry Safe
- Mission grants were rolled out; no applications received to date
- Accreditation-we will have 8 in our District next year
- District will be able to fund 25% of the cost of those entering the SMP and DCM programs.
- Business manager role in January
- All principal positions have been filled; a large number of teachers are needed.
- ECC gathering held in Antigo had 15 attendees. Dian Schlichtmann spoke on: What is your mission and how is that demonstrated in the setting that you are in.

Bill Jordan

Mr. Jordan transitioned to 100% as an LCEF employee in January. The District received a substantial donation which will be split between scholarship endowment for undergraduates and the Every Kid to Camp program. His LCEF work has been keeping him busy, with multiple congregations and schools around the District considering or engaging in LCEF Real Estate

Solutions, capital campaigns, strategic planning, construction loans and investing. Investor numbers across the NWD and the LCMS at large are experiencing a gradual decline due to the aging population of the church body; it has become difficult to replace the substantial number of “lost” investors with a larger or comparable number of young investors.

NWD Board Vacancies

Mr. Timm shared that we have two lay positions on our Board that will need to be filled. Mrs. Lindeman will be moving with her family to Kansas and is unable to complete her term and Mr. Post is unable to complete his term.

Mr. Timm read the names of those who were on the ballot and had agreed to serve from the 2022 Convention workbook. Board members were asked to submit any additional nominations to Ms. Kavajecz by July 15, 2023. Ms. Kavajecz will be providing the biographies of those names from the 2022 Convention, a blank biography form for additional nominations, as well as a job description for the Board position. Board members should confirm that prior to submitting a nomination anyone they nominate be aware of the commitment and have a willingness to serve.

Board Meeting Reschedule

Mr. Timm shared that the February 2024 and February 2025 meetings are in conflict with President Lueck’s COP meetings. Members reviewed their calendars and have agreed on the following dates:

~~February 6, 2024~~ → January 30, 2024

~~February 4, 2025~~ → January 28, 2025

Rev. Paul closed the meeting with a prayer of thanksgiving and safe travel.

A **motion** was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Donald Engebretson, District Secretary
Lori A. Kavajecz, Recording Secretary