

**DRAFT – SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE BOARD**

**Minutes  
Board of Directors  
Minnesota South District  
Tuesday, May 4, 2010**

**Minnesota South District Mission Statement**  
Developing missional leaders in congregations and schools.

- I. Devotions** - Mrs. Gayle Baumgard led the Board in opening devotions. Her theme was from Isaiah 6:3 – The whole earth is full of God’s glory. Gayle talked about the last days in her mother’s life as a manifestation of the glory of God. God’s glory is in the way He makes Himself recognizable to us. We as Christians have to be mirrors to reflect the glory of God into the world around us. The Board joined in singing the hymn “How Great Thou Art.”
- II. Parliamentary Obligations**
- a. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 9:19 a.m. by the President, Dr. Lane Seitz, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- b. Roll Call – President Lane Seitz; Rev Gerhard Bode; Rev. Mark Tewes; Rev. Robert Gehrke; Rev. William Otte; Lu Clemmensen; Rev. Robert Schulze; Jeffrey Bartels; Wilford Bartley; Rev. Tom Stoebig; James Roegge; Stephen Krause; Rev. Dr. James Heining; Tim Block; Rev. Kurt Lehmkuhl; Lane Nordquist; Gayle Baumgard; Randy Ash; Lynn Henry
- Excused: Rev. Dr. Larry Griffin      Absent: Matthew Drevlow
- Staff: Rev. Mark Noren; Rev. Peter Meier; Mike Zimmer; Kurt Fuhr
- Excused: Dr. David Roth
- c. Adoption of Agenda  
A motion was made, seconded, and carried to adopt the Revised Agenda as distributed at the meeting.
- d. Minutes of the February 2, 2010, meeting of the Board  
A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2010 meeting of the Board of Directors as distributed.
- e. Correspondence

1. Correspondence with the Minnesota State Fair Board regarding the Chinatown Minnesota Concession owned by the District - February 27, 2010, March 12, 2010, and March 23, 2010.
2. Memorandum from Dr. Raymond Hartwig, Secretary of the LCMS, regarding nominations for the Commission on Constitutional Matters - March 31, 2010.
3. Memorandum from Dr. Raymond Hartwig, Secretary of the LCMS, regarding the appointment of District Reconcilers - March 31, 2010.

### **III. Visioning/Study Items/Presentations**

#### **a. Lutheran Counseling Center**

Rev. Bruce Fredrickson., executive director of the Lutheran Counseling Center was present to give a report. He reviewed the relationship between the Counseling Center and the District, giving some historical background about the Center's inception. He outlined the principles by which the Counseling Center operates. He shared the Christian Counseling Covenant by which its counselors practice. LCC is at a critical juncture financially, in terms of client load, number of counselors, etc. He requested prayers, financial support, and referrals for the Center, and urged the members to invite someone from the Center to speak to groups. Will Bartley led the Board in prayer for LCC.

#### **b. Missional Formation – Mike Zimmer and Peter Meier**

God's mission for the church is "God wants all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth," and that "At the name of Jesus, every knee should bow..." The command of Jesus is to "Be my witnesses." There are two non-negotiables in the area of missional formation: Word and Sacraments.

Focus on five missional focus areas: Worship, Discipleship, Service, Outreach, and Leadership.

In reviewing missional models in context, based on Bob Newton's article in the *Lutheran Witness*, we recognize that there are cultural insiders and cultural outsiders. Dr. Newton recognizes that Christianity exists in three cultural settings: pre-church, church, and post-church. Both pre-church and post-church are communities of cultural outsiders. We live in what is primarily a post-church culture. One challenge we face is that those who are in the church often don't realize that our cultural setting has changed. The church is now on the outside. A message proclaimed in a "church" way will fall on deaf ears. How do we proclaim the gospel in a post-church culture?

Observations: We live in a post-church world. The church is no longer seen as an important or relevant element in our culture. The truth of

Christ is no longer a cultural truth, and the institutional church has lost its relevance in society. Denominational loyalty has essentially faded away, and there seems to be no cultural absolute truth.

Questions to consider:

Since the Garden of Eden, how has God's mission changed? How has man's need changed? How has man's need for church changed?

It is critically important to align the activities of the church with the target, the mission of God.

The electronic presentation will be posted on the District website.

**IV. Policy Formation and Review (none)**

**V. Information and Decision Items**

a. Mission Committee (Rev. Dr. James Heining, Chair)

The report was in the packet. Dr. Heining emphasized that using the Praise, Eagan property for another mission start was not feasible.

b. Finance Committee (Ms. Lynn Henry, Chair)

1. Audit Report (Lu Clemmensen)

Note that updating the endowment fund policy has been implemented. Printed copies of the audit report were in the board packet. The audit was "clean."

2. Approve the 2009 Audit Report

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the audit report.

3. The Finance Committee recommended that the Board decline to take back the Praise, Eagan property and allow LCEF to move forward with a sale process.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to decline to take back the Praise, Eagan property and to release the property and allow the LCEF to market and dispose of the property.

c. Ministerial Health Committee (Rev. Robert Schulze, Chair)

No action items.

d. Schools/Commissioned Ministers Committee (Mr. Randy Ash)

There will be an initial committee meeting next week.

- e. Congregational Services Sub-Committee (no report)
- f. Communications Committee (no report)
- g. Endowment Committee (Ms. Lu Clemmensen, Chair) No report
- h. Administration
  - 1. Approve Articles of Incorporation (A), Constitution (C), and Bylaw (BL) changes
 

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the C and BL changes for St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Columbia Heights.
  - 2. Ratify additional committee appointments
    - a. Mission Committee - Mr. Randy Heuer (St. James, Howard Lake, MN)
    - b. Assistant District Archivist – Dr. Paul Hilmer (CSP)

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to ratify the above additional committee appointments.
  - 3. Approve 2010 housing allowance for Rev. Dr. Mark Noren
 

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve a 2010 housing allowance for the balance of the year in the amount of \$25,000 for Rev. Dr. Mark Noren.
  - 4. Set the base salary for the 2010-2011 District Salary Compensation Guidelines
 

Dr. Seitz explained the background for this item, including a reference to Memorial D-3 from the 2009 Minnesota South District Convention submitted by Bethlehem, St. Paul. This memorial was included in an omnibus resolution by the convention.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried “To Affirm the Use of the Regional Economic Adjuster and Increase the Base Salary in the District Salary Compensation Guidelines by 2%. (The entire motion is included as Appendix 1 of these minutes.)

*The meeting was declared to be in recess for lunch from 11:49 a.m. to 12:44 p.m.*

The Board welcomed two guests for special presentations.

Nancy Kohrs, President of the Minnesota South District Lutheran Women's Missionary League. She is preparing for the LWML district convention coming up in Mankato. The LWML district is wrapping up a "rezoning" process within the district to conform to the Minnesota South District circuit realignment implemented at the 2009 convention. She expressed concern because the current LWML Mite goal is not being met.

Bob LaCroix, Executive Director of Camp Omega. He submitted a written report and showed a promotional video. Thanks were expressed to the people of Beautiful Savior Plymouth for their role in supporting the Chinatown booth at the Minnesota State Fair.

5. Resolution to Provide a Financial Gift to the Synod  
At 1:20 p.m., Dr. Seitz asked Rev. Gerhard Bode to assume the Chair for the following discussion.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Resolution to send a Financial Gift to the Synod.

Dr. Seitz explained the background for this resolution, and the financial crisis affecting the LCMS.

There was significant discussion about the timing of the gift and the potential ramifications for the district. Concern was expressed that other Districts also be challenged to find increased support.

A friendly amendment was inserted between the last WHEREAS and the Resolved. The amendment reads *Resolved*, that the Minnesota South District Board of Directors encourage each District's Board of Directors in the Synod to consider a faith-filled gift for God's work supporting the unrestricted work within the Synod; and that be it finally

The amended motion was carried by a show of hands vote. The entire resolution is attached as Appendix 2 of these minutes.

Dr. Seitz returned to the Chair at 2:06 p.m.

6. Nominations for the Commission on Constitutional Matters (none offered)
7. Update regarding the Appointment of District Reconcilers  
This item will require action at the September Board meeting. The four existing reconcilers have been contacted and asked if they would be willing to continue serving. Three of them are willing to continue serving, and the fourth has not responded yet. Circuit counselors will be contacted for nominations for reconcilers.

8. Chinatown Minnesota concession at the Minnesota State Fair  
The background of the concession was explained by Lu Clemmensen. The State Fair Board will purchase the building and equipment from the existing Chinatown Minnesota concession, and another location for the concession has been secured. The move will actually result in a small “profit” due to changes in structure of the concession. The concession will be at the old “Preferred Pickle” site. It will still be known as “Chinatown Minnesota,” with profits going to Camp Omega.

## **VI. Reports**

- a. Treasurer's Report (Ms. Lu Clemmensen)  
Lu explained the reports included in the packet. There were no questions. The report was filed subject to audit.
- b. LCEF Report and Delinquent Loan Report (Mr. Kurt Fuhr)  
Kurt explained the report which was included in the packet.
- c. Questions regarding written reports submitted by Lane Seitz, Mark Noren, David Roth, Peter Meier, and Mike Zimmer

No written reports were provided.

- d. Special Reports

February

Camp Omega (Mr. Bob LaCroix, Executive Director)

May

Lutheran Women's Missionary League (Ms Nancy Kohrs, President)

September

Lutheran Laymen's League (Mr. Del Schweiger, President)

December

Concordia University, St. Paul, MN (Rev. Dr. Robert Holst, President)

## **VII. Round Table**

Bill requested thanks for the assignment of a candidate to serve as Associate Pastor at Trinity in Rochester; Steve requested thanks for the installation of a new pastor in his congregation; Mark Tewes requested prayers for his daughter getting married to Nick in August; Jeff requested prayers for the family of the police officer who was recently killed and others who serve the public in dangerous positions; Tim requested prayers for the problem of homeless teenagers in Rochester; Mike prayed for the Holy Spirit to strengthen the vision of God among us; Randy gave thanks for a new healthy grandson and for the recently completed accreditation process at his school; Jim gave thanks for the

conclusion of a ministry adventure in St. John and for his safe return; Wiford gave thanks for the new opportunity for Camp Omega at the Minnesota State Fair; Lu prayed for blessings on her daughter and her new husband who were married in April; Gerry gave thanks for another pastor at his congregation; Lane asked for prayers for the call process at his church; Bob gave thanks for the birth of their seventh grandchild, a grandson; Peter gave thanks for the new church planter assigned to St. John's Norwood/Young America, gave thanks for his great wife honored as secondary teacher of the year, and gave thanks for his mother-in-law; Mark N gave thanks for his new ministry adventure in the District, and urges prayer for the Synod; Kurt celebrated the life of his stepfather who died at 90, who showed how to live and die with good grace and humor; Lynn requested prayers for all the graduates in the district; Bob G gave thanks for his son Aaron's call to Houghton, MI; Lane gave thanks for the five seminary graduates and three vicars assigned to MNS district, and prayed that the District efforts will help them to be missional, and requested prayers for those seminary graduates who did not get calls yet.

**VIII. Closing Prayer**

Gayle Baumgard included the Round Table requests and closed with prayer.

**IX. Adjournment**

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 2:56 p.m.

A reminder was given to Board members to set aside Monday Sept. 20, 2010 for the Board retreat, followed by the regular Board meeting on Sept 21, including an overnight stay.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. William Otte, District Secretary

APPENDIX 1

**To Affirm the Use of the Regional Economic Adjuster and Increase the Base Salary in the District Salary Compensation Guidelines**

WHEREAS, Scripture tell us of the importance of our church workers and that we are to treat them with loving care and respect as well as compensate them justly (Ephesians 4:11, 1 Thessalonians 5:13-13; 1 Timothy 4:11, Galatians 6:6, 1 Timothy 5:17-18); and

WHEREAS, each congregation should pay sufficient benefits to their workers to sustain the worker and family; and

WHEREAS, the MNS District Salary Compensation Guidelines, which include a Regional Economic Adjuster, have provided a needed and valuable resource for our congregations; and

WHEREAS, Memorial D-3 submitted to the 2009 District Convention encouraged the Board of Directors to use a more equitable system than the Regional Economic Adjuster, which is established by county; and

WHEREAS, a consultant was engaged to examine the validity of using the Regional Economic Adjuster; and

WHEREAS, it was determined that the present Regional Economic Adjuster is adequate and provides a spread of 20% between the more affluent areas and the less affluent; therefore be it

*Resolved*, that we continue to use the Regional Economic Adjuster, and be it finally

*Resolved*, that the beginning base salary be increased by 2% on July 1, 2010 for the period July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011.

The motion was moved, seconded, and carried.

APPENDIX 2

**Resolution to Send a Financial Gift to the Synod**

WHEREAS, the Lord has blessed the work of the Minnesota South District for more than 125 years (1882-2010), and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota South District throughout its history has been a leader among the Districts in providing financial support for the work of the Synod, and

WHEREAS, the Synod in convention has mandated certain core services which must be funded through the unrestricted budget of the Synod, and

WHEREAS, the Synod is currently experiencing financial challenges in meeting its unrestricted budget needs due to decreased support from the Districts, and

WHEREAS, Holy Scripture encourages us to share with those who are in need (i.e., Luke 3:11, Romans 12:13, Ephesians 4:28, 1 Timothy 6:18, and Hebrews 13:16), therefore be it

*Resolved*, that the Minnesota South District Board of Directors encourage each District's Board of Directors in the Synod to consider a faith-filled gift for God's work, supporting the unrestricted work within the Synod, and be it finally

*Resolved*, that the Minnesota South District show its concern and support for the unrestricted work of our Synod by sending the Treasurer of the Synod a gift in the amount of \$250,000.00.

The motion was moved and seconded, modified by a friendly amendment (the first *Resolved*), and the amended motion was carried by a show of hands vote.