

Minutes: Board of Directors – Approved by the Board on 2.8.2020  
Tuesday, December 3, 2019, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Minnesota South (MNS) District, Burnsville

### Mission Statement

*Cultivating leaders intentionally engaged in the mission of God.*

#### 1. OPENING DEVOTION

Rev. Tom Evans, Senior Pastor of Emanuel Lutheran Church in Inver Grove Heights and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President to the MN South District, led the opening devotion based on Isaiah 7:10-17 and Matthew 1:23. Pastor Evans urged us to take a breath and relax during this Advent season. Emmanuel, God with us, provides the peace, guidance and joy we need. We sang LSB Hymn 357 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.”

#### 2. PARLIAMENTARY OBLIGATIONS

a) Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 10:25 a.m. by the President, Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

b) Roll Call

Present: Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford; Rev. Thomas Evans; Rev. Harold Storm; Rev. Keith Grimm; Mr. Rick Marko; Rev. Christopher Horton; Mr. Daniel Thao; Dr. Gary Elsesser; Rev. Isaac Williams, Rev. Steven Wheeler; Mr. John Branstad; Rev. Loel Wessel; Ms. Sara Sorenson; Mr. Dave Kenow; Rev. Dennis Heiden; Mr. Benjamin Hagemann; Mr. Neal Breitbarth; Mr. Leland Huebner; Mr. Joel Landskroener

Staff: Rev. Stefan Wismar; Rev. Dr. William Utech; Dr. Phil Johnson; Mr. Sean Martens; Mr. Kai Larson; Rev. Fred Hinz

Absent: Ms. Rosa Summers; Mr. Matt Steiner

Excused: Rev. David Mumme

President Woodford welcomed our newest member Rev. Isaac Williams.

c) Approval of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. The motion was carried.

d) Approval of the Minutes of Past Meeting – (prepared by Keith Grimm, Secretary)  
A motion was made and seconded to approve the BOD minutes from September 9-10, 2019. The motion was carried.

e) Correspondence  
There was no correspondence.

### **3. GUEST PRESENTATION**

Dr. James Seemann shared information about prison ministry taking place in the MN South District. There are 12 prisons either within or nearby the MN South District. Two percent of inmates receive a clergy visit. 5,500 prisoners leave prisons each year and live within this District. Many of them are homeless. There is a District Correctional Ministry Committee that coordinates networking, resources, ministry and encouragement for prison ministry. In addition, they have begun a program called “Pastors to Prisoners” where rostered/ordained ministers visit directly with men who have less than one year to serve. There is a major ongoing need to minister to inmates.

### **4. VISIONING / STUDY ITEMS / PRESENTATIONS**

Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford, District President, led a presentation titled: “Church Leadership and Strategy – for the Care of Souls.” We spent time studying the book *Church Leadership and Strategy: For the Care of Souls* written by Harold Senkbeil and Lucas Woodford. The goal of this book is cultivating leaders to care for souls entrusted to them. It’s easy to think that if we work longer, harder and better, people will like us more, everything will fall into place, and we can solve and fix every problem. This leads to misery, internal turmoil, burn out and alienates family. Where does the Holy Spirit and God’s Word fit into this? The key is a balanced approach to ministry. The church is the Lord’s creation and depends on His grace and forgiveness for health and growth. Leaders need to set realistic boundaries and balance between what is or isn’t urgent. The basics of strategic planning also need to be grounded within the principles of God’s Word. Like Jesus, compassionately chase down sinners with the Law, but lead them with the Gospel. Genuine authority in the church is always delegated. You don’t take the lead – Jesus does. Without balance, there is pastoral depletion and the holy things of God lose their appeal. Ultimately, every pastor needs a pastor to help care for his soul.

### **5. POLICY FORMATION & REVIEW**

Rev. Christopher Horton, Region 1 Pastoral Representative, led us through a review of policies 1.06.01 and 1.06.02 from the Board of Directors’ Policy Manual concerning the “budgeting preparation process” and “additional budget policies.”

Rev. Tom Evans led the meal prayer. We took a break for lunch at 12:03 p.m.

We reconvened at 12:40 p.m.

## 6. REPORTS

- a) President's Report Highlights, Q and A  
Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford distributed his September through November activity report to the Board. He shared there are many exciting ministries and challenges throughout the District that need fervent prayer.
- b) Financial Report  
Mr. Rick Marko, District Treasurer, provided financial results as of September 30, 2019. The District's overall financial position was positive in the third quarter. Congregational support was \$26,827 under budget. However, District investment gains were excellent this quarter. The District continues to pay its bills in a timely manner. Rick also shared that upgrades at the District office (*roof, flooring, countertops*) are being studied. In addition, he mentioned the idea of putting the ownership of Camp Omega into an LLC is being studied.
- c) Finance Committee Meeting Minutes / LCEF Report  
Mr. Kai Larson, LCEF Vice President, reported that there are no delinquent LCEF loans in the District. There is over \$81 million invested in the LCEF in the Minnesota South District. Finally, this was the third best year nationally for the LCEF.
- d) Initiative Relaunch: Summary and Emphasis  
Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford, District President, reviewed with the Board our mission, promise and objective as a District. Here are our three initiatives:
  - a. *Engaged in Mission* – Our district magazine was referenced a number of times in Pres. Woodford's presentation.
  - b. *In the Word* – Our goal is that every congregation facilitates and encourages members to be involved in Bible study. When 20percent of congregational members are in a Bible study, this radically reduces congregational conflict.
  - c. *Ministry Partnerships* – The District hopes to further develop networking, sharing resources and collaboration between congregations. Congregations near Mankato and Rochester are taking the lead in this initiative.
  - d. *Worker Wellness* – We want to launch worker support teams to be mindful of physical, emotional and spiritual health among our professional church workers.
- e) Other Committee Minutes: schools and commissioned, ministerial health, mission formation, missions, etc.
  - Rev. Fred Hinz, our District's Public Policy Advocate, shared information about an important upcoming case allowing parents authority to choose between religious or non-religious education. He also introduced a great book on religious liberty by Luke Goodrich titled *Free to Believe*. Finally,

because scientists are continually rejecting Darwinism, it's exciting to see the new resources coming from them.

- Phil Johnson mentioned that Ted Kober will share two presentations called "Built on the Rock – The Healthy Congregation" at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Owatonna on March 7, 2020, and at St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Bloomington on April 4, 2020.
- Finally, Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford, District President, shared the District's Mission Focus that includes nine key components. It highlights how the church is equipped to share the gospel in the community.

## 7. INFORMATION AND DECISION ITEMS

a) Constitution Committee: Rev. Harold Storm

It was moved and seconded that the Constitutions and Bylaws of the following three congregations be ratified:

- Trinity Lutheran Church, Carver
- St. Paul Lutheran Church, Hollandale
- The Remedy Lutheran Church, Oakdale

The motion was approved.

b) Good Shepherd Lutheran High School, Elk River: Business Plan

Kelly Lamkin & Melissa Lamkin shared a business plan to plant Good Shepherd Lutheran High School in the Rogers/Elk River area. Their goal is to do project-based learning and reach into the community through regular service events. They also are asking for support from the Minnesota North District. There are three Lutheran elementary schools that can feed into this new high school. Tuition is targeted at \$9,200. Their goal is to start with a sophomore and freshman class in Fall 2020.

They requested District BOD endorsement, immediate funding and long-term grant funding from the incubator. The BOD motioned and seconded that we endorse the planting of Good Shepherd Lutheran High School. The motion carried.

c) Finance Committee

Mr. Rick Marko, District Treasurer, presented the 2020 budget. The Finance Committee is forecasting that 77 percent of next year's revenue will come from congregational support. The forecasted revenue from congregations is expected to stay the same. 36 percent of budget expenses are for salary and benefits; 14 percent are for mission programs; 26 percent are for Synod; and 5 percent are for LCEF. It was moved and seconded that the 2020 budget be adopted. The motion carried.

Upon the recommendation of the Endowment Committee for the use of earnings from the District's Quasi Endowment Fund, it was moved and seconded to designate \$15,000 to help plant Good Shepherd Lutheran High School in the Rogers/Elk River area. The motion carried.

**8. ROUND TABLE**

Celebrations and prayer requests were shared.

**9. CLOSING PRAYER**

Rev. Tom Evans, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President to the MN South District, led our closing prayer.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned by President Woodford at 3:18 p.m.

Rev. Steve Wheeler will be the chaplain for the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Rev. Harold Storm will be the chaplain for the May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Saturday, February 8, 2020, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Weather alternative date, February 15, 2020

Tuesday, May 5, 2020, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Monday and Tuesday, September 21-22, 2020

Tuesday, December 1, 2020 10 a.m.-4 p.m

Weather alternative date, December 3, 2020