

Minutes: Board of Directors Meeting – Approval by the Board
Minnesota South (MNS) District
February 19, 2022 – 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

Mission Statement

Cultivating leaders intentionally engaged in the mission of God.

1. OPENING DEVOTION

Rev. Dennis Heiden, Lead Pastor of Hosanna Lutheran Church in Mankato and Third Vice President (Region 4), served as chaplain for the day. He led the devotion with ‘Continue in what you have learned’ based on 2 Timothy 1:3-5 and 3:14-15.

2. PARLIAMENTARY OBLIGATIONS

- a) The meeting was called to order by the First Vice President, Rev. David Mumme, at 9:08 a.m.
- b) Roll Call
Present: Rev. David Mumme; Rev. Dennis Heiden; Rev. Steven Wheeler; Mr. Rick Marko; Rev. Christopher Horton; Mr. Daniel Thao; Ms. Alfrieda Baldwin; Ms. Rosa Summers; Mr. John Branstad; Rev. Loel Wessel; Ms. Sara Sorenson; Rev. Mark Loder; Mr. Benjamin Hagemann; Mr. Leland Huebner; Mr. Joel Landskroener;
Staff: Rev. Stefan Wismar; Mr. Sean Martens; Mr. Kai Larson
Excused: Rev. Keith Grimm, Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford, Rev. Thomas Evans; Rev. Isaac Williams; Mr. Dave Kenow; Mr. Neal Breitbarth; Rev. Dr. William Utech; Dr. Phillip Johnson; Rev. Fred Hinz
- c) Approval of Agenda
A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. The motion carried.
- d) Approval of Minutes of Past Meeting (*prepared by Keith Grimm, Secretary*)
A motion was made and seconded to approve BOD minutes from December 7, 2021, 2021. The motion carried.
- e) Correspondence (*read by Rosa Summers for Keith Grimm, Secretary*)
 - i. Ms. Rosa Summers noted that the **Commission on Constitutional Matters** recently received a question from an individual member of the Synod requesting an opinion. Noting that the Commission’s responsibility lies in the interpretation of the Constitution and Bylaws, they are requesting input prompted by coronavirus pandemic-related requirements of meeting venues in certain areas. The following is the opinion request:

Is it consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod for a district to select a convention venue that forbids admission of delegates unless they satisfy certain additional requirements (e.g., presenting proof of coronavirus vaccination status, negative test results, or wearing a mask)?

Please submit all responses to the Office of the Secretary by March 11, 2022.

ii. Nominations for six positions (*read by Rosa Summers for Keith Grimm, Secretary*)

1) Nominations are requested for one vacant position on the **Board for National Mission** (representing the Central Region). Mrs. Martha Miles, elected by the 2019 LCMS Synod convention, has moved outside of the region. The rostered (ordained or commissioned) minister of the Synod appointed to fill this position will serve through August 31, 2026. The deadline for receiving nominations is Wednesday, March 2, 2022.

2) Nominations are requested for one layperson vacant position on the **Concordia University Chicago Board of Regents**. Mr. Nathan Haak, had to resign this position to become the new LCMS Chief Financial Officer. This person will complete the remainder of the 2019-2023 term and be eligible to be re-elected to future three-year terms. The deadline for receiving nominations is Wednesday, March 2, 2022.

3) Nominations are requested for one vacant position (ordained or commissioned) on the **Board for International Mission** (representing the Central Region). Rev. William Zwick had to resign membership on this board due to his recent acceptance of a call to serve as Executive Director of Missions and Ministry for the Mid-South District. The person appointed to fill this position will serve through August 31, 2023. The deadline for receiving nominations is Wednesday, March 2, 2022.

4) The LCMS Board of Directors will be appointing one minister of religion-ordained and four lay positions on the **Concordia Plan Service Board**. These appointments will take place on May 20, 2022. All positions will be for three-year terms beginning September 1, 2022. The deadline for receiving these nominations is Wednesday, March 2, 2022.

5) The LCMS Board of Directors will be appointing four members-at-large to serve on **the Lutheran Church Extension Fund - Missouri Synod (LCEF)** for a three- year term beginning November 1, 2022. The primary responsibility of these members-at-large is to attend an annual meeting and participate in the process for the election of the LCEF Board of Directors. The deadline for receiving these nominations is Wednesday, March 2, 2022.

6) John Sias, LCMS Secretary, in preparation for the next Synod Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin (July 29 – August 3, 2023) is asking for nominations for Synod Secretary and various boards and commissions of the Synod by October 29, 2022 (and preferably by August 29, 2022).

3. VISIONING/STUDY ITEMS/PRESENTATIONS

Rev. Stefan Wismar led a follow-up discussion on the Concordia Plan Services (CPS) Compensation Tool Supplement. Rev. Wismar reported that in their further discussions with Concordia Plan Services he and Rev. Krusemark learned that the Compensation Tool Supplement tool has some concerning inherent flaws as it is a descriptive analysis of what pastors are currently being paid and can be inadvertently influenced negatively if there is an increase in the number of congregations that pay on the low end of the scale. Rev. Wismar and Rev. Krusemark will continue to work on a revised proposal to the Board regarding a compensation guidance tool for use within our District.

4. POLICY FORMATION: Review of Policy Manual

No report was given.

5. REPORTS

a) President's Report Highlights, Q & A

The Board was asked to review the report submitted and direct any questions regarding the provided the report of activities from December 2021 through February 2022 to Rev. Woodford.

b) Convention Planning and Update

i) Timeline Review

ii) Convention agenda draft

iii) Standing Committee memorials for BOD consideration

iv) Floor Committees (and chair appointments)

c) Treasurers Report

Mr. Rick Marko, District Treasurer, provided a financial summary for the fourth quarter that ended December 31, 2021. The change in assets for the twelve months was over budget by \$1,241,298. Congregational support for the twelve months ended December 31 was \$2,177,797 as compared to a budget of \$2,000,000 (or \$177,797 over budget). Expenses for the fourth quarter ended December 31 were \$2,592,965 compared to a budget of \$2,959,797 (under budget by \$366,832). Through December there were 193 congregations (82% of District congregations) making gifts ranging from \$25 to \$122,000. District expenses for the first nine months were also under budget. The District continues to pay its bills in a timely manner.

d) Finance Committee Report

Mr. John Branstad reported that, in addition to the regular report submitted to the Board, the Finance Committee has also submitted a overture to the Board of Directors to consider for submission to the 2022 Minnesota South District Convention. Mr. Ben Hagemann reviewed the history behind the proposed overture and its purpose.

e) LCEF Report

Mr. Kai Larson, LCEF District Vice President, reported there are 4,061 investors who have invested \$93,884,633. In addition, he has been working with the Real Estate Solutions Teams to assist two District congregations that are looking to lease or purchase a site for a new church plant and to build a home for individuals with intellectual disabilities on their site. Finally, he reported there are currently no impaired or troubled LCEF loans in the Minnesota South District.

f) Special Reports

No report was given.

g) Other committee minutes: Schools and Commissioned Ministers; Ministerial Health; Mission Formation; Missions Committee; Pre-Seminary Committee

No additional reports were given.

6. INFORMATION AND DECISION ITEMS

a) CPS Compensation Tool Supplement approval

At our last meeting, the Board requested different examples of how the District's proposed salary guideline supplement would work with the CPS Compensation Support Tool. The Board received the update and acknowledges that the work led by Rev. Stefan Wismar and Rev. Jesse Krusemark is ongoing. A further update will be provided at the May 3, 2022 meeting of the Board.

b) Convention agenda approval

The motion was made and seconded to approve the draft agenda presented with the following corrections:

- Pg. 2 at 7:00 p.m. change "Pablo, Bloomington" to "People of the Book Lutheran Outreach (POBLO), Bloomington"
- Pg. 4 at 1:10 p.m. - Confirm and if necessary correct the title of Dr. Mark Koschmann

The motion carried.

c) Standing committee memorials

i. Mission Committee

- After robust discussion by the Board, the motion regarding the overture submitted by the Mission Committee title "To Study the Minnesota South District's Ministry With Multiethnic Communities and Grow in Our Understanding and Actions of Racial Reconciliation" was withdrawn.

ii. Ministerial Health Committee

- A motion was made and seconded to approve for submission to the appropriate floor committee of the District Convention the overture submitted by the Ministerial Health Committee titled "To give thanks and praise to our God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for the faithful and persevering service of all of our church workers in the midst of the ongoing pandemic.". The motion carried.

- A motion was made and seconded to approve for submission to the appropriate floor committee of the District Convention the overture submitted by the Ministerial Health Committee titled "To give thanks and praise to our God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for the faithful and persevering service of all of our frontline workers in our communities the midst of the ongoing pandemic.". The motion carried.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve for submission to the appropriate floor committee of the District Convention the overture submitted by the Ministerial Health Committee titled "To encourage Parish Leadership to support their church workers through the many resources available to them for mental health care." subject to the correction of the spelling error in the final paragraph (i.e., change "convent" to "convenient"). The motion carried.

iii. Finance Committee

- A motion was made and seconded to approve for submission to the appropriate floor committee of the District Convention the overture submitted by the Finance Committee titled "To Continue Sharing Gifts on a 50%/50% Basis with the Synod With Clarification". The motion carried.

d) CCM Letter to Request Input (Ag. 22-2978)

The Board discussed the request and declined to provide input.

e) Nominations for six positions

- i. Nominations for Board for National Mission (one ordained or commissioned)
No nomination was made.
- ii. Nominations for Concordia University Chicago Board of Regents (one layperson)
No nomination was made.
- iii. Nominations for Board for International Mission (one ordained or commissioned)
No nomination was made.
- iv. Nominations for Concordia Plan Service Board (one ordained and four laypersons)
Rev. Horton moved to nominate Rev. Jesse Krusemark, subject to Rev. Krusemark's consent. Rev. Loder seconded. The motion carried.
- v. Nominations for LCEF—Missouri Synod (four members-at-large)
Rev. Wheeler moved to nominate Mr. Brad Starr from Crossview Lutheran Church in Edina, MN, subject to Mr. Starr's consent. Mr. Branstad seconded. The motion carried.

- vi. Nominations for Synod Secretary and various boards and commissions of the Synod.
Ms. Rosa Summers moved to table this request for nominations for further consideration at the May 3, 2022 meeting of this Board. Mr. John Branstad seconded. The motion carried.
- vii. The Board of Directors expressed a general dissatisfaction with: i) the timeliness of receiving communications directed to the Board, ii) only receiving a summary or a portion of the communication sent to the Board, and iii) the amount of time given for reply (e.g. less than 30 days in the case of the call for nominations for an individual member position on the Board for National Mission, Central Region). The Board asks Rev. Keith Grimm, Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Minnesota South District, to distribute these communications in their entirety and with sufficient advance notice to enable the Board to consider nominees and get consent of such candidates prior to the Board meeting. The Board would also like to encourage Rev. Dr. John W. Sias, LCMS Secretary, to distribute nomination requests and other time sensitive requests as soon as possible in an effort to give District Boards more time to consider and respond to such requests.

7. ROUND TABLE

Celebrations and prayer requests were shared.

8. CLOSING PRAYER

Rev. Mark Loder led the closing prayer.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Rev. Mumme at 12:29 p.m.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- Tuesday, May 3, 2022, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Chaplain: Keith Grimm
- Monday and Tuesday, September 19-20, 2022