

Minutes: Board of Directors Meeting – Approved

Minnesota South (MNS) District
May 3, 2022 – 9:00am to 3:00pm
District Office Burnsville, MN

Mission Statement

Cultivating leaders intentionally engaged in the mission of God.

1. OPENING DEVOTION

Rev. Keith Grimm, Senior Pastor of Family of Christ Lutheran Church in Ham Lake, served as chaplain for the day. He led a devotion based on Hebrews 1:1-3. We sang LSB Hymn 480 “He’s Risen, He’s Risen.”

2. PARLIAMENTARY OBLIGATIONS

- a) The meeting was called to order by the President, Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford, at 9:00am.
- b) Roll Call
Present: Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford; Rev. David Mumme; Rev. Thomas Evans; Rev. Steven Wheeler; Rev. Keith Grimm Mr. Rick Marko; Rev. Christopher Horton; Ms. Alfrieda Baldwin; Rev. Isaac Williams; Ms. Rosa Summers; Mr. John Branstad; Rev. Loel Wessel; Ms. Sara Sorenson; Mr. Dave Kenow; Rev. Mark Loder; Mr. Benjamin Hagemann; Mr. Leland Huebner; Mr. Joel Landskroener
Staff: Rev. Stefan Wismar; Rev. Dr. William Utech; Mr. Sean Martens; Mr. Kai Larson; Dr. Phillip Johnson
Excused: Rev. Dennis Heiden; Mr. Daniel Thao
Absent: Rev. Isaac Williams; 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 Ms. Rosa Summers*)
A motion was made and seconded to approve BOD minutes from February, 2022. The motion carried.
- e) Correspondence (*read by Keith Grimm, Secretary*)
 - i. Nominations are requested for one vacant position (ordained or commissioned) on the Synod’s **Board for International Mission** (representing the Great Plains Region). This is due to the recent death of Rev. Bernard Seter, who was elected as an individual member by the 2019 LCMS convention. The person appointed to fill this position from the Great Plains Region will serve through August 31, 2026. The deadline for receiving nominations is Tuesday, May 31, 2022.

ii. Nominations are requested for one vacant Layperson position on the Synod's **Board for International Mission** (representing the Central Region). This is due to the resignation of Mrs. Kristine Bruss to serve at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne. The person appointed to fill this position from the Central Region will serve through August 31, 2026. The deadline for receiving nominations is Tuesday, May 31, 2022

3. VISIONING/STUDY ITEMS/PRESENTATIONS: How a District Convention Works

Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford led a presentation on "How a District Convention Works." The MN South District was organized in 1963. He mentioned that convention floor committee meetings will take place on May 7. The theme for this year's District Convention is "Everything in the Name of Jesus," which is based on Colossians 3:17. President Woodford mentioned several nominations from the floor will be necessary to fill district positions. Finally, all delegates will be asked not to use their digital devices to politic during the convention.

4. POLICY FORMATION: Review of Policy Manual

Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford led a presentation on the District's policy based governance. We have followed this model since 2005. He then showed the District's organizational chart. We then reviewed the following policies:

- a) 2018 MN South District Board of Directors Policy Manual: 3.12 Mission Agreement
Congregations requesting mission support (in the form of grants or subsidy) shall, in conjunction with the Mission Committee, develop a Mission Agreement as a condition of receiving such support. This Agreement shall be developed according to policy documents of the Mission Committee. (Adopted 9/13/2005)
- b) 2018 MN South District Handbook: Bylaw 4.5.18.2.4 *Requests for Subsidy* a-d.
 - a. All applications for subsidy for all, or for any part, of a program shall be made in writing and by congregational resolution and on forms provided by the board of directors. The board of directors, through the assistant to the president for missions, shall make investigation, and no loan or subsidy for the entire, or for any part, of the program shall be granted unless a congregation or parish has first made every effort to raise the necessary funds to the satisfaction of the board of directors.
 - b. In submitting their requests for subsidy, congregations or parishes shall include a complete and detailed budget of their financial needs.
 - c. Subsidized congregations or parishes shall comply with the salary scale and other benefits for ordained and commissioned ministers as established by the district.
 - d. All subsidy requests for all, or any part, of a program shall be reviewed by the missions committee of the board of directors. In matters concerning a Christian day school, the schools/commissioned ministers committee shall be consulted. The missions committee in turn shall make recommendations to the board of directors as it deems appropriate.

5. REPORTS

- a) President's Report Highlights, Q & A
Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford presented his report of activities from February through April 2022. He then asked if the Board had any questions. His schedule will be very chaotic until the District Convention with ordinations and convention preparations.
- b) Convention Planning and Update
 - i) Timeline Review
Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford asked for grace as he is making preparations for his first district convention.
 - ii) Floor Committees meetings
Floor Committee meetings to review submitted overtures will take place at Messiah Lutheran Church, Lakeville, on May 7.
 - iii) BOD role at convention
Board members were invited to attend the entire District Convention.
 - iv) BOD meal Thursday evening
Board members were invited to a convention meal in the CSP Library Tech Center on Thursday, June 9, at 5:30pm.
- c) Treasurers Report
Mr. Rick Marko, District Treasurer, provided a financial summary for the first quarter that ended March 31, 2022. The change in assets for the quarter was \$(112,329) compared to a budget of \$(42,019), under budget by \$70,310. Congregational support was \$527,822 for the three months ended March 31, as compared to a budget of \$512,496 (or \$15,326 over budget). Year-to-date there were 129 congregations (55% of total District congregations) making gifts ranging from \$150 to \$25,000. District expenses for the first quarter were also under budget. The District continues to pay its bills in a timely manner.
- d) Finance Committee Report
No report was given.
- e) LCEF Report
Mr. Kai Larson, LCEF District Vice President, reported there are 4,022 investors who have invested \$93,394,474. Kai has been working with our Real Estate Solutions Team to assist several District congregations. In addition, he has been having loan discussions with several congregations. 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

A motion was made that following the district convention the Board of Directors will review:

- a) The requirements of the bylaws related to providing financial aid to a congregation or parish of the district for all or any part of the programs of a congregation or parish.
- b) The policies or practices of any District committee that grants financial aid to a congregation or parish.

The purpose for such review is to confirm compliance with the bylaws and to identify any necessary changes to them as we move forward.

6. INFORMATION AND DECISION ITEMS

a) Campus Ministry Discussion

- i. Review of President Woodford's March 19 & 23, 2022, detailed emails and attachments to the BOD

Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford shared his past process of introducing the University Lutheran Chapel campus ministry grant request.

- ii. Correction to December 7, 2021, BOD meeting discussion on campus ministry (noting the correct 2012 Convention resolution that passed, Overture E-7 – *To Provide Funds to ULC*, rather than resolution 5-01 – *To Strengthen and Expand Campus Ministry*).

Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford apologized for originally emailing the wrong resolution information.

- iii. Grant procedure review and assessment (policy, bylaw, and 2016 campus ministry plan).

Steve Wheeler, Chair of the Missions Committee, shared the thorough process and rationale the Missions Committee implemented as they reviewed and came to their final University Lutheran Chapel grant decision. After lengthy discussion, a motion was made and seconded to refer a decision back to the Missions Committee. This motion was withdrawn.

A motion was made and seconded for the District Board of Directors to provide one year of funding for a vicar to University Lutheran Chapel at a cost of \$44,111 along with \$30,000 toward a van for campus ministry. The vicar and ULC in partnership with the MN South District will provide monthly reporting and feedback to the District Missions Committee. The question was called to close debate. This motion carried. The motion then went before the board. The motion carried.

It was moved and seconded that the funding come from the campus ministry endowment. The motion carried

b) Missions Committee grant recommendations

- i. Camp Omega

The Camp Omega mission grant request was tabled until the Missions Committee meeting in August.

- ii. John 1516s

A grant request submitted for a multi-ethnic summer junior/senior youth ministry program facilitated by Emmaus Lutheran Church in Saint Paul, Bethel Lutheran

Church in St. Paul, and the Oromo Evangelical Mission Society for \$3,800 was approved.

c) Constitution Updates

The motion was made and seconded to ratify the constitutions of Trinity Lutheran Church, Northfield, and Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Rochester. The motion carried.

d) Nominations for Board for International Missions

i. Nominations for Board for International Mission (Great Plains region)

ii. Nominations for Board for International Mission (Central region)

No nominations were made for these vacant positions by the Board.

e) Approval of the 2021 Audit Report

Mr. Rick Marko reported that the District's 2021 finances were audited by the Synod's internal audit function. In their opinion the financial statements were presented fairly in all material respects. A motion was made and seconded to approve the audit report. The motion carried.

f) Constitution Bylaw Revisions

Mr. Phil Johnson shared all of the Synod's Committee on Constitution Matters (CCM) recommended changes to our District bylaws. A motion was made and seconded to approve that all these bylaw changes and that they be presented for ratification at the MN South District Convention. The motion carried.

7. ROUND TABLE

Celebrations and prayer requests were shared.

8. THANKS TO ROSA SUMMERS

Thanks to Rosa Summers for all of her faithful leadership and service to the Lord for these past 10 years on the BOD.

9. CLOSING PRAYER

Chaplain of the Day, Rev. Keith Grimm, District Secretary, led the closing prayer.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by President Woodford at 3:25pm.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- Monday and Tuesday, September 19-20, 2022