

Minutes: Board of Directors Meeting – Approved by the Board 2.2.2019
Minnesota South (MNS) District
Tuesday, December 4, 2018, 10:00am – 4:00pm
MNS District Office, Burnsville

Mission Statement

Cultivating leaders intentionally engaged in the mission of God.

1. OPENING DEVOTION

Rev. Bob Schulze, Executive Assistant to the President, led the opening devotion using Daily Prayer—Morning from LSB. We sang Hymn 707 “Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways.” We learned that stewarding life plans is important. However, our plans only go so far because of life changes. Using Psalm 25 we ask the Lord to make known to us His ways, His truth and His paths. We closed by singing Hymn 698 “May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill.”

2. PARLIAMENTARY OBLIGATIONS

a) Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 10:01a.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. David Mumme; Rev. Thomas Evans; Rev. Harold Storm; Rev. Dr. Brent Parrish; Rev. Keith Grimm; Mr. Rick Marko; Rev. Christopher Horton; Mr. Daniel Thao; Dr. Gary Elsesser; Rev. Steven Wheeler; Ms. Rosa Summers; Mr. John Branstad; Rev. Loel Wessel; Ms. Sara Sorenson; Mr. Dave Kenow; Mr. Benjamin Hagemann; Mr. Leland Huebner; Mr. Joel Landskroener

Staff: Rev. Robert Schulze; Rev. Dr. William Utech; Mr. Sean Martens; Dr. Phil Johnson; Mr. Kai Larson; Rev. Fred Hinz; Mr. Matt Steiner

Excused: Mr. Neal Breitbarth, Rev. Dennis Heiden

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 10-11, 2018. The motion was carried.

e) Correspondence

- The Law Firm of Calvin Kuhlman filed Articles of Amendment changes for the Minnesota South District LCMS with the State of Minnesota.

- The deadline for districts to submit overtures (memorials) to the Synod Convention is February 6, 2019.
- President Lucas Woodford read the letter he is sending to pastors, congregational presidents and treasurers in December 2018 encouraging congregations to support the mission of the MN South District with their prayers and resources in 2019.

3. VISIONING / STUDY ITEMS / PRESENTATIONS

Rev. Gemechu Olana, Pastor of Our Savior, Brownsdale, and Holy Cross, Austin, thanked everyone for their support and prayers as he begins his new ministry. He shared his background and ministry especially to Oromo Ethiopian immigrants. He loves his new community and the mission opportunities before him. Then Pastor Olana graciously answered multiple questions about his family, education and ministry.

4. POLICY FORMATION & REVIEW

Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford gave a presentation to refresh our understanding of “Policy Based Governance.” This provided helpful information on the authority and functions of the Board. The Board establishes limitations and boundaries for President Woodford and the Staff. Rev. Steven Wheeler added insights on how Policy Based Governance works in his congregation. The key is for the Board to trust President Woodford and the District Staff; and for the District Staff to communicate well and be transparent. An updated organizational chart was shared with the Board. Finally, it was requested that the District Secretary provide guidelines to help Board committees take thorough minutes.

5. REPORTS

- a) Special Report: Rev. Dr. Thomas Ries, Concordia University, St. Paul
President Ries reported that CSP is celebrating their 125th anniversary and having a great year under the theme: “Leading in Legacy.” CSP is concluding a capital campaign and exceeded their goals. In August, CSP received accreditation through the Higher Learning Commission. This accreditation lasts for ten years. They have fourteen new academic programs. The quality of the faculty and their collegiality have never been better. CSP is in the process of purchasing the Central Midway Building which will alleviate space issues for the next decade. President Ries will be retiring June 30, 2019. A committee is working on choosing the next President.
- b) Update: District Triennium Initiatives
Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford and the District Staff led a review of the eleven 2018-2021 Minnesota South District Initiatives.
- c) President’s Report
Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford shared the joys and challenges of his new position. He has a new perspective of trends, church workers and congregations in conflict, and how churches are organizing themselves in light of cultural changes. He is urging congregations to think long-range, so that they aren’t reacting to financial or demographic changes and crises too late. The joys of President Woodford’s new position are meeting so many faithful leaders and committed followers of Christ

throughout the District; seeing ethnic Lutheran ministries developing and thriving; and the confidence we have in the Lord of the church no matter what future challenges we face.

- d) **Treasurer's Report**
Rick Marko, District Treasurer, provided financial results as of September 30, 2018. The District is currently behind in the budget due to less revenue than budgeted from congregations. At the same time, District expenses are less than a year ago. 76% of congregations in the MN South District give to the District and/or Synod.
- e) **LCEF Report and Delinquent Loan Report**
Kai Larson, LCEF Vice President, shared that nearly \$100,000 was given to the Minnesota South District by the LCEF this year. This is the largest amount the District has ever received. In addition, there are no delinquent loans reported. Several loan discussions are currently taking place with congregations in the District seeking LCEF loans. Last year close to one million dollars was given by the LCEF to rostered church workers.
- f) We received reports from the Finance and Missions Committees. There were no questions concerning either of their reports.
- g) Standing Committees and Sub-Committees were reminded to schedule meetings in time to have their Minutes ready by the 20th of the month previous to the BOD Meetings (January, April, August and November) for inclusion in the Board of Directors packets.

6. INFORMATION AND DECISION ITEMS

- a) To save postage costs and paper, it was proposed that the Preliminary Agenda and documents for future Board Meetings be in a digital/email version in compliance with our current confidentiality agreement. There was a motion and second to do this. This motion was carried. This will require a change to BOD policy Manual 1.05.02 B and MNS District Bylaw 4.5.12.
- b) John Branstad, Finance Committee Chair, gave highlights of the proposed 2019 Budget. A motion was made and seconded to ratify LCEF loans to Mt. Calvary, Richfield; Samaritan's Hill, Rogers; and Emanuel, Inver Grove Heights. This motion was carried.
Rick Marko, District Treasurer, introduced several changes to the proposed 2019 Budget. Congregational support (revenues) were reduced, as well as expenses. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the amended 2019 Budget. This motion was carried.
- c) Rev. Harold Storm stated that the Constitution Committee is moving the approval of these two congregation's constitutions and bylaws:
 - Mount Hope Lutheran Church, Bloomington

- Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Lakefield
This motion was seconded. This motion was carried.

7. ROUND TABLE

Several prayer requests were shared by Board members.

8. CLOSING PRAYER

Rev. Bob Schulze, Executive Assistant to the President, led us in a closing prayer and the Benediction.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned by President Woodford at 2:57pm. Rev. Loel Wessel will lead the opening devotion at the February BOD meeting.

2019 BOD MEETINGS (10:00A – 4:00P)

Saturday, February 2, 2019 (2.9.2019 is weather-alternative date)

Tuesday May 7, 2019

Monday-Tuesday, September 9-10 2019 (Retreat and Meeting)

Tuesday, December 3, 2019 (12.52019 is weather alternative date)