

Minutes: Board of Directors Meeting – Approval by the Board
Minnesota South (MNS) District
December 6, 2022 – 9:00am to 4:00pm
District Office, Burnsville, MN

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 Second Vice President of the District, served as chaplain for the day. He led a devotion based on Luke 2:15 encouraging us to “go first” like the shepherds. We sang LSB Hymn 379 “O Come, All Ye Faithful.”

2. PARLIAMENTARY OBLIGATIONS

a) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the President, Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford, at 9:20am.

b) Roll Call

Present: Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford; Rev. David Mumme; Rev. Thomas Evans; Rev. David Kind; Rev. Mark Loder; Rev. Keith Grimm Mr. Rick Marko; Rev. Kurt Klaus; Mr. Daniel Thao; Ms. Alfrieda Baldwin; Rev. Matthew Johnson; Mr. Bill Summers; Rev. Jonathan Vollrath; Ms. Sara Sorenson; Mr. Dave Kenow; Rev. Eric Nelson; Mr. David Koosman; Mr. Daniel Uttech; Mr. Andy Frerich; Mr. Joel Landskroener

Staff: Rev. Stefan Wismar; Mr. Sean Martens; Dr. Phillip Johnson; Mr. Kai Larson; Rev. Fred Hinz; Nadine Meyer

Absent: Mr. Travis Barclay

c) Approval of Agenda

The motion carried for the agenda of the day to be approved.

d) Approval of Minutes of Past Meeting (*prepared by Keith Grimm, Secretary*)

A motion was made and seconded to approve BOD minutes from September 18-20, 2022. The motion carried.

e) Correspondence

Rev. Keith Grimm, District Secretary, highlighted important dates and deadlines for 2023 Synod Convention. In addition, Mr. Rick Marko, District Treasurer, recently sent a letter to all the District’s Circuit Visitors indicating the Synod assessment per circuit is \$6,250 (or \$3,125) per voting delegate.

3. GUEST PRESENTER

Newly elected Minnesota South District LWML President, Lisa Kamrath, introduced herself. She is a member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Hutchinson. She reported on various LWML mission activities taking place locally, nationally, and internationally. She mentioned that several LWML zones have been realigned within the District. The next national LWML Convention will take place in Milwaukee in June 2023. We are intentionally trying to recruit younger women to join the LWML.

4. POLICY FORMATION

Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford led the discussion about the new Minnesota South District governance proposal set forward by Ted Kober at our last BOD meeting. These changes would mirror the changes taking place at the Synod level. There was extensive discussion from the entire board.

5. REPORTS:

a) President's Report Highlights, Q & A: Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford

Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford presented his report of activities from September through November 2022. In addition, President Woodford emphasized his "Go First" Initiative, as well as daily challenges he is currently facing in his ministry. He also mentioned positive conversations he had with the various candidates for the District Mission Executive position. President Woodford plans to visit all 24 District circuits within the next two years. Finally, President Woodford asked Rev. Fred Hinz, the District's Public Policy Advocate, to share information about current concerns and threats that Christians and churches are facing legislatively at the state and federal level. Rev. Hinz also mentioned positive discussions are taking place in Minnesota for parental choice in education and parental rights.

b) Treasurer's Report: Mr. Rick Marko

Mr. Rick Marko, District Treasurer, provided a financial summary for the quarter and nine months ended September 30, 2022. The change in assets for the quarter was \$(235,966) compared to a budget of \$(79,887), under budget by \$156,079. The change in assets for the nine months ended September 30 was \$(708,370) compared to a budget of \$(272,356) under budget by \$436,014. Congregational support was \$465,322 for the three months ended September 30, as compared to a budget of \$512,496 (or \$47,174 under budget). Congregational support for the nine months ended September 30 was \$1,443,707 as compared to a budget of \$1,537,488, or \$93,781 under budget. The under budget was primarily due to a net loss on investments and lower than anticipated interest income. Year-to-date there were 174 congregations (74% of total District congregations) making gifts ranging from \$100 to \$88,000. District expenses for the third quarter were over budget by \$44,156. The audit of our District's finances will take place at the beginning of February 2023. The District continues to pay its bills in a timely manner.

c) Finance Committee Report

Mr. Kai Larson, LCEF District Vice President, pointed the Board to the minutes of the November meeting. In addition, Kai shared the LCEF gave the District \$125,600 from their earnings for the past year. This gift to the District will be allocated in the following way: \$65,600 will go to the mission program; \$40,000 will assist immigrants attending the EIIT program; and \$20,000 to support future LCEF events.

d) LCEF Report and Delinquent Loan Report

Mr. Kai Larson, LCEF District Vice President, reported there are 3,928 investors who have invested \$91,516,931. This includes \$1,435,000 in new money; and \$2,564,641 in refinances of loans with LCEF. Kai 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

e) Special Reports

There were no special reports.

f) Other committee minutes: Schools & Commissioned Ministers; Ministerial Health; Mission Formation; Missions, Pre-Seminary Committee

A question was asked of Sean Martens about certifying Lutheran school teachers in the State of Minnesota in the future.

6. INFORMATION AND DECISION ITEMS:

a) Governance proposal (Contract with Ted Kober)

A motion was made and seconded that the Minnesota South District sign a contract with Ted Kober to revise the District bylaws and policies based on his recommended revisions. The motion carried.

b) Ratify and issue call to Vue Lee for District Mission Executive

Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford pointed the BOD to the Board of Director's Policy Manual bylaw 2.02. Then President Woodford had the BOD look at the District Handbook bylaw 4.11.3.1 to point out the District President presents his recommended candidate to the Board, who then issues the call. A motion was made and seconded to call Rev. Vue Lee as the Minnesota South District Mission Executive. After praying for the Holy Spirit's wisdom and blessing, the motion carried.

c) 2023 Budget approval

Mr. Rick Marko, District Treasurer, shared with the Board the minor changes that were made to the preliminary 2023 budget, since it was originally presented at the September BOD meeting. These two changes were made to the final budget: Adding \$5,000 to the budget for Ted Kober to revise our District bylaws and policies; and deducting \$30,000 from the Campus Ministry Account (since we recently purchased a van for University Lutheran Chapel). It was moved and seconded to approve the 2023 budget as presented with the amended changes. The motion carried.

d) Constitution Committee – Constitutions for approval

Rev. Mark Loder mentioned the Constitution Committee approved the constitutions of these four congregations:

- Lutheran Church of the Living Christ, Chanhassen
- St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Corcoran
- Immanuel Lutheran Church, Freedom Township
- Cornerstone Light of Life Lutheran Church (Received as a new member church in the LCMS)

The motion was made and seconded to ratify these four constitutions. The motion carried.

e) February 2023 BOD meeting

Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford mentioned the next BOD Meeting on February 25, 2023, will start at 10:00am. This will be a virtual meeting if the weather is bad on that day.

f) Teams App check in

Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford asked all the Board members if they understand and are easily utilizing the new Teams App.

7. ROUND TABLE

The Board members shared their celebrations and/or prayer requests.

8. CLOSING PRAYER

Chaplain of the Day, Rev. Tom Evans, led the closing prayer.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by President Woodford at 1:12pm.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Saturday, February 25, 2023, 10am – 4pm (online meeting only)

Chaplain: Rev. David Kind

Tuesday, May 2, 2023, 10am – 4 pm

Chaplain: Rev. Mark Loder

Monday & Tuesday, September 25-26, 2023

Chaplain: Rev. Keith Grimm

Tuesday, December 12, 2023, 9am – 4pm

Chaplain: Rev. Kurt Klaus