

**Minutes: Board of Directors Meeting – Approved by the Board 12/12/2023**  
Minnesota South (MNS) District  
May 2, 2023 – 10:00am to 1:00pm  
District Office, Burnsville, MN

Mission Statement

Cultivating leaders intentionally engaged in the mission of God.

**1. OPENING DEVOTION**

Rev. Mark Loder, Pastor of St. James Lutheran Church in Howard Lake and Fourth Vice President of the District, served as chaplain for the day. He led a devotion using LSB Daily Prayer, Psalm 25, Luke 9, and a reading from Luther’s Small Catechism. We sang LSB Hymn 466 “Christ Has Risen, Alleluia.”

**2. PARLIAMENTARY OBLIGATIONS**

a) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the President, Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford, at 10:13am.

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; Ms. Alfrieda Baldwin; Rev. Matthew Johnson; Mr. Bill Summers; Rev. Jonathan Vollrath; Ms. Sara Sorenson; 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

Excused: Mr. Daniel Thao; Rev. Vue Lee

Absent: Mr. Travis Barclay; Mr. Dave Kenow

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 February 25, 2023. The motion carried.

e) Correspondence

Rev. Keith Grimm, District Secretary, shared correspondence from Synod Secretary, Dr. John Sias, asking for nominations to fill vacancies on the Synod’s Commission on

Constitutional Matters and Commission on Handbook. A motion was made and seconded to nominate Rev. Matthew Moss from St. John's Lutheran Church in Corcoran, Minnesota, for the ordained position on the Commission on Constitutional Matters. The motion carried.

In addition, the Minnesota South District has been asked by Dr. John Sias to appoint four reconcilers by October 1, 2023.

### **3. VISION / STUDY ITEMS / PRESENTATIONS:**

Bob LaCroix, Director of Camp Omega, gave an update. He shared information and pictures of the new Camp Lodge. He highlighted that 42% of summer campers are unchurched. Bob also shared information about Camp Omega's new staff members.

### **4. POLICY FORMATION: Review of Governance Change Status**

Dr. Phil Johnson, Rev. Mark Loder, Rev. Matthew Johnson, and Rev. Keith Grimm served on the Task Force responsible for making proposed changes to the BOD Policy Manual draft that Mr. Ted Kober originally prepared. We will review and discuss these proposed changes later in today's meeting.

### **5. REPORTS:**

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

Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford presented his report of activities from February through April 2023. He mentioned the joy of participating in the "call days" at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, and at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Our District was assigned three new vicars and four candidates. President Woodford also mentioned he recently officiated the funeral of his mother-in-law Nancy.

#### b) Treasurer's Report: Mr. Rick Marko

Mr. Rick Marko, District Treasurer, provided a financial summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2023. The change in assets for the quarter was \$144,038 compared to a budget of \$(160,012), over budget by \$304,050. Congregational support was \$463,119 for the three months ended March 31, as compared to a budget of \$512,496 or \$49,377 under budget. For the year-to-date 2023, there were 121 congregations (52% of total District congregations) making gifts ranging from \$100 to \$36,000. The net gain on investments for the quarter was \$111,931. In addition, District expenses for the first quarter were under budget by \$122,882. The District continues to pay its bills in a timely manner.

#### c) Finance Committee Report

Mr. Kai Larson, LCEF District Vice President, asked the Board to review the recent Finance Committee minutes.

#### d) LCEF Report and Delinquent Loan Report

Mr. Kai Larson, LCEF District Vice President, reported there are 3,851 investors who have invested \$93,206,915. This includes \$2,836,673 in new money; and \$2,590,270

in refinances of LCEF loans. Kai has been having loan discussions with several congregations. He also mentioned Thomas Campbell is a national LCEF Real Estate leader who is working with several District 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

There were no reports.

g) Proposed MNS BOD Policy Manual (third review)

Rev. Mark Loder led the discussion on the Task Force's recommended changes to the BOD Policy Manual.

## **6. INFORMATION AND DECISION ITEMS:**

a) MNS District Compensation Guidelines

Rev. Stefan Wismar, Executive Assistant to the President, thoroughly presented the new "MNS District Compensation Guidelines." After analysis, the decision was made to return to a revised compensation guideline that updates the base rate (\$48,985), the geographical multiplier, and the annual mileage rate. The Board immensely thanked Rev. Jesse Krusemark and Rev. Stefan Wismar for all their hard work on this endeavor. It was moved and seconded to approve the new MNS District Compensation Guidelines. The motion carried.

b) Approval of the 2022 Audit Report

Mr. Rick Marko, District Treasurer, shared the results of the recent audit report completed by the LCMS Internal Audit Department. No discrepancies were found in the District's 2021 and 2022 financial statements. It was moved and seconded to approve this audit report. The motion carried.

c) Approval of the Constitution and Bylaws for St. John's Lutheran Church, Atwater

The MN South District Constitution Committee moved to approve the Constitution and Bylaws for St. John's Lutheran Church, Atwater. This motion was seconded. The motion carried.

d) Synod Convention Delegate Orientation

Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford shared that the tentative date for orienting the Synod Convention delegates is June 17, 2023. The location is TBD.

## **7. ROUND TABLE**

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

## **8. CLOSING PRAYER**

Chaplain of the Day, Rev. Mark Loder, led the closing prayer using “The Litany” from LSB.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by President Woodford at 12:15pm.

## **UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS**

Monday & Tuesday, September 25-26, 2023

Chaplain: Rev. Keith Grimm

Tuesday, December 12, 2023, 9am – 4pm

Chaplain: Rev. Kurt Klaus