

**Minutes: Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Approved by the Board 12/07/2021**  
Minnesota South (MNS) District  
September 21, 2021 9:00am to 3:00pm  
MNS District Office, Burnsville

Mission Statement

Cultivating leaders intentionally engaged in the mission of God.

**1. OPENING DEVOTION**

Rev. Mark Loder, Pastor of St. James Lutheran Church and School in Howard Lake and Region 4 Pastoral Representative, served as chaplain for the day. He led a devotion using LSB “Service of Prayer and Preaching.” His meditation was based on Matthew 9:9-13 for “St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist.” We sang LSB hymn 730 “What Is the World to Me.”

**2. PARLIAMENTARY OBLIGATIONS**

a) The meeting was called to order by the President, Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford, at 9:21am.

b) Roll Call

Present: Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford; Rev. Thomas Evans; Rev. Dennis Heiden; Rev. Steven Wheeler; Rev. Keith Grimm; Mr. Rick Marko; Rev. Christopher Horton; Mr. Daniel Thao; 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; Rev. Fred Hinz

Excused: Rev. David Mumme; Ms. Alfrieda Baldwin; Mr. Neal Breitbarth

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 May 4, 2021. The motion carried.

e) Correspondence (*read by Keith Grimm Secretary*)

The Board of Regents at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, is seeking nominations to fill a vacant ordained position. This term will be from Sept. 1, 2019, to Aug. 31, 2026.

The person appointed to fill the vacancy will be eligible for election to this position in one additional, successive six-year term (2026-2032). Nominations must be received no later than Wednesday, September 30, 2021

### **3. GUEST PRESENTATION**

Rev. Dr. Brian Friedrich, President of Concordia University, St. Paul, gave an update about the campus. The theme of this academic year is “He restores my soul” from Psalm 23:3. President Friedrich shared the Strategic Plan at CSP. He highlighted their emphasis to recruit and prepare students for professional church work. The tuition guarantee for all students preparing to become commissioned workers is \$6,000 per year. All of the faculty is going through a “Lutheran Identity Seminar.” The enrollment at CSP continues to grow. CSP is now the second largest private college in Minnesota. One of the key goals of CSP is increasing persistence (retention) to graduation. 3% of students in all of the Concordia Universities are currently preparing for professional church work.

### **4. VISIONING/STUDY ITEMS/PRESENTATIONS**

Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford, President of the MN South District, led a discussion and review of yesterday’s “Ministry in the School Setting” presentation at Mayer Lutheran High School. The staff and board are interested in gathering ideas to improve their support of our District’s schools particularly in the areas of administration, funding and networking. The goal is to maximize the enrollment momentum that is currently taking place in our Lutheran schools.

### **5. POLICY FORMATION & REVIEW**

Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford, President of the MN South District, led us in a review of the District Handbook “Chapter 4: District Organization” (4.2. – 4.2.15). This review was done in preparation of the upcoming District Convention next summer.

### **6. REPORTS**

#### **a) President’s Report Highlights, Q & A**

Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford shared his report of activities from May 2021 through September 2021. He mentioned he is providing pastoral care and ecclesiastical oversight to several church workers and congregations. He shared how people are increasingly requesting his guidance on receiving religious exemptions for COVID vaccinations. In addition, President Woodford mentioned how the District desperately needs to fill its Communications Director position. He also mentioned that the District Presidents have put together a resolution urging congregations to refrain from the practice of online communion. Finally, there was a discussion concerning a congregation which is entertaining a vote to leave the Synod. There are pastoral, constitutional, and property issues that need to be addressed with this in the future.

#### **b) Ministry Updates: MN South staff members**

Rev. Fred Hinz, Public Policy Advocate for the MN South District, shared information about Rev. Paul Dare’s booklet *Christians in a Woke World*.

#### **c) Convention Update**

- i) Changes to District Bylaws – They have already been approved.
- ii) Convention Fees – They remain the same.
- iii) Circuit Alignment Report – The current circuits will remain the same.
- iv) Mailings will be sent again in October and November

- d) **Treasurers Report**  
Mr. Rick Marko, District Treasurer, provided a financial summary for the second quarter and the first six months (as of June 30, 2021). The District's overall financial position was positive to budget in the second quarter. Congregational support for the first six months was \$1,036,428, as compared to a budget of \$999,996 (or \$36,432 over budget). Through June there were 166 congregations (70% of total District congregations) making gifts from \$95 to \$67,000. District expenses for the first six months were also under budget. The District continues to pay its bills in a timely manner.
- e) **Finance Committee Report**  
Mr. John Branstad, Chair of the Finance Committee, mentioned that the Committee ratifies LCEF loans and helps prepare the District's preliminary budget. The Endowment Committee also reports to the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee evaluates and provides insights on the annual performance of endowment funds.
- f) **LCEF Report**  
Mr. Kai Larson, LCEF District Vice President, reported on investments in the Lutheran Church Extension Fund. While the number of LCEF investors declined this year, the amount of investment dollars increased. Kai is having loan discussions with four churches about building projects. Finally, the LCEF has a new initiative to offer free advisory guidance to congregations with real estate needs.
- g) **Special Reports**  
No report was given.
- h) **Initiative Updates**  
No report was given.
- i) **Other committee minutes: Schools and Commissioned Ministers; Ministerial Health; Mission Formation Committee; Missions Committee**  
No additional report was given.

## **7. INFORMATION AND DECISION ITEMS**

- a) It was moved and seconded to nominate Rev. Dennis Heiden to fill the vacant position on the Board of Regents at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. The motion passed.
- b) **Constitution Committee: From Rev. Matthew Moss**  
The Committee recommends approval for the following Constitutions and Bylaws:
  - o St. Peter's, Edina
  - o Good Shepherd, Glencoe
  - o Zion, Mayer.
  - o Trinity, NorthfieldThe Board of Directors voted on approving the Constitutions and Bylaws from these four congregations. The motion passed.

c) Mission Request

The Mission Committee recommends that monies from the quasi endowment fund in the amount of \$14,000 go to the Laurel Community School in St. Paul as tuition subsidy for students in need. A motion was made and seconded to accept this request. The motion carried.

d) Finance Committee

Mr. Rick Marko, District Treasurer, presented the first draft of the 2022 preliminary budget. The final budget will be approved by the BOD in December 2021.

e) Meeting Dates

Pastors on the BOD volunteered to be chaplains for upcoming meetings in December, February and May.

## **9. ROUND TABLE**

Celebrations and prayer requests were shared.

## **10. CLOSING PRAYER**

Chaplain of the Day, Rev. Mark Loder, Region 4 Pastoral Representative, led the closing prayer.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by President Woodford at 2:15pm.

### **UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS**

- Tuesday, December 7, 2021, 10am to 4pm  
Weather alternative date: December 14, 2021  
Chaplain: Christopher Horton
- Saturday, February 19, 2022, 10am to 4pm (online)  
Weather alternative date: February 26, 2022  
Chaplain: Dennis Heiden
- Tuesday, May 3, 2022, 10am to 4pm  
Chaplain: Keith Grimm
- Monday and Tuesday, September 19-20, 2022  
Chaplain: