

**NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT  
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS  
January 30, 2024  
District Office**

**MINUTES**

**In Attendance**

Mr. Craig Timm, Chairman  
Rev. Timothy Shoup, 1<sup>st</sup> VP  
Rev. Ryan Fehrmann, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP  
Rev. Preston Paul, 3<sup>rd</sup> VP  
Rev. Donald Engebretson, Secretary  
Mr. Dwayne Maroszek, Treasurer  
Mrs. Marie Fenske  
Rev. Aaron Gehrke  
Mr. Bryon Graff  
Mr. David Mellem  
Dr. Jeffrey Nielsen  
Mrs. Althea Wirtala  
Mr. Bill Zick

**Unable to Attend**

Mr. Brian Betts

**Guest**

Mr. Gary Vought

**District Staff**

Mr. Bill Jordan  
Mrs. Lori Kavajecz  
Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck, President  
Mr. DJ Schult

Chairman Timm called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Opening Devotion** –Mr. David Mellem provided the Opening Devotion.

**Adoption of Agenda**

A **motion** was made and seconded to approve the agenda as presented. **APPROVED**

**Board Training**

Board members were asked to read Part 1 of the book *Faith that Engages the Culture*. Members broke into small groups to discuss and then came back together to share something from their discussion with the large group. The assignment for May is to read Part 2.

**Approval of Consent Voting Agenda**

Approval of November 7, 2023, North Wisconsin District board minutes.

A **motion** was made and seconded to approve the Consent Voting Agenda as presented.  
**APPROVED**

**NWD & Camp Luther Preliminary December/Year End Financials**

Mr. Maroszek provided the Board with an overview of the Preliminary Operating Statements for NWDs and Camp Luther and offered an opportunity for questions.

### **Overage Report**

President Lueck reported that there is an overage of \$122,500. He pointed the Board to the following policies:

**4.5.2** President shall operate with a budget that has been ratified by the Board; and

**4.5.3** President shall report to the Board any line-item adjustments he may approve between Board meetings.

President Lueck shared that the overage would be divided as follows:

- \$10,000 – Peru
- \$10,000 – Camp Luther
- \$12,500 – Synod
- \$5,000 – Disaster Relief
- \$5,000 – Office Technology
- \$30,000 – LOL Annual Gift
- \$50,000 – Labor of Love Campaign

A **motion** was made and seconded to designate \$5,000 to Disaster Relief, \$5,000 to Office Technology, \$30,000 for an annual LOL gift, and \$50,000 to the Labor of Love Campaign.

**APPROVED**

### **Labor of Love Grant Report**

Mr. Jordan reported that in 2023 we received 10 applications; 6 were repeat applicants and 4 were new. A total of \$28,000 was given out in 2023; recipients were awarded in early January. In 2024, the minimum amount of educational indebtedness eligible for grant consideration will be \$10,000 and there will be no maximum limit of years of service after graduation for eligibility.

It was suggested that the district may want to prepare a survey to find out why applications for this program are so low.

### **Capital Campaign**

The Labor of Love Campaign is off to a good start with \$355,000 of actual money to date.

### **Mission Mini Grants**

Mr. Schult shared that it is time to get a team together to oversee this program. He stated that he has revised the application for 2024, the money has been set aside and the due date for application has been set for August 15, 2024. Mr. Schult asked for volunteers from the Board to be a part of this team. Pastor Fehrmann, who served on this team in 2023, gave an overview of the responsibilities. He also shared that he would be willing to serve on this team again. Team members for 2024 are: Rev. Ryan Fehrmann, Dr. Jeffrey Nielsen, Rev. Timothy Shoup and Mrs. Althea Wirtala. Mr. Schult will send the revised application to the team and work with them through this process.

### **President's Report**

President Lueck shared highlights from his written report which was shared with members at the meeting.

## Staff Reports

### DJ Schult

Mr. Schult shared a handout with a snapshot of all the work he has been involved in over the past year. He also shared that he has been getting more and more phone calls from principals concerning students wishing to hurt themselves or others. Deaconess Chrissie Gillet, PsyD, who has a range of counseling experiences, will be presenting to the principals via Zoom to assist them through some of these difficult situations.

### Bill Jordan

Mr. Jordan shared the following highlights:

- Continues to work on several large church loans.
- Team Ministry Workshop to be held on Thursday, February 1, 2024, and led by national leaders from LCEF with a focus on Strategic Ministry.
- Reminder that demographic studies are available—contact Bill.
- The 6.25% 2.5-year CD that was offered by LCEF will no longer be offered after February 1, 2024.

### Legal Counsel

At the November meeting our legal counsel, Mr. Dave Piehler, shared with the Board that he won't be around forever and that they should be proactive in their search to look for someone to replace him. Mr. Schult worked with Mr. Piehler to create a job description which was handed out at the meeting. Board members discussed and shared a few names of attorneys that they know in their congregations. These individuals will be contacted and the findings will be shared at the May meeting.

### Constitution & Bylaw Changes

Secretary Engebretson provided a report for the following congregations:

- Pilgrim – Green Bay
- Trinity (Village of Chelsea) – Medford
- St John – Hamburg
- Christ – Marshfield
- Christ of the Bay – Green Bay

A **motion** was made and seconded to approve the Constitution & Bylaws for Trinity (Village of Chelsea) - Medford and St John-Hamburg as presented.

**APPROVED**

### Standing Committee Updates

#### Governance Committee

Rev. Gehrke shared that the Committee reviewed Section 5 of the Board Policy Manual and that they will also be looking at the Camp Bylaws, Management Agreement and Lease Agreement to ensure that all are in alignment with each other.

The following changes were recommended:

- Remove sections 5.1.2 and 5.1.5
- 5.2.1 – remove the 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence. New verbiage should read as follows: *The District Board of Directors shall request that the Camp Luther Board of Directors make quarterly submissions to the District Office not less than 20 days prior to the regularly scheduled Board meetings for inclusion in the Board of Directors' packet (per Policy 2.6.6.1).*

- 5.2.1.4 – Verbiage is too wordy, replace with the following: *The Camp Luther Board of Directors may suggest names to the District Board of Directors in their consideration for appointment to the Camp Luther Board.*
- 5.3.2 – Verbiage unclear, replace with the following for clarity: *The District Board of Directors selections for the Camp Luther Board members shall normally be from different congregations.*

A **motion** was made and seconded to approve the above recommendations as presented.  
**APPROVED**

It was stated that 5.3.3 will require more discussion prior to implementing any changes.

#### Administrative Services Committee

Mr. Betts was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Schult shared that the Board determined that they wished for a new tool to conduct the district president annual review. Mr. Schult reached out to other districts for input on how they handle their district president reviews and created a revised tool that is a self-evaluation format which was handed out. Board members determined that they would like President Lueck to complete this new tool and then meet with Chairman Timm and Vice-Chair Graff to review with President Lueck and share with the Board any findings.

#### Audit & Investment Management Committee

Mr. Maroszek stated that the engagement letter has been signed and the off-site audit is scheduled for March 7 & 8, 2024. Investment returns were reviewed. Annual returns average 11-17% for 2023.

#### Stewardship Committee

Rev. Fehrmann stated there was no report.

Rev. Shoup closed the meeting in prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Donald Engeberetson, District Secretary  
Lori A. Kavajecz, Recording Secretary