

Summary of Board Meeting of September 30, 2013

Declarations of Conflict of Interest

Doris Milette and Rev. Teuscher declared a conflict of interest regarding items related to Maritime Ministries.

Rev. Bublitz declared a conflict of interest regarding any discussion on the loan to Redeemer Monkton

Approval of Board Minutes

BOD Minutes of June 9 & 10, 2013

Motion: To approve the minutes of June 9/10, 2013 as printed in the docket. **M/S/C**

BOD Minutes of August 6, 2013 (Teleconference)

Motion: To approve the minutes of August 6, 2013 as printed in the docket. **M/S/C**

Business arising from the Minutes

Report from Maritimes Task Force (work plan and proposed budget)

The Board received the work plan of the Task force. The Task force anticipates having recommendations for the Board at its May/June 2014 meeting. The business manager presented to the Board a revised budget in the amount of \$11,522.

Motion: That the proposed budget of the Task Force as revised be approved. **M/S/C**

DP Update re implementation of Motions 12-039

Regarding motion 12-039, the District President presented a draft letter outlining the District's current financial situation.

Motion: That the letter be approved and sent to the chairman and liaison person of each congregation. **M/S/C**

Secretary's Report re Synod's Advertising Policy

The Board had before it a copy of the synodical advertising policy and rate structure. There was considerable discussion regarding whether or not we should have advertising in district publications.

Motion: That this matter be referred to the governance committee. **M/S/C**

Correspondence

Membership of the Corporation

The secretary had a report regarding the corporate requirements for maintaining a register of members, directors and officers of the corporation and presented a draft register.

There is still work to be done on it. The report was received.

Email from Rev. Mark Hartburg re National Youth Gathering

In conjunction with the above letter, the Board received from the synodical treasurer a statement of income and expenses for the national youth gathering.

Motion: That motion 13-081 be rescinded and \$3500 be sent to the National Youth Gathering to assist in covering their deficit. **M/S/C**

The business manager will decide on the source of funds to cover this grant. The Chairman will inform Mr. Gillingham and the Synodical Treasurer.

Letter from Mr. John Colangeli, Lutherwood re appointments

Motion: That the Board endorse the appointment of Rev. Walter Hambrock to fill an unexpired term to June 2014. **M/S/C**

Motion: That the board endorse the appointment of Mr. Martin Bohl to be effective July 2013. **M/S/C**

Letter from Rev. Dr. Robert Bugbee re 2014 Advisory Delegates

Motion: That the board chairman, Rev. Mohr, be appointed to represent the Board as an advisory delegate at the 2014 convention of Synod. **M/S/C**

Motion: That Rev. Gajdos be the staff member appointed to be an advisory delegate at the 2014 convention of Synod. **M/S/C**

Each district may also send two youth representatives. The chairman will prepare an advertisement for the EN3 inviting applicants.

Governance Committee

Mr. Tiegs brought to the board's attention that in the matter of police checks required, among other things, for volunteers working with youth, there are different types of police checks. The board referred this matter to the Governance Committee to discuss what type of police check satisfies our Abuse Prevention Policy and to develop a policy regarding police checks.

Lutheran Church–Canada, Financial Ministries

Mr. Allen Schellenberg, Executive director of Lutheran Foundation Canada, made a presentation to the Board regarding the financial gifts that have been identified by the foundation through the work of the gift planners. It is estimated that 62% of these gifts are planned gifts within an estate (future gifts) all of which have been the result of the work of the gift planners. Mr. Schellenberg pointed out the importance for congregations to adopt a gift acceptance policy and referred to the reports regarding the same that had been forwarded to the district. These reports are available to congregations. The Board thanked Mr. Schellenberg for his presentation and referred his request for continued funding for the Foundation to the Business Manager's Report.

Not-for-Profit Committee

Verbal Report on Circuit meetings

The committee reported on the five circuit meetings. They were well received and no major issues arose. One matter that was mentioned was the concern some congregations have that if they are sharing a pastor with another congregation (dual parish), then the congregations are jointly only entitled to one vote at conventions even though they are each a member of synod.

Motion: That if the Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure is not proposing any changes at the 2014 synodical convention re voting rights of joint parishes, then the chairman and the secretary provide a draft overture for the 2014 Synodical convention to be distributed to the board and approved via e-mail or conference call. **M/S/C**

Rev. Bublitz will contact the CCMS chairman regarding this matter and report to the Board chairman.

It was also agreed that the congregations that hosted the circuit forums be thanked and that we post a notice letting people know that each circuit has been provided with two CDs of the Ottawa circuit meeting and they are available for those who were not able to attend any of the circuit meetings.

Request to Commission on Constitutional Matters & Structure to review draft documents.

Motion: That the Board approve the draft letter to the CCMS and authorize the secretary to send the request forward. **M/S/C**

Planning for March 1, 2014 meeting

After considerable discussion, it was agreed to arrange a form of planning conference in conjunction with the March 1, 2014 corporate members meeting. The various suggestions for content and format were referred to the District President, 1st Vice President and Board chairman for a report back by November.

The District President will meet with staff to discuss other requirements for the March meeting (e.g. credentials committee, food arrangements, voting procedures, and other things). Darryll Holland will act as meeting convener.

Strategic Plan Review

The board reviewed and discussed the various resolutions from the 2012 District Convention to assess progress.

Resolution 12-3-01 To Investigate the Possibility of offering the Doxology program for Pastors in the East District

Status: The circuit counsellors have the matter under advisement and are also looking at other possibilities. The Doxology program appears more geared to help pastors help others rather than to help pastors. Therefore, it maybe not be the right program.

Action: Still under review by the circuit counsellors.

Resolution 12-1-03 To Encourage the Use of Memorization in Christian Education

Action: The Board liaison to the DPS, Mrs. Doris Milette will follow up to see what the DPS is doing with this issue. The Board also suggested that the DP put this issue in the "Did You Know" portion of the EDEN report.

Resolution 12-2-05 To Clarify “Recognized Mission Congregation” Status

Action: The Chairman will review to see that the required letter is sent to the council of Presidents.

Resolution 12-2-06a To Implement LCC Resolution 11.03.08a, “To approve appropriate technologies for conducting the business of Synod and its Districts”

Status: The Governance committee sent this to the communications committee with a request to develop policy and investigate various technologies. Departments and boards are now using "Go-to -meeting" technology for some meetings.

Action: The chairman will check with the communications committee on progress regarding policy, etiquette for meetings to maintain confidentiality, and policy.

Resolution 12-3-04b To Expand the Eligibility of Emeriti Pastors for Service in Synodical Boards and Commissions

Action: Since the East District in convention approved this resolution, the District President rather than the Board should send this forward to synod as an overture from the district convention to the 2014 Synodical convention. (Note: The wording of the overture is imbedded in the resolution.)

Resolution 12-3-05 To Encourage all Members of the District to Work Through our Established Structures to Raise Concerns within our Midst

Status: This matter has been reviewed by circuit counsellors. No further action required.

Resolution 12-3-06 To Promote Unity in the East District

Status: This has been discussed by the circuit counsellors.

Action: This topic should be included in the president’s message in the Canadian Lutheran and EDEN report.

Resolution 12-3-02 To Remind our Congregations and Pastors of the importance of Using Doctrinally Pure Materials

Action: This topic could be included in the president's message in Canadian Lutheran and EDEN report. Also there was consensus that the District President should send this resolution to all pastors, requesting that they share this with their elders and with their church council. This could also be a "Did You Know?" in the EDEN report.

Resolution 12-2-07a To Adopt a Policy of Transparency for District Boards and Entities

Status: The 5th whereas in the resolution is not a correct statement. The Board is now publishing summaries of its meetings. The Board has adopted new policies regarding transparency. No further action is required.

Resolution 12-2-08 To Establish an East District Church Worker Student Loan Program

Status: This has now been established through the Department for Finance. At its June 2013 meeting, the board adopted the policies for administering this program. No further action.

Resolution 12-2-04 To Provide Regular Reporting from Our Seminaries

Action: The District president was asked to follow up on this regarding progress on implementing the MOU and keeping East District members informed.

Business Manager's Report

Motion: That the audited financial statements dated January 31, 2013 be approved.

M/S/C

The business manager reviewed the congregational receipts to date and also discussed his historical review of the same. Congregational receipts to date are below the budgeted amount, but slightly ahead of this time last year. If current trends continue, there may be a year-end deficit of around \$61,000. He reported that this year's EvangelFest saw a small surplus. Since the organization and budgeting for this event is done in alternate years by the Department for Outreach and the Department for Parish Services, there was some discussion regarding where it would be best in the future to have this event expensed. The consensus was that the Chairman will discuss this matter with the two departments and report back.

The request from Lutheran Foundation Canada for future years' funding was reviewed. We provided \$75,000 in the 2013 budget. This helps support the work of the Gift Planners in all three districts.

Motion: That the East District agree to provide Lutheran Foundation Canada \$75,000 annually for the years 2014-2016. **M/S/C**

The secretary will notify them.

Personnel Committee

There was no report but Mr. Tiegs advised the Board that they would be meeting to do the annual review of personnel. Their report back should be in time to be approved for inclusion in the 2014 budget.

Properties Committee

There was no written report from the committee but Mr. Schappert advised that a new roof will be needed in the next few years and this could be a major expense.

New Business:

Mission & Ministry 2014 Presentation

The Board had before it the following draft documents for inclusion in the 2014 Ministry and Mission Presentation:

- President's letter
- Report from the Department for Outreach
- Report from the Department for Finance
- Report from the Department for Parish Services
- Report on the staff and administration
- Questionnaire

Motion: That the Board approved all of the above subject to the following amendments:

- 1) Re the DFO, in the first line replace "Dear friends," with "Together", remove the asterisk and related footnote, delete the first sentence of the last paragraph and attach last sentence to end of preceding paragraph, and remove name at bottom.
- 2) Re the DFF, correct several grammatical/typos
- 3) Re the DPS, remove "has" in the second line of the third paragraph
- 4) Add the date of December 15, 2013 to the questionnaire.

M/S/C

Appointments

13-114 Motion: That Rev. Dan Abraham be reappointed to the Department for Finance representing the London circuit for a term ending in June of 2015.**M/S/C**

Vacancies in the DFO:

Kitchener: They are to provide names from their forum to be held in October.

Windsor and Hamilton: President Zabel is to inform the circuit councillors regarding these vacancies.

Vacancies in the DPS

Toronto: The suggestions coming from their Winkel should be presented at their upcoming Circuit Forum on Oct. 20th. President Zabel is to inform the circuit councillor.

There have been requests to allow two people to share a position on a Department. The Board is very firm that positions on a Department cannot be shared.

District President Report

The President advised of changes since his report was written. The report was received.

Mission Executive Report

Mrs. Lois Griffin declared a conflict of interest regarding any discussions on Our Saviour, Etobicoke.

The Mission executive provided an update on the assisted ministries and future challenges facing them. This report and his activities report were received.

Department Reports

Finance

2014 Compensation Guidelines

Motion: That the 2014 guidelines be approved as per the recommendations from the DFF, namely that; the salary scale for all church workers be increased by 1.5%; the mileage rate remain at \$0.48 / km; and that compensation for supply pastors be as follows:

- One Service - \$115
 - Two Services - \$135
 - One Service & Bible Study - \$135
 - Two Services & Bible Study - \$160
- plus travel allowance in all cases.

M/S/C

Appointments

Motion: That Dan Mellecke be appointed to the Department for Finance in accordance with 5.02E of the Handbook, for a 3 year term starting July 1, 2013. **M/S/C**

Motion: That Melanie Meleg be appointed to the DFF for the Hamilton Circuit for a 3 year term starting July 1, 2013. **M/S/C**

Department for Outreach

Department Liaison Report

Rev. Marvin Bublitz discussed a number of items in his report.

Regarding the Mission and Ministry Presentation, the Department wished the board to know that it is very difficult to prepare information for this in the timeframe requested by the Board (i.e. June) as they do not receive subsidy requests until Nov. 1st. The Board discussed this issue and also noted that with our current budget schedule, assisted congregations do not find out until sometime in March what the board's decision is regarding their subsidy for the year.

The Board requested the secretary to compile the various deadlines and procedures regarding the above for discussion at the next Board meeting.

Parish Services

Department Chair and Department Liaison Reports

The Board reviewed these reports. It was noted that the confidentiality agreements for Department members has not yet been drafted. The question as to whether these must also be signed by committee members was referred to the Governance Committee.

Committee on Constitutions and Membership

The Board had before it the report from the committee chair, Rev. Morley, recommending approval of amendments to constitutions of two congregations.

Motion: That the Board approve the constitution amendments submitted by Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Pembroke, (Locksley), Ontario. **M/S/C**

Motion: That the board approve the constitution amendments submitted by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Moncton, New Brunswick. **M/S/C**

Other Business:

Upcoming Synod-wide Pastor's Conference

A concern was raised regarding the upcoming Synod wide Pastors' conference. Pastors are required to attend and they are also being required to pay \$75. This seems to be a bad precedence i.e. both making attendance mandatory and requiring a mandatory registration fee. The Board referred this matter to the District President to raise with the Council of Presidents.

Additional correspondence

Various members of the board as well as department chairs and staff members seem to have been sent copies of a report done regarding Concordia Academy. The Chairman will send copies to all board members. The Board also directed that any staff responses to this should be directed to the Board and chairman.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10 p.m.

For further information on any of these items, contact the Board Chair, Rev. Ron Mohr at:
pstrmohr@gmail.com

The next regular meeting of the Board is on January 20th, 2014 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

-from Lois Griffin, Secretary
LCC - East District Board of Directors