

**Minnesota South District Mission Statement**

The purpose of the Minnesota South District is to glorify God by: 1) assisting congregations in building up the body of Christ, and 2) providing mission vision, leadership and opportunities to the people and congregations of the District, so that all people might be reached with the saving Gospel and become disciples of Jesus Christ.

**OPENING DEVOTION**

Mr. Dale Ortloff led the Board in Responsive Prayer 2. He read Psalm 111, and then shared with the Board a devotional reading from Martin Luther, entitled “God Can Fix Mistakes.” He led the Board in singing “Let Me Be Thine Forever.”

**PARLIAMENTARY OBLIGATIONS**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m. by the president, Dr. Lane Seitz, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Roll Call**

Board Present: Lane Seitz, Daryl Gehlbach, Lu Clemmensen  
Mark Johnson, Robert Van Gundy, Glen Meints,  
Gerhard Bode, Tom Braun, Dale Ortloff,  
Larry Griffin, James Heining, John Morrhouse, Ted Tews,  
Brian Thorson, Scott Halvorson, Karl Baumann,  
Lynn Henry, Richard Eyerly

Staff Present: Kurt Fuhr, Tim Kinne, Peter Meier, David Roth, Mike Zimmer

Excused: Klemet Preus, Steve Krause

**Adoption of Agenda**

Dr. Seitz distributed copies of the revised agenda. He asked the Board to add the following items under Administration:

- Under item 1, add “b. Trinity Lutheran Church, Arden Hills”
- Following item 5, insert “Set 2009 Executive Staff Salaries”
- Following item 6, insert “Set Housing Allowance for Mr. David Roth”

It was moved, seconded and carried to adopt the revised agenda, as amended.

**Approval of Minutes**

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2008, Board meeting as printed.

**Correspondence**

Dr. Seitz referred the Board to the following items of correspondence:

- 1) Letter from Mr. Kurt Krumenauer regarding the District's University of Minnesota property – May 27, 2008
- 2) Memorandum from Rev. Dr. Raymond Hartwig, Secretary of the LCMS, regarding the appointment of a new district reconciler (lay person) – June 12, 2008

**VISIONING/STUDY ITEMS/PRESENTATIONS**

**Fan into Flame Appeal**

Rev. Tim Kinne, Executive Assistant to the President, introduced Rev. Peter Brinkman, Principal Gifts Advisor for the Fan into Flame appeal in the Minnesota South District. In his presentation, he made the following points:

- He thanked the executive staff of the Minnesota South District for taking the lead with regard to contributing to Fan into Flame.
- In 1 Chronicles 28 King David, his officers and the leaders of the people set the example by generously contributing to the building of the Temple. District Board members should each consider setting an example in supporting Fan into Flame.
- One of the goals of the Fan into Flame appeal is to help the Church support its mission not only now but also far into the future.
- God's people within the District should have a chance to respond. Even if a person can only give one dollar, he is still participating in the appeal and supporting the mission work of *Ablaze!*
- Since the appeal began in the District, nine pilot congregations have given up to \$600,000. Plus, there is an additional \$80,000 dollars in major gifts from individuals. We have \$1,000,000 in major gifts that people at this moment are considering to give to Fan into Flame.
- Synod is at work nationally and internationally revitalizing congregations to do mission, and Fan into Flame is supporting this work.
- He urged the Board members to contribute individually and set the example for the District. He asked each Board member to prayerfully and thoughtfully consider a pledge to support "Fan into Flame." He challenged the Board to strive for a collective pledge of \$75,000.

**“IT’S TIME TO FISH” CAMPAIGN REPORT**

Rev. Peter Meier, Assistant to the President for Missions, reported that as of August 31, 2008, the District has received so far this triennium a total of \$208,694.22 in donations to the “It’s Time to Fish” campaign. Individuals have donated \$157,333.27 and congregations have given \$51,360.95.

**POLICY REVIEW AND FORMATION  
(no items)**

**INFORMATION AND DECISION ITEMS**

**Mission Committee**

1. “Mission Grants for New Starts” Policy

It was moved and seconded to approve the “Mission Grants for New Starts Policy.” A copy of the form is filed with the protocol copy of the minutes. After some discussion the motion was carried.

*This Board action responds to the resolution “To Request a Form for Subsidy Application” offered by Rev. Klemet Preus at the May 6, 2008, Board meeting, and postponed to this meeting.*

2. “To Use the Name Lutheran ...”

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the resolution “To Use the Name *Lutheran* for All Subsidized Ministries of the Minnesota South District.” (See Appendix A)

3. Campus Ministry Properties

It was moved and seconded that the Board authorize the sale of the two campus ministry properties with the proceeds to be deposited in an endowment, the interest from which is to be used for campus ministry and mission work in the District.

It was moved, seconded and carried to postpone this motion until after completion of an impact study.

The Board directs the mission committee to identify all aspects and issues related to the sale of the campus ministry properties and the potential impact on the campus work now being conducted at these locations. The committee will bring its report to the Board at the December meeting.

**Finance Committee**

Preliminary 2009 District Budget

Ms. Lu Clemmensen, District Treasurer, directed the Board to the preliminary budget for 2008. She reported that the budget, as proposed, includes a deficit of \$416,077. She walked the Board through the particulars of the preliminary budget.

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the preliminary budget

It was moved, seconded and carried to invite Rev. Evan Schiller to provide our December Board meeting with a report on what he has been able to accomplish the past year.

**Ministerial Health Committee** (no decision items)

**Schools/Commissioned Ministers Committee** (no decision items)

**Congregational Services Sub Committee** (no decision items)

**Communications Committee** (no decision items)

**Constitution and Membership Committee** (no decision items)

**Continuing Education Committee** (no decision items)

**Endowment Committee** (no decision items)

**Administration**

1. Approve Constitution (C) and/or Bylaw (BL) Changes

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the Constitution and Bylaws of Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Richfield, MN; and Trinity Lutheran Church of Lake Johanna, Arden Hills, MN.

2. Application for Membership in the LCMS

*This item was postponed from the May 6, 2008, Board meeting.*

It was moved and seconded to approve the application of the Alley Lutheran Church, Cottage Grove, MN.

*Dr. Seitz asked Rev. Gerhard Bode, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, to chair the meeting.*

Dr. Seitz reported that he has met with Pastor Griffin to discuss his position regarding the Lord's Supper. Pastor Griffin agreed to study the materials provided by Dr. Seitz

regarding this practice. As a result, he has revised his statement regarding the Lord's Supper. Dr. Seitz read two paragraphs from Pastor Griffin's revised statement to assure the members of the Board that Pastor Griffin has changed his position. Dr. Seitz indicated that he will continue his discussion with Pastor Griffin to clarify several points in his revised statement.

Dr. Seitz shared with the Board a copy of the bylaws of the Synod regarding the Eligibility of Congregations (Bylaw 2.2) and the Application by Congregations (Bylaw 2.3) for membership in the Synod. He pointed out to the Board that the one requirement for receiving a congregation into membership in the Synod is that the congregation has an approved constitution and bylaws (Bylaw 2.2.1). The Board approved the constitution and bylaws of The Alley Lutheran Church at its May 2008 meeting. By their constitution and bylaws and their application for membership, the Alley indicates its intention to uphold the teaching and practices of the Synod. Therefore, he sees no reason why the congregation should not be accepted into membership at this time.

Dr. Seitz expressed concern that the Board is involving itself in the area of ecclesiastical supervision, which is the sole responsibility of the District President.

*The Board was declared in recess for lunch at 12:00 noon. This item will be taken up again following the special reports.*

### **SPECIAL REPORTS**

*Dr. Seitz called the Board to order again at 12:45 p.m.*

#### **Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML)**

Dr. Seitz introduced Ms. Nancy Kohrs, President of the Minnesota South District LWML. In her presentation, she made the following points:

- The District LWML Convention was held June 20-22, 2008, at the Mayo Civic Center, Rochester, MN. The theme was "Grounded in His Love." There were about 530 in attendance. Rev. Dr. Paul Maier was the Bible study leader, and Rev. Robert Mundahl preached at the opening service. Ms. Jan Struck provided the entertainment and humor.
- The delegates set a mite box goal of \$240,000. They approved fourteen mission grants, nine within the MNS District with a total of \$125,000 in support.
- The District LWML is restructuring in order to allow more contact to and among the Zones.
- June 25-28, 2009, is the International LWML convention in Portland, Oregon. The theme is "Look to the Hills, God Reigns."
- The International President challenged each District to send out two mission teams for hands-on mission work.

- The mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world.

**Lutheran Layman's League (LLL)**

Dr. Seitz introduced Mr. Del Schwieger, President of the Minnesota South District LLL. In his presentation, he made the following points:

- The International LLL Convention was held July 24-27, 2008, in Lexington, KY. The theme was "Live by the Spirit." Over a thousand people were registered.
- The LLL prints Bibles in China which are used by Sharon Owens in her English as a Second Language (ESL) classes in Macau. She reports that a number of people have come to believe in Christ through these classes.
- Each District LLL has adopted a Lutheran Hour Ministry Center in a foreign country. The MNS District has adopted India.
- India is divided into six states, each of which has its own language. This requires the LLL to print everything six times.
- Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) is addressing the issue of men in the church. The number of men attending church has gone down drastically in recent years (14 %). LHM has established the Men's Network which will start after the beginning of the year.

**INFORMATION AND DECISION ITEMS  
(continued)**

**Administration (continued)**

2. Application for Membership in the LCMS (continued)

*Rev. Bode resumed the chair.*

The motion concerning the application of The Alley Lutheran Church was again before the Board.

It was moved and seconded to postpone the application until the December meeting of the Board.

The vote was taken by a signed ballot. The motion to postpone was adopted by a vote of eight yes, six no, with one abstention.

Board members voting yes: Baumann, Eyerly, Gehlbach, Halvorson, Johnson, Meints, Thorson, and Van Gundy.

Board members voting no: Bode, Braun, Griffin, Henry, Moorhouse, Ortloff

Board member abstaining: Tews

*Dr. Seitz resumed the chair.*

3. Board Resolution on Closed Communion

*At the previous Board meeting Rev. James Heining gave notice that he would offer a motion to rescind the resolution on Closed Communion adopted at the December 4, 2007, Board meeting. Rev. Heining had to leave the meeting early to attend a funeral, so Rev. Bode placed the resolution before the Board.*

WHEREAS, the Minnesota South District Board of Directors passed a well-intentioned resolution at its December 4, 2007 meeting designed to affirm its commitment to the Synod's practice of "Close(d) Communion" as pertains to our mission congregations; and

WHEREAS, the Synod's constitution assigns the responsibility of "ecclesiastical supervision" of all District congregations and rostered church workers to the properly elected District President; therefore be it

*Resolved*, that the Board of Directors thank and commend Dr. Lane Seitz for his tireless and often unrecognized efforts in this area; and be it further

*Resolved*, that we rescind the aforementioned resolution since it is unnecessary.

The vote was taken by a signed ballot. The motion was defeated by a vote of four yes, eleven no.

Board members voting yes: Bode, Braun, Griffin, and Henry

Board members voting no: Baumann, Eyerly, Gehlbach, Halvorson, Johnson, Meints, Moorhouse, Ortloff, Tews, Thorson and Van Gundy.

4. District Reconciler Appointment

Dr. Seitz announced that the following individuals were nominated by circuit counselors for the position of district reconciler: Mr. Andrew Boll, Mr. Neal Breitbarth, Mr. Thomas Hanson, Mr. John Henke, Ms. Lorraine Lemke and Mr. Howard Luehmann.

Mr. Neal Breitbarth was elected on the first ballot. Mr. Howard Luehmann was chosen as alternate.

5. Mileage Reimbursement

It was moved and seconded to increase mileage reimbursement for committee members from 14 cents to 25 cents beginning September 15, 2008.

It was moved and seconded to amend the motion by striking the phrase “25 cents” and replacing with the phrase “the IRS business rate.” The amendment was defeated.

It was moved and seconded to amend the motion by striking the phrase “25 cents” and replacing with the phrase “one-half of the IRS business rate.” The amendment was adopted.

The motion, as amended, was adopted.

*Rev. Bode was again asked to assume the chair. The executive staff left the meeting.*

6. 2009 Executive Staff Salaries

It was moved, seconded, and carried to set the 2009 salary for the District President at \$96,970 (a 4% increase) and for the Executive Staff at \$81,360 (a 4% increase).

*Dr. Seitz again resumed the chair. The executive staff rejoined the meeting.*

7. Housing Allowance for Mr. Mike Zimmer

It was moved, seconded and carried to set the housing allowance for Mr. Mike Zimmer to \$18,130 for the remainder of the year.

8. Housing Allowance for Mr. David Roth

It was moved, seconded and carried to grant an additional \$15,000 in housing allowance to Mr. David Roth for 2008. (This changes his amount from \$29,000 to \$44,000.)

9. 2009 District Convention Registration Fees

It was moved, seconded and carried to set the registration fees for the 2009 District Convention as follows: \$215 for voting delegates, \$110 for advisory delegates. (A \$50 late fee will be assessed to any registration received after April 8, 2009.)

10. Region IV Pastoral Representative

The following individuals were nominated to serve as Region IV Pastoral Representative: Rev. Wayne Bernau, Rev. Steve Kosberg, and Rev. Robert Trueblood.

It was moved, seconded and carried to close nominations.

Rev. Robert Trueblood was elected on the first ballot.

11. Resolution regarding bylaw 4.5.18.2.4 submitted to the Board in May, 2008, by Rev. Klemet Preus

*This item was addressed by a resolution previously adopted in this meeting, so no action is needed.*

12. Theological Convocation Task Force Report

Rev. Larry Griffin reported. The convocation is scheduled for Saturday, November 15, 2008, and will be held at Hosanna Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN. The topic is “Worship – Uniformity or Diversity.” The presenters are Rev. Dean Nadasdy and Rev. Klemet Preus.

## **REPORTS**

### **Treasurer's Report**

Lu Clemmensen walked the Board through the Treasurer's Report dated July 31, 2008. She explained a number of items and answered Board members' questions. The report was filed subject to audit.

### **LCEF Loan Activity Report and Delinquent Loan Report**

Kurt Fuhr reviewed the LCEF report on loans. He noted that all but four loans are current. One congregation is in foreclosure at this time.

### **Questions Regarding Reports** (none)

### **Special Reports** (See Above)

## **ROUNDTABLE**

(1) Ted offered his thanks for people like President Seitz who are in a difficult positions and board members like Robert Van Gundy who give of their time. (2) John requests prayers for his son Ethan, who is in college at Fargo and has also signed up for the Marine Corp Reserve. (3) Dale announced that a new grandchild is on the way. (4) Scott explained that he had been taken to the hospital and treated for heart problems. (5) Glen asked for prayers on behalf of campus

ministry as the school year begins and also for Rev. David Kind's mother-in-law, who had a severe heart attack recently. (6) Larry is expecting grandchild number six. (7) Mark asks for prayers on behalf of the missions of our District and those who serve them. (8) Gerry asked the Board members to thoughtfully and prayerfully consider supporting Fan into Flame.(9) David expressed thanksgiving for the birth of his grandson.

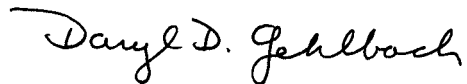
**MEETING ADJOURNED/CLOSING PRAYER**

It was moved, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting.

Dale Ortloff offered the closing prayer.

Dr. Seitz declared the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daryl D. Gehlbach".

Daryl D. Gehlbach, Secretary

**“To Use the Name *Lutheran* for All Subsidized Ministries of the Minnesota South District”**

WHEREAS, the 1995 Synod in Convention adopted Resolution 3-13A, "To Use the Name Lutheran," which resolves the following:

Resolved, that all congregations and mission stations in our Synod boldly profess in their official title and/or name that they are "Lutheran"; and be it further

Resolved, that all congregations and mission stations of our Synod state in their materials (bulletins, newsletters, etc.) that they belong to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and be it finally

Resolved, that all LCMS congregations gladly proclaim our great doctrinal heritage to a world that needs the clear proclamation of the truth;

and

WHEREAS, the above resolution also states, "Basic Christian honesty and integrity require that no deception of any sort be used in declaring the truth of the Gospel before all the world; as St. Paul declares: `Rather we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the Word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God' (2 Cor. 4:2);" and

WHEREAS, we have been called Lutheran since Reformation times and are grateful of our Lutheran heritage, doctrine, and practice; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Minnesota South District is to implement the decisions of the Synod according to Synod bylaw 4.5.1(d); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors must use the financial resources of the District responsibly in a manner which reflects both the will of the congregations of the Synod and the historic practice of the Lutheran church; therefore be it

*Resolved*, that the Board grant funds only to those congregations and subsidized ministries that fulfill 1995 Synod Resolution 3-13A.

*Adopted 9/10/2008*