

**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**

Rev. Mark Johnson led the Board in praying Morning Prayer for Individuals and Families from *Lutheran Service Book*. He based his devotion on John 17:1-11, a portion of Jesus' High Priestly prayer. He noted: Our Lord's chief prayer is that we have eternal life through knowledge of Him and His Father. We glorify Jesus when we receive the fruits of His death, the chief fruit being forgiveness. As board members we struggle with sin that divides us. We have a High Priest who prays for our unity, which is accomplished through His gracious Word, which sanctifies us.

**PARLIAMENTARY OBLIGATIONS**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:20 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  
Klemet Preus, Mark Johnson, Robert Van Gundy, Glen Meints,  
Gerhard Bode, Tom Braun, Dale Ortloff, Steve Krause,  
Larry Griffin, James Heining  
Robert Schulze, Brian Thorson, Scott Halvorson, Karl Baumann,  
Lynn Henry, Richard Eyerly

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

Excused: John Moorhouse, Ted Tews

President Seitz introduced Mr. Mike Zimmer, who has accepted the position of Assistant to the President for Congregational Support.

**Adoption of Agenda**

President Seitz distributed copies of the revised agenda. He amended the agenda by deleting Trinity Lutheran Church, Arden Hills, from the item "Approve Constitution and Bylaws Changes." The agenda was adopted as amended.

**Approval of Minutes**

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2008, Board meeting as printed.

**Correspondence**

President Seitz referred the Board to the following items of correspondence. *These are filed with the protocol copy of the minutes.*

- 1) Letter from Rev. William Otte regarding the Board resolution “To Fund Congregations which Use the LSB” – January 8, 2009
- 2) Letter from Dr. Richard Carter regarding the Board resolutions “To Fund Congregations which Use the LSB” and “Close(d) Communion” – January 22, 2008
- 3) Email from the Board of Lay Ministry, St. Stephanus Lutheran Church, St. Paul, MN, regarding the Board resolutions “To Fund Congregations which Use the LSB” and “Close(d) Communion” – January 22, 2008
- 4) Letter from Rev. Arden Malotky regarding the Board resolutions “To Fund Congregations which Use the LSB” and “Close(d) Communion” – March 14, 2008
- 5) Letter from the Rochester Circuit regarding the Board resolution, “To Fund Congregations which Use the LSB” – March 23, 2008
- 6) Letter from Rev. David Buuck regarding the Board resolution, “To Fund Congregations which Use the LSB” – March 25, 2008
- 7) Letter from Dr. Raymond Hartwig, Secretary of the LCMS, regarding Nominations for a Vacant Position on the LCMS Board of Directors – March 26, 2008
- 8) Letter from the Carver County Circuit Pastors regarding the Board resolution, “To Fund Congregations which Use the LSB” – April 3, 2008
- 9) Letter from Dr. Raymond Hartwig, Secretary of the LCMS, regarding Nominations for a Vacant Position on the Board for District and Congregational Services – April 11, 2008
- 10) Letter from Dr. Gerald Kieschnick, President of the LCMS, regarding refund of a portion of the District’s convention assessment for the 2007 Synod Convention – April 17, 2008
- 11) Email from Mr. Robert Van Gundy regarding Issues, Etc. – April 19, 2008
- 12) Email from Rev. Daryl Gehlbach regarding Ablaze Covenant Congregations – April 22, 2008
- 13) Email from Rev. Brian Thorson regarding the Use of the Name Lutheran – April 22, 2008
- 14) Email from Rev. Klemet Preus regarding Uniformity in Worship and District Bylaw 4.5.18.2.4 – April 23, 2008
- 15) Email from Dr. Gerald Kieschnick, President of the LCMS, regarding KFUE Statements from the Council of Presidents and the Presidents of the Synod and Theological Unity and Division in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod – April 23, 2008
- 16) Email from Mr. Glen Meints regarding new mission starts – April 26, 2008
- 17) Letter from Rev. Dr. Gerald Kieschnick, President of The LCMS, regarding support for the national and international work of the Synod – April 28, 2008
- 18) Letter from Rev. Dick Goebel regarding the Board resolutions “To Fund Congregations which Use the LSB” and “Close(d) Communion” – May 5, 2008

## **VISIONING/STUDY ITEMS/PRESENTATIONS**

President Seitz distributed a memo containing his recommendations for Board members bringing motions and resolutions to the Board. The purpose of his memo is to impress upon Board members that it is good order to present resolutions first to the appropriate committee and allow it the opportunity to address the resolution. *A copy of his memo is filed with the protocol copy of these minutes.*

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

### **Board Resolutions**

President Seitz presented to the Board two papers in which he shared his concerns about the Board resolutions “To Fund Congregations which Use the Lutheran Service Book” and “Concerning Closed Communion.” *Copies of the papers are filed with the protocol copy of these minutes.*

President Seitz asked the Board to consider rescinding the two resolutions under discussion.

A period of discussion followed. A number of questions and comments were offered by Board members and staff.

*President Seitz resumed the chair.*

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

Rev. Peter Meier, Assistant to the President for Missions, reported that the campaign has received a total of \$119,548.54 in undesignated funds since the beginning of the triennium.

## **POLICY REVIEW AND FORMATION**

- no items -

## **INFORMATIONAL AND DECISION ITEMS**

**Mission Committee** (no decision items)

### **Finance Committee**

#### **2007 District Audit**

Ms. Lu Clemmensen, District Treasurer, walked the Board through the 2007 Audit Report. *A copy of the report is on file in the District office.*

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the 2007 District Audit Report.

It was moved and seconded to commend Lu Clemmensen for her faithful and good work as District Treasurer. The motion was adopted unanimously.

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

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

**Congregational Services Subcommittee** (no decision items)

**Communications Committee** (no decision items)

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

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

**Administration**

1. Approve Constitution and/or Bylaw Changes

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the revised constitution and bylaws of Faith Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, and the new constitution and bylaws of The Alley Lutheran Church, Cottage Grove.

2. Application for Membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS)

President Seitz directed the Board to the application for membership in the LCMS which was submitted by The Alley Lutheran Church, Cottage Grove, Minnesota. *A copy of the application for membership is filed with the protocol copy of these minutes.*

It was moved, seconded and carried to postpone action on this item until after lunch

3. 2008 Salary Compensation Guidelines

It was moved, and carried to increase the District Salary Compensation Guidelines base salary amount to \$33,310, effective July 1, 2008. (This reflects a 3.5% increase.)

4. Refund from the 2007 Synod Convention

President Seitz directed the Board to the letter from the Rev. Dr. Gerald Kieschnick, concerning the refund of a portion of the District assessment for the 2007 Convention of the Synod.

It was moved, seconded and carried that we apply the refund to the 2009 District Convention.

5. Nominations for a vacant position on the LCMS Board of Directors

*No action on this item.*

6. Nominations for a vacant position on the Board for District and Congregational Services

*No action on this item.*

7. A Response to Those Expressing Concern

President Seitz referred the Board to the following items of correspondence regarding the December 2007 Board resolutions “To Fund Congregations which Use the LSB” and “Close(d) Communion.”

- a) Rev. William Otte – January 8, 2008
- b) Dr. Richard Carter – January 22, 2008
- c) Board of Lay Ministry, St. Stephanus, St. Paul – January 22, 2008
- d) Rev. Arden Malotky - March 14, 2008
- e) Rochester Circuit Pastors – March 23, 2008
- f) Rev. David Buuck – March 25, 2008
- g) Carver County Circuit Pastors – April 3, 2008
- h) Rev. Dick Goebel – May 5, 2008

It was moved and seconded to hold a Theological Convocation in the Fall of 2008 to discuss uniformity of worship, how it is obtained and when it might be imposed.

It was moved and seconded to amend the motion by striking the words “how it is obtained and when it might be imposed.” The amendment was defeated by a vote of six yes and eight no.

It was moved, seconded and carried to refer the resolution to the Theological Convocation Task Force.

It was moved and seconded (1) to defer the implementation of the resolution “To Fund Congregations which Use the LSB” until after the Theological Convocation, (2) to encourage the Board members to attend the Convocation, and (3) to respond to the letters from various individuals and circuits informing them of the board action and inviting them to attend the Convocation.

*The meeting was declared in recess at 11:58 a.m. for lunch. It was reconvened at 12:27 p.m.*

The Board continued deliberating the motion which was before it at the time of recess.

It was moved, seconded and carried to amend the motion to insert the word “possible” before the word “implementation.”

The motion as amended was adopted.

Rev. James Heining gave notice that he will present a motion at the next meeting to rescind the resolution on close(d) communion.

8. Application for Membership by the Alley Lutheran Church (continued)

The application for membership in the LCMS which was submitted by The Alley Lutheran Church, Cottage Grove, Minnesota, was again placed before the Board.

It was moved, seconded and carried to postpone action on the application until the September 2008 Board meeting.

**9. Theological Convocation Task Force**

It was moved, seconded and carried to request the committee which planned the previous Convocation (Rev. Dr. Larry Griffin, Ms. Lynn Henry, and Rev. Klemet Preus) to plan the Theological Convocation on worship this fall. *See item 7 above.*

**ITEMS SUBMITTED BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD**

**1. Issues, Etc.**

Mr. Robert Van Gundy referred the Board to a resolution entitled “To Restore *Issues, Etc.*” which was included in the information packet. (See appendix A.)

It was moved and seconded to adopt the resolution “To Restore *Issues, Etc.*” After some discussion the motion was carried by a vote of ten yes and five no.

**2. Ablaze Covenant Congregations**

Secretary Gehlbach explained that at a previous Board meeting he had asked the question concerning who in the District has the authority to enter into a covenant with an Ablaze Covenant Congregation. He referred the Board to the brochure entitled “Ablaze Covenant Congregations” which was included in the information packet. The brochure simply refers to districts which, between conventions, are normally represented by the Board of Directors.

He shared with the Board a portion of an email to Rev. Peter Meier from Yohannes Mengsteab, National Director for New Mission Fields Development, LCMS World Mission, in which he states, “Identification of ACC [Ablaze Covenant Congregations] is done by the mission executives and the district president.”

Secretary Gehlbach referred the Board to District bylaw 4.5.14, which reads “If any officer of the District, Board member, or Assistant to the President shall make any commitments, establish or define policies, or render decisions without authorization, such actions shall in no way be binding upon the District or its Board of Directors.”

Secretary Gehlbach will investigate this matter more fully and report at the next meeting

3. The Use of the Name Lutheran

Rev. Brian Thorson referred the Board to the resolution entitled “To Use the Name *Lutheran* for All Subsidized Ministries of the Minnesota South District,” which was included in the information packet. He explained that he intends to submit this to the September Board meeting for action.

4. Uniformity in Worship

Rev. Klemet Preus referred the Board to his paper entitled “Uniformity in Worship,” which was included in the information packet. He explained that he was submitting this paper as a response to those who have concerns over the resolution “To Fund Congregations which Use the LSB.” He stated that because the Board has already adopted its response, he will not ask the Board to consider his paper at this time.

5. District Bylaw 4.5.18.2.4

Rev. Klemet Preus referred the Board to the two resolutions concerning District bylaw 4.5.18.2.4, which deals with the Board’s responsibility with regard to subsidy requests, and which were included in the information packet.

He presented the first resolution, which the secretary has entitled “To Request a Form for Subsidy Application.” (See Appendix B)

It was moved and seconded to adopt the proposed resolution.

After some discussion, it was moved, seconded and carried to postpone consideration of the resolution until the September meeting.

Rev. Preus presented the second resolution, which the secretary has entitled “To Inquire into Fund Raising Efforts of Congregations Requesting Subsidy.” (See Appendix C)

It was moved and seconded to adopt the resolution. After some discussion the motion was defeated.

6. Board Approval of New Mission Starts

Mr. Glen Meints directed the Board to the resolution, which was included with the information packet. The Secretary entitled the resolution “To Require Board Approval of Funding of New Mission Plants.” (See Appendix D)

It was moved and seconded to approve the proposed resolution.

It was moved, seconded and carried to strike the word “these contingency funds have” in the third whereas and replace them with “the line item *new plants* under the subsidized ministries budget has.”

It was moved, seconded and carried to strike the words “of which the Board is unaware” from the third whereas.

It was moved, seconded and carried to add in the resolve after “no funds” the words “from the line item new plants under subsidized ministries budget”

The resolution was adopted as amended by a vote of ten yes, seven no.

*The effect of this resolution is to bring every new mission plant to the board for approval before funds are granted.*

## **REPORTS**

### **Treasurer's Report**

Lu Clemmensen walked the Board through the Treasurer's Report dated March 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 with the exception of three loans all loans are current.

### **District Pastoral Candidate Assignments**

President Seitz reported that at the call services five pastors were assigned to congregations of the Minnesota South District, two of whom were serving delayed vicarages. He also reported that five vicars were also assigned, two of whom are delayed vicars with the possibility of being called by the congregations which they serve. He noted that 35 graduates did not receive calls, but he anticipates they will have calls by the end of the summer.

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

### **Special Reports** (none)

## **ROUNDTABLE**

(1) Scott's father went to be with the Lord as the age of eighty-seven. (2) Mike's daughter will give him and his wife a new grandchild in November. (3) Kurt's daughter Sarah is graduating from college. (4) Peter's son and wife are receiving degrees this Spring. (4) David and his wife will visit their granddaughter, who is expecting a new sibling in August. (5) Bob V. requests prayers for Bethlehem, St. Paul, as her senior pastor retires. (6) Tim's grandson is resisting being born.

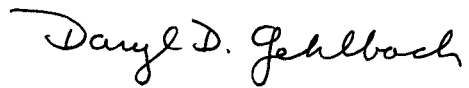
**MEETING ADJOURNED/CLOSING PRAYER**

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

Dr. Seitz declared the meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

Mark Johnson offered the closing prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Daryl D. Gehlbach, Secretary

"To Restore Issues, Etc."

WHEREAS, Issues, Etc. was aired Sundays on KKMS 980 serving the Twin Cities and KSUM 780 serving south-central Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, Issues, Etc. received its largest audience through its website archive on kfuom.org and through podcasting; and

WHEREAS, Issues, Etc. has not only been a great blessing to the pastors and laity of the Minnesota South District through the radio and Internet but has also served as an outstanding outreach program worldwide bringing many people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, Issues, Etc. brought the Christian faith in its truth and purity to a spiritually starving world and served as an excellent Christian apologetics program in a secular world; and

WHEREAS, there is extensive public support for the continuation for Issues, Etc.; and

WHEREAS, we wish to demonstrate Christian concern for Rev. Todd Wilken, the show's host, and Mr. Jeffrey Schwarz, the show's producer; therefore be it

*Resolved*, that the Minnesota South District Board of Directors on this 6th day of May, in the year of our Lord 2008, give thanks to God for the work of Issues, Etc. and the hard work of Pr. Wilken and Mr. Schwarz; and be it further

*Resolved*, that the Minnesota South District Board of Directors officially petition the Board for Communication Services to revisit the decision to cancel Issues, Etc. by reinstating both Pr. Wilken and Mr. Schwarz to their positions and restoring Issues Etc. to its weekday and weekend programs.

*The resolution was adopted by a vote of ten yes, five no.*

Appendix B

“To Request a Form for Subsidy Application”

WHEREAS, according to bylaw 4.5.18.2.4 "All applications for subsidy for all, or far any part, of the parish program shall be made in writing and by congregational resolution and on forms provided by the board of directors;" therefore be it

*Resolved*, that the Missions Committee make available to the Board of Directors (BOD) the forms which have been in use when congregations have applied for subsidy, and be it further

*Resolved*, that if no forms have been in use, the Missions committee provide for the BoD such forms as the BOD may approve at its September 2008 meeting, and be it further

*Resolved*, that the BOD approve or re-approve these forms or some other appropriate forms at its September 2008 meeting, and be it finally

*Resolved*, that all those congregations which are budgeted in 2009 to receive subsidy comply with bylaw 4.5.18.2.4 and make subsidy requests in writing using the forms approved by the BOD at its September meeting.

*The resolution was postponed until the September 2008 Board meeting.*

Appendix C

“To Inquire Into Fund Raising Efforts of Congregations Requesting Subsidy”

WHEREAS, bylaw 4.5.18.2.4 states "The board of Directors, through the Assistant to the President for Missions, shall make investigation, and no loan or subsidy for the entire, or any part, of the parish program shall be granted unless a congregation or parish has first made every effort to raise the necessary funds;" therefore be it

*Resolved*, that the Missions Committee report to the Board what efforts have been made which investigate the parish programs of those congregations which have been granted subsidy or where subsidy is anticipated in the future to determine whether these congregations have first made efforts to raise the necessary funds themselves; and be it further

*Resolved*, that no subsidy be given to any congregation which does not demonstrate to the Board of Directors that it has first made every effort to raise the necessary funds itself.

*The proposed resolution was defeated.*

Appendix D

“To Require Board Approval of Funding of New Mission Plants”

WHEREAS, new mission starts are tacitly approved by the Board of Directors (BOD) through approval of a budget that allots resources to these starts and is approved by the BOD, and

WHEREAS, the BOD has typically provided resources to the missions committee as a contingency, and

WHEREAS, the line item *new plants* under the subsidized ministries budget has in the past been used for the start of new subsidized ministries, and

WHEREAS, such starts have the effect of committing the BOD to continued support of these new mission starts without the BOD actually giving explicit or tacit support to these mission starts; therefore be it

*Resolved*, that no funds from the line item *new plants* under subsidized ministries budget be spent on mission starts by the missions committee without prior explicit BOD approval that are not reflected in the current year's BOD approved budget.

*A motion to amend the resolution by striking from the third whereas the words “these contingency funds have” and replace them with “the line item new plant under the subsidized ministries budget” was adopted.*

*A motion to amend the resolution by striking from the third whereas the words “of which the BOD is unaware” was adopted.*

*A motion to amend the resolution by inserting in the resolve “from the line item new plants under the subsidized ministries budget” after the words “no funds” was adopted.*

*The resolution as amended was adopted by a vote of ten yes, seven no.*