

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. Tim Kinne, Executive Assistant to the President, provided the opening devotion. He based his meditation on Luke 9:28-36, the narrative of our Lord's Transfiguration. He focused on the word "decease" which is a translation of the Greek word "exodus". His exodus or death is our Yom Kippur, Day of Atonement, in which He freed us from slavery to sin, death and the power of the devil. We have the entire embodiment of the Exodus in who Jesus is and what He does. In the Gospel we proclaim He recapitulates the Exodus and applies it to us. We have the certainty of our forgiveness and that we will be in heaven with Jesus forever because of our Lord's own Exodus to the cross.

PARLIAMENTARY OBLIGATIONS

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:13 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, John Moorhouse, Ted Tews,
Robert Schulze, Brian Thorson, Scott Halvorson, Karl Baumann,
Lynn Henry

Staff Present: Kurt Fuhr, Tim Kinne, Peter Meier

Excused: Richard Eyerly, David Roth

Adoption of Agenda

Dr. Seitz distributed copies of the revised agenda, which was adopted as presented.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2007, Board meeting as printed.

Correspondence

President Seitz referred the Board to the following items of correspondence:

1. Letter from Rev. Dr. Glenn Offermann regarding gift to the Concordia Historical Institute Museum – December 21, 2007
2. Letter from Rev. Dr. Raymond Hartwig regarding Nominations for a Vacant Position on the CPH Board of Directors – January 3, 2008
3. Letter from Rev. William Otte regarding the Board resolution “To Fund Congregations which Use Lutheran Service Book” – January 8, 2008
4. Letter from Dr. Richard Carter regarding Board resolutions “To Fund Congregations which Use Lutheran Service Book” and “Close(d) Communion” – January 22, 2008
5. Email from Board of Lay Ministry, St. Stephanus Lutheran Church, St. Paul, MN, regarding the Board resolutions “To Fund Congregations which Use Lutheran Service Book” and “Close(d) Communion” – January 22, 2008
6. Email from Rev. Klemet Preus regarding the Board of Directors’ response to Mission Committee’s Questions of January 17, 2008 – January 31, 2008

VISIONING/STUDY ITEMS/PRESENTATIONS

Congregational Health in the Minnesota South District

President Seitz introduced Mr. Kurt Fuhr, District LCEF Vice President. A printed copy of his power point presentation is included with the protocol copy of the minutes. His report is based on the attendance numbers reported by District congregations to the Synod from 2004-2006. He provided the following definitions.

- A growing congregation showed an overall growth in church attendance greater than 3% over the last three year period (2004-2006)
- A flat lining congregation showed less than a +/- variance of 3% in church attendance over the last three year period (2004-2006)
- A declining congregation showed a decline in church attendance greater than 3% over the last three year period.

Of the 241 congregations in the Minnesota South District 17% (41) are growing, 37% (89) are flat, and 46% (111) are declining. He explained that these figures are simply raw data and do not explain why the changes are occurring. He posed the following questions to the Board.

- How can we encourage those congregations which are growing? How can we learn from them? How can they help train others?
- How can we encourage and challenges those congregation which are flat and lukewarm?
- How can we challenge and equip those congregations which are declining in attendance to become revitalized?

A question and answer period followed the presentation.

Questions from the Mission Committee

The Mission Committee submitted a number of questions in response to the Board resolution “To Fund Congregations which Use the Lutheran Service Book.” The questions are as follows:

- a. How is the LSB resolution to be funded?
- b. What is the time frame for funding the LSB resolution (which budget year, every year)?
- c. From what point in time do both resolutions take force? In other words, do they apply to missions already in existence, or only to "new" starts begun after the resolution was adopted?
- d. In the 3rd resolved of the LSB resolution, what does “used consistently in the services of the congregation” mean?
- e. Who is to verify the worship and communion practices of new starts and the planting churches and how is that to be done?
- f. Does the LSB resolution eliminate the use of all other doctrinally pure worship resources (for example, what about TLH, LW, CPH’s Creative Worship, Hymnal Supplement, other resources from the LCMS, Center for US Missions, etc)?
- g. In the 1st resolved of the LSB resolution, it states that "the MNS District give English speaking subsidized congregations of the Minnesota South District sufficient numbers of the LSB for use in their congregational services," while the 3rd resolved requires "that all new congregations be asked to assure the district that the LSB is being used consistently in the services of the congregation." How is the conflict between these resolves [sic] to be determined?
- h. Must "sufficient numbers" of LSB be provided in hymnbook form, or may the electronic "Service Builder" be an alternative?
- i. What is the purpose of the Mission Committee if the Board of Directors is going to overrule its work?

The Board was given an opportunity to discuss each question in order. A number of questions and comments were raised during the discussion.

The matter of the Mission Committee’s questions will be taken up under Decision Items.

The agenda item “BOD response to the 2007 Convention resolutions” was postponed until the next Board meeting due to lack of time.

“IT’S TIME TO FISH” CAMPAIGN REPORT

Rev. Peter Meier, Assistant to the President for Missions, reported that through the end of January the It’s Time to Fish campaign has raised a total of \$112,725 in donations from individuals and congregations.

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

The meeting was declared in recess at 11:55 a.m. for lunch, and it was called to order again at 12:45 p.m.

SPECIAL REPORT

President Seitz introduced Mr. Bob LaCroix, Director of Camp Omega. The following is a summary of his report.

- In 2007 the camp served almost 6000 youth, children and adults.
- The summer program included 22 on-site events and 16 off-site day camps, serving a total of 2163 youth, children and adults.
- The year 2007 ended with a \$13,000 deficit, which was less than what was projected.
- The sources of income are fees (65%), gifts (11%), Thrivent (4%) and the Minnesota South District (5%).
- 2008 ministry opportunities include almost 4000 guests already on the books, a retreat season in which more organizations are using the camp, 20+ off site day camps, four new summer camp programs, and increased congregational servant events.
- A number of improvements are necessary including pool repairs and improvements, the addition of a deck to the dining hall, updates to the out-post villages, repair of the China Town Restaurant on the State Fair grounds, and replacing the camp resident roof.
- In 2008 the camp will undergo an accreditation review by the American Camping Association.
- In 2008 the camp will evaluate current staffing and vision for additional needs in the areas of program staff, guest services and accounting.
- The Camp Omega website is campomega.org.

INFORMATIONAL AND DECISION ITEMS

Mission Committee

Questions from the Mission Committee

It was moved, seconded and carried to refer the set of questions back to the Mission Committee for its response to the questions that they posed and the committee's answers and that it provide a plan for implementation of the Board resolution "To Fund Congregations which Use the LSB"

Peace, Faribault, Deaf Ministry

It was moved, seconded and carried to authorize up to \$20,000 from Board Designated Fund for Deaf Ministry (i.e. Deaf Ministry Subsidy Clearing) to be used for the Peace Lutheran Church, Faribault, Deaf Ministry.

Disbursement of Budgeted Funds to Missions

At this point a number of questions and concerns were raised concerning the disbursement of funds to the various missions in light of their expected compliance with the Board resolution concerning the practice of closed communion.

Finance Committee (no decision items)

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)

Administration

1. Revise Job Descriptions

President Seitz referred the Board to the job descriptions for the Executive Assistant to the President, and Assistant to the President for Ministry Support, which were included in materials sent to the Board. He explained the changes that were made to these positions.

It was moved, seconded and carried to ratify the revised job descriptions for Executive Assistant to the President and Assistant to the President for Ministry Support. (See Appendices A & B)

2. Assistant to the President for Ministry Support

It was moved and seconded to ratify the appointment of and extend a Divine Call to Mr. Michael J. Zimmer to serve as Assistant to the President for Ministry Support.

After a brief discussion and a prayer the motion was adopted unanimously.

3. Adjust 2008 Housing Allowance for Dr. Lane Seitz

It was moved, seconded and carried to increase the 2008 housing allowance for President Seitz to \$35,000.

4. Nominations for CPH Board of Directors

It was moved, seconded and carried to nominate Rev. Dr. Holger Sonntag, Rev. Dr. Byron Northwick, and Rev. Paul Woods to fill the vacant position of the CPH Board of Directors.

5. Set 2009 Board Meeting Dates

It was moved seconded and carried to set the 2009 Board of Directors meeting dates as follows: February 3 (February 5 back up), May 5, June 11-13 (District Convention), September (to be determined) and December 1 (back up December 3).

6. Theological Convocation Task Force Report

Dr. Larry Griffin, 2nd Vice President, briefly reported on the most recent convocation. On behalf of the committee he asked the Board four questions concerning the next theological convocation.

1. Should there be another one this year?
2. Who will do it?
3. What should be the topic?
4. What is the format?

The consensus of the Board is that another theological convocation be held, that the topic should be on worship, and that the format should remain the same. The Vice Presidents will discuss this in a couple of weeks.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

Lu Clemmensen walked the Board through the Treasurer's Report dated December 31, 2007. 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 loans and investments are over \$90,000,000. Except for two congregations, all loans are current.

Questions Regarding Reports (none)

Special Reports

Rev. Tim Kinne distributed copies of his report concerning Fan into Flame, the fund raising program in support of Synod's Ablaze movement. A copy of his report is included with the protocol copy of these minutes.

ROUNDTABLE

(1) Tim reported that his Marine son is coming home in the next couple of days. (2) Steve and Wendy will be grandparents this year. (3) Mark announced that his daughter is engaged to be married. (4) Bob Schulze will be a grandfather for the 5th time. (5) Jim asks for prayers for his daughter who is in an abusive marriage. (6) Klemet's father-in-law died three-weeks ago. He was an unbeliever until he was converted to Christ this past year. (7) Lu asked for prayers of thanks for her daughter's successful surgery. (8) Scott is struggling with the decision to place his father into a nursing home. (9) Kurt announced the upcoming Minnesota State Ablaze Conference in Alexandria. (10) Glen asked for prayers in the wake of the unexpected death of his childhood friend. (11) Karl announced that his only daughter is getting married and that St. Paul, Fulda, is getting a new pastor. (12) Larry's father is suffering from dementia.

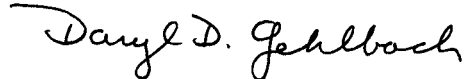
MEETING ADJOURNED/CLOSING PRAYER

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

Rev. Tim Kinne offered the closing prayer.

President Seitz declared the meeting adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Daryl D. Gehlbach, Secretary

**Minnesota South District
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Position Description**

**Position Title: Executive Assistant to the President
Effective Date: February 2008
Date to be Reviewed: (Annually) June 2009**

Purpose

To serve the District in the capacities of ministry as they are determined by the District President.

Duties

1. Assist the District President in his administrative responsibilities by:
 - a. Drafting correspondence as requested by the District President.
 - b. Handling communications (telephone calls, emails, etc.) in the absence of and at the direction of the District President.
 - c. Conducting research as needed by the District President.
 - d. Performing preliminary work as part of the call process for the District President.
 - e. Review all committee minutes and bring necessary items to the attention of the District President.
2. Establish and maintain a regular program of visitation of the professional workers within the District.
 - a. Provide general support to the professional workers of the District as they pursue their mission and ministry.
 - b. Serve as a resource to the professional workers of the District in the area of ministerial health programs offered by the District, Synod, Concordia Plan Services, etc.
 - c. Make referrals as necessary.
3. Serve as a resource, but not as staff, to the Ministerial Health Committee of the District .

4. Manage the District's Crisis Response Program.
5. Represent the District President when requested to do so.
6. Provide regular documentation regarding his work to the District President.
7. Serve in areas other than those outlined above at the discretion of the District President who may assign other duties as needs arise.

Organizational Relationship

The Executive Assistant is directly responsible to the President of the District for carrying out the duties delegated by him.

Revised 02/05/08

**Minnesota South District
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Position Description**

**Position Title: Assistant to the President for Ministry Support
Effective Date: February 2008**

Date to be Reviewed: (Annually) June 2009

Purpose

To serve as a resource to the professional workers and congregations of the District as they carry out their mission and ministry.

Duties

Perform such duties as requested by the President, including but not limited to the following:

1. Establish and maintain a regular and comprehensive program of visitation of congregations within the District (should constitute 75-80% of the time spent).
 - a) Inquire into the needs which congregations have in pursuing their mission and ministry.
 - b) Assist congregations in looking honestly and creatively at their future mission and ministry.
 - c) Be knowledgeable regarding established and cutting-edge resources which congregations can consider as they seek to pursue a growth-oriented mission and ministry program.
 - d) Serve as a program consultant to congregations to enable them to pursue a growth-oriented mission and ministry program.
 - e) Be responsible for the revitalization efforts of the District.
 - f) Assist congregations with strategic planning.

2. Assist the Congregational Services Subcommittee in effectively aiding congregations in the areas of stewardship, evangelism, youth, worship, human care, parish education, and the recruitment of professional church workers (5%).
3. Share the work of the District with congregations through visits, presentations, etc. (5%).
4. Provide regular documentation regarding his work to the District President (5%).
5. Serve in areas other than those outlined above at the discretion of the District President who may assign other duties as needs arise (5%).

Organizational Relationship

1. Is directly responsible to the President of the District for carrying out the duties delegated by him.
2. Relates to the Boards, Committees, and Task Forces as assigned by the District President.
3. Relates to the Board for District and Congregational Services on the Synodical level.

Revised 02/05/08