

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. Robert Van Gundy provided the opening devotion. He led the Board in praying the Morning Prayer from Lutheran Service Book (p. 295) The Board sang “Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice.” The Scripture reading was Colossians 3:1-4.

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 (*late*), James Heining, Ted Tews,
Brian Thorson, Robert Trueblood, Scott Halverson, Karl Baumann,
Lynn Henry, Richard Eyerly

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

Excused: John Moorhouse

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 February 5, 2009, Board meeting as printed.

Correspondence

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

- 1) Letter from Ms. Aileen Bipes regarding the proposed sale of our campus properties – February 8, 2009

- 2) Response to Ms. Aileen Bipes February 14, 2009
- 3) Letter from Dr. Raymond Hartwig, Secretary of the LCMS, regarding the Commission on Constitutional Matters' (CCM) review of proposed changes to the District Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws – March 9, 2009
- 4) Memorandum from Rev. Roger Mackie regarding the CCM's review of proposed changes to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws – March 26, 2009
- 5) Letter from Dr. Margie Kennelly regarding the proposed sale of our campus properties – April 4, 2009
- 6) Letter from Rev. Richard A. Boehnke regarding the proposed sale of our campus properties – April 8, 2009
- 7) Card from Mrs. Jean Swayze regarding the proposed sale of our campus properties – April 9, 2009
- 8) Letter from Ms. Angie Farnsworth regarding the proposed sale of our campus properties – April 10, 2009
- 9) Letter from Mr. Duane Brosowske regarding the proposed sale of our campus properties – April 17, 2009
- 10) Letter from the students and permanent congregation members of St. Paul's Lutheran Chapel and University Center, Iowa City, IA, regarding the proposed sale of our campus properties – April 17, 2009
- 11) Email from Rev. Brian Thorson regarding a proposed letter to be sent to the Alley Lutheran Church, Cottage Grove, MN – April 21, 2009

VISIONING/STUDY ITEMS/PRESENTATIONS

Board Response

At its February 5, 2009, meeting the Board established a committee of two, appointed by the District President, in order to respond to the questions and criticism about the Board's actions and to bring to the Board a plan to communicate the matter to the entire District, especially the delegates to the upcoming District Convention. The committee members are Rev. Klemet Preus and Rev. Dr. James Heining.

Rev. Preus and Dr. Heining presented their report and proposal for Board consideration. They presented a letter to be sent to the District convention delegates, in which it states the majority and minority positions on the issues related to the LSB and mission congregations, verification of closed communion, and the Alley Lutheran Church. The letter included the option of holding four regional meetings to “allow delegates to hear both sides of the important issues and to ask questions as well as offer feedback.”

The following corrections were made:

- In the letter, item two under the second paragraph, insert “English-speaking” after the word “subsidized.”
- On the page *The LSB and Mission Congregations*,
 - under the majority opinion, second paragraph, capitalize the words “Staff” and

- “Missions Committee”
- under the majority opinion, third paragraph, third sentence, strike the word “as” between “used” and “primarily”
- under the minority opinion, third paragraph, second sentence, insert the word “namely” before “funding”
- On the page *Verification of Closed Communion*
 - under the majority opinion, second paragraph, first sentence, strike “foolish use” and insert “misuse”
 - under the majority opinion, second paragraph, final sentence, strike “use” and insert “allocation”
 - under the minority opinion, second paragraph, second sentence, strike the hyphen in the word “by-laws”
- On the page *theAlley Lutheran Church*
 - under the majority opinion, second paragraph, change the pronoun “their” to “its”; strike “what is necessary” and insert “these resolutions.”
 - under the majority opinion, third paragraph, strike the paragraph and replace with “2. theAlley, while using the name ‘Lutheran’ in its legal documents does not boldly profess that it is Lutheran nor does it state in its materials (bulletins, newsletters, website, etc.) that it belongs to the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as the 1995 synodical resolution 3-13A requires.”
 - under the majority opinion, fourth paragraph, first sentence, insert “to” after the word “seem”
 - under the minority opinion, third paragraph, strike the first sentence and insert “theAlley Lutheran Church uses the name Lutheran in its constitution, bylaws, website and bulletins, etc.”
 - under the minority opinion, third paragraph, second sentence, insert “to” before the word “bring”

The Board discussed the possibility of meetings. Some dates and locations for these meetings were presented. A concern was expressed that members of the minority would not be able to attend, and thus the meetings would be one-sided. The hope was expressed that members of the minority would make time to attend the meetings. A question was raised concerning the agenda and facilitation of the meetings.

President Seitz called the orders of the day. He stated that when the proposal is brought up again for consideration (under Administration), the Board will need to make two decisions. Will the Board send out any documents? And will the Board hold any meetings?

Campus Property Task Force

President Seitz introduced Rev. Dr. James Pragman, chairman of the Campus Property Task Force. (CPTF)

Dr. Pragman acknowledged the other Task Force members who were also present: Ms. Lu Clemmensen, Rev. Brian Thorson, and Rev. Peter Meier. He walked the Board through the Task Force report. (*A copy of this report is included with the protocol copy of the minutes.*)

He directed the Board to the recommendations of the Task Force which are as follows:

1. The campus ministry properties at the University of Minnesota and at Minnesota State University, Mankato should not be sold at this time.
2. The Minnesota South District through its Board and its Missions and Finance Committees should develop a comprehensive plan for the conduct of campus ministry within the District for the next decade. The current models in use and other models for campus ministry should be analyzed to determine the most cost-efficient and most effective way to share the Gospel on the campuses of Minnesota colleges and universities, not only in Minneapolis and Mankato, but also throughout the District.

A period of question and answer followed.

President Seitz led the Board in thanking Dr. Pragman and commending the Task Force for its work.

“IT’S TIME TO FISH” & “FAN INTO FLAME” CAMPAIGN REPORTS

Rev. Peter Meier, Assistant to the President for Missions, reported that as of April 14, 2009, the *It’s Time to Fish* campaign has received \$208,000 from individual donors and \$54,800 from congregations. He reported that as of April 24 the LCMS has received \$46,809,000 in pledges from the *Fan into Flame* appeal, of which \$1,904,929 is from the Minnesota South District.

POLICY REVIEW AND FORMATION (no items)

INFORMATIONAL AND DECISION ITEMS

Mission Committee

LINC-Twin Cities

It was moved and seconded to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Minnesota South District and the Lutheran Inter-City Network Coalition—Twin Cities (LINC-Twin Cities).

It was moved, seconded and carried to amend the Memorandum, last paragraph, first sentence, to strike “or terminated”, and insert at the end of the sentence “or terminated by either party.”

The Memorandum of Agreement was adopted as amended.

Finance Committee

2008 Audit Report

It was moved and seconded to approve the 2008 audit report.

Ms. Lu Clemmensen, District Treasurer, walked the Board through the audit report. She noted that Minnesota state law has been revised, concerning “the accounting for and disclosure of activity related to endowment funds held and managed by not-for profit organizations.” She explained that the District is already following the state regulations, and per recommendation of the auditors the Endowment Committee is preparing policies for the Board to adopt.

The audit report was approved.

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)

Endowment Committee (no decision items)

Administration

1. **Approve Constitution and Bylaw Changes**

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the Constitution and Bylaws of the following congregations:

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Annandale, MN
Christ Victorious Lutheran church, Chaska, MN
Our Savior Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN

2. “Missional Formation” Board Designated Fund

It was moved, seconded and carried to authorize the creation of a Board Designated Fund called “Missional Formation.”

3. Proposed Changes to the District Bylaws

President Seitz referred the Board to the opinion of the Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) regarding some of the proposed changes to the District bylaws and to the letter from Rev. Roger Mackie, Chairman of the MNS District Handbook Committee. Rev. Mackie, based on the CCM opinion, recommended that the Board adopt the following changes:

4.2.15.2 b) *Between twelve and eleven months before an election, ~~The~~ the Secretary ...*

4.2.15.2 c) ... not later than 4 ~~[four]~~ five months prior to the opening date of the convention. ~~of the year of the convention.~~

4.2.15.4 a) *Between twelve and eleven months before an election, ~~The~~ the Secretary of the District shall, ~~in an election year,~~ send ...*

4.5.18.1 ... *If the Board decides to appoint more members, it shall attempt to ...* (adding the word “it.”

It was moved and seconded to adopt the proposed changes.

It was moved, seconded and carried to amend 4.2.15.2 c) to strike “five months” and insert “four months and ten days”.

It was moved, seconded and carried to amend 4.2.15.2 b) and 4.2.15.4 a) to strike “twelve and eleven” and insert “nine and eight”.

The motion was adopted as amended.

SPECIAL REPORT

Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML)

President Seitz introduced Ms. Nancy Kohrs, District LWML President. In her report to the Board she noted the following:

- We are in the final phase transitioning into the new zones. This transition has taken a great deal of work. We see new opportunities coming from the realignment.
- The mission goal for this biennium is \$240,000, of which twenty-five percent is sent to International LWML for its work.

- The International convention will be held at the end of June in Portland, OR. The theme is “Look to the Hills, God Reigns.”
- A women’s retreat will be July 31 to August 1. The focus will be on the story of the Prodigal Son.
- July 20-23, the District LWML will sponsor a Vacation Bible School to be held at Concordia University, St. Paul. This will be for ethnic children in the Twin Cities area.
- The next LWML District Convention will be held in 2010.

President Seitz led the Board in thanking Ms. Kohrs for the work she has done in leading the District LWML.

**INFORMATIONAL AND DECISION ITEMS
(continued)**

Administration (continued)

4. Board Response

It was moved and seconded to adopt the committee report and authorize sending it out to convention delegates.

It was moved, seconded and carried to table the motion.

It was moved and seconded to adopt the cover letter with the meetings listed in it together with the other documents. (See Appendix A)

It was moved, seconded and carried to strike “together with the other documents.”

There was renewed concern expressed and discussion over whether or not members of the minority could attend these meetings in order to ensure that their position was fairly presented. Some indicated that they could not attend meetings on the dates proposed, while others were unsure of their availability. The window of time to complete these meetings before the convention is very limited. Rev. Preus indicated his willingness to work with those in the minority in order to choose dates and times that allow them to attend.

The motion was adopted by a vote of ten yes, six no. Those voting against the motion requested their votes be recorded: Gerhard Bode, Tom Braun, Larry Griffin, James Heining, Lynn Henry and Steve Krause.

It was moved, seconded and carried to bring from the table the motion to adopt the committee report and authorize sending it out to convention delegates. The motion was adopted without objection. (See Appendix B)

Rev. Preus will provide a clean copy of the report to be sent out. He will also speak with the minority members to work on possible meeting dates when they may be able to attend.

5. Proposed Letter to the Alley

President Seitz asked the Board if it wished to consider the proposed letter to the Alley drafted by Rev. Thorson and Rev. Trueblood. (See Appendix C)

It was moved and seconded to adopt and send the proposed letter to the Alley drafted by Rev. Brian Thorson and Rev. Robert Trueblood. After some discussion concerning the content of the letter and the appropriateness of sending it at such a late date the motion was defeated by a vote of seven yes, nine no.

6. Late Memorial

Rev. Timothy Kinne, Assistant to the President for Congregational Services, presented the resolution “To Give Thanks to the Lord for the Spirit Led Response of the People of God in the Minnesota South District to the 2007 Flood Disaster.” (See Appendix D)

It was moved, seconded and carried to submit the resolution to the District Convention as a late memorial.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

Lu Clemmensen referred the Board to the Treasurer's Report dated March 31, 2009. 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 except for three loans where work out or action plans are in place, all District LCEF loans are current.

Questions Regarding Reports

A member asked if the Board needed to make any decisions regarding the Campus Property Task Force (CPTF). President Seitz explained that the Board motion establishing the Task Force did not direct that any action be taken by the Board as a result of the report.

It was moved, seconded and carried to receive the Report of the Task Force.

Special Reports (See Above)

ROUNDTABLE

(1) Daryl requested prayers on behalf of the newly formed Lutheran Deaf Mission Society (LDMS). (2) Lynn asked for prayers for our schools. (3) Dale asked for prayers on behalf of those affected by swine flu. (4) Peter asked for prayers of thanks for Ablaze! Five hundred (500) new congregations have been started in North America and 270 congregations are in revitalization. Ablaze! has become the most successful mission outreach effort in the history of the LCMS. (5) Klemet asked for prayers for his daughter's upcoming wedding. (6) Jim announced that he and his wife are leaving for a three-week trip to the British Isles. (7) Steve announced that Dr. James Gimbel declined the call to become the pastor of Redeemer, Wayzata, and he asked for continued prayers on behalf of the congregation. (8) Mark announced that his son Matthew is getting married. (9) Tim asked for prayers on behalf of all our service men, and especially for Sgt. Michael Kinne.

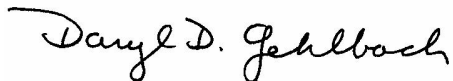
MEETING ADJOURNED/CLOSING PRAYER

Mr. Robert Van Gundy offered the closing prayer.

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

Dr. Seitz declared the meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Daryl D. Gehlbach, Secretary

Greetings to you from the members of the Board of Directors of the Minnesota South District.

Various groups have been speaking about what has been happening on the Board during the last year, so it seemed wise for us as a board to communicate the several viewpoints that divide the Board.

Each of us recognizes the sincere Christian faith and mission commitment of all of our fellow Board members. Most of the resolutions we have dealt with in the last triennium have passed by unanimous votes. At the same time, we acknowledge that we have had serious disagreement in a few areas. For the most part, this has centered around three resolutions. These include:

- 1) A requirement that district-subsidized English-speaking mission congregations consistently use the new Lutheran Service Book.
- 2) Questions of who has the authority to enforce the policy on close(d) communion for District-subsidized mission congregations and planting congregations.
- 3) The denial of the theAlley Lutheran Church's request for membership in our District.

Because these matters are likely to come before the convention, it seemed appropriate that we provide you with a clear and concise summary of these issues. There is a summary of the opinion of those in the majority, and also of those in the minority.

The board has also decided to host four regional meetings to give interested delegates a chance to hear both sides of these important issues and to ask questions as well as offer feed back. These four meetings will take place as follows.

May 27 at St. Mark Lutheran Church at 510 East Broadway, New Germany

June 1 at Our Savior Lutheran Church at 1157 3rd St. Windom

June 2 at Trinity Lutheran Church at 3245 New Brighton Rd. Arden Hills

June 3 at Trinity Lutheran Church at 29972 570th Ave, Waltham

Each meeting will begin at 7:00 PM and end at 9:00. Representatives of the Board will attend each meeting. You are strongly encouraged to attend one of these meetings in preparation for the convention.

We realize that there are unofficial groups on both sides of these issues who have been or may be contacting you. These groups are also suggesting slates of candidates for your consideration. This is appropriate, if done in a God-pleasing manner. We would encourage you to review a Synodical document entitled "A Ministry of Influence," which is listed on the District website under Convention Matters.

Finally, and most importantly, we ask for your prayers for our delegates, our District in convention, and our Synod, that we might celebrate our common faith, even as we seek to honestly and lovingly work through these areas of disagreement.

Board of Directors
Minnesota South District

The LSB and Mission Congregations

Majority opinion

Throughout the history of the Lutheran church there has been a desire for unity and some degree of uniformity in the worship of the church. It is confusing when a Lutheran church member visits another Lutheran church and feels lost. That is especially tragic when one moves to a new community and finds that the local Lutheran church has seemingly lost all connection to the tradition of the church.

Our District Staff and Missions Committee have seemingly not been very effective in planting congregations that have as their eventual goal becoming congregations that, by their worship, are recognizably Lutheran. The mission committee even seems to feel that the use of the traditional liturgy may hamper growth. This resolution sends a clear message that we will no longer fund such mission starts.

The gospel, the sacraments, the church, and Jesus himself do not seek to be in conformity with the secular culture. The Divine Service reflects the culture of the church and our Savior. It transcends any subculture. The Divine service is for the people of the church and should not be used primarily as an outreach vehicle.

We have a growing problem in our Synod as more and more congregations are imitating evangelical styles of worship drawn more from American Evangelicalism than the historic liturgical pattern of the Christian church. This can, and has, led people also to follow evangelical theology.

The Board of Directors has a responsibility to reflect these values as it determines how to spend the money of those who hold these values.

Minority opinion

The Board of Directors passed a resolution which required the use of the Lutheran Service Book (LSB) in English speaking mission congregations at the pain of losing subsidy if they did not. This action raises serious concerns.

Neither the Scriptures nor the Lutheran Confessions prescribe a certain order of service. Our Synod has never before required a specific hymnal be used. The Synod in its 2007 convention “encouraged” (not required) the use of the LSB, and then also encouraged the production of diverse materials, recognizing that “many LCMS congregations are regularly making use of contemporary worship songs to the glory of God and the edification of his people.”

It is disingenuous to say that we are not requiring mission congregations to use the LSB. When a condition for a congregation’s continued existence, namely funding, is threatened, then the congregation itself is threatened and such a threat becomes coercive. In the use of worship materials Lutherans have always said that encouragement, not coercion, should be used.

While many mission endeavors have used the hymnal and been blessed by God through its use, there are reasons to believe that certain subcultures will give ear to the gospel more readily if it is packaged in a less ritualized and formal manner than is typical through the use of the historic liturgy. The people in these subcultures are people for whom Christ died and certainly we should not compel them to hear the gospel in a context which would be distracting to them and hamper their willingness even to listen.

Verification of Closed Communion

Majority opinion

Since the Board is responsible for giving away other people's money, it needs to make sure that these funds are not being used to promote practices which are against the Scriptures and the public position of our synod. This Board action was intended to direct the mission committee to make sure that subsidized missions (and their sponsoring congregations) are following the practice of closed communion which is the policy of our synod. This resolution is not asking for anything new—simply verification that these new congregations are getting started on the right track.

The Board majority believes that it is a misuse of district funds to fund congregations which do not follow the practices of the Bible especially if these practices are the stated position of the synod. The board majority has never questioned the District President's ecclesiastical authority in all matters of life and doctrine within the district. The Board of Directors has authority in matters of how the district spends its money. These are two altogether different types of authority applying completely different criteria although they may be exercised over the same pastors and congregations. The president's authority may lead to a pastor or congregation being suspended. He therefore proceeds with longsuffering charity. The Board's authority involves the allocation of other people's money; it therefore proceeds with financial caution.

Minority opinion

The Board of Directors passed a resolution which requires mission congregations and those congregations which sponsor mission congregations to offer special evidence that they practice closed communion before subsidy is granted. The objection to this action does not relate to closed communion, but appropriate ecclesiastical supervision.

This action basically places the Board of Directors into a supervisory role regarding the theological practices of the congregations within the district since it seeks to ascertain the stand of congregations and compel congregations in theological matters. According to the bylaws of Synod, the District President is directly responsible for the ecclesiastical supervision of ordained and commissioned church workers. This action, while well intended, usurps his authority.

While one could argue that this action of the Board of Directors is fiscally necessary to insure that mission money is well spent, it is difficult to understand why self-supporting mission planting congregations should now also be under special theological scrutiny of the Board of Directors rather than the District President.

theAlley Lutheran Church

Majority opinion

The constitution of the LCMS lists six criteria for membership in the synod. An approved constitution is only one of these criteria. When the Bylaws require the Board of Directors to approve the application for membership of a congregation into the synod, they assume that the Board needs to look at other items besides an approved constitution. The Board majority chose to deny this application for the following three reasons.

1. While President Seitz did say that he was satisfied that the pastor was celebrating closed communion according to Synodical resolutions, the statements which the congregation continues to make on its website indicate that the congregation is still falling short of these resolutions.

2. theAlley, while using the name “Lutheran” in its legal documents does not boldly profess that it is Lutheran nor does it state in its materials (bulletins, newsletters, website, etc.) that it belongs to the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as the 1995 Synodical resolution 3-13A requires.

3. While the Synod does not require a certain order of worship, theAlley is not even close to historic liturgical patterns and does not seem to have the intent to move in that direction. Their “evangelical” style of worship has the very real potential of leading to “evangelical” doctrine.

It was necessary to reject this application for membership, that we might send a clear message that we should only be starting mission congregations that are truly committed to teaching and practices that are authentically Lutheran.

Minority opinion

The rejection of the application of theAlley Lutheran Church institutes new standards for membership. The sole criterion for acceptance into the LCMS is the promise to accept the normative authority of the Scriptures and to accept the Lutheran Confessions as the correct exposition of the word of God. This has been done by theAlley Lutheran Church in its constitution and bylaws which were approved by the Board of Directors. Three reasons were given for the denial.

1. “Close(d) Communion” Concerns in this area were addressed by the President of the District who assured the Board that he has had extensive conversations with the Pastor Griffin, that their earlier practices have now been modified, and that they are now appropriately practicing closed Communion.

2. theAlley Lutheran Church uses the name Lutheran in its constitution, bylaws, website and bulletins, etc. If it does not use it as often as others, it is because their goal is to bring in the unchurched, not those who are already Lutheran.

3. “Worship Style” While the worship style of the congregation may not be the same as most LCMS congregations in the district, we should remember that their goal is to go to “the streets and alleys of the town” (Luke 14:21). Their goal is to reach the unchurched—who may not understand or appreciate Lutheran traditions.

If mission congregations which attempt to bring the gospel into unique cultures are denied acceptance into the synod because of noncompliance to human traditions, then the outreach efforts of our synod could be highly compromised. Work will be done not with an eye to saving souls but with congregations looking over their shoulders and worrying that they will not be acceptable to others simply because they are different.

Dear Leaders of The Alley Lutheran Church,

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We are writing to ask you, in the Lord, to help the District as we anticipate our District Convention next month.

You are certainly aware that the question of your application for membership into The LCMS will come before the convention. No doubt this question will be the occasion for a great deal of debate. Further, we expect that the debate will be heated and potentially divisive for the church. And we assume that such a heated discussion, regardless of the outcome, will bring attention both to the District and to your congregation which will be less than positive.

We believe that it would be much better for the District if such a debate could be avoided at the Convention and that we, as the Board of Directors, could act positively on your application for membership. At our last meeting we approved a letter to you explaining the reasons for which we declined your previous application for membership. We are willing to revisit the question at a special meeting held immediately before the Convention if you can do the following.

1. Place and maintain the name "Lutheran" conspicuously on your sign, in your bulletins and on the homepage of your website so that those who are troubled at its absence can be convinced that you proudly share the name Lutheran with the rest of the congregations in the District.
2. Publish and maintain conspicuously on your website that you do practice close(d) communion. President Seitz has assured us that Pastor Griffin agrees with the Synod's position and intends to implement a close(d) communion practice at The Alley Lutheran Church. At the same time there are many in the District who have heard and read statements to the contrary on your website. If you would publish on your website your agreement with the Synod's position so as to leave no doubt what your position as a congregation is, we believe that would allay the worries of many who have based their negative opinions on your previous statements.
3. Place into your statement of faith something about Baptism and the Lord's Supper as well as justification by faith. Many within the District have observed that the omission of these important articles of faith on your faith statement make your confession almost indistinguishable from that of the evangelicals who so dominate the religious scene in America,
4. Receive from us the gift of 200 copies of the LSB with the promise that you will at least put them into some use in the congregation's service times in the future.

These requests, we believe, are in your best interests as a Lutheran congregation. Further, we believe that should you answer them positively we could welcome you into the Synod without a potentially rancorous debate which may occur at the Convention.

Please consider these matters prayerfully.

Minnesota South District Board of Directors.

1
2
3 **RE: TO GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD FOR THE SPIRIT LED RESPONSE OF**
4 **THE PEOPLE OF GOD IN THE MINNESOTA SOUTH DISTRICT TO THE**
5 **2007 FLOOD DISASTER**
6

7 WHEREAS, The rains of late August, 2007 brought about devastating flood
8 waters affecting individuals, congregations and communities in Southeastern
9 Minnesota; and
10

11 WHEREAS, The Apostle John writes, *“By this we know love, because [Christ]*
12 *laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But*
13 *whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart*
14 *from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in*
15 *word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.” 1 John 3:16-18; and
16*

17 WHEREAS, The Apostle Paul exhorts, *“Let us not become weary in doing good,*
18 *for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have*
19 *opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family*
20 *of believers.” Galatians 6:9-10; and
21*

22 WHEREAS, The people of God from many congregations in The Minnesota
23 South District overwhelmingly responded to the plight of those affected by the disaster
24 with unceasing petitions to the LORD, monies and other resources contributed, and
25 personal commitments of time and energy throughout the recovery process; and
26

27 WHEREAS, The people of God from many congregations in The Minnesota
28 South District gave evidence of the mercy of Christ by employing the gifts with which
29 they had been blessed in the recovery effort including manual labor, organizational
30 skills, skill trades, leadership skills, and spiritual support; therefore, be it
31

32 *Resolved*, That the people of God throughout The Minnesota South District give
33 thanks to the LORD and acknowledge the response His Spirit evoked in His people to
34 deal appropriately with this particular disaster; and be it further
35

36 *Resolved*, That thanks is given to the LORD for the specific contributions of
37 consistent and effective leadership as demonstrated by: Ms. Vicki Strong and the
38 members of Woodbury Lutheran Church, Woodbury; The Rev. Jesse Krusemark and
39 the members of Grace Lutheran Church, Stockton; The Rev. Jon Vollrath and the
40 members of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Eyota; The Rev. Merlin Stephan and the
41 members of St. Mark Lutheran Church, Rushford; and the late Ms. Judith “Jaye” Fritz
42 [†March 10, 2009] of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Winona, who organized and operated
43 the Garvin Brook Disaster Relief Fund; and be it further

1 *Resolved*, that the congregations of the LCMS MNS District and other LCMS
2 entities which provided physical assistance in the recovery effort be identified by their
3 lay, pastoral, and advisory delegates standing to the praise and honor of the LORD our
4 God as The Minnesota South District meets in convention (an apologetically incomplete
5 listing).
6

7 **LCMS Congregations of the Minnesota Districts**

8 Bethel Lutheran Church, St. Paul
9 Bethlehem Lutheran Church, St. Paul
10 First English Lutheran Church, Spring Valley
11 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Circle Pines
12 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Glencoe
13 Grace Lutheran Church, Rochester
14 Grace Lutheran Church, Stockton
15 Immanuel Lutheran Church, Plainview
16 Immanuel Lutheran Church, (Potsdam) Elgin
17 Immanuel Lutheran Church, (Silo) Lewiston
18 Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Rosemount
19 Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Anoka
20 Our Savior Lutheran Church, Excelsior
21 Our Savior Lutheran Church, Eyota
22 Peace Lutheran Church, Robbinsdale
23 Redeemer Lutheran Church, Rochester
24 Redeemer Lutheran Church, Winona
25 Redeemer Lutheran Church, Wayzata
26 St. Martin Lutheran Church, Winona
27 St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Bloomington
28 St. John Lutheran Church, (Hart), Rushford
29 St. John Lutheran Church, Woodbury
30 St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lakefield
31 St. Paul Lutheran Church, Watertown
32 St. Stephanus Lutheran Church, St. Paul
33 Trinity Lutheran Church, Elgin
34 Trinity Lutheran Church, Faribault
35 Trinity Lutheran Church, Hudson, WI
36 Trinity Lutheran Church, Janesville
37 Woodbury Lutheran Church, Woodbury
38 Zion Lutheran Church, Cologne
39 Zion Lutheran Church, Morris
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41 **Other LCMS Entities**

42 Minnesota South District, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
43 LCMS World Relief & Human Care, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
44 Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR), (A Joint Ministry of the ELCA & LCMS)

1 Concordia Academy, Roseville
2 Concordia University, St. Paul

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4 **LCMS Out of District**

5 Immanuel Lutheran Church (LCMS), Mount Olive, IL
6 Christ Lutheran Church (LCMS), Pascagoula, MS;

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8 and be it further

9
10 *Resolved*, that the MNS District in Convention recognize and publicly give thanks
11 to the LORD for the disaster recovery effort put forth by other Christians, other
12 Christian Congregations, other Christian Organizations, and other Civic Entities
13 convention (an apologetically incomplete listing).

14
15 **Other Lutheran Congregations**

16 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Inver Grove Heights (ELCA)
17 Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Maple Grove (ELCA)
18 New Hope Lutheran Church, Comfrey (ELCA)
19 Rushford Lutheran Church, Rushford (ELCA)
20 Spring Lake Lutheran Church, Spring Lake (ELCA)
21 St. John Lutheran Church, Montgomery (ELCA)
22 St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Winona (WELS)

23
24 **Other Lutheran Congregations - Out of State**

25 St. Paul Lutheran Church (ELCA), Mobile, AL

26
27 **Other Lutheran Entities**

28 Lutheran Social Services (LSS) of Minnesota, St. Paul
29 Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA
30 Thrivent, Dakota-Washington County Chapter
31 Thrivent Southeast and South Central Minnesota

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33 **Congregations of Other Denominations**

34 Alliance Community Church, Shafer
35 Crossroads Church, Cottage Grove
36 First Presbyterian Church, Stillwater
37 New Heights Church, Inver Grove Heights
38 New Hope Community Church, Cambridge
39 St. Ambrose Catholic Church, Woodbury
40 Woodbury Community Church, Woodbury

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43 **Congregation of Another Denomination Out of State**

44 First Baptist Church, Ocean Springs, MS

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Another Denominational Entity

Brethren Disaster Ministries, Church of the Brethren General Board

Civic Entities

City of Rushford, MN, City Administrator, Clerk, Inspectors and Staff
Flood Run Motorcycle Rally Participants
Garvin Brook Disaster Relief Fund
HiMEC Mechanical, Rochester
Jim’s Building Center, Rushford
K & S Heating, Air-Conditioning, Plumbing & Electrical, Rochester
Kraus-Anderson Construction, Inc., Minneapolis
Lyle’s Flooring America, Winona
Menard’s, Winona
Phil Johnson Phil’s Surplus, Windom
Rest-Assured Mattress Company, Rochester
Rushford Area Disaster Alliance for Recovery (RADAR)
Rushford Foods, Rushford
Todd Hoffman Design (Signs), Winona
Valley View Electric, New Ulm

and be it finally

Resolved, that in joyful response to all that the LORD our God has done that the Minnesota South District in Convention stand to sing praise to God with stanzas one and three of the hymn **“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee.”**

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| 1. Joyful, joyful we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow’rs before Thee,
Praising Thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
Drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day. | 3. Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Fountainhead of love divine:
Joyful, we Thy heav’n inherit!
Joyful, we by grace are Thine! |
|---|--|