

Eastern District Board of Directors
May 11-12, 2012
St. Luke Lutheran Church
330 Hannahstown Rd., Cabot, Pennsylvania

Voting Directors Present: President Chris Wicher, Kristine Birus, Bob Smith, Lyle Heggemeier, Michael Fenger, Rev. Art Litke, Jacqui Green, Rev. Kim Bode, Irene McFadden, Mark Lambrecht, Rev. Peter Richert, Rev. Karl Haeussler

Voting Directors Absent: Rev. Dave Bernard, Larry Thompson

Opening Devotion:

Bob called the meeting to order. Kristine led the devotion and shared the 1,658,000,000 + miracles that God has worked in her life. Kristine emphasized that God has also worked many many miracles in ours as well. Kristine's devotion concluded with the TLH Offertory, *Create in me a clean heart, O God...*

Member Sharing:

Board members updated everyone on personal and church matters.

Board Business:

M/2 to accept the minutes of the February 3 &4, 2012 “Go to Meeting”, *passed.*

M/2 to accept the minutes of the March 13, 2012 Telephone Conference Call, *passed.*

M/2 to adopt a resolution regarding St. Paul's, Tunkhannock and her real property as presented, discussed and modified, *passed.*

The Agenda was accepted as presented.

President's Report:

President Wicher advised that the Board Orientation will not be held in August as previously scheduled. The orientation will be held in conjunction with the October meeting, the 11th – 13th. The Circuit Counselors will also be in attendance for much of that time. President Wicher discussed convention preparations and updates in the District Office. Convention preparations are going well and Bob is working on bringing in a new phone system into the office which should result in a cost savings. President Wicher also updated the Board on calls, vicarages and seminary students. Monetary giving (eg. unexpected) to the District was discussed and how best to use it. President Wicher made other comments on his written report. He also brought up the work of Lutheran Hour Ministries and Bruce Sutherland and what that organization and Bruce are bringing to the District beginning in the Fall. President Wicher brought up a few other matters not in his written report.

Board went out of official business to hear from Pastor Barry Keurulainen, Pastor of St. Luke, regarding LINK, Pittsburgh.

The Board met with the chaplains and other leaders of Concordia Lutheran Home to tour the facilities and learn what Concordia offers to Lutherans and all people interested in their services.

The Eastern District Board of Directors Meeting continued at the Holiday Inn Express, Cranberry Township, PA on Saturday, May 12th.

Opening Devotion:

Bob Smith led the morning devotion based in part on Nehemiah 11:1-2. Bob and focused on leadership, especially that of Jesus as He laid down His life for us on His cross for the forgiveness of all of our sins.

Business and Reports:

The District's financial report is positive. General discussion was held regarding Camp Pioneer and its ministry. Positive developments have taken place with Rev. Alex and others are doing a number of great things there.

Missions: Irene submitted her written report. She has received three thank you's for mission grants.

Congregational Assessments: In response to Kristine's question, general discussion was held on this topic.

Minersville Cemetery: President Wicher updated the Board on the cemetery. Annual upkeep of about \$5,000 is paid from a \$175,000 Trust/Endowment Fund. We are carrying the liability for the cemetery on our insurance, which is covered under our general liability provisions. Insurance cost is minimal. President Wicher received a lengthy email which explained how the cemetery could be closed. He read it and found it interesting. Graves cost about \$7,000 each to move to another cemetery. Maintenance is overseen by PALM, but that responsibility may fall to the Board at some point. General discussion was held on how to invest the money with the hope of paying the maintenance costs from the interest while not drawing down the principal. Further investigation will take place.

Bylaws Change Convention Resolution:

M/2 to approve the memorial to change our bylaws regarding circuit counselor election and ratification as required by the 2010 Synod Convention and as presented in writing, *passed*.

Imagine Missions: President Wicher discussed how mission work has changed in our districts. Mission work over the last 20 years or so has become more local, rather than through District and Synod channels. Questions and general discussion was held regarding the potential negative and positive aspects of the changes proposed in President Wicher's written report. President Wicher will present his ideas to the convention and begin discussions with pastors and mission groups within our regions.

The Board concluded this portion of the meeting in prayer led by Bob Smith.

Unity Lutheran Ministry, 7825 ½ Hamilton Ave., Pittsburgh.

The Board traveled to Unity Lutheran Ministry for a tour and presentation by Rev. Reholma McCants, Pastor of Unity. Pastor McCants, his wife and the people of Unity are doing much God pleasing work in a very challenging environment. The Board closed the meeting in prayer and thanksgiving before departing.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Peter A. Richert, Secretary
Eastern District, LCMS