

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, EASTERN DISTRICT, LCMS

SPECIAL CONFERENCE CALL - THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2016

Members present: Pastor Murray Brindle; Claire Carlson; Mark Erbelding; Melissa Fultz; Jacqui Green; Pastor Karl Haeussler; Terry Miller; Pastor John Pingel; Pastor Carl Prostka; Gordon Tresch; and Chris Wicher.

Members absent: Bradley Dreier; Deaconess Jacqueline Duke; Maureen Grunder; and Pastor Daniel Strussenberg.

After a roll call was taken and a quorum was established, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Gordy Tresch at 7:04 pm. A prayer was offered by President Wicher.

After the President made a couple of comments concerning the Rationale for TO AFFIRM THE CONTINUED USE OF DEACONS IN THE LC-MS (1989 Wichita Resolution 3-05B), Murray Brindle moved for adoption of this resolution. A second was given by Carl Prostka.

A discussion ensued in which the following concerns and questions were raised:

- \* The office of deacon is Scriptural.
- \* All deacons in the Eastern District and everywhere that we know of are under official pastoral supervision.
- \* What exactly is the office/position of Evangelist as recommended by 2015 Task Force Report?
- \* Questions were raised about exactly from where is the opposition to licenses Lay Deacons arising?
- \* Questions were raised about what happens to all of our congregations who are presently served by licensed Lay Deacons. How will they receive Word and Sacrament ministry? There is fear that many of them will be forced to close.
- \* Concerns were raised that the 2015 Task Force Recommendations does not treat present licensed Lay Deacons fairly and will leave them unable to serve their present congregations.
- \* No one knew of an example where a licensed Lay Deacon had served without adequate training or had acted in an improper manner.
- \* This is stemming from, in part, from an ongoing disagreement about the nature of Ordination and the Priesthood.
- \* Article V of the Augsburg Confession, The Ministry of the Church, states that Word and Sacrament ministry is a gift given by God to the Church which administers this through the Office of the Pastoral Ministry. (It is not given directly to Pastors through Ordination).
- \* All resolutions are printed in the Convention Workbook, yet only a select few are brought to the floor by the respective committees. Substitute resolutions may be offered.

Chairman Tresch called the question. The motion to pass the resolution passed unanimously.

A motion to adjourn was made and passed at 7:43 pm. The President closed the meeting with a benediction.

