

EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2015

St. Paul Lutheran Church, North Tonawanda, New York

SPECIAL MEETING - ORIENTATION

Voting Directors Present: Mark Erbelding; Deaconess Jacqueline Duke; Claire Carlson; Terry Miller; Melissa Fultz; Rev. Carl Prostka; Maureen Grunder; Bradley Dreier; Rev. Daniel Strussenberg; Rev. Murray Brindle; Rev. Chris Wicher; Gordon Tresch, ESQ.; Rev. Karl Haeussler.

Voting Directors Absent: Jacqui Green and Rev. John Pingel.

Guests: Rick Porter and Jim Brese.

Arrival and welcome. We do not have a chairman yet, so President Wicher is leading this meeting. The meeting was called to order by him at 1:05. The President has our Secretary, who is also the Senior Pastor of our host congregation, welcome everyone to St. Paul Lutheran Church. He gives a brief overview of the history along with the present Mission and Ministries of St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Opening Devotion. The opening devotion was given by our Secretary. He noted that of our 15 Board members, 10 of them are new. While referencing Numbers 11, 1 Corinthians 12, Galatians 5 and Romans 8, he encouraged each member that they were raised up for this task by the Spirit of the Lord and given the appropriate gifts for this task; and that with His leading and empowerment the work that we do will be blessed for our District as it strives to realize its goals for the Kingdom.

Getting Acquainted. Beginning with Mark Erbelding, the President asked each member to introduce themselves and to share about their life.

Break

Board of Director Overview. The President went over the following:

- * A review of the District website which is www.lcmsed.org.
- * An overview of the geography and structure of the Eastern District. The President is the CEO who manages the resources and programs of the District. He handles ecclesiastical supervision through the Vice Presidents and Circuit Visitors. He oversees programs of the District through the District Staff.
- * The relationship of District to Synod and that the Constitution of our Synod is the Constitution for our District. Our District By-Laws and Regulations were then referenced.

* An explanation of the relationship of Pioneer to the District which was markedly changed at our recent District Convention. The District has indirect ownership of Pioneer.

* How the Desired Outcomes of the District are very important in guiding the actions of the Board of Directors. These give us our meaning and our purpose.

* How the LCEF and Lutheran Foundation are related to the District.

Dopkins Auditors Presentation.

The President welcomed special guests Karen Costa and Tim Korn of Dopkins Auditors. Karen and Tim work with non profit organizations and provide audits for our Eastern District. They provided an overview of their company and how they function. They presented a sheet detailing financial highlights for both the Eastern District and Pioneer for 2013 and 2014. They also shared how they work with Jim Brese and Barb Sigafos, our District Financial Staff.

Board of Directors Overview (continued).

The President discussed the election of the Chair and the Vice Chair of the Board which will take place tomorrow following lunch.

Presentation of Carver Governance Model

This presentation was led by Rick Porter and Jim Brese. They shared some of the following:

* We are part of a transition to policy governance that began 20 years ago. It is primarily concerned with these questions: What is our purpose? What do we do? How do we function? In 1995, the District began the change from board governance to policy governance. An official change was attempted at the 2006 Convention yet it did not pass because there wasn't enough education and conversation within and throughout the District. A concerted effort was made to do this beginning in 2011 with the result that our new By-Laws and Regulations were passed at the recent District Convention.

* A review of our governing documents: LCMS Constitution; ED Articles of Incorporation; ED ByLaws and ED Regulations; and, ED Governance Policies.

* An explanation of the important distinction between governing as opposed to managing. Other important distinctions were discussed as we looked at examples from policies recently written by the last Board.

* A review of Governance Policy section 1.5, Desired Outcomes of Eastern District Ministry, which was approved by the last Board at their final meeting in May.

* A review of guidelines for financial planning and budget along with guidelines for the CGO (Chief Governing Officer).

* A final discussion on the important of focusing upon our end policies so we can effectively achieve them along with striving to function in our Board meetings according to our new policy governance guidelines.

The meeting adjourned at 5:07. A closing prayer was given by our Secretary.

An evening meal was held at Pane's in North Tonawanda. During our meal we were joined by our special guests for Friday's sessions, Synodical President Matthew Harrison and Synodical Sixth Vice President Christopher Esget. Afterwards, a time of fellowship was spent at the home of our District President.

Respectfully submitted in service to the Lord and His Church,

Rev. Karl W. Haeussler
Secretary, Eastern District, Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod