

EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Friday – Saturday October 13-14, 2017

Salem Lutheran Church, Buffalo, NY

Friday, October 13, 2017

Directors present: Cyndi Alviani; Vice Chair Claire Carlson; Mark Erbelding; Melissa Fultz; Jacqui Green; Maureen “Becky” Grunder; Terry Miller; Pastor John Pingel; Pastor Carl Prostka; Pastor Fred Hoover; Chair Gordon Tresch; President Chris Wicher.

Directors Absent: Brad Dreier; Pastor Daniel Strussenburg; Secretary Karl Haeussler.

The meeting was called to order at about 1 pm – (Due to a NYS Thruway incident several members were late).

Opening Devotion: Cyndi Alviani talked about God’s Transforming Grace using Phil 3:20-21 with a theme of transformation and using a flower seed as an analogy.

Member Sharing.

Approval of Minutes.

May 12-13 regular meeting: The minutes were reviewed and a motion made and seconded to approve as written. Motion approved.

June 20 special conference call: These minutes were reviewed and corrections made to remove several paragraphs pertaining to the Dissent of resolution 13-02A along with some of the discussion notes. A motion was made and seconded to accept the amended minutes. Motion approved.

June 20 special conference call on Camp Pioneer: A copy of the minutes were passed around for review and comments for Saturday (10/14) agenda discussion.

July 6 special conference call: Resolution regarding loan requests - St. John Lutheran Church, Orchard Park, NY and St Paul Lutheran Church, Hilton, NY– Motion made and seconded to accept the minutes. Motion approved.

Approval of the Agenda: Motion made and seconded to approve the agenda as presented with an addition of LCEF Good Shepherd Canandaigua NY loan approval added to Friday’s agenda and the Visitation report moved to Saturday. Motion passed.

President’s Report:

- \$2872 overage from 2016 synod convention needs resolution. Will apply to Synod contribution for 2017 fiscal year.
- Nominating Committee – Lyle Heggemeier resigned and Maggie Harris was approved as replacement.
- Nominations for BOD positions – those eligible should consider whether to serve in the future and signal intent to congregation.
- East Coast DPS to be meeting in Buffalo in 11 days.
- Worker’s Conference in Niagara Falls (Nov 8-10) 150 registered currently.

- Bylaws update for District Convention – CCM adjustments. Will review at Feb meeting.
- Search for nominee for Treasurer – have some possible candidates – Feb meeting item.
- Financial Safeguards for congregations – resource recommendations for protecting against embezzlement, etc being made to district congregations.
- ED Best Practices – Fall 2018 planning.
- Good News summary! – celebrations of anniversaries, grandparent’s day (Trinity W Seneca), disaster relief appeal, response teams to Fla and Tx, Orchard Park building program, Hope Rochester building program, Pittsburgh outreach to Hazelwood.
- Future vision – congregations working together for ministry presence/support, congregations trimming down facilities and governing structures, and a few very strong congregations taking the lead locally.

The recent “Message to Congregations” video was also highlighted.

Auditors Final Report: The Audit committee met in early July 2017 and reviewed the auditor’s report. The auditor had no issues with the Eastern District reporting. There were some suggestions made for handling reporting for the Camp Pioneer audit and it was reported that the Camp has made those adjustments. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Auditor’s Final Report. Motion approved.

2018 Proposed District Budget and YTD status: This will be reviewed for approval in Feb 2018. Noted \$30K advance to Camp Pioneer from last year paid back this year. Receipts as of end of Sept -\$41.5K not unusual for this time of year. YE appeal to congregations to be sent out. Dashboard shows on track for the year. For 2018 – budget reduced from last year with few changes (nothing significant). Possible changes in the future might include looking at conference effectiveness and possible adjustments.

Worker Paid Leave Policy (NYS): reviewed the new policy for all NYS full time employees. The Policy manual will need to be updated by Barb Sigafos: “District to provide benefits consistent with New York State leave act at no cost to employee”. Motion made and seconded to accept. Motion approved.

LCEF business: Chris reported on LCEF yearly operating results and focus areas

Rick Porter briefed the board on the Good Shepherd, Canandaigua NY request for \$150K for new roof and miscellaneous improvements. Motion made and seconded to approve LCEF loan to Good Shepherd.

WHEREAS, the members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Canandaigua, New York have requested to borrow \$150,000 to replace roof, windows and flooring; and

WHEREAS, the loan request is for an unsecured loan; and

WHEREAS, Good Shepherd will have total long term debt of \$914,495 consisting of this loan request and an existing mortgage loan with LCEF having a balance of \$764,495, which loan will continue unaltered; and

WHEREAS, LCEF has evaluated the ministry and financial context of Good Shepherd regarding ability to service the proposed debt, and the overall conclusion of that evaluation is favorable according to LCEF underwriting standards and judgement; and

WHEREAS, Eastern District policy requires congregation loans, where total debt of the borrower is greater than \$500,000, to be approved by the district board of directors in addition to the district LCEF Committee, and the committee has granted approval; and

WHEREAS, this loan and the project it funds serve to support the congregation's ongoing ministry; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that approval is indicated for LCEF to grant to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Canandaigua, New York a permanent loan in an amount up to \$150,000 for up to 10 years, which loan may be unsecured; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the interest rate on the permanent loan be determined by the current formulae based on the LCEF Cost of Funds rate index; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the loan shall be repaid by blended payments of principal and interest;

and be it finally RESOLVED, that all other terms, conditions and requirements pertinent to this loan as may be stipulated by LCEF shall be fully in effect.

Motion approved.

Eastern District Policy Governance work: Rick Porter led a discussion on assuring performance and monitoring.

A motion was made to adjourn at 5:05 pm.

Cyndi Alviani led the closing prayer.

Saturday, October 14, 2017

Directors present: Cyndi Alviani, Vice Chair Claire Carlson, Mark Erbelding, Melissa Fultz, Jacqui Green, Maureen "Becky" Grunder, Terry Miller, Pastor John Pingel, Pastor Carl Prostka, Pastor Fred Hoover, Chair Gordon Tresch, President Chris Wicher

Directors Absent: Brad Dreier, Pastor Daniel Strussenburg, Secretary Karl Haeussler

The meeting was called to order and Becky Grunder led the morning devotion on Prayer. We all shared memorable answers to prayer.

Natural Church Development – Lyle Heggemeier shared a presentation on Natural Church Development that he has been trained to lead churches through. It starts with John 5: 1-6 – "Do you want to get well?" and then the parable of the farmer in Mark 4: 26-29. Few churches in the district have begun this process. Discussion centered around how to encourage and promote this resource as an evaluation tool.

June 20 special conference call on Camp Pioneer: motion to adopt minutes with some amendments. Motion made and seconded. Motion approved. Further discussion about the investigation committee mentioned in the minutes – decided there **is no** need to proceed with this committee. The yearly report from the camp will be done at the Feb 2018 meeting.

Presidents Visitation Report – President Wicher shared national information from the recent COP meeting and national statistics on **declining** membership trends and seminary graduates. The visitation report was issued on 9/21 by e-mail **via Constant Contact, about 1400 addresses**. Of ~~to~~ the 130 district congregation – 25 were not visited. The visitations were generally well received and comments summarized in the report. “The mission heart is ignited by the Holy Spirit. What role does the local congregation play in igniting?”

February meeting to likely be in Rochester (not Binghamton as earlier thought).

Becky Grunder led the closing prayer

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 am.