

**Eastern District Board of Directors
February 7-8, 2014
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Batavia, NY**

Voting Directors Present: President Chris Wicher, Chairman Mark Lambrecht, Rev Greg Tafel, Lyle Heggemeier, Michael Fenger, Rev. David Bernard, Rev. Peter A. Richert, Rev. Karl Haeussler, Larry Thompson, Rev. Dan Strussenberg, Rev. Ron Breight

Voting Directors Absent: Rev. Howard Alexander, Gordon Tresch, Jacqui Green, Irene McFadden,

District Staff & Volunteers Present: Rick Porter, Barbara Sigafos, Jim Brese

Pastor Werk welcomed the Board and gave a brief overview of the history and ministry of St. Paul.

Open Devotion & Prayer: Lyle Heggemeier led the Board in devotion and prayer. Lyle invited the Board to share how we keep, with God's help, our spiritual saws sharpened in devotion and prayer.

The meeting continued as Chairman Lambrecht called our attention to the agenda. Camp Pioneer discussion may go longer than previously planned.

M/2 to accept the agenda as modified orally, *passed.*

M/2 to accept the October 4-5, 2013 Meeting Minutes as modified, *passed.*

Current Financial Status – End of Year Report:

Barb Sigafos said the unaudited deficit for 2013 is about \$20,000. She explained the reasons...added mission and other expenses for the year combined with a decrease in congregational giving. 95% of congregational billed assessment has come in...excellent! An audit should be performed next week. No surprises expected. Barb covered some other line items of her report...very little difference from her October report. Based on congregational giving for 2013, expected receipts have been reduced by \$10,000. The budget as submitted is a balanced budget. Jim Breese commented on the budget as submitted. The budget includes \$20,000 to fix the district office windows and roof. With interest income, Jim thinks that the actual deficit may end up closer to \$10,000.

Member Sharing: The meeting continued with the Board sharing personal and church anecdotes.

2014 Pioneer Camp & Retreat Center Budget (for approval) [Knowles]:

Mark began the discussion by explaining that Pioneer does not have enough cash to continue operations until the spring. Therefore, today's discussions will focus primarily on how Pioneer may be kept viable through the end of 2014 and in the years to follow.

M/2 that in consideration of the need to cover costs at Camp Pioneer through the end of May, and with the understanding that a Business Planning committee and Finance team will be formed to report back to the ED Board at the May EDBOD Meeting with plans to

remain viable through the balance of 2014 and a longer range plan going forward that validates the business model, that the Eastern District lend Camp Pioneer the sum of \$75,000 to be repaid in conjunction with the business plan going forward,

Rev. Alex Knowles and Larry Thompson led the discussion that followed. By the end of this month there will not be enough cash to cover payroll and expenses to remain open. Donor history and numbers were discussed. Money needed to get through the summer was discussed.

M/2 to call the question, *passed*.

M/2 to approve the motion as written above, *passed*.

President Wicher led the Board in prayer regarding Camp Pioneer and work going forward.

Policy Review and Revision [Porter, Heggemeier]:

Rick Porter led the Board in this process. Proposed revisions were discussed and made.

M/2 to adjourn the meeting, *passed*.

Closing Prayer: Led by Lyle.

Saturday Morning Devotion:

The meeting continued Saturday morning with Rev. Dan Strussenberg leading the Board in the Morning Devotion.

President's Report:

President Wicher began his report recalling a dream he had last night just before waking up at 5 am...perhaps caused by some anxiety left over from yesterday's meeting. Tomorrow evening the core leaders of the Pioneer Rebirth Initiative will meet for the first time. The entire team should eventually comprise about 10-15 people. The team will meet next Sunday. In addressing Pioneer's needs, time is of the essence.

President Wicher's report continued with the following items:

M/2 to renew Bob's call/contract for a 3 year period, *passed*.

M/2 to accept the Hope Community Lutheran Church, Red Creek Constitution and Bylaws, *passed*.

M/2 to continue President Wicher's housing allowance (\$24,000) and Bob Foerster's housing allowance (\$21,000), *passed*.

President Wicher updated the Board on the leadership meetings. Eight have been held thus far with three coming up this week. The meetings are for lay leaders of our congregations.

President Wicher shifted his report to the upcoming District convention and his thoughts regarding lay representation elected from each region. Convention location was also discussed. Much research was conducted. Daemen College will host the District Convention in June, 2015.

Annual staff reviews have been conducted. Mark and Gordie met with President Wicher for his evaluation two weeks ago. President Wicher will present his goals for the year at our May meeting.

Synod President Harrison will visit the District and Board in October, 2015.

President Wicher also discussed his continuing education, his report, and covenants for continuing education for pastors and church workers.

Four pastors from our district will attend the Synod stewardship conference in May.

President Wicher brought up the Tuition Reduction Assistance Program and what that would look like in our District. The plan is to offer \$100.00 per month for five years, hold a meeting with the congregation to encourage their help over and above the worker's salary, and financial counseling for the worker and his/her family. At any given time between 5 – 8 people may be involved. Sample application forms were shared. \$10,000 has been allocated for this program in the 2014 budget.

After the convention, the Futures Task Force recommendations will be revisited.

President Wicher also discussed the status of the Mission Transformation Task Force. Two conference calls have been held. Each Regional Mission Organization (RMO) is different. Having an annual mission summit was discussed. How will mission funds be distributed to the RMO's in the District? The answer to this question has not been resolved by the task force at this point, but more information should be forthcoming at the May meeting.

“Pioneer Rebirth Action Team” (PRAT) may be the official name of the group looking at Camp Pioneer and its future ministry.

Board Self Evaluation:

The Board discussed how the meeting went and areas of improvement.

Next meetings:

May 9 & 10th at Camp Pioneer or in that area. October 3rd & 4th in the Philadelphia region.

M/2 to close the meeting, *passed*.

Beautiful Savior Sung & Closing Prayer: The Board sang Beautiful Savior in perfect pitch four part harmony, accompanied by Cindy Fenger who signed the hymn, followed by prayer led by Rev. Dan.

Respectfully submitted,

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

