

**Eastern District Board of Directors
May 1-2, 2015
Calvary Lutheran Church, Murrysville, PA & Concordia, Monroeville, PA**

Voting Directors Present: President Chris Wicher, Chairman Mark Lambrecht, Rev. Ron Bright, Rev. Karl Haeussler, Jacqui Green, Irene McFadden, Michael Fenger, Rev. Dan Strussenberg, Lyle Heggemeier, Gordon Tresch, Rev. Peter Richert

Voting Directors Absent: Rev. David Bernard, Rev. Howard Alexander, Rev. Greg Tafel, Larry Thompson

District/LCEF Staff Present: Rick Porter

Friday, May 1

Welcome: Chairman Lambrecht welcomed everyone to what may be our last meeting until convention.

Opening Devotion & Prayer: Led by President Wicher based on a portion of Romans 12 beginning with the first word, “Therefore”, and continuing on from there...with special emphasis on the servant spirit that God teaches and bestows through His Word.

Member Sharing: The board took turns sharing personal and church anecdotes that have taken place since the February meeting.

Board Business:

Approval of Minutes:

M/2 to approve the February 6, 2015 board minutes with the following modifications: hearing and receiving Rev. Alex Knowles’ report as Director of Pioneer Camp & Retreat Center and approving Pioneer’s budget as submitted, *passed*.

M/2 to approve the March 23, 2015 telephone conference call minutes as submitted, *passed*.

Approval of Agenda: Agenda approved with some modifications.

President’s Report:

Where do we stand and what can we expect:

President Wicher recapped a number of important things this board has accomplished over the last six years, outlined the next twelve months, and described what may take place over the next several years. First, President Wicher reviewed staff additions and meeting schedule. Pioneer is also experiencing staff changes.

Next, President Wicher then touched on financial reporting and district finances in general. Overall, the district is in its typical financial position at this time of year. Money comes from various sources, but primarily from the people of our congregations. President Wicher shared a revenue recap bar graph from 1994 – 2014. A much more comprehensive presentation is planned for the October board meeting.

A Synod fiscal summit is coming in September for all districts.

Convention planning is front and center at this time. Most positions have multiple nominations. President Wicher described the convention proceedings and the changes planned. The workbook is nearly prepared, but admittedly out of compliance. Synod bylaw requires the workbook's preparation and sharing with the delegates 60 days before convention.

President Wicher updated the board on church worker developments in the district...calls, vicarages, deacons', etc...Last year we had 17 active congregations calling, this year we have 8.

President Wicher discussed a recent COP meeting and vote regarding electronic voting and subsequent discussions regarding the program committee.

Other Synod events and possible changes were discussed.

ED Bylaws and Regulations [Committee]

Gordon updated the board on the CCM's review. Most recommended changes were technical or procedural in nature. Gordon reviewed the changes with the board. Rick Porter assisted.

M/2 to accept the bylaws and regulations as reviewed today, including CCM changes, passed.

Pioneer Camp & Retreat Center Bylaws [Committee]

Gordon and Rick also led the board on this topic. The board reviewed the CCM recommended changes (6 total) and tabled further action to a future date.

The board collectively thanked Gordon and Rick for putting in many hours of work this past week on the CCM changes for both the Eastern District and Pioneer.

Eastern District Outcomes [1.5.1, 1.5.2, 1.5.3, 1.5.4, 1.5.5, 1.5.6]

President Wicher shared a document to the board based on Daryl Pecan's discussion with the board at the February, 2015 meeting, along with suggested changes from President Wicher and Rick Porter. The board read and discussed the document, line by line and column by column, with discussion of each and some changes. A preface was added for context and clarification.

M/2 to add the Outcomes Work to the policy manual, passed.

Board of Self-Governance Policies

Rick Porter led the board in a review and discussion of proposed policies as noted on three handouts and in power point.

Closing Prayer

Led by President Wicher

Saturday, May 2

The Board meeting continued with breakfast and morning devotion at Concordia of Monroeville, followed by a tour of two buildings at that location. Rev. Strussenberg serves as a chaplain at this facility.

Upon completion of the tour at Concordia of Monroeville, the Board traveled to Pittsburgh and First Trinity Lutheran Church. The Board was greeted by First Trinity's Pastors, Rev. Doug Spittel and Rev. Eric Andrae. The Board heard presentations on First Trinity's outreach to the blind community, homeless community, and college/university campus community in their immediate area. Thereafter, Pastor's Spittel and Andrae led a tour of the sanctuary and the multi-floor office, education and fellowship wing, with historical anecdotes along the way. First Trinity member, Michael Fenger also gave a tour of the boiler room at the request of Secretary Richert and described his work in that room.

Thereafter, Pastor's Spittel and Andrae led the Board on a short walk to Lucca's Restaurant for lunch, adding further details on First Trinity's outreach in the area along the way.

Respectfully submitted,

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