

**Eastern District Board of Directors
October 4 & 5, 2013
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ellicottville, New York**

Voting Directors Present: President Chris Wicher, Rev. Howard Alexander, Rev. Ron Breight, Jacqui Green, Rev. Dan Strussenburg, Michael Fenger, Rev. Karl Haeussler, Gordon Tresch, Chairman, Mark Lambrecht, Lyle Heggemeier, Rev. Peter A. Richert

Voting Directors Absent: Rev David Bernard, Rev Greg Tafel, Irene McFadden, Larry Thompson (Friday portion of the meeting)

District Staff Present: Rick Porter, Bob Foerster

Chairman Mark Lambrecht opened the meeting and invited Jacqui to lead the Board in an opening devotion and prayer.

Opening Devotion & Prayer: Jacqui Green lead the Board in devotion and prayer based on Ecclesiastes Chapter 3.

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

Board Business – Minutes:

M/2 to accept the May 3 & 4,, 2013 minutes as submitted, *passed*.

M/2 to accept the August 26, 2013 minutes as submitted, *passed*.

Agenda – accepted as presented.

President's Report: President Wicher began his report by discussing the blessings of variety in our District, including recent congregational visits at Zion, Accident, Maryland and Zion, Wellsville. President Wicher also commented on the Pastor's Conference and our Swedish Lutheran friends who were in attendance. President Wicher then reviewed and highlighted his written report, prepared about three weeks ago as he has been on the road during the last three weeks, less three days. He spoke of Jim Buckman's presentation at the conference and the value of "prayer walking" and opportunities for ministry in our communities. Gordie presented the proposed by-law and regulation changes at the conference. The changes were well received at the conference.

President Wicher described in general terms a wonderful example of reconciliation between pastor and people in our District. He then brought up the initial plans for our next convention, especially location. Potential sites were brought up. President Wicher transitioned to other matters in his report, including our District parish nurse and disaster training. President Wicher went to the spiritual growth section of his report, some items to be discussed later in this meeting.

He then reviewed and highlighted some of the outcomes of our synod convention, including upcoming visitations from President Harrison and/or Vice-President Mueller, District viability study and report for the next convention, continuing education of all called church workers, and church worker student loan indebtedness assistance.

President Wicher asked the board to act on the constitution submissions as noted in his report.

M/2 to approve the constitution and bylaws of Grace Lutheran Church, Bradford, Pennsylvania, *passed.*

The St. Paul, Clyde property proceedings has reached the point of asbestos inspection.

President Wicher then brought up the matter of District Reconcilers. We need to vote to elect two pastors for six year terms. Rev. Dan Strussenberg and Rev. Kim Bode were chosen.

M/2 for a unanimous vote for Rev. Dan Strussenberg and Rev, Kim Bode as District Reconcilers for a six (6) year term, *passed.*

Budget Reports:

In place of Barb, who is ill, President Wicher called the Board's attention to the Financial Dashboard for the District, followed by the District Budget. He indicated that next year the plan is to distribute funds each year to our Regional Mission Organizations (RMO's). A task force should be in place in the near future to help with this. He would like to see the task force organized by Thanksgiving. Assistance with student indebtedness should be part of the budget next year as well. Replacement of a District owned vehicle is budgeted for next year. Roof and window work at the District Office is budgeted for next year. The tithe to Synod is budgeted for 10% of congregation offerings received. Health care costs for the District staff should go up by about 8%. Congregation giving should be about the same as last year. Staff raises are 2-3%.

M/2 to approve the preliminary budget as submitted, *passed.*

Policy Review and Revision [Porter, Heggemeier]

Various sections of the proposed policy were reviewed and discussed. Approved provisions at this meeting were dated 10/4/13.

LCEF line of Credit with Camp Pioneer:

Discussion was held regarding the Camp Pioneer line of credit of \$100,000 and the District becoming a party to the note. LCEF would like the District to co-borrow with Camp Pioneer. According to Rick Porter, Camp Pioneer's audit is inaccurate on the status of the \$227,307 note, loan number 9990016184. This note is secured by a mortgage on the property. The auditor reports this note as unsecured, but this is not true as it is in fact secured. The auditor's report also incorrectly reports the nature of the interest.

Regulation rollout to the District:

Between now and the next May, President Wicher has 20 meetings planned throughout the District to explain the proposed changes and seek feedback for ideas to be brought back to the Board. He may ask someone to present the regulations in his absence.

Outcomes for the District:

President Wicher then led the Board in a discussion of outcomes. He presented a multi-page handout. Advance a CULTURE OF WELLNESS for our church workers, schools and congregations with his thoughts was discussed. Second, inspire or direct new ministry starts, partnerships and models in keeping with the growing KINGDOM OF GOD. Third, leaders are trained to EQUIP THE SAINTS for the work of ministry.

Closing Prayer: led by Jacqui Green.

Break

Opening Devotion: Larry Thompson led the board in the morning devotion and prayer based on Matthew 7 regarding our hypocritical problem of judging others, God's forgiveness in Christ, and the gospel opportunities that God presents to us in our interaction with others.

BOD Bylaws & Regulations Committee Report [Lambrecht, Tresch]

Following Mark's introduction, Gordie led the board through the suggested bylaws & regulations relative to Camp Pioneer and as posted on the district website for today's meeting. These documents suggest a separate board of directors for Camp Pioneer. The Eastern District Board of Directors would remain the members/owners of Camp Pioneer. The camp director would report to the Eastern District Board once a year. Day to day operations of the camp and annual budget would be handled by the camp director and camp director board of directors. The Eastern District board is a policy board. The Camp Pioneer board is an operational board. President Wicher remains the Ecclesiastical Supervisor of the called camp director and the camp, as he is the same for all called church workers and congregations in the district. President Wicher, or his representative, would also serve in an advisory capacity to the Camp Pioneer board and may be present and speak at the meetings. Gordie read and explained other provisions of this "work in progress" document.

Camp Pioneer \$100,000 Line of Credit through LCEF: The line is fully extended at this time. Alex explained his thoughts regarding the expectation of paying down this line of credit. The problem of it not being paid down, and the ramifications with the district, to avoid the line of credit not becoming a loan, was discussed.

M/2 to approve the extension and renewal of the line of credit from LCEF in the amount of \$100,000 for the benefit of Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center, Inc., to be evidenced by a promissory note in the names of Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center, Inc. and The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, Eastern District, *passed.*

M/2 to adjourn as Eastern District Board of Directors, *passed.*

The Board reconvened as the Board for Camp Pioneer and Retreat Center, Inc.

Pioneer Presentation [Knowles]

Alex provided a power point presentation to the board discussing partnerships, vision, programming, and statistics. Alex also presented financial statements, capital improvements, donations, and operational income forecast through the end of the calendar year. Also, Alex reported on retreats and outdoor education, fund development, and expenses. Expenses were about \$36,000 than expected. Alex briefly went over strategic initiatives, spending most of his time on the challenges of Schroeter Circle. Alex also reported on Gift Development and congregational giving. Camp Pioneer is now in partnership with the LCMS Foundation.

2014 Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center Proposed Budget [Thompson, Knowles]

Alex and Larry explained that this is preliminary budget, with the final recommended budget to be presented in February, 2014. Alex read through the budget, revenue and expenses, with explanation.

M/2 to adjourn as Board of Directors of Camp Pioneer and Retreat Center, Inc., *passed.*

Eastern District Board of Directors back in session:

The board reflected on and evaluated the meeting. Positive and constructively negative comments were made. Discussion of matters to be addressed at the February and May meetings was also held.

Closing Prayer: Led by Larry

M/2 to adjourn, *passed.*

Respectfully submitted,

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