

Eastern District Board of Directors
October 3-4, 2-14
Christ Memorial Lutheran Church, Malvern, Pennsylvania

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

Voting Directors Absent: Rev. Bernard, Rev. Greg Tafel, Rev. Howard Alexander, Rev. Karl Haeussler

District/LCEF Staff Present: Rick Porter

Opening Devotion & Prayer: Noon Prayer and devotion based on Matthew 21:33-46 led by Secretary Richert.

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

Board Business:

M/2 to accept May 8-9, 2014 board meeting minutes, *passed.*

M/2 to accept August 28, 2014 telephone conference board meeting minutes, *passed.*

Approval of Agenda:

The agenda was approved with the Updates reports moved to Saturday at 9:45 am and the Pioneer report moved to Friday at 4:45 pm.

President's Report:

President Wicher referred to his written report and updated the board on a number of matters. Many congregations are seeking calls and putting call lists together takes much time and work. Lawyers are looking at our proposed district constitution and bylaws.

He also commented on the work of the PRAT Committee and matters that have been given to Alex to follow up on. For the most part, the work of the PRAT Committee has concluded.

M/2 to approve the constitutions of Faith, Penfield, New York; Trinity, Ashford, New York; and St. Peter, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, *passed.*

President Wicher described what's coming up at our Church Worker conference in November. Registration is a bit slow at this time. He encouraged all church workers present to register soon.

Circuit convocations have begun. President Wicher described the process and the work involved in preparation.

President Wicher commented upon the CCM ruling regarding Bylaw 3.8.3. Much discussion by the board followed, including how the CCM may be approached to reconsider its ruling.

President Wicher reported that a SELC congregation, St. Peter and Paul, Central City, Pennsylvania, has requested a transfer to the Eastern District.

M/2 that the Eastern District receive St. Peter and Paul, Central City, Pennsylvania into the Eastern District from the SELC district, *passed.*

PLM Report, “Shepherd of the City” [Kieselowsky; DeGroot]

Irene introduced Rev. Rob Kieselowsky and Rev. Adam DeGroot. First reading Luke 4:16-21, Rev. Kieselowsky updated the board on PLM’s work in recent months and years. Rev. DeGroot commented on his work since his installation, the work of the Lutheran Youth Corps, and plans for the future.

Camp Pioneer & Retreat Center: [Rev. Alex Knowles]

Rev. Knowles highlighted portions of his written report. Pioneer’s present cash balance is about \$60,000. Pioneer should have enough cash through December. January through March, 2015 may result in a short-fall. He also discussed staffing and programing changes of recent months and plans going forward. Ideally, for the present model to succeed, one more full-time staff person would be helpful. Retreats continue to grow and will probably remain a greater focus in the future. Many other aspects/developments of Pioneer and its ministry were discussed.

The Board convened as the Camp Pioneer & Retreat Center Board

M/2 to accept the reports as presented by Rev. Alex Knowles, *passed*.

M/2 to adjourn as Pioneer Camp & Retreat center, *passed*.

Eastern District Board Reconvened

Policy Governance re “Gift Receipts Policy” [Rick Porter]

Rick Porter addressed the board regarding the matter of restricted and unrestricted gifts to the district. He gave the board a draft document. The document Rick prepared was reviewed and discussed by the board. The document is modeled on the one used by Pioneer, with changes made to reflect the district’s practice and needs. A more thorough review of this document both before and during the February meeting was suggested. Contact of other districts regarding their gift policies, as they may exist, was also suggested. This matter will be on the agenda at the February meeting and the board is encouraged the study the draft document in preparation for the February meeting.

Commission on Handbook

The board was advised that there is currently an open position due to a resignation by a commission member. Rev. Lane Seitz, former District President of Minnesota South, and very knowledgeable of the synod handbook, was recommended for nomination.

M/2 to nominate Rev. Lane Seitz for consideration as a member of Commission on Handbook, *passed*.

President Wicher summarized and updated the board on his contact with Calvary, Havertown. He also updated the board on Trinity, Syracuse. Trinity has recently voted to leave the LCMS and Pastor Rivera has resigned from the roster of the LCMS. President Wicher summarized the history of contact with Pastor Rivera and Trinity from last December to the present.

M/2 to adjourn, *passed*.

Closing Prayer: [Richert]

Saturday, October 4th at Christ Assembly, Philadelphia

Morning Devotion [Green]

Jacqui led the morning devotion based on Matthew 16 and our roles as locksmiths in God's kingdom.

Mission Liberia [Pastor Art Zogar]

Pastor Zogar shared the background and history of his mission work (church & school), and that of Christ, Assembly, in Liberia, and future plans there upon his retirement. He desires to plant a confessional Lutheran Church in Liberia and asks for prayers and support in sending him there.

Updates [President Wicher]

2015 Convention: President Wicher updated the board on the work of the convention planning committee and its next meeting in November. The convention theme is: *Shout Him from the Rooftops!* The nominating committee met last Saturday. The nominations are complicated by the governance changes that will be proposed at convention. There will be one slate of candidates based on the district's current governance and another slate based on the proposed governance.

Bylaws and Regulations: The bylaws and regulations were sent along to the district's attorney shortly after the May, 2014 meeting. He was gravely ill for some time, but is recovering. Some work has been done, but much remains. Once the document is completed, it will be sent to the CCM for review and approval. Hopefully, the document will be ready for this board's review and approval at the February, 2015 meeting in preparation for the June, 2015 convention.

2015 ED Budget preview: President Wicher reviewed and highlighted Barb's report and notes.

M/2 to accept the audit as presented for the year ending January 15, 2014, passed.

Barb is projecting an increase in next year's budget...about \$7,000. Mission organizations should receive about 4 – 5 thousand each in the coming year. President Wicher also highlighted other changes in the preliminary budget.

M/2 to accept the preliminary budget as presented, passed.

Properties, actual and potential:

Clyde – President Wicher updated the board on the status, including possible asbestos abatement. The building and property is quite small. To complete the whole project may cost \$10,000 - \$30,000.

St. Thomas, Pittsburgh – The congregation approached President Wicher about the district receiving the property if the property doesn't sell. The congregation voted to close in July, 2014, effective December 28, 2014. Rev. Dan Strussenberg read a letter from the congregation.

M/2 to refer the St. Thomas property for study by the district gift planning counselor in the event the property is offered to the district, passed.

Alpha Deaf, Rochester: The congregation is struggling and it may dissolve in the near future.

M/2 to accept the offer of ownership of the property and to authorize its sale according to the written *Unanimous Written Consent of the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, Eastern District* and the written *Resolutions*, both documents dated October 4, 2014, passed.

Next Meeting: February 6 & 7, 2015 at a location to be determined.

President Wicher led discussion of the where, when and items of discussion for our next meeting. He also suggested we allow in our agenda for visits of congregations and mission sites for future board meetings. The board liked this idea.

Board Self Evaluation

The board had many positive comments regarding the discussion and logistics of the meeting.

M/2 to adjourn, passed.

Closing Prayer [Green]

Jacqui led the board in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

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