

**Eastern District Board of Directors**  
**May 8-9, 2014**  
**Pioneer Camp & Retreat Center, Angola, New York**

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

**Voting Directors Absent:** Rev David Bernard, Rev. Greg Tafel

**District Staff & Volunteers Present:** Rick Porter, Bob Foerster

**Opening Devotion & Prayer:** President Wicher substituted for Dave Bernard, using a devotion from CPH based on Psalm 23 and led the Board in prayer.

**Member Sharing:** The meeting continued with the Board sharing personal and church anecdotes, including travel to Pioneer.

**Board Business:**

**M/2 to accept the February 7-8, 2014 Board Minutes as amended, *passed*.**

**M/2 to accept the Agenda as submitted and discussed, *passed*.**

**President's Report:**

President Wicher began his report by asking the Board to approve the constitutions of three congregations as submitted.

**M/2 to ratify the constitutions of Mount Olive, Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania; St. John Accident, Maryland; and Good Shepherd, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, *passed*.**

President Wicher continued by commenting upon the number of seminary candidates from our seminaries this year. A total of 111 candidates, including 2 from Canada, received first calls... much smaller than 10 and more years ago. Seminary candidates in the Concordia University System are about ¼ in comparison to other times in the fairly recent past. Discussion was held regarding seminary education, the need for two seminaries, and the viability of more distance learning.

President Wicher addressed the vacancy situation in our district, where it's trending, and the need to train our lay people for ministry in our congregations in different ways... diaconal, sacramental, etc. He also spoke of the men mentioned in the colloquies section of his report. He suggested we adopt Pastor Zogar as a foreign mission project in some way. Discussion followed on how that could possibly happen. President Wicher will invite Pastor Zogar to our next meeting.

President Wicher discussed visitation of all congregations in the district. A team of 30 may be involved. Bob Foerster is assisting in the organization of this endeavor. Briefly, President Wicher asked if we had any questions about Barb's financial report. No one had questions.

President Wicher brought up the matter of our District's Articles of Incorporation. He read the 6 points of the resolution document that was passed at Synod's 2004 Convention and as set forth as a Template by our Commission on Constitutional Matters. Secretary Hartwig has recently encouraged our District's to act on the resolution. Discussion was held.

**M/2 asking President Wicher to prepare a sample draft of Articles of Incorporation in keeping with Synod Resolution 2004 2-11 for the Board's October, 2014 meeting, *passed*.**

**Policy Review and Revision [Porter, Heggemeier]:**

The board joyfully worked on policy under Rick's patient guidance. Many questions and much discussion occurred relative to different provisions. The board asked Rick to prepare planned gift giving guidelines for consideration at the next regular meeting.

**Mission Transformation Task Force Recommendation [Wicher]:**

President Wicher recapped the task force meetings that have been held and the individuals serving. Bootstrapping on a devotion given during last week's pastors' conference, He described the shifting mission work in the Eastern District and the distribution of funds. He read and expanded upon the 5 points noted at the end of the written report. Questions and discussion followed. Mentoring the Hananiah Mission was discussed.

**M/2 to accept the Mission Transformation document as submitted, with the understanding that any legacy missions be incorporated in the process as appropriate in a region without a functioning EDMO, *passed*.**

**The meeting adjourned for dinner.**

**Morning Devotion [Karl Haeussler for Greg Tafel]:**

Rev. Karl led the board in morning devotion and prayer in Rev. Greg's stead.

**Meeting opened as the Board of Directors of Camp Pioneer Ministries**

**Pioneer Rebirth Action Team (PRAT) Update & Alex's Report:**

Alex summarized and updated his written report. Confirmand Camp numbers have grown since the writing of his report. Alex described the separate categories of church retreats, non-retreats, and weddings. More good news: the Matching Gift appeal exceeded the goal by \$11,000. Larry spoke about the benefit of using matching gift appeals and using this method of raising funds in the future. Facilities expenses have exceeded budget because of the boiler breakdown in Dallman Hall. Schroeter Circle Cabins 1-6 are mostly renovated. Alex also expanded on the idea of transforming the Country Store into a coffee shop. He projects revenue to meet and possibly exceed expenses at year end. He is also exploring the possibility of obtaining a liquor license, which should boost revenue, especially with respect to weddings. Wedding rates have been raised with three reservations already made at the higher rate.

The meeting continued with President Wicher describing the makeup, Three Phases, and workings of PRAT. Each phase was outlined. There are 22 members on PRAT. The first meeting was held on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Three committees were organized from the team. Each committee has tasks.

Mark Lambrecht, Chair of Committee 1, spoke more specifically about Phase Two – Committee 1's work. Also known as the Life-Boat Committee, this group is working to develop a sustainable financial model that will carry Pioneer to the time its new business-ministry model is operational.

President Wicher went into more detail on Phase Two – Committee 2's work to develop a new business-ministry model using Pioneer's current property and facilities or through a partial sale of Pioneer's property. Paul Marks, local Thrivent Representative, is chairing this committee. Gordon Tresch, a member of Committee 2, also described this committee's work thus far.

Phase Two – Committee 3's work is to develop a legacy fund assuming the sale of Pioneer's property. Dick Kraus chairs this committee. Bob Foerster updated the board on Committee 3's work to this point. They have spent much time praying that they won't have to do anything, but they have also discussed options if Pioneer is sold. Alex also shared his thoughts.

President Wicher described Phase Three: June PRAT core leaders discerning phase with the final proposal made on June 30<sup>th</sup>. The Implementation Phase will follow and this board may need to meet by conference call in July.

**M/2 to close the meeting as Pioneer Camp & Retreat Center, *passed*.**

**Meeting reopened as Eastern District Board of Directors**

**Bylaws and Regulations Draft Approval:** President Wicher handed out and described the ballot for President, Vice-President, Lay Delegate for next year's district convention. For purposes of the Lay Delegate positions, the regions are divided into two sections.

**President's Report Continued:** President Wicher highlighted his goals for 2014 and into next year.

**Bylaws and Regulations continued:** After all the meetings last fall, the committee met and suggestions received were woven into the document as submitted to the Board for this meeting. The document should be ready for consideration and approval at the next regular meeting in October, and perhaps even earlier electronically and by conference call.

**M/2 to retain Dopkins & Company, LLP as the auditor for the fiscal year beginning January 16, 2014, *passed*.**

**Board Self-Evaluation:** The board discussed how the meeting went...good, areas of improvement, policy work in the future.

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

**Closing Prayer [Karl Haeussler for Greg Tafel]:** Rev Karl led the Board in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

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