

**LCMC Board of Trustees**  
**January 25, 26 and 27, 2006**  
**Minutes**

**LCMC Board of Trustees - January 25, 26, & 27, 2006 – Eagan, MN**

*Present: Trustees Barry Anderson, Paul Braafladt, David Chancellor, Kirk Dean, Larry Lindstrom, Debra Lingen, Dennis Sandmann, Dale Wolf, Service Coordinator Bill Sullivan*

The trustees convened at 7:00 P.M. The trustees opened with prayer, and then welcomed Kirk Dean as our newest member of the board.

**M/S/P** To approve the minutes of the November 17 & 18, 2005 meeting of the board of trustees.

**M/S/P** To approve the minutes of the January 10, 2006 conference call meeting of the board of trustees.

Bill Sullivan presented the financial reports to the trustees. Contributions to the general fund are up in January. There has also been a slight increase in the Seminary Debt Relief and Mission Support funds.

**M/S/P** To accept the financial report.

Barry Anderson, David Chancellor, Deb Lingen, and Bill Sullivan met with Dr. Bill Hamel of the Evangelical Free Churches in America earlier in the day. They shared information on how that association functions and what LCMC might learn from the EFCA experience.

The board recessed at 9:15pm. The trustees reconvened at 8:00am, January 26. Bill Sullivan opened with devotions based on I Samuel 3:1-10.

Bill presented the Service Coordinator's report. December was relatively quiet, with less travel. A recent highlight was a meeting with Dr. Kent Hunter, touching particularly on training of pastors and planting mission congregations.

The trustees engaged in a discussion of how we can facilitate communication between districts, particularly how district ministry committees are functioning. They will recommend the Ministry Board add this topic to the agenda for the Leadership Conference.

**M/S/P** A letter to the districts shall be sent, advising them that before they consider approving an individual who seeks to be on the clergy list, the district contact the national office to determine whether the person is already listed.

Paul Braafladt discussed plans for his upcoming trip to nurture the relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Nicaragua.

**M/S/P** To reimburse Paul Braafladt for the expense of his airfare to Nicaragua in the amount of \$668.00.

Barry Anderson reported that he placed before the Lutheran Community of Grace congregation the need for transportation for the LCMC fellowships in Orissa, India. They have raised \$1400 that will be telegraphed to Rev. Nag for the purchase of a motorcycle, helmet, licensing fee, etc.

Gayle McCann and Britt Osterhues of Johnson McCann Benefits addressed the trustees on the LCMC Word Alone Health Plan. The dental plan remains with Delta Dental, with a September renewal date for the

association. Medical is offered through Blue Cross Blue Shield. She highlighted minor changes to the plan, which will be conveyed to participants. With a decline in claims over our 3-year history, a pooling credit, a benefit adjustment, a lower trend factor, even with blended claims due to our small size we will see an average 2% decrease when the plan renews May 1st. Gayle also presented information on Health Savings Account (HSA) options. Johnson McCann will send information on the HSA option to all LCMC and WordAlone congregations to gauge interest. Because Mutual of Omaha has come back with a competitive bid for Life/Accidental Death & Dismemberment plans that represents at least a 14% decrease in premiums, the plan will now offer benefits through that company rather than Met Life. An Optional Life and AD&D benefit also will once again be offered to see if there is enough interest in participation to offer that benefit.

**M/S/P** In conjunction with WordAlone, the LCMC trustees authorize:

now is the time for all

- that we move to the “blue tier” premium structure option of the medical plan as proposed by Johnson McCann; and

- that we move the Life/ Accidental Death & Dismemberment and the Long Term Disability Plans to coverage by Mutual of Omaha as proposed; and further

- that we authorize Johnson McCann to conduct a feasibility study on offering the Health Savings Account plans and the Optional Life and Accidental Death & Dismemberment plans to all members.

Due to conflicts with site availability, the November meeting of the trustees is changed to the 12<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup>.

The trustees discussed challenges related to being an international association, particularly in the area of governance, ministry standards, and pension and benefits plans. We are mindful of not imposing our standards on our international partners.

**M/S/P** To appoint Barry Anderson to draw up an appropriate bylaw language proposal specifying congregations outside North America as “partners” within the association and assigning governance rights to LCMC members in the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

The trustees engaged in a discussion about endowment building and agreed that the trustees have no authority to bestow exclusivity on services provided by individual entities.

Randy Freund of the WordAlone board joined the trustees and discussed areas of common interest, including the Lutheran Churches of the Common Confession and the proposed WordAlone house of studies.

The trustees discussed proposed modifications to the “General Expectations for Students Seeking a Certified Call in LCMC” that will be dealt with by the LCMC Board of Ministry.

**M/S/P** To direct the chair to compose a letter to all districts requesting statistical information on their membership, including a request for a list of member congregations, a list of the names of clergy each district has requested to be added to the LCMC list of clergy, a complete listing of the positions of district leadership and the names and contact information of the individuals holding those positions, and any known dates of district conferences or events.

**M/S/P** In light of the natural disasters impacting the area served by Peace Lutheran Church in Gulf Shores, AL, the association will forgive the \$5,000 loan made to that congregation.

Barry Anderson discussed initial draft recommendations regarding Guidelines for Board Members.

Discussion turned to plans for the April Leadership Conference.

The board recessed at 5:30pm. The board reconvened at 8:00am, January 27. Paul Braafladt opened with devotions on Judges 3:31.

The trustees turned their attention to arrangements for the national gathering in Albuquerque. Bill Sullivan recently spent two days with the planning team at Faith Lutheran Church and reported on plans in progress.

**M/S/P** Leadership Link is intended to be a resource allowing congregations to post open positions, and is not to be used as a vehicle to post resumes.

Known dates to remember:

now is the time for all good men  
April 23 -25 – Leadership Conference

April 25 (following Leadership Conference) & 26 – Board of trustees, Eagan, MN

May 5 & 6 – Northwest District gathering, Kellogg, ID

July 12- 14 – Board of trustees, Eagan (NOTE CHANGE OF DATE)

July 16-19 – ALC Annual Gathering

Sept 30 – Board of trustees, Albuquerque, NM (NOTE CHANGE OF DATE)

October 1 - 4 – LCMC Annual Gathering & Convention, Albuquerque, NM

November 12-14 – Board of Trustees, Eagan, MN (NOTE CHANGE OF DATE)

The trustees adjourned and closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Adams Lingen  
Secretary