

**LCMC Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**Minutes: February 5-6, 2004**  
**Omaha, Nebraska**

First Meeting—February 5, 2004

Trustees present: Dale Wolf, Larry Lindstrom, Lenae Rasmussen, Barry Anderson, Paul Braafladt, John Chatelain.

Also present: Bill Sullivan, NSC.

Meeting called to order by chairman Dale Wolf at 8:50 am.

Opening devotions by Barry Anderson.

Secretary's report was presented.

M/S/P to approve the minutes.

Treasurer's report was presented. John Chatelain provided reports for November and December.

M/S/P to accept the report.

John confirmed that the seminarian debt relief fund total of \$2,960.75 is all LCMC money (no WordAlone funds).

John then presented his proposal for hiring AMDG Services to provide a CPA audit for the calendar year 2003. Their annual fee will be \$3,750.

M/S/P to approve raising the authorized amount for the audit for the calendar year 2003 to \$3,750.

We discussed the costs of audits. Sharon explored working with AMDG, with a different Michigan firm, and with the Minnesota firm that has provided audits for WordAlone and LCMC.

M/S/P to enter into a contract with AMDG Services for an audit for calendar year 2003.

Bill presented his National Service Coordinator report. LCMC has 90 member churches at the present. Bill also emphasized the need for new congregations to send in subscription forms to the office as soon as possible.

Bill also reported on some of the most recent visitations he has made, including the Buffalo (NY) area. He will also be traveling to the San Antonio and Sun City (AZ) areas.

We discussed the issue of "dual rostering," congregations which are part of both ELCA and LCMC. While some individual bishops may argue that dual rostering is prohibited, there is nothing at the national level of ELCA to prohibit this step. And dual rostering gives many churches a chance to take "little steps," rather than forcing a major step.

We also discussed the issue of the districts' relationship to the association. In addition, we discussed the matter of our list of clergy and potential liability to the association for clergy misconduct. We need to emphasize that congregations are responsible for any background checks on pastoral candidates.

Lenae reported from the Seminary Debt Relief Fund committee.

M/S/P to allow an exception to the eligibility policy of the SDRF for Kristy Daniels and Nancy Harrmann so they can apply for grants from the SDRF.

M/S/P to allow an exception to the eligibility policy of the SDRF for Jill Bergman so she can apply for a grant from the SDRF, and approve her request for a \$2,500 grant.

Larry presented a matter from Fred Jensen of American Funds. He has welcomed new pastors who have monies in new American Fund accounts that he currently does not offer to other LCMC pastors. Fred has asked for Board approval to offer these funds to all LCMC pastors.

M/S/P that the Board of Trustees approve the recommendation that Fred Jensen offer three additional funds through the LCMC Pension Plan: New Perspective, Amcap, Capital World Growth and Income.

Bill presented the question of purchasing Workers' Compensation insurance.

M/S/P to purchase Workers' Compensation insurance for the LCMC office staff.

Bill then presented information from Gayle McCann of Johnson-McCann benefits. She reports that we will face a large percentage increase in coverage cost for 2004. She is exploring other options for the health plans we offer, as a way of containing our costs.

Barry reported on pension matters. He has conversed with Kathy Sukke and Brad Jensen about moving their pensions into the LCMC plan. Neither one is a pastor in LCMC. The Board discussed the issue of establishing a precedent for former ELCA pastors who want to move their pension monies into the LCMC fund to go through a district. Sukke and Jensen's request was referred to Augsburg Lutheran Churches for colloquy and subsequent approval as associate members of LCMC.

Bill presented issues related to the Web server. Sharon hosts the server in Michigan, but Robin Lake has asked to have access to the server as well.

M/S/P to approve access to the server for Robin Lake of the Northwest District. The Board also recommends that the association provide server space for remote access for districts and congregations.

Bill started a discussion about the LCMC discussion board, and an alternative set of guidelines submitted by John Fahning.

M/S/P to adopt John Fahning's proposed guidelines for the LCMCtalk discussion board, after omitting the second paragraph (which begins "LCMC also provides ...").

The Board has considered input from users of the listserv and appreciates the alternative offered by John. We welcome further comments as discussion on the listserv continues to unfold.

The meeting adjourned for lunch.

Second meeting—Thursday afternoon, February 4.

Chairman Dale Wolf called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. All from the morning session were in attendance. Dennis Sandmann joined us at about 3 pm. We were also joined at that time by the following members of the Ministry Board: Dave Drum, and Bob Nordvall; Kip Tyler and Mark Vander Tuig joined us around 5:00 p.m.

Convention planning:

Barry reported on the Malabar Mission Society, which his congregation sponsors. It is a Lutheran mission society in India, headed by a former Muslim who has converted to Christianity. He offered to explore the possibility of having Pastor Alawi of the Society come to the convention as a speaker.

Barry also mentioned the possibility of having Rick Warren (pastor of Saddleback Church) come as a speaker. Dale mentioned another of the pastors there, Lee Strobel. Strobel is the author of "The Case for Faith" and "The Case for Christ." He is a former reporter who worked to debunk the Christian story, then came to faith. Barry offered to explore the possibility of having either Warren or Strobel come to the convention as a speaker.

Dale reported on conversation with John Ortberg. He will be unable to attend the convention.

John presented information on "Lutherans for Life," which might be a good organization to highlight for a breakout session.

Convention (better word: Gathering) Agenda: Bill presented a copy of last year's convention agenda, to begin conversation. This year's convention will be October 3-5, 2004, at Atonement Lutheran Church in Fargo, North Dakota.

The opening night should feature a worship service.

"Three Guys from North Dakota" will be available, and perhaps Monday evening would be a good time slot for that.

One priority mentioned was more fellowship time. On Sunday, the schedule could be as follows: registration (4 to 6), dinner (on your own), worship (beginning at 7), then fellowship time (8:30 or so to 10). The opening night preacher should be an LCMC pastor. Lenae suggested John Fahning. The service should include a freewill offering, designated for some recipient. That recipient should be identified beforehand.

Worship planning: Bill has asked a one-man band in Charlotte, NC to come and present music. Dale offered his church's worship people for whatever needed. Atonement will be asked to plan and lead the opening worship service.

Monday: the wild-game dinner/picnic could be held outdoors (weather permitting), with the radio show to follow indoors.

Finish the business of the day by 4 pm. Plan free time from 4 to 6 pm. Then the picnic and show will fill the evening. Following the show, consider doing fireworks.

Breakout session ideas:

- 1) One-man band from Charlotte, NC.
- 2) Lutherans for Life
- 3) The sexual healing ministry from the church in Upper Arlington, Columbus
- 4) Weekday program for children—Atonement can show what they do.
- 5) District plans and upcoming programs: youth, women, leadership
- 6) District information: short presentation by each district
- 7) House of Studies (and other seminary options?)
- 8) International Partners updates
- 9) Ministry Standards and Challenges discussion (especially rural ministry challenges)
- 10) Discipleship—as it happens in local congregations (see #12)
- 11) Bible study—perhaps an evaluation/discussion of Alpha
- 12) Congregational resources—people that are doing interesting things.
- 13) The call process and interviews—questions to ask and things to look for.
- 14) A clean break, a new beginning (leaving the ELCA)—how the process has worked in various churches
- 15) Worship and Music—resources and options
- 16) 40 days of purpose—if Rick Warren comes to the convention.

Tuesday: feedback from conventioners indicated that we should either drop Tuesday from the schedule or go longer. If Monday's schedule is shorter, then we will need more time on Tuesday for business.

Dale suggested Kent Groethe as a Bible study leader. He leads the Lutheran version of "Walk Through the Bible." Other possibilities: Edy Bickford, Paul and Renee Spaulding. The Bible studies could be done by 4 different people, or by 1 person doing all 4.

Lenae updated the Board on the July gathering of Augsburg Lutheran Churches at "The Old Sanctuary" in Brookings, South Dakota. It will begin on Sunday evening, July 25, with a worship service open to the public and conclude with worships and fireworks on Wednesday evening, July 28, 2004.

Discussion of new LCMC congregations: each Board member was aware of at least one church in their area that is planning to join LCMC. Board members are encouraged to remind churches in their area to complete and mail their LCMC subscription form to the office in Canton.

The Board discussed what to do in cases of clergy misconduct with the ministry board. How shall districts deal with these cases? What role will the LCMC ministry board have with the districts in these cases? We need legal advice, and spiritual care for all concerned. The ultimate responsibility lies with the congregation: background checks, monitoring questionable situations, etc. Being an association implies decentralization and districts are responsible for the colloquy process, but we should try to provide accountability (minimal standards) across the districts. Accurate records should be kept to protect all concerned.

Mark Vander Tuig reported on plans for the national youth gathering this summer.

The Board adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Third Meeting—Friday, February 6

Trustees present: Dale Wolf, Larry Lindstrom, Paul Braafladt, Dennis Sandmann, John Chatelain, Lenae Rasmussen.

Also present: Bill Sullivan, NSC.

Chairman Dale Wolf called the meeting to order at 8:40 am. Devotions given by John Chatelain.

Convention matters (continued from yesterday):

Dale will bring information to the next meeting about space considerations at Atonement. Mission churches need special encouragement to attend the convention. At the district level, we need to encourage every congregation to attend. All ELCA churches in the Fargo area need a direct invitation to attend. Paul asked about making a video of highlights from last year's convention, which could be sent to all churches in VHS format as a way of publicizing this year's.

M/S/P to authorize the expenditure of \$2,000 for promotional material for the 2004 national convention.

Discussion followed on the next mass mailing to ELCA churches. It should be sent out after the Sexuality Study report is mailed. Our target audience is the pastor of each church. The letter should focus on the pastor's concerns: mobility, pension, health care, etc. Paul mentioned the possibility of tracking down lay leaders in the churches through public records. Raising the funds to pay for this project could be done through districts and the member congregations in them. Bill offered to check into the price (and value) of running a half-page ad in USA Today, publicizing the national convention.

Dale emphasized that any mailing to the ELCA not emphasize our growth at the expense of ELCA churches. We are not looking to "steal churches." This mailing needs to emphasize the opportunities

that we hope to explore. (positive vs. negative slant) This first mailing should indicate that we are an alternative to the ELCA. Our challenge is to find a positive way to say that.

Lenae reported that Claus Harms House is applying for Thrivent monies.

Newsletter concerns:

Bill reported Deb's deadline of February 10 for articles.

Dale offered to write a "chairman's piece."

Bill offered to write about congregations he has visited with and new member congregations. We will need to publicize the Leadership Conference (April 25-27). We will also need an article on the increase in cost for health care coverage, as well as a report on the new funds offered for LCMC pension. An article updating the plans for the convention would be good. A congregational profile on Peace, Gulf Shores would be helpful. We will also need articles on the international mission work: Haiti (School Feeding Project), and Mexico. Roger Lindner may have an article on Lutheran Men. (Roger Lindner) An article on Women of the Word might be usable.

We definitely need an article on the national youth gathering. (Chris Magnell)

Future meeting dates: rest of 2004

April 24-25 in Omaha, prior to the Leadership Event. Meeting will begin Saturday afternoon at 2 pm and should end Sunday afternoon (before the Conference). July 15-16 in Eagan. October 2-3 in Fargo, prior to the national convention. December 2-3 in Eagan.

Dale reported meeting with Morningside Lutheran Church in Sioux City, Iowa about a ministry program for Asians in their community. The program is sponsored by MLC, the ELCA, and some synods. Their bishop suggests that this ministry may be put in financial jeopardy. Dale has written them to say that we will try to work with them if that financial backing is withdrawn.

The Harbor on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, has offered to host a board meeting next winter, providing host families in place of hotel lodging. This might be an option for February or later in 2005.

Dale asked about the necessity for bi-monthly meetings. We may want to explore a quarterly schedule in the future.

Dale asked about increasing Sharon's salary. Dale contacted St. Michael's and they approved Sharon being full time with LCMC.

M/S/P to increase Sharon MacFadyen's salary by 3 percent, beginning March 1, 2005.

We were joined at 10:30 by some of the members of the Ministry Board: Dave Drum, Kip Tyler, Mark Vander Tuig, and Bob Nordvall.

Kip reported on the Leadership Conference. The goal for individual cost is \$215, but significant underwriting will be needed. Thrivent may be an option here.

The Ministry Board has developed a schedule for the event, and hopes to have that information to Bill later this month. There may be other meetings taking place around this Conference: Trustees, Ministry Board, and district gatherings.

Ministry Standards: the Board views the colloquy as primarily a district matter and the call as primarily a congregational matter.

Writing team: the Ministry Board has decided not to pursue this project at the moment, due to a lack of clarity as to what we want the document about ministry to say. We had earmarked \$5,000 for this project.

M/S/P to use the \$5,000 to help underwrite the cost of the Leadership Conference in April.

Kip Tyler, chair of the Ministry Board, reported on several items the board had discussed, including rostering issues and "need to know" sharing of information with congregations of the association.

Future agenda item: we need to have a place to store information on ministry matters, especially confidential information. District and national offices need to coordinate somehow in this record-keeping process.

Lenae presented a request from Claus Harms House to be recognized by LCMC, which would help their application to Thrivent for funding. The Ministry Board agreed to add Claus Harms House to the list of seminaries with whom we have a conversational relationship.

M/S/P that the Board of Trustees accept the Ministry Board's recommendation that Claus Harms House be added to the LCMC list (see the minutes from the Dec. 2003 mtg).

Lenae presented a request for re-development monies from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Florence, Alabama. Augsburg Lutheran Churches is working to line up mission partners to support this effort. Their request will be passed along to the Mission Committee (Larry, Robin Lake, and Lenae) who will bring a recommendation to the Board. The Mission Committee will outline a written procedure for requests and post it on the website to help churches be aware of our application procedure. Dale asked that future requests for such funding come to the Board in writing.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 am.