

LCMC Board of Trustees Meeting
Minutes: March 7 & 8, 2002
Eagan, MN

NOTE: MINUTES appear in black; COMMENTARY in red italics. The COMMENTARY merely reflects general discussions of issues. It is not meant to indicate board action or approval. Rather, it is an attempt to provide current information to our membership in abbreviated summary form.

Board members in attendance: Barry Anderson, Robin Lake, Bill Sullivan, Dave Drum, Kevin Cramer, Deb Lingen, Dennis Sandmann

Treasurer : John Chatelain. Dale Wolf, Chair of Ministry Standards and Ordination Procedures joined us late in the afternoon.

The meeting was called to order at 8:15.

Dave Drum opened with devotions and prayer.

The chair, Barry Anderson, reported on the progress of the health plan and the pension plan, and that a conference call had been scheduled with Gayle McCann for later in the board meeting.

M/S/P – To approve the minutes of the January board meeting as previously distributed.

Executive Director Robin Lake reported he has signed necessary documents to accomplish the pension plan rollovers for several people.

The board discussed duties an executive director will be expected to manage, including dissemination of information and management of membership information.

The board expressed its thanks to Robin for all his effort on getting the lcmc.net web site up and running-and looking great! Robin noted that there is still a great deal of information yet to be posted and it is an ongoing effort. One feature of the new web site is "The Back Page," a site for our membership to post editorials and opinions, and to generate discussion. To ensure clarity of purpose, the board asked Robin to post a statement of purpose on the page.

The board moved into a discussion of convention plans. Dennis Sandmann, chair of the convention committee, provided information on registration, menus, and agenda. The board agreed that if a member congregation finds registration costs for the convention prohibitive they will be directed to contact Robin Lake.

Discussion of the convention was tabled when Anne Gleason arrived and the group moved into a discussion of financials.

M/S/P – The board ratified board expenses disbursed in February for January 2002.

The board authorized Barry to contact Jaynan Eglund and Word Alone to work out a proposal regarding how office staff expenses are allocated and disbursed.

Barry explained the legal expenses regarding property issues.

John and Anne presented the proposed budget for fiscal year 2002.

M/S/P – LCMC will delay purchase of a separate postal permit.

NOTE: We are eligible to use the WA permit until such time as we have a separate office address.

Dave will contact Kathy Sandmann, editor of the LCMC newsletter, for information on the bids for the informational mailing to all ELCA member congregations on the Word Alone mailing list.

M/S/P – To approve the budget proposal fiscal year 2002 for presentation to the convention.

The board discussed how best to update our membership on stewardship needs. LCMC does not have requirements for financial support and is not a "top down" style of organization, but we also need our members to be contributing on a regular basis in order for the association to survive and thrive and get our message out to more people.

Anne reported on her portion of the convention plans. The formula for convention delegates was reiterated: every member congregation is entitled to 2 delegates. Those congregations whose average worship attendance exceeds 500 are entitled to one additional delegate for every additional 250 worshippers.

Convention books will be assembled by a team that Dennis will recruit. Deb Lingen will design a cover and send it to Kathy, and a name tag and will provide it to Anne. Anne will have all information for the books to Dennis by April 1.

The board moved back into a discussion of Dennis' work on the plans for the convention.

Barry will assemble a constitution committee by April 1.

Dennis will contact Tony Stoutenburg and request that he serve again as Credentials Committee chair and assemble a committee.

Barry will see that an updated copy of the constitution and bylaws to Dennis by April 1.

Dennis will confirm arrangements to tape the plenary sessions.

Dennis will request financial reports and budget from Anne for inclusion in the convention packet.

Written committee reports will be requested. Dennis will contact Tim Baglien for the Seminary Debt Relief Fund committee (SDRF); Dave will prepare a Communications committee report; Bill Sullivan will prepare the Congregational Recruitment Task Force report; Barry will prepare Membership and Discipline; Dale Wolf will provide Ministry Standards & Ordination Procedures, as well as Theological Advisory; John Chatelain will prepare the Stewardship report as a portion of the financial report and budget presentation. Dennis will request written reports from the three mission congregations. Reports will be due to Dennis by April 1.

Verbal reports will be presented on the SDRF and from Dale on candidacy and ministry issues.

The board authorized Barry to assemble the Membership and Discipline committee.

Barry suggested we appoint members to an Election Procedures committee, requesting volunteers from the delegates, with the goal to prepare a report to the 2003 convention. The board concurred.

Districts will be given reporting time during the Sunday afternoon plenary. Kevin Cramer will arrange for mission congregations to be included in the Dynamic Prayer portion of the opening session.

The convention will elect two board members at the 2002 convention. The seats up for re-election are those currently held by Barry Anderson and Kevin Cramer.

The board discussed potential locations for the 2003 convention. The by-laws require that we hold the annual convention by June 30; after much discussion the following motion was presented:

M/S/P – To recommend to the convention the following language in Bylaw Section 6.04 be deleted: "... but shall, in any event occur no later than June 30 of each year." The purpose of this recommendation is to permit a fall convention.

The board authorized Bill to contact potential host sites targeting October 5-7 as the preferred dates, with the following weekend as a second choice.

The board suspended its convention planning to have a conference call with Gayle McCann regarding the LCMC/WA insurance plan. Commitments have been obtained from 12 congregations; 4 are still looking very closely at the plan. Two smaller congregations may still be potential users. Confirmed enrollment is approximately 50 at this time, with the potential for approximately 40 more from those looking closely. All the congregations who have expressed interest have received initial information packets; Gayle's office is putting together the final enrollment packet for the confirmed members and they anticipate those packets will be sent out by tomorrow, March 8th. Target date for rollout is still April 1. The network LCMC is using is the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Traditional Network, which is larger than the PPO Network offered through the ELCA.

The pension plan is in place and pastors who are off the ELCA clergy roster may roll into the LCMC/WA plan by completing the appropriate paperwork.

The board resumed its discussion of convention plans. Barry will arrange the opening and "Welcome" portion of the convention, working through Anne and requesting a representative of North Heights be present and offer a brief opening prayer. Time frames on the convention agenda were specifically mapped out.

Kevin will arrange for the opening hymn sing, to begin at 1:45.

Robin will provide a proposed map of the areas for the election.

Robin will ask Josh Misner to provide a Word Alone Youth (W.A.Y.) update during the Monday morning plenary session.

Deb will ask Kip Tyler to have Church of the Master plan a 20 minute presentation on Mexico Mission for the 11:15 breakout session, and to be prepared to help Dale facilitate a discussion among attendees on the mission opportunities offered by other member congregations.

Deb will host the Mission breakout, Barry will cover the Pension and Benefits as well as the Legal. It was later decided that Dale would handle the Alternative Seminary breakout.

Barry reiterated the importance of having a successful convention, maximizing attendance. He reminded the board we should promote it whenever and wherever possible. Barry will contact Meg Madsen about publicizing it at the seminaries and will put a notice in the Metro Lutheran. John suggested placing an ad in the Metro Lutheran. We agreed that every effort should be made to get the ELCA mailing in the next two weeks.

Due to schedule conflicts in June and July, we agreed to postpone a decision on meeting until we have results from the Request For Proposal on the executive director position and location of the office.

Robin will arrange for a conference call to take place on Monday, May 20 at 8:00pm CDT.

Dave introduced the idea of how LCMC congregations might work with other Lutheran groups such as AFLC and AALC. He has been having conversations with local members of those groups to plan some joint activities.

Dale Wolf joined us and reported on his visit to Luther Seminary. He met with Dr. Tiede before coming to the board meeting. Part of the discussion included concerns over the decision to not allow the LCMC board to officially publicize a meeting with students. Dale believes he was able to communicate LCMC's focus on mission so that Dr. Tiede has a better understanding that mission is the focus of our association.

Dale also spent some time this morning at North Heights connecting with people involved with the Master's Institute, a program that seeks to train church leaders, and also in discussing issues with some of the people involved with Lutheran Renewal.

The board discussed alternatives to traditional seminary requirements as well as ordination and ministry standards.

Dale is developing the LCMC mobility list of clergy who have already followed the traditional route to ordination. He anticipates there will be requests by some to be included on an additional list who have followed an alternative route. The board also discussed extensively the list of LCMC clergy and the implications of having such a list. Dale reported that Lenae Rasmussen has contacted Lutheran Brethren and they are willing to act as the endorsing agent for military chaplains on behalf of LCMC.

The board recessed at 5:40.

The board reconvened at 8:10am.

Dale resumed leading the discussion of ministry and ordination and call process issues. He reiterated that we encourage the use of Clergy Connect, and he has begun the process of assembling a mobility list of pastors with the approbation of the board. In the long run we will need a paid staff person to manage this process. While recognizing that we are open to alternative routes to ordination, Dale counseled that we must take great care in examining each circumstance and this entire issue very closely.

Dale pointed out that we need to consider seriously the question of oversight and all its implications.

Points of discussion included:

*Who is on "the List"?
"traditional" only;
"anyone" seeking call;*

*only mobility list;
communicate?*

*Role of Ordination / Ministry Standards committee?
role of Ord/M.S. in future?*

How much & what type of help do we provide congregation?

a. Dave suggested providing a call packet to congregations that request our mobility list. In it we might provide some basic information on how to go about the process of call, sample interview questions a congregation may wish to ask, and a letter clearly reminding the congregation that they bear responsibility for diligence in checking a candidate's qualifications before issuing a call.

4. Oversight?

5. Liability?

Core Values?

how do we define "ordination"?

list or not list?

"boot camp" to provide basics of confessions? / mentors?

Underlying it all: What does it mean to be Lutheran?

Where do we go from here?

Dale is maintaining the Mobility List for now

Robin is updating and will maintain the list of member congregations, including affiliations and the pastors who serve them

Dave volunteered to help put together the information packet

Dale will reconvene a group to handle these issues and will attempt to arrange a meeting prior to the convention as authorized below:

M/S/P – Reasonable expenses associated with a meeting of the Ministry Standards committee will be reimbursed.

Dale agreed to moderate the Alternative Seminary breakout session at the convention, and will take over contacts with the participants.

The board initiated a conference call with Kathy Sandmann. The first newsletter has been mailed. Kathy will send an email to board members reminding them to send ideas for stories for the next newsletter. Kathy provided an updated estimate of approximately \$4000 for the mailing to all ELCA congregations on the WA mailing list. The board agreed to authorize using Master Graphics, the vendor Kathy proposed. Deb will provide the corrected Q & A brochure, the What Is LCMC brochure, and the updated convention flyer in .pdf format. Barry will provide the cover letter. The mailing is to go out as soon as possible.

M/S/P – The board authorized expenses to Master Graphics and the postmaster for the mass mailing to all ELCA congregations on the Word Alone mailing list.

The board discussed the recommendation of last year's convention to establish a Theological Advisory Board. The Ministry Standards group will take up the issue when they meet prior to the convention.

Barry reports that all concerns over the logo have been resolved.

Robin will provide William Scott's contact information to Bill.

Clergy Connect is being maintained by Word Alone. Robin will contact Randy Lee about establishing a link from the LCMC web site. Dave will contact Kathy and ask her to place notices in the newsletter.

Board members will meet at 3:00pm Saturday April 27 to handle last minute convention details.

Due to impending inclement weather, the board adjourned at 10:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Lingen

Secretary