

LCMC Board of Trustees Meeting
Minutes: April 27, 2002
Shoreview, MN

NOTE: DRAFT 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 present: Barry Anderson, Bill Sullivan, Dave Drum, Robin Lake, Dennis Sandmann, Kevin Cramer, Debra Lingen

Also present: John Chatelain (Treasurer) Dale Wolf (Chairman, Ministry Standards), Kip Tyler (Ministry Standards), Lenae Rasmussen, Marc Windahl (Ministry Standards), Bob & Marie Herbon, Jeff Mansour

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM. Devotions were presented by Pastor Dale Wolf, followed by group prayer.

Jeff Mansour updated the board about Sola Scriptura, an LCMC mission congregation in Michigan. The congregation is very grateful for what has been offered in support. They feel the need for a greater connection to the other members of the association beyond financial support, however. They are still in need of a pastor, and are asking for more help and guidance as they conduct this search and try to grow into their mission. Bob Herbon requested we consider canvassing LCMC for members who have mission start experience to help guide the newest groups.

Bill Shafer of the auditing firm Cornell, Kahler, presented his report for the period ending December 31, 2001. He expressed the opinion that for a start-up organization LCMC is in pretty good shape financially. The audit is on record and available upon request.

M/S/P – Accept and enter the 2001 audit report from Cornell, Kahler as presented.

The Ministry Committee met Friday, April 26 and Saturday, April 27. A draft report (see attached) was presented by Dale Wolf.

The board expressed its gratitude to Pastor Dale Wolf, Professor Michael Rogness, Pastor Kip Tyler, Pastor John Beem, Marc Windahl, Pastor Joe Burgess, and Pastor Bill Sullivan for all the effort and thought put into their work on the Ministry Board report.

M/S/P – To adopt the revised Ministry Committee Report as an interim document.

Lenae Rasmussen reported on chaplaincy issues, endorsement agent issues, and her visit to the Lutheran Brethren seminary in Fergus Falls, MN. The Lutheran Brethren have agreed to act as an interim endorsing agency for chaplains on behalf of LCMC and ALD because the Department of Defense is no longer chartering any new endorsing agents.

M/S/P – To approve using the Church of the Lutheran Brethren as the military endorsing agent for LCMC members, and further to authorize Lenae Rasmussen to act as our contact in making these arrangements.

M/S/P – Minutes of the last board meeting were approved as written.

M/S/P – To accept the treasurer's report as presented by John Chatelain.

Lenae Rasmussen, on behalf of ALD, stated that they want to send fundraising letters in conjunction with the LCMC board to raise funds for mission support, and then report up to the national association so those funds can be included in the overall reporting of funds raised. The concept is that the fundraising letter would specifically state whom the recipients would be, and the appeal would be to specifically ask the donor to send the contribution directly to the mission start. Recipients of the fund would be expected to regularly report on their progress.

M/S/P – To issue a joint call for support of mission congregations, with the call to be executed by LCMC and as many districts as wish to join in the call for support.

M/S/P – To authorize the ALD to handle the mechanics of preparing and sending out the fundraising mailer with a cover letter on LCMC letterhead prepared by Pastor Mark Jamison and signed by representatives of all other LCMC districts that choose to participate; to authorize ALD to act as the paying agent; and further to authorize \$250.00 from the national association to help defray the costs of this mailing.

Final convention update was provided by Dennis Sandmann.

M/S/P – The next annual convention of the association will be held at October 5 - 7, 2003 at St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Canton, MI.

Barry Anderson reported on the action of the Word Alone board on the Seminary Debt Relief Fund committee report.

M/S/P – To accept the suggestion of the Word Alone board of trustees to reword the following paragraph in the draft proposal of the LCMC/WAN Joint Committee for the Seminary Debt Relief Fund as follows:

"Under normal circumstances the maximum amount of a grant should be \$5,000. Under circumstances of extreme need and minimal church resources, upon approval of the LCMC/WA Boards, the committee may exceed this amount by up to 25%, for a maximum grant of \$6,250."

To read:

"The maximum amount of a grant should be \$5000."

M/S/P – To instruct the LCMC/WAN Joint Committee for the Seminary Debt Relief Fund to come back to the LCMC board of trustees with a long range fund for the plan specifically considering whether separate administration of the funds should be established.

Dennis Sandmann, Bill Sullivan, and John Chatelain excused themselves, as did the other observers. The remaining five board members went into executive session to discuss procedural issues related to the process of hiring an executive director. It was determined that those five members would continue the procedural discussion after the convention. No action was taken on a location or the hiring of an executive director at this time.

The board adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra
Secretary

Adams

Lingen

Attachment: Ministry Committee - Draft Report

Ministry Committee Draft Report - April 27, 2002

Members of the committee: Pastor Dale Wolf (Committee Chairman), Pastor Bill Sullivan (Vice Chairman, LCMC Board of Trustees), Pastor John Beem, Pastor Joseph Burgess, Professor Michael Rogness, Pastor Kip Tyler, Marc Windahl

1. It is crucial to matters of ministry that districts be developed. In our structure, districts are more important than the national office. The majority of ministry decisions lie in the hands of districts.

2. A national "coordinator" should serve as a clearinghouse as well as be that person who articulates who/what LCMC is.

3. The National coordinator should maintain ministry lists:

A. List of ordained clergy serving LCMC congregations. You must make a request to not be on the list if you are serving an LCMC congregation.

B. List of congregations, people serving in ministry positions and congregational officers (with addresses).

C. List of pastors interested in moving and/or serving an LCMC congregation. When the list grows it will need refining to better aid the congregations. Limited paperwork:

- | | | |
|----|---|--------------|
| a. | | Name |
| b. | | Education |
| c. | Ministry | experience |
| d. | | Salary |
| e. | | Restrictions |
| f. | Initial information I would like a call committee to know about me. | |

D. List of congregations looking for pastors - placed on our web page and available from the office. Should differentiate if the congregation is LCMC or both LCMC/ELCA.

E. Any list of pastors sent to a congregation must have a disclaimer - the congregation is responsible for investigating the pastoral candidates. More than one name should always be sent to a congregation for liability reasons and so that the congregation understands that LCMC is in no way suggesting a pastoral candidate.

F. Clearinghouse - networking. Particularly in district development and/or sharing resources between districts (conflict resolution and misconduct - see below).

G. Cooperative machinery - vehicle for mission

H. Position - "Coordinator" - split into discrete functions to avoid "creep of Bishop."

I. Help for call committees, especially regarding questions for pastoral interviews must be developed.

4. Districts

A. Find organizations/people to deal with congregations in conflict. May be a church or non-church organization.

B. Find organization/people to deal with clergy misconduct. Develop a process to advocate for pastors and congregations. Again, may be a church or non-church organization.

The LCMC Board needs to deal with this more in depth – soon!

C. Ministry Committee

- a. Candidacy process. Traditionally three standards:
 - 1. Education
 - 2. Examination
 - 3. Call
- b. Seminarian support - "mentoring"
- c. Process decisions
 - 1. Psychological testing
 - 2. CPE
 - 3. Internship
 - 4. Luther requirement of study
 - 5. Approval for ordination
 - 6. Letter of endorsement - met educational requirements

5. Ministry board

A. At this time we recommend that LCMC require psychological testing for liability reasons. We do not make this recommendation because we believe such testing has necessarily guaranteed pastors without psychological problems.

B. Discipline - The Ministry Board believes that the Ministry Board naturally may serve as the first stop for matters of discipline, whether congregational or pastoral. Such matters would be forwarded to the LCMC Board and ratified by the LCMC convention.

C. Develop procedures, policy, relate to and when necessary conduct colloquies for pastors coming from other denominations or for non-Lutheran seminaries.

D. Rewrite Vision and Expectations for our ministry standards

Other discussion

1. There was lengthy discussion regarding the use of ELCA seminaries and the Ministry Board's openness and encouragement of alternative ways to train leaders/pastors in the future.

2. LCMC coordinator should develop a form letter of call. The letter should be signed by the congregational president and the district head. If no district, it could be signed by the LCMC Board chair or Ministry Board chair. (The purpose of a district or LCMC representative signing is not for approval, but rather to symbolically show that pastors/congregations are interconnected in LCMC).

3. Ordination certificate should be provided, signed by the president of the congregation, the district head and LCMC chairperson. (See purpose of signing in #2 above).

4. Further development of the colloquy process is necessary.

5. Discussion was held regarding the theological advisory committee. Conclusions:

A. A pool of theologians for guidance and teaching is necessary.

B. Intentional planning should go into events for pastoral growth/renewal. Focus on the theological Lutheran identity of LCMC.

6. This board needs to meet again.