

LCMC Board of Trustees
November 19 - 21, 2008
Minutes

LCMC Board of Trustees
Bloomington, MN

Present: Trustees Paul Braafladt, Kirk Dean, Anne Gran, Becky Lee, Larry Lindstrom, Chris Magnell, Sue McKenzie, John Waak, Service Coordinator Bill Sullivan, Director of Operations/Financial Secretary Sharon MacFadyen.

Guests: Warren Baker, Kent Wallace, Lee Harder, Jaynan Eglund, Steve King, Paul Spaulding

Chairman Larry Lindstrom called the meeting to order at 3:10 P.M CT. Bill Sullivan opened with devotions and prayer based on the text from Psalm 46.

M/S/P To approve the minutes of the trustees meeting of July 16-18, 2008 as presented.
 To approve the minutes of the trustees meeting of September 27, 2008 as presented.
 To approve the minutes of the trustees meeting of October 1, 2008 as presented.

Kirk Dean presented the treasurer's report referring the trustees to the summary prepared by Sharon MacFadyen. The overall financial picture for 2008 looks relatively positive as congregations continue to increase donations. Expenses have been increasing as the economy has weakened, however, the increases in congregation donations have helped alleviate the effects to LCMC. The report also included information on the Annual Gathering. The final costs have not been received. The participant numbers were lower than anticipated and the expenses appear to be as anticipated. The funds from Thrivent will be utilized and should cover all of the expenses over income as the final numbers are received.

M/S/P To approve the treasurer's report as presented.

Bill Sullivan presented the Service Coordinator's report. He shared his thoughts on the situation in the New York Synod and the hostility toward smaller congregations. He also shared his thoughts on the Annual Gathering. The board will discuss that further in the agenda.

The board discussed the Annual Gathering evaluations. Bill noted that as Annual Gatherings have gone, this year received the most positive response as content is concerned. Overall the evaluations were positive. Bill also noted that some of the discontent is a result of not being able to please all people. Bill suggested responding to one of the evaluations. Larry Lindstrom will contact that person to address their concern.

The board then turned to the report provided by Faith L C. The board looked at the concerns that were raised by the staff at Faith and discussed the best ways to handle some of them. The board asked that the vendors receive a letter next year advising them of the expectations for their participation. Bill suggested adding a page at the beginning of the Annual Gathering book next year including tips and suggestions for guests.

M/S/P To revise registration at the Annual Gathering to have an early bird registration discount for registrations received up to one month prior to the gathering.

Anne Gran shared some information on a guest that was invited to attend the gathering by their congregation. She asked how, if, the board would screen or legitimize international visitors. The board discussed how this is a recurring issue and that it is difficult to vet those types of visitors. Anne suggested that the board have some regulations on how visitors are given access to the whole assembly.

Paul Braafladt shared his thoughts on digital photography at the gatherings. He noted that the suggestion was made that the host church be responsible for digital images in the future. He felt that was a good suggestion and that we should consider it for 2009. Becky Lee suggested restructuring the Wednesday schedule to move closing worship earlier for 2009 as well.

The trustees recessed at 5:20 P.M CT. for the evening and closed in prayer.

The trustees reconvened at 8:10 A.M CT. Sue McKenzie opened with devotions and prayer based on Isaiah 55.

Larry Lindstrom began the board discussion on the 2009 Annual Gathering. The board discussed possible themes. Several suggestions were made including "A Living Letter from Christ", "On Eagles' Wings", "The Way, The Truth, The Life", "Beside Still Waters" ("Troubled Water or Still Waters?"), "The Future, with Hope", "Come to the Waters".

The board decided that the theme for the 2009 Annual Gathering will be "The Invitation" Isaiah 55:1 .. Come to the waters all who are thirsty... Possible invitations that were suggested: receive (1-5), repent/reject (6-9), reclaim/rejoice (10-13).

The board discussed the following people for Bible study leaders: Mark Vander Tuig, Gib Botten, Renee Kowlessar, and Shelley Prentice. The board then turned to possible key note speakers. They discussed Efrem Smith, Craig Groeschel, Roland Wells, Harry Wendt, Rob Bell, Mark Driscoll, Gary Haugen. Board members were chosen to contact the potential speakers. The board will reconvene via conference call December 11 at 4 PM CT to discuss the responses and finalize choices.

Larry suggested that we invite Tom Lovan to speak as an international guest. Chris Magnell suggested that we invite Enrique Estrada to speak as well. Becky Lee suggested inviting Juan Vazquez to bring a musical offering. Chris also suggested the Blessman Medical organization as an international guest. Paul Braafladt also offered an invitation to Michael Birnbaum.

Becky suggested having Dale Wolf preach at the opening worship. Sharon MacFadyen suggested Paul Braafladt to preach at the closing worship.

The trustees turned their attention to Pension and Medical matters. Sharon discussed the changes to the pension administration and how that has been progressing. She noted that the transition time will extend into the first quarter of 2009. Larry shared a letter from a pastor in LCMC who has recently retired and has experienced the transition from our health insurance plan. Bill Sullivan shared some of the information that Gayle McCann gave him regarding BCBS. The end result is that we will have to stand as we are to maintain our coverage. Kirk Dean suggested inviting Gayle McCann to the Leadership Conference for further discussion on this issue. Chris suggested having a breakout at the Annual Gathering for retiring pastors.

Bill Sullivan discussed some of the issues we have experienced in insuring the districts and the difficulty in providing uniform coverage. The largest issue relates to the sexual misconduct piece of the insurance. Chris suggested that we bring the issues of the districts to the Annual Gathering for review.

Kent Wallace, Warren Baker and Lee Harder joined the board to discuss the Shalom Team. This is a team that was formed 13 months ago as a conflict resolution group. Warren Baker shared that this is a team established for the purpose of helping congregations resolve conflict to restore peace, foster forgiveness and above all seek the power and wisdom of the Holy Spirit. The Shalom Team sends out teams of three pastors to assess a situation and eventually offer a solution back to the congregation. Warren suggested that we need to provide assistance to congregations for this type of situation. The team does not have a charge, with the exception of expenses. Paul suggested that the team be expanded to include people from other geographic areas. Larry will send an official response to their presentation.

The trustees turned their attention to the Resolution on Church Planting. Larry noted that there were two separate issues presented. One was funding and the second was the task force and what we desire of them. Eric Hulstrand suggested that there may need to be hierarchical to create accountability. The suggestion was also made to create a "mission district" to plant the churches. Chris noted that we should put together a list of questions to pose to the committee to answer.

Suggested names for the task force were Doyle Karst, David Chancellor, Bill Kieke, Al Leadaman, Eric Hulstrand, Steve Ernst, Rich Gregory, Kirk Dean, Perry Petersen, Paul Eddy, and Renee Spaulding.

M/S/P The board appoints Bill Kieke as Chair and Paul Eddy, Renee Spaulding, Eric Hulstrand, Doyle Karst and Janelle Hoffman as the Task Force on Church Planting.

The board agreed to ask the Task Force to focus on the following ideas:

Domestic mission plants, models for mission plants, funding of mission plants, models that focus on reaching the "unchurched", discussion with the E Free church planters

The board also suggested the following names as resources: E Free church planters, Kirk Dean, Perry Peterson, Rich Gregory, and Steve Ernst.

The board reviewed the agenda and began discussing the upcoming meeting with the Ministry Board. The board noted they needed to discuss issues regarding the Shalom Team and colloquy that had come up during the meeting. The board needs to clarify that the colloquy process needs to be uniform in all cases. Paul asked that a request be made to make a report to the trustees monthly on who has been added to the clergy roster. Larry also noted we should mention our invitation to Gayle McCann for the Leadership Conference. The board discussed possible additions to the Ministry Board which included April Dietz and Mark Gibbs.

The board was joined by Jaynan Eglund and Steve King of WordAlone Network. Jaynan shared the perspective and direction of WordAlone. The WordAlone is looking at the future and where they are going next. She noted that there is an ongoing reshuffling of the Lutheran map in America. She felt that we are at a critical time. She expressed a desire for LCMC to benefit from the movement within the mainline denomination. She felt that there were many more congregations looking for a new direction now than even one year ago. Paul shared his perspective from an LCMC point of view. He noted that LCMC has moved past the thought of reformation within the ELCA. Steve shared his experience as a WordAlone Network member who became a member after LCMC was formed. The group shared thoughts and ideas on how LCMC and WordAlone could work parallel, together and apart.

Steve brought materials to share that were published through Sola Publishing. He noted that the focus of Sola Publishing is on education materials. He also brought Bible Study materials that they are producing for review.

The trustees recessed at 5:05 P.M CT. for the evening and closed in prayer.

The trustees reconvened at 8:03 A.M CT. Paul Braafladt opened with devotions and prayer based on 1Thessalonians 5:16-17.

Bill gave an update on the status of the lawsuit with Lenae Rasmussen. Both Bill and Lenae have given depositions. The next step in the process is mediation.

Discussion on compensation package for Bill and Sharon: (Bill and Sharon were not present for this discussion.)

M/S/P To establish a salary increase of 3% for both Bill and Sharon and establish a pension benefit for Sharon at 5%.

The BOT met with Paul Spaulding of the Ministry Board. There was a discussion about the Leadership gathering. Suggestions included inviting the task force on Church planting and inviting Gayle McCann to speak on Health Insurance issues. Paul reported that the Ministry Board is continuing to work on the call packet. They are continuing to do colloquies. Paul gave an overview of the colloquy process. It was suggested that all districts use the same form for doing colloquy that was developed by the Ministry Board. Clergy standards were also discussed. We need to make Pastors and congregations aware that all Pastors coming into LCMC need to go through the colloquy process. Accountability is important. There was a discussion on the process of replacing people on the ministry board. It was decided that this will continue to be an appointed position. It was also decided that the ministry board will submit their nominees to the Board of Trustees at their July meeting. The Board of Trustees understands that Ministry Board recommends the appointment of any new member to the Ministry Board, but it is the Board of Trustees that appoints.

M/S/P Approves the appointment of April Dietz to the ministry board effective immediately.

The discussion turned to dealing with conflict in congregations. It was stressed that in this regard networking is very important. There was also discussion on issues brought up by the Shalom Team.

The Board of Trustees moved on to discuss the Seminary Debt Relief Fund. It was decided that Kirk will put a letter in the newsletter in regards to seminary debt relief.

The trustees closed with prayer and adjourned at 11:14AM CT.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue McKenzie, Secretary