
IOWA DISTRICT EAST BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

PRESENT: *Ordained:* Gary Arp*, Dean Duncan*, Daird Korth, Matthew Rueger*, Dean Rothchild, Brian Saunders*, George Volkert*, Wayne Woorely; *Lay:* Rich Balvanz*, Carl Egger*, Greg Gerjerts*, Andrea Koenig*, Lowell Schroeder and Amanda Whitmer*. *Designates a voting member of the BOD.

1. **Call to Order.** Chairman Egger called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Chairman Egger welcomed our new treasurer Amanda Whitmer to the BOD.

2. **Devotion:** Rev. Dean Rothchild led devotion on Responsive Prayer 1 and a Bible Study on the Gospel Reading for the 25th Sunday after Pentecost (Luke 21:5-28).

3. **Acceptance of the Agenda.** The Agenda was accepted with a couple additions.

4. **Review and acceptance of the Minutes** of August 7, 2007 and September 18, 2007. The Minutes of both meetings were accepted with no changes.

5. Correspondence to the Board of Directors

a. A letter from Merle Freitag from Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) informing us that IDE will receive \$51,697 from their record fiscal year.

6. **Treasurer's Report - no treasurer's report.** Amanda reviewed the District investments and loan payments. She asked the Board what information the BOD would like to see in the Treasurer's report and what possible information should be available for the congregations.

7. President Arp's Report (Exhibit B)

- a. President Arp went over the vacancy report.
- b. President Arp informed the Board about the situation at State Center concerning their removal of their pastor. Pastor Steege requested reconciliation and the situation might possibly go to a Dispute Resolution Panel. President Arp asked the Board to keep the congregation and pastor in our prayers.
- c. President Arp will have to give a deposition after Thanksgiving on the lawsuit against the District.
- d. The Lithuania project is still struggling. We need to go forward with this project. A crew from Hubbard, IA will be going over to help out.

8. Committees under President Arp

- a. The Office Committee addressed salary increases for the office and secretarial staff. They recommended a cost of living increase for the staff and a 6% increase for the Business Manager. The health plan will be the same and the FSA will be capped at \$2500 per office worker.
- b. No reports from other committees.

9. Part-time Assistant to President for Early Childhood, Rev. Daird Korth (Exhibit D)

Rev. Korth will no longer be the vacancy pastor at Messiah, Mason City. He met with Pastor Gefaller and the Church Board of St. Paul, Mt. Vernon concerning a possible new preschool and day care. He also consulted Son Shine Academy (Mt. Pleasant). Rev. Korth continues to receive phone calls concerning the state funded preschool program. He participated in two meetings of the Children's Ministry Advisory group of Synod. He is planning our Iowa East Early Childhood Conference for February 23, 2008 which will be held at Little Lambs Preschool, Hiawatha. Dr. Judith Christian, Director of LCMS Children's Ministry, will be the main presenter. Peggy Seeber and Rev. Korth will attend the Early Childhood Consultant's Conference in Minneapolis April 22-24, 2008. Rev. Korth is planning a round of visits in November and December.

10. Part-time Assistant to President for Elementary/Secondary Schools, Rev. Wayne Woolery (Exhibit E)

Rev. Woolery spoke about the funding of the Lutheran Schools which is critical for their future. He highlighted the Synodical Lutheran School Funding Academy and the Annual Fund Drive. Rev. Woolery also provided the Board a handout on the Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization for a tuition reimbursement which will be given to the school in the name of the student. He noted that there is an Iowa Tuition Tax Credit on the donation provided.

11. Assistant to the President, Rev. Rothchild (Exhibit C)

Rev. Rothchild will have the privilege to be going back to Lithuania with lay people from Hubbard. He is presently looking at a gathering of congregations and pastors in February 2008 who have been working with Hispanics to meet with Rev. Daniel Vogel (IDW). In a personal note, Rev. Rothchild informed the Board that he buried his mother-in-law in September. He is also dealing with the death of Melissa Brendes since her death has profoundly affected the office staff. He hopes that by end of December he will be defending his major applied project (DMin).

12. Unfinished Business

- A. **District Task Force on Restructuring.** Rev. Saunders reported that the committee is dealing with a resignation. The committee is hoping for that circuit to appoint a replacement. They have gathered information on the use of the District Office. They also have begun to work on what structures may or may not be feasible.
- B. **Strategic Planning.** Greg Gerjerts provided the Board the preliminary results of the Strategic Planning session on September 18, 2007. **(Exhibit G).**
 - a. Greg encouraged the Board to pick two or three opportunities to deal with. The Board members suggested opportunities: 2, 3, 4, 8 and 12.
 - b. Greg then asked the Board which of those chosen are most doable. There was a consensus on opportunities 2, 3 and 4.
 - c. Greg asked for volunteers to be the lead on these opportunities to come up with a reasonable plan (of goals and strategies) before the next BOD meeting. Rev. Daird Korth volunteered for 3. Greg Gerjerts volunteered for 4. Amanda Whitmer volunteered for 2.
- C. **Chaplaincy Position at Iowa City.** President Arp moved that Rev. Bill Riley fill the position of part-time Chaplain at University of Iowa Hospitals. Rev. Volkert seconded. Passed.

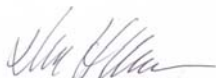
Rev. Rothchild led the prayer before lunch.

The Board broke for lunch at 12:09 p.m. The Board reconvened at 12:55 p.m.

13. New Business

- A. President Arp moved to appoint Keith Egger of Marshalltown to be a District reconciler to fill the vacant spot. Seconded by Rev. Rueger. Passed.
- B. Changes in Student Aid Committee Guidelines (see page 4 on Exhibit C). Rev. Volkert moved the proposed changes be adopted. Andrea Koenig seconded. Passed.
- C. President Arp moved that Dale Critchley move from the BCS to the Missions Committee. Rev. Volkert seconded. Passed.
- D. President Arp moved to appoint Marie Kohrt to the Worship Committee. Seconded by Rich Balvanz. Passed.
- E. District Meetings. The Board suggested next year's BOD meetings: (Tuesdays) February 26, May 20, August 12 and November 4, 2008. Agreed.
- F. Housing Allowance designation. Office Committee moved to have the Housing Allowance as 50% of base salary to all called workers of the District. Seconded by Rueger. Passed.
- G. Budget.
 - a. Rich Balvanz moved that we establish a legal defense fund with the LCEF funds we are receiving to add to what is proposed for legal fees. Rev. Rueger seconded. Passed.
 - b. Amanda Whitmer moved that the Board set the reimbursement mileage at \$.40/mile for 2008. Rich Balvanz seconded. Passed.
 - c. Greg Gejerts moved that the annual subsidy to Camp IoDisECa be increased from \$20,000 to \$30,000. Rich Balvanz seconded. Passed.
 - d. President Arp moved that we approve the budget as amended. Rev. Matthew Rueger seconded. Passed.

Chairman declared the meeting adjourned. Rev. Rothchild led a closing prayer.



Respectfully submitted, Rev. Dean Duncan, IDE Secretary

Approved 3.25.08