
IOWA DISTRICT EAST BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES

Tuesday, March 25, 2008

PRESENT: *Ordained:* Gary Arp*, Dean Duncan*, Matthew Rueger*, Dean Rothchild, George Volkert*, Wayne Woolery; *Lay:* Rich Balvanz*, Carl Egger*, Greg Gerjerts*, Amanda Whitmer* and Lowell Schroeder†. *Designates a voting member of the BOD. †Designates the Assistant Treasurer who voted in place of the Treasurer.

1. **Call to Order.** Chairman Egger called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.
2. **Devotion:** Rev. Dr. Matthew Rueger led the Board in *Responsive Prayer 1* and a Bible Study on the Gospel reading for the Fourth Sunday in Lent (John 9:1-41).
3. **Acceptance of the Agenda.** The Agenda was accepted.
4. **Review and acceptance of the Minutes** of November 6, 2007 were accepted with no changes.
5. **Correspondence to the Board of Directors**
 - a. Seminarian Jon Buescher (Concordia Seminary) and his wife Sarah thanked the District for the dinner with President Arp and his wife.
 - b. Rev. Eric L. Schillo, from Lutheran Family Service of Iowa, thanked the members of Iowa District East not only for our District's financial support during the past year but also for our partnership in providing service to Iowan families in Christ's healing name.
 - c. The Secretary of Synod seeks nominations for the LCMS Church Extension Fund Board of Directors appointment for the member-at-large position.
 - d. The Secretary of Synod seeks nominations to fulfill the vacancy on the Board of Directors of the LCMS Concordia Plan Services.
6. **Treasurer's Report (Exhibit A).**
 - a. Cash position is holding steady.
 - b. Accounts receivable increased approximately \$150,000 over the quarter to include congregational receipts sent in after the end of the year.
 - c. Investments lost approximately 4% in the last quarter, which is 4% better than the benchmarks. Our equity position has been scaled back to around 53% of the portfolio, which has so far helped us weather the economic downturn. We have some exposure to credit-backed fixed securities. While these securities continue to perform well, the current credit environment makes them more risky than our investment profile warrants and we will reduce our exposure over the next few months.
 - d. One of the annuities was cashed in for approximately \$183,000 as the cash value was greater than the death benefit. The proceeds were used to pay on the associated annuity loan. The next annuity most likely to mature has a cash value approximately \$80,000 less than the death benefit and it will be quite some time yet before that money is available.
 - e. Congregational support ended at 98.59% of budget, which represented a slight increase (< 1%) over receipts from the prior year. Net investment income from the year was approximately \$70,000.
 - f. Net income for the year was \$124,745 compared to a budgeted loss of \$9,800. This difference is due to two main factors: we did not expend a budgeted \$74,000 for the chaplaincy program and much of the rest was an excess of contributions for specific ministries which was not expected and therefore not budgeted.
 - g. Amanda and Sherry will be working on modifying the accounting structure to conform with the Synod's standard accounting structure over the next year. This should allow us to use some reports that will better reflect actual events.
 - h. The annual audit is scheduled for the week of March 31st.
7. **President Arp's Report (Exhibit B)**
 - a. President Arp presented a PowerPoint presentation showing trends in both the Synod and Iowa District East from 1971 through 2006. Based on the Synodical reports, President Arp presented a series of graphs that showed a decline in the numbers of baptized members, confirmed members, children enrolled in Sunday school and worship attendance in the LCMS.

He also displayed numerous graphs which indicated these same trends are also evident in Iowa District East. President Arp reminded the Board of Christ's mission and noted the explosive growth of the early Church as recorded in the Book of Acts. He then asked: what has changed? President Arp proposed that the church is in a "post-church culture" but is living as though she is still a significant factor in our culture (as she has in the past). He then proceeded to review the 2007 LCMS Convention Resolution to "adopt a goal of praying and working for the mission revitalization of at least 2,000 existing LCMS churches by 2017."

- b. President Arp reported that in January he attended the Synod's Church Revitalization meeting in Nashville. In February, he and several other District Presidents met in St. Louis to plan how they might implement this revitalization in their Districts. The goal is to recruit 8 to 10 pastors who would lead their congregations in a self-study. The District would provide an initial consultation to review and evaluate the self-study. The District would also provide on-going consultation through trained consultants, Biblical type leadership training for pastors and assistance in conflict resolution where needed.

8. **Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca.**

- a. Rev. Michael Knox, chairman of the Camp Board, provided the BOD with an update on what is happening at the Camp.
 - i. At the next Camp Board Meeting they will review and update their strategic plan.
 - ii. Registrations for Camp are up for this summer.
 - iii. User-group registrations are up (above and beyond our summer Camp).
 - iv. The Camp had nine of the twenty summer staff assembled (over a month ago). They have arranged to have a Summer Vicar from Fort Wayne. Pastor Small has made arrangements with someone with some expertise at Kirkwood College to help with the horse program at Camp.
 - v. The Camp staff is continually working toward an ACA accreditation.
 - vi. Finances are about \$12,000 short for payables due to the unseasonable weather which canceled scheduled user-group events scheduled at the Camp.
 - vii. Pastor Small has made presentations at all the LWML rallies this past fall.
 - viii. Rev. Knox invited the members of the BOD to spend time (one 24 hour period) at the Camp this summer.
- b. Rev. Knox made an appeal to fund a Camp Endowment Fund
 - i. To fund Camp programs, building and facility expansion and/or improvements and fund new or improved staff training at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca.
 - ii. To focus on providing safe and clean environment for Campers and Christian education, recreation, devotions and fellowship with the framework of our Gospel-centered Lutheran identity.
 - iii. To provide an atmosphere where the congregations at IDE can be certain that all teaching and practice will be in accord with Holy Scripture, doctrine and practice of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.
 - iv. To achieve and maintain accreditation through the American Camp Association.
 - v. To continue staff training.
 - vi. The steps envisioned:
 - 1. Achieve IDE BOD approval of the Camp Endowment Fund Bylaws.
 - 2. Establish endowment donation processing system.
 - 3. Develop promotional materials for the endowment.
 - 4. Raise funds.
- c. Rich Balvanz moved and Greg Gerjerts seconded to accept the Camp Endowment Fund By-laws as proposed. Motion passed.
- d. The Board asked the Camp for a financial plan for the coming year.

Rev. Rueger led the meal prayer.

The Board reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

9. **Rev. Dean Rothchild, Assistant to the President Report (Exhibit C).**
 - a. Rev. Rothchild reported that next week he will have his oral exam to complete his Doctorate of Ministry.
 - b. The Pastor and Wives Retreat set for April 11-12 may be canceled due to a lack of interest.
10. **Task Force on Structure** will meet again on Friday. Goal is to have a proposal in writing at the end of the summer.
11. **Strategic Opportunities.** Greg Gerjerts reviewed the 3 opportunities the Board selected in our last meeting and presented the strategies and potential tactics.
 - a. Rev. Rueger moved to assign opportunities 2 and 3 to the missions committee with the authors (Rev. Daird Korth and Amanda Whitmer) as an advocate to plan how they might be implemented and report back initial ideas by our May BOD meeting. Rich Balvanz seconded. Motion passed.
 - b. Rev. Rueger moved that Greg Gerjerts and himself be given the responsibility to organize opportunity 4 and report back to the BOD. Seconded by Rev. Volkert. Motion passed.
12. **Rev. Wayne Woolery, Assistant to the President for Elementary and Secondary Education (Exhibit D)**
 - a. Rev. Woolery reviewed the calls and vacancies. He also informed the Board that the Iowa Lutheran Student Tuition Organization raised over \$152,000 in 2007, which means that \$145,000 will be available to distribute for tuition assistance. Six Iowa East schools participated. Over half the money raised came from non-Lutherans and from the Diocese of Dubuque.
 - b. He also expressed concern over some legislation in the State on a bill which would mandate the curriculum for all accredited schools in the state including non-public schools.
 - c. Central Newhall will be breaking ground on a new facility.
13. **New Business**
 - a. Greg Gerjerts moved that the District loan the Camp an interest free \$15,000 loan to be paid back once the LCEF fund is cashed in April. Rich seconded. Motion passed.
 - b. The Board asks the treasurer for an explanation of significant variances in the budget for 2007.
 - c. Camp Board nominations.
 - i. The Board elected Glenn Staudinger by ballot.
 - ii. Rev. George Volkert moved that we appoint Lanny Buls as the teacher candidate for the Camp. Lowell Schroeder seconded. Motion passed.
 - d. Rev. George Volkert moved to assign the title to the van to the East Side Mission. Seconded by Rev. Matthew Rueger. Motion passed.

The Board moved to adjourn by consensus.

Rev. Rueger led the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Rev. Dean Duncan
IDE Secretary

Approved 5.20.08