

# IOWA DISTRICT EAST BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## MINUTES

Tuesday, August 12, 2008

**PRESENT:** *Ordained:* Gary Arp\*, Mark Brase, Dean Duncan\*, Daird Korth, Brian Saunders\*, Matthew Rueger\*, Dean Rothchild, George Volkert\*, Wayne Woolery; *Lay:* Carl Egger\*, Amanda Whitmer\* and Lowell Schroeder.  
*\*Designates a voting member of the BOD.*

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Egger called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. **Devotion:** Rev. George Volkert led a devotion using Matins.
3. **Acceptance of the Agenda.** The Agenda was accepted with a couple of additions.
4. **Review and acceptance of the Minutes** of the May 20, 2008 were accepted.
5. **Correspondence to the Board of Directors**

Letter from Dennis A. Clauss, chairman for the Board for Communication Services (BCS), who acknowledged receiving our petition regarding the cancellation of the KFUEO program "Issues Etc." The BCS concurs with our Board that this radio program has been a great blessing to many. However, since 2001 increased operating costs and flat revenues have resulted in growing indebtedness for KFUEO. Faced with the projection of yet another substantial operating deficit (for 2007-2008) upon careful review of program revenues and expenses, the executive director of Communication Services canceled "Issues Etc." which was responsible for more than 40% of the projected deficit. While the BCS laments the demise of "Issues, Etc." the members of the BCS have declined our petition to reverse the decision to cancel "Issues, Etc.". For those interested in more information, Mr. Clauss informed us that the BCS has posted an "Issues Etc." question and answer document on Synod's website.

### 6. Treasurer's Report (Exhibit A) Executive Summary 2nd Quarter 2008

Cash position is up \$86,000 which is within normal fluctuations of operations. There were no significant differences in other balance sheet categories.

Investments for the second quarter performed better than in the first. We lost half a percent in the second quarter bringing our year-to-date loss to 6.25%. Our investment advisor believes we are seeing the bottom of the economic downturn and it would be wise to begin weighting our portfolio back into equities. The Investment Committee concurred and voted to move 4% of our portfolio from bonds to small cap stock securities to bring our portfolio to 57% equity and 43% bonds.

Net loss for the year to date was \$112,856 compared to budgeted net income of \$6,801. Congregational support is down. In prior years we have normally received about 45% of budgeted support by this time but this year we have only received about 40%. Investment losses also contribute significantly to the loss and we do not anticipate this difference to resolve itself by the end of the year.

Significant deviations from budget under expenses include legal fees, audit fees and Synodical support which are timing differences.

Amanda has begun the budgeting process with assistance from Sherry. Letters requesting budget requests will go out within the next couple of weeks and the Office Committee will meet to approve the budget after that information is received.

### 7. President Arp (Exhibit B)

a. President Arp reported on the vacancies. He noted that he is still struggling with the situation at St. John, State Center which has progressed to a Dispute Resolution Panel.

b. He received and read a nice email from Rev. Joseph Omolo (whom Our Savior, Muscatine supported while he was at seminary) who thanked IDE for our support for the orphans, church and seminary in Kenya.

c. There will be a Theological Convocation (next week) on the Blue Ribbon Task Force on the restructuring of Synod.

d. He reported on his trip to Lithuania; he preached in Lithuania and Germany. The project in Lithuania has come to a stand still. It has run out of funds. He will be meeting Rev. Matthew Harrison next week to look at alternatives to help fund this project.

e. He reported on the organization during the flood handled by Dr. Rothchild. We are still in the process of getting everything organized. Each congregation has been given a "Needs Assessment Form" which was used to collect data on the needs of flood victims. A data base will be set up to track a wide range of information including personal data on flood victims. We have requested a grant from LCMS Human Care and understand \$100,000 is on its way. In addition, LCMS Human Care will fund a full time person for 6 months (who may come from the Southern District).

We are asking congregations and organizations to report direct gifts to IDE. Money can be sent to the District Office with the memo line: "Flood Relief" (note: do not designate it: "Disaster Relief"). President Arp at this time does not have the details on how these funds will be distributed. We are not collecting clothes, furniture or

appliances. However, the District Office could put the word out if there is a specific request for something but the local congregation might be in a better position to do this. For instance, Trinity, Cedar Rapids is collecting not only the names of people who need furniture, appliances, etc. but also the names of people who have specific items to give. President Arp also noted that flood relief grants can be applied for from Thrivent.

The flood affected only one of our church buildings (St. John, Waverly). They need approximately \$200,000 to replace the boiler and make repairs (not to restore) in order to get the basement ready to use.

f. Reported that he has served on two hearing panels. We will be involved in Fan into Flame in 2009. Looking for some people (along with President Arp) to meet with the leader on Wednesday, September 10, 2008 at 10:30 a.m.

g. The Constitution Committee reported that Trinity Lowden revised their constitution.

#### **8. Rev. Daird Korth, Assistant to the President for Preschools (Exhibit E)**

Rev. Korth reported that he advised Trinity, Hampton and Messiah, Mason City on preschool issues. He also provided advice to St. John, Keystone and Immanuel, Iowa Falls on a Day Care program. He also advised Peace, Oelwein concerning a Pre-Kindergarten program.

He participated in an LCMS Children's Ministry conference call. He will be attending the LCMS Children's Ministry Advisory Team meeting in San Antonio, Texas September 29 to October 1.

#### **9. Rev. Wayne Woolery, Assistant to the President for Elementary and Secondary Schools (Exhibit D)**

Rev. Woolery reported that Nathan Richter will be installed as Principal at Valley Lutheran in Cedar Falls September 21. The only principal vacancy is at Dubuque. Since two calls were returned, they will contract for that position and resume the calling process later in the Fall.

A meeting was called by the Waterloo Circuit to discuss expanding the possibilities of Lutheran education in the Waterloo area. Rev. Bob Riggert (IDW education executive) and Bob Whipkey (N WI education executive) led the session with representatives from Valley High School and members from each congregation. A task force will meet to discuss the possibility of a K-12 Lutheran school in Cedar Valley.

Additional funds from the Iowa Lutheran School Tax Organization will be distributed to schools according to the formula established by the STO Board. The board continues to look for a part-time development individual to develop this with local schools.

Two schools (Immanuel, Waterloo, and Lutheran Interparish School, Williamsburg) went through the Lutheran School accreditation process and were accredited.

#### **10. Dr. Dean Rothchild, Assistant to the President (Exhibit C)**

Dr. Rothchild spent quite a bit of time with flood related work. He said prayers are still needed for flood victims.

The Missions Committee met at Our Savior, Fort Madison. Rev. Steve Rasmussen reported on the work he is still trying to accomplish in the prisons and at the Sanctuary House. The committee discussed subsidy requests for 2009. They recommend the following requests: \$30,000 Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca, \$3,600 Our Redeemer, Independence, \$56,000 St. Paul's Chapel, \$50,000 College Hill, and \$9,600 Lutheran East Side Mission.

#### **11. Unfinished Business**

a. **Convention Task Force.** Dr. Rueger presented the Board with a printed report from the Committee on Structure. He briefly went over the findings of the committee and highlighted the committee's proposal that the District President remain in the parish. A discussion ensued.

b. **Camp Financial Plan.** Amanda reported that she gave forms and worksheets to Carl Gloe (the Camp Board Treasurer) to help plan for their financial projections. The Board discussed the financial plans of the Camp.

c. **Flood relief report.** See President's report above.

Amanda moved that Dr. Rothchild be authorized to sign checks on behalf of the District for flood relief. Dr. Rueger seconded. Motion passed.

d. **Constitution Review Committee.** A question was asked on who was elected to fill the unfinished term of Rev. Dean Duncan and who was elected to the full term on this committee in last Convention. Dr. Arp moved that Rev. Gary Sears be the one eligible for reelection. Brain Saunders seconded. Motion passed.

Rev. Volkert led a lunch prayer. Adjourned for lunch at 11:46 a.m. By mutual agreement, the meeting adjourned after lunch.

Respectfully submitted,



Rev. Dean Duncan, IDE Secretary

Approved by BOD Nov 4, 2008