

# IOWA DISTRICT EAST BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## MINUTES

Saturday, May 9, 2009

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

1. **Call to Order:** Vice Chairman Dr. Rueger called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. **Devotion:** Rev. Daird Korth led a devotion on Responsive Prayer 2 and a Bible Study on the topic: "Let the Little Children Come to Me."
3. **Acceptance of the Agenda.** The Agenda was accepted with a couple of additions.
4. **Review and acceptance of the Minutes** of the February 17, 2009 meeting
  - a. Correct the spelling of *Greg* Gerjerts name on page 1 (4a).
  - b. Correct page 3 (10.a.iii) to read: "Motion made *by* the chair to delete the August 15th meeting and to move it to Tuesday, July 21, 2009."
  - c. By mutual consent the BOD accepted the minutes as corrected.
5. **Correspondence to the Board of Directors**
  - a. Seminarian Caleb Schewe from Concordia Theological Seminary sent a thank you to the District for the financial aid he recently received.
  - b. Merle Freitag sent an official notification that LCEF is seeking nominations for three lay director positions.
6. **Treasurer's Report: First Quarter 2009 (Exhibit A)**
  - a. The audit was conducted the week of February 23<sup>rd</sup> and we were issued a clean opinion. We have addressed or are still in the process of addressing most of the internal control and accounting items the auditors brought up in the prior year and they were pleased with our progress.
  - b. Camp drew a line of credit to current balance of \$13,750. The line of credit expires at the May meeting of the Board of Directors.
  - c. Investments lost 3.95% for the quarter compared to our benchmark of (7.0%). Our equity exposure has not changed significantly and is up \$100,000 from its lowest point. Our investment advisor is cautiously optimistic; the market is still dealing with a few issues but there are opportunities that we are poised to take advantage of in our portfolio mix.
  - d. Endowment funds are in the process of being moved to separate accounts where they will be invested in a more conservative investment mix.
  - e. Net change in unrestricted net assets is approximately \$120,000 less than budget.
  - f. Revenue outliers come from congregational support down \$80,000 from budget which is normal as receipts pick up toward the end of the year. Dollar loss on investments for the quarter was approximately \$70,000.
  - g. Expenses are approximately \$20,000 under budget excluding expenses for flood relief which were paid for out of designated funds and thus not in the budget. There are no major outliers to explain the difference; most budget categories show actual expenditures under budget.
7. **President Arp's Report (Exhibit B)**
  - a. President Arp reported on vacancies. He briefly commented on the situation at Immanuel in Iowa Falls and emphasized that Pastor Krueger did the right thing in resigning. President Arp also noted that St. John (State Center) has extended a call to Candidate David Klinge (a recent seminary graduate without a call). The COP placed all but two of the candidates this Spring. All the vicars were placed.
  - b. Our first deaconess, Angela Carriker, was called to St. Paul Chapel, Iowa City. The District also had a deaconess intern, Sarah Barkley, assigned to St. John, Clinton.
  - c. He also reported that the case has been dropped with the Clemons school.
  - d. President Arp was surprised that a number of pastors he called didn't know anything about the Lithuania Project even after the District sent out a mailing with posters. Suggestion made from Peter Brinkman (from Wisconsin) that the monies raised from the Fan into Flame campaign for the Lithuania Project come to the District.
  - e. President Arp shared an email from a circuit counselor to ask the BOD, in light of the recent Iowa court decision to legalize gay marriages in Iowa, how our District might respond if the ELCA decides to ordain gays this coming August in convention.

- f. The Constitution Committee has had an excellent response from the churches in the District since it was announced that the official constitution of the congregation is the one which is on file with the District Office.

#### **8. Rev. Daird Korth, ATTP (Exhibit E)**

- a. Rev. Korth reported that in spite of bad weather 55 preschool directors, teachers and staff were able to make it to the Early Childhood Conference at Zion, Hiawatha on Saturday, February 21. The keynote speaker was Rachel Bausch. The second presenter was Teri Stuckey, "Music Together" instructor from the Cedar Rapids Symphony School. The event ended with presentation of the Early Childhood Educator of the Year to Becky McKinney. He also wrote an article with photos about the conference for the IDE Today.
- b. Rev. Korth visited DeWitt and discussed the possibility of starting a preschool. He also consulted Muscatine on the possibility of a preschool and worked with the preschool at Trinity, Hampton concerning funding.
- c. He reported that Pamela Siudak, whom Bethlehem, Mason City has called to be their Director/Teacher of the preschool and day care, has returned the call.
- d. Rev. Korth is working with the Children's Ministry Action Team on a workshop in North Wisconsin.
- e. He received information from William Cochran, Director of LCMS School Ministry. The Open Arms Institute offers a program for infants, toddlers and twos. The program also helps parents learn the art of good parenting. If you are interested in this approach there will be an Open Arms Orientation Conference May 16 in Portland, Oregon sponsored by the Northwest District.
- f. Rev. Korth informed the Board that there will be a number of conferences close to us. "Patterns for learning" is the name of a conference offered by the Early Childhood Music and Movement Association. It will be held July 10-11 at Iowa State University, Ames. There will be an early childhood conference at Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska June 17th. The theme is "Celebrate Life with Young Children."

#### **9. Committees:**

- a. Rich Balvanz expressed a concern that we need greater accountability for the ministries we support. He lamented the lack of communication to the BOD as demonstrated by the report from the Prison Ministry Report in the Convention Workbook.
- b. Greg Gerjerts moved that the District BOD set up a schedule for the standing committees and funded ministries to report to the board once a year based on the schedule the board would set up. Amanda Whitmer seconded. Passed.

#### **10. New Business**

- a. President Arp moved that the BOD submit an overture to the District Convention to move Trinity, Ottumwa from the Williamsburg electoral circuit to the Mt. Pleasant Electoral Circuit. Brian Saunders seconded. Passed.
- b. President Arp moved to extend the contracts of Rev. Daird Korth for Early Childhood and Rev. Wayne Woolery for Secondary Schools for 2009-2010. Seconded by Greg Gerjerts. Passed.
- c. George Volkert moved to fund \$5,193.30 to St. Paul Chapel to fix the water leaks and stucco. Seconded by Brian Saunders. Passed.
- d. The BOD agrees with Dr. Rothchild's recommendation on the parking lot for St. Paul Chapel. Greg Gerjerts moved that we accept the Pate asphalt proposal for the parking lot with the condition that St. Paul fund one third of the total cost. Brian Saunders seconded. Passed.
- e. Greg Gerjerts moved that the BOD extend the \$25,000 line of credit for the Camp to the end of the fiscal year. Seconded by Brian Saunders. Passed.
- f. Greg Gerjerts reported on behalf of the Camp that the Day camp numbers are down but residential numbers are up. The capital campaign feasibility study is on-going.
- g. The BOD discussed the Salary Guidelines concerning District personnel - specifically dealing with the executive allowance. Rich Balvanz moved that future District executive salaries in transition be based on District salary guidelines plus a situational adjustment and the cost of living adjustment for housing as determined by the Office Committee and approved by the BOD. Greg Gerjerts seconded. Passed.

The chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Rev. Korth led in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Rev. Dean Duncan, IDE Secretary