

Minutes
Board for National Mission (BNM)
International Center, Kirkwood, Missouri, October 9, 2015
Crowne Plaza, Bridgeton, Missouri, October 10, 2015

Members Present: Rev. Steven Briel, Chairman; Ms. Carla Claussen; Rev. Samuel Cosby, Vice Chairman; Mr. Ernest Garbe; Ms. Julia Habrecht; Teacher Martha Milas; Deaconess Shaina Mitchell; Dr. Gary Quick; Mrs. Linda Stoterau, Secretary.

Members Excused: Rev. Timothy Droegemueller (via conference call Friday morning as available); Rev. Al Espinosa

Staff: Rev. J. Bart Day, Executive Director; Rev. Herb Mueller, LCMS First Vice-President; Rev. Kevin Robson, Chief Mission Officer (CMO)

Friday, October 9, 2015

Opening

Rev. Cosby led Morning Prayer from the Service Hymnal based on 2 John.

Minutes

Motion: Made by Mrs. Claussen and seconded to approve the minutes of the June 1-2, 2015 meeting.
Motion carried.

CMO Report

Rev. Robson reported to the board:

- Conducted interviews with people in the IC during the onboarding process.
 - People committed to sharing the Gospel
 - Highly committed people
 - Desire to increase transparency and effectiveness of communication within the building
 - Want to see "less change"
 - More efficient use of resources especially with other entities and auxiliaries within Synod
- Office of International Missions change in personnel
 - Rev. John Fale, Executive Director
 - Rev. Dr. Ed Grimenstein, Associate Executive Director, St. Louis Operations
 - Rev. Dan McMiller, Associate Executive Director, Recruitment and Regional Operations
 - Mark Hofman working to connect donors to more specific needs

President's Report

- President Harrison welcomed the BNM.
- Commended Rev. Robson for his calm leadership in bringing staff together.
- Commended Rev. Day for the work of the ONM; during his tenure in the building, Synod has not ever had this level of leadership.
- Visited 21 district conventions; there is a calmness in Synod.
- Anticipates actions/rulings regarding student federal loan programs at the Concordias.
- International opportunities continue to flourish: Scandinavia, South America, Mexico, Africa (shifting dollars from Asia); desires international staff.

In response to questions:

- No complaints regarding the Becker case. Requested a task force to look at bylaws regarding dissent to clarify technicalities that may affect future situations of this nature.

- Licensed Lay Deacon (LLD) Task Force has a plan to place current LLD in the SMP program with a colloquy.
- Local joint statement with the Roman Catholic Archbishop regarding Planned Parenthood.
- Concordia Selma in serious financial distress. Interventions and assistance has been provided over the last ten years without change in financial status.
- RSOs concerned regarding federal funding for social agencies in light of religious liberty and recent government actions.

Executive Director's Report

Rev. Day reported to the board:

- Julianna Schults in Youth Ministry is the new program manager with Lutheran Youth Corps
- Stephanie Neugebauer, new Director of Life and Health Ministry
- Deaconess Maryann Hayter developing resources in Witness and Outreach
- Boy Scouts of America (BSA): Synod legal counsel now advising there is liability for congregations who sponsor Boy Scout troops regarding the LGBT ruling. A letter will be sent within a week or two. LCMS will not renew the MOU with BSA.
- RSOs: concern whether RSOs in social ministry can continue RSO status. Conversation will take place with leaders in these agencies regarding needs and solutions.
- Intention to visit 11 districts before January 1.
- Mission Field:USA launching first three domestic missionaries: Philadelphia, Toledo, Brownsville, TX. Ferguson, MO in planning stages; LCMS working with Urban League. Programmatic dollars are local. Anticipate 10-12 per year.
- Lithuania interested in connecting with School Ministries in the development of an International School.
- Special interest groups asking for policies in their specific areas of interest (older adults, ministries to the deaf and blind).

Ministry Presentation – Stephanie Neugebauer, Director, Life and Health Ministry

Ms. Neugebauer talked to the Board regarding her new work with this unit.

- Life Resources & Publications: website; Facebook; Life Sunday; blog; *Notes for Life*
 - Sanctity of Life Committee provide resources and education; currently updating *What about* series in abortion and assisted suicide and for youth: body image, substance abuse, abortion
 - District Life Coordinators appointed by District Presidents—currently have 23 districts represented
 - Relationship with Lutherans for Life
 - Initial Embryo Adoption Discussion with goal to provide congregations with resources
 - Upcoming Infertility Ethics Symposium at CTSFW
 - March for Life: January 22 in Washington, DC and January 23 in San Francisco
 - Ultrasound Education Project: people who saw their ultrasound more strongly considered adoption or keeping the baby. Curriculum is free to Lutheran Schools; Owen's Mission, a project of Lutherans For Life, provides (by request) Touch of Life fetal models to every Lutheran elementary and high school in the country.
- Health
 - National
 - Disability Ministry
 - Parish Nursing
 - Online courses and webinars for continuing education
 - International
 - Mercy Medical Teams of medical professionals, chaplains, and lay people provide care, medical supplies and resources.

Rev. Roosevelt Gray – Director, Black Ministry

Rev. Roosevelt Gray talked to the BNM regarding the work of Black Ministry:

- Rosa Young film—release date January 2016
- Charter schools via the Rosa J. Young International Academies (working with SABIS).
- Challenge of recruitment of black seminarians; currently less than ten in both seminaries.

Madisonville Video

Video from Urban and Inner-City Mission was shown about St. Paul Lutheran Church, Madisonville, OH.

Members viewed the Rosa Young film during the lunch break.

Theological Presentation—Rev. Kou Seying, Dean, Cross Cultural Ministry, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

John 4:35, “Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.”

- LCMS is one of the least diverse churches in America: 95% white, 2% Black, 1% Asian, 1% Other, 1% Hispanic compared to Total Population: 71%, 11%, 3%, 3%, 12% respectively.
- “Theological Education Across Cultures is a Must!”
 - CHS (Center for Hispanic Studies), EIIT (Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology), CMC (Cross-Cultural Ministry Center—Irvine)
- Concordia Seminary currently revising curriculum.

Domestic Violence Task Force—Deaconess Kim Schave

- Tasked by Synod in 2007 and 2010 conventions.
- Produced materials for dissemination.

Policy

Rev. Day shared the process used to determine the reporting process from each of the departments.

The BNM brainstormed goals to accompany the general policies and those in the witness category. Rev. Day will prepare wording of the goals and distribute to the BNM on or before November 13. Members of the BNM will provide feedback to the ONM prior to December 1.

Email addresses

The Reporter insert listed individual email addresses of the members of the BNM. Discussion regarding a central email address for the BNM at the International Center.

Motion: Made by Mrs. Claussen and seconded to request a central email address, bnm@lcms.org, to be monitored by the office of the CMO.

Motion carried.

Mrs. Smithson will notify the members of the BNM when the address is active.

Closing

Rev. Robson led Evening Prayer.

Saturday, October 10, 2015

Rev. Cosby led Daily Prayer based on 2 Thessalonians.

Self-Governance Policies

2.2.1 Reference to Bylaw 1.1.1 [1] should be Bylaw 1.1.1 (m)(1). (Numbers were changed to letters after the 2013 convention.)

2.2.3.1 Reference to Bylaw 1.2.1 (l) [1] should be Bylaw 1.2.1 (m)(1).

2.3.6 Reference to Bylaw 1.2.1.(l).(o)) should be Bylaws 1.2.1 (m) and 1.2.1 (o).

Convention Resolutions

NID resolution regarding Rite of Marriage Service. The chairman will send a letter, prepared by the secretary, to the NID secretary, acknowledging receipt of the overture.

Board Member Continuity

Motion: Made by Mr. Garbe and seconded that the office of the CMO, in consultation with the Secretary of Synod and/or the Commission on Handbook, prepare an overture to the 2016 Synod Convention that speaks to the continuity of members on both the BNM and the BIM and that the names of the eligible incumbents on the boards who are willing to serve be automatically placed on the ballot.

Motion Carried.

Members are encouraged to contact congregations in their regions regarding nominations.

Foundation Report

Mr. Garbe reported on the recent Foundation Meeting and distributed copies of the September 10, 2015 meeting.

Preach the Word and Reformation 2017—Rev. Randall Golter, Special Assistant to the President

Rev. Golter shared regarding the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, *It's Still All About Jesus!* and the relationship to Preach the Word in that the heart of the Reformation was the complaint about the "preached God." Website: LutheranReformation.org.

\$1 million is available in grants of \$1,000-\$25,000 for local witness and mercy events from www.lcms.org/standgrants. Deadline is November 16, 2015.

Meeting Logistics

Comments regarding length of meeting. Perhaps coinciding with November LCEF conference.

Synod Convention Representative

Motion: Made by Mrs. Milas and seconded to name Rev. Briel as Chairman of the Board as the designated representative of the Board for National Mission to the 2016 Synod Convention.

Motion carried.

Mrs. Milas and Mrs. Stoterau are also attending.

Announcements

Crowd source funding for meal packing at the LYG on the Wheatridge website.

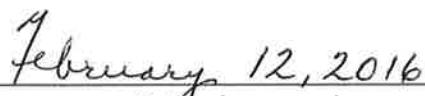
Closing

Rev. Cosby closed the meeting song and prayer.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:48 am.


Linda Stoterau, Secretary


Date of Approval

Future Meeting Dates:

- February 12-13, 2016 (Friday-Saturday)
- June 3-4, 2016 (Friday-Saturday)
- September 8-9, 2016 (Thursday-Friday Joint with BIM)