

**Board for National Mission Meeting
February 10, 2022
Zoom**

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by Rev. Briel at 9:00 am. All members (Rev. Peter Bender, Rev. Steve Briel, Mrs. Carol Hack Broome, Ms. Carla Claussen, Rev. Tim Droegemueller, Rev. Dr. Al Espinosa, Mr. Pat Kyler, Mrs. Janis McDaniels, Mrs. Martha Milas, Mrs. Crysten Sanchez, and Rev. Dr. Dien Ashley Taylor) were present.

Staff in attendance were Rev. Kevin Robson, Rev. Robert Zagore, Mrs. Jeannie Smithson, Ms. Stacey Egger, and Mrs Barb Below.

Rev. Bender led us in a devotion themed around the first and second mission priorities. The scripture passage was Acts 14:21-28.

Approval of Minutes

The October 2021 minutes were presented. It was moved and adopted to approve the minutes as presented.

Chief Mission Officer Report, Rev. Kevin Robson

See attached report. Highlights:

Rev. Robson shared the wonderful work being done both within the Offices of National and International Mission, but also within Pastoral Education where there is a central push from basically everyone in the International Center around the Church Worker Recruitment Initiative, *Set Apart to Serve*. The *Life Together as Synod* videos continue to be produced and disseminated in order to educate the church about Synod and her role.

Mission Advancement reports extremely successful relationships with donors and other institutes. There is an enormous sign of trust in the fact that individual and congregational contributors are donating to the unrestricted fund in order to allow Synod to use those dollars as she sees fit.

LCMS Communications continues the search for a new Executive Director and hope to have someone in place by the end of this fiscal year.

Office of National Mission Unit Executive Report, Rev. Bob Zagore

See written report. Highlights:

Rev. Zagore shared the strong work being done by the Office of National Mission across the country. For instance, the Mental Health task force is moving forward to provide resources to speak as the church in the larger cultural conversation. The Spanish language hymnal is produced and preparing for shipment. Lutheran Early Response Teams (LERT) continue to serve in the Pacific Southwest and responded to the disasters in Kentucky beautifully.

A total of 963 Soldiers of the Cross grants totaling \$1.635M were given to church workers caught in difficult situations since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

Morning Break

Ministry Director Presentation: Stewardship

Rev. Heath Curtis: Church budgeting in a time of High Inflation

Res 4-04A Subcommittee Update

Rev. Peter Bender, Mrs. Carol Broome

The board spent significant time in discussion sharing their reports and reactions from their recent visits with the LCMS district officials. The joint Board for National Mission and Board for International Mission subcommittee will meet on February 22nd to begin working through the reports of the meetings and creating a larger report back to the synod. The board intends to review this work closely with opportunities for feedback from amongst the board to ensure that it appropriately reflects the work of the BNM (and BIM) and also the fruitful conversations with the districts of the LCMS. The board is excited about the opportunity to speak forthrightly and lovingly through that report as we work with this information.

Break for Lunch

President Report, Rev. Matthew Harrison

Highlights:

Rev. Harrison shared that all foreign missionaries are currently fully funded an entire year in advance. Synod is financial strong. He expressed that the four year cycle between conventions was refreshing. He shared the work being done at the seminaries for recruitment which is being done alongside the longer term Set Apart to Serve initiative. Synod is calm.

Theological Presentation

Social Justice and the Church

Rev. Kevin Barron

Governance Policy Subcommittee Updates/Discussion

The Governance Policy Subcommittee took an intentional hiatus while the district interviews were happening. After the 4-04A report is completed, they intend to return to the board with their findings and work to guide the new direction for the way board policy should be written. If any bylaw changes are to be proposed, we have the deadline of January 1, 2023 before the 2023 Synodical Convention.

Policy

The board discussed creating a mechanism for brainstorming in different areas of the board's oversight in between meetings. The board requested that Mrs. Smithson create a Microsoft Teams space for collaboration. Mrs. Sanchez will then create the brainstorming areas for the board to work within.

The board discussed with the CMO and ONM UE what type of policies and direction could be helpful from the board. The board supports and encourages these faithful men in their service.

LCMS Foundation Report, Mrs. Hack Broome

The Foundation is undergoing strategic movement after a comprehensive report given from an external operating auditing company. Mrs. Hack Broome expressed her pleasure at how the Foundation is responding to the report and the determinations they will be considering at their next meeting.

Board Membership Updates

Mrs. Milas will end her time of service to the board after moving out of the Central Region. The BNM will submit names of Rostered or Commissioned Ministers from the Central Region to Mrs.

Sanchez by February 23rd. Rev. Briel will then submit them to the LCMS Board of Directors for consideration by March 2nd.

Wrap up/Other business

Next Meeting - June 16-17, 2022

St. Louis

Chaplain Rev. Dr. Al Espinosa

Rev. Bender led the board in a closing devotion centered around the topic of the first and second Mission Priorities. The Scripture was 2 Timothy 3:10-4:5.

The motion was made and approved to adjourn the meeting at 5:05 pm.