

**Board for International Mission**  
**September 23, 2021**  
**Hilton St. Louis Airport**  
**St. Louis, Missouri**

**Board Members Present:** Kristine Bruss (via Zoom), John Edson, Rev. Magdiel Fajardo, Terence Lung, Rev. Limakatso Nare, Rev. Bernhard Seter, Rev. Dr. David Stechholz, Allan Voss, James Wolf, and Rev. William Zwick.

**Staff Members and Guest Present:** Barbara Below (via Zoom), Rev. Dan McMiller, Stacey Egger, Debbie Larson, Rev. Kevin Robson and Jeannie Smithson.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by the vice chairman, John Edson, at 8:05 a.m. and was opened with a devotion led by Rev. Magdiel Fajardo.

**Introductions:** The chairman introduced Debbie Larson, President of the LWML, and Stacey Egger, Staff Editor and Writer for LCMS Communications.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the May 28 and 29, 2021, regular meeting and the Sept 17, 2021 special meeting were approved.

**Chief Mission Officer Report:** Kevin Robson reported that the Synod is in the best financial position in four decades and noted the wonderful response by donors during the COVID pandemic with strong unrestricted giving. *Making Disciples for Christ* and the Church Worker Recruitment Initiative are moving ahead. The first ten modules of a new video series called *Life Together in Synod* are being produced. Mission Advancement is about to embark on an assessment of the unit.

**Unit Executive's Report:** Dan McMiller noted a number of items in his report. LCMS chaplains were involved with the withdrawal from Afghanistan and provided care for affected service members. The new Spanish hymnal has been very successful. The seminary Santiago, Dominican Republic is a blessing to the entire Latin American region. The Livonian project is doing phenomenal work in Eurasia, and the seminary in Chiaya, Taiwan is a huge undertaking. A new Francophone seminary is moving to Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo.

**St. Louis Operations Report.** Christian Boehlke, Director of Missionary Services, joined the meeting to report on St. Louis Operations. The Banner software implementation is going well and producing helpful data and reports. We are now recruiting missionaries proactively, and Rev. Mark Rabe has accepted the call as the new Director of Recruitment.

**OIM Strategic Plan Overview.** Dan McMiller then reviewed the OIM's FY22 Plan Overview presented recently to the Board of Directors.

**Regional Director Report:** Rev. Shauen Trump, Regional Director for Africa, joined the meeting and presented an informative report on our work in Africa. We are currently doing work in 15 African countries with 35 church bodies. Africa is home to some of the largest and smallest Lutheran churches. There are 20 million Lutherans in East Africa alone.

**MAF Calls :** The board went into executive session to discuss MAF calls. After returning from executive session, the board issued the following calls:

Rev. Karl Gibbs, Chaplain, Active duty, Navy  
 Rev. Joshua Schneider, Chaplain, Active duty, Army  
 Rev. Richard (Ross) Schultz, Chaplain, Active duty, Army

**Policy Development/Discussion:** John Edson reported on the work of the committee appointed to develop proposed new Ends Policies and received helpful feedback. The committee will continue its work in conjunction with the chief mission officer and the unit executive.

### **Missionary Updates:**

Dan McMiller reported that the following calls were accepted:

#### **Career Missionaries:**

Deaconess Clarion Fritsche	Called ½ time	Latin America
Rev. Dr. Tom Park	Called	Asia
Rev. Dr. Cory Rajek	Called	Eurasia
Ms. Chelsea Irwin	Appointed	Eurasia

#### **GEO**

Ms. Hayden Rensner	Appointed	Eurasia
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There were no regional field transitions to report.

The Board then approved the following peaceful releases after discussion in executive session:

Thomas Aadland	Career	Africa
James Krey	Career	Latin America
Kipp Beaudoin	GEO	Eurasia
Tamara Beaudoin	GEO	Eurasia
Sarah Harms	Career	Eurasia
Rachel Meyer	Career	Africa
Edward Naumann	Career	Eurasia
Charles Wokoma	Career	Africa
Cynthia Pine	Career	Latin America
Anton Lutz	GEO	Asia
Kathryn Phillips	GEO	Latin America
Stephanie Wilde	GEO	Latin America

**Resolution 4-04A Subcommittee Update:** Rev. David Stechholz and Kristine Bruss reported on the work of the joint Resolution 4-04A subcommittee and presented an outline of questions for interviews with District Presidents. A list of assignments was distributed with each member of the BIM paired with a member of the BNM. Interviews are to be completed by next February.

**Disaster Response Presentation:** Rev. Dr. Ross Johnson, Director of LCMS Disaster Response, joined the meeting to report on recent mercy work. He noted that we always do mercy work in connection with Word and Sacrament ministry. Mercy work is not the Gospel, but it leads to the Gospel. The local pastors are the project managers, and we are always careful to not bring more resources than the local churches can handle.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. and was closed with a closing devotion led by Pastor Stechholz.

**Board for International Mission**  
**September 24, 2021**  
**Hilton St. Louis Airport**  
**St. Louis, Missouri**

**Board Members Present:** Kristine Bruss (via Zoom), John Edson, Rev. Magdiel Fajardo, Terence Lung, Rev. Limakatso Nare, Rev. Bernhard Seter, Rev. David Stechholz, Allan Voss, James Wolf, and Rev. William Zwick.

**Board Member Excused:** Rev. Limakatso Nare.

**Staff Members and Guest Present:** Barbara Below (via Zoom), Rev. Dan McMiller, Stacey Egger, Debbie Larson, Rev. Kevin Robson and Jeannie Smithson.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by the vice chairman, John Edson, at 8:00 a.m. and was opened with Daily Prayer for Morning led by Rev. Magdiel Fajardo.

**LWML Report:** Debbie Larson reported on highlights from the recent LWML convention held in Lexington, Kentucky. The convention approved a mission goal of \$2,150,000 for the 2021-2023 biennium and will be able to fund 28 mission grants. The LWML board of directors also voted to increase the amount given to mission grants from 70% of the mission goal to 90%. Doctrinally sound products and resources developed by the LWML are available to anyone.

**President's Report:** President Matthew Harrison, Rev. Jonathan Shaw and Rev. Jeffrey Hemmer joined the meeting. President Harrison reported that the Synod is in the best financial shape in over 30 years having received \$4 million of unrestricted gifts last year. There are 140 deaconesses in the field or in training in Latin America, 180 Spanish speaking pastors in Central and South America, and 15 confessional Lutheran seminaries in Africa. Our schools are doing well overall, with the biggest challenge being able to staff them with rostered teachers. We have 2,000 congregations funding missionaries. A staff of only 12 people at the International Center supports over 300 missionaries, family members and chaplains.

**Church Relations Report:** Rev. Jonathan Shaw, Director of Church Relations, explained that his role is to assist the President in achieving his vision of the unit's mission and to preserve and promote unity with other churches. The Synod works with three categories of churches which he identifies with the letters F, C and R:

**Fellowship:** Partner churches with whom we are in fellowship.

**Cooperate Regularly:** Churches with whom we cooperate (theological education, conversation and mercy work).

**Relationship:** Other churches with whom we have a relationship.

**International Schools:** The Rev. Charles Ferry then joined the meeting, and the Board entered into executive session for a report on recent development at the International Schools. No action was taken following the return from executive session.

**Wrap-Up/Other Business:**

Next meeting: January 27, 2022 (via Zoom)

Meeting dates for 2022-2023:

September 22 and 23, 2022

January 26 and 27, 2023

May 25 and 26, 2023

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m. and was closed with Responsive Prayer led by Pastor Fajardo.

K. Allan Voss  
Secretary