

**Board for National Mission Meeting  
October 14, 2021  
Hilton, St. Louis Airport**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Rev. Briel at 8:00 am. Members Rev. Peter Bender, Rev. Steve Briel, Rev. Tim Droegemueller, Mrs. Martha Milas, Mrs. Crysten Sanchez and Rev. Dr. Dien Ashley Taylor were present. Mrs. Carol Hack Broome, Ms. Carla Claussen, Mr. Pat Kyler, Mrs. Janis McDaniels joined via Zoom. Rev. Dr. Al Espinosa was absent.

Staff in attendance were Rev. Kevin Robson, Rev. Robert Zagore, and Mrs. Jeannie Smithson. Mrs. Barb Below and Ms. Megan Mertz joined us via Zoom.

Rev. Droegemueller led us in Matins.

**Approval of Minutes**

The June 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:

Synod is in the best financial condition in over three decades. The Office of International Mission continues to deal with COVID restrictions throughout the world, but over 100 missionary households are still deployed. The office of PastoralEd is working diligently on the Set Apart to Serve initiative. The Pastoral Formation Committee has been charged with managing routes to ordination and strategic planning for the seminaries. They have also undertaken the Synod 101 videos. Within the office of COMMS they are working to replace David Strand after forty years of dedicated service to the Synod.

**LWML President Report, Mrs. Debbie Larson**

Highlights:

Mrs. Larson shared a wonderful report of the work that the LWML has been doing, including passing a \$2,150,000 mission goal at the previous biennial convention. Her continual prayer and guidance for the auxiliary is that the women of the synod are in the Word, learning to defend their faith and holding to it.

**President Report, Rev. Matthew Harrison**

Highlights:

Challenges and blessings abound, including financial blessings. Synod is looking into a Japanese missionary to plant an orthodox church there. They are looking towards hosting a hybrid MDLFL conference. Life Ministry is considering offering a million dollar match for donations toward anything pro-life within synod, first week of December. It would be a small demonstration of the larger work that we already do.

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

See written report. Highlights:

Rev. Zagore gave us an overview of the work being done toward fulfilling the 2019 convention directives. They are looking to utilize funding for interns in order to develop talent for the rest of the synod. He shared information on the LCMS Disaster Response software and how it'll serve the ONM as a whole. The National Youth Gathering is a go for 2022 in Houston, TX. There will be a child protection program to be offered to everyone in synod. It is currently going through legal review.

**Morning Break**

**Policy Monitoring**

After discussion of our self-governance policies and agenda item order, it was moved and adopted to adjust the orders of the day to the following:

1. Take up the subcommittee's report regarding governance
2. Self-governance review

### 3. Monitoring policies

#### **Governance Policy Subcommittee Update, Rev. Peter Bender**

The committee has met with Secretary Sias once. Rev. Bender and Mrs. Sanchez will draft a reworking of this position of the self-governance policies after dinner this evening.

#### **Self-Governance Policy Review - postponed.**

#### **Resolution 4-04A Subcommittee, Rev. Peter Bender**

The subcommittee presented its work towards the BNM and BIM finishing the work directed at our boards from Resolution 4-04A. The report is attached. In fulfillment of the resolution, the two boards together will issue an assessment report before convention taking the pieces of information gathered from our fraternal district visits all together.

#### **Lunch**

Rev. Robson laid out the intended plan for the work to be done.

#### **Self-Governance Policies**

The board worked through more revisions for Rev. Bender and Mrs. Sanchez to work on after dinner.

#### **Afternoon Break**

#### **Self-Governance Policy work**

Governance Subcommittee tasks for the future:

- Consider executive limitations specifically in new self-governance 2.3.7.
- Should the joint BNM/BIM meeting be separate from the orientation meeting?
- Build board self-appraisal and evaluation of the appraisal into the annual calendar.

#### **Adjourn for the evening.**

**October 15, 2021**

**Call to Order at 8:00am by Rev. Briel.**

Rev. Droegemueller led us in Responsive Prayer 1.

<b>Ministry</b>	<b>Director</b>	<b>Presentation:</b>	<b>Recognized</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Organizations</b>
		<b>Deaconess Dorothy Krans</b>			

Deaconess Krans gave us a presentation on the work she's doing within RSOs. To be an RSO of synod, the expectation is that the organization walk in alignment with the doctrine and practice of synod. She shared interesting information about calls being issued through RSOs. They are looking towards working to get the work of RSOs out to Synod through District Presidents by making lists of everything that is offered by RSOs and filtering it down through them.

#### **LCMS Foundation Report, Mrs. Hack Broome**

The Foundation board had a meeting in September. The primary focus of the meeting was to prepare for the all members' meeting in November. This is the meeting when the members vote on new trustees. Mrs. Hack Broome chaired the nominations committee and solicited names from the board of people that have business, law, and/or finance skills. The Foundation is in a good position fiscally.

#### **Self-Governance Policy work**

It was moved and adopted to accept the revisions of 2.2 and 2.3.6 revisions as presented.

Discussion: Mrs. Hack Broome requests clarification on what the report we receive from Rev. Zagore will include. She'd like for it to be noted that the assumption at this point is that things will continue as is and whatever ramifications come from that will be dealt with as they come up.

The question was called. It was moved and adopted to accept the current version of 2.3.6.1.2.

It was moved and adopted to accept 2.3.8.3.1.

Discussion around 2.3.6.2.3 and how the process will proceed. It was decided to task this to the governance subcommittee.

Rev. Taylor began the discussion on how we might brainstorm ideas for different ends that we'd like to see between meetings. The Executive Committee has been tasked with this consideration.

### **Morning break**

It was moved and adopted to accept the rest of the self-governance revisions along with the assignments that have been given to the governance subcommittee.

Rev. Bender suggests that the Executive Committee look to assign each member of the board to brainstorm on, make a view towards, or offer some written ends policies that deal with the outcomes and the prioritization that each of us think should be going on in the ONM.

It was moved and seconded that we transition from using BoardEffect to Microsoft Teams/Office 365 as it is convenient for the ONM staff to do. Rev. Robson and his staff will work on this report at the meeting in February. The question was called. Adopted.

It was moved and seconded that the Executive Committee take up the topic of meeting scheduling (three vs. four times a year, and February on zoom). Rev. Briel requested the feel of the board for how many times and how we'd like to meet. Five individuals voted for three meetings in person and one over Zoom. Two individuals voted for two meetings in person and two over Zoom. The Executive Committee has been tasked with discussing this now that the consensus of the board is known.

Rev. Taylor will replace Rev. Dr. Espinosa on the governance subcommittee moving forward.

Rev. Droegemueller led us in Daily Prayer: Noon.

Rev. Bender motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded. Passed unanimously.

Submitted by:

Mrs. Crysten Sanchez, Secretary