

Board for International Mission
November 30, 2023
LCMS International Center
St. Louis, Missouri

Board Members Present: John Edson, James Wolf, Rev. James Douthwaite, Terence Lung, Rev. James Gier, Rev. Scott Yakimow, Rev. Terrence Chan, Rev. Daniel Preus, Rev. Elstner Lewis and Michael Hawk (Via Zoom).

Board Members Absent: None.

Staff Members Present: Rev. Kevin Robson, Jeannie Smithson, and Stacey Eising.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Edson at 8:00 a.m. and was opened with the Morning Prayers by Rev. Gier.

Reports from Concordia International School – Hanoi Update and Shanghai:

Mr. Steve Winkelman (Head of School – Shanghai) attended via Zoom and provided an update concerning Concordia Shanghai. Mr. Winkelman reported on the changing market conditions, the programs and services held to incorporate Lutheranism into its teachings under the governmental constraints and the efforts to by the government to convert the school to a government owned school.

Mr. Doug Grove (Head of School – Hanoi) attended via Zoom and provided an update concerning Concordia Hanoi. Mr. Grove commented on the challenges in Vietnam and the desire to further develop the Lutheran identity of the international school there.

The BIM then had a brief question and answer session with both Mr. Winkelman and Mr. Grove. Several members expressed concern over the lack of LCMS rostered teachers in the international schools and would like to see progress in this regard.

Ministry to the Armed Forces Call: Rev. Craig Mueller introduced candidate Jason Sluder for consideration for a call to the Armed Forces. The Board went into executive session to discuss the potential call. After returning from executive session, the following calls were issued:

- Chaplain Jason Sluder (active duty Navy).

Introduction of New Board Member - Rev. Elstner Lewis: After introducing himself to the board, the board welcomed Rev. Lewis as its newest member.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the September 2023, Regular Meeting and the minutes of the October 2023, Special Meeting were approved as amended.

OIM Strategic Plan: Rev. Kevin Robson presented information to the board regarding the Office of International Mission (“OIM”) OIM’s Strategic Plan and gave a generalized overview of the plan and then gave specific attention to questions and concerns raised in board comments. A motion was made by Jim Wolf and seconded by Terrence Chan to approve the OIM’s Strategic Plan with minor board edits. The motion was passed unanimously.

President’s Report: Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison provided the BIM with an update regarding the convention, our universities and seminaries, the financial position of the Synod, the good work being performed by Church Relations, the OIM, ILC and the well run FOROs. President Harrison noted that there are a few resolutions that came out of convention that require action by the BIM to ensure good missiology. President Harrison also noted that the search to file the OIM Unit Executive position is underway and he hopes to have a recommendation soon. Finally, he provided the board with a brief response to concerns regarding the situation with Concordia, Austin.

Regional Director Report: Rev. Ted Krey (Latin America & Caribbean) attended via Zoom and provided the BIM with an update as to the mission field in LAC and the FOROs being conducted there.

Missionary Calls: The Board went into executive session to discuss missionary calls and updates. After returning from executive session, the following calls and appointments were unanimously approved:

- Career Missionaries:
 - Rev. Jonah Domenichelli (Eurasia-Germany);
 - Rev. Ross Shaver (Latin America-Dominican Republic).
- Solemn Appointments:
 - Mrs. Renee Domenichelli (Eurasia-Germany);
 - Mrs. Kristina Shaver (Latin America-Dominican Republic);
 - Mrs. Robyn Steele – Part-time (Africa-Kenya).
- Peaceful Releases – Released:
 - Ms. Cynthia Wrucke – career (Eurasia)
 - Ms. Hayden Rensner - career (Eurasia)
 - Rev. Charles Cortright – career (Eurasia)
 - Rev. James Krikava - career (Eurasia)
 - Rev. Arthur Just - career (Latin America)

A report was received on the following alliance missionaries:

- Alliance Missionaries - Modification of Placements:
 - Rev. Andre Plamer from Brazil to Mozambique
 - Rev. Elton Americo from Brazil to Mozambique
 - Rev. Lucas Pinz Graffunder from Brazil to Panama, Balboa
 - Rev. Waldino Junior from Brazil to Mexico
 - Rev. Milton Fernandez from Brazil to Lima, Peru
 - Rev. Alison Henn from Brazil to Spain

LCMS Mission Advancement Report: Mark Hofman, Executive Director provided Information to the BIM regarding the responsibilities, activities and duties of the Mission Advancement Office and its' approach to advancement.

LCMS Church Relations Report: Rev. Dr. Jonathan Shaw provided updates with regards to visits conducted and progress made with Korea, Indonesia and Japan.

LCMS Communications Report: Mike Behr spoke to the BIM with regard to the publications of Synod and the marketing opportunities available.

Adjourn for Day: The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m. and closed with a devotion in the I.C. Chapel by Rev. Gier.

December 1, 2023

Hilton St Louis Airport Hotel

Absent: Mike Hawk (Minutes provided by John Edson)

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Edson at 8:00 a.m.

Chief Mission Officer Report: Kevin Robson reported on the areas under the Chief Mission Officer umbrella, OIM, ONM, Communications, Mission Advancement, and Pastoral Education. Included was information on the OIM unit executive search, recruiting for missionaries and an increased exposure on the seminary and CUS campuses. ONM hosted a district-wide meeting to better understand districts needs and define expectations; Church Planting initiative is at the forefront; staff recruitment for Church Planting, All Nations, and Youth positions are priorities. Discussions continue with CPH regarding the Lutheran Witness; we are launching a digital platform replacement for LCMS. Pastoral Education continues the Set Apart to Serve campaign with a Second-Career focus.

JMAC: Discussion of possibly restructuring some of the survey questions and eliminating #3-6. A survey of members should be completed in addition to the district president interviews; we will seek input and assistance from Rosters and Statistics.

Convention Resolution Assignments: Discussed assignments coming out of Synod Convention to the BIM, Res 2-03 and Res 2-06A and circumstances that brought about these two resolutions. Subcommittees will be used for each resolution – Edson will ask COP Chair Lee Hagan to appoint one person from COP to participate on each committee. Robson will be on both subcommittees.

Executive Session: Executive session was held regarding international schools.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at noon and closed with a devotion by Rev. Gier.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael D. Hawk". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael D. Hawk, Secretary