

**Joint Board for International Mission/Board for National Mission Meeting
September 13, 2019
Hilton St. Louis Airport Hotel
St. Louis, MO**

Opening Prayer: The meeting was called to order by the chairman of the BNM at 8:04 am. Rev. Briel led us in Daily Matins.

Attendance: The meeting was attended by members of the BNM, BIM, Rev. Zagore, Rev. MacMiler, Rev. Baneck, Mrs. Jeannie Smithson, and Mrs. Pam Nielsen.

LWML Presentation, Debbie Larson, President: Mrs. Larson gives thanks for the opportunity to serve in this role and invites the members of the two boards to participate with their mites and prayers.

2019 Convention Resolution 4-04A Discussion: In resolution 4-04A, Bylaws 3.8.2/3.2 amended to give two directives to the mission boards of Synod. They are supposed to work proactively guide the mission priorities and triennial theme. The people elected to these boards should be guiding the discussion.

Rev. Zagore led a discussion on what Making Disciples for Life encompasses and the resources that are planned to come out of it. He expressed the strong efforts to “blur the lines” both within the units at work, and between the units.

The boards have been given a fairly tight timeline to accomplish this, about fifteen months until the first 2021 District Convention. In that time, we need feedback internally from the program offices and externally in order to create a report.

In response to the directive given by Synod at the 2019 convention in Resolution 4-04A, Rev. Bender moved to create a joint sub committee of seven (two members of the BNM, two members of the BIM as voting members; the Chief Mission Officer and the ONM/OIM Unit Executives as advisory members) to work on creating a survey to be electronically released to the members of synod. Rev. Rojas seconded the motion.

Point of information by Rev. Espinosa to clarify what the emphases are. The Mission is Making Disciples for Life. The emphases are:

- Evangelizing the Lost
- Retaining the Faithful
- Strengthening Congregations
- Planting Churches.

The seven Mission Priorities are assumed in relation to carrying out the above mission and emphases:

- Plant, sustain, and revitalize Lutheran Churches
- Support and expand theological education
- Perform human care in close proximity to Word and Sacrament ministries
- Collaborate with the Synod’s members and partners to enhance mission effectiveness
- Promote and nurture this spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being of pastors and professional church workers
- Enhance early childhood, elementary and secondary education, and youth ministry
- Strengthen and support the Lutheran family in living out God’s design

Rev. Espinosa encouraged that these mission priorities should be explicitly stated and set before the subcommittee in their deliberations and planning.

Amendment proposed. Ms. Hack Broome proposed an amendment to raise the subcommittee members to six people (three from each board). Rev. Rockrohr seconded.

Discussion. Rev. Bender expressed that restricting the number allows you to move quickly. Rev. Droegemueller agreed. The question was called and defeated.

Discussion. The unit executives will serve in an advisory, non-voting role. The Chief Mission Officer will have voting privileges.

The question was called on the original motion and passed unanimously.

Discussion. The subcommittee will take information from the constitution to prepare a survey for the members of the synod that delineates from the handbook (this is what BNM/BIM are charged with in Resolution 4-04A; these are the ministry emphases and the seven mission priorities), and come up with a series of questions. For example, how are we doing, where are the deficiencies, how do we get better at what we're doing; build ownership; what are the signs of effectiveness, etc. The survey will be sent to all members of Synod electronically. The subcommittee will then interpret the survey results and prepare a report first for the boards to see and then sent to the district conventions.

Members appointed to the subcommittee: Rev. Bender and Ms. Hack Broome from the BNM; Mrs. Bruss and Rev. Stechholz from the BIM.

Break.

Ends Policies/Mission Priorities Discussion: The two boards spent time in discussion on how the BNM reorganized their ends polices around the seven mission priorities.

The boards adjourned at 10:45am for pictures.