

**Board for National Mission Meeting
February 21-22, 2019
St. Louis, MO**

**February 21, 2019
LCMS International Center**

Call To Order: The meeting was called to order by Rev. Dr. Espinosa at 8:02 am. All members were in attendance except Rev. Steve Briel, and Mr. Ernest Garbe who were engaged in other business. Rev. Peter Bender joined via conference call.

Staff in attendance were Rev. Kevin Robson, Rev. Bob Zagore, Mrs. Jeannie Smithson, and Ms. Megan Mertz.

Rev. Kevin Robson lead us in opening devotions with Morning Prayer.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the October 2018 meeting were presented. There was discussion regarding the completion of the ends policies and what happened following the previous meeting. Discussion tabled until later in the agenda. Motion to approve was made by Ms. Julia Habrecht, seconded by Ms. Claussen. Motion was passed unanimously.

First Vice President Report, Rev. Herb Mueller: Rev. Mueller presented two documents: the annual report which had initially been published in the Lutheran Witness, and the First Vice President Synod Convention Report. In the Annual Report, Rev. Mueller presented on the fast facts on fiscal year 2018. He had generally a good report of the Synod's finances. In regards to the First Vice President synod convention report, he spoke to us regarding his work on the Colloquy Committee, and specifically in regards to the 2016 13-02A resolution speaking to the ordination of lay deacons. Out of 178 men, almost 170 men and their situations have been handled leaving, at most, 10 more who will, hopefully, be moving out of the lay deacon position. Thanks be to God. Open discussion followed.

Chief Mission Officer Report, Rev. Kevin Robson: See attached report. Highlights: Rev. Robson expressed deep thanks for the teams, especially Rev. Zagore and Rev. McMiller and their leadership under the cross of Christ. They continue to work especially towards streamlining processes amongst both OIM and ONM, in part, for fiscal reasons. New, even clearer than before, fiscal transparency is beginning with monthly reports which will morph into quarterly webinar reports open to those interested. There is also a new initiative along with the CUS system and the seminaries to really encourage entrance into church-work programs, even from infancy. Will be working with the districts to get even more feedback from individual congregations in regards to their desires for what Synod offers, as well as clarity what is available. We received an update on the movement of synod's property and relations in Asia.

Office of National Mission Unit Executive Report, Rev. Bob Zagore: See attached report. Highlights: Discussion on some personnel changes and prayer requests. Rev. Zagore expressed great thanks for Rev. Robson's leadership and the work he gets to accomplish with Rev. McMiller. He informed us on his resignation from his board position at LIRS, as well as removing our financial support for LIRS. The BNM is supportive of this move. A new initiative called Making Disciples for Life will encourage celebration of full lives of service. It will encourage planting churches in an effective way that works to catch those who move away from LCMS churches to areas with no LCMS churches in order to retain LCMS congregation members. They are planning a three-phase role out of all unit resources based on Re:Vitality with the first phase, hopefully,

being prepared by Convention. There will be an AI website; secondly, front sheets for each ministry area; and finally they will fill out the website with more resources and teachable modules. The strategic planning process continues with good results.

Break for Chapel

Ministry Director Presentation, Rev. Todd Kollbaum, Rural & Small Town Mission: Challenges include, a shrinking rural population; aging congregations; competing interests; lack of hope; fear of future. When working with congregations, the focus is on faithfully doing what the Lord has called us to do in the way that we're called to do it, where He has called us to do it. In rural areas, the population is 60% unchurched. A new and exciting opportunity is the so-called "brain gain," where many educated late 30s, early 40s are coming back to rural America looking for a safe environment in which to raise their family. RSTM continues to look for and teach new ministry models, including partnership models. Two presentations they offer are Engaging Your Community and Engaging the Wandering (inactives), as well as other events. There was open discussion.

BNM Overtures for Convention:

Marriage, Family, and Life (see attached): The board worked on fine tuning the overture presented.

Break for Lunch

The board continued discussion the marriage, family, and life overture. Discussion of IVF and the implications of using IVF language in our BNM overture. The Lord intends the children who are procreated shall be born except according to His will.

Every One His Witness (see final attached overture): Resolveds were all be changed by taking out "we" language and replace with "the synod" etc. Otherwise we agree.

Parochial schools: The BNM does not feel it is necessary to present this overture to convention.

Recognized Service Organization: The BNM does not feel it necessary to present this overture to the convention because the 4-03 task force has already completed this work.

Specialize Pastoral Ministry (see final attached overture)

Worker Wellness (see final attached overture): First overture: Replace "ministers" with "church workers" in both whereases and first resolved.

Second overture discussion: We should have an overture that holds up need for trustworthiness, not the need for trust.

Break

Ministry Director Report, Rev. Heath Curtis, Stewardship: Gave an intro on Stewardship department overall. People come to the department because they sense a financial need in their congregations. They offer several workshops, two in particular were reviewed: The Philippians Workshop, and the Generational Generosity Workshop. They used to bring in a few from each district to train and sent them back to their districts – this was to be the model. It failed. It was very expensive and the district people went back and immediately "forgot about" what they had

learned in St. Louis. Going to a district conference does not yield results – forgotten again. Website resources alone don't work. The pastor and a key group of lay people have to be on board for it to work. Now, they use Doxology "More than Giving" conferences to go to the congregations. Small to average size congregations (100 people) with little to no stewardship activity is their target market. He would love to meet with some of the districts they have not been able to connect with, specifically the west coast and the southern district.

Continued discussion of the second worker wellness overture.

A motion was made to adjourn for the evening by Ms. Claussen and seconded by Ms. Habrecht. We adjourned for the evening with closing chapel at 4:33 pm.

February 22, 2019

Hilton St. Louis Airport Hotel

Opening Prayer: The meeting as called to order by the acting chairman at 8:12 am. Rev. Robson provided the opening prayer.

Continued discussion on all presented overtures. See completed, attached document. Mrs. Hack Broom moved to adopt the document. Ms. Claussen seconded. The board passed it unanimously.

Break

Foundation Board Report, Ms. Carol Hack Broome: A favorable report. The drop in the markets affected things, but not dangerously. Reviewing endowments and their uses.

Life Conferences, Rev. Dr. Al Espinosa: A very favorable report. Thankfulness was expressed for both the march and the breakouts. Working to get a regional life conference started in the PSW District.

Lutheran Education Model in Los Angeles County: Recruitment of international students to help support the funding of the HS and program. They are then able to give financial assistance to Lutheran families so they are able to attend. Headmaster Lucas Fitzgerald at Pacific Lutheran High School is perpetuating the wonderful tradition of strong Lutheran ethos through pastoral presence and curriculum on campus while using this model. How can we as a board advise ONM to perpetuate this model? What resources can ONM offer? ONM can promote the model in concert with Communications. Speak with Dr. Schmidt, director of Lutheran Schools. A conversation has already taken place with various people from schools, ONM and OIM with great support of the model, but without much direction. Should we write a resolution about the Lutheran ethos at a school as we have policy? No, that already exists. How much can synod be involved? This is being explored already by the ONM.

Mrs. Milas made a motion to extend the agenda until noon. Ms. Claussen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Ends Policy: Review of what was adopted via email by the board. The directors have had this laid before them already. They were encouraged that they have a board who is holding them to a high confessional standard. Overall a good review by them.

Ends Policy Monitoring Procedure: There was no input from the directors regarding how the monitoring should take place. We discussed having increased communication with our assigned ministries and attendance at their conferences. We want to make a move towards a unified template for reports. The BIM has begun finessing a template for the Unit Executive to use in reporting. We will use something similar. There was discussion on what level of detail we'd like reported.

Ms. Claussen move that we adopt the following pattern of reporting from Rev. Zagore as the unit executive and the ministry area directors on a trial bases for the next meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Milas. Unanimously passed.

- Begin with a statement from unit executive essentially saying "we are in compliance with all policies." Then there will be a description of specific places where they're struggling.
- This will be followed by a notable implementation of specific policies.
- The staff then has an opportunity to suggest amendments to current policies that might be unhelpful.
- Finally, there is a space for them to suggest areas where new policies might be helpful or how we can support them.

Self-Governance Policy Review is tabled until the next meeting due to time constraints.

Next Meeting: June 13-14, 2019; Chaplain will be Rev. Steve Briel.

There was review of next meeting dates and whether they can be moved due to Rev. Zagore's personal schedule. We will look into moving it.

Rev. Robson led us in a closing devotion with Responsive Prayer Two.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Habrecht, seconded by Ms. Claussen. The motion was approved. Meeting adjourned at 12:09pm.