

**Board for National Mission Meeting  
June 13-14, 2019  
St. Louis, MO**

**June 13, 2019  
LCMS International Center**

**Call To Order:** The meeting was called to order by Rev. Briel at 8:03 am. All members were in attendance except Ms. Habrecht who was engaged in other business. Mrs. Milas attended via conference call.

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

Rev. Briel lead us in opening devotions with Morning Daily Prayer with a meditation on Acts 2.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the February 2019 meeting were presented. One change made. Motion to approve the amended minutes was made by Rev. Bender and seconded by Ms. Hack Broome. Motion was passed unanimously.

**Chief Mission Officer Report, Rev. Kevin Robson:** See attached report.

Highlights: Convention preparation is in full force. The floor committee weekend was productive and collegial. The Presidential election will take place June 22. We were asked to pray for Rev. Mueller and his family as he is treated for cancer. FY20 budget was approved by BOD, unanimous without objection. It is fiscally conservative. \$81M operating budget (up \$12M due to NYG and Convention). Salary increases of 3% were included for the first time in years. ONM has \$9.3 operating budget. ONM looks to add a Director of Life Ministry and Director of Family and Health Ministry. Rev. Robson reported on his work with BIM and OIM. Pastoral Education is looking to increase church work students (especially pastoral, but also others). Stop talking in deficit language about ministry work! Great collaboration happening among all areas of Synod right now.

**Office of National Mission Unit Executive Report, Rev. Bob Zagore:** See attached report.

Highlights: Making Disciples for Life is to be the new emphasis of synod and the ONM. The focus includes: Evangelize the lost; Retain the faithful; Strengthen congregations; Plant new churches, especially in multicultural areas; Engage the world. All directors are working in one way or another on this project. The new internet resource center will be driven by AI. It will be a collaborative learning tool which keeps getting smarter as it gets used. The idea is to get the church working collaboratively with itself to make sure that each member is contributing to the body of Christ. This will help to get the good resources we have to offer into the hands of the congregations.

ONM is now thinking strategically. Part of that is to get away from silos - creating subject matter experts, but those who work within teams to give resources to everyone. They are planning four regional MDFL conferences which will be something that lay people are excited to bring their pastors to. They will equip the royal priesthood to build their congregation. ONM is working with incubator congregations, which are churches who will use the resources and give feedback. Open communication helps foster trust and collaboration. Everyone His Witness has an estimated 10,000 people trained!

Worker Wellness - 2/3 say they're doing "well or very well," which is great, but that means that 1/3 of our workers are not. ONM created task groups to get to the heart of the issue and had

25 groups because of the huge response. THIS IS NEEDED. 498 people participated. Our workers:

- Need to change the attitude towards each other in the synod. It's too antagonistic.
- Looking for care at the local level (not district or synod) for spiritual care
- Want relationships more than programs
- Non-reporting care givers and father confessors - don't want to put their calls at risk by confessing sins
- Want people to recognize what they're doing because they only hear the negative. Need the positive.
- Want synod to participate in building healthier churches.
- Want advocacy on their behalf since they aren't "permitted" to speak up for themselves
- Financial assistance - not just education
- They need someone to preach the gospel to them and remind them of their identity in Christ.

**President Report, Rev. Matthew Harrison:** Floor committee weekend was fantastic, very unified. Looking to a calm convention, even after one of the most negative presidential campaigns of recent memory. Rev. Harrison commended Rev. Robson and Rev. Zagore on their fine work in ONM. Financially we are doing very well.

### **Break for Chapel**

**Ministry Director Presentation, Rev. Marcus Zill, LCMSU Campus Ministry:** Something that holds millennials in the church is relationships, especially an adult other than their parents who take a significant interest in them. Under Rev. Zill, LCMSU's focus is:

- Catechizing and caring for your own - job #1. 25% of all Lutheran youth are out of the church by 25
- Apologetics in the academic square - Youth are extraordinary confessors of Christ. We have things to say about everything, not just spirituality. Ideas incubate at our academic core.
- Reaching the lost - There are 1M international students on campus, 7% of all students are international. Atheists and agnostics have tripled in the last generation.
- Engaging a dying culture with Christ

We have 243 chapters Synod-wide. Rev. Zill continues to work with the College Bound program/College Unbound program, especially stating that we need to capture our youth who don't go to college. For this reason, he will use the term "college-age" instead of "college" students in his resources. We also have many different places to reach our students now (Community Colleges, online students, urban campus ministries, etc).

He expressed again the need an adequate database of our students. In the next year, he plans to call each congregation if necessary to build a database to get names and get them connected to LCMS churches.

**Ministry Director Presentation, Deaconess Grace Rao, Deaconess Ministry:** Deaconess Rao gave us an overview of what her work at Synod is and where Deaconesses are in the Synod. We had great discussion on putting deaconesses in appropriate spaces to their interests and training. All three programs (CTFSW, CSL, CUC) are providing wonderful Deaconesses. We also have many fine Deaconesses from Valparaiso.

Continued with Rev. Zagore's presentation. We don't yet have a good answer for folks who are struggling with LGBTQ+ issues but are celibate. The new Family and Health director will help with this. This must be collaborative with many entities within synod.

### **Break for Lunch**

**Ends Policy Monitoring:** Positive input from all the directors regarding the orthodoxy of the new policies, as well as how direct they are. If we have questions about specific ministry areas those should go through Rev. Zagore and not directly to the program directors.

We added an adoption date to the heading of the completed ends policies. November 2018.

Reporting should follow this procedure:

- The UE written report should begin with a statement essentially saying “we are in compliance with all policies.” Then there will be a description of any specific places where they’re struggling.
- From the directors, there will be reporting on notable implementations of specific policies.
- The staff has an opportunity to suggest amendments to current policies that might be unhelpful as well as suggest areas where new policies might be helpful and how we can support them. This information should come to the board through Rev. Zagore.
- In person, the director reports should be anecdotal. Our relationships with them should be supportive.

Now that our policies are completed, it was suggested that we scan through the document as a whole to see if there is anything that is missing. We discussed that, because this is a “living document,” this is not especially necessary.

### **Self-Governance Policy Review:**

Specific motions:

Rev. Bender moved to change bylaw 2.3.1.1 to:

2.3.1.1. Fidelity (Faithfulness to doctrine and practice that centers on the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Holy Scriptures, the Lutheran Confessions, the mission of the LCMS, and her relationships with congregations, districts, and other partners.)

Seconded by Rev. Droegemueller. Discussion. Passed unanimously.

Mrs. Wurdeman moved to change bylaw 2.3.1.2 to:

2.3.1.2. Integrity (Trustworthiness and accountability in relationships with partners and donors, and through effective management of the resources entrusted to the ONM.)

Seconded by Rev. Bender. Discussion. Passed unanimously.

Tabled the rest until the following day’s agenda item.

### **Break**

Some further discussion with Rev. Zagore about staffing and ministries under ONM. Discussion on how BNM and BIM work under the current structure (post-2010), and how they can work most robustly under the current bylaws. Rev. Briel will work with Rev. Seter to begin that process, possibly creating a joint committee.

### **Convention Resolution Overview, Rev. Kevin Robson:**

Rev. Robson walked us through the resolutions for consideration at convention. Of particular interest were resolutions brought forth from our board’s overtures (3-05, 1-01, 1-06, 1-07); Making Disciples for Life to now supplant Witness, Mercy, Life Together as the mission emphasis (4-03), noting that the seven mission priorities will remain the same. Other resolutions to note as they pertain to the work being done on BNM: 4-06, 4-07, 6-01.

Resolution 4-04 - After the synodical convention, assuming 4-04 passes, the BNM will assemble a joint report with the BIM to set before the district conventions in order to present the things districts should keep in the forefront of their mind when suggesting mission and ministry priorities.

The BNM would like Rev. Briel to create a resolution for floor committee four to add the seventh mission priority (marriage, family and life ministry) to the bullet list of bylaw 3.8.2.

The rest of the conversation is tabled and will begin with Floor committee 7 tomorrow morning.

We adjourned for the evening with closing chapel at 4:38 pm.

**June 14, 2019**

**Hilton St. Louis Airport Hotel**

**Opening Prayer:** The meeting was called to order by the chairman at 8:07 am. Rev. Briel led us in Daily Morning Prayer.

**Continued Convention Resolution Overview, Rev. Kevin Robson:**

Floor Committee seven's work could be the most controversial of the convention. Financially, synod is being extremely transparent. The board was encouraged to read through the work of floor committees 11 and 12.

**Self-Governance Policy Review**

Discussion on bylaw 2.3.3. and whether the CMO/OTP were included for some reason. Clarification given from Rev. Robson that they were listed due to the nature of their oversight of the board. Rev. Bender moved to keep original concluding sentence. Ms. Claussen seconded. Passed.

Mrs. Wurdeman move to amend wording. The motion died.

Rev. Bender motion to change bylaw 2.3.3 to:

The board shall exercise its authority as a whole. No individual board member or LCMS staff member may exercise authority on behalf of the board except the chair (or the chair's designee), and then only at the direction of the board or its executive committee.

In communications on behalf of the board, the chair (or the chair's designee) shall strive to avoid speculative assertions, reflect the consensus of the board and consult as appropriate with the executive committee, Chief Mission Officer and/or the President of Synod. Apart from prior authorization from the board, no other board member shall communicate on behalf of the board.

Ms. Claussen seconded. Discussion. Rev. Droegemueller called the question. Rev. Espinosa seconded. Passed unanimously.

Rev. Bender moved to change the wording of bylaws 2.3.5., 2.3.5.1. and 2.3.5.2. to:

2.3.5. Ends Policy Review and Revisions

2.3.5.1. Any board member, the President of Synod or appropriate governing body may ask for a review of specific policies. However, responsibility for review and revisions of policies rests with the BNM alone.

2.3.5.2. The board shall review at least yearly the range and scope of the ends policies of the BNM to determine their appropriateness and relevance to changing conditions and needs. The board shall conduct an in-depth review of

its policies in accordance with its annual review calendar.  
Ms. Claussen seconded. Tabled until after break.

### **Ends Policies discussion tabled until next meeting.**

### **Break**

**Foundation Board Report, Ms. Carol Hack Broome:** The foundation has significant assets of over \$830M. A new marketing director has just been hired in the hopes that, in addition to current donors, donors will present themselves to the Foundation. Ms. Hack Broome is impressed that the gift planning process is credible and respectful of the donors' wishes. The audit committee seems very competent as well.

### **Self-Governance Policy Review, continued:**

Rev. Bender's motion still on the floor. The question was called, passed unanimously.

Ms. Claussen moved to change bylaw 2.3.7.1. to:

2.3.7.1. Members shall regularly attend board meetings and, when unable to attend, notify the board chairman. If a member has two consecutive unexcused absences or an accumulation of three unexcused absences within any term of office, the Chair will contact the member to determine if he or she desires to continue on the board. The board Chairman may request the resignation of a board member for non-compliance to the BNM Code of Conduct. In the event a board member fails to comply with the Code of Conduct and will not voluntarily resign, the process of removal according to Bylaw 1.5.7, ff. shall be followed.

Mrs. Wurdeman seconded. Passed unanimously.

Ms. Claussen moved to change bylaw 2.3.7.7. to:

2.3.7.7. Members shall be encouraged to invest personal energy, resources and skills in the purposes and objectives of ONM ministries, seeking opportunities to be advocates of the ONM mission and ministry.

Rev. Droegemueller seconded. Passed unanimously.

Ms. Claussen moved to strike bylaw 2.3.7.8 and change the following bylaw numbers accordingly:

2.3.7.8. The Board shall strive for 100% participation in the financial support of National Mission programs.

Rev. Bender seconded. Motion passed with one dissent.

Ms. Claussen moved to extend the agenda until 12:00 pm. Ms. Hack Broome seconded. Passed unanimously.

Rev. Bender moved to accept the revised Self-Governance Policy. Mr. Garbe seconded. Passed unanimously.

### **No Other Business**

**Format for September meeting/President's orientation/Installation:** Revs. Briel and Seter will come together to determine how to move forward with the work needing to be done according to Resolution 4-04, assuming it passes. Once that is completed, Rev. Briel will put together a proposed agenda for our September board meeting. The board would like the following to be considered: a BNM specific-orientation for new members; a philosophy type

discussion with them regarding how our board works together and completes our tasks; a presentation on Article II of the LCMS Constitution; we'd like all ministry program directors to give a short presentation; elections will have to take place; will there be a joint meeting with the BIM, or with the BNM, BIM, BOD together?

The chair will communicate with the board via email to determine the agenda.

In February we would like no director presentation, but take time to consider how to execute our board's work as robustly as we can by setting goals for the triennium.

Next Meeting: September 12-13 (potentially 14), 2019; Chaplain will be \_\_\_\_.

Rev. Briel led us in a closing prayer.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Claussen, seconded by Rev. Bender. The motion was approved. Meeting adjourned at 12:08pm.