

Board for National Mission
June 14/15, 2018
St. Louis, MO

June 14, 2018
LCMS International Center

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rev. Steve Briel at 8:00 a.m. Members in attendance: Ernie Garbe, Carla Claussen, Al Espinosa, Martha Milas, Steve Briel, Carol Hack Broome, Shaina Mitchell, Peter Bender, Crysten Sanchez (Zoom). Absent: Tim Droegemueller, Julia Habrecht. Staff in attendance: Kevin Robson, Bob Zagore, Jeannie Smithson. Rev. Peter Bender provided the opening devotion.

Chief Mission Officer Report: See written report submitted by Rev. Kevin Robson. District conventions are in full swing. The program ministries have been especially busy with the budget process in the recent months. The overall budget is down roughly \$6.5 million, largely due to eliminating “Level 2” projects in the Office of International Mission. Roughly 1/3 of our congregations are contributing to NSM funding for our missionaries. The number of first-time donors has dramatically increased this last year, which usually results in a second, third, or fourth gift according to trend reports. We have received \$10 million this last year toward the various disasters. This was given over and above/with no impact on other ongoing budget areas. Many opportunities are ahead of us throughout the world, especially in the Africa region. Brief update was provided on our international schools.

ONM UE and department Reports: See written reports provided.

Chapel Break

Ministry Presentation: Rev. Steve Schave, director of Urban & Inner City Ministry, provided a presentation on the work being done in inner cities around the US. New church planting resources are now available for Mission Field: USA (e-book online and e-learning companion resource). Need to uncover the obstacles to church planning and how it can be rebooted. Two convention resolutions encouraged church planting throughout the Synod and supporting the Mission Field: USA initiative. We now support districts who desire to employ their own missionary-at-large while promoting them under the Mission Field_ USA initiative. New resources are also available for Urban Mission. 10% of our churches are located in heavily populated areas.

Foundation Board Representation: A new representative (to cover the remaining triennium) needs to be appointed to the LCMS Foundation Board of Trustees. The Foundation exists to foster and support the mission of the Church, so our representation on the board can broaden the perspective on Synod’s missions. Options for someone with a financial background or someone familiar with the missions.

Lunch

Ends policies: Work continued from previous meeting about rewriting the ends policies around Synod's seven mission priorities. The subcommittees will continue working through their recommendations. Edits will be sent to Jeannie by 8-3-18 to be collated and distributed to the members by 9-1-18. These edits will be discussed at the October meeting.

Adjourned with chapel at 5 pm.

June 15, 2018

Hilton St. Louis Airport Hotel

Opening Prayer: The meeting was called to order by the chairman at 8:00 a.m. Rev. Bender provided the opening devotion.

Executive session: Board entered executive session to discuss the board secretary position and responsibilities.

Self-governance policies: See separate page for approved edits to the self-governance policies.

Convention items: Chairman Briel asked the members to forward items that would be beneficial to include in his written report for the Synod Convention. Members should bring (any) Convention overtures for consideration to the next meeting, e.g. Lutheran schools, outreach to various ethnic groups, Institute for Life Together concept. Zagore and Robson will work on a draft resolution for Lutheran schools using the Blue Ribbon Task Force School Report.

Next meeting: Oct 18 & 19 (Thurs & Fri), 2018; Chaplain – Rev. Tim Droegemueller.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed with a devotion by Rev. Bender and adjourned at 11:55 am.

Jeannie Smithson

Acting Secretary