
Staff Members Present: Barbara Below, Rev. Dan McMiller, Deaconess Pam Nielsen, Rev. Kevin Robson and Jeannie Smithson.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by the vice chairman, John Edson, at 9:00 a.m. and was opened with Responsive Prayer 1 led by Pastor Fajardo.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the January 30 and 31, 2020, regular meeting were approved.

President’s Report: President Harrison joined the meeting and reported on recent developments. The Church Relations position remains vacant and Synod now has a hiring freeze in place. The Board of International Mission and its staff have caused a miraculous rebirth of confessional Lutheran mission work in Central and South America in spite of the difficulties presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Council of Presidents has been meeting regularly, and the Synod has been working to ensure the right of our churches to reopen. Missionaries continue to be funded while the Synod as a whole faces a very challenging financial situation.

Chief Mission Officer Report: Kevin Robson reviewed his written report highlighting a number of issues. The chief order of business has been the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on the work of the Synod. The transition to work at home has been relatively seamless and has afforded an opportunity to rethink communication and work processes. The Board of Directors is encouraging all boards, committees and entities to meet electronically whenever feasible. The Board of Directors will be making critical decisions at its August meeting with regard to Synod’s financial resources. OIM will need to evaluate and consider ways to reorganize the way it operates.

Kevin is very proud of the OIM team. Communication has never been better. Dan McMiller and the area directors are operating as an incredibly cohesive team. Mission Advancement and Communications have not missed a beat in spite of having to work from home. They are not retreating in spite of the challenges and work ahead.

Unit Executive’s Report: Dan McMiller noted a number of items that were not in his written report including the moving of India from the Asia region to the Eurasia region and a change to only one regional director in Africa. He also noted critical issues facing OIM in how we conduct theological education and address funding challenges. We need to see OIM as a unified global enterprise fully integrated into the operations of corporate Synod.

MAF Call: Rev. Craig Muehler joined the meeting, and the board entered into executive session to discuss a MAF call. After returning from executive session the following call was approved:
Missionary Call Updates: Dan McMiller then presented an update on missionary calls previously issued:

Career Accepted:
Ms. Rachel Meyer Called Africa
Ms. Barbara Rebentisch Called Asia
Mrs. Sandra Rhein Called Asia

GEO Accepted:
Ms. Kelly Haynes Appointed Eurasia
Mrs. Jordan Logston Appointed Latin America
Mr. James Justin Logston Appointed Latin America
Ms. Rachel Krause Appointed Latin America

International Educator Accepted:
Mr. Doug Grove Called Concordia International School Shanghai

The Board also approved the following peaceful releases:

Career:
Ms. Angela Thompson Called Africa
Rev. Douglas Thompson Called Africa
Mr. Joshua Lange Called Asia

GEO:
Mr. Kevin Kong Appointed Asia
Ms. Joanna Johnson Appointed Asia
Mr. Carl Cecil Appointed Eurasia
Ms. Karen Cecil Appointed Eurasia
Mr. Peter Hoffmann Appointed Eurasia

Global Director Presentation: Following lunch, Rev. James Krikava, Area Director for Eurasia, Herman Strozier, Regional Business Manager and Michael Morizio, Associate Regional Business Manager, joined the meeting. Pastor Krikava reported on work in the region highlighting developments in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia, the transition of India to the Eurasia region, the development of a new Eurasia regional seminary, and expanded work in the Balkan-Mediterranean area. The COVID-19 pandemic has had little overall effect on their work, and there are many new opportunities for the establishment of confessional Lutheran churches.
**International Schools:** The board then went into executive session for a report on each of the International Schools. After returning from executive session the board duly endorsed the appointment of the following individuals to the Concordia International School Shanghai Council:

- Nancy Qian
- Douglas Sung
- Terence Foo

**Self-Governance Policies Review:** Carl Rockrohr presented the ad hoc committee’s written report on their review of the board’s self-governance policies. Recommendations related to ends policies were referred to the previously appointed ends policies ad hoc committee. Kevin Robson will contact Synod’s Human Resources and Legal Departments and the Synod Secretary to obtain clarification of the language regarding the “withdrawing of missionaries” in Self-Governance Policy 2.8.3.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. and was closed with Psalm 113 and prayer by Pastor Fajardo.

K. Allan Voss
Secretary