

Board of Directors --Rocky Mountain District

November 7, 2016

Board Members Present: Mr. James Tuell; President Allen Anderson; Ms. Janelle Krueger; Rev. Dwight Hellmers; Mr. Travis Goeglein; Mr. Duane Nyen; Mr. David Ling; Rev. David Fischer; Mr. Cody Dodson; Mrs. Polly Wegner; Rev. Gary Rahe; Rev. Don Widger

Board Members Absent: Rev. Gary Piepkorn

Appointed Member: Rev. Christian Rasmussen (Assistant Secretary)

Guests: Becky Gambardella; Ann Stivers; Rev. Joel Dieterichs

8:30 Call to Order—Mr. James Tuell

8:30 Opening Devotion—Rev. Dwight Hellmers –
LSB 677 For All Saints
Reading: Rev 7:1-17
Litany LSB 288

9:00 Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve, 2nd. **Approved** as corrected, noting Mr. Travis Goeglein was absent at the May 9, 2016 BOD meeting.

9:00 Approval of Consent Agenda—

- Motion made to ask Constitution committee to submit a summary of changes, motion 2nd
 - Discussion
- **Motion defeated**
- Motion to Approve Consent Agenda, 2nd ;
- Consent Agenda approved
 - Resolution #2016-11-C-Admin-02

9:15 President's Report—Written report on File

- Concordia Plans for Health care for workers; some congregations are not in Concordia plans, now those churches are finding 25-48% increases in premiums. Would be paying the same amount if in Concordia plans. Some congregations enrolled in plans are not paying premiums for workers. Why would you put workers at risk? This is the question President asks the congregations in those situations. Some pastors and church workers do not have health care insurance.
- This coming year, there will be 96 candidates for the pastoral ministry and 86 vicars, these numbers reflect the combined total for both Seminaries.
- The RMD has been asked by LCMS to partner with them to start a new mission in Belize, at the cost of \$50,000 per year for 3 years. These funds would be above and beyond regular operating budget.

- PLI- Pastoral Leadership Institute- is designed to engage and encourage pastors and the wives, to share challenges and offer support. PLI is here in our District. President Anderson has met with the leaders in this area and they have been forthright in their plans for what will take place.
- Shepherd of the Hills, Rio Rancho, NM—the congregation is struggling to meet financial obligations to LCEF.
- Gethsemane, Northglenn is also struggling financially.

9:35 Executive Session—Chairman, Jim Tuell

10:15 Congregational Services Report –Report on File—(Mr. or Rev. or Vicar) Paul Albers

- Highlighted Synod Resolution 8-01A To Encourage and Strengthen the Lutheran Ethos of Our LCMS Early Childhood Centers, Elementary Schools, and High Schools.
- Discussed the challenges facing Early Childhood Centers in the state of Colorado, where state inspectors are sanctioning Centers for what they teach about Jesus. An example given was an inspector telling the director of an ECC that the illustrations in a children’s Bible, depicting Jesus on the cross was too graphic and violent, and needed to be removed from the classroom.

10:30 Mr. Kevin Grein—LCEF

- \$294,949 went back to RMD for ministry, through rebates for congregations and GGP grants.
- \$700,000 was recently awarded to eleven congregations across the LCMS by LCEF, 2 of which were in the RMD. The minimum amount of the grant was \$25,000. Next round of grants will be in spring.
- Pastor’s need to check their emails from Kevin, because this is where the initial information for grants will come.
- LCEF is pushing IRA’s to preserve wealth.
- LCEF sent out to congregations the newly published Legacy Planning Guide.
- Lutheran Federal Credit Union is up and running and offers financial services at less cost than a conventional bank.
- LCEF will be restructuring along a regional structure—not real clear on how this will impact the LCEF in the District.

10:45 Break

10:45 Executive for Administration Report—Mr. Doug Ullmann— updated report on file

- Completed closing of the sale of Trinity Lutheran—Rangely property.
- Disaster Response—Trailer was delivered to District office in October. The supplies will be delivered in mid-November, then the trailer will be built out with shelves and organized. Will look into suitable graphics for trailer. Once all that is completed the trailer will be stored in Woodland Park, at our Disaster Response Coordinators house.
- Want to change communications strategy. Right now the RMD has two main means of publicity, the Lutheran Witness insert known as Peaks and Valleys, as well as My District, the electronic newsletter. Lutheran Witness information is two months old by the time it's published. The My District, is electronic and can be much more timely. Because Peaks and Valleys is outdated by the time it is published, the thought is Peaks and Valleys will include only President Anderson's devotional/informational column, and the other side will encourage people to look at or subscribe to My District to obtain timely information regarding District news and events.
- Lay Leaders needed for Debt Assistance Committee, they meet twice a year. Monitor accounts, award assistance, etc.
- Changes will be coming for accounting practice. Currently there are three categories of income 1) unrestricted, 2) restricted and 3) permanently restricted. After the change there will be only two categories, 1) restricted and 2) unrestricted.
- 1st or 2nd week of June 2018, will be the next District Convention.
- Doug has asked a local reality company to provide a summary of the District office property, looking at the options of selling the property, leasing the property, or doing nothing and keeping the status quo.
- Highlighted 20-year summary of Congregational Receipts to District. Loss of about 500,000 per each 5-7 year period. High of receipts in 1999 of \$1,963,138, to a decline of \$1,030,773 of receipts in 2015. Almost a million-dollar decrease in giving over those 16 years.

11:50 Mr. Jim Tuell

- Had request from Synod for nominations for various positions. No nominations from BOD forthcoming.
- District Reconcilers
 - Motion made to have Rev. Kent Schnegelberger; Rev. Dr. Clare Skov; Mr. Harvey White as reconcilers, and Rev. Gary Piepkorn as Hearing Facilitator. 2nd, **motion approved.**

- No nominations made for the last lay reconciler position from the Rocky Mountain District. Synod needs name by Nov. 11. Business in this regard will take place by email.

11:15 Preliminary 2017 Mission and Ministry Plan

12:00 Lunch

12:45 RMD Disability Ministry Taskforce-- Becky Gambardella; Ann Stivers; Rev. Joel Dieterichs

- The RMD Disability Ministry Taskforce came about from Resolution 2015-1-02a
- This resolution did not designate any funds for the DMTF to meet or carry out the work they were charged with.
- Proposing a request for funding; money so far has come from Bethesda for brochures. Three thousand dollars were requested by the DMT--\$1800 for travel; \$1000--Printing; \$200.00—Postage. These funds would be added to the 2017 Operations budget as requested by DMT, motion made and 2nd.
- **Motion adopted**

1:15 Gospel Gap

- Request from Four Corners Circuit for support for SMP program of John Widmer, who cannot afford his education, nor can the congregation, Grace in Moab, which he serves twice a month.
- Motion made to adopt Four Corners Circuit Gospel Gap funding request, 2nd. **Motion Adopted**

1:20 Discussion of letter asking RMD for aid for Shepherd of the Hills, Rio Rancho. They are projecting a \$5000 monthly short fall in terms of revenue vs. expenses. President Anderson will respond to Pastor Desoto and Lee Robinson, Chairman of the Congregation.

Discussion about the Big Rocks priorities and how they should be included on the agenda. Motion made to take up GGP clarification and Worker Health at the next BOD meeting. 2nd. **Adopted**

2:010 Motion to Adjourn. 2nd. **Adopted**
Closed with prayer.

The Rocky Mountain District Board of Directors Meeting, November 7, 2016

Resolution # 2016-11-C-Admin-01

TO ESTABLISH HOUSING ALLOWANCES FOR 2017

Whereas, The IRS recognizes and allows favorable income tax relief to ministers of religion in the form of a housing allowance; and

Whereas, The governing body of the ordained ministers employer should adopt annually a housing allowance of its qualified workers, therefore be it

Resolved That the Rocky Mountain District, as a standing resolution to remain in force and effect until such time as amended or revoked, hereby authorizes and establishes a housing allowance for the following individuals:

Allen Anderson	50%
Paul Albers	74%
George Naeem	50%
Juan Hormachea	65%

ADOPTED

Resolution # 2016-11-C-Admin-02

TO APPROVE REVISED CONSTITUTION

Whereas, The Committee on Constitutions has reviewed the revised constitutions submitted by the following congregations and has found that they satisfy the requirements of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and the Rocky Mountain District; therefore be it

Resolved, That the following revised constitution be approved.

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church – Broomfield, CO

ADOPTED