

## **Summary of Actions Taken by the Board of Directors of the Northern Illinois District during the Past Triennium**

### December 15, 2014

- The board adopted the housing allowance recommendation of the Administrative Services Committee
- The board adopted an audit engagement letter.

### January 26, 2015

- The budget for Fiscal Year 2015 was approved.
- Five late overtures (2-09, 2-10, 2-11, 3-01, and 3-02) were sent to the district convention. These overtures all addressed issues raised about the district bylaws by the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters.
- The offering at the district convention's Divine Service was to be distributed as follows: 10% to Synod, unrestricted; 45% to the Peru Lutheran Mission, via the LCMS Office of International Missions, designated for adding a kitchen to the Casa de Misericordia Castillo Fuerte (Mighty Fortress Mercy House) in a poor neighborhood of Lima and also for scholarships for a formerly "Evangelical" now Lutheran grade school, Colegio Noé (Noah School); and 45% for scholarships for NID Hispanic seminary students.
- The board adopted a motion to authorize the president and treasurer to make decisions regarding a living trust.

### March 23, 2015

- The four-year call for Rev. Keith Haney and Rev. Michael Mast was renewed.
- The minutes of the 2015 convention were approved.
- The board designated that the net assets of the Boesenberg bequest in the initial amount of \$127,500.00 would fund the Advancing the Mission proposals brought to the board by the NID staff.

### June 22, 2015

- It was noted that the district convention had adopted a resolution last March asking that a representative from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans be invited to the June Board of Directors meeting to address concerns that members of Thrivent were not able to designate Donor Choice funds to go to Lutherans for Life. Laurie Wilkinson of Thrivent's home office in Appleton came to dialogue with the board about Thrivent's policy and its history. Dan Gilbert then made a full report of the discussion to district congregations, as the convention resolution mandated.
- A motion was adopted to accept Lord of Life in Millbrook into membership.
- A motion was adopted to accept the Fiscal Year 2014 audit.
- The board agreed to schedule a mission forum to meet from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on August 29, 2015 at Trinity, Lombard. An afternoon session would follow that would focus on helping small and struggling churches to make wise plans for their future.
- The board adopted a motion granting NID Grant Awards to the following: Swaddling Clothes Ministry at River of Life, Channahon; an expanded VBS at St. Paul, Melrose Park; care for special needs at Calvary, Wood Dale; and outreach (a health fair and VBS) at Vida y Fe in Elgin.

- The board adopted a motion re-appointing Dale Kuhfahl as NID treasurer.
- It was noted that the district convention had urged the Board of Directors to consider some alternate meeting days and times.

#### September 14, 2015

- It was noted that the Synod's Commission on the Handbook declined to act on Resolutions 1-03A and 1-06 of the 2015 Northern Illinois District Convention.
- The board began crafting a policy manual.
- A motion was adopted to have the board meet on the same day and at the same time during 2016, collect more data to see if the schedule is a major problem, and then decide in the fall of 2016 whether to keep the same schedule for 2017.
- The board adopted a motion agreeing to accept the Administrative Services Committee's proposal concerning the level of Concordia Health Plan coverage.
- The board approved the nomination of the following individuals to serve on the Administrative Services Committee: Dick Blatt, Jeff Blackman, John Blair (new), Doug Brooks (new), Fritz Buhlman, Roger Geske, Dottie Hildebrandt, Laura Latzke, Wayne Lewis, Marie Payes, Bob Skinner, and Rev. David Thies.
- The Board elected Betsy Karkan (board member) and Jackie Bussert (staff) to be the board's advisory delegates to the 2016 Synod Convention.
- The board elected Lauren Olsen to fill the vacancy left by Julie Heck, who resigned from the board since she left the district.
- It was noted that the Synod granted both of our requests for exceptions to electoral circuits.

#### November 2, 2015

- It was noted that the Board for International Mission declined to act on the 2015 Northern Illinois District Resolutions 1-03A and 1-06, since the resolutions were overtures to the Synod convention, where they could be addressed.
- New Song (Aurora) was given a ten-year extension on their mortgage; this is one of the last few properties where the district (as opposed to LCEF) granted a loan.
- The schedule for 2016 was approved.
- A motion was adopted to have the district president appoint a task force to report back in January with additional creative ideas to increase revenue in the district.

#### December 14, 2015

- The housing allowances for Fiscal Year 2016 were approved.
- The board adopted a motion to pay Risen Savior (Byron) \$10,000 per year for the next two years, which is money that had been earmarked for them but suspended during a pastoral vacancy. The money would be granted provided the pastor then considering the call accept the call and the congregation match \$10,000 each year.
- As per the request of the most recent Synod convention, a district viability survey was put together; the Northern Illinois District was found to be viable.

### January 25, 2016

- An overture to the Synod convention “To Encourage a Proper Balance between the Right of Self Governance of Congregations and the Commitment We Make to Walk Together as Members of Synod in Foreign Missions” was adopted. This overture was essentially a re-worked edition of a resolution adopted by the 2015 district convention, but that was declined to be implemented by the Commission on the Handbook because they believed the task we asked them to do lay outside of their mandate.
- The board adopted a motion to authorize the creation of a Thrivent Choice account entitled “NID Hispanic Ministry Fund” for the purpose of receiving Thrivent Choice dollars. This would be in addition to the already established Northern Illinois District Thrivent Choice account. At the same time, because of the discussion at the previous June meeting, the Administrative Services Committee was asked to consider the feasibility of moving endowments out of Thrivent.
- A motion to adopt the budget of \$3,145,152 in expenditures (with a \$273,803 loss) was adopted. In addition, the Administrative Services Committee was asked to look into the compensation of all district staff and report back by the June board meeting. This would allow compensation to be considered apart from the annual budget process.
- The Congregational Support Taskforce reported that they had met for the first time, and some good ideas had been tossed about in that meeting.

### March 14, 2016

- The board approved the following amounts to be distributed to recipients determined at a later date: \$14,650.93 for the Education Endowment (which is the FY 2015 earnings plus 10% of the principal) and \$12,091.41 for the NID Endowment (which is the FY 2015 earnings).
- The Congregational Support Taskforce proposed having six gatherings (scattered around the district) starting in the fall introducing how New Starts...New Believers is affecting that particular area. The gathering would last about an hour or an hour and a half.
- It was noted that the Endowment Committee would meet in May and review the applications for the NID Endowment. It would also consider whether the district should continue to have Thrivent as the manager of the endowments.
- It was noted that a salary review committee (Kris Whitby [chair], Doug Brooks, and John Blair of the Administrative Services Committee) had been appointed to consider how the salaries of district staff compares with those in other districts.

### June 20, 2016

- The board approved the distribution of endowment grants as follows: \$5,000 to St. Paul (Aurora) for their City Lights ministry; \$3,880 to Hope (Countryside); and the balance of \$3,211.41 to the New Starts Partnership Grant Fund.
- The audit report for fiscal year 2015 was approved by the board.
- A motion was made to continue with the current health plan options for district employees, unless the Concordia Health Plan proposes a new option that merits the board’s consideration; if that is the case, a vote will be held by email.
- Steven Anderson was elected East Region Vice-president to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Harry Therwanger.

- A motion was adopted to release surplus net assets to fill the gap (no more than \$13,300) so that the district could get a full match of \$25,000 for Hispanic ministry from the Lutheran Legacy Foundation; it was noted that there is the prospect of raising more money before the August 31 deadline, in which case the money from the district would be less.
- The Congregational Support Taskforce proposed the schedule for six meetings throughout the district to raise awareness of the district's work.

#### September 19, 2016

- The salary review committee gave the report. The board decided to take no action at the time.
- The board agreed to let the Northern Illinois District serve as an agent for collecting funds for the Ingrian Lutheran Church and Pastor Leif Kamp, a son of the district who now serves as a pastor in that church.
- It was noted that enough donations were received for Hispanic ministry that the district did not have to release surplus net assets to fill the gap to get a full match from the Lutheran Legacy Foundation.

#### November 7, 2016

- The Board of Directors schedule for 2017-2018 was adopted.
- Synod reconcilers were elected: Ms. Ann Lading-Ferguson; Deaconess Phaedra Serbus; Pastor Dennis Thompson, and Mr. Steve Stec.

#### December 19, 2016

- The Fiscal Year 2017 Housing Allowance was approved.
- The Fiscal Year 2017 Audit Engagement Letter was approved.
- The board adopted a motion to ask the special convention to restructure the circuits along the lines initially proposed by the presidium, with some modifications suggested by the circuit visitors and board members.
- It was noted that the Board Policy Manual Committee has hit a snag on setting policies for the district president, since he reports to the convention, not the board of directors. No further work on the policy manual would be forthcoming as a result.

#### January 30, 2017

- The board elected Alicia Dietrich to fill the vacancy on the Board of Regents of Concordia University Chicago left by the resignation of Elizabeth Vernick.
- The Fiscal Year 2017 Budget was approved. The total projected revenue is \$2,575,003 and the total projected expenses are \$2,815,415, with a projected \$240,412 deficit.
- The board adopted a motion to reallocate some of the \$130,000 that had been designated for a third site at Sanctuary Lutheran Church in Manhattan that had never been able to get off the ground. St. Paul Lutheran Church in Rockford would receive \$40,000 to begin a new Hispanic mission outreach. Redeemer and Mount Olive Lutheran Churches in Rockford would also be involved. An additional \$35,000 would go to Sanctuary in Manhattan exclusively for outreach, once the board was content with Sanctuary's plan for use of the funds.

### March 20, 2017

- The board adopted an overture to the next district convention that would call for the district bylaws to be amended so that the board of directors can reconfigure the circuits between district conventions. The district secretary was asked to send the overture to the Commission on Constitutional Matters for their approval.
- The board approved the amounts from the endowments that would be distributed at a later time: \$13,914.08 from the Education Endowment and \$14,553.91 from the NID Endowment.
- The four-year call for Mike Zimmer, Mission Facilitator for Schools, was renewed.
- A motion was made to release the final \$10,000 of the Ablaze Grant for Risen Savior (Byron).
- As the annual corporate resolution was adopted to authorize the signers for the Thrivent accounts, the issue was raised whether the district was still seeking to disentangle itself from Thrivent. The matter had been turned over to the Administrative Services Committee, but no report had been forthcoming.
- A committee was appointed to consider alternate meeting formats and times, as per the last district convention's mandate to the board.
- The Congregational Support Taskforce gave its final report on the six meetings held throughout the district and was dismissed with thanks.

### June 19, 2017

- The ad hoc Committee on Board Meeting Times (whose members were Pastor Kevin Koester, Jacob Tomaw, and Pastor Ron Weidler) reported that they had consulted neighboring districts as well as members of the previous triennium's Committee for Convention Nominations. The general consensus of advice from the latter was to keep the meetings as is, since the pool of qualified pastors and commissioned church workers is smaller than the pool of qualified lay people. Also it would be helpful for nominees to know in advance when the board is likely to meet, so that they would know what schedule to expect. The board adopted the report.
- The board adopted a motion to send two overtures to the next district convention that would make three minor changes to the district bylaws to bring them into conformity with Synod's *Handbook*. These changes had been suggested by the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters when they reviewed the earlier overture by the board to amend the district's bylaws.
- The board adopted a motion to grant San Pablo (Aurora) a \$10,000 grant from the NID Endowment to reach out to people who pass by their facilities. The board adopted a motion that the balance of \$4,553.91 be given to the New Start Partnership Grant.
- The Fiscal Year 2016 Audit was approved.
- LeeAnn Acosta was hired as the new business manager. Upon the recommendation of the Administrative Services Committee, the board agreed that Dale Kuhfahl would remain as treasurer through March, 2018.
- The Board of Directors agreed to extend for twelve months the note from San Pablo Lutheran Church (Aurora) that was due then, payable in full to the district. The note would be extended for twelve months with a five-year amortization at 3% interest, resulting in a monthly payment of \$983.77, with a balloon payment at the end. Any

payment received from San Pablo would be designated as scholarship money for students at their School for Missionaries (*Escuela misionera*).

- The Board of Directors granted management the authority to decide which health coverage election to make among the Concordia Plan offerings for 2018, as was done last year, since there were thirteen options to choose from and information about them had not yet arrived, but the decision would have to be made before the next board meeting.

#### September 11, 2017

- Dan Sedory was elected to fill the vacancy on the NID Board of Directors left by the resignation of Jacob Tomaw, who resigned because he was moving out of the district.
- The board agreed to sell the property of the former Celebration Lutheran Church in Park Forest to Lilydale First Baptist Church for the sum of \$800,000.
- The board agreed to return the \$8,005 rebate received from the LCMS 2016 Synod Convention to the congregations who paid for the last Synod convention, proportional to the amount they had paid, when they pay for the 2019 Synod convention.
- It was noted that LCEF had used its Operating Results Fund to pay off the loan of San Pablo (Aurora) discussed at the previous meeting. That in effect gave the district a little over \$55,000 it had earmarked to expend on the School for Missionaries as the loan was repaid. The board adopted a motion, supplanting the motion adopted in June, that the amount be applied to scholarships for either those attending the San Pablo School for Missionaries or for Spanish-speaking men and women preparing for full-time church work at other LCMS institutions.
- The board declined to open up an additional account with the Lutheran Legacy Foundation.
- A motion was adopted to ask the Administrative Services Committee to report to the November Board of Directors meeting about how to handle term limits for the district's LCEF Loan Committee, since there is nothing stipulated in the district's bylaws and the board of directors is the group that appoints the loan committee.
- It was noted that two budgets would be presented at the November board meeting, an austerity budget and a mission expansion budget.

#### November 6, 2017

- It was noted that the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters had recently ruled, in response to a letter from a member of the district, that a reconfiguration of circuits or regions does not reset the clock on term limits.
- The Board of Directors schedule was updated.
- The board adopted a motion that the LCEF Loan Committee would have seven members: one rostered worker and four lay members to be appointed on a staggered basis to a three-year term renewable for one additional term, and 2 ex-officio members consisting of the district business manager/treasurer and the district LCEF vice president.
- The board agreed to pursue the development of the mission expansion budget for fiscal year 2018 rather than the austerity budget.
- The board adopted a motion to reduce the percentage of unrestricted congregational remittances forwarded to Synod from 30% to 20%, effective February 1, 2018.
- The board adopted a motion that, if there has been a lack of significant activity over five years in board designated funds, unless the Board of Directors directs otherwise, the

Board of Directors must either redesignate the money or consider a method to ensure that moneys are spent in a timely manner as designated.

### **Congregational Constitutions and Bylaws Changes Approved**

December 15, 2014

Faith (Oak Lawn) and St. Matthew (Barrington)

January 26, 2015

Bethany (Naperville)

March 23, 2015

Hope (Countryside), Lord of Life (Millbrook), and Prince of Peace (Palatine)

June 22, 2015

Immanuel (Freeport), and Prince of Peace (Palatine)

September 14, 2015

None

November 2, 2015

Trinity (Lisle), St. Peter (Morrison), and Immanuel (Palatine)

December 14, 2015

Trinity (Tinley Park)

January 25, 2016

Mt. Olive (Rockford)

March 14, 2016

St. John (Woodstock), St. Peter (Arlington Heights), and St. Peter (Morrison)

June 20, 2016

Emmanuel (Aurora) and Prince of Peace (Palatine)

September 19, 2016

None

November 7, 2016

None

December 19, 2016

None

January 30, 2017

None

March 20, 2017

First Bethlehem (Chicago), Immanuel (Batavia), and Trinity (Huntley)

June 19, 2017

St. Paul (Brookfield), Trinity (Huntley), and Zion (Oak Lawn)

September 11, 2017

Ascension (Niles), Bethany (Naperville), Prince of Peace (Palatine), St. Peter (Morrison), and Tabor (Chicago)

November 6, 2017

Family in Faith (Glendale Heights), Sanctuary (Manhattan), and Trinity (Herscher)