

I N D E X
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES
THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI
SYNOD
THE LUTHERAN CENTER NEW ORLEANS, LA MAY 9, 2008

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**MINUTES
of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
of the
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD**

MAY 9, 2008

2240 LAKESHORE DRIVE, NEW ORLEANS, LA

PRESENT: Pastors Davis, Ertl, Nelson, Richter, Schmieding, Schultz and Weier
Mrs. Arbogast, Miss McCreery, Mr. Casamento and Mr. Craig

EXCUSED: Pastor Doroh, Mr. Petersen, Mrs. Reilly, Teacher Pegues

EXECUTIVE STAFF: Rev. Gary Faith, Mr. Gene Menzel, Mr. Jack Kellison

GUESTS: Rev. Dave Buss, Director of Recovery Assistance Inc. (RAI) and Mrs. Kathy Wendling of RAI

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southern District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod was held at The Lutheran Center, New Orleans, Louisiana, on May 9, 2008. The Rev. Kurtis Schultz, President of the Southern District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, called the Board meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Rev. Tracy Nelson led the opening devotion with the singing of *What A Friend We Have in Jesus*. The devotional theme focused on the hurricane season and its after affects. Prayers followed, including prayers for the family of Dr. Art Kaul, a member of the Board of Directors, who departed this life recently.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

BD-08-16

RESOLVED, THAT the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Directors on March 19, 2008 be approved.

ADOPTED

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

BD-08-17

RESOLVED, THAT the Agenda of the meeting of the Board of Directors be approved as printed, except for Parish Education and Recruitment and Scholarship Committees, which did not meet since the last Board meeting.

ADOPTED

- The Ad-Hoc Committees of the Board met separately from 9:20 AM until 11:30 AM.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mrs. Arbogast on behalf of the Budget and Finance Committee presented for the committee. The total cost of the comprehensive audit annually is \$11,000.

3. ACCEPT AUDIT REPORT

BD-08-18/FI-08-03

WHEREAS, the Southern District has received the audited financial statement from Pepperman, Emboulas, Todaro & Schwartz, and

WHEREAS, the audited statement includes an unqualified opinion that the financial position is fairly presented; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, THAT the audited statement for the fiscal period ended January 15, 2008 be accepted by the Board of Directors.

ADOPTED

CONSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE (see Addendum, page 10)

A written update was given by the Constitutions Committee. The report stated that a congregational constitution does not go into effect in the Southern District without the approval of the District Board of Directors.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Stewardship Committee met May 2, 2008 at the District office. Thus far in 2008, only \$760,344 has been pledged by District congregations (54% of congregations). However, giving for the first two months is \$267,966 or 24% of the budgeted income. Rev. Gary Faith, Executive Assistant for Parish Ministries reported on the *Fan into Flame* meetings planned for the District. Diane James resigned from the Committee; she is moving with her husband to Georgia.

YOUTH COMMITTEE

The Youth Committee met at Camp Restore – New Orleans, LA on April 12, 2008. Plans were finalized for the Senior High Youth Gathering at Camp Restore, June 26-29, 2008 (attendance may approach 180). Two Junior High Gatherings are planned for November; one in the East (Nov. 7-9) and one in the West (Nov. 14-16). A Youth Leader retreat is also being proposed for Feb. 5-7, 2009 at Camp Dixie, with professional youth leaders meeting Feb. 5-6 and volunteer youth leaders meeting Feb. 6-7.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

The Missions Committee met on April 28, 2008 at the District office. Rev. Kevin Kieschnick of LINC New Orleans was their guest. The Missions Committee established a limited partnership with LINC New Orleans to create and implement a new Hispanic ministry vision for the New Orleans area, which will include a short-term developer. Mrs. Cindy Pecarrere was recognized for her

years of service as Administrative Assistant and was invited to become a member of the Missions Committee upon her retirement. The launching large mission to the Montgomery/Prattville area will seek to call a church launcher by July, 2008 (by telephone conference with Board of Directors). Mission challenge grants were given to Faith – Mobile, AL for a community outreach enrichment program (\$5,000); and, to Our Savior - Mobile, AL for mission support (\$5,000). A report was also received from St. Paul (Burgundy) – New Orleans, LA on the grant it received for its patient advocate program.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Miss Kay McCreery, chair of the Personnel Cmte. presented for the Committee.

4. SOUTHERN DISTRICT SALARY GUIDELINES – ADJUSTMENTS FOR 2009

BD-08-19/PR-08-01

WHEREAS, the Personnel Committee has reviewed the pertinent Cost of Living figures, and other statistical information obtained from the LCMS and the CPI; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, THAT the Southern District Salary Guidelines base be adjusted to reflect a 4.0% increase for the calendar year; and, be it further

RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors review this scheduled increase at its September meeting based upon significant changes in projected inflation; and, be it finally,

RESOLVED, THAT the unadjusted base salary for ordained ministers be set at \$39,887 for 2009 and the unadjusted base salary for commissioned ministers of religion be set at \$30,674 for 2009.

ADOPTED

5. DEPLOYED MINISTRY APPROVAL

BD-08-20/PR-08-02

RESOLVED, THAT the general timeline for deployed staff of the Southern District as recently presented by the Personnel Committee be approved; and, be it further

RESOLVED, THAT the Personnel Committee's search for persons to serve as deployed staff be approved. The deployed staff will then be approved by the Board of Directors.

ADOPTED

6. ACCEPT MINUTES AND REPORTS

BD-08-21

RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the April 28, 2008 meeting of the Missions Committee; the minutes of the May 2, 2008 meeting of the Stewardship Committee; the report of the Budget and Finance Committee; the minutes of the April 12, 2008 meeting of the Youth Committee; and, the report of the Constitutions Committee be accepted.

ADOPTED

7. TO PRAISE GOD FOR CINDY PECARRERE

BD-08-22/PL-08-04

WHEREAS, Mrs. Cindy Pecarrere has served the Southern District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod as Administrative Assistant to the Executive Assistant for Parish Ministries for 16 years, and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Cindy Pecarrere is retiring from the position of Administrative Assistant to the Executive Assistant for Parish Ministries; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, THAT the Southern District Board praise and thank God for the gift of Mrs. Cindy Pecarrere and that the Board express its praise and thanksgiving by standing and singing, "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow."

ADOPTED

- Mrs. Pecarrere and other District staff joined the Board of Directors for lunch.

RECOVERY ASSISTANCE, INC. (RAI)

Rev. Dave Buss presented the budget for RAI. Camp Biloxi is now under RAI oversight. Volunteers still number about 300 combined at Camp Restore and Camp Biloxi. A disaster team has been formed at Camp Restore for early response. Rosalyn and Jimmy Carter will be in Biloxi for a house blessing in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity and Camp Biloxi on Friday, May 16. Ninety families have been put back in their homes by Camp Restore volunteers since Camp Restore has been in operation. Mrs. Kathy Wendling reported on other ministries sponsored by RAI. Three deaconess interns and a vicar will be joining the staff.

PLENARY

FAN INTO FLAME

Rev. Ted Richter reported on the Fan Into Flame events throughout the District. \$527,000 has been contributed from congregations, half of the Southern District goal.

THANK YOU LETTER FROM SYNOD PRESIDENT

A letter was sent from President Kieschnick thanking the Southern District President and Board of Directors for District gifts of \$119,000 for the Synod.

2009 DISTRICT CONVENTION

President Kurtis Schultz suggested the same theme as 2006 convention, *Spirit Kindle*, be used for 2009. The Board of Directors accepted this suggestion. New art will be created for the Convention.

8. ELECTION OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR

BD-08-23/PL-08-02

RESOLVED, THAT Rev. Thomas Noon be elected Chair of the Nominations Committee for the 2009 Southern District Convention.

ADOPTED

CIRCUIT REALIGNMENT

Rev. Jim Ertl, Southern District Secretary, presented an update on the number of congregations and communicant members in each of the circuits. The three circuits of the New Orleans area are being proposed to become two circuits: 1) Orleans Parish and Chalmette and 2) Jefferson Parish and Houma. There are about 7 circuits that have at or under 1500 communicant members to be an electoral circuit for Synodical Convention purposes.

9. DEACONESS DR. LORAIN RATHMAN

BD-08-24/PL-08-03

WHEREAS, Deaconess Loraine Rathman, Ph.D. has been released from her contract with Lutheran Social Services – Disaster Response as of March 31, 2008, and

WHEREAS, Deaconess Rathman wants to continue her work as Facilitator of the Spiritual and Emotional Care Project (“Our Story Matters”) that she initiated during that time in the Southern District, and

WHEREAS, basic funding is being provided by several LCMS organizations, and
WHEREAS, in conversation with President Kurtis Schultz, Deaconess Rathman will continue her work as a called Commissioned Minister of the Southern District; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, THAT Deaconess Rathman be called by the Southern District as of April 1, 2008 at a salary of \$1,000 per month; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, THAT the call/contract will be in effect as long as external funding sources are available.

ADOPTED as amended

Amended to remove the fourth WHEREAS and the final RESOLVED to be replaced with the words:

RESOLVED, THAT all external sources of funding be explored to support this call/contract and that this call/contract be subject to annual renewal by the Board of Directors.

Note: Job description is attached to the original copy of the Minutes.

CALLS

President Schultz stated that the Southern District had recently received through Spring Placement four pastors, seven vicars and three deaconess interns. He noted that New Hope congregation in Vancleave, MS, had closed and that Our Savior - Shreveport, LA, was merging with Redeemer, Shreveport, LA.

BUDGET FINANCIALS

President Schultz gave an update on special funds which the District has. We have about \$600,000 in educational funds. The original Tuscaloosa Fund was begun with the sale of property given to the District. The approximate \$1,000,000 in the fund now is used for mission projects. Church Extension Funds will be used for the next launching large congregation. The District no longer does accounting for RAI. \$400,000 is currently in the Southern District for disaster relief.

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON RELOCATION OF DISTRICT OFFICE

Rev. Ertl reported for the Committee.

10. PURCHASE OF PROPERTY FOR DISTRICT OFFICE

BD-08-25

WHEREAS, property has been found that meets temporary needs of the Southern District LCMS for relocation at a purchase price of \$370,000 plus closing costs; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, THAT the Southern District Board of Directors approve the purchase of the following property: 68446 Tammany Trace, Suites 4 and 5, Mandeville, LA; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, THAT Rev. Kurtis Schultz or Mr. Charles Kellison be authorized to sign all documents on behalf of the Southern District Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

APPROVED

11. LEASE OF PROPERTY AT 2240 LAKESHORE DRIVE

BD-08-26

WHEREAS, the Order of the Sisters of St. Joseph expressed an interest in leasing the Southern District property at 2240 Lakeshore Drive for their People Program in New Orleans, and

WHEREAS, the Southern District LCMS staff is working with the Director of the Sisters of St. Joseph on the terms of the lease to become effective August 1, 2008 if all of their concerns are satisfied; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, THAT the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors be authorized to approve the lease when completed and that Rev. Kurtis Schultz or Mr. Charles Kellison be authorized to sign all documents on behalf of the Southern District Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

ADOPTED

12. APPROVAL OF PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENT

BD-08-27

RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors ratifies President Schultz's appointment of Cindy Pecarrere to the Missions Committee.

ADOPTED

LMTI AD HOC COMMITTEE

Rev. Davis reported for the Committee, which responded to the results of a survey on LMTI presented at the Pastors Conference. The Committee feels one day workshops for Elders would be helpful.

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

Rev. Richter reported for the Committee. The Teachers Conference will elect the teacher representative on the Board of Directors.

MOVE TO NORTH SHORE

President Schultz reported that the telephone and fax numbers of the District will remain the same after the move to Mandeville. The mail address will be 68446 Tammy Trace Suite 4, Mandeville, LA 70471-7793. The District office will move at the end of May.

CONCORDIA-SELMA

President Schultz gave an update on Concordia College-Selma, AL. The college has turned in its report to SACS. Laborers for Christ will come and work on the dorms, students will assist them.

13. ADJOURNMENT

BD-08-28

RESOLVED, THAT the meeting be adjourned.

ADOPTED

CLOSING DEVOTION

Rev. Nelson spoke about Living out Loud for Christ. The pride we take in telling others about our family, and then we should be proud to tell others of Christ. He shared with us the song, *Live Out Loud*. Prayer followed and then the benediction.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Dr. James A. Ertl
Southern District Secretary

CONSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE – Addendum

1. **ACCEPT THE REVISED CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF PRINCE OF PEACE – SOUTHAVEN, MS**

CO-08-01/BD-08-29

WHEREAS, the Constitution Committee has reviewed the revised Constitution and Bylaws of Prince of Peace – Southaven, MS, and found it to be in agreement with Scripture and Synodical requirements; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, THAT the revised Constitution and Bylaws of Prince of Peace – Southaven, MS, be accepted.

ADOPTED by Board of Directors via Email consensus - May 12, 2008

2. **ACCEPT NEW CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MERIDIANVILLE, AL**

CO-08-02/BD-08-30

WHEREAS, the Constitutions Committee has reviewed the new Constitution and Bylaws of Hope Lutheran Church – Meridianville, AL, and found them to be in agreement with Scripture and Synodical requirements; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, THAT the new Constitution and Bylaws of Hope Lutheran Church – Meridianville, AL, be accepted.

ADOPTED by Board of Directors via Email consensus – May 12, 2008

3. **ACCEPT REVISED CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH – PENSACOLA, FL**

CO-08-03/BD-08-31

WHEREAS, the Constitutions Committee has reviewed the revised Constitution and Bylaws of Grace Lutheran Church – Pensacola, FL, and found them to be in agreement with Scripture and Synodical requirements; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, THAT the revised Constitution and Bylaws of Grace Lutheran Church – Pensacola, FL, be accepted.

ADOPTED by Board of Directors via Email consensus – May 12, 2008