

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 11, 2007

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

MAY 11, 2007

2240 LAKESHORE DRIVE, NEW ORLEANS, LA

PRESENT: Pastors Ertl, Richter, Schmieding, Schultz and Weier
Mrs. Arbogast, Reilly, Miss McCreery, Mr. Casamento, Craig, Peterson
and Dr. Kaul, Teacher Pegues

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

EXCUSED: Pastors Davis, Doroh, Kuehnert

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 11, 2007. 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. Teacher Agnes Pegues, new member of the Board, was introduced. President Schultz gave remarks about the scheduled ***Fan Into Flame*** and Recovery Assistance, Inc. (RAI) presentations.

Rev. Dr. James Ertl led the opening devotion with the singing of *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing* followed by Psalm 148. Reflections were given on Acts 11:1-8 under the theme: Them and Us. We are urged by the Holy Spirit not to make distinctions among ourselves. Prayers, the Lord's Prayer and the Benediction, followed. The devotion ended with the singing of *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*.

1. MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

BD-07-17

RESOLVED, THAT the Minutes of the March 9, 2007 meeting of the Board of Directors be approved.

ADOPTED

2. MINUTES OF TELEPHONE CONFERENCE

BD-07-18

RESOLVED, THAT the Minutes of the telephone conference meeting of the Board of Directors held on March 24, 2007 be approved with minor changes.

ADOPTED

3. AGENDA

BD-07-19

RESOLVED, THAT the agenda be adopted, with movement of Plenary to the beginning of the meeting.

ADOPTED

PLENARY

- **CALLS**

A report was given on congregations, which called pastoral candidates or vicars; all but one call was filled. Three teacher candidates were also called. Only three of the total pastoral candidates were not placed.

- **CALLS AND VACANCIES**

Rev. Kevin Kieschnick has accepted the call to LINC (Lutheran Inter City Coalition) – New Orleans.

- **ELECTED DELEGATES**

A listing of the Southern District delegates to the Synodical Convention of 2007 was presented. Rev. Kurtis D. Schultz will chair the Floor Committee, District and Congregational Services. Rev. David Doroh will serve on the Registration Committee and Mrs. Karen Little will serve on the Theology and Church Relations Committee.

➤ At this time, the Ad Hoc Committees established by President Schultz met from 9:30 AM to 12:00 Noon.

FAN INTO FLAME

The Rev. Ronald E. Meyer, Senior Development Officer for the ***Fan Into Flame*** Campaign, presented the campaign along with Mr. Steve Manno, a fund raising consultant of Community Counseling Services (CCS). ***Fan Into Flame*** seeks to raise \$100 million dollars by the year 2010, to be shared locally, regionally, nationally and globally. Each District is to be involved in this campaign 2007-2009. \$18,500,000 has already been committed nationally. Each gift is divided (15% is given to the person's congregation, 15% to the Southern District, 20% to Synod, and 50% to overseas missions). Cost of the campaign will not exceed 10% of monies received. The initial focus will be on major gifts so as to inspire others. A CCS advisor will work with the Southern District to make the campaign succeed in the District. A volunteer steering committee is proposed, along with a circuit coordinator. It is suggested that mission-minded congregations lead, followed by workshops for all other congregations. In response to a later question, President Schultz felt that the Southern District would enter the ***Fan Into Flame*** campaign in 2008. He believes that the mission-minded persons of the District will respond positively.

RECOVERY ASSISTANCE, INC. (RAI)

The Rev. David M. Buss, Director of Recovery Assistance, Inc. distributed a printed report and offered his comments on recovery. Kurtis Smith, who has accepted the position as the **REACH** (REbuilding A Community's Heart) Institute Director for the Southern District, also reported. He will apply the mission learning of the response to Katrina through an institute...by service learning. Four interns (one Vicar, two DCE interns, one DCO intern) have been assigned to the Lutheran Inter-City Network Coalition (**LINC**). Rev. Buss will help Kansas with response to the tornado disaster in that state. The readiness-planning manual, prepared by Mr. Carl Brul, will be presented to the Board through Email.

MISSION COMMITTEE

The Rev. Gary Faith, Executive Assistant for Parish Ministries, reported for the Mission Committee, which was held April 30, 2007, at Camp Restore – New Orleans, LA. The recording of Critical Events held for **Ablaze** was suggested. Mission Committee members were encouraged by the positive response to mission outreach. Gene Menzel reported on a Mission Revitalization Conference he attended April 9-11, 2007. An update on the DeSoto County, MS, mission now called, CrossRoad Church, was given. The Mission Committee wants to set up a network for mutual conversation in regard to campus ministry with plans for a gathering focusing on campus ministry. Trinity – Baton Rouge has received a grant to begin an Hispanic ministry. A statement on *New Directions in Southern District Missions* was presented. The Mission Committee recommended that the Deployed Staff model at Lutheran Church of the Pines – Waveland, MS, continue and a second person be added to the deployed staff.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Rev. Gary Faith, Executive Assistant for Parish Ministries, reported for the Stewardship Committee. Congregational income to the District is \$39,611.75 ahead of 2007 commitments through April 1, 2007. St. Paul's – Decatur, AL, was congratulated on becoming a tithing congregation to the District. Congratulations were sent to Circuit 10, where all nine churches exceeded their pledge for 2007. A stewardship workshop is being planned for Circuit 8. New contact numbers will help the Stewardship Committee have better contact with congregations. Rev. Faith reported that the Lutheran Church of the Pines – Waveland, MS, tithed \$15,000 to the District and community needs.

YOUTH COMMITTEE

Mr. Gene Menzel, Executive Assistant for Parish Services, reported on behalf of the Youth Committee. A telephone conference call for the Youth Committee was held on March 26, 2007. District plans for the 2007 Youth Gathering include Family Group Adult Leader training, a District booth, charter bus transportation (\$130-\$150 per person) and a yet unplanned District event. Evaluations were held on the spring Junior Youth Gatherings. Plans were discussed for the fall 2007 Junior Youth Gatherings. John Brooks reported on the training he received at a conference in St. Louis for Council for Lutheran Youth Representatives.

PARISH EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Gene Menzel, Executive Assistant for Parish Services, reported on behalf of the Parish Education Committee. No meeting was held but a **SEE Discipleship in the Parish** seminar was held at St. Paul's – Montgomery, AL, on April 14, 2007; and, another seminar was held at Our Redeemer – Clinton, MS. on April 21, 2007, and evaluations of those events were shared.

CONSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE

The Constitutions Committee offered a printed report.

4. ACCEPT THE NEW CONSTITUTION OF EPIPHANY – JACKSON, MS

CO-07-02/BD-07-20

WHEREAS, the Constitution Committee has reviewed the new Constitution and Bylaws of Epiphany – Jackson, MS, and found it to be in agreement with Scripture and Synodical requirements; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, THAT the new Constitution and Bylaws of the following congregation: Epiphany – Jackson, MS, be accepted upon receipt of the final copy by the District President's office and by the chair of the Constitution Committee, The Rev. Thomas R. Noon.

Note: Epiphany is a merger of St. Paul and St. Philip – Jackson, MS.

ADOPTED

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Miss Kay McCreery, chairman of the Personnel Committee reported for the Committee.

5. SOUTHERN DISTRICT SALARY GUIDELINE – ADJUSTMENTS FOR 2008

PR-07-01/BD-07-21

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 3.0% increase for fiscal year 2008; and, be it further

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

RESOLVED, THAT the unadjusted base salary for ordained ministers be set at \$38,353 for 2008 and the unadjusted base salary for commissioned ministers of religion be set at \$29,494 for 2008.

ADOPTED

6. CONTRACT FOR SERVICES EXTENDED TO SOUTHERN DISTRICT BY CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

PR-07-02/BD-07-22

WHEREAS, legal counsel suggests employer/employee contracts should be limited to only one, and

WHEREAS, the Church Extension Fund is willing to contract services to the Southern District; therefore, be it
RESOLVED, THAT the Southern District release Charles J. Kellison from his contract effective May 11, 2007; and, be it further
RESOLVED, THAT the Church Extension Fund and the Southern District draft a contract for such services to be reviewed by the Personnel Committee at their September, 2007, meeting; and, be it finally
RESOLVED, THAT such contract be available for approval by the Board of Directors no later than their December, 2007, meeting.

ADOPTED

7. CONTRACT RENEWALS

PR-07-04/BD-07-23

RESOLVED, THAT the contract of Mr. Eugene W. Menzel, Executive Assistant for Parish Services, and The Rev. Gary J. Faith, Executive Assistant for Parish Ministries, be renewed, each for a four-year term.

ADOPTED

8. ACCEPT MINUTES AND REPORTS

BD-07-24

RESOLVED, THAT the report of the Recovery Assistance Incorporated (RAI); the minutes of the April 30, 2007 meeting of the Mission Committee; the minutes of the May 4, 2007 meeting of the Stewardship Committee; the minutes of the March 26, 2007 telephone conference of the Youth Committee; the report of the Parish Education Committee; the report of the Constitutions Committee; and the minutes of the May 11, 2007 meeting of the Personnel Committee be accepted.

ADOPTED

- **The Board entered into Executive Session to discuss Synodical matters and Concordia – Selma.**
- President Schultz read a letter written to the Board from Mrs. Doris Press, widow of Rev. Gottfried Press, in which she thanked the Board for their memorial to the District Educational Fund in her husband's name.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Bylaw Changes for District Board**

Rev. Ted Richter reported as chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee. The by-law changes will now go to the Commission on Constitutional Matters.

9. APPROVAL OF BYLAW CHANGES

BD-07-25

RESOLVED, THAT the following by-law changes be approved.

BYLAWS – The Southern District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Proposed Revisions, July 2006

ARTICLE III - ADMINISTRATION

A. Officers

2. Vice-Presidents

~~Two (2)~~ Four (4) Vice-Presidents shall be elected from the roster of the Synod and shall hold membership in a voting congregation of the District; they shall be elected from ~~two (2)~~ four (4) geographical areas in accordance with these Bylaws; the term of office of a Vice-President shall not be affected by his acceptance of a call to serve a congregation in another geographical area of the District.

B. Board of Directors

2. The Board of Directors shall consist of:

- a. The President, the ~~two (2)~~ four (4) Vice-Presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer, four (4) laymen, ~~four (4) pastors~~ three (3) pastors-at-large, three (3) laymen-at-large, ~~one (1) person whose name appears on the Teacher Roster of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod~~ one (1) Commissioned Minister-at-large, and one (1) pastor or lay delegate-at-large. ~~and who hold membership in a voting congregation of the Southern District, and six (6) laymen.~~
- b. The ~~two (2)~~ four (4) Vice-Presidents and four (4) ~~pastors and six~~ laymen shall be elected from ~~six (6)~~ the four (4) geographical areas of the District.

3. There should be no nominations from the floor.

(This “3” replaces the current “3” which will become “4” and the following “4” and “5” are renumbered as “5” and “6.”)

ARTICLE IV - RULES GOVERNING OFFICE

A. Term of Office

1. Officers

The term of office of the President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, and Circuit Counselors shall be three (3) years. These officers shall be elected in the year preceding the regular election of officers of the Synod. With the exception of the president, a person elected to these offices shall be limited to serving two (2) ~~three (3)~~ consecutive terms. The number of terms, which the president may serve, shall not be limited.

2. Elected Boards and Commissions

The term of office of elected boards and commissions shall be three (3) years. A person elected to such boards and commissions shall be limited to serving two (2) ~~three (3)~~ consecutive terms.

D. Succession

2. Succession to the Offices of Vice-Presidents

~~In the event of a vacancy in the office of First Vice-President, the vacancy shall be filled by the Second Vice-President. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Second Vice-President, the vacancy shall be filled by the Board of Directors from a list of 1) those nominated for President, First Vice-President, and Second Vice-President at the previous election, and 2) those pastors presently serving on the Board of Directors.~~

In the event of a vacancy in the Offices of Vice-Presidents, the Vice-President next in the order in which they have been designated by District Convention shall succeed to the position vacated. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Fourth Vice-President, the vacancy shall be filled by the Board of Directors from a list of 1) those nominated for Vice-President in the area represented by the vacated Fourth Vice-President, and 2) those pastors presently serving on the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V - NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

A. Nomination and Election of President ~~and Vice-President~~

Nomination for the office of President ~~and First and Second Vice-Presidents~~ of the District shall be made in the following manner:

1. Each voting congregation shall be entitled to nominate one clergyman from the clergy roster of the Synod as candidate for President, ~~and two (2) clergymen for the Vice-Presidents.~~
4. The Secretary of the District together with the chairman of the Nominations Committee shall tabulate the nominations and shall report to the convention by means of the convention manual the names of all clergymen who have received nominating votes for the office of President ~~or Vice-Presidents.~~
6. Candidates for the office of President shall be the five (5) clergymen receiving the highest number of votes in the nominating ballots of the congregations.
~~Candidates for the Vice-President shall be the six (6) clergymen receiving the highest number of votes in the nominating ballots of the congregations.~~

10. The Secretary of the District shall publish in the convention manual brief biographies of the five candidates for President ~~and the six candidates for Vice-Presidents~~, giving adequate information on each candidate. This report shall contain such pertinent information as residence, age, number of years in Synod, present position, District or Synod positions and offices previously held or currently held, year of ordination, former pastorates, involvement in community, government, or inter-church affairs, and any other specific experience and qualification for the office.

(The following section "B" is an addition to the Bylaws.)

B. Nominations and Elections of Area Vice-Presidents and Layperson Members of the Board of Directors

- Nominations and elections of the Area Vice-Presidents and Layperson Members of the Board of Directors shall be made in the following manner:
1. Before each Convention each Circuit shall meet and nominate from its Circuit two pastors for a Vice-President and two laypersons for a member of the Board of Directors. The Circuit will elect a pastor to be the Vice-President nominee and a layperson to be the Board of Directors nominee from their Area. The District Office shall publish brief biographies of the candidates, giving adequate and appropriate information on each candidate. These names are presented to the Area Election Meeting, where an Area Vice-President and a Lay Member of the Board of Directors are elected from the list of names submitted by each Circuit.
 2. At the Convention, four Area Vice-Presidents and four Area Lay Members of the Board of Directors will have been elected already. The Circuits from which these elected persons derive are eliminated from further nomination and election consideration for the remaining three (3) pastors-at-large and three (3) layperson-at-large positions on the Board of Directors. The positions of District President, Secretary, Treasurer and Commissioned Minister are exempt from these exclusions.
 3. The Convention shall elect the three (3) Pastors-at-large members of the Board from the nominees from the circuits not yet represented. The circuits from which these pastors derive are eliminated from further nomination and election consideration for the three (3) Lay Members of the Board.
 4. The Convention shall elect the three (3) Lay Members of the Board. The circuits from which these Lay Members derive are eliminated from further nomination and election consideration for the remaining circuit, which has no representation on the Board. The Convention will then elect either a pastor or a layperson from this circuit to membership on the Board of Directors.

(This will become C.) B. Committee on Nominations

1. The Committee on Nominations shall be elected at the regular meeting convention of the District for a term of three (3) years. It shall consist of three (3) pastors, two (2) laypersons, and one (1) ~~teacher~~ Commissioned

Minister. Vacancies on this committee shall be filled by the Board of Directors. Consideration should first be given to individuals who were nominees to the Committee on Nominations in the most recent District Convention.

2. The Committee on Nominations shall propose at last two (2) candidates for the offices of Secretary, Treasurer, and each remaining position of the Board of Directors. It shall publish in the convention manual brief biographies of the candidates, giving adequate and appropriate information on each candidate. Additional nominations may be made from the floor of the convention with the consent of the nominee.
3. Nominations for Commissioned Minister will be made by the previous annual Commissioned Minister Conference.
4. These nominations for Commissioned Ministers will be forwarded to District convention for election.

(This will become D.)C. Committee on Elections

3. Order of Election
 - a. The elections for the President and Vice-Presidents shall be initiated no later than in the second business session of the convention.
 - c. Upon the adoption of the slate of candidates the Committee on Elections shall prepare the ballots for presentation to the convention, insuring that the elections of President, the ranking of Vice-Presidents, ~~First Vice-President, Second Vice-President,~~ Secretary, Treasurer, Board of Directors, and the Commission of Adjudication occur in that order. Election to whatever additional positions are to be filled shall then be held.

ADOPTED

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Miss Kay McCreery reported for the Committee.

10. DEPLOYED STAFF PARTNERSHIP

PR-07-03/BD-07-26

WHEREAS, deployment is a growing expansion of ministry, and
WHEREAS, a recommendation has been received from the Mission Committee to continue and develop the deployed staff model; therefore, be it
RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors continue the partnership between the Southern District and Lutheran Church of the Pines – Waveland, MS; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors authorize the Ad Hoc Committee on Deployment to study and develop the deployed staff model.

ADOPTED

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON RELOCATION OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE

Rev. James Ertl reported for the Ad Hoc Committee.

11. MOTION TO COMMUNICATE ABOUT SALE OF OFFICE BUILDING

BD-07-27

WHEREAS, there has been a lack of communication to the Southern District congregations concerning the possible sale and relocation of the Southern District Office building, and

WHEREAS, there have been some calls and concerns over the placement of a FOR SALE sign on the property catching local congregations unaware, and

WHEREAS, there is a concern that information has not been adequately communicated to the District, in particular to the greater New Orleans congregations, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, THAT the office of the District President communicate the Board of Directors rationale for the sale and relocation of the Southern District Office building to the District congregations as soon as practical.

ADOPTED

A draft proposal of the rationale was presented to the Board.

12. ADJOURNMENT

BD-07-28

RESOLVED, THAT the meeting be adjourned.

ADOPTED

Rev. Ertl led the closing devotion. *Jesus lifted Me* was sung followed by prayers, the Lord's Prayer and the Benediction.

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