

The Oklahoma District LCMS Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes of February 6, 2021
Oklahoma District Office
(Minutes approved by BOD at the May 1, 2021 meeting.)

Board Members Present

Central – Mr. Don Riley

Eastern – Rev. William (Bill) Shupe, Mr. Doug Eisenhauer

Western – Rev. Travis Orr, Mr. Walter (Walt) Backhaus

District Officers and Presidium Present: President Rev. Barrie Henke; 1st Vice President Rev. David Nehrenz; Secretary Rev. W. R. Rains; Treasurer Mr. Brent England

District Staff Present: Missions, Rev. Dr. Gary Rohwer

Guest(s): none

Absent:

Board Member(s) – Mr. Brandon (B. J.) Armstrong, Rev. Randy Foote, Mr. Robert (Bob) Krahn, Rev. Mark Muenchow

Officer(s) and Presidium – 2nd Vice President, Rev. Gregory (Greg) Brown; 3rd Vice President Christopher (Chris) Hall

Staff – Education, Mr. David Birnbaum; Evangelism, Rev. Dwayne Schroeder, LCEF, Mr. Jeff Maltz; Stewardship, Rev. Rick Tabisz; Youth, Ms. Suzanne Watt

Call to Order – President Henke called the meeting to order at 10:06 am. He then turned it over to 1st Vice President Nehrenz for the opening devotion.

Devotion – see attached. Devotion based on Luke 2: 22-32 (the Purification of Mary and the Presentation of our Lord – February 2nd)

Minutes of December 5, 2020 – Henke then asked the board if there were any corrections or additions that needed to be made to the minutes. Rains stated that there were several grammatical corrections that needed to be made. Henke then asked once again if there were any other corrections or additions, seeing none, Henke asked for a motion to approve the minutes with the corrections. **A motion was made by Bill Shupe and seconded by Doug Eisenhauer to accept the minutes as presented.** Henke asked if there was any further discussion regarding the minutes. Seeing none, he called for a vote – **motion carried.**

President Henke stated that he would be turning the meeting over to First Vice President Nehrenz part way through the meeting so that he could attend the wedding of a family member in Stillwater. He then presented his report.

1
2 **President's Report** – see attached report – Henke then provided an overview of his
3 report. He noted that he would be installing Rev. Matthew Tassey as the pastor of
4 Redeemer in Shawnee on February 14 and that Rev. Dr. Christian Tiews pastor of Trinity
5 in Okmulgee had been called by the LCMS International Mission Board to serve as a
6 missionary in Germany. He also noted that the district interview committee was to meet
7 with a prospective student for Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne – Ryan M.
8 Groh soon. He also noted that on December 31, 2020 he had officially closed Lord of
9 Life in Bixby. He informed the board it had no assets and no members that it was simply
10 a paper transaction. He then asked if there were any other questions or comments
11 regarding his report. Seeing no further questions or comments, he asked for the
12 treasurer's report.
13

14 **Treasurer's Report** – see attached report; also see Camp Lutherhoma's financial reports.
15 England stated that the giving for 2020 from the congregations was down about 10%. But
16 thanks to the PPP loan and the funds made available for the district's disaster relief
17 committee that the projected deficit for the year was not as large as projected. However,
18 the need to monitor expenses into 2021 is important. He stated that he had applied for an
19 additional PPP loan but had not heard whether or not it has been granted. He then
20 directed the board's attention to Lutherhoma's financial reports and their proposed work
21 plan that contained several capital expenditures (see attached email) that would be
22 addressed when the district's work plan is addressed under old business. Henke asked for
23 a motion to receive the treasurer's report. **A motion was made by Bill Shupe and**
24 **seconded by Walt Backhaus to receive the treasurer's report for audit.** Henke then
25 asked if there was further discussion regarding the report. Seeing none, he called for a
26 vote to receive the treasurer's report. – **motion carried.**
27

28 **Staff Reports**

29
30 **Education** – see attached report.
31

32 **Evangelism** – see attached report.
33

34 **Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF)** – see attached report.
35

36 **Missions** – see attached report. Rohwer went over his report and expanded on an
37 idea that he had presented to the board at the last meeting where he was asked to
38 bring a proposal to the board for consideration. Rowher would like to develop an
39 outreach called Oklahoma Urban and Ethnic Ministry (OUEM) to help
40 congregations in neighborhood outreach. It would involve calling someone with
41 training and experience in this area to work with congregations to help individuals
42 in congregations become involved, comfortable, and confident in reaching out to
43 those who are different from us due to race, socio-economic level, or who simply
44 do not relate to the church. The issue will be discussed under old business.
45

1 **Outdoor Ministry** – see attached report for Lutherhaven and financial statements
2 for Camp Lutherhoma.

3
4 **Stewardship** – see attached report.

5
6 **Youth** – see attached report.

7
8 Upon hearing all staff reports, President Henke asked for a motion to accept the reports as
9 presented. **A motion was made by Bill Shupe and seconded by Walt Backhaus to**
10 **accept the reports.** Henke asked if there was any discussion regarding the motion.
11 Seeing none, he called for a vote – **motion carried.**

12 13 **Other Reports**

14
15 **Personnel Committee** appointment of HR person to committee tabled
16 until the May meeting. Shupe has an announcement that he will ask Janice
17 Hedrick to send to the congregations asking for names of individuals that
18 the committee can consider for the position.

19
20 **Public Relations/Communications Committee** – no report

21 22 **Old Business**

23
24 President Henke at this point turned the meeting over to First Vice President Nehrenz and
25 excused himself. But Rains asked to speak before he left. He wanted to inform the board
26 of the dates for the upcoming meetings since the district convention has been postponed
27 from the original April date. With the expectation that the Synod Convention will not
28 take place until 2023, allowing district conventions to be held in 2022, the board will
29 meet on May 1, August 7, and December 4 in 2021 and February 5 and May 7, 2022.

30
31 Nehrenz then noted that the district work plan was the first item of old business.
32 However, several items needed to be approved prior to discussion of the workplan, the
33 first item is the calling of an OUEM Mission Developer. Nehrenz stated that since
34 funding for the position has been added to the workplan a motion was needed to create
35 the position. **Bill Shupe made a motion and it was seconded by Walt Backhaus to**
36 **create and partially fund the calling of an Oklahoma Urban and Ethnic Ministry**
37 **(OUEM) Mission Developer.** Nehrenz then asked if there was any further discussion
38 regarding the OUEM. Seeing none, he called for a vote – **motion carried.**

39
40 The next item regarding the ministry workplan was the acceptance of Camp
41 Lutherhoma's workplan and capital expenditures. Nehrenz asked for a motion to accept
42 the camp's workplan and request for capital expenditures. **A motion was made by Don**
43 **Riley and seconded by Walt Backhaus to accept the camp's workplan and request**
44 **for capital improvements.** Nehrenz asked if there were any questions or comments and
45 seeing none, he called for a vote – **motion carried.**

1 Nehrenz stated that since the OUEM and camp's workplan and capital expenditures had
2 been addressed, the district's 2021 ministry workplan needed to be addressed. He then
3 asked Brent England to go over the workplan. England noted that at the staff meeting the
4 OUEM was addressed and that the ministry workplan (see attached) needed to be
5 modified. The **Projected Revenue** should be increased by \$24,000, and the **Oklahoma**
6 **Missions** should be increased by \$74,000, and **Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures**
7 should be -\$281,900, to show a **Workplan Surplus (Deficit)** of
8 -\$161,537. Nehrenz then asked if there was a motion to accept the 2021 Ministry
9 Workplan. **Don Riley made a motion to accept the ministry workplan as presented**
10 **and it was seconded by Walt Backhaus.** Nehrenz then asked if there was any discussion
11 regarding the workplan. At that point, a concern was expressed about the projected
12 deficit. As the matter was discussed, it was noted that although it was the largest deficit
13 that had ever been projected, there is optimism that the congregation giving will increase
14 as the pandemic begins to come under control as the vaccines are made available to more
15 and more individuals. Nehrenz asked if there were any other questions or concerns
16 regarding the workplan and seeing none, he called for a vote – **motion carried.**

17
18 Nehrenz then stated that the next two items – the district convention and the 100th
19 anniversary were there for information, since the Synod would not have the results of the
20 vote on whether or not to delay the Synod by one year until after February 15th.

21
22 Nehrenz asked if there was any other old business and seeing none, he moved to new
23 business.

24 25 **New Business**

26
27 The first item of new business is a standing item – constitution for review. Rains stated
28 that the constitution review committee had two constitutions to review – Christ, Perry and
29 Messiah, Oklahoma City and that he had received an email from the committee that both
30 constitutions and bylaws be approved as presented. Rains stated since there were no
31 recommendations regarding either congregations' constitution or bylaws that they could
32 be approved together. Nehrenz then asked for a motion to approve the constitutions and
33 bylaws for Christ, Perry and Messiah, Oklahoma City. **Bill Shupe made a motion and it**
34 **was seconded by Walt Backhaus to accept the recommendations of the district**
35 **constitutional review committee regarding the constitutions and bylaws for Christ,**
36 **Perry and Messiah, Oklahoma City.** Nehrenz asked if there was anyone wanting to
37 speak regarding the motion. Seeing none, he called for a vote – **motion carried.**

38
39 Rains stated that he would inform the congregations of the board's decision.

40
41 The next item of business was simply a point of information regarding the grant that had
42 been received by the district from Lutheran Social Services, INC.

43
44 The next item of business is the result of the approval of the calling of an individual to fill
45 the OUEM position created when the 2021 workplan was approved. Nehrenz asked for a
46 motion to establish a call committee. **A motion was made by Bill Shupe and seconded**

1 **by Walt Backhaus to establish a call committee to call an Oklahoma Urban and**
2 **Ethnic Ministry (OUEM) Developer.** Nehrenz then asked if there was discussion. In the
3 discussion it was determined that President Henke should be consulted regarding the
4 committee and the calling process. Nehrenz asked if there was any further discussion and
5 seeing none, he called for a vote – **motion carried.**

6
7 Rains stated that he would visit with President Henke regarding the calling process.

8
9 Nehrenz again asked if there was any other new business and seeing none, he asked for
10 announcements.

11
12 **Announcement** – seeing none, he asked for a motion to adjourn.

13
14 **Adjournment – A motion was made by Bill Shupe and seconded by Walt Backhaus**
15 **to adjourn – motion carried.** The meeting adjourned at 12:43 pm. Nehrenz then
16 dismissed the meeting with a prayer.

17
18 **Next Meeting and Time** – May 1, 2021 at 9:30 am – 2nd Vice President Brown will be
19 devotional leader.

20
21 **Meeting Location**

22
23 Oklahoma District Office
24 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
25 308 NW 164th ST
26 Edmond, OK 73013
27 405-348-7600

28
29 Respectfully Submitted,
30 Rev. W. R. Rains
31 OK District Secretary, LCMS
32

33 **Old Business next meeting**

34
35 Personnel Committee appoint HR person to committee
36 Upcoming District Convention
37 District's 100th Anniversary, 2024
38 Call Committee
39

40 **New Business next meeting**

41
42 Constitutions and Bylaws
43

44 **Meeting Dates remaining for the BOD during the Extended Triennium do to the**
45 **COVID-19 Pandemic.**
46

1 May 1, 2021, August 7, 2021, December 4, 2021, February 5, 2020, May 7, 2022

2

3 **Upcoming District Conventions**

4

5 50th District Convention – June 10-11, 2022