

The Oklahoma District LCMS Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes of May 1, 2021
Oklahoma District Office
(Minutes approved by BOD at the August 7, 2021 meeting.)

Board Members Present

Central – Rev. Mark Muenchow

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

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

District Officers and Presidium Present: President Rev. Barrie Henke; 1st Vice President Rev. David Nehrenz; 2nd Vice President, Rev. Gregory (Greg) Brown; 3rd Vice President Christopher (Chris) Hall Secretary Rev. W. R. Rains; Treasurer Mr. Brent England

District Staff Present: Education, Mr. David Birnbaum; Evangelism, Rev. Dwayne Schroeder, LCEF, Mr. Jeff Maltz; Missions, Rev. Dr. Gary Rohwer; Stewardship, Rev. Rick Tabisz; Youth, Ms. Suzanne Watt

Guest(s): none

Absent:

Board Member(s) – Mr. Brandon (B. J.) Armstrong, Mr. Don Riley, Mr. Robert (Bob) Krahn

Officer(s) and Presidium – Staff –

Call to Order – President Henke called the meeting to order at 9:28 am. He then turned it over to 2nd Vice President Brown for the opening devotion.

Devotion – see attached. Devotion based on Good Shepherd Sunday of the 1 Year Lectionary.

Minutes of February 6, 2021 – Henke then asked the board if there were any corrections or additions that needed to be made to the minutes. It was pointed out that there was a misspelled word on page 3 but no other corrections were noted. Henke then asked for a motion to approve the minutes with the correction. **A motion was made by Bill Shupe and seconded by Walt Backhaus 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's Report – see attached report – Henke then provided an overview of his report. He noted that due to COVID-19 restrictions he did not attend the call service at Fort Wayne, and it was only because he was serving on a reinstatement hearing panel that had to be in person that he attended the St. Louis call service. He then informed the board that the district received three candidates and one vicar between the two seminaries. The vicar from Fort Wayne is assigned to Trinity in Norman. The candidate from Ft. Wayne will serve Trinity in Okmulgee and one of the

1 candidates from St. Louis will serve First in Ponca City, and the other one will serve as an
2 associate pastor at Holy Trinity in Edmond. When asked about the ordination and installation
3 dates for the candidates, Henke stated that at the present time no dates have been set.

4
5 **Treasurer's Report** – see attached report; also see Camp Lutherhoma's financial reports.
6 England began his report by stating that donations to the district from the congregations are
7 down approximately \$40,000, but that the second PPE loan/grant in February of about \$73,000
8 has helped cover the shortfall. In addition, England stated that the district is one month behind in
9 its commitment to the Synod. He also noted that the student aid grants may be over budget but
10 should balance itself out by the end of the year. Although the cash position shows to be \$8,000 to
11 the good, he reminded the board that this was due to the PPE loan/grant. Henke asked for a
12 motion to receive the treasurer's report. **A motion was made by Mark Muenchow and**
13 **seconded by Travis Orr to receive the treasurer's report for audit.** Henke then asked if there
14 was further discussion regarding the report. Seeing none, he called for a vote to receive the
15 treasurer's report. – **motion carried.**

16 17 **Staff Reports**

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19 **Education** – see attached report.

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21 **Evangelism** – see attached report.

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23 **Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF)** – see attached report. Maltz informed the
24 board that LCEF was rolling out a new steward account for church workers (called or
25 hired). It will initially earn 1.5% interest.

26
27 **Missions** – see attached report.

28
29 **Outdoor Ministry** – see attached report for Lutherhaven and financial statements for
30 Camp Lutherhoma. (No meeting minutes have been submitted for either camp.)

31
32 **Stewardship** – see attached report. Tabisz also presented a proposed salary guideline for
33 2022 and asked for input. During the discussion it was noted that the commissioned
34 worker maxes-out regarding years of service after 15 years in category II and 20 years in
35 category III. It was suggested that a multiplier might be added every 2 or five years to
36 carry the commissioned worker to the end of the chart like the ordained worker. Tabisz
37 stated that he would look into making a revision and would present the 2022 guideline to
38 the board at the August meeting for board action.

39
40 **Youth** – see attached report.

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42 Upon hearing all staff reports, President Henke asked for a motion to accept the reports as
43 presented. **A motion was made by Bill Shupe and seconded by Walt Backhaus to accept the**
44 **reports.** Henke asked if there was any discussion regarding the motion. Seeing none, he called
45 for a vote – **motion carried.**
46

Other Reports

Personnel Committee appointment of HR person to committee tabled until the August meeting unless a name or names of an individual with the qualifications become known and the committee needs an electronic vote to ratify the appointment of the individual to the committee.

Public Relations/Communications Committee – see attached report. The committee would like to produce a monthly podcast and seeks input from the board regarding the podcast. A concern was voiced regarding the fact that the board is ultimately responsible for information and ideas posted on behalf of the district. So, the committee needs to know how to proceed. Henke stated that the board did not want to micromanage the committee, so there needs to be a way to allow the committee to function without having the board review and approve each podcast. **A motion was made by Bill Shupe and seconded by Travis Orr to authorize the Public Relations Committee to oversee the production of and posting of podcasts and prepare a disclaimer similar to KFUD to serve as an introduction to each podcast in order to express that the ideas and/or opinions may not be the ideas or opinions of the board.** Henke asked if there was any discussion regarding the motion. Seeing none and sensing that the discussion prior to the motion covered the matter, he called for a vote – **motion carried.**

Old Business

The next item of old business Henke stated is simply a matter of information regarding the district convention. Since the congregations of the Synod had voted to allow moving the Synod convention to 2023 this allowed districts to move district conventions to 2022. Since the uncertainty of the pandemic had caused concerns, the district convention has been moved to June 10-11, 2022 and will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Edmond (the original sight for 2021). Henke also noted that the Hilton had simply moved our deposit forward and we did not suffer a penalty for moving the convention.

Henke then noted that the next item is also a matter of information, but the board will need to appoint an anniversary committee for the 100th anniversary of the district since the anniversary will be celebrated as a standalone event rather than as a part of the district convention since the anniversary will happen in a non-convention year.

Henke then went to the next item of old business, which dealt with the establishment of the call committee for calling an Oklahoma Urban and Ethnic Ministry Developer (OUEMD), the committee which was established at the last board meeting. However, the need for the committee ended when the prospective candidate took a call to another district. Although the committee was established, its members were never selected. So, the question arose as to whether or not to disband the committee or name members to the committee. **Bill Shupe made a motion and it was seconded by Mark Muenchow to disband the call committee.** Henke asked if there was further discussion regarding the motion. At that point a question was posed about the potential of calling someone else for the position. It was stated that if the opportunity to call presented itself and a committee was not in place, the calling process could be hindered. It was noted that a

1 potential call committee was already in place – the personnel committee. With that thought, it
2 became apparent that since a motion was on the floor, a vote was needed regarding the need to
3 disband the call committee for the OUEMD. Henke asked if there was further discussion, seeing
4 none, he called for a vote – **motion carried to disband the committee**, with the motion to
5 disband the OUEMD call committee passing. **Bill Shupe made a motion, and it was seconded**
6 **by Mark Muenchow to establish the personnel committee as the standing call committee,**
7 **with the addition of the appropriate staff executive serving on the committee to which the**
8 **work will be reporting, making up the committee.** Henke asked if there was further discussion
9 regarding the motion, seeing none, he called for a vote – **motion carried.**

10
11 Henke then informed the board that the next item of old business was not listed on the agenda. It
12 is to review the suggested revisions and additions to the district handbook (proposed additions
13 and revisions in a document handed out to the board and staff). He then asked Rains to explain
14 the proposed revisions. Rains went through the proposed revisions and additions and other than
15 pointing out several spelling errors the board decided that it was ready to be submitted to the
16 Synod Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) for review. With that being decided **Mark**
17 **Muenchow made a motion, and it was seconded by Travis Orr to send the handbook to the**
18 **CCM for review.** Henke asked if there was any further discussion regarding the handbook.
19 Seeing none, he called for a vote – **motion carried.**

20 21 **New Business**

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23 The first item of new business is a standing item – constitution for review. Rains stated that there
24 were currently no constitutions and bylaws to review.

25
26 Henke then went to the next item of new business which is the ratification of the appointment of
27 Rev. Glenn Meyer as the Tulsa Circuit Visitor immediately. Henke reminded the board that he
28 had appointed Rev. Art. Spomer to serve as the circuit visitor upon the change that resulted when
29 Kory Boster took a call out of the district and became ineligible to serve. When he left Rev.
30 Chris Hall was appointed and ratified as the vice president of the Eastern Region. His
31 appointment and ratification resulted in the need to fill the position of circuit visitor for the Tulsa
32 Circuit. Rev. Art Spomer was asked to fill the vacancy and agreed to do so until the district
33 convention which originally was scheduled to be held in April 2021. When the decision was
34 made to postpone the convention, Rev. Spomer asked to be replaced as circuit visitor at the end
35 of April which would originally have been the fulfillment of his agreement to serve. Therefore,
36 in order to honor his request, Henke asked for a motion to ratify his appointment of Rev. Glenn
37 Meyer. **A motion was made by Doug Eisenhauer and seconded by Travis Orr to ratify the**
38 **appointment of Rev. Glenn Meyer as the Tulsa Circuit Visitor until the next district**
39 **convention.** Henke asked if there was any discussion regarding the motion. Seeing none, he
40 called for a vote – **motion carried.**

41
42 **Announcement** – seeing none, he asked for a motion to adjourn.

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44 **Adjournment** – **A motion was made by Bill Shupe and seconded by Travis Orr to adjourn**
45 **– motion carried.** The meeting adjourned at 12:35 pm. Henke then ask Brown to dismiss the

1 meeting with a prayer and ask a blessing on the meal that is being provided by LCEF at Steve's
2 Ribs.

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4 **Next Meeting and Time** – August 7, 2021 at 9:30 am – 3rd Vice President Hall will be
5 devotional leader.

6
7 **Meeting Location**

8
9 Oklahoma District Office
10 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
11 308 NW 164th ST
12 Edmond, OK 73013
13 405-348-7600
14

15 Respectfully Submitted,
16 Rev. W. R. Rains
17 OK District Secretary, LCMS
18

19 **Old Business next meeting**

20
21 Personnel Committee appoint HR person to committee
22 Upcoming District Convention
23 District's 100th Anniversary, 2024
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25 **New Business next meeting**

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27 Constitutions and Bylaws
28 Ratify appointment of Tim Roggow to Lutherhaven Retreat Center Committee
29

30 **Meeting Dates remaining for the BOD during the Extended Triennium due to the COVID-**
31 **19 Pandemic.**

32
33 August 7, 2021, December 4, 2021, February 5, 2022, May 7, 2022
34

35 **Upcoming District Convention**

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37 50th District Convention – June 10-11, 2022