

# ENGLISH DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

## May 23, 2024

### Meeting Location:

Meeting was held via telecommunication originating from the District Office [33100 Freedom Road, Farmington, MI 48336].

**Attendance: Voting Members** - Rev. Todd Arnold, Mr. Christopher Cassel, Ms. Carol George, Mr. Thomas Habitz, Rev. Jamison Hardy (*Pres.*), Mr. Thomas Honebrink, Rev. Robert Kieselowsky, Mr. Rod Lane, Mr. Terry Leu, Mrs. Kristin Wellik, Rev. Luke Zimmerman. **Non-Voting Members** - Rev. Jeffrey Miskus, Rev. Michael Morehouse, Mrs. Sally Naglich, Rev. Douglas Spittel, Mr. Jim Thielen. **Staff** - Mr. Albert Amling, Mr. Ronald Grimm, Rev. Daniel Lepley, Rev. Derek Mathers. **Not Attending:** Rev. Robert Rogers, Mr. Keith Vieregge.

**Call to Order:** Chairman Terry Leu called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

### 1. Opening Prayer

Vice-President Jeffrey Miskus offered an opening prayer.

### 2. Determination of Quorum

Secretary Luke Zimmerman reported that a majority of voting members were participating in the teleconference, thereby constituting a quorum.

### 3. Constitution Committee Report

President Jamison Hardy submitted for consideration the District Constitution Committee's Report of May 22, 2024, which included the recommendation to approve the revisions made by Redeemer - Lincoln, NE. Motion: *"To approve the revised congregational governing documents of Redeemer Lutheran Church - Lincoln, NE."* Motion carried.

### 4. Consideration of Application for Membership: St. Paul - Paris, TX

President Hardy presented the application of St. Paul Lutheran Church - Paris, TX to become a member congregation of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The congregation's application is in order, with the District Constitution Committee having determined that the congregation's constitution and bylaws meet the requirements set by Synod Bylaw 2.2.1, allowing the Board to take up the application as outlined in Synod Bylaw 2.3.1.

President Hardy informed the Board about the congregation's location. He believes that the congregation will be ready to move ahead as a fully functioning congregation. It is served by Rev. Toby Byrd, a retired pastor and Armed Forces veteran in the area. Rev. Byrd is seeking a transfer to the English District. Vice-President Morehouse will be visiting the congregation in the near future.

Motion: *"To approve the application of St. Paul Lutheran Church - Paris, TX to be a member congregation of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and to assign the congregation to Circuit 21 (Nevada/Utah) within the Western Region."* Motion carried.

## **5. Consideration of Application for Membership: Christ - West Olive, MI**

President Hardy presented the application of Christ - West Olive, MI to become a member congregation of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod. The congregation's application is in order, with the District Constitution Committee having determined that the congregation's constitution and bylaws meet the requirements set by Synod Bylaw 2.2.1, allowing the Board to take up the application as outlined in Synod Bylaw 2.3.1.

President Hardy informed the Board that the congregation has organized in the last several months. Many of the members had belonged to a Michigan District congregation, but left after their pastor had resigned his call. A retired pastor has been involved with this group. The congregation was initially assisted by Grace - Wyoming, MI. It is now being served by Rev. Christopher Nuttelman from Hope - Grand Rapids, MI.

Motion: *"To approve the application of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church - West Olive, MI to be a member congregation of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod and to assign the congregation to Circuit 13 (Western Michigan) within the Lake Erie Region."* Motion carried.

## **6. Consideration of Congregational Transfer Request: St. Mark - Ferndale, CA**

President Hardy presented a request for congregational transfer of St. Mark Lutheran Church - Ferndale, CA from the California-Nevada-Hawaii (CNH) District to the English District. Board members were reminded of the process established by Synod Bylaw 4.1.1.4 concerning the transfer of congregations between Districts: *"Transfer of congregations between districts is completed upon the approval of the respective district boards of directors at the request of the congregation."*

President Hardy informed the Board that the congregation had voted in February 2024 to seek a transfer to the English District. A letter from CNH District President Michael Lange outlining the reason why the congregational transfer is desired was distributed to Board members. That letter states that CNH District President Lange has requested the CNH District Board of Directors to act favorably upon the request at its June 8, 2024 meeting. President Hardy has spoken to Rev. Tyrel Bramwell, the pastor of the congregation, who is pleased that a transfer may be approved.

Motion: *"To approve the transfer of St. Mark Lutheran Church - Ferndale, CA from the California-Nevada-Hawaii District to the English District and to assign the congregation to Circuit 24 (San Francisco) within the Western Region."* Motion carried.

The Board will be informed when the CNH Board officially takes action on the transfer request.

## **7. Buffalo, NY Rental Property**

President Hardy briefed the Board about the house owned by the District in Buffalo, NY. He sought the Board's advice about what to do with the property, since the renters' lease ends in July 31. The renters are currently paying \$700/month in rent. They have been renting for the past 11 years. A recent Broker Price Opinion for the sale price of the property was set at \$108,000.

Motion: *"To terminate the lease with the current renters at its July 31, 2024 end date and to authorize the District President and District Treasurer to market the property located at 273 Skillen Street, Buffalo, NY, 14207 for sale."* Questions were raised about the renters' ability to purchase the property, notification of lease termination required by law, the current condition of the property, and the risks of maintaining ownership of the property. Following discussion, the motion carried.

## **8. November Meeting Information**

Chairman Leu informed the Board that the Synod Praesidium desires to conduct its required triennial visitation at the November 2024 Board meeting. Board members were asked for their opinion whether that would fit the regular meeting schedule for Board meetings. Board members were informed that visitation with the Synod Praesidium would mean that the November 2, 2024 meeting may involve a longer business schedule, including a possible evening session. The consensus was that the visitation could be conducted within the usual timeframe of Board meetings.

## **9. Discussion of Call of District President as Concordia University System President**

President Hardy began a discussion concerning the call issued to him by the Concordia University System Board of Directors on May 20, 2024 to serve as President of the Concordia University System. He intends to announce a decision about the call on Tuesday, May 28. He also informed the Board that 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President Jeffrey Miskus is willing to assume the office of District President in the event that the call to the CUS is accepted [*cf. EN Bylaw 6.1.2*]. He asked that the Board members would continue to pray for him to make a wise decision.

Chairman Leu instructed the Board that if President Hardy does accept the call as CUS President, Board members should anticipate holding another teleconference meeting prior to its scheduled meeting in August 2024.

Vice-President Miskus commented that he would work to the best of his abilities in any transition to serve the congregations of the District well for the remainder of the triennium.

## **10. Closing Prayer & Adjournment**

Chairman Leu adjourned the meeting at 4:40pm with no objection. Vice-President Miskus offered a closing prayer, including divine wisdom to be brought upon President Hardy's deliberation over the call to serve as CUS President.

Submitted,

Rev. Luke Zimmerman  
Secretary, English District–LCMS