

**Council of Directors  
Church of the Lutheran Brethren  
October 12-13, 2017  
Fergus Falls, MN**

**Members Present:** Shawn Bowman, Greg Butler, Matthew DeKok, Scott Dunsmore, Warren Geraghty, Marcus Goodman, Warren Hall, Phil Heiser, Noel Holtan, Art Hundebly, Rich Iverson, Justin Jenner, Paul Larson, Marvin Nelson, Mark Nienow, Stan Olsen, Roger Olson, Jon Overland, LaWayne Rogness, Matthew Rogness, Scott Skones, Luther Stenberg, Michael Swenson, Troy Tysdal, Ruth Vallevik, David Veum, Roger Viksnes, Gary Witkop

**Also, Present:** Associate of Biblical Stewardship Roy Heggland, Associate for Advancement Steve Tonneson

*Thursday, October 12*

Meeting called to order at 8:02 am by Chairman Mike Swenson. Chairman Swenson opened in prayer.

**MMSC to give speaking rights to Luther Stenberg, Scott Dunsmore, Justin Jenner, Roger Viksnes, Associate of Biblical Stewardship Roy Heggland, Associate for Advancement Steve Tonneson.**

**MMSC to adopt the schedule and agenda (see tab 1).**

President Paul Larson presented his report (see tab 2).

New Council members were introduced and welcomed: Scott Dunsmore, Justin Jenner, Luther Stenberg, and Roger Viksnes

President Larson directed the Secretary to write letters of appreciation to retiring COD members Jim Erickson, Jim Bossert, Brad Hoganson, and Marvin Nelson.

President Larson invited discussion regarding the application of the CLB position paper on divorce and marriage to the issue of clergy divorce and remarriage.

President Larson presented the Strategic Plan for the Office of the President (see tab 6).

LaWayne Rogness presented the Financial Report (see tab 3).

**MMSC to accept minutes from COD Meetings from March 22-23 and June 5.**

President Larson presented regarding the Pastoral Care and Discipline Committee (see tab 10).

**MMSC to appoint Pastor Bruce Stumbo, Pastor Steve Walswick and Elder Dave Ellis to the Pastoral Care and Discipline Committee.**

**MMSC to approve a requested amendment from the Central Region to their constitution, adding the Youth Coordinator to the Executive Committee of the Region. (see tab 10)**

Suggestion to communicate a reminder to all Regions regarding the process of ratification of regional constitutional changes as defined in the CLB constitution.

**MMSC to approve the Western Region's constitution and bylaws, adopted by the region in July of 2017.** (see tab 10)

**MMSC to approve the recommendation to add Loyal Clark to the slate of nominees for the LBS Board.** (see tab 10)

COD members were instructed to complete and sign the CLB Conflict of Interest Policy.

COD committee assignments were reviewed.

Adjournment for refreshments and committee meetings at 10:10 am.

Meeting called to order at 1:07 pm.

Dave Veum presented the LBS report and strategic plans (see tab 5).

Stan Olsen presented the NAM report and strategic plans (see tabs 2 and 6).

Roger Olson presented a report on the results and recommendations from the CLB Youth and Young Adult Ministry Think Tank (see tab 6).

Matthew Rogness presented the LBIM report and strategic plans (see tab 6).

Ryan Nilsen presented a report on the ministry of 5<sup>th</sup> Act Church Planting.

Troy Tysdal presented a report from the department of Communications and Prayer. (see tabs 2 and 6).

LaWayne Rogness presented the Finance Committee report. (see minutes, Audit binder, tab 6)

**MMSC to approve the auditor's report.**

**MMSC to approve the inclusion of Health Cost Sharing Ministries as an option under "other health insurance coverage" as part of our Flexible Benefit (Cafeteria) Plan and give approval to the Finance Committee to finalize waiver language.**

Steve Tonneson presented a report from the Office of Advancement Ministry (see tabs 2 and 6).

Roy Heggland presented a report from the Office of Biblical Stewardship (see tabs 2 and 6).

**MMSC to receive all presented reports.**

Phil Heiser closed the day in prayer. Adjourned at 4:58 pm.

*Friday, October 13*

Meeting called to order by Chairman Swenson at 8:33 am.

President Larson opened in prayer.

A greeting was given from the COD to Chaplain Mike Heuer.

**MMSC to create a task force to consider developing a Bible School and/or gap-year school options.**

**MMSC to pursue the development of an extended group discipleship and service opportunity for young adults.**

**MMSC to engage a denominational Young Adult Coordinator tasked with coaching and resourcing youth and young adult workers.**

A task force to consider developing a Bible School and/or gap-year school options is to be appointed by the Office of the President. COD members expressing interest in serving on task force include Scott Dunsmore, Marcus Goodman, Greg Butler, Ruth Vallevik, LaWayne Rogness, Luther Stenberg, and Roger Viksnes.

As part of the discussion regarding the motion below Shana Bronson (in person) and Chris Leingang (by skype) gave input.

**Amended Motion MMSC Approve a pilot project to see young adults coming together in community, engaged with theology and the mission of the Church through helping to revitalize struggling churches with a goal of recruiting and placing one or two teams of young adults and active retirees potentially by the 2018 CLB Biennial Convention.**

**MMSC to direct the PACCM to develop a written description of how we would define church revitalization and provide benchmarks to discern whether the pilot is successful to be made available to the COD by February 15 and presented to the COD at the March meeting.**

Ruth Vallevik presented the Women's Ministry report (see tab 8 and Women's Ministries handout).

**MMSC to accept the Women's Ministry report.**

**MMSC for the ordination of Kevin Skaret.**

**MMSC for the ordination of Caleb Larson.**

**MMSC for the ordination of Matthew Sonnenberg.**

**MMSC for the ordination of Clint Knutson.**

**MMSC that the Theological Council develop an elder certification process which would be for the benefit of our congregations.**

**MMSC to affirm the Theological Council's intention to develop a continuing education process for rostered Ministers of the Gospel. The Office of the President will appoint a committee including LBS staff, two RPs, OOP staff, and two pastors.**

**Amended motion MMSC to affirm the Theological Council's decision to develop a plan which could potentially lead to the ordination of pastors who do not have a seminary M. Div./Diploma.**

**Amended motion MMSC to direct the Theological Council to develop language to incorporate the Clergy Divorce and Remarriage Policy into the Minister of the Gospel Handbook.**

**MM to accept the proposed changes to the Ministers of the Gospel Handbook.**

**MMSC to table the previous motion until the March meeting.**

**MMSC to direct the Theological Council to review the implications of the Clergy Divorce and Remarriage policy as it applies to elders.**

Directed Matthew DeKok, Warren Hall, and Michael Swenson to complete a review of President Paul Larson prior to the March 2018 COD meeting.

Future COD Meetings:

Spring 2018 COD: March 15-16, 2018 in Fergus Falls

**MMSC to hold the COD Budget Meeting by phone/video conference on Monday, May 21, 2018 at 7:00 CST.**

**MMSC to hold a COD Reorganizational meeting: June 12, 2018 immediately following the Biennial Convention.**

**MMSC to hold the Fall 2018 COD meeting October 11-12 in Fergus Falls.**

**Meeting adjourned at 2:22.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Mark Nienow, Secretary, CLB**