

I N D E X
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES
THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD
THE LUTHERAN CENTER NEW ORLEANS, LA MARCH 9, 2007

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

MARCH 9, 2007

2240 LAKESHORE DRIVE, NEW ORLEANS, LA

PRESENT: Pastors Davis, Doroh, Ertl, Richter, Schmieding, Schultz and Weier
Mrs. Arbogast, Reilly, Mr. Craig, Peterson and Dr. Kaul
EXECUTIVE STAFF: Rev. Gary Faith, Mr. Gene Menzel, Mr. Jack Kellison
EXCUSED: Pastor Kuehnert, Mr. Casamento, Ms. McCreery, Teacher Pegues

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 March 9, 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.

Mrs. Rhoda Reilly led the opening devotion. The devotion opened with the singing of *Trust and Obey* followed by Psalm 20. Reflections were given on being a good servant based on Psalm 35:27; prayer followed.

1. AGENDA

BD-07-01

RESOLVED, THAT the agenda be adopted.

ADOPTED

2. MINUTES

BD-07-02

RESOLVED, THAT the Minutes of the September 8, 2006 meeting of the Board of Directors with a minor correction be approved.

ADOPTED

- At this time, the Ad Hoc Committees established by President Schultz met from 9:20 AM to 11:30 PM.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Rev. Gary Faith, Executive Assistant for Parish Ministries, reported for the Stewardship Committee. Congregational income to the District totaled \$1,018,070.48 for 2006 with an additional \$10,619.43 on commitments paid in 2006. The Committee reviewed pledges to the District. The 2007 District budget was reviewed and estimated at \$1,026,500 for 2007 rather than the previous \$1,080,000. Stewardship triennium goals were revised and a stewardship pie chart of expenses for the District was presented.

MISSION COMMITTEE

The Rev. Gary Faith, Executive Assistant for Parish Ministries, reported for the Mission Committee, which was held February 26, 2007, at Faith Lutheran Church, Mobile, AL. An update on the DeSoto County, Mississippi Mission, now called, CrossRoad Church, was given. Seventy-five persons attended the first worship service; many came as a result of lawn signs, mailings, etc. The “launch” worship service will be April 1st with a desired attendance of 200 persons. The Rev. Dave Buss presented the report of the newly formed Southern District Recovery Assistance Incorporated (RAI) organization. The Rev. John Karle led the committee in a discussion of new directions in Southern District mission work. A position statement and work program for the Mission Committee was prepared. Committee members will contact pastors and congregations toward the goal of building missional congregations. Two challenge grants were presented but denied. The first Challenge Grant was denied because the Mission Committee does not help build capital projects and the second because the grant was not specific.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mrs. Connie Arbogast, Chairperson of the Budget and Finance Committee, gave the Committee report.

3. 2006 YEAR END

FI-07-01/BD-07-03

WHEREAS, a reduction in the 2006 Expense Budget has caused income to exceed expense by approximately \$65,000; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, THAT account #88128-000-0 Contingency be overspent by \$65,000; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, THAT \$65,000 be placed in account #20275-269-1 line item listed as 2006 Budget Support.

ADOPTED

4. 2006 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

FI-07-02/BD-07-04

RESOLVED, THAT the following be accepted as the Southern District Operating Budget for 2007:

<i>INCOME</i>		
77010	District Congregations	1,080,000
	Previous Year Commitment	10,719
	Individuals & Agencies	200
	Planned Giving Counselor	0
	Special Income – 2005-2006	125,000
	C.T.O.	3,200
	Interest Income	16,000

	Current Fund – Other	500
	Deployment	50,000
	TOTAL CURRENT FUND INCOME	\$1,285,619
77020	Designated Gifts	3,500
77032	Assessments	60,000
77050	Other Income	17,000
	TOTAL INCOME	\$1,366,119

EXPENSES

88010	Missions - New Work	50,000
88011	Missions – Grants, Etc.	190,000
88014	Advance Sites	5,000
88021	Campus Ministry	7,000
88090	Mission Dev. And Admin.	179,645
88111	Parish Education	177,954
88112	Youth	13,200
88115	Stewardship	11,950
88121	Lutheran Witness	17,500
88122	Spirit of Southern	36,000
88126	Student Aid	1,500
88127	Student Aid Grants	7,000
88128	Contingency	65,000
88131	Synod Convention	60,000
88134	Black Pastors Conference	700
88135	Leaders and Churchman’s Conf.	4,000
88136	New Pastors Orientation	6,000
88137	Planned Giving Counselor	25,000
88141	President’s Office	205,689
88143	General Office	97,900
88144	Boards & Committees	28,500
88145	Office Building	54,000
88251	Synod Pledge	119,000
88252	Armed Forces	500
88253	World Relief	<u>3,000</u>
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,366,038

NET GAIN **81**

ADOPTED

YOUTH COMMITTEE

Mr. Gene Menzel, Executive Assistant for Parish Services, reported on behalf of the Youth Committee. Junior High gatherings were held in February. Two persons were sent to Synod's Youth Committee training event. The 2007 Youth Gathering has about 500 Southern District participants. Registrations are continuing to be received. Four attended the Youth Ministry 2007 from the Southern District. The topic of adults not intervening in youth experiences was prominent.

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 - Cullman, AL, on January 27, 2007. Billboards are planned for New Orleans Lutheran schools.

RECRUITMENT AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Mr. Gene Menzel, Executive Assistant for Parish Services, reported for the Recruitment and Scholarship Committee. \$581,830.99 is now in the Recruitment and Scholarship Fund. Four students enrolled in DELTO also are provided scholarships. Ongoing recruitment and fund raising continues.

CONSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE

The Constitutions Committee offered a printed report.

5. ACCEPT THE REVISED CONSTITUTION OF OUR SAVIOR – SHREVEPORT,

LA

CO-07-01/BD-07-05

WHEREAS, the Constitution Committee has reviewed the revised Constitution and/or Bylaws of Our Savior – Shreveport, LA, and found it to be in agreement with Scripture and Synodical requirements; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, THAT the revised Constitutions and Bylaws of Our Savior – Shreveport, LA, be accepted upon receipt of the final copy by the District President's office.

ADOPTED

6. ACCEPT MINUTES AND REPORTS

BD-07-06

RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the February 26, 2007 meeting of the Mission Committee; the minutes of the February 23, 2007 meeting of the Stewardship Committee; the minutes of the March 8, 2007 meeting of the Budget and Finance Committee; and the report of the Youth Committee; the report of the Parish Education Committee; the report of the Constitutions Committee and the minutes of the February 22, 2007 meeting of the Recruitment and Scholarship Committee be accepted.

ADOPTED

CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

Mr. Jack Kellison, Executive Assistant for Finance, reported for the Church Extension Fund Committee. Congregational loan interest has been lowered from 6% to 5.75%. Approved loan of \$413,000 to The Village Church-Lutheran – Lacombe, LA. Approved loan to Redeemer – Pensacola, FL for \$600,000.

BLACK MINISTRY TASK FORCE

The Black Ministry Task Force submitted a printed report. A meeting has been held with the pastor and congregation of Concordia – Montrose, AL. A Mini-convocation at Mobile is being considered for summer.

HURRICANE RELIEF REPORT

Rev. Dave Buss, Coordinator of the Southern District Disaster Relief presented a Mission Statement for the Southern District LCMS Recovery Assistance, Inc. Disaster Relief has received 6 million dollars and spent approximately 3 million. Camp Restore is fairly self-sufficient, costing about \$500,000 per year. Mrs. Kathy Wendling reported on the family-to-family program. A recent meeting was held for support staff (secretaries, etc.) of New Orleans churches. House blessings to help residents and builders restore homes are scheduled. The five-part plan includes **CAMP RESTORE**; **REACH** – Restoring a Community's Heart; **RECOVERY** and **LINC** (Lutheran Inter-City Network Coalition; and, **LIFT** (an intern program). Those professional church workers to be called to the leadership of these components, will be called by the Southern District, but funded by RAI, a separate 501c3 corporation.

7. ENDORSE THE PROGRAM OF RAI

BD-07-07

RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors support the plan of Recovery Assistance Inc.

ADOPTED unanimously

8. ACCEPT REPORTS

BD-07-08

RESOLVED, THAT the above reports be accepted.

ADOPTED

PLENARY

9. ISSUE THE CALL FOR SPIRIT KINDLE DIRECTORS – REV. KEVIN C. KIESCHNICK AS LINC DIRECTOR AND DCO KURTIS SMITH AS REACH DIRECTOR

PL-02-07/BD-07-09

RESOLVED, THAT per the SPIRIT KINDLE Southern District Recovery Mission Plan (previously circulated and now attached), the Board of Directors is issuing two calls:

- 1) To The Rev. Kevin C. Kieschnick of Christ Our Redeemer – Hartselle, AL, as **LINC** (Lutheran Inter City Network Coalition) Director for the Greater New Orleans area for a term of four years; and,
- 2) To Director of Christian Outreach Kurtis Smith, currently employed by Lutheran Social Services of the South Disaster Response, as **REACH** (Rebuilding a Community's Heart) Director for the Southern District for a term of four years.

Note: The Mission Committee of the Southern District unanimously endorsed this plan in their meeting held on February 26, 2007 in Mobile, AL.

ADOPTED

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **LAY MINISTRY TRAINING INSTITUTE**

Rev. Warren H. Davis reported for the Committee. With the resignation of Rev. Dr. Jan C. Case as director of LMTI and reconsideration of programs like LMTI by Synod's convention in 2007; the Committee made recommendations that no new LMTI students be accepted at this time and that an Interim Director be appointed and current students be allowed to complete the program. Fourteen students are in the process of completing the program. Dr. Case has written a program for pastor vocations, and Southern District will be a pilot district for this.

- **By-law change for Representation on Board of Directors**

Rev. Ted M. Richter presented changes to be made in the Southern District Constitution and By-laws for review by the Board of Directors. President Schultz reminded the Board that changes would need to be approved by the Committee on Constitutional Matters (CCM) of the Synod. Changes need to be submitted to congregations; but, they cannot change By-laws at Convention without approval of CCM.

- **District Office Relocation**

President Schultz helped explain the following resolutions of the Committee.

10. DIGITIZATION AND STORAGE OF DISTRICT RECORDS

BD-07-10

WHEREAS, as a result of Hurricane Katrina and the inability of the Southern District Office Staff to operate in times of emergency, and
WHEREAS, the District President appointed an Ad Hoc Committee to investigate the relocation of the Southern District Office, and
WHEREAS, the Ad Hoc Committee has determined that, as a pre-requisite of relocation is the necessity to secure district records for storage and retrieval offsite; therefore, be it
RESOLVED, THAT the District Executive Staff be encouraged to consider putting forward to the Board of Directors the digitization and storage of necessary records offsite and the Southern District Endowment Fund be utilized to finance this project.

ADOPTED

11. IMPROVEMENTS TO DISTRICT OFFICE BUILDING

BD-07-11

WHEREAS, as a result of Hurricane Katrina and the inability of the Southern District Office Staff to operate in times of emergency, and
WHEREAS, the District President appointed an Ad Hoc Committee to investigate the relocation of the Southern District Office, and
WHEREAS, a company has been contracted to perform an appraisal of our building and property, and
WHEREAS, there are improvements/repairs that could be made to the building that would enhance the sale of the property; therefore, be it
RESOLVED, THAT the Executive Staff be encouraged to make those improvements necessary to enhance the sale of the property.

ADOPTED

12. MOTION TO RECEIVE AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

BD-07-12

RESOLVED, THAT the reports of the Ad Hoc Committees be accepted.

ADOPTED

PLENARY

13. BOARD OF DIRECTORS VACANCY

PL-07-01/BD-07-13

WHEREAS, Mrs. Sue Schiller, elected to the position of Commissioned Minister Representative on the Board of Directors at the 2006 Southern District Convention entered the Kingdom of Saints on December 26, 2006, and
WHEREAS, Article IV D. 3. of the Southern District Bylaws reads, "Vacancies in other elective, appointive offices, boards, commissions or committees, except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, shall be filled by nomination of the President and confirmation by the Board of Directors; therefore, be it
RESOLVED, THAT Mrs. Agnes Pegues complete the term of Mrs. Sue Schiller as Commissioned Minister Representative on the Board of Directors.

ADOPTED

PRESENTATION TO REV. WARREN H. DAVIS

Rev. Warren H. Davis was presented a glass globe from the Board of Missions of the Synod for his service as military chaplain from 1976-2006.

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.

CALLS

Congregations in the calling process were presented as well as congregations calling candidates and vicars.

TRINITY – North Claiborne – New Orleans, LA

Members of Trinity met on February 11, 2007 and voted to disband the congregation.

14. RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENTS

BD-07-14

RESOLVED, THAT the following persons appointed by President Schultz be approved by the Board of Directors:

Parish Education

Cherie Endrihs (Christ the King – Enterprise, AL)

Youth

Rochell Kurucar (Village – Lacombe, LA)

Joan Lee (St. Paul's – Cullman, AL)

Steve Richardson (St. Paul – Montgomery, AL)

Recruitment and Scholarship

Vicar Stan Clark (Zion – Clinton, LA)

Mitzi Loughmiller (Faith – Harahan, LA)

ADOPTED

FANNING THE FLAME

President Schultz reported on launching the fund raising campaign *Fanning the Flame* in the Southern District. \$25,000,000 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% for overseas missions.) President Schultz asked the Board to consider entering into this campaign. A representative of the Campaign will be invited to our May meeting and a decision will be made to launch then.

FISCAL CONFERENCE

Rev. Warren H. Davis reported on the Fiscal Conference he attended on behalf of the Southern District, which encouraged increased unrestricted giving by the Districts to the Synod.

CONCORDIA - SELMA

Rev. Warren H. Davis reported on Concordia – Selma. A number of freshmen, for various reasons, did not return. Dr. Jenkins announced his resignation as President at the end of the school year. Many Board of Regents members are not returning.

15. ADJOURNMENT

BD-07-15

RESOLVED, THAT the meeting be adjourned.

ADOPTED

Mrs. Reilly led the closing devotion. Psalm 125 was read responsively. We sang two verses of *Trust and Obey*. A devotion of Luke 10:19 was given, focusing on power. We concluded with prayer.

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