

Board of Directors
report to the
Professional Church Workers Conference
October 6, 2020

True or false,
when last I reported to you, President Hardy was struggling over a *revised* (but not what any one else would call *standard*) translation of Numbers 13, which he read to say, “The LORD said to *Hardy*, ‘Send men to explore *Michigan*, which I’m giving to the *English*. . . . See what the land is like and whether the people living there are strong or weak, few or many. Is the land they live in good or bad? . . . Do your best to bring back some fruit from the land ‘” (vs. 1-2, 18-19, 20b.)

(False. Although, . . . the Board did take it right to Michigan under Dr. Hardy's leadership, shamelessly meeting right in the Michigan District Office last June. (And, spoiler alert, we've just made arrangements to return there for our May/June meeting this year.))

True or false,
the make-up of the English District Board of Directors is based on Rev.
13:18: *“This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding
calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his
number is 666.”*

(False. Although, . . . without reading too much into it, the BOD *does* consist of 6 called/commissioned voting members, 6 lay voting members, and 6 non-voting members.)

True or false,
Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a member of the English District Board of
Directors.

(False. However, . . .the BOD does consist of five female members - four of whom may vote, and one who may not.)

True or false,
District Bylaws prohibit two residents from the same state or province
serving together on the BOD.

(False. Current Board members call these states and provinces home: Arizona - 3, Nebraska - 2, New York - 2, Ontario - 2, Pennsylvania - 2, Wisconsin - 2, Illinois -1, Indiana -1, Michigan - 1, New Jersey - 1, Ohio -1.)

True or false,
the BOD is responsible for telling the President what to do.

(True. Each triennium, the Board establishes priorities for the President's activity, and against which it annually measures his performance. These are referred to as End Statements.

The English District will be a model for the Synod in funding new missions and missionaries by our congregations participating in the Dollar for Missions (1-1-1) funding model.

The English District helps its congregations become and remain healthy.

Our congregations raise up church workers.

Christian education is integrated into serving people of all ages.

Our church workers and their families benefit from wellness resources.

Our congregations exercise Christian care of college and university students.

Our youth and young adults are engaged in the ministries of our congregations, District, and Synod.

Our congregations collaborate on new missions and ministries.)

True or false,
the Board is responsible for telling the President
how to meet these Ends.

(False. The “Means” the President uses to accomplish the “Ends” are up to him, guided by the Executive Limitations laid out in the District Policy Manual.)

True or false,
with COVID, the BOD has not been able to meet as often as usual.

(False. Since August of last year, the Board has met twice in person (November 2019, February 2020) and five times (April, May, July, August and September) via teleconference.)

Over the past year, the Board welcomed new congregations into the District from each of the following states except:

- (A) California
- (B) Michigan
- ©) Utah
- (D) Idaho
- (E) Pennsylvania
- (F) Virginia
- (G) Ohio

(C) Utah).

True or false,
at its November meeting last year, the Board granted the use of proceeds
from the sale of the former Bethany Lutheran Church, Chicago property
to Chicago-North and Chicago-South congregations for continuing work
in the Chicagoland area that totaled more than \$215,000.

(True. That total is part of the Board's commitment to reinvest a total of \$300,000 from the Bethany sale back in the city.)

True or false,
in April, the Board denied the District's participation in the
Payroll Protection Plan as part of the CARES Act.

(False. We welcomed and approved it.)

True or false, other highlights of the Board's activity on behalf of District workers, congregations and ministries this past year include . . .

- Striving to “*love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and mind*” (Mt. 22:37).
- Worshiping together and praying for our ministers and ministries.
- Growing in our familiarity with our policy-based governance model.
- Digesting the quarterly reports of the Canada Corporation, LCEF Vice-President, Endowment Fund Board, Gift Planning Counselor, Executive Assistants to the President, Treasurer, and President/Bishop.
- Confirming the ministry grants approved by the Endowment Fund Board of Managers.
- Updating policy
- Participating in the Synodical Audit Review Process

(True.)

Thank you for your time, your attention, and your support,
as those of us on your Board of Directors
prayerfully exercise the privilege you have given us
of serving the Lord of the Church
by serving you who are in his church.