

ENGLISH DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

June 20, 2023

Meeting Location:

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

Attendance: Voting Members - Mr. Lucas Fitzgerald, 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. Michael Morehouse, Mrs. Sally Naglich, Rev. Douglas Spittel, Mr. Jim Thielen. **Staff** - Rev. Derek Mathers.

Call to Order: Chairman Terry Leu called the meeting to order at 2:05pm.

1. Opening Prayer

Vice-President Douglas Spittel provided an opening prayer.

2. Appointment of Midwestern Region Lay Member

The matter of filling the vacant position for the Midwestern Region Lay Member was introduced. Motion: *"To appoint Christopher Cassel to serve on the Board of Directors, filling the vacancy created by the resignation of Gail Greiser."* Short discussion about Mr. Cassel's background, including past service on the Board of Directors, was held. Motion carried.

3. Congregational Updates: Living Water - San Diego, CA and Nazareth - Buffalo, NY

President Jamison Hardy provided an update about the closure of Living Water - San Diego, CA. The congregation has approved contributing ~\$1.5 million from assets obtained through the sale of the congregation's property to the District. The congregation has requested that a portion of the congregation's assets be directed to be used for planting a mission church, preferably within the Greater San Diego metropolitan area. This would be in line with the Board's previous act of designating how the transferred assets be used [*cf. MAY 2023 Meeting Minutes - Item 7*]. President Hardy indicated his intention not to direct funds to such an effort without identifying a specific mission planter. He commended the congregation for making the decision to be a legacy congregation through this gift.

President Hardy reported that he had met with congregational leaders from Nazareth - Buffalo, NY. The congregation is considering transferring ownership of the church's property—church building and two houses—to the District. Analysis of the site for ministry efforts, perhaps outside of traditional congregational ministry, at that location needs to be done; potential cooperation with the Eastern District could be pursued. The District would utilize the services of Foundry Commercial for property management while it is owned by the District. During discussion about the congregational situation in the Buffalo area, Ms. Carol George shared the concern of English District parishioners about the number of vacancies being created by the retirement of Rev. Ben Eder from Pilgrim - Kenmore, NY and

the departure of Rev. Dwayne Hendricks from Nazareth – Buffalo, NY and his service of the vacancy at Redeemer – North Tonawanda, NY.

4. New Home Loan Agreement with President Hardy

President Hardy presented the Board with a request for a new mortgage agreement to facilitate the purchase of a different house within the Detroit metropolitan area due to his intent to sell his current house in Howell, MI. Board members were provided information concerning the loan issued in September 2020 [cf. SEP 2020 Meeting Minutes – Item 1]. After the request was presented, Board members considered what action should be taken. Initial motion: *“To approve execution of a second home loan to President Jamison Hardy in the amount of \$400,000 under the same terms of agreement as had been established in September 2020.”*

During consideration of the initial motion, the tax ramifications related to the level of interest rate set were considered. After that discussion, it was determined that the interest rate should be set at 4%. Amended motion: *“To approve execution of a second home loan to President Jamison Hardy in the amount of \$400,000 for the purchase of real property in the Detroit metropolitan area. This loan would be set on an amortization schedule of 30 years with a fixed interest rate of 4%. The debt will be secured by a mortgage on the purchased property.”* Motion carried; President Hardy abstained from voting.

5. Synod Convention Updates

President Hardy informed the Board that the proposal by Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) to amend the Synod Bylaws to permit loans to Lutheran Church–Canada congregations and church workers cleared the Floor Committee and will be presented to the 2023 Synod Convention for action. This would allow LCEF to complete its purchase of the Canada Corporation that had been approved by the District Board in December 2022 [cf. DEC 2022 Meeting Minutes – Item 8]. Board members were informed about how they could share their thoughts about this proposal with the appropriate Floor Committee prior to the Convention.

A Board member asked about the potential status of moving to a four-year convention cycle. Board members were informed about the proposed task force to evaluate the four-year convention cycle and the reasons why that proposal was put forward.

6. Adjournment

Chairman Leu declared the meeting to be adjourned at 2:50pm without objection. President Hardy led the Board in a closing prayer.

Submitted,

Rev. Luke Zimmerman
Secretary, English District–LCMS