

1 **Minutes of the Missouri District Board of Directors two Hundred Forty Sixth**  
2 **Regular Meeting held at the Missouri District Office, St. Louis, MO July 23, 2009**

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4 The meeting was called to order by President Mirly at 10:07 and he opened with prayer  
5 in the absence of Vice President Alan Wollenburg, chaplain for the day.  
6

7 Those in attendance and signing the roll were: Rick Cody, Ken Schurb, Lee Hagan,  
8 Dennis Gehrke, David Schlesselman, John C. Bobzin, Paul Snyder, Dave Benson, A. W.  
9 Jaudes, Dennis Klussman, Gene Wyssmann, William Marler, Stuart Brassie, Peter Krege,  
10 Alan Wollenburg, David C. Thomas, Ray Mirly, and Charles Spomer. Excused were Jim  
11 Weber, Ron Wheeler, and Ron Rall.  
12

13 The minutes of the April 30, 2009 regular meeting were moved for approval. It was  
14 seconded and passed.  
15

16 The minutes of the conference phone meeting of June 10, 2009 were moved for approval.  
17 It was seconded and passed.  
18

19 President Mirly called for the members of the Board to introduce themselves.  
20

21 Recess was called at 10:55 for the chapel service, installation of the Board members, and  
22 lunch.  
23

24 President Mirly began orientation for the Board at 12:30 P.M. calling the Board's  
25 attention to the Synodical Handbook. He explained that Districts are a creation of the  
26 Synod and that resolutions of the Synod are binding on the Districts. Bylaws of the  
27 Synod are also bylaws of the Districts, insofar as they are applicable. Members of Synod  
28 are congregations and ordained and commissioned ministers. District officers have the  
29 responsibility of implementing the resolutions of the Synod within the District. The  
30 Council of Presidents maintains communication and coordination of programs throughout  
31 the Synod. The Synod bylaws establish the officers of the Districts and the manner of  
32 their taking office. All officers of the District and members of boards shall be members of  
33 member congregations of the district at their installation and throughout their tenure of  
34 office. The District Board of Directors has responsibility for the business and legal  
35 affairs of the District and follows both the Synodical bylaws and the District bylaws. The  
36 activity of the District Board of Directors is guided by the functions of the Board of  
37 Directors of the Synod.  
38

39 According to the District bylaws, 2006 edition, the Missouri District Board of Directors  
40 has 13 voting members and a quorum is 7 members, meets quarterly, and special  
41 meetings may be called by 3 or more members. A vacancy on the Board of Directors is  
42 filled by election by the members of the Board. President Mirly called the Board's  
43 attention to the working copy of the new bylaws adopted at the 2009 District Convention  
44 which affects the section on organization. The Board may need to consider producing a  
45 procedure manual for itself. In relation to casting vision and setting goals for the District,  
46 President Mirly asked for the Board's indulgence until after the staff has met with a

47 systems analyst to help them be clear on the nature of the relationship between the  
48 elements of vision and plan. Work on the plan will be done later by the Board. President  
49 Mirly also pointed out the new section on staffing adopted at this summer's convention.  
50 New staff position may be created by the Board, or eliminated, as needed.

51  
52 President Mirly also pointed out the numbering changes in the section on the duties of the  
53 Board of Directors.

54  
55 President Mirly led the Board through a discussion of a document entitled, "Change."  
56 The world changes rapidly, as it wills. The Church, however cannot change some things,  
57 might change other things, and must change still other things. The discussion was  
58 concerning which things the Church deals with that fit into those three categories.  
59 President Mirly gave the Board an assignment to complete the document to discuss at its  
60 next meeting.

61  
62 To present his report (attached), President Mirly turned the chair over to Vice President  
63 Wollenburg. Since there has been no Council of Presidents meeting since the last District  
64 BOD meeting, there is no change in the reporting of vacancies. Synodical finances  
65 continue to be in trouble because of dwindling congregational offerings and remittances  
66 from Districts. The early retirement buy-outs will not solve financial problems year after  
67 year. There will be a theological convocation on worship January 11-13, 2010 in St.  
68 Louis. There are no further details at this time. In District matters, he reported on  
69 congregations calling pastors and other church workers. He stated that several  
70 congregations around the District have committed themselves to continued ministries in  
71 spite of financial or demographic difficulties. Evaluations of the District Convention were  
72 generally positive. In the debriefing meeting, the problems were addressed as planning  
73 begins for the next convention. The BOD will determine the site of the next convention  
74 soon. Reviews of staff will be done within the next two weeks, with written reviews and  
75 face to face as well.

76  
77 President Mirly retook the chair and called on Peter Krege for his report. Pete mentioned  
78 that he had mileage reimbursement forms available and that each member of the Board  
79 must sign the "Conflict of Interests" form. His financial orientation for the board began  
80 with the "Balance Sheet – Detail." (attached) It explains what the assets and liabilities of  
81 the District are. Peter explained the accounts listed on the sheet.

82  
83 Bud Jaudes moved the "Proposed Resolutions Regarding Advance Sites." (attached) It  
84 was noted that the resolutions were necessary because of the change of valuation on one  
85 property, and that the listing agreements with realtors had expired. It was seconded and  
86 passed.

87  
88 Peter Krege pointed to the 2009 audit schedule with auditors Brown, Smith, Wallace.  
89 They have been appointed for the next triennium. October 5, the finance committee will  
90 meet with the auditors to receive, review, and consider forwarding the report to the Board  
91 of Directors. If the finance committee approves, it will be mailed to the BOD October  
92 19<sup>th</sup>. If it is found in order, the BOD will approve it at its next meeting.

93

94 Mr. Krege presented the balance sheet for Faith Aflame (attached). There is \$14,302.49  
95 available for grants. Fan Into Flame balance sheet (attached) shows the fundraising arm  
96 of Ablaze! and a balance of \$21,682 unallocated.

97

98 Mr. Krege reported on the Financial Statement (attached) of the District. Exhibit B, the  
99 activities, of how much money came in and what was spent. Receipts were greater than  
100 anticipated from congregations. Therefore, remittances to Synod were greater, based on  
101 the practice of sending a percentage of congregational receipts. Mr. Jaudes thanked Mr.  
102 Krege for doing a good job in updating the books of the District.

103

104 President Mirly distributed a revised agenda (attached) to cover the remainder of the  
105 meeting. It reflects necessary changes that have arisen and contains more detailed  
106 information for the benefit of the Board.

107

108 There being no old business to come before the Board, President Mirly presented the  
109 action items on the agenda.

110

111 Four congregations have submitted constitutions or bylaws to the Constitution Committee  
112 of the District. The Constitution Committee recommends that the Board of Directors  
113 approve the constitutions and bylaws of Holy Cross, Emma, Immanuel, Higginsville,  
114 Our Redeemer, Marshall, and Iglesia Luterana Amigos de Cristo, Sedalia. It was so  
115 moved, seconded and passed. The secretary will notify these congregations.

116

117 Amigos de Cristo, Sedalia, hereby, makes application to the Missouri District to join the  
118 Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod. President Mirly read the applicable bylaws to assure  
119 the Board that the proper procedure was being followed. It was moved and seconded to  
120 grant their application for membership. Rev. Stuart Brassie told the Board a little history  
121 of the mission. The motion passed.

122

123 Two documents (attached) concerning the positions of Assistant to the President for  
124 Congregational Health – Missouri District, and Assistant to the President for Family Life  
125 and Youth – Missouri District, need to be modified before being considered. Each, on  
126 the last page, needs to be changed from “March 28, 2009 (draft)” to “adopted April 30,  
127 2009.” The minutes of the BOD of April 30, 2009, lines 102-113 reflect the adoption of  
128 the documents. President Mirly gave the chair to Vice President Schurb. President Mirly  
129 nominated Rev. Gene Wyssmann to be issued a call to serve in the position of Assistant  
130 to the President for Family Life and Youth and as Assistant to the President for  
131 Congregational Health as per the two job descriptions. It was moved, seconded, and  
132 passed. Rev. Wyssmann would be deployed in Nixa, MO and also have a desk at the  
133 District Office. Some of the responsibilities that Roger Mailand had are being delegated  
134 to Sue Thompson, supervised by Rev. Wyssmann.

135

136 President Mirly retook the chair.

137

138 Rev Richard Cody, chairman of the Board for Mission Services nominated Rev. Jeff  
139 Cloeter, Christ Memorial, Affton; Rev. Jeff Sippy, Redeemer Springfield; Rev. Scott  
140 Seidler, Concordia, Kirkwood; Rev. Brad Zerkle, Our Redeemer, Kansas City; Mr.  
141 Ronnie Merritt, Redeemer, Springfield (Commissioned), and Mr. Marc Debrick, Zion,  
142 Harvester (Commissioned) to the Board for Mission Services. It was seconded and  
143 passed. One lay person remains to be nominated.  
144

145 Rev. Lee Hagan, chairman of the Board for Congregational Services, nominated Rev.  
146 Kevin Golden, Village, Ladue; Rev. Jason Shaw, Faith Springfield; Ms. Leah Kortmeyer,  
147 Trinity, Cape Girardeau (Commissioned); Mr. Al Muck, Lord of Life, Chesterfield  
148 (Commissioned); Mr. Gregory C. Hasseldahl, Good Shepherd Lutheran School,  
149 Columbia (Commissioned); Mr. Roland Lovstad, Immanuel, Perryville (Layman); Mr.  
150 Jack Hollingsworth, Christ the King, Lake Ozark (Layman) to the Board for  
151 Congregational Services. It was seconded and passed.  
152

153 Mr. David Schlesselman, chairman of the Board for Educational Services nominated Ms.  
154 Wilma Griffith, Christ Memorial, Affton (Layman); Mr. Winston Rutledge, Faith,  
155 Jefferson City (Layman); Rev. Mark Bangert, Immanuel, Washington; Mr. Paul Baker,  
156 Redeemer, Springfield (Commissioned); Ms. Laurie Flenner, St. Paul's, Concordia  
157 (Commissioned); Mr. Craig Ernstmeyer, Saxony Lutheran High School, Jackson  
158 (Commissioned) to the Board for Educational Services. It was seconded and passed.  
159

160 Rev. David Benson, chairman of the Board for Family Life and Youth Services  
161 nominated Rev. Dr. Jerome Brownlee, retired, of Kansas City; Rev. Monte Haun,  
162 Concordia, Kirkwood; Rev. James King, St. Paul, Farmington; Rev. Mark Martin, St.  
163 Andrew, Cape Girardeau; Ms. Christina Stackle, Peace, St. Louis (Commissioned); Mr.  
164 Mike Kahler, (Commissioned); Ms. Margaret Meisel, Faith, Jefferson City (Layman);  
165 Ms. Suzanne Stiegemeyer, St. Paul, Jackson Layman); Ms. Nancy Drebes, Immanuel  
166 (sic), [Zion] Palmyra (Layman); Ms. Marilyn Haldiman, Redeemer, Springfield  
167 (Layman) to the Board of Family Life and Youth Services. Rev. Benson explained that  
168 the wide range of duties of the board explained the number of nominees. It was seconded  
169 and passed.  
170

171 President Mirly nominated members of the District Constitution Committee: Rev.  
172 Kenneth Gerike, Trinity, Columbia, Chairman; Mr. Kenneth Hartman, Trinity, Jefferson  
173 City (Commissioned); Mr. Ed Nierman, St. Paul's Concordia (Layman); and Mr. Dale  
174 Linneman, Campus Lutheran, Columbia (Attorney). It was moved, seconded and passed.  
175 Rev. Charles Spomer, District Secretary, according to bylaw is on the committee.  
176

177 President Mirly appointed Vice Presidents to represent him on the Service Boards of the  
178 District: Ron Rall, Board of Mission Services; Alan Wollenburg, Board of  
179 Congregational Services; Ken Schurb, Board of Educational Services; William Marler,  
180 Board of Family Life and Youth Services.  
181

182 President Mirly suggested that the Finance Committee, named later, to serve as the LCEF  
183 Loan Committee. It was moved, seconded, and adopted.

184  
185 The Vision Design subcommittee will be Lee Hagan as chairman, Dave Thomas, Bill  
186 Marler, Stu Brassie and Gene Wyssmann.  
187  
188 Policy subcommittee is Charles Spomer.  
189  
190 Finance subcommittee will be Bud Jaudes as chairman, Ron Wheeler, Jim Weber, Ron  
191 Rall, Pete Krege, and Dennis Klussman.  
192  
193 Personnel and Salary (Guidelines) subcommittee will be Dave Schlesselman as chairman,  
194 John Bobzin, Paul Snyder, Alan Wollenburg, Pete Krege and Dennis Gehrke.  
195  
196 Communications and Technology subcommittee will be Rick Cody as chairman, Dave  
197 Benson, Ken Schurb, Pete Krege, Dennis Gehrke, and Jennifer Krupp. President Mirly  
198 will also ask Mr. Roland Lovstad to serve on this committee.  
199  
200 The Seminary Interview Committee is not yet complete.  
201  
202 Structure Taskforce will have Rev. Tim Brown as chairman with the rest of the  
203 committee yet to be determined.  
204  
205 The Theology Study Group will have Rev. Terry Weinhold as chairman, Rev. Dr. David  
206 Smith, Rev. Gregory Smith, Rev. Dr. Scott Seidler, Rev. Dr. Mart Thompson, Rev. Dr.  
207 Peter Kurowski, Rev. Eric Rottmann and Rev. James Gier. They will address one topic at  
208 a time. President Mirly has suggested that they begin with the theology and practice of  
209 the Lord's Supper. They will produce a study document for the pastors of the District.  
210 Vice President Wollenburg moved that the BOD support the appointment and assignment  
211 of the Theology Study Group. It was seconded and approved.  
212  
213 Mr. David Schlesselman, on behalf of the Coordinating Council, moved approval of a  
214 \$14,000 grant from the Faith Aflame funds available to Iglesia Luterana Amigos de  
215 Cristo. It was seconded and approved. He moved approval of a grant of \$3000 to Salem,  
216 Farrar for a preschool start-up from the Fan Into Flame (Christian Day school) funds  
217 available. It was seconded and approved. He also moved approval of a grant of \$18,000  
218 for Jesus El Buen Pastor from the Fan Into Flame (Urban and Ethnic) funds available. It  
219 was seconded and approved. Mr. Krege explained where the money comes from for the  
220 Fan Into Flame and Faith Aflame grants.  
221  
222 Mr. John Bobzin was nominated to represent the Missouri District BOD at the 2010  
223 Convention of the Synod. He was elected delegate (advisory) and Mr. David  
224 Schlesselman was elected as alternate delegate (advisory).  
225  
226 Rev. Stuart Brassie and Mr. Dennis Gehrke were nominated as advisory delegate from  
227 the District staff to the Synod Convention in 2010. Mr. Gehrke was elected delegate, and  
228 Rev. Brassie alternate.  
229

230 Mr. Jim Weber was nominated to serve on the BOD Executive Committee. He was  
231 elected by acclamation.

232

233 Mr. Lynn Beckemier, the current legal counsel for the District, was recommended for  
234 reappointment. It was moved to reappoint him, seconded and approved.

235

236 President Mirly announced that invitations were being issued to the regional gatherings  
237 sponsored by the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synodical Structure and Governance to  
238 discuss the proposals to be brought to the 2010 Convention. About 12000 evaluations of  
239 the proposals made to district conventions were returned to the Task Force. By October  
240 1, the Task Force must meet to propose specific bylaws and constitutional changes that  
241 they will recommend. Specific wording will be presented to those invited to the regional  
242 gatherings. Those invited will include the elected pastoral and lay delegates to the 2010  
243 convention, District Presidents and Vice Presidents, and five members of each District  
244 Board of Directors from those not included above. President Mirly asked that each  
245 member of the Board send him 1 nomination by October 1, 2009, to be considered at the  
246 October 29, 2009 BOD meeting. In addition, each District will also be privileged to send  
247 one or two commissioned minister advisory delegates to the gathering. It was moved,  
248 seconded and passed to use the list of the 14 commissioned ministers elected as advisory  
249 delegates to the 2010 convention plus Mr. Dennis Gehrke as the slate from which the  
250 BOD will elect those two.

251

252 Dennis Klussman informed the BOD that Mr. Merle Freitag, President of LCEF has  
253 announced his retirement in 2010. He urged the members of the Board to look at the  
254 qualifications for the position and nominate viable candidates.

255

256 Bud Jaudes provided his phone number for the list of current members of the Board.  
257 Dennis Klussman also provided a number different than the one published. President  
258 Mirly asked members of the Board to check their information on the single sheet and in  
259 the larger pack and e-mail corrections to Donna Seipp in the office.

260

261 Only two of the service boards had meetings and provided minutes. The members of the  
262 Board are responsible to read the minutes and ask questions at the appointed time in the  
263 meeting.

264

265 President Mirly reminded the BOD that the District Convention adopted support for the  
266 initial work in North Korea. He urged the members of the Board to advocate for this  
267 work in their congregational contexts. While it comes under the area of the Board for  
268 Mission Services, all of the boards need to have this work in mind for the next  
269 Triennium.

270

271 Adjournment was moved and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:48 following the  
272 closing prayer by Rev. Wollenburg.

273

274 Respectfully submitted,

275 Charles W. Spomer, Secretary