

Minutes of the Annual Meeting  
of the Association of  
Luther Park Bible Camp, Inc.  
Chetek, WI 54728  
January 23, 2010  
10:00 AM at Luther Park Bible Camp

**Call to Order:** The annual meeting of Luther Park Bible Camp was called to order by the president, Steve Kolden (Our Savior's/Menomonie). Delegates and guests were welcomed. Introductions included board members, Luther Park staff, including Interim Executive Director Pastor Craig Corbin, Interim Program Coordinator Brianna Kunkel, and today's parliamentarian, Ron Erickson.

**Devotions:** Pastor Amy Odgren brought greetings from the Northwest Synod, the bishop and his staff. She invited everyone to tour the new Northwest Synod Office located in the lower level of the Welcome Center at Luther Park, following today's meeting. Devotions were based on Romans 8:28: *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.* Devotions ended with prayer.

**Hymn:** 'Shall We Gather at the River' led by Pastor Craig Corbin on his guitar.

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Lynn Harrison (Shepard of the Hills/Elk Mound) second by Robert Forsyth (Christ/Arcadia) to approve the agenda as printed. Pastor Leslie Walck (Colfax/Colfax) asked that a place for questions be added to the agenda. "Open Questions" was added to the agenda as item H. under Roman numeral 6-Reports. Harrison and Forsyth consented to the change and the **motion passed as ammended.**

**Minutes of Annual Meeting on Jan. 24, 2009 & Special Meeting on Nov. 14, 2009:** Motion by Pastor Mike Wollman (Shepard of the Hill/Elk Mound) second by Chris Olson (Colfax/Colfax) to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2009, annual meeting as printed. **Motion passed.**

Motion by Tom Wagener (Immanuel/Strum) second by Evalee Kunkel (Grace/EauClaire) to approve the minutes of the special meeting held November 14, 2009, as printed. **Motion passed.**

**Board of Directors Report by Steve Kolden, president:** Steve Kolden (Our Savior's/Menomonie) elaborated on some of the points in the printed report on page 10. Developing a strategic plan will be a major undertaking for the 2010 board and volunteers will be sought to help in that process. The budget remains an issue, but we are moving in the right direction. The board is pleased to welcome the Northwest Synod Office to the Luther Park campus. It is an arrangement that is beneficial to all. The board extends a huge thank you to the summer camp staff for their work and commitment to this ministry. Everything else we do only supports their work. Lastly, a very sincere and genuine thank you to Sherm and Mary Toufar for their many years of dedicated service to Luther Park. Their love and commitment to the camp has never been questioned.

**Interim Executive Director Report by Rev. Craig Corbin:** In just four short months, Pastor Corbin can see that the enthusiasm, passion, and energy for Luther Park is astonishing. The management arrangement between Luther Park and Luther Point is going well. The transition has been a lot of work, but the top priority is always to do what is best for the ministry of both camps. Pastor Corbin is extremely

optimistic that the resources are available for the ministry of Luther Park to grow and prosper. He challenged everyone to go back to his or her congregation and make it a priority to get kids to camp this summer. The full report is found on page 11.

**Comments/questions from the floor--** Megan Walck (Colfax/Colfax) wanted people to be aware that the Luther Park receptionist and bookkeeper have lost their jobs due to the management agreement with Luther Point. Pastor Corbin answered that there have been changes to cut expenses and use modern technology. Mary Segerstrom (Trinity of Norden/Mondovi) asked for more about Pastor Corbin's background and qualifications. Pastor Corbin briefly described his outdoor ministry experience and added that most of this is also available on the web at [www.lutherpark.org](http://www.lutherpark.org).

**Interim Program Coordinator Report by Brianna Kunkel:** Brianna has a long history with Luther Park starting at age 3, when she told her mother that she was going to be a camp counselor. Her full report is found on page 12. Now that she has started working full time as of today, she will be recruiting summer staff and finalizing programs. There are 20 summer staff applications already. A new program called Keepers of the Earth is being developed for 4th and 5th graders. It will focus on being good stewards of God's creation. The winter recharges are going well. She encouraged use of the new online registration for recharges and for summer camp.

Megan Walck (Colfax/Colfax) extended a welcome to Brianna and assured her that she would be in our prayers. Brianna thanked her and asked everyone to also keep the summer staff and campers in our prayers. Pastor Steve Carlson (New Hope/Downsville) asked how the summer curriculum is determined. Brianna answered that she will be using ELCA materials and adapting them to our camp. Mary Segerstrom (Trinity of Norden/Mondovi) asked if the musical would be continued? Brianna answered that she will be looking at the daily camp schedule very soon to determine what will be included. She values and encourages input from others on what you want the camp to be.

**Program Committee by Amanda Rasner:** The printed report is on page 13. Amanda thanked Brianna for the good report and asked if there were any other questions for the program committee. There were none.

**Property Committee by Don Moats:** The written report on page 14 lists the projects completed by staff and volunteers in 2009 and gives a longer lists of projects needed to be completed in 2010. Don highlighted the need for donations of labor, materials, and money, to repair the pontoon motor, replace at least 50 mattresses, refoof the last cabin, replace doors on Shalom, refoof the Welcome Center, paint the swimming pool, repair the A-Frame cabin at Luther Woods, and make repairs at the Farm Center. The property committee has a 5-year plan for maintenance needs estimated to cost about \$600,000.

Arlan Bergquist (Our Savior's/Chippewa Falls) asked for an estimate of hours needed for repairs at the Woods. Don answered that 3-4 people could do it in a weekend.

**Finance Committee by Brenda Thalacker:** Thanks to donations, the matching gift, and an estate gift, we have reduced our debt by more than \$220,000, but our annual operating fund has a deficit. Our lenders are asking for our "plan" on how we expect to grow our ministry. We have a lot of work to do. The complete committee report is found on page 15. Brenda emphasized that the board has cut expenses for 2010, and is counting on member congregations to give more support. She reminded all that a resolution was unanimously passed at the November 14, 2009 special meeting, declaring a renewed commitment

from individuals and congregations to financially support Luther Park Bible Camp.

**Other Written Reports:** The president asked for questions or comments on the other reports listed on the agenda. Pastor Corbin addressed the history of the Endowment Fund on page F12. Money has been borrowed from the Endowment Fund over the years. We are paying \$6000 a year in interest to ourselves. Pastor Leslie Walck (Colfax/Colfax) asked if there is a plan to correct this. Pastor Corbin answered that we need money in the annual operating fund to pay back the Endowment Fund. Arvin Solsaa (Our Savior's/Menomonie) reminded us that at the 2009 annual meeting we voted to put 90% of interest from the Endowment Fund into camperships. Stan Buchanan (Bethany/RiceLake) said the report data shows the debt we owe to others has been reduced from \$625,000 to \$395,000. Rodney Dahl (Hope/Sand Creek) commented that this year's financial report seems more up to date and complete than in past years. (Note-2009 financial statements have not yet been audited or reviewed.)

Motion made by Robert Forsyth (Christ/Arcadia) second by Stan Buchanan (Bethany/RiceLake) to receive all reports as presented. **Motion passed.**

**Open Questions:** Pastor Leslie Walck (Colfax/Colfax) asked how the outcome of the management agreement and the interim director would be decided. The president answered that the management agreement ends December 31, 2010 and no decision has been made yet on what the next step is. The decision will be part of the strategic long-range plan and the constituency will be involved in that planning. Megan Walck (Colfax/Colfax) asked why Sherm was fired and the president answered that it was performance related. Arlan Bergquist (Our Savior's/Chippewa Falls) commented that the challenge is to get the word out to all members that the future of our camp is dependent on support from the congregations. Pastor Steve Carlson (New Hope/Downsville) suggested that all future major decisions be brought before the constituency just as they are in congregations. Lynn Harrison (Shepard of the Hills/Elk Mound) answered that the board is elected and given the responsibility to make decisions for the camp and it is the responsibility of the rest of the constituency to read reports and stay informed. Mike Wollman (Shepard of the Hill/Elk Mound) answered that Luther Park is not like a congregation, which assembles together weekly-even if it is only about 25 to 30% of the members that meet weekly. In contrast, Luther Park members meet together only once a year and we wish that 25% would attend the annual meeting. There are 134 congregations, and probably 65,000 individuals who own this place and there are approximately 130 individuals here today-not a very good percentage. Luther Park is not the same as a congregation. Nick Hefty (Our Savior's/Chippewa Falls) commented that personnel matters are difficult to deal with at a church, a camp, or anywhere. Everyone wants to know the details, but they cannot be shared. These are decisions that have to be handled within the board or church council. If you are interested in dealing with these situations, volunteer to serve. Bill Smith (Eleva/Eleva) stated that he has always supported Sherm and Mary, but now it is time for Luther Park to quit looking back and to move forward in a positive way. The president ended the open question portion of the meeting by saying that diversity and differing opinions strengthen any organization as long as the discussion is respectful as it has been today.

**Unfinished Business:** none

**New Business:**

**Living Water Lutheran Church, Cameron, WI** has requested membership in the Luther Park association. Motion by Arlan Bergquist (Our Savior's/Chippewa Falls) second by Lois Jenson (Our Saviour's/Rice Lake) to accept and welcome Living Water Lutheran Church of Cameron into the Luther Park association. Becca

Tumm (past LP employee) spoke in favor of Living Water's membership. **Motion passed** unanimously.

**Endowment Fund Election:** Steve Nelson (Modena/Mondovi) member of the Endowment Committee, announced that one new member is needed to replace Bob Ofsdahl who has completed his term limit. President Kolden asked for nominations or volunteers to serve on the Endowment Fund Committee. Arlan Bergquist (Our Savior's/Chippewa Falls) volunteered. Motion by Lynn Harrison (Shepard of the Hills/Elk Mound) second by Nick Hefty (Our Savior's/Chippewa Falls) to cast a unanimous ballot. **Motion passed.**

**Election of Board Members:** Eileen Christopherson, (Barum/Elk Mound) chair of the nominating committee distributed the ballots. The president introduced each candidate and gave each a chance to speak. There were no nominations from the floor. Nick Hefty (Our Savior's/Chippewa Falls) made the motion to close nominations. It was seconded by Jan Andresen (First/EauClaire). Motion passed.

Motion made by Pastor D.J. Rasner (English of Bateman/Chippewa Falls) second by Peg Kolden (Our Saviour's Lutheran, Menomonie) to cast a unanimous ballot for the unopposed positions in Clusters I and IV. **Motion passed.** New board member for Cluster I is Dale Kringle (Our Savior's/Rice Lake) He was previously appointed to fill a vacancy on the board and has now been elected to his first term, serving until January 2013. There are two new board members for Cluster IV. Pastor Ben Ahles-Iverson was elected to his first term, serving until January 2012. This is a 2-year term that completes a vacancy created by a resent resignation. The second new board member for Cluster IV is Tom Wagener (Immanuel/Strum). This will be his first 3-year term ending in January 2013.

Ballots were collected for Cluster II and Cluster III.

**Nominating Committee for 2011:** The board member whose term expires in 2011, from each cluster, will be on the nominating committee along with a nonborard person from the cluster. The president asked for volunteers from each cluster and there was only one. The board will appoint the others.

**Members of the 2011 nominating committee are:**

Cluster I-- Pastor Leila Haight (Long Lake/Sarona) and board appointee

Cluster II-- Amanda Rasner (English of Bateman/Chippewa Falls) and board appointee

Cluster III-- Pastor Jim Page (Trinity/EauClaire) and board appointee

Cluster IV-- Don Moats (St.John/Alma) and JoDeen Forsyth (Christ/Arcadia)

**Proposed Budget:** Board treasurer, Brenda Thalacker presented the proposed budget for 2010 as printed on the inside back cover of the annual report. The 2010 proposed budget is \$140,472 less than the 2009 budget and \$18,932 less than the 2009 actual expenses. After several questions for clarification, Patricia Harrison (Shepard of the Hill/Elk Mound) made a motion, seconded by Josh Jorstad (Bethesda/Bayfield) to approve the budget as presented. **Motion passed.**

**Results of the Ballot Vote:** There were 103 ballots.

Cluster II-

Chris Olson (Colfax/Colfax) 17

Chris Kamrath (Central/Chippewa Falls) 54

Kris Jenson (Shepherd of the Hill/Elk Mound) 32

Cluster III-

Brenda Thalacker (First/EauClaire) 70

Chris Okey (Woodlake/Richfield,MN) 32  
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New board member for Cluster II is Chris Kamrath (Central/Chippewa Falls) serving his first 3-year term until January 2013. Elected board member for Cluster III is Brenda Thalacker (First/EauClaire) returning to the board for her second 3-year term ending in January 2013.

**Annual Meeting Date for 2011:** The next annual meeting will be Saturday, January 22, 2011 at 10:00 AM at Luther Park.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn by Peg Kolden (Our Savior's, Menomonie) second by Bob Forsyth (Christ/Arcadia). **Motion passed** and the meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
JoDeen Forsyth, secretary