

LUTHER PARK BIBLE CAMP, INC.
Chetek, Wisconsin

Annual Meeting – January 21, 2012

Minutes Approved October 21, 2012

*[Secretary's Note: Names appearing the first time in these minutes will also include the delegate's congregation and location. When the same name appears subsequently, it will not include congregation. **Motions made, seconded and carried appear in bold print.**]*

WELCOME – 10:00 a.m. - Chairman Steve Kolden, (*Our Savior's Menomonie*) welcomed the delegates and visitors, and thanked them for their effort to be present, considering the cold and fresh weather.

OPENING DEVOTIONS – Interim Executive Director Rev. Craig Corbin greeted the delegates, shared a short essay “Why the World Needs Camp;” led the song “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High” and concluded his devotions with prayer.

QUORUM – The Chair estimated over 80 delegates were present at the beginning of the meeting, and declared that the quorum of 39 delegates for conducting business has been met.

INTRODUCTIONS – Chairman Kolden introduced the Board members, and noted they could all be found wearing bright blue polo shirts with Luther Park-Luther Woods logo. Ten of the 11 Board members were present; Rev. Bert Schultz (*Hope Lutheran, Ladysmith*) was excused due to jury duty which was meeting even on Saturday due to a heavy docket.

Introductions included Jon Schack, Luther Park Site Director, and Diana Thompson Development Secretary/Registrar, with words of special gratitude to Diana for producing the very comprehensive Annual Report.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – there were no additions or changes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 2011 ANNUAL MEETING. – The Chair gave a few moments for delegates to review the minutes. It was also noted that the Annual meeting minutes, and regular Board minutes are posted on the Web-site. **Moved by Eileen Christopherson (*Big Elk Creek Lutheran, Elk Mound*) and seconded by Arlan Bergquist (*Our Saviour's, Chippewa Falls*) to approve and accept the minutes of the Annual Meeting of January 22, 2011.**

REPORTS

- A. Board of Directors** ~ Steve Kolden, President, lifted up Brianna Kunkel with words of thanks for her service to Luther Park as Program Director. Brianna resigned at the end of 2011, and is being married this afternoon. Steve referred to his written report (page 7) noting that Board discussion keeps being focused around programming for Luther Park. Kolden added that the Corporation continues to take “baby steps” toward greater financial stability. A Strategic Plan is continually being developed. The delegates were

informed that the Board members log a considerable number of hours in monthly meetings, business retreats, and executive committee interfacing events with Luther Point Executive Committee.

B. Interim Executive Director, Rev. Craig Corbin (page 8) ~ felt that his report this year was more philosophical in scope than a “nuts-and-bolts” accounting. Also recognized Doug Erickson, retired from grounds-keeping. A search is underway for a Program person. Thanks were offered up for congregation participation and support during the 80 years of Luther Park ministry. And in this 80th year, Corbin challenged the delegates to foster a “Building Year” spirit for the good of the Camp.

C. Site Director Jonathan Schack ~ directed our attention to the Annual Report cover which bears the logo for the 80th Anniversary Year. A recent logo contest brought forth a number of designs. The design submitted by the Confirmation youth of New Hope Church, Sand Creek was selected. Kelly Esterby (*New Hope, Sand Creek*) converted the design to computerized version. Carolyn Dahl (*New Hope, Sand Creek*) accepted a commendation certificate on behalf of the confirmation youth.

Schack expressed gratitude to dedicated volunteers for completing numerous projects and contributing to programming. His written report (page 9) noted the aging of many of the facilities, and he urged this matter be addressed for the sake of a safe and hospitable camping ministry environment. The “Adopt-a-Room” initiative was lifted up, as well as the Wish List which is regularly posted and updated on both the Web-site and in the Newsletters.

CAMP TRIVIA INTERLUDE – *Chairman Steve Kolden promised to interrupt our business meeting from time to time with a “Trivia Game” to heighten awareness of the Camp facilities (aging and otherwise) and to award camp apparel as prizes.* **First Trivia Question** – How many operating furnaces are on the Luther Park main campus? – Answer – 19.

D. Program Committee ~ Rev. Ben Ahles-Iverson (*Taylor Parish, Taylor*) reiterated words of gratitude for the work Brianna Kunkel did for program development, and in working with Program Committee for fitting the national camping curriculum to Luther Park’s specific needs. (Report on page 10)

E. Property Committee ~ Dale Kringle (*Our Savior’s [Campia], Rice Lake*) directed the delegates to his written report on page 11, with no additions. Committee member Tom Wagener (*Immanuel, Strum*) announced that the Camp has two pontoon boats and one boat lift for sale, and interested parties should contact the camp office.

F. Finance Committee ~ Brenda Thalacker, Board Treasurer (*First, Eau Claire*) referenced page 12, where she emphasized the chart, adding that the staff have superbly managed the finances again this year. Accordingly, no additional financing has been needed this year. On this 80th anniversary year, Brenda continues to encourage youth and adults to attend camp. An alternate level of support for congregations or delegates would be to consider “Adopting- a- Camper(ship).” It was further noted that congregation support did slip in

2011, and the delegates were urged to have their local congregations renew their support for Luther Park.

CAMP TRIVIA INTERLUDE – How many working, flushable toilets are on site? – 49

G. Other Written Reports ~ These are prepared to complete the picture of the ministry of Luther Park Bible Camp. There were no questions from their floor about these additional written reports.

H. The Audit Report for 2010 was singled out for attention. It is printed in its entirety on green pages 1-9; no questions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – there was none

OPEN QUESTIONS – Rev. Barb Koch (*New Hope, Sand Creek*) requested clarification about the amount of debt the Camp is carrying. Delegates were directed to page F-3, and in particular to the two categories: “Long Term Liabilities” and “Due to (from).” Current indebtedness is very close to \$552,000.

NEW BUSINESS

A. **Endowment Fund Committee member Election.** As a point of information, the Committee currently consists of Arlan Bergquist, Steve Nelson (Modena, Mondovi), Brenda Thalacker, and Arvid Solsaa (*Our Savior’s, Menomonie*). Steve Nelson must rotate off the Committee.

Chairman Steve Kolden called for Nominations or Volunteers for one position. Stan Buchanan (*Bethany Rice Lake*) volunteered. The Chair declared the nominations closed, and Stan Buchanan was appointed by acclamation.

B. **Election of Board Members.** Chairman Kolden directed the delegates to pages 13-14 of the Annual Report for the notice of nominees for Board of Directors. They are:

Cheri Sorenson (*Bethany, Rice Lake*) Cluster 1 lay-person

Rev. Joel Olsen (*Our Saviour’s, Chippewa Falls*) Cluster 2 clergy

Steve Kolden, Cluster 3 lay-person

Rev. Ben Ahles-Iverson, Cluster 4 clergy

Kolden called for Nominations from the floor, especially pointing out that the Cluster 3 clergy position has been vacant for several months, and no nominee was presented for this position. A second and third call for nomination was issued.

Moved by Rev. D. J. Rasner (*English Lutheran [Bateman], Chippewa Falls*) and seconded by Gloria Wagener (*Immanuel, Strum*) to close nominations, and to instruct the secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for the slate as presented.

Carried.

NOTE: A little later in the meeting, the name of Pastor Alan Buresh (*University Lutheran, Eau Claire*) was offered as a volunteer to fill the Cluster 3 clergy slot. He had been contacted by phone, and agreed to serve. He will be appointed by the Board to this position.

TRIVIA INTERLUDE – How many soap dispensers (needing to be filled) are on site? – 40

- C. **Nominating Committee.** The Chair announced that the Nominating Committee is composed of four Board members whose terms are expiring, as well as one additional individual from each cluster. Board members whose terms will expire in 2013 are:

Dale Kringle, Chris Kamrath (*Central, Chippewa Falls*), Brenda Thalacker and Tom Wagener.

Delegates volunteering for the Nominating Committee included:

Cluster 1 - Rev. Dale Chelsey (*Good Shepherd, Ashland*)

Cluster 2 – Arlan Bergquist

Cluster 3 – Andrea Gapko (*University Lutheran, Eau Claire*)

Cluster 4 – no volunteers

It was moved by Rev. Mike Wollman (*Shepherd of the Hills, Elk Mound*) and seconded by Bill Neverdahl (*Christ Lutheran, Menomonie*) to accept the Nominating Committee as presented and volunteered, and to allow the Board to find a volunteer for Cluster 4. Carried.

CAMP TRIVIA INTERLUDE – How many door-handles and door-knob-sets can be found on the camp property? – 216

- D. **Proposed Budget.** Treasurer Brenda Thalacker and Interim Executive Director Rev. Craig Corbin presented the budget, as found on page F-10 of the Annual Report. A few clarifying questions were entertained.

Moved by Darren Faulk (*Christ Lutheran, Menomonie*) and seconded by Stan Buchanan to adopt the 2012 Budget as presented. Carried (there were no opposing votes).

- E. **Advocates and Ambassadors.** The Chair made an oral announcement regarding the Advocates and Ambassadors programs, as vehicles to connect local congregations with the Camp, and to enhance support and recruitment for Luther Park.

- F. **Constitution.** The Chair pointed out that this meeting will constitute the first reading of the proposed Constitution. An earlier meeting for the same purpose did not have a quorum; that meeting was considered an informational presentation of the proposed document. After this meeting, if the Constitution is tentatively approved, a second meeting at least 60 days hence will be needed for the second reading of the Constitution, at which time it can be declared approved. By-laws are available on the tables for reference only; they will need to be approved after the proposed Constitution is fully accepted.

The Chair offered the microphone to Board member Tom Wagener to present the proposed Constitution. Tom made the helpful observation that a constitution defines “who you are”, whereas the by-laws describe “how your organization works.” That said, the proposed Constitution was presented chapter-by-chapter. Changes were made on-line as they were offered and accepted from the floor.

Chapter 1 – no comments

Chapter 2.01 – suggested to omit “as found in Chapter 2 of the ELCA Constitution” (redundant).

Chapter 2.02 – suggested to restore “as stewards of God’s creation” after the word “adults” in the last line.

Chapter 3.01 – “Christian” has been inserted before the word “congregations” in the first line.

Chapter 3.01.01 – questioned the purpose of the “Covenant;” answer – to create a sense of ownership in the camp.

Chapter 3.02.b – it was noted that there is no criteria in this section for removing member congregations.

Chapter 4 – no comments

Chapter 5 – correction: Duties and responsibilities of the Camp Director will not be specified in the by-laws, but rather in the job description.

Chapter 6 – no comment

Chapter 7.01 – suggest adding “postmarked and” to “mailed” here and in similar wording throughout this chapter

Chapter 7.01 – note that this provision moves the Annual meeting from January to October.

Chapter 7.02 – no comments

Chapter 7.03 – language regarding mailing to follow after C7.01

Chapter 7.04 – no comments

Chapter 7.05 – no comments

Chapter 7.06 – no comments

Chapter 7.07 – no comments

Chapter 7.08 – no comments

Chapter 8.01 – wording about “sent to each member congregation” shall follow wording of C7.01 (postmarked and mailed.)

Chapter 9.03 – suggest adding “postmarked and mailed” after “shall be” in first line. Remove “Annual” and place period after “considered.” Delete last two lines of paragraph.

Chapter 10 – no comments

Chapter 11 – no comments

Chapter 12 – no comments

The Chair reclaimed the microphone and entertained a motion for approval of the proposed Constitution.

Moved by Louise Voss (*Evangelical Lutheran, Black River Falls*) and seconded by Robert Forsythe (*Christ Lutheran Arcadia*) to approve the first reading of the amended Constitution as presented today. As this motion requires a 2/3 favorable vote for passage, the chair asked for a show of hands. **The chair declared the motion carried, through it was not unanimous.**

LUNCH – the assembly broke for lunch provided by the Camp kitchen staff; the singing of the traditional table prayer was led by Craig Corbin.

NEW BUSINESS continued

G. **Sale of Property.** The Chair informed the constituency that the Board recommendations regarding each piece of property under consideration would be presented orally and then questions would be entertained. After all presentations are made, motions would be accepted for disposition of camp properties.

A general question about proceeds of property sale; answer it would be used to pay down debt.

Re: the Camp House (former Director's House). Question of value: Kay Moen-Urseth (*New Hope, Sand Creek*) indicated the current market value is about \$125,000.

Moved by Rev. D. J. Rasner and seconded by Elton Christopherson (*Big Elk Creek Lutheran, Elk Mound*) to authorize the Board to begin the sale of the Camp House on the most favorable terms. The chair asked for a raising of hands. The chair declared the **motion carried** by more than 2/3 favorable votes. A paper ballot was called for. The results were Yes (to sell) – 56, and No (don't sell) – 6. **Motion carried.**

Re: Luther Woods property. Large photos and maps of the area were available. Questions and comments centered on the value of the property to the ongoing program of the Camp, optimum size of parcel to be sold, usefulness of county forest land adjacent to Luther Woods program site.

Moved by Rev. Dale Chesley and seconded by Andrea Gapko to sell up to 200 acres of Luther Woods. Call for the question: **Forrest Nutter (*Chimney Rock Lutheran, Strum*) seconded by _____.** Vote was by a show of hands, and the Chair determined that the vote passed by more than the 2/3 required votes. A request was made for a paper ballot. Results were Yes (to sell) – 46; and No (don't sell) – 16. **Carried.**

Re: Farm Center property. Comments were made about keeping as much of the Chetek site (including Farm Center) intact for future development.

Moved by Kathy Peterson (*Hope Lutheran, Ladysmith*) and seconded by Bill Neverdahl (*Christ Lutheran, Menomonie*) to not sell any portion of the farm property at this time. Carried, on a voice vote.

NEXT ANNUAL MEETING – The Chair announced that, depending on the approval of the second reading of the proposed Constitution, the next annual meeting may be held in October of 2012, or the second reading failing or not taken, in January 2013.

PRAYER FOR BRIANNA KUNKEL, BRIDE – Chairman Steve Kolden noted that the time was about 2:17 p.m., and that Brianna Kunkel was about to be married, off-site, at 2:30. Believing that Brianna would be a nervous bride, and desirous of the prayers of the Luther Park fellowship Kolden asked Rev. Joel Olsen, secretary of the Board, to offer prayers on Brianna's behalf, before the assembly.

CALL FOR ADJOURNMENT (2:20 p.m.) Moved by Kathy Peterson and seconded by Rev. D. J. Rasner to adjourn the January 2012 Annual Meeting of the Luther Park Bible Camp Corporation. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Assembled delegates joined hands for praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Joel Olsen, recording secretary

SUGGESTIONS for subsequent annual meetings

Roll call of congregations present – time consuming perhaps, but in light of new system of Covenants returned, would have an idea of who is present, and voting

Endowment Fund Committee, (and its By-laws?) should be listed somewhere in Annual Report. Ought they to provide a written report, as well?

Need to have blank ballots on hand, in case a delegate asks for a written ballot on any matter.