

**Minutes – Approved on December 6, 2011**

**Minutes  
Special Board of Directors Meeting  
Minnesota South District  
Monday, October 24, 2011**

**Minnesota South District Mission Statement**  
Developing missional leaders in congregations and schools.

**I. Devotions** – Mr. Mike Zimmer read and reflected on a section of Galatians 4 dealing with the fruit of the Spirit, and opened with prayer.

**II. Parliamentary Obligations**

a. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 1:08 p.m. by the President, Dr. Lane Seitz, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

b. Roll Call – Present: Rev. Dr. Lane Seitz; Rev. Gerhard Bode; Rev. Dr. Larry Griffin; Rev. Mark Tewes; Rev. Robert Gehrke; Rev. William Otte; Ms. Lucille Clemmensen; Rev. Tom Stoebig; Mr. James Roegge; Mr. Stephen Krause; Rev. Dr. James Heining; Mr. Timothy Block; Mr. Matt Drevlow; Rev. Kurt Lehmkuhl; Mr. Lane Nordquist; Mrs. Gayle Baumgard; Mr. Randall Ash;

Staff: Rev. Dr. Peter Meier; Mr. Mike Zimmer; Mr. Kurt Fuhr; Rev. Dr. Mark Noren

Excused: Rev. Robert Schulze; Mr. Jeffrey Bartels; Mr. Wilford Bartley; Ms. Lynn Henry

Guest: Mr. Mike Melchert, Attorney for the Minnesota South District

A motion was made and seconded to go into Executive Session at 1:08 p.m. The motion was carried.

A motion was made and seconded to come out of executive Session at 1:56 p.m.

Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and Rev. Dr. Don Fondow, President of the Minnesota North District of the LCMS joined the meeting at this time.

Dr. Harrison gave an opening statement in which he thanked the Board for attending this special meeting. He acknowledged that the Board's sale of the

District's University Lutheran Chapel property on the campus of the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis was completely within the scope of responsibility of the Board of Directors, and was done completely within the bylaw provisions pertaining to such a sale. He acknowledged that the Board of Directors had acted properly and in good faith when it resolved to sell the property. He assured the Board that he was not there to ask the Board to change its mind or to apply "bylaw pressure" to the Board.

He lamented that the sale of the property resulted in a vitriolic response from some within the Synod. He observed that the response reflected the current polarization of the Synod both in terms of doctrine and practice and in terms of political efforts. He also acknowledged that many of the responses to the sale had come from outside the Minnesota South District, and that many of the responses crossed the line into being slander against the Board and Dr. Seitz. He acknowledged that while he personally is supportive of the work of the ULC, and considers them an "iconic" example of campus ministry, that opinion may not be shared by all who are involved in campus ministry.

President Harrison then asked the board:

1. Is this a "done deal"? The answer is yes – there are signed Purchase Agreement documents.
2. What kind of discussions took place between the BOD and ULC as the decision was being developed? An outline of the process was given, demonstrating that the ULC people were invited to and did participate in the discussions leading to the sale.

President Fondow asked questions about the origin of the ULC and its property. He asked a number of questions based on some issues raised by a layperson who had sent him questions.

President Harrison concluded his remarks by encouraging the Board of Directors to be more generous than the potential gift of \$250,000 initially proposed in sharing the proceeds from the sale of the property in order to help ULC to relocate. He admitted his bias towards supporting the ULC but recognized that the Board of Directors has done everything properly and it cannot be changed.

Presidents Harrison and Fondow excused themselves at 3:00 p.m.

A motion was made and seconded to go back into executive session at 3:05 p.m. The motion was carried.

A motion was made and seconded to go out of executive session at 4:13 p.m. Carried.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 4:15 P.M. The motion was carried.

Mike Zimmer closed with prayer at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. William H. Otte  
District Secretary

#### APPENDIX

(On December 3, 2011, President Harrison communicated his desire that the following statements be added to the minutes of the October 24, 2011 Special Meeting of the Board of Directors. At its regular meeting on December 6, 2011, the Board of Directors of the Minnesota South District approved adding these statements as an Appendix to those minutes.)

1. I came to the board meeting to address personally concerns regarding the sale of ULC. That was done.
2. I asked the board if the decision to sell the chapel were irreversible. The response was affirmative.
3. I communicated to the board that I lamented the sale as an action negatively affecting our life together as a synod and I wished an agreement of some sort had been reached with ULC prior to the sale.
4. I communicated to the board that I did not believe the sale was legally improper. The district had the right to do what it did, though I clearly would have preferred the matter would have been taken to the district convention, per the request of the joint pastors' conference.
5. I noted there have been sins on all sides but it was and remains my deepest desire the district assist ULC with more than \$250,000 to relocate.
6. Finally I informed the board that I had urged ULC to state its grievances publicly, forgive publicly, and request assistance from the district for relocation. The meeting ended cordially and I expressed my deepest conviction that all things work together for good, often in spite of us.

Matt Harrison  
Sub cruce