

2013 June 17

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2355 Fairview Avenue #161  
Roseville, Minnesota 55330

Floor Committee #1 (“Witness”)  
65th Regular Convention  
The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod  
Saint Louis, Missouri

Dear Members of Floor Committee #1,

God bless you for all of your hard work for the upcoming convention! I am delighted to see in the convention workbook for 2013 that your committee has received a memorial “To Commend and Support Campus Ministry at University of Minnesota” (1-15, pages 139 - 140) from Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in San Jose, California. This is an excellent memorial, and I would urge you to listen to and recognize the faithful and insightful people of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran by bringing this memorial to the convention floor, and not delegate it to an omnibus bill or otherwise prevent the synod in convention from acting on their overture. I would hope that this memorial would pass and give University Lutheran Chapel even more money for their relocation, but I believe that if nothing more were to occur than its consideration from the floor, a great deal of good would be accomplished. The more the synod knows about the circumstances of the sale of the campus ministries and properties in Minneapolis and Mankato Minnesota, the better.

Your committee may be tempted to dispose of this memorial by omnibus or other means for the reason that the Minnesota South District Convention has already acted on the matter. I have included with this correspondence two dispute resolution letters dated 2012 March 6 and 2013 February 28 that document why this is not the case. From 2008 to the present pastors of both Minnesota districts and other districts have urged the District President and Directors of Minnesota South to let their convention vote on the sale of the Minneapolis campus ministry. Their refusal to do so - and worse - is documented in the attached letters. When a motion to do exactly that was made to their 2012 convention their district president ruled it out of order. When that ruling was appealed, their district president compounded his shameful treatment of his pastors and congregations by taking the extraordinary (and perhaps unprecedented) step of making an impassioned personal plea to be upheld.

The convention, expressing their desire to have the final say on the sale of the Minneapolis campus ministry, voted 216 to 158 against their district president. This was not enough to overcome the procedural hurdle of 2/3's to over rule the chair. It does, however, establish that 58% of the convention wanted to vote on the sale of the campus ministry, but was prevented from doing so. Their district president made it clear he needed to be upheld by the convention on the basis of the honesty, integrity, and veracity of the words and deeds of himself, the board of directors, and the officers of the district. This desperate attempt to make a procedural vote a referendum on his character may have been

successful in having his ruling upheld, but the results were truly sad, with 42% of his convention voting with him. The attached documentation provides some insight as to the judgement of the large majority of 58% of the convention who voted otherwise.

I am also pleased to see that your committee has members from the Minnesota South District. I would assume that they also would like to see this memorial brought to the floor of the synodical convention. It would help to ensure that the synodical convention is not treated in the same shameful way that the Minnesota South District convention was treated. I imagine that they would find themselves in complete agreement and sympathy with memorial 1-15, and see this as an opportunity to begin to rectify some of the evil that was done by their former administration.

It is also possible that the current or former officers or directors of the Minnesota South District would object to this memorial reaching the floor of the synodical convention, or even perhaps disagree with the assessment given here, or the factual bases and documentation in the attached dispute resolution letters. If so, that would be, at best, highly disingenuous on their part. At worst it would be a malicious and willful effort to hide the truth and perpetuate an evil committed by themselves or their predecessors. They have had over a year to respond to these letters, and no response has been forthcoming. The documentation given in the letters is from publicly available records from the Secretary of State of Minnesota, the sworn affidavit of their former district president to the 4th Judicial District of Minnesota, and district and synodical convention proceedings going back to 1962 (among others). I have also made these available online and can send them to you in digital or paper format. As the old maxim goes, "Evidence of flight is evidence of guilt". Their refusal to follow and "stonewall" the procedure given in our synodical handbook for dispute resolution for over a year should be brought to your attention, and to the attention of the synodical convention. This is especially the case should the synodical convention not be allowed to vote on this memorial.

Please do contact me by email at [gwb@2Realms.com](mailto:gwb@2Realms.com) should you like more information or documentation, and feel free to use this correspondence as you think best. I'm also happy to meet or talk with you individually or as a group, subject to schedule. I can "walk you through" the points of interest to you or your committee without expecting you to wade through or grasp all the details of this complex matter.

Thank you again for your time, patience and effort on behalf of our synod.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bynum

Enclosed: Dispute Resolution Letters of 2012 March 6 and 2013 February 28  
Copies of Resolution 1-15, Floor Committee 1, 2013 Synodical Convention

Copies to: Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, San Jose, California  
Rev. Dr. Raymond Hartwig, Secretary, The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod  
Rev. Matthew Harrison, President, The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod  
Members of the Board of Directors, Minnesota South District - LCMS