

LSFM annual meeting agenda (*and minutes*)

05 17 2017

1. Called to order by Phil Johnson –vice chair
In attendance: Dan Mattson, Ruth Mattson, Mike Lange, Phil Johnson, Jeff Thormodson, Victor Raj unable to attend.
2. Treasurers Report – End of 2016 Financial report (moved by Mike Lange, seconded by Phil Johnson, report approved)
Side conversations
 1. (Lutheran Legacy Foundation) – is it possible to apply for a matching grant for this organization?
 2. Noted by President Mattson that each e-mail sent out nets renewals.
3. Approval of the revised bylaws of the society (Copies of present bylaws and proposed bylaws are attached) -- Revision of the present by-laws was presented and reviewed,
Additional revisions
 - a.) reference to the corporate seal was removed.
 - b.) under the Treasurer 2nd section the words “ checks” was stricken giving flexibility for the way “payment is accomplished. (There was also a similar wording adjustment oSection 6 and Section 7, Approve by-laws as amended (moved Mike and 2nded by Ruth) – (approved)

Final Revision of By-laws is attached
4. Report from the Executive Director of the society, Rev. Jeffrey Thormodson. (Director’s report is attached)
 - a. Introduction of present officers and announcement of intent to elect officers in December
 - b. Highlighted notable accomplishments from late 2015 to the present.
Challenges: An official LCMS written journal has been published.
Notes polarization in our church. Michael Newman’s Vimeo video had an impact on the church at large, (over 5,000 views presently)
 - c. Suggestions from the Executive Director (emphasized)
 - i. Current priorities: (membership, importance of the articles, consider publishing an abbreviated version of the articles for web and social media distribution.
 - ii. Squnkwerks (Recontextualizing) (Victor Raj’s idea. – quoted and highlighted Dr. V. Raj’s observation from Directors report.
 - iii. Indicated a need for an annual organizational rhythm of activities that reflects purpose of the organization

Well read. Bring an LCMS historical perspective
5. Discussion of challenges facing the society. (Highlighted in report)
 - Diaspora Missiology is largely untapped. (2nd generation presents challenges).
 - Ethnic groups have no voice but strong feelings which need a voice
 - Print Circulation (small, large readership).
 - Low return on LSFM membership (what do they get, how do they contribute
 - Give attention to automatic subscription renewal
 - Threat – only as strong as our active members

- *Do we have a clear Vision as to why the society exists?*
 - *Authors who submit articles don't receive much feedback.*
 - *(Phil) suggested that we look for ways to solicit feedback. (We must reward our authors.) Providing another platform for the feedback (Facebook; Linked-in etc.) Need for a response button on articles.*
 - *(Dan), we desire a lot more understanding of how people are using the information we are sending. Perhaps we want to consider not limiting ourselves to the pool that is the Missouri Synod. Influencing the entire Lutheran community.*
 - *(Jeff) referenced the "Congregations Matter" format and structure on their website. Is this a structure we would like to consider? What would it take?*
 - *Dan brings up this as a matter for our Squnkwerks (Web-presence) What is needed? Who is needed? What is the infrastructure needed?*
 - *(Dan) reminded us finally that our audience in the past has been largely academics..*
 - *(Mike) Who is our audience presently? Who would we like it to be?*
6. Discussion of issues raised by members of the society
- a. *Scudieri: how will the funds be used? Is it necessary to maintain a large balance?*

7. Announcements

- a. *At the end of the year we should have an election for President and Treasurer for LSFM.*

Submitted by Pastor Michael R. Lange (LSFM secretary)