

World Missions Board of Directors Meeting

6/14/2023

World Missions Board of Directors Meeting

June 14, 2023

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Meeting Date and Location

The World Missions Board of Directors met on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 8:00 AM CST in Committee room 1 at the 2023 Annual Conference, Best Western Plus Ramkota Inn, Sioux Falls, SD.

Present at Meeting

Those present were Pr. Earl Korhonen, Wanda Jacobsen, Pr. Craig Johnson, Paul Handsaker, Dr. Lyle Mattson, Bill Sheldon, Ken Sletten, Pr. David Johnson, Pr. Kent Sperry

Meeting called to Order

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Craig Johnson.

Devotions

Devotions by Pr. David Johnson out of Numbers 6

Approval of Agenda

World Mission Board meeting Agenda was discussed and reviewed.

202312. MSC Approval of Agenda

Approval Minutes

Minutes for 2-16-17/23 presented, reviewed, and corrected. Page 4 “believers in his past who studied” rather than “studied...” Page 5 – Jon should John. And “from April to Nov” rather than “form...” Page 5 – Abel’s should be Abels. Page 6 – “Mission department was discussed...” Page 7 – remove “there is” at the close of the second paragraph. Page 8 – 5th goal – = should be a dash. And at the bottom, “Earl communicates about ‘once’ per month...no digit 1. Page 9 – “Del will teach the book of Daniel...” Page 10 – Jore’s should be Jores. From the “Nate Jore” should be simply Jores. Under Paraguay, “congregation in AS, should be AZ.” “50-100 times per year for three years” should be struck. Page 11 – Under One Year “set up an on line visit with missionaries in by” should be simply be “by” (no in). 4th bullet point – “church planning” should be “church planting...” Page 12 – Paraguay – no need to capitalize Identifying...drop the “12” Switzerland – (three year) – “in an effort to identify future missionary candidates.”

202313. MSC to accept minutes for 2/16-17 meeting as corrected

Director’s Report

Pr. Earl read, and expanded on, his report concerning the challenges and programming of World Missions, focusing especially on Acts 20 and the challenge of planting churches. You can see his director's report online. He also spoke to the upcoming presentations, and missionary plans for several missionaries. He also reviewed the successes and challenges of the ongoing ministries of our missionaries on the field. He spoke especially of how the Lord is moving in the ministries of Uganda, and the ongoing challenges of ministering to the culture and people of those communities. Pr. Kent added his own positive observations and perceptions of their recent trip to Uganda. God is moving, and the challenges for AFLC World Missions continue as the ministry grows and partnerships in ministry continue in that region.

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Matthew Abel Furlough Request

Matthew and Edney are requesting a date change for their furlough – changed to Sept 14, 2023-January 10, 2024.

202314. MSC to approve the Matthew Abel's change in dates for furlough September 14. 2023-January 10, 2024

Administration

International Student Scholarship Fund

We discussed the status and circumstances of this special project fund for Reinhard & Sheeba. There is an estimated \$28,000 currently in the fund. However, a total of \$40,000 is needed (to be reviewed annually). This is the amount needed for their Bible School experience, not counting the amount needed for their seminary training.

202315. MSC KS/KenS to approve it as a special project for promotion.

Madison Greven – Communications Coordinator

Spoke to the challenges and aspects of her responsibilities. She is responsible for social media development and broadcast of mission information, trips, and cooperative opportunities. She sends out newsletters and updates. She works on corporation and website updates to members. Madison shared about her short-term mission trip to Brazil through Journey Missions. So much was gained through that opportunity. She also shared about the items she will be working on in the coming year – goals for corporation, congregations, and missionaries.

202316. MSC LM/BS to cover the cost for Madison to travel on another short-term mission trip. (discussed possible destinations)

Personal Support Update

The Board discussed the current and possible future needs of our many missionaries. Numbers were addressed, and up-coming costs identified. Specific needs were discussed in the various situations facing the missionary families.

Board Designated Operating Reserve Fund

The document delineating and explaining the Fund was discussed and reviewed. Again, no moneys would be taken from budgetary items, and also not from the personal support of our missionaries. Discussion and clarification of the document took place.

202317. MSC BS/KenS approve the Reserve Fund Policy

World Mission Corporation Update

Discussed the role of the treasurer in the life of the AFLC World Missions – acknowledging the need for ongoing participation as accountability and auditing, but not necessary for day to day business due to the “Ministry services agreement” with the AFLC Business office.

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Updated Mission Statement and “Promises”

Changes:

Drop “and Vision” in the heading

Add “and planting free and living Lutheran congregations” at the end of the purpose statement.

Add “to live out our purpose” after endeavor in the vision statement.

Add “To our supporters, we commit to serving the congregations of the AFLC by enabling them to make a global impact for the kingdom of God by fulfilling our purpose, vision, and strategic activities” after Strategic Activities (Goals and Objectives)

Match bullet-points (wording and order) of “Goals and Objectives” between the new and old statements.

202318. MSC LM/PH to adopt the new revisions

Proposal for Ministry Partnership from Free Lutheran Schools (revisited)

Discussed the addition of a 3-year degree for Bachelor of Arts in Bible and Ministry – and the role World Missions might play in its development.

Journey Missions

The strengths of the ministry were discussed. The position of Journey mission office assistant was also discussed and evaluated.

202319. MSC PH/BS to continue the Journey Mission office assistant position.

Uganda

We reviewed the recent trip and discussed the headway gained and the movement of the ministry in the country. Scheduling quarterly team meetings with the missionaries was suggested as a good addition to the ministry of World Missions.

Brazil

Discussed the possibility of using a Primavera project for expanded purposes. It was decided to continue the project as it is. A special project can be applied for if additional needs are defined. The Primavera project was developed as a means to purchase land for new churches.

SETELL – The Free Lutheran Seminary in Brazil

The concern has been raised about the addition of women in the instructive program of the SETELL – though they are not progressing for ordination. This has been a growing issue, even amongst the staff – feeling uncomfortable with the inclusion of women in the classroom. Iran (President of the AFLC Brazil and head of the Seminary) seems to have no problem with the current situation (since many of the women head out to other church groups). However, others (including John Lee) are not comfortable with the current movement and requests that the AFLC World Mission Board discuss and deal with this challenge. One option is to move back to a 2 year Bible school – separate from the AFLC Brazil Seminary.

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Jonathan and Tamba Abel

Stateside until July 24th. One project for the fall is Jonathan's involvement in the instruction of the Lutheran Foundations. One text is obtained through Concordia Publications which deals with many of the basic doctrines of the faith through Scripture, church history, and current applications. The church is going well, with ministries continuing in their absence. Encouraging to see the ongoing ministry of those in charge. The church continues to grow and mature. SETELL continues to move ahead – training pastors for the area. Not many have Lutheran backgrounds, our Lutheran influence is good for the area churches (since few actually are seminary trained). Jonathan presented some of the challenges and difficulties facing the SETELL today. Pray for churches and pastors – they are facing several challenges.

Tamba shared many of the wonderful signs of the advancement of the kingdom in the women's group in Brazil.

Nathan and Rhoda Jore

Stateside transition going well. Family is adapting well. Smaller children are plugged into a small Christian school near the Free Lutheran Bible College. Recently, security has been fine. Plans are made in case of another robbery, but not needed at this point – they certainly were some time ago. Adding an alarm has helped, but the intercession of the community has also helped a lot. They aren't perceived as soft a target as before. But the stress level continues to be a concern – though it has improved. There has been a deep sense of God's peace since – both in Uganda and here. However, both are sensing a need for God's direction, and a unified vision as to their next step in ministry.

Ministry wise – the recent visit of the Korhonens and Sperrys was helpful. Both the Jores and the Raans found it helpful. Two quality Ugandan leaders (Henry and Rob) remain to move ahead in the work. Both feel a motivation to “go – and share the Gospel,” using Jesus' sending (2 by 2) as their model – searching for that person (household) of peace. Nate shared stories of how Ambassador Institute continues to grow and mature in the area – even to the point of hearing of graduations happening outside his direction.

Nate brought up the need in their previous area for water. He explained that the previously donated money for those wells was used for natural water collection systems currently in place. He requested that a thank you be sent to the previous donor. He explained that the “Bible fund” had also been depleted. Pr. Earl explained that there was still money remaining in the well fund that can be used for the drilling of another deep well. Wanda also detailed the receipt of some other funds recently that are in process.

Andrew Olson

Andrew gave an overview of the work of TNTB (They Need The Bible). The details of the report are available online at the ministry website. They have found the greatest success with the smaller people groups. Andrew explained that the ongoing work has been tied to – limited by – the raising of funds for the work. Andrew shared the need for funds for travel to Uganda for the purposes of translating AFLC statements into the local languages.

Discussion was held with Andrew cautioning him to not allow his other interests to become a distraction to his ministry with They Need The Bible.

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Steve and Glenda Kvale

They explained their work and involvement with the Wycliffe ministry. They also shared the possible expansion of their ministry to include the deaf or hard of hearing population. They also discussed the variety of responsibilities tied to their positions – including IT and travel within the ministry of Global Partnerships (a subsidiary of Wycliffe International). They also explained the differentiation between tribal and trade languages being translated. They target the major trade languages, and may not address every “tribal” language.

Michael Rokenbrodt

He will be doing deputations for the summer, and then return to the seminary in the fall. He plans on returning to Uganda in late summer of 2024, and then return to the AFLC seminary in January of 2025. Michael brought the WMB up to speed on the work and mission of the Ambassador Institute in Uganda. The idea of church planting has been received well by some, but not as well by others. He relayed several circumstances of events happening within the churches of that area of Uganda. Michael also brought two financial requests from the groups in Uganda. The WMB took both under consideration for further deliberations. The WMB determined to comply with the Field Conference advice to not send a financial gift at this point. The WMB also agreed to communicate with the national team that the motorcycle fund is also allowable for transportation costs.

India

The Karamachudu congregation is on the special project list, and the project need is \$22,000, but currently stands at \$15,000 for the building of a new structure. This building would benefit both the congregation and the expanding children’s ministry.

202320. MSC BS/LM to give \$15,000 for the completion of this project from the Quanbeck legacy fund.

Meeting Recessed

The meeting was recessed and will be resumed after the World Mission Corporation meeting. At that time officers of the World Mission Board will be elected.

Resume Meeting – Friday, June 16

Elected to World Mission Board by Corporation

Rev. Jerry Nelson
Rev. Craig Johnson
Mrs. Karen Palmer

World Mission Board of Directors Elections

Chairman – Craig Johnson - elected as Vice President of the Corporation – automatically making him Chairman of World Mission Board per the by-laws.

Vice-Chair – Mr. Ken Sletten

Secretary – Rev. David Johnson

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Next meeting

The next meeting will be held during the All Boards at the AFLC Headquarters, Monday October 2, 2023. Meeting will be held in the World Mission office.

Adjournment

202321. MSC KenS/LM to adjourn

Respectfully Submitted,

David Johnson
Secretary