

World Missions Board of Directors Meeting

10/2/2023

World Missions Board of Directors Meeting

October 2, 2023

Contents

Meeting Date and Location	4
Present at Meeting	4
Meeting Called to Order	4
Devotions	4
Agenda Approval.....	4
Introduction of New Members	4
Approval of Minutes	4
AFLC President Visit	4
Financial Resolutions	5
Director's Report.....	5
Administration	5
Updates from previous meeting:.....	5
Board Orientation	5
Letter of call for Jon Nelson.....	5
Personal Support Update	6
Journey Missions Report.....	6
International Orality Institute Board	6
Casey McLoughlin	7
Michael Rokenbrodt	7
Nate and Rhoda Jore.....	8
Matthew and Ednay Abel.....	8
AFLC Foundation Board By-Law changes.....	8
Policy manual Changes: Retirement & Social Security Benefits.....	9
Special Projects for 2024	10
Missionary Children Education Funding	11
Missionary Furlough Transportation	11
Brent and Emily Raan.....	11
John & Hannah Lee	11
India	11
Approve Current Meeting Expenses	12

World Missions Board of Directors Meeting

October 2, 2023

Next meeting..... 12

Adjournment..... 12

World Missions Board of Directors Meeting

October 2, 2023

Meeting Date and Location

All Boards meeting at the AFLC Headquarters; World Missions Office, October 2, 2023 at 8am

Present at Meeting

Pastor Earl Korhonen, Wanda Jacobson, Pastor Craig Johnson, Bill Sheldon, Dr. Lyle Mattson, Ken Sletten, Pastor David Johnson and Pastor Jerry Nelson. Mr. Paul Handsaker (World Mission Corporation treasurer)

Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Craig Johnson.

Devotions

Pastor Craig Johnson lead in devotions and prayer from Col 4:2-6

Agenda Approval

202322 MSC JN/BS to accept the Agenda

Introduction of New Members

Pastor Jerry Nelson shared many aspects of his testimony and experiences leading to his presence on the World Mission Board.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for June 14, 2023 presented, reviewed and corrected.

Page six - ..."Goals and objectives"

Page seven - ...and "Lutheran influence" ... is good for the area churches.

"...near Bible College..."

Ministry revisit of Pastors Earl Korhonen and Ken Sperry...

"Two quality leaders,..."

3rd paragraph, 3rd line "...donation..."

Page seven – Andrew Olson – Sentence added at the end, "...The WMB cautioned Andrew about the potential distractions of personal interests on his ministry and the World Mission Board in general."

Page 8 – Elections: As per by-laws, Pr. Craig was voted Vice-president of Corporation, making him chairman of the WMB of Directors

202323 MSC KenS/BS to accept corrected minutes.

AFLC President Visit

AFLC President Pastor Micah Hjermsstad joined the meeting and presented general AFLC information and thanks

World Missions Board of Directors Meeting

October 2, 2023

Financial Resolutions

World Mission Corporation Treasurer Mr. Paul Handsaker brought Financial Resolutions

202324 MSC LM/JN to approve the four resolutions authorizing the signing of financial documents on behalf of the WMB. – Passed

202325 MSC KS/BS to approve the CIF resolution allowing investment decisions – Passed and adopted

Paul also shared about his involvement in the AFLC foundation and its decisions.

Director's Report

Michael Rokenbrodt furlough and request to serve in Uganda during his Christmas/Semester break was discussed.

202326 MSC LM/KS to approve Michael's request to go to Uganda and serve December 9 – January 19, 2024.

John and Hannah furlough was discussed: November 2023 – June 2024

202327 MSC BS/JN to approve John and Hannah Lee furlough request.

Jonni Sliver requested her furlough be moved from 2024 to 2025. Information from Jonni given by Pastor Earl Korhonen.

Administration

Updates from previous meeting:

- Reserve Funds on track for building it up according to policy.
- Informational meeting for World Mission Corporation: October 17 at 6pm via online. Q & A will be part of the meeting.
- International Student Scholarship Fund no long needs additional supporters due to Reinhard and Sheeba's visa denial.
- The World still needs Missionaries – the need for laborers in the harvest continues.
- Employee reviews are complete: In the last month, reviews were accomplished prior to All-Boards.

Board Orientation

A new manual was given to Pastor Jerry Nelson as new member of the Board, and reviewed with all Board Members

Letter of call for Jon Nelson

Jon Nelson has applied to the Coordinating Committee to be rostered as a Licensed Lay Pastor. The Letter of Call was discussed by the WMB and determined to be an asset for Jon's overall ministry. Discussion also covered the educational background Jon has already completed via the AFLTS and Lutheran Brethren seminaries.

202328 MSC BS/LM to issue this Letter of Call to Jon Nelson.

World Missions Board of Directors Meeting

October 2, 2023

Personal Support Update

Personal Support balance sheets were discussed by Wanda, and evaluated by the WMB.

Journey Missions Report

Jon Nelson Department Head of Journey Missions joined the meeting over lunch and presented his report.

He presented his vision and experience with the cross-cultural students at FLBC. He shared his excitement for the program and the students who have shown interest. A survey was given and 2/3 of students (77) responded. Out of that, 44 expressed interest in the class and some type of cross-cultural ministry.

Jon also shared about various Journey Mission short-term teams and their impact on individuals and the association. Israel was a high-point. The trips are dual impactful – personal and ministry. He also has the opportunity to link arms with the Lutheran Brethren in a short-term trip to Asia (Feb 15-28).

Journey Mission assistant – Tabled for fall...but have Shelby Greven as a part-time work as a volunteer. It's a school project for her to assist in the Journey Mission ministry. It may build into a paid part-time position as time moves forward.

Jon's Seminary Update:

Three classes currently active, three for spring ... the goal is to be finished by 2025.

The World Mission Board also shared the extension of the call to Jon recently passed as a licensed lay-pastor.

International Orality Institute Board

The IOI Board meet with the World Mission Board and wanted to thank the WMB for the opportunity to share. Paul Kneeland shared some of the information from the activities and mission of IOI. 6 representatives from IOI were able to attend. Paul shared stories from both international experiences and stateside situations where the orality system has been applied. Challenges remain to keep up with all the opportunities and open doors. A variety of open doors come from individuals, schools, churches, and ministries (pastoral, prisons, etc) alike. Many are coming from highly Biblically illiterate backgrounds, and IOI has a real opportunity to help ground their convictions Biblically and on solid Lutheran principles.

Paul explained a bit of the IOI system and discipleship timeline with church-planting remaining the end goal (*though that may be several years into the process*). The applications of the system may vary from group to group and ministry to ministry (*some educational, some evangelistic,*

World Missions Board of Directors Meeting

October 2, 2023

etc). The purpose of the system was initially to reach the illiterate with the Gospel, and has expanded from there.

Craig reiterated some of the vision of the AFLC World Missions (church planting) and expressed some of the commonality of the two ministries. Paul expressed his agreement and recounted that message as they both traveled through Uganda. Paul and Craig closed the time in prayer.

Casey McLoughlin

Returned from Brazil in August. Recently engaged to a Brazilian man in seminary there (*date of marriage is flexible, possibly Dec 2024*). She worked with Jonni Sliver at the Miriam Home working with the children. Currently working at a Day-care where she had worked prior to her time in Brazil. Sanderson (Casey's fiancé) has been taking classes at the seminary and working with churches as a youth leader and worship leader. He has tried to obtain visas to America, but up to this point been denied. Casey has been able to travel to Brazil as a student/work visa (*6 months per application*).

Pastors are often bi-vocational in Brazil. Sanderson has a background in personal training and athletics... most recently in the field of oil. He was encouraged to pursue the ministry by others (leaders) in the church.

Casey would like to stay connected to the Miriam Home in the future. She desires to see more Gospel-directed teaching for the children of the area. To work with the Miriam Home would be a dream, but she would be willing to work with other shelters as an influence for Christ. The conversation continued as to Casey's desires and vision for work and ministry. It became clear that she had a real heart for children and women ... but the best area for application of that passion remains a bit vague.

The WMB later discussed Casey's status. It was decided that a follow-up contact may be helpful in the prayer and preparation process for both ministry and marriage.

Michael Rokenbrodt

Shared what he is doing now, and his plans for travel to Uganda in December 2023. Michael shared some of the needs in Uganda. There are needs from new converts and also people impacted by churches teaching false doctrine. It was explained that there may also be others joining Michael (short-termers). He shared of the need of a new mission family in the Ugandan field. He described himself as a Silas or Barnabas to others on the field. Facing the absence of the Jore's on the Ugandan mission field would bring its own challenges and concerns.

Michael spoke to the need for "lay-training" both stateside and internationally. He referenced a documentary "Ordinary Christian" (people) as a case in point. He shared how Orality Institute or Ambassador Institute could advance this movement.

World Missions Board of Directors Meeting

October 2, 2023

Michael requested prayer for the Jore's as they seek the Lord for direction. He also asked for prayer for loved ones who have a variety of needs at this time.

Nate and Rhoda Jore

Nate shared about God's direction for their future ministry. He shared about how things may be shifting as they move forward. A year furlough is a long time. Learning to be a church planter is a challenge both internationally and stateside. Church planting and discipleship are a clear passion for Nate. The prayers continue for direction, but the future remains unclear. Surrender is a critical part of pursuing God's vision. "The thought of returning to Uganda makes me sick (paraphrasing Rhoda)." They are agreed that their time in Uganda is not complete yet, even if they remain stateside as a fulltime ministry. Nate still feels called to finish teaching the final book in the AI series, and both Rhoda and the kids see the need to bring closure to their ministry in Uganda. For now they are praying through the possibility of using New Testament discipleship training principles to our stateside church-planting efforts. The process of establishing God's vision continues. Nate asked about their future deputation fundraising efforts, and the decision was made to continue the current agreement and process. Nate and Rhoda both thanked the AFLC for their ongoing services and support. They suggested the World Missions vans be used for future missionaries on furlough without cost incurred.

Matthew and Ednay Abel

Matthew attended and shared about some of the health concerns he's been facing concerning the Chikungunya virus (arthritis symptoms). Ednay's pregnancy is going well. The church is going well, and they have a mid-week meeting continuing on in their absence. Aaron will be covering the bases during their furlough. The church is going well, though it is a young church. It is a ministry with similar characteristics to parenting small children. They have had many come to encourage them, but they don't want to build a church on "sheep-stealing" from other churches. They are reaching out to the lost or those who have yet to find a church family. Matthew shared their need for volunteers and helpers. There are a lot of jobs being done by a few people (including his own family).

Furlough is going well, but they are looking forward to staying put for a while at the Mission House. More missionaries are needed. Having the Lee's there are an encouragement. He mentioned two men (one from Chile and the other from Argentina). Both are Lutheran trained, but looking to association with a Biblical Lutheran group. Matthew has built these relationships online, and shared his desire to see these two men encouraged and drawn in to the AFLC circle.

AFLC Foundation Board By-Law changes

Changes were discussed and concerns were addressed.

202329 MSC BS/LM to approve the minutes and changes suggested by the foundation.

October 2, 2023

Policy manual Changes: Retirement & Social Security Benefits

The current wording of our handbook requires a missionary to retire at 65, or at the beginning of their social security retirement income. The WMB discussed the change of this statement to allow the service of a missionary to continue past this age or circumstance.

(Proposed revisions are marked in red)

1401 RETIREMENT

1401.1 ~~Age of Retirement~~ Social Security Benefits (FICA)

During employment, all non-minister employees and the World Missions Department both contribute funds to the Federal government to support the Social Security Program. Ministers are considered self-employed as it relates to the Social Security Program. Ministers who chose to participate in the Social Security Program are required to contribute on their own. This program is intended to provide you with retirement benefit payments and medical coverage once you reach retirement age.

~~The retirement age of missionaries shall be on the date they choose that is in agreement with the World Mission Board. to begin taking Social Security. In the case of husband and wife, the husband's age shall determine the age of retirement. Retirement at Social Security eligibility shall be recognized as the normal and expected termination of active missionary service.~~

1401.1.1 The Executive Director shall correspond with the missionaries who are approaching retirement age to establish a timeline that they would wish to follow regarding retirement. ~~have a clear and direct understanding regarding the application of the World Mission Board's policies and retirement.~~

1401.1.2 Any person eligible can begin receiving social security retirement benefits as early as age 62. However, if they are still earning income above a certain amount, their social security benefit would be reduced. This changes once they reach full retirement age though. At that point there is no limit on earned income and they can receive their full retirement benefits whether they are working or not. They may still choose to delay receiving the benefits which will cause the benefit to grow by 8%/year plus any cost of living increases. Once they reach age 70, there is no benefit to waiting any longer.

1401.1.3 Attempt shall be made to adjust the terms of service of a missionary approaching retirement age so that the end of his final term on the Field shall coincide with his retirement date.

1401.2 Extension of Service

A missionary or a missionary couple approaching Social Security eligibility may request ~~permission~~ from the World Mission Board to continue in active service. The World Mission Board ~~itself may permit this under the following conditions:~~ will work with the missionary couple to facilitate this. Things to consider with this request:

1401.2.1 Unanimity between the husband and wife in desiring continuation of service.

1401.2.2 Action by the Field Conference recommending continuation of service.

1401.2.3 Medical Clearance should be obtained.

1401.2.4 This extension of service shall be reviewed every year.

This change has been added to our current handbook titled "Social Security Benefits (FICA)" in Section 1400 Retirement.

202330 MSC JN/KS to make the changes to section 1400 Retirement - 1401.1 and 1401.2 of the Policy and Procedure Manual. Passed by all attending.

World Missions Board of Directors Meeting

October 2, 2023

Special Projects for 2024

The WMB discussed the various projects requested by our missionaries or mission works.

Brazil

Requested

AILLB (AFLC of Brazil)

National Leadership Conference	\$3,000.00
DRELL Translation and Publications.....	\$3,500.00
DRELL Discipleship Fund	\$5,000.00
Campo Grande Van Project	\$15,000.00
Jardim Esperance – Rebuild Church.....	\$20,000.00

SETELL (Seminary/Bible School)

Ministry van (also used by Miriam Home).....	\$5,500.00
<i>(Original request \$6,500 funds received since request so amount amended to \$5,500)</i>	

Miriam Home

Follow Them Home	\$3,000.00
Camps and VBS Fund	\$500.00
Easter and Christmas Celebrations	\$1,500.00
Miriam Home Building Addition (Adm & Ed areas)	\$30,000.00

ARCA (Bible Camp)

ARCA Van Motor Repair.....	\$5,000.00
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Ongoing Projects (As received)

ARCA Ministry	(as received)
ARCA Social Projects	(as received)
ARCA Bible Camp Scholarships	(as received)
Seminary Student Scholarships.....	(as received)
Student Work Fund	(as received)

Paraguay

Pantry for the Poor (Emergency food baskets)	\$1,200.00
Literary Resource Inventory - Church lending library	\$3,000.00
Church Quincho – New Building	\$22,000.00

Mexico

Principios Church Building Project.....	\$18,500.00
Christmas Gift Boxes (100 @ \$5 per box)	\$500.00
Help Me Hear God's Voice-Bibles	\$500.00
Kid's Club (books, Christmas gifts, etc.)	(as received)
Compassion Projects	(as received)

India

India Bible and Literature	\$1,200.00
Pastor's Houses (\$9,500 each- ½ Grant)	\$4,750.00
India Reprint Songbook \$22,000.00	see motion 202331

Uganda

Ambassador Institute Teacher Workshops	\$1,100.00
Misc. Gifts (outreach; compassion, individuals)	(as received)

World Missions Board of Directors Meeting

October 2, 2023

Journey Missions

Scholarship Fund for Mission Trips and Missionary Assistants 5,000.00

World Missions

AFLC Pastors International teaching/training..... 4,000.00

202331 *MSC LM/BS to fund the India project to reprint the songbooks. Funds to come from the Quanbeck legacy.*

202332 *MSC LM/BS to approve the Project list as amended.*

Missionary Children Education Funding

The WMB discussed the rising costs and challenges of educating children in the current culture. Some have access to private schools while others do not, or choose the route of home education. The Board understands that all situations are not equal, and eventually costs are being removed from personal support funds anyway. Therefore, the decision is being considered that only Tuition and tuition related costs (education materials and coursework) would be considered. Field trips, uniforms, computers, or paper and pens/pencils (or other education supplies) will not be considered for reimbursement and are the responsibility of the parents. This decision will not be applied prior to the beginning of 2024.

Missionary Furlough Transportation

The Missionaries use of the provided World Missions vehicles was discussed. The current policy states that a cost of \$.45 per mile is charged to the missionaries for personal use miles. The Board decided to maintain this principle as stated. The current policy allows for the use of a personal vehicle for personal transportation needs.

Brent and Emily Raan

The option was discussed linking Andy Coyle with Brent Raan for the ongoing discussion of church planting principles. The potential additional education needs for two children will be considered “missionary care” and funded by grants. They have requested the attendance of Pastor Earl Korhonen at several upcoming Ambassador Institute graduations. He will be accepting these events as they arise in March 2024.

John & Hannah Lee

The Board decided that the \$300 per month being paid go to SETELL and Pr. Silvio. They will be responsible for management and maintenance.

India

Reinhard & Sheeba were not able to obtain visas to come to the FLBC for training. Pastor Earl Korhonen will be inquiring with the Lutheran Brethren seminary to see about the possible link and training of Reinhard via online education.

World Missions Board of Directors Meeting

October 2, 2023

Approve Current Meeting Expenses

202333 *MSC LM/BS to approve expenses for attending the WMB meeting*

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held at the AFLC World Mission office December 1, 2023 at 8am.

Adjournment

202334 *MSC JN/BS to adjourn*

Respectfully Submitted,

David Johnson
Secretary