

World Missions Board of Directors Meeting

2/16-17/2023

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Meeting Date and Location

The World Missions Board of Directors met on Thursday and Friday, February 16 and 17, 2023 at 9:00 AM PST in Rancho Mirage, CA.

Present at Meeting

Present were Pr. Craig Johnson (via Team Video Conf), Paul Handsaker, Wanda Jacobson, Pr. David Johnson(via Team Video Conf), Pr. Earl Korhonen, Ken Sletten, Pr. Kent Sperry(via Team Video Conf), Lyle Mattson and Bill Sheldon.

Meeting called to Order

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Craig Johnson.

Devotions

Devotions by Pastor Kent Sperry on Romans 16:3-5 - Kent covers many greetings that Paul specifically states. Kent was reminded of all the believers in his past who studied and worshipped together...some as pastors and others who became missionaries – still others became leaders in their churches. We've all had members in churches who've come alongside us in ministry and then moved on. Sometimes we strive to gain influence, and often by fame – even in the church. We begin to believe that fame can reach the lost – but it often becomes more about us than Christ. We need to be faithful where we are – and being grateful for those leading in our absence. We see relationships that were important to Paul – both near and far – an eventually found themselves in Rome.

Approval of Agenda

Furlough request by Brent to be added to Administration

Coordinating Committee suggestion to dissolve the Budget Analysis Committee added to Administration

202301. MSC BS/PH Approval of Agenda

Approval Minutes

December 2, 2022 Minutes reviewed, edited, corrected

Page 6 first paragraph should read AFLC rather than ALFC

Page 6 Ethiopia ministry trip involving the AI leadership team from Uganda

202302. MSC PH/LM Motion to accept December 2, 2022 minutes as corrected

Director's Report

Pastor Earl shared his report, observations, and activities.

Almost all mission works requested help. Pastor Earl mentioned several areas of need. We need to pray for the Lord of the harvest first and foremost. Zack and Carrie Ritland are possibilities, but there was some discussion as to their strengths and weaknesses as far as World Missions is concerned. Definitely gifted couple, but not sure if they are a good fit as far as church planting is concerned. Not used to working with a board. Lots of energy

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and drive. Accountability is a concern – they desire to self-fund to maintain some independence. Should there be a priority for church planting, or is there also a need for compassion ministry or other areas that could be served.

March is going to be a travel month, and probably through May.

Raan Furlough Request

Brent and Emily Raan request a furlough from April through November 2024.

202303. MSC KenS/BS Motion to approve the Raan's furlough request from April – November 2024

Administration

Additional Office Space

Journey Missions (Jon) has moved to the former Home Mission office, and the entire area is allocated to World Mission. Space working well and benefiting the flow of the entire ministry.

Personal Support Update

Most are doing well, but a couple like John Lee and Jonathan Abel are needing a boost. Abels have been advanced \$4,000 for airfare, and that will put them below their balance. Is this a concern that needs to be brought to Jonathan's attention? Discussion continued about the proper way to deal with each of these missionaries. The idea was offered to spend time at Annual Conference with the Abels. It was identified that the higher savings account go to those who are regularly communicating with their home bases. A letter will be drafted to remind all missionaries of this policy of maintaining a minimum savings account before returning to the field.

Reserve Operating Funds

Wanda reviewed the Operating Reserve Fund notes discussed at previous meetings. The alterations were highlighted in yellow. Discussion developed on the formation of a reserve of funds to cover expenses should an unforeseen event arise (i.e. drop in donations, Covid, etc.) It was shared that this should differ from Missionary emergency funds (undesignated missionary support). The discussion progressed on the need to keep operational and missionary needs distinguished from one another. Repayment times/schedules were also discussed. It was decided that the account would begin with a \$50,000 starter fund, and then progress during the next 5 years towards another \$100,000.

Director of Development

The Coordinating Committee requests the addition of a representative from World Mission to a steering committee involving the Development ministry. The desire is to add representation in the oversight of the ministry of Development as it grows. This representative would participate in the hiring of an assistant (who will become the new Director for the Development office), and possibly an ongoing oversight commitment. A recent communication from Pr. Micah encourages the route of using the Foundation as the overseeing board of the Development office. There is already representation from the major corporations on the foundation board. It

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was shared that it would be good to have a Mission Board member along with a Corporation member being on the Foundation Board. Regardless, the nature and expectations of the Foundation board will need expansion and definition.

202304. MSC DJ/PH Motion made to support the general concept of the Foundation Board overseeing the Development Director and office.

Lutheran Ambassador

World Mission subsidy for 2024 is \$19,316, up 41% from 2 years ago. No subsidy was charged for the last 2 years. The Coordinating Committee has agreed to cover the costs for one more year (2023). We discussed the addition of the Lutheran Ambassador to the list of ministries in donations. This would make the Lutheran Ambassador taking up one of the All Ministries spots per year. It was also discussed about the subsidy increase per ministry.

202305. MSC KS/PH Motion made that the Lutheran Ambassador take one of the All Ministry months.

World Mission Budget

Wanda introduced the 2024 tentative subsidy numbers from the Coordinating Committee for the support and overhead of the offices in the headquarters building. We then went on to various discussions on specific line-items in the budget. The numbers were discussed including the personal support numbers. These are the total numbers that would be forwarded to the Budget Analysis committee, not each detailed line item. The budget was deemed as appropriate and no significant issues were raised. No major changes were suggested. There was some discussion about possible areas for significant increase – i.e. travel costs, etc. These areas will be watched and evaluated as needed. There was also discussion about the positive presence and outreach of Madison Greven in the office and on the road.

202306. MSC PH/LM to approve the Budget and send it to the Budget Analysis Committee.

Journey Mission Part-time help

The Board discussed (within the overall Budget conversation) the addition of a part-time aid for Jon in Journey Missions. It was advised that there should be help in the office (8 hours per week) to assist in the various tasks of Journey Missions and the World Mission office. A student was identified as a good fit for the position, and they were hired on for the Spring.

Board Governance / Maintenance

How does the World Mission department fit into the overall vision of the School and AFLC? What are the promises that the Mission department make to the congregations and members of the AFLC? Lengthy discussion followed about the vision and mission of World Missions and its missionaries. How does this play into the issues and struggles of the various AFLC mission works around the world. To fall back on our Core Values (Go, Proclaim, Plant, Equip) is sometimes confusing when compared to our actual promises and functions.

The idea of reworking and possibly re-writing the overall mission and purpose statements of the AFLC World Mission department was discussed. All board members were encouraged to consider and pray through our mission and Vision statements and share their thoughts online before the June meeting.

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Todd and Barb Schierkolk

They shared about the status of ministry in Mexico. It was Barb's birthday, yesterday, but the weather hasn't cooperated yet. But it should warm up soon. Barb is beginning to feel better, but still struggling with feeling weary...holding off on the jogging for now. Security continues to be an issue. A lot of opinions on whether or not to have the local fair. School attendance is also an issue – or whether online classes should be encouraged. Large gatherings are a concern. (There was a shooting a couple weeks ago) Todd referenced the report he wrote and emailed recently. People's tolerance and bragging about drug relationships is becoming short. They (the community) may be reaching a tipping point. The impact of this may/will flow over to the local elections and other aspects of the various administrations. The current President is trying deal with issues, but isn't always welcome. "Hugs not drugs" is not flying with many. However, the alternatives aren't clear. People are really tense in the general environment.

Todd and Barb are tense, along with most others. They take precautions, calling each other often. They don't go downtown often, and not at specific times of day. Church is still meeting on Sunday mornings, and Wednesday evenings. They may need to offer transportation to some. Everyone is staying close to home. Todd shared about one specific ministry opportunity, and he reiterated that people continue to come, even with the current concerns. He also shared about the circumstances of the home nearby, and the woman who owns the house. The house is currently vacant. They still feel God's call to remain, but they are open to taking a break while things calm down. They spoke of possibly returning as it coordinated with other missionaries...especially along the South or Southern-most states. Thanks were shared by both, and explained that real weariness is felt by so many in the area. Time was spent in prayer for both of them.

The Board continued discussing the needs and ministry of the Schierkolks. The board discussed the possibility of allowing a break for the Schierkolks as they reach out to the needs in the area. The decision was made to coordinate with the Schierkolks as they feel God directs.

202307. MSC BS/KenS to keep the lines of communication open to the needs of Todd and Barb...with the option open for them to take a short break and return to the U.S. as needed.

Proposal for Ministry Partnership from Free Lutheran Schools

Free Lutheran Schools President Wade Mobley is asking the World Mission Board for partnership in developing the Bachelor of Arts in Bible and Ministry degree at Free Lutheran Bible College. The Board discussed the potential concerns and benefits of this next step, and whether it is a good thing for World Missions to join the process. The decision was made to encourage caution for the Bible College to advance too soon, at the possible danger of sending conflicting signals. Some are concerned for how quickly the paradigm of the School is changing...and the possible pushback to various AFLC ministries. It was shared that a conversation happen between Pr. Wade and Pr. Craig.

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Budget Analysis Committee

The Coordinating Committee has asked for thoughts and input on the role and function of the Budget Analysis Committee and if thought should be given to dissolve the BAC. The Board discussed the original purpose for the BAC...and whether or not that purpose still applied. It was suggested that in many eyes the BAC is a check and balance to the spending of each ministry and corporation. It was shared that they have done good in years past – bringing education and suggestions for those with little to no personal experience in budgets.

202308. MSC KenS/PH Motion was made encouraging the ongoing role of the BAC, while also reviewing their purpose and function

Executive Director Annual Performance Review

The Board discussed the process to review the Executive Director

The by-laws were reviewed on the wording of the review and how often

The board went through the director's letter of call and a performance evaluation form. The form called for achievement goals that would be set and evaluated yearly, since this was the first review using this format the following goals were set for this review and will be used and reviewed in next years evaluation.

Goal – Pastoral Care to Missionaries

Goal – Communicate with AFLC congregations and individual about the work of World Missions

Goal – Encourage and maintain communication with national church leadership on each of our mission fields

Goal – Help implement the directive of the World Mission Board of Directors

Goal - Help with administrative management and financial management

Goal – Encourage future Missionaries

Goal – Overseeing the morale and efficiency of the World Mission office/department

The Board than went through the evaluation form rating the director on leadership aspects that included representing core values, vision, communication, relationships within AFLC. Management performance was another aspect that was reviewed, this included finances, fund raising, and working with the World Mission Board.

The Board than went through the goals and evaluation form with the Director.

The Board wants to work on recruiting and nurturing new missionaries. Also, work on improving and communication of how and why we church plant.

Puerto Rico

Earl communicates about once a month with them. Discussion on how that ministry is going.

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India

Craig will not be able to go until next year. The India work was discussed. Del and Karen Palmer will now be traveling March 1-15 to India with Joan and Earl. Pastor Del will teach the book of Daniel and Earl is teaching Doctrine of the Word.

Uganda

The NGO is still in process of being renewed. The process of work permits and visa renewals continues

Brent and Emily may need to go out of the country and come back in to renew their visa.

Discussions regarding Ambassador Institute – World Missions is sending small stipends for the Ambassador Institute officers in order to show the government that we are helping fund them – helps legitimize the NGO in the Ugandan government eyes.

The suggestion was made to have the missionaries go through the Congregational life study.

Discussion about encouraging the Missionaries and Ambassador Institute to be sure to go through the 4th book in the Ambassador Institute curriculum.

The Board discussed the overall work in Uganda

The Board discussed Pastor Earl's upcoming travel to Uganda.

Asking if Ambassador Institute classes could be made of maybe 50% unchurched people. Asking those who come if they are church to bring someone who is unchurched – evangelism at work.

The Board discussed the seminary internship options for Michael Rokenbrodt.

The Board closed the meeting for the night at 5:20 PM

Resume Meeting - Friday

Devotions by Lyle

Luke 10:25 – Good Samaritan – Our confidence in the radical Christ – not in ourselves.

Uganda - Continued

What is happening, generally? There seems to be some ongoing conflict of vision and priority. Church planting has always been part of our World Mission - mission statement – but the priority for some of our missionaries seems to be conversion as the priority – with church planting as an add-on concern. Is it time to have a conversation with our missionaries as to identifying their priorities and mission goals?

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South Sudan refugees – Working with the Finnish Lutheran Church

Several different options were discussed concerning this wonderful opportunity. Pastor Earl and Pastor Kent will have a chance to meet with the Finnish leadership and discuss this possible venture. The idea was offered that the Ambassador Institute materials could be used – and possibly Michael could be reallocated as a trainer. Other ideas were considered as to how to proceed with this ministry venture.

Nate and Rhoda Jore

Maybe a change of direction for the Jores. They have been prayerfully considering refugee ministry. No action can be taken at this time.

A letter was considered from Nate Jore on behalf of the Uganda field conference for consideration pertaining to the nations/countries approved by the AFLC as official mission fields. They questioned whether or not Ambassador Institute can be used in countries other than those approved by the Association. If possible and necessary, can Malawi be approved by the conference, with the desire to move Ambassador Institute into that country? The question was asked how this would impact and encourage the planting of AFLC churches. Our purposes continue to involve both conversions and church planting. Craig will respond to the letter including these questions and concerns.

Brazil

Pastor Earl brought the Board up to speed on their trip in April 19-May 9th. The trip will start in Paraguay and then move to Brazil. The airfare is quite reasonable.

Paraguay

Our Fountain Hills congregation in AZ has taken on Matthew and Ednay as a mission support. They just received a large donation for Paraguay. The Jesus Film project is coming to the mission. The projector is provided in this agreement. The church is starting, even if the numbers are low. Property has been purchased and it has been improved and used some.

Switzerland

Augusto is hoping to be present at the AFLC Annual Conference – depending on the international vaccine requirements. Rooms have been booked for them, and our Stanley church is interested in learning more of the work there.

Mongolia

No new information. They may have identified another affiliation at this point.

2023 Vision and Goals

Administration

One year

- Conduct risk assessments on the next visit to each field
- Set up a global visit with missionaries by video (possibly at “All-boards” in October)
- Update the Vision/Mission statements - including the ministry promises for missionaries
- Communicate the overall need for additional workers and missionaries for our church planting opportunities and international ministry
- Create and implement ways to encourage further participation and pursuit of people considering a call as AFLC World Missionaries

Three-Year

- Encourage the WMB and every missionary to read the book Global Church Planting
- Church Planting Collaboration with Home Missions

Five-Year

- Provide ongoing training for those called to church planting in their cultural context

Brazil

One-Year

- Continue to provide materials that encourage a greater understanding of what is meant by the freedom of local congregations
- Continue to encourage the AILLB to be a world mission sending body by supporting the work of Augusto Fiuri in Switzerland, as well as Matthew Ednay Abel in Paraguay by prayer
- Encourage SETELL to continue working under the school board as set up in their documents
- Pray that the Lord will raise up assistants to come alongside the staff and national workers at the Miriam Infant Home

Three-Year

- Encourage the AILLB to continue in the establishment of a mission department, Home and World
- Encourage every congregation to prayerfully consider starting a daughter congregation
- Encourage a connection between the local churches and the Miriam infant Home
- Prepare for the potential retirement of three missionaries (Paul, Jonathan, and Jonni)
- Transfer the property owned by “The Mission” to the AFLC Brazil

Five-year

- See missionaries partner with Brazilians in church planting.

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Paraguay

One-Year

- See a membership class and a core group established
- Continue to access and pray through the potential of a second and third church plant

Three-Year

- Continue identifying leaders that can be discipled
- Send a second American missionary family to aid Matthew and Ednay in their church-planting endeavors

Five-year

- Have an established congregation in Paraguay
- Have national leaders in place to assume the ministry of the church
- Encourage ALLB to send a missionary family to come alongside Matthew & Ednay Abel in Paraguay

Switzerland

One-Year

- The El Shaddai congregation should continue to be encouraged to begin the work of establishing a French-speaking sister congregation
- Communicate the need for a stateside sister congregation/s to cooperate with the work in Switzerland

Three-Year

- Pursue a tent-making pastor to Switzerland
- Pursue a Journey Mission trip to Switzerland in an effort to identify future missionary candidates

Five-year

- Have a missionary or a missionary team in place

India

One-Year

- Continue to encourage the AFLC-India to teach the pastors Luther's Small Catechism and the value of using it in their congregations
- Continue to encourage the AFLC-India to pursue unreached people groups
- Continue the work of Ambassador Institute in India
- Continue promoting the sponsorship of the Horeb Children's Ministry
- Send pastors to teach two-week classes for pastors and church leaders

Three-Year

- Support Luther in providing training classes for the pastors and Bible women

Five-year

- Have all AI materials translated into Telugu.
- Identify additional leaders to come alongside Luther in the work in India.

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Journey Missions

One-Year

Missionary Assistant Program

- Continue FLBC partnership
- Continue expanding the MAP program to give people an opportunity to serve internationally for extended periods of time
- Continue to refine the training curriculum to prepare people for the country in which they are going to minister

Mission Trips

- Continue to develop trip leaders as needed
- Continue to make short-term trips feasible for people within our congregations by having intergenerational trips and one student mission trip per year

Three-Year

- Investigate the possibility of a trip to France/Switzerland
- Have Jon visiting congregations as his schedule allows

Five-year

- Utilize Journey Missions to encourage pastors/teachers to minister in a cross-cultural setting

Mexico

One-Year

- Pray for unity among the Central Mexican Lutheran Church
- Encourage Milton Flores Sr. and the Central Mexican Lutheran Church to continue to reach out and start congregations in Queretaro, Irapuato, and other places.
- Pray for the safety and security of national and international workers and missionaries
- Continue to assess the security of the Schierkolks and evaluate other options as things develop

Three-Year

- Pray for national leadership for the Jerez congregation and the central Mexican Lutheran Church

Five-year

- Seek God's direction in the possible addition of another missionary in Mexico

Uganda

One-Year

- Continue to place a priority on planting Free and Living Lutheran Congregations
- Continue to encourage Raans to build relationships with the people of Gulu
- Continue to encourage Raans in their language training in Gulu
- Utilize Ambassador Institute as a tool to plant congregations in Uganda
- Encourage the graduates of each AI class to recognize the need for a Free and Living Congregation

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- Set a goal that a minimum of 50% of Ambassador Institute attendees have no church affiliation (evangelism)
- Establish another congregation in Nabukosi
- Michael to encourage Pastor Alex in Zonal AI leadership
- Continue to encourage the Paicho group gathering

Three-Year

- Brent to start a weekly time of Bible Study and prayer with a group of young men
- Identify someone to come alongside the Raans in Gulu
- Turn leadership of Ambassador Institute completely over to nationals in Gulu

Five-year

- Have an established Free and Living Lutheran congregation in Gulu
- Have an established Free and Living Lutheran congregation in Paicho
- Continue to build up the congregation in Nabukosi, by teaching them Free and Living Lutheran principles
- Have an association of Free and Living Lutheran congregations that voluntarily work together for such things as training and evangelism.

Ambassador Institute

One-Year

- Using Ambassador Institute as a tool to plant Free and Living Lutheran Congregations
- Encourage the utilization of book #4 to be used in Uganda

202309. MSC PH/LM to adopt all goals for 2023

Approve Expenses

202310. MSC KenS/PH to cover the expenses for this meeting

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held during the AFLC Annual Conference - June 14th in Sioux Falls, SD

Adjournment

202311. MSC LM/BS to adjourn

Bill Sheldon closed the meeting in Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Johnson
Secretary