

# AFLC World Missions Corporation Meeting Minutes

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**Date:** June 13, 2025

**Time:** 12:21 PM

**Location:** Tadmores Hall, Association Retreat Center, Osceola, WI

**Chairperson:** Rev. Ray Ballman

**Secretary:** Ethan Zeltinger

The annual regular meeting of the AFLC World Missions Corporation, June 13, 2025, held at the Association Retreat Center in Osceola, WI.

## Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Rev. Ray Ballman.

## Call of the Corporation Roll

Secretary Ethan Zeltinger took roll call with 31 members present, quorum reached.

## Scripture and Prayer

Rev. Ray Ballman shared from Revelation 20 followed by prayer.

## Approval of Agenda

Amendment proposed to move the election of corporation members before reports.

Amendment proposed to add a discussion topic about board terms.

**MSC** to adopt the agenda with the above amendments.

Approved.

## Reading of Minutes

Secretary noted that minutes were read.

**MSC** to approve the minutes without amendment.

Approved.

## Election of Corporation Members

Electronic voting using the Poll Everywhere app was used with supplementary paper ballots used as needed.

A test vote with the electronic voting was held prior to elections beginning.

## Elected to the World Missions Corporation

- Dr. Lyle Mattson (Greenbush, MN)
- Rev. Jeff Swanson (Axtell, KS)
- Brent Peterson (Valley City, ND)
- Rev. Ray Ballman (Kopperl, TX)
- Wanita Sletten (Duluth, MN)
- Dr. Peter Dyrud (Plymouth, MN)
- Rev. Ken Moland (Graham, NC)
- Terry Ann Korhonen (Fargo, ND)
- Andrew Carlson (Minneapolis, MN)
- Rev. John Amundson (New Leipzig, ND)

There was a tie for 10th place so a follow-up election was held and Rev. John Amundson was elected to the 10th corporation spot.

## Reports

Rev. Ray Ballman spoke to the corporation as President of the World Missions Executive Committee.

Rev. Dr. Craig Johnson (Chairman of the Board and Vice President of the Corporation) gave the report from the World Missions Board of Directors.

Corporation Treasurer Rev. David Handsaker gave the Treasurer's Report.

## Elections

### Board of Directors Chairman and Corporation Vice President

Pastor - 2 year term

Nominees were presented from the nominating committee and the general session of the Annual Conference for the World Missions Board of Directors positions.

Nominated:

- Rev. Dr. Craig Johnson (Ferndale, WA)\*
- Rev. John Amundson (New Leipzig, ND)
- Rev. James Fugleberg (Moorhead, MN) - Removed himself from the ballot.

**MSC** to close nominations. Balloting followed.

Rev. Dr. Craig Johnson (Ferndale, WA) elected.

### Board of Directors - Pastor

Pastor - 2 year term

Nominated:

- Rev. Jerry Nelson (LaCrosse, WI)\*
- Rev. James Fugleberg (Moorhead, MN)

**MSC** to close nominations. Balloting followed.

Rev. Jerry Nelson (LaCrosse, WI) elected.

## Board of Directors - Layman

Layman - 2 year term

Nominated:

- Mark Riley (Bethel Park, PA)\*
- Bill Sheldon (Ray, ND)
- Isaiah Miller (Fargo, ND)

**MSC** to close nominations. Balloting followed.

Mark Riley (Bethel Park, PA) elected.

## Board of Directors - Layman (Partial)

Layman - 1 year term

Nominated:

- Ethan Zeltinger (Fargo, ND)
- Bill Sheldon (Ray, ND)
- Isaiah Miller (Fargo, ND)

**MSC** to close nominations. Balloting followed.

Bill Sheldon (Ray, ND) elected.

## Old Business

### Approval of Ministry Service Agreement with AFLC

The Ministry Service Agreement was posted on the World Missions Corporation website with the Annual meeting documents. No changes were made in 2024-2025.

**MSC** to approve the Ministry Service Agreement with the AFLC.

Approved.

### Authorization of AFLC Bookkeeping

#### **Resolution 1**

This resolution is for the following:

- Director of Business Management of the AFLC – Katie Johnson
- Executive Director of World Missions – Earl Korhonen
- Office Manager of World Missions – Wanda Jacobson

BE IT RESOLVED, that Katie Johnson, Director of Business Management of the AFLC, Earl Korhonen, Executive Director of World Missions, and Wanda Jacobson, Office Manager - World Missions are hereby authorized and empowered to act, execute, and deliver contracts, and other documents and financial instruments in the name and on behalf of Association of Free Lutheran Congregations World Missions Corporation, a Minnesota Nonprofit corporation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any and all resolutions heretofore adopted, that are inconsistent with the above resolution are hereby rescinded.

## **MSC**

Approved.

## **Resolution 2**

This resolution is for the following:

World Missions Office staff – Jonathan Nelson and Shelby Greven

BE IT RESOLVED, that Jonathan Nelson and Shelby Greven - World Missions, are hereby authorized as signers for the World Missions Checking Account on behalf of Association of Free Lutheran Congregations World Missions Corporation, a Minnesota Nonprofit corporation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any and all resolutions previously adopted that are inconsistent with the above resolution are hereby rescinded.

## **MSC**

Approved.

## **Board of Directors Manual**

Approval of the Board of Director's Manual with this year's changes and additions. This is a manual that is used as a tool for giving Board members information regarding how the World Missions Board and World Missions Department operates. The Manual is posted on the World Missions Corporation Website.

## **MSC**

Approved.

## **Appointment of Foundation Board Representatives**

Current member Karen Palmer explained some of the duties and actions of the Foundation Board.

Nominated and approved unanimously for a three year term. A vacancy was being filled previously.

- Karen Palmer (Shakopee, MN)
- David Moeller (Mayville, ND)

## **Discussion of Women Serving on the World Missions Board**

Rev. Ray Ballman shared responses gathered from the AFLC President, the Free Lutheran Seminary, and the Coordinating Committee per the request of the corporation at the previous annual meeting.

## New Business

### Approval of World Missions Budget

**MSC** to approve the World Missions budget as presented. Discussion followed.

Approved.

### Approval of New Work in Chile

Rev. Dr. Craig Johnson spoke about the process of approving a new field of work.

Historically, approval has been sought from the Annual Conference as the voice of the congregations. Approval was given via resolution on the Conference floor earlier in the week.

Rev. David Johnson pointed out that Rev. Bravo is not seeking funds and that this new opportunity will not take away from existing mission fields.

**MSC** to approve a new World Missions mission field in Chile.

Approved.

### Approval of International Student Seminary Education Fund

Josue Flores was denied a visa recently to come to FLTS.

Board members pointed out that this fund would help acquire these visas as guaranteed money is something the government is looking for.

WM Director Korhonen spoke, seeking input from the corporation. The government requires a bigger number, but the corporations portion would be \$35,000.

A special project being suggested would need to be raised by missionaries.

A suggestion was made that the corporation could add contractual obligations to the funds at a later meeting.

**MSC** to approve an International Student Seminary Education Fund as a Special Project.

Discussion followed about which seminaries this would apply to. Since language is open ended, discretion would be given to the board.

Approved.

### Discussion of a World Missions Advisory Committee

Rev. Ray Ballman presented a motion to add an Advisory Committee to the corporation that could sit a board meetings.

WHEREAS, many non-profit organizations have an advisory committee to aid the primary board through offering suggestions, counsel, and advice;

And WHEREAS, the WM board could benefit from such counsel and advice, and our Constitution permits the corporation to add committees as warranted to serve its needs;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the WM Corporation establish a four (4) member advisory committee to meet jointly once a year with the board at a meeting the board selects, for the purpose of advising the board when consulted, but without a board vote or reimbursement privileges;

And BE IT RESOLVED, that the advisory committee members will be appointed by the WM Corporation President, serve two (2) year terms that begin and end like board members, and be open to both men or women;

And BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this advisory committee be established on a provisional basis for two years, and its value reassessed by the corporation at its annual meeting in 2027.

Discussion followed.

The motion was withdrawn after discussion.

Much of the discussion echoed that the board is very willing and has a history of seeking input from any and all avenues that they deem valuable.

## Discussion of World Missions Board Terms

Mrs. Karen Palmer pointed out that the bylaws state that board members may hold office for two-year terms and up to five successive terms. A person may be on the board again after one year off (7-4 in the bylaws).

Mrs. Palmer proposed that the terms be flipped to two five-year terms via a by-laws change at a future meeting.

Rev. Handsaker noted that incumbents are re-elected quite frequently and that the two-year term provides a lower barrier to entry.

Rev. Ballman noted that it is rare for non-profits to have five-year terms.

Sam Quanbeck noted that much can change in five years and so it is a lot to commit too.

More discussion followed about the selection of the chair of the board. It was suggested that a future by-laws ammendment charge the board with selecting their own chair.

## WM Prayer Requests

- The Lees in Brazil
  - Jeffrey's leg injury is healing well.
- Tamba had successful surgery. Not all of the tumor is removed.
- Josue after his visa to the states was denied.
- Jon Nelson continues to lead Journey Missions as well as Cross-Cultural Ministries classes at FLBC.
- Journey Missions has a team in Israel currently under a bomb alert.

## Greetings from Missionaries

Becky Abel, Jonni Sliver, Michael Rokenbrodt, Steve Kvale, Zach and Carey Ritland, and Jon Nelson greeted the corporation. They requested prayers and extended thanks.

## Adjournment

Rev. Jerry Nelson closed in prayer.

**MSC** to adjourn the meeting.

Approved

Meeting adjourned 3:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ethan Zeltinger

Secretary