



**ELCA Youth Ministry Network  
Board of Directors Meeting  
January 24-25, 2013  
Anaheim, California**

**Minutes**

**Members Present:** Larry Wagner, Yvonne Steindal, Julie Miller, Ben Morris, Valerie Taylor-Samuel, Erik Ullestad, Mike Ward.

**Others Present:** Mark Burkhardt, Jeremy Myers Todd Buegler,

Thursday, January 24, 2013

1. **Devotions.** Who was a mentor to you?
2. **Agenda Review**
3. **Director's Report.**
  - Real sense that something powerful and profound is happening.
  - 61 synods are represented in the Practice Discipleship Initiative.
  - Extravaganza numbers are up.
  - YMNET App designed by a Network Communications Team. Partnered with I Givings for its development.
  - Financial report not typically presented at E. The status changes too quickly in the midst of the event.
  - Unanticipated expense – purchase of new Network computer.
  - Tommy Award recipient is on site. Larry and Ben will meet with this person ahead of time.
4. **Strategic Plan.**
  - Not included in E booklet because of cost. Feedback low but positive. Questions as to how we shall achieve this.
  - Discussion of how to Roll Out Strategic Plan. Decided to make copies to distribute. Eric and Valerie will deliver to Practice Discipleship attendees.
  - Discussion about garnering further feedback.
  - Discussion of the role of board members in the roll out of the strategic plan.
5. **Selection of Chairperson.**
  - Nominations. Yvonne nominated Eric. Eric accepted nomination. Julie nominated Mike. Mike accepted nomination.
  - Action: Motion to close nominations. Moved by Julie. Seconded by Valerie. ADOPTED.

6. **Addition of items to the agenda**

- #2. Discussion of what are needs of Board are for the future.
- #3. Nominating Committee. Revisit how Board members nominated. Selection of committee. Basecamp calendar. Todd's involvement.
- #4. Election of Chairperson.

7. **Other issues for board to discuss:**

- Thrivent. Network submitted organizational grant proposal.
- Request from exhibitor about how young adult ministry component could work within Network. Can we support a young adult network or incubate them within Network?
- SYMBOL would like Network to serve as fiscal agent for them.

Friday, January 25, 2013

8. **Introductions and Welcome.** Welcome to Jeremy!

9. **Devotions.** Ben led devotions on "mysteries". We are the "steward of the God's mysteries."

10. **Strategic Plan.** Mike reviewed the plan for Board.

- Network membership has plateaued @600-700 the last few years.
- Other ministries can be "nested" in the Network.
- Involvement of international companion synods. Options for free memberships and half off E registration fees.
- Discussion regarding the role of Board members as Champions of various aspects of SP. Report and update. The following assignments were made:
  - i. Membership – Julie
  - ii. Diversity – Valerie
  - iii. Practice Discipleship – Ben
  - iv. Partnerships – Mike
  - v. Governance – Eric
  - vi. Extravaganza – Yvonne
  - vii. Financial – Jeremy.

11. **Network Board Needs and Gifts.**

- Gifts Audit: Gifts the board currently have
  - Good process.
  - Willingness to ask questions.
  - Humor – laughter.

- Diversity in vocation (need for full time youth worker).
- Educational diversity (working class).
- Financial development gifts.
- Leadership skills – motivation.
- Trust.
- Visionary.
- Encouragement – pastoral care (Larry).
- Able to do things.
- Don't all agree – share opinions.
- More efficient.
- Small enough so we can all talk.
- Good time management.
- Discussion about a Chapel on Board to be considered at future meeting.
- Needs of Board revolve around ethnic diversity – multicultural. Also wonder about representation vocationally. (no full-time congregational non-rostered youth ministers on board...)
- Discussion of how we can be representative when the intent of the board is to be gifts/needs based.

#### **11. Nominating Committee.**

- Julie and Valerie will serve on the Nominating Committee. Julie will be the convener. RFs will select their two members for committee. We will invite Darcy Middelstadt to serve as member at large.
- The Board reaffirmed that Diversity is the Number One issue and need.
- Timeline. March 15 – Nominations Open. July 15, August 15 and September 15 – Nominating Committee Meetings.

#### **12. Elections.**

- Eric was elected Chairperson. Ben was elected Secretary.

#### **13. Young Adult Network.**

- After discussion it was determined that this was a premature conversation.
- There is a need for a process for those who approach us about “nesting” in the network.
- Mike will connect with the exhibitor who inquired about possibly submitting a proposal.

#### **14. SYMBOL Network**

- Action: Affirm that the Network serve as financial agent to the SYMBOL Network. ADOPTED.

#### **15. Report from ELCA.** Mark Burkhardt.

- There will be three positions out of churchwide: Program Director for Youth Ministry, Program Director for Young Adult Ministry, Program Director for Campus Ministry.
- Staff persons will work together and with Gathering Staff. Will provide focus and clarity.
- Exploring the possibility of the Campus Ministry position will be done in partnership with the Episcopal Church.

**16. *Other***

- At the E Board is about networking, relationship, championing and feedback.
- Approval of Strategic will be done by e-mail.
- Next meeting will be held April 28-30 in Chicago.

The meeting adjourned at noon.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Yvonne Steindal  
Secretary  
ELCA Youth Ministry Network Board of Directors