



ELCA Youth Ministry Network Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, January 24, 2019, through Friday, January 25, 2019

Hyatt Regency, Jacksonville, FL

Rachel Alley (ELCA Program Director for Youth Ministry), Todd Buegler (Executive Director), Becky Cole, Dan Fugate, Regina Goodrich, Kinda Makini, Sue Megrund, Jeremy Myers, Tom Schwolert (Board Chair), Kelly Sherman-Conroy.

Thursday, January 24, 2019:

Opening devotions and introductions Tom

Minutes from September 2018 meeting Regina made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Kinda. Motion carried.

Churchwide Report

Rachel Alley presented her report.

- She has had her position for six months now and it has been very interesting.
- The ELCA Youth Leadership Summit was held in Nebraska in November 2018. It was great. They are in the process of selecting six new Youth Core Leadership Team members. There were 44 applications. The new team meets in March.
- The ELCA Youth Gathering, Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, Outdoor ministries, and campus ministries (ELCA Faith Formation team) have a display at this year's E for the first time.
- Rachel will be presenting at the upcoming Congregational Vitality event.
- Rachel is focusing on strengthening SYMBOL, continuing education for those who work with youth, networking, and congregational vitality.

Executive Director's Report

Todd presented the report of the Executive Director

- Todd is grateful to have Rachel Alley in her new position.
- More than 560 are expected at the Extravaganza. That number is similar to other post ELCA Youth Gathering years.
- The E Team has been great. They've woven the theme into the entire event more deeply this year.
- The Network App has been redone and redesigned. The technology has improved and it should be very helpful moving forward.
- Todd challenged the Board members to become smarter about our Network members by asking questions about their ministry, what is hard, what help they

need, what brings them joy, and encouraged the Board members to thank the amazing volunteers we have who make the E possible.

- Todd also thanked the Discipling Cohorts Initiative team and leader Barbara Harner. The first round went very well. Even more will take part in this second round.

Review of Strategic Plan

- The Board reviewed the Strategic Plan at length noting both areas of success and areas where more work is needed.

Multicultural Initiative Report

- Regina reported on plans for the Multicultural Initiative at the E. She noted that this is the most diverse group we've had. Jeremy also reported on what has been planned.
- It was suggested that the Board might consider forming a Board-appointed team to facilitate the Multicultural Initiative as that would facilitate communication with the Network directly.

Election of Board Chair

Dan made a motion that Tom Schwolert be chosen as Board Chair for the coming year. Regina seconded. Motion carried.

Todd reviewed where the Board members were needed during the E.

The Board adjourned for the evening.

Friday, January 25, 2019

Devotions were led by Tom focusing on Psalm 104 and Matthew 6.

Election of Board Secretary

Sue made a motion that Becky Cole be chosen as Board Secretary for the coming year. Kinda seconded. Motion carried.

E Learning Team Proposal

Todd shared information about the E Learning Team proposal that will memorialize Rev. Stephanie Coltvet Erdman. It will launch next year. It will be a 5 year program. Fundraising is expected to cover costs.

Sue moved that the Board affirms the concept of the program. Dan seconded. Motion carried.

Dan made a motion that the Board ask the E Team to consider ways to lift up the names of those Network members who have passed away in the prior year and that it be done in a way that it can happen organically. Kinda seconded. Motion carried.

The Board visited the Multicultural Initiative to make introduction and observe the activities that were taking place.

Governing Documents

Tom noted that the Governing Documents Review Team did not meet but scheduled a meeting in the coming weeks and will report at the April 2019 Board meeting. The Governing Documents Review Team and the Advocacy Team will meet and be ready to report at the April 2019 meeting.

Executive Director Succession Plan

The Board was asked to review the Executive Director Succession Plan and be prepared to act on it at the April 2019 Board meeting.

Nominating Committee

Regina made a motion that Tom Schwolert, Sue Megrund, and Joe Davis be appointed to the Nominating Committee. Two Regional Facilitators will be added. Becky seconded. Motion carried.

Future Board Meeting Considerations

Sue suggested that the Board consider changing the format of the Board meetings at the E. She suggested that the whole Board could meet for a shorter time and give a larger portion of the time to working on specific tasks and projects. This could be a better use of our time as the meeting at the E is always more difficult because of the various responsibilities that people have.

Regina suggested that the Board consider inviting children, youth, and family ministry staff from the city and/or synod where we are meeting to have lunch with the Board. Synod staff persons and even Bishops could be invited. Tom would make the invitation as Board Chair.

Tom was affirmed for his leadership of the Board.

As it is Jeremy's last meeting, the Board thanked him for his service. He has had a real impact and will be missed. Jeremy said he was sad that his term was finished and that it was a blessing to be part of the Board.

Future Meeting

The next meeting is April 28-30, 2019, at the Lutheran Center in Chicago, IL.

Jeremy made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Regina seconded. Motion carried with one abstention.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Fugate