



**ELCA Youth Ministry Network Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Sunday, April 28, 201 through Tuesday, April 30, 2019**  
**The Lutheran Center, Chicago, IL**

Tom Schwolert, Dan Fugate, Regina Goodrich, Sue Megrund, Kinda Makini, Becky Cole, Todd Buegler (Executive Director), Rachel Alley (ELCA Program Director for Youth Ministry)

**Sunday:**

**Opening Devotions:** Tom Schwolert

Board members each gave an update on their ministry and things they wanted to share

The board adjourned for the evening

**Monday:**

The morning began with devotions and prayer, led by Sue

**Review of January Minutes**

**ACTION:** Becky moved we accept the meeting minutes. Kinda seconds. Minutes approved unanimously.

**Update from the ELCA**

Rachel Alley presented the report from the ELCA

- Phil Hirsch has been hired to lead Domestic Mission with Steve Bouman's retirement
- Working with SYMBOL to plan the Growing Young conference September 10-12 at Cross Roads Camp
- Youth Core Leadership team met to plan the Youth Leadership Summit in November
- The Youth Gathering Team has been working on the Youth Gathering 2021, the theme will be announced Fall 2019
- Will be attending Churchwide Assembly in Milwaukee and connecting with the youth
- Working to post relevant things on social media to make it engaging and relevant

**Executive Director's Report**

Todd presented the report of the Executive Director

- Post-Extravaganza 2019 update
- Our financial information will be moving to Quickbooks Online in the future

- Partnerships are important and we continue to develop. We could use a volunteer to tend to this.

### **Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Partnership**

- There are currently three levels of partnership (Friends, Silver, Gold)
- Our partnership with Outdoor Ministries is important and we should have a defined partnership with them
- Todd created a document that defines a new partnership level for Outdoor Ministries
- The board read the document and had some great discussion about this opportunity

**ACTION:** Kind moved we approve the concept of a new partnership level with Outdoor Ministries. Regina seconds. Discussion: Tom said this was brilliant. Minutes approved unanimously.

### **Strategic Plan**

This strategic plan is for 3 years.

- **Cohorts:** This is a slice of the strategic plan. 36 people completed the Discipling Cohorts Initiative in 2018 – 2019. Currently there are 72 people enrolled, so we are making strides. Can we continue to fund this? The initial grant covered two years of this initiative instead of one, which is great. We need to do a better job of advertising this to our members who have been in ministry for a while and explain why it is for them. We need to get the word out to the volunteers in our congregations that this is something for them also. The online format to create a plan isn't available. How can we make this available? There was lots of discussion on additional marketing idea.
- **Prayer Partners:** We still need to work on this. There was discussion about utilizing current peer groups at the synod level to start this.

There was discussion about how can the network provide information to new children and youth leaders to walk with them as they begin their journey. Much of the information could be provided via website and easily accessible by many. This could be a great resource for all congregations, regardless of who their youth leaders are and how long they have been in their current position.

### **Multi-Cultural Initiative Report**

Regina presented the report from the Multi-Cultural Initiative in January

- The event went very well
- The initiative is well received, yet there are only a few returning people due to the cost
- Yaheil's involvement in the future is unknown, Heather and Crystal were great leaders this year. Discussion related to continuing to lift them up.
- Regina wants to continue to be involved in this initiative once her board term is over (January 2021)
- 14% of people at Extravaganza 2019 are people of color

### **Memorializing People**

The board discussed ways to be consistent in honoring and memorializing the actions of people from children, youth, and family ministry who have died in the last year.

**ACTION:** Dan moved we ask the E team to creatively come up with ways to memorialize people equally. We will receive gifts given in honor of someone. As a best practice, we do not name programs or gifts after individuals, but after their intent. Sue seconds. Discussion: None. Motion approved unanimously.

### **Nominating Committee**

Sue and Tom will have their current terms end in January 2020. Both have served two terms and are not eligible for re-election. Tom and Sue will serve on the Nominating Committee. RFs will select their two members for committee. We will invite Joe Davis to serve as member at large. The board shared their thoughts on board needs and gifts. The nomination process will open in June 2019.

Board member Kelly is unable to attend for personal reasons. We paused to lift her and her family up in prayer during this time.

**Mark Burkhardt** stopped by and provided an update on the Faith Formation Team. The team continues to work together, figure things out, and focus heavily on the first third of life. The youth and young adult ministry grant process was successful with 111 application. 26 requests were funded with a variety of areas represented. There is still grant money and they are discussing options to invest this money so we can continue to provide these grants for years to come. Tom and Todd did a recap of our meeting thus far to Mark.

### **Extravaganza Discussion**

202 Theme: Practice, Not Perfect

The board reviewed data related to trends over the years with number of attendees and number of room nights. The board also looked at where are people coming from to attend the E. It really needs to be a drivable location in the non-gathering years. The board reviewed feedback from Extravaganza 2019 and we need to get back to faith formation from the main stage. There will be a shift for Extravaganza 2020 where there will be general sessions followed by track sessions. People will intentionally be asked to lead workshops on a variety of topics. Our keynote speakers will also lead tracks.

### **Governing Policies**

The board reviewed the updated governing policies for the Youth Ministry Network. Outdated language was removed and some sections were made more clear.

**ACTION:** Dan moved we accept the Network Governing Policies as amended. Regina seconds. Discussion: None. Motion approved unanimously.

### **Advocacy Team**

Tabled to September 2019 meeting.

### **Membership Models**

The board discussed ways to better market the network to all congregations. It would be wonderful if all congregations were network members. The biggest reason people become

members and attend Extravaganza is because they are invited. Personal relationships and stories are key for this.

The board adjourned for the evening

### **Tuesday:**

The morning began with devotions and prayer, led by Dan

### **Bi-Vocational Leader Discussion**

There are a number of leaders in our denomination who are bi-vocational. There are rostered and non-rostered leaders who are bi-vocational. The strategic plan has some wording around this. How can the board find out more information about our bi-vocational members? The bi-vocational people could benefit from network member benefits due to additional time restrictions. The board discussed how this is really part of a larger conversation about the future of the network. The discussion is tabled to the September 2019 meeting.

**Molly Beck Dean** stopped by and provided an update the Youth Gathering 2021. Things are going well. There was a theme discernment retreat and Justin is the newest team member and starts in a few weeks. Molly and the board discussed how the network might be at the gathering in 2021.

### **Strategic Plan**

Further discussion related to the strategic plan is tabled to the September 2021 meeting. Sue invited the board to read ***Building a StoryBrand: Clarify Your Message So Customers Will Listen*** by Donald Miller before the next meeting. It might help the board with some marketing related work that should be addressed for a number of topics covered during the board meeting.

### **Budget**

The budget is not ready for approval. 2019-2020 budget should be similar to the current budget. Books are internally audited every three years. Books are externally audited every five years using an external CPA.

### **Future Meetings**

September 26-29, 2019: Anaheim, CA

January 30-31, 2019: Anaheim, CA

April 26-28, 2020: Chicago, IL

Mark closed the meeting with prayer. The board adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Becky Cole