



**ELCA Youth Ministry Network Board of Directors Meeting
Sunday, September 29, 2019 through Tuesday, October 1, 2019**

Hyatt Regency, Anaheim, CA

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

Sunday:

Opening Devotions: Tom Schwolert

Review of April Minutes

Minutes were reviewed. Todd corrected Quickbooks to Quickbooks Online for the financial software in the Executive Director's Report.

ACTION: Sue moved we accept the meeting minutes with the above correction. Regina seconds. No discussion. Minutes approved unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

Todd presented the report of the Executive Director

- Nominating Committee has finished their work.
- Welcome to Ministry web site update; Hope to launch at Extravaganza 2020
- Continue to work on Extravaganza team reconfiguration
- Connect Journal is doing some long-term planning
- 3rd Tuesday Conversation is releasing year-round, just finished one year of being a podcast
- Extravaganza 2021 update
- Network Social Media changes and updates
- The Network by the Numbers Report

The board adjourned for the evening

Monday:

The morning began with devotions and prayer, led by Kelly Sherman-Conroy

Review of Budget

The board reviewed the 2018-2019 year end and the 2019-2020 budget.

ACTION: Becky moved we accept the proposed Network Budget. Kindra seconds. No discussion. Budget approved unanimously.

Churchwide Report

Rachel presented the report from Churchwide

- Rachel has been on staff for about a year. She has been listening and building bridges with partners we have and partners we should have
- Youth Leadership Summit – working on a three-year cycle of individual leadership, community leadership, leadership in the world; working on logistics for this year; 2020 will be in Minneapolis
- Youth Core Leadership Team – this team of 12 is designed for leadership with high school students; need to complete term no later than high school graduation
- Synods are not consistently making Children, Youth, and Family staff positions a priority
- Attended churchwide assembly as the hospitality team for the youth; great response from youth attendees
- SYMBOL Growing Young conference was great; 55 people attended; synods are encouraged to develop growing young strategies; bishops and synods need to dream and imagine what their synods and congregations will look like if they implement this
- Phil's priorities are multi-ethnic communities, welcoming LGBTQIA+, congregational vitality, and growing our congregations younger
- Faith Formation has hired Lamont Wells as the Campus Ministry Director

Outdoor Ministry Partnership

Todd talked about the new level of partnership – Outdoor Ministry Partnership. There have been some great conversations with Don Johnson. An email is going out to all camps in October to invite them to participate. Todd will attend the Outdoor Ministry conference in November.

Strategic Plan

This strategic plan is for 3 years and it began in 2017.

- **Prayer Partners:** The board discussed the impact this could have on network members. It gives another way for people to connect with each other. Discussion about ways to begin this at Extravaganza 2020 for those who opt-in to this. Create a process for this to happen. Kinda to work on this.
- **Dynamic Vocational Formation:** The network provides a variety of educational opportunities in a variety of ways.
- **Spiritual Renewal:** This is an important piece of the strategic plan. We want our leaders to know Luther and the Bible so it influences their view on the world. This goal is being worked on through educational opportunities, the new prayer partners vision, and the Extravaganza main stage.
- **Broad and Deep Connections:** The cohorts continue to be a positive experience for those involved.

The board discussed ways we can present the progress of the strategic plan to the network.

Multi-Cultural Initiative Report

Regina presented a report for this initiative

- Overall, the event was well received.
- Bishop Yehiel Curry is going to be able to work with the initiative in 2020 and is going to work with the Multi-Cultural Initiative team to determine a new facilitator to begin after February 2020.
- Previous multi-cultural participants are stepping up and leading the initiative in their ways and it is wonderful to see.
- For 2020, 18 people have applied to date, with a deadline of Monday, September 30th. The deadline is being extended to October 31st.

Regional Facilitators Role

The purpose of regional facilitators is to provide regional representation and diversity. They listen and communicate what they hear to the network. How do they see their role in the future? What do they see as their role? The board seeks to better understand the regional facilitators role.

SYMBOL

Dan and Rachel are working to update the list with current synodical information and primary contact information. The board discussed the role of the SYMBOL representative in each synod

Tom Hunstad Award

Criteria for the Tom Hunstad award were reviewed. The board created a list of nominations.

“Storybrand” and Future of the Network Discussion

The board discussed their initial reactions of reading “Building a StoryBrand: Clarify Your Message So Customers Will Listen.” Many board members recognized things at the network level and in their congregations that would be impacted by the information in this book. The board needs to look at the future of the network through the lens of this book and philosophy. Many things in this book we have implemented. There is more that can be evaluated.

Board Nominations

Tom and Sue reported from the nominating committee. There was discussion about the nominating process.

ACTION: Dan made a motion that the board accept the slate of nominees from the nominating committee. Becky seconds. Discussion: None. The slate is accepted unanimously.

The new board members are Heather Hanson and Josh Toufar. Todd will contact them.

Advocacy Team

They were unable to meet over the summer. Sue, Kinda, and Rachel will meet and report back.

Bi-Vocation Youth Leaders

Many congregations have part-time youth leaders, which leads to people being bi-vocational. The board wants to know how many people this includes. Todd to post in the ELCA Youth Ministry Facebook group to gather additional information.

Extravaganza Logistics

Todd has emailed the registration instructions to the board. Meet the afternoon of January 30th. The board will meet with Multicultural Initiative on Friday morning at Regina's request.

The board adjourned for the evening

Tuesday:

The morning began with devotions and prayer led by Dan Fugate.

Tom Hunstad Award

The board further discussed the list of nominations. A final nominee was voted on. The award recipient was selected.

Welcome to Ministry

Todd, Rachel, Janelle, and Dan are going to meet and work on this. There will be a report at the January 2020 meeting.

Prayer Companions

The board reviewed the process document Kinda created. Kinda, Todd, and 1-2 other individuals will meet and roll this out beginning in January 2020. There will be a report at the January 2020 meeting.

Bi-Vocational

Over 60 people responded to Todd's Facebook question about working in a church and another job. Add this to the April 2020 agenda.

Storybrand Next Steps

In April 2020, the board needs to take the Storybrand 7 format and use the online tools to determine how we can improve the Network information we present.

Future Meetings

January 30, 2020: Anaheim, CA

April 26-28, 2020: Chicago, IL

Tom closed the meeting with prayer. The board adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Cole