



National Lutheran Secretariat

Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes of February 27, 2024 Meeting

Present: Steve Barnett, Brian Comeno (BC), Pastor G. Karl Gaston, Amanda Hunter, Brian Schwarz, Karen Weires, Jane Winge, Carolyn Witham

Not Present: none

Call to Order and Opening Prayer: BC called the meeting of National Lutheran Secretariat (NLS) executive committee (NLSEC) to order and Pastor G. Karl opened the meeting with prayer.

Book Study: In preparation for the 2024 NLS Annual Gathering (NLSAG) in July, G. Karl led the NLSEC through an active discussion of the key points of chapters 2 and 3 of Dr. Mark Wickstrom's *The Gospel of Grace*. Dr. Wickstrom will be the keynote speaker at the 2024 NLSAG.

Old Business

Email motions

On February 7, 2024 G. Karl made a motion via email to the NLSEC [to approve the prepared Minnesota state Charitable Organization Annual Report Form filing as of 5/31/2023](#). Karen seconded the motion. All approved by February 8, 2024. The February 8, 2024 approval of the form was accepted for the February minutes by acclamation.

Approval of Minutes

Jane made a motion [to accept the amended minutes of the January 23, 2024 NLSEC meeting](#). Steve seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Treasurer Items - Steve

In the last two weeks, it came to Steve's attention that NLS is required to file two Minnesota state agency filings: one with the state's Attorney General and one with the Secretary of State. The report to the Attorney General's office is the long one and was filed. As a result of missing the Secretary of State filing, NLS was an inactive organization from January 26-February 26, 2024. Steve submitted the form and NLS has been officially reactivated. All filings are current now. Steve will be working to get dues statements out to affiliated secretariats.

Vice President of Outreach Items - Karen

There was a great Regional Coordinators meeting this month which generated a lot of discussion. Atlanta Via de Cristo has voted to close. A group in Albuquerque, New Mexico is considering creation of a new secretariat. Karen provided them with contact details for the Regional Coordinator and the local Emmaus community.

NLS Distribution Update - Brian

The new NLS distribution center printer is working great and we were able to provide all requested supplies for the fall 2023 weekends.

Executive Director Items - Brian

In January, Brian attended the Fourth Day leaders conference in Florida. All of the movements were hit hard by Covid and are working to re-start holding weekends. There was a lot of discussion about

technology, including TechSoup. Brian asked and learned that all movements represented at the meeting require that individuals be ordained to serve in a Spiritual Director role on a weekend. Brian confirmed that NLS participation in this annual meeting continues to be a very worthwhile activity. It was agreed that the NLSEC will review the accountability matrix that Brian recently drafted on Wednesday, July 24th when we next meet in person.

Spiritual Director – G. Karl

The SD roundtable on February 7 (rescheduled to this date following technical challenges), had individuals that had not participated before and was a very good conversation. Pastor G. Karl and Jeanne also attended the recent Florida Grand Ultreya.

Closing Prayer – Pastor G. Karl closed the meeting with prayer.

Next Meeting – March 26, 2024 at 7:30pm EDT for book study followed by 8:00pm EDT meeting to include NLSEC and appointed committee chairpersons

Summary of Action Items

1. All to read chapters four and five of Mark's book, The Gospel of Grace, in preparation for the next meeting.
2. Karen to send Steve the email that provided guidance to Atlanta on officially ending as a non-profit organization in Georgia.
3. Brian to write a Palanca Coordinator job description. Once it is drafted, he will send it to Amanda to be posted/shared.
4. Carolyn to email Dave to find out what documentation he is missing from the archives (cc to Brian).
5. All to send Conexiones articles to Amanda (nvdcnewsletter@gmail.com) with a subject line beginning with Conexiones by mid-March.
6. In the monthly update/mid-March Conexiones, Amanda will include the following:
 - a. NLSAG registration link, dates and prices
 - b. links about palanca: 1-upcoming weekends, 2-how to list your community weekends, and 3-tools to use for palanca vigils as well as a link to the rollo outlines
 - c. reminder that the \$300 annual dues are payable by May 31st to the NLS Treasurer
 - d. statement that we are seeking a Palanca Coordinator with a link to the job description
 - e. guidance to email secretary@viadecristo.org statement if your secretariat has not received the annual activity survey
7. For future use, Steve will look into creating a QR code with Zelle (no processing fees) that secretariats can use to send funds to NLS.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Witham