



# National Lutheran Secretariat

Executive Committee Meeting

## Minutes of April 23, 2024 Meeting

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

**Not Present:** Amanda Hunter

**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.

### Old Business

#### Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 26, 2024 NLSEC meeting were accepted by acclamation.

#### Palanca Coordinator

Kim Brownlow has been appointed to this position.

### New Business

#### Nominating Committee

Kim Brownlow will chair this committee again this year. The positions open for election in July are Vice President of Administration, Treasurer, and Spiritual Director (SD). Individuals interested in being nominated, offering a name as a potential nominee, or being part of the nominating committee are invited to contact Kim directly at [kim@cvdc@gmail.com](mailto:kim@cvdc@gmail.com).

#### Treasurer Items - Steve

Dues have now been collected from 18 affiliated secretariats. Steve is connecting with the remaining secretariats individually. He did note that several secretariats that have disbanded in recent years are still listed on our website and should be removed. This includes: Atlanta, Heart of America (notified Steve in an April 2024 email), Heart of Illinois, Lake Gaston, Northern Plains of North Dakota (notified BC and Steve via recent email), and River's Edge. He also has several contact updates that he will forward to Carolyn and the Database Coordinators. The last Pay Pal deposit received was in December 2023.

#### Vice President of Outreach Items - Karen

The Regional Coordinators are next meeting on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### NLS Distribution Update - Brian

The Distribution Center received a pilgrim guide request from a secretariat for use on a 48 hour weekend. He replied to the request advising that a 48 hour weekend is not a Via de Cristo weekend. A Via de Cristo weekend must be 72 hours. After discussion, it was agreed that Via de Cristo copy righted materials should not be sold for use on non-Via de Cristo weekends.

#### Executive Director Items - Brian

Brian initiated a transfer of \$304 from the NLS general fund. Eric expressed concern to Brian about the web hosting fees. He is meeting with Eric tomorrow. Steve will join the call so that payment of web hosting feeds can be discussed.

### **Spiritual Director – G. Karl**

The next SD roundtable will be held on June 5<sup>th</sup>. He has met with the NLSAM lead Spiritual Director and the worship team.

### **2024 NLS Annual Gathering (NLSAG)**

Karen will make a Power Point slide template that will be made available to the Fourth Day Community to honor those who have entered their 5<sup>th</sup> Day during the past year. Slides will be requested to be returned to Karen by June 1<sup>st</sup> for inclusion in the overall memorial presentation. Karen requested details on which of the Exchange of Ideas (EOI) sessions will need technology.

### **President - BC**

The question was asked: If a community needs to host a Via de Cristo weekend at a venue without lodging, is it okay for the team to carpool the pilgrims/guests to and from cursillista homes where sleeping accommodations can be provided? There was agreement that, while not ideal, as long as the weekend held true to all essentials, this is acceptable.

BC asked the members of the NLSEC to consider how NLS could help move the movement forward, give back and potentially attract second or third generation cursillistas. Specifically, using interest earned from our cash investments, he suggested we reward Via de Cristo parents/grandparents of college-bound students with \$1000 scholarships. Ideas discussed included making the scholarships available only for seminary students, creating an endowment that could fund the scholarships, holding a silent auction to raise scholarship money, awarding scholarships to local secretariats to help fund weekend fees for pastors, removing the restriction on the leadership fund so that it can be used to fund scholarships, moving funds to higher interest yielding accounts now, regardless of how this idea progresses. BC would like to include this topic in the first business session at the NLSAG. Carolyn suggested getting the idea out to secretariats in advance of the NLSAG.

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

### **Next Meetings**

May 28, 2024 at 5:00pm PDT for NLSEC (no book study as Pastor G. Karl will not be present)

June 2, 2024 at 2:00pm PDT for Lay Director Roundtable

June 5, 2024 at 9:00am PDT for Spiritual Director Roundtable

June 25, 2024 at 4:30pm PDT for NLSEC book study followed by 5:00pm PDT NLSEC meeting to include those filling NLS appointed positions

July 24, 2024 at 1:00pm PDT for NLSEC – in person at The Plaza Hotel

### **Summary of Action Items**

1. All to read chapters six thru eight of Mark's book, The Gospel of Grace, in preparation for the June meeting.
2. Carolyn to send a list of all active secretariats to Karen for purposes of creating NLSAM palanca posters.
3. All to share website/technical support requests with Brian and BC.
4. All to send Conexiones articles to Amanda ([nvdcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:nvdcnewsletter@gmail.com)) with a subject line beginning with Conexiones by May 20<sup>th</sup>.
5. Gastons to prepare a 5<sup>th</sup> Day memorial slide for Ed Simonsen. Carolyn to prepare a 5<sup>th</sup> Day memorial slide for Joe Nielsen.
6. Jane to let the NLSAG Host Committee know which EOI sessions will need technology for their session.
7. Carolyn to research the original purpose of the restricted Leadership fund.
8. In order to get a sense for how the body might respond to the scholarship suggestion in advance of the NLSAG, BC will raise the idea at the June Lay Director roundtable, Pastor G. Karl will do the same at the SD roundtable, and the RCs will share the idea with secretariats not attending the Lay Director roundtable in advance of the NLSAG.

9. The following items will be included in the NLS update that will be sent early next week:
  - a. NLSAG registration link, dates, prices and final reminder that Early Bird registration ends May 1
  - b. nominating committee opportunity, open positions, and how to submit nomination forms
  - c. slide template with request to complete and return in order to remember 5<sup>th</sup> day cursillistas at the NLSAG
  - d. general request for NLS annual meeting topics
  - e. statement that the Palanca Coordinator position is now filled by Kim Brownlow
  - f. palanca links: 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
  - g. guidance to email secretary@viadecristo.org statement if your secretariat has not received the annual activity survey
  - h. reminder that the \$300 annual dues are payable by May 31<sup>st</sup> to the NLS Treasurer

Respectfully submitted,

*Carolyn Witham*