

Annual Meeting of the Lutheran Men in Mission
June 12, 2021 – 11:00 AM Central daylight time
Virtual telecast via Zoom – National Audience

Meeting Agenda

Opening prayer and welcome – Hal Derrick, President

Presentation of the meeting agenda and introduction of our Board - Hal

Determination of a quorum – Jim Schieble, Secretary

33 on call

President's Report – Hal

- Long term viability focus to achieve LMM's vision including Focus Group feasibility study
- Severe effect of pandemic on retreats and meetings but new online tools and web-based efforts
- Strategic plan work

Report from the Vice President – Lon Buss

I have had the honor and privilege to serve as LMM's Vice President for the past year. It has provided the opportunity to work with the Directors of the Events Ministry Team and Networking/Communications Ministry Team on various projects and initiatives.

In the middle of last year LMM's leadership decided we needed to dedicate time and energy to the www.lutheranmeninmission.org website. A LMM Website 2.0 Project Team was formed. I was asked to lead the team which includes Dave Newman, Networking/Communications Director, Rich White, Development Council Director, Vic Williams, foundations newsletter editor, Ben Vaughan, LMM's Webmaster and John Sundquist.

Our mission was to review the current site, update, improve and create new content to be used within the realm of the current website's technology.

Changes have been made and more are on their way.

I want to especially thank Ben Vaughan for his continued efforts to keep the site updated, as we work to reorganize the site and add new content as well. His time and talents on a volunteer basis are greatly appreciated.

That said, as many of you know, a ministry like this needs volunteers to be successful in achieving its vision. Which for LMM is for every man to be a Bold, Daring Follower of Christ. I want to thank the volunteers we have, from the One Year to Live Retreat leaders and staff, the Project Twelve Team members and those who help with Bold Gatherings, either by hosting in person Bold Gatherings or the speakers who provide such inspirational messages.

We can always use more help with our projects and initiatives.

So, as you hear from the LMM Ministry Team Directors, I ask you to consider what skills and talents you, or someone you know, may have that can be of service to God and this ministry. You can reach out to any of them or our staff, via the Contact Section on the LMM website.

Report from the Treasurer - Jeff Kuchenbecker

- Budget ending January 31, 2022 presented
- Report to be published on LMM website in a few weeks.
- Highlighted some costs to be determined that effect the budget
- Diminished donations caused by pandemic, some offset from investment income
- ELCA backup for unmet expenses, great support

Report from the Development Director and the LMM Annual Report – Rich White

- Expressed gratitude for all support and faithfulness
- Lower revenue due to pandemic, typical impact of executive director change, poor donor engagement by LMM
- Annual report issuance in Foundations newsletter
- Growth of Bedrock Society to 32 members (\$20/month minimum thru auto-giving)

Ministry reports

Events – Jimmy Smith

- OYTL's – only 3 held in 2020 because of pandemic closures of camps but these were still meaningful for the participants. Five planned for 2021. Reunion online scheduled for June 28th.
- Bold Gatherings – Three held within the past 12 months, emphasized 'from the heart' messages and focus on diversity, library of videos on the website. Next one on October 16th.

Discipleship – Antoine Cummins

- Work in progress through involvement with young men on campus – their faith journeys and what is needed.

Emerging Ministries – Jason Adams

- Project XII website growth of resources for men's ministries e.g. Fathering in 15, physical and mental health focus. Request of resource ideas
- Lifelines - creation of online bible studies composed by an ecumenical group of men

Networking and Communications – Dave Newman

My name is Dave Newman. I live in San Antonio, TX. I have served as the appointed LMM Director of Networking and Communications since August, 2020. I previously served as a Lutheran Men in Mission Ambassador under former Director, the Reverend Doctor Sean Forde. I continue striving to fill his shoes.

I see my task as one of building connections. The primary tool for this is called an Ambassador-Gram...a graphic glimpse at timely LMM events and initiatives. Hopefully you have seen one... but if not, see an example here on this slide. These are sent out to a nationwide network of Ambassadors quarterly. The Ambassadors then are asked to simply forward the Ambassador-Gram to their own network of acquaintances. The hope is that their friends will be more likely to open and read an email from someone they are familiar with than from a corporate LMM mailing list. Also, LMM gains from the Ambassadors' credibility.

In addition to communicating LMM news, Ambassadors also make up their own important network of Christian brothers - meeting together via Zoom just before the release of each Ambassador-Gram. It is inspiring, affirming, and educational to meet, listen to, and pray for all these local leaders from across the country. You can find a list of our current Ambassadors on our LMM webpage under Contacts.

I am also in the process of building contacts with the 65 ELCA Synod offices. We hope to minimally see a link to LMM on their websites and possibly even a mention of LMM activities. In a perfect world, the Ambassadors generously serve as synod liaisons - but that largely is still a work in progress.

Finally, our quarterly digital newsletter "foundations" is a great resource for LMM news and inspirational stories from our Bold and Daring men. If you are not currently receiving "foundations", you may access it from our webpage. Many thanks go out to Vic Williams, our editor and Kathryn Brewer, our designer.

We are always searching for more Ambassadors. If you are interested, or if you know someone who might be, please contact me through the LMM webpage.

Peace be with you!

Conference of Bishops - Bishop Erik Gronberg (unable to attend), John Sundquist read his letter to the attendees.

WELCA – Lynette Todd

Greetings from WELCA and appreciation for work of LMM

Reports from the Executive Director and staff – John Sundquist

- Thank you, Lynette. I am John Sundquist and Executive Director of Lutheran Men in Mission, greetings from the Third Coast on the beautiful shores of SW Michigan. I think it is fair to say that last year was the most challenging year Lutheran Men in Mission has ever faced. Between the pandemic, travel restrictions and the challenges every nonprofit and church faced it was a difficult and interesting year. Yet I also feel LMM had one of our greatest years of growth and innovation.
- We have continued our work of preparing LMM for the future. Embracing our mission to intentionally disciple men to be bold, daring followers of Jesus Christ, building on the foundation that was been laid before us. Looking to the future and the challenges it will bring. Being intentional in everything we did, basing our decisions on one simple question; does this intentionally disciple men to be bold, daring followers of Jesus Christ and further our ministry?
- As I hope you remember that last year, we welcomed three new Ministry Directors (Jimmy Smith, Antoine Cummins, and Dave Newman) and what a great addition they have been. They have brought new life, new ideas and new perspectives to our ministry. I want to give special recognition to Dave Newman this past year he has expanded the Ambassador program and reached out to the Synods and individual churches. Resulting in a great and broader network of men and partners to share the wonderful ministry God has called LMM to do.
- This past year we have had wonderful participation and outcomes from both the weekly Bible and Book Studies. Men across the country have gathered Wednesdays to life our country, churches, and communities up in prayer. And even in the midst of the pandemic OYTL found a way. We took our time but put protocols together to hold 3 safe, socially distance OYTL's and now that the world is opening up, we are looking forward to holding them in new places and settings, at Del Ray, Florida this Labor Day in a suburban setting.
- Thanks to the hard work of Lon Buss and the other volunteers who have been hard at work at the not so glamorous work of improving our website. Additionally, as Jason Adams shared Project Twelve has had its best year to date. This ecumenical effort is reaching new and younger men. IF you haven't looked at the new Lifeline studies, I encourage you to do so. In the end these 36 new, original studies will be a free resource that will help groups and congregations build new and stronger relationships within the men of their church and community.
- And as you have already now, we remain committed to actively working with men and local congregations to disciple men 1 on 1 through our Discipleship

programs. Never ceasing in our efforts to help local churches build strong engaged men's ministries that transform men into bold, daring followers of Jesus Christ.

- Of course, I would be remiss in not mentioning the past years Bold Gathering's. We tackled difficult and inspiring topics from Racial Justice to personal stories of call and service as we had 12 Stories from the heart that challenged our hearts as well.
- I look forward to gathering with our men across the country. To lift our voices in song and celebration. To give them hugs of support and love and that day is coming soon, until then I want to thank the faithful who continue to support LMM and the work we together are engaged in. None of what we do would be possible if not for the generous support of individuals like you and those who have come before. You make all this possible, through your prayers, time and financial support, you have been responsible for the lives of thousands of men, their families and churches being transformed into bold, daring followers of Jesus Christ. Today those whom you have touched are the hands and feet of Christ to the communities in which they live.
- As I often say; our work is not done! We continue to need and covet your prayers and financial support and as Lon shared so eloquently, your time; together we can make a real and lasting impact in our world for the sake of the Kingdom regardless of the obstacles we face as we intentionally disciple men by personally modeling the character of Jesus by living a lifestyle intended to help transform them from having an inward focus to a culture of naturally loving and serving our neighbors. With your help, prayers and support we will continue our mission to intentionally disciple men to be bold, daring followers of Jesus Christ.
- Now I want to introduce you to the rest of the LMM staff. I am blessed to work along side these creative, insightful, and talented men of God. Kevin Burke is our Discipleship Consultant; Kevin resides in Irmo, South Carolina, and Kyle Pederson who serves as our Emerging Ministry Consultant and is in Des Moines, Iowa. First up I would like to invite Kevin to share a few words.

Kevin Burke – Discipleship Consultant

- Appreciation for all partners in this ministry
- Personal faith growth from work of other contributors to online outreaches e.g. Advent and Lenten prayers, Bold Gatherings, book studies, Epiphany worship, ministry sustainability study – encouraged others to take part

Kyle Pedersen – Emerging Ministries Consultant

- Expanding of digital engagements citing ministries highlighted above and including the physical/mental health focus thru a panel of professionals and virtual cycling groups.
- Welcomes ideas from others

Response to any questions/comments – Hal

- Jay Wenger asked for financial forecast – Hal commented on lag in donations with hope for improvement. Rich added an enhanced focus on donor relations and giving options.

Concluding remarks - Hal

- Shared a letter from a man who benefited from participation in online bible study and the group that encouraged and supported him.

Closing prayer - Jason