

VOYAGEUR'S LUTHERAN MINISTRY 2008 ANNUAL MEETING
United Methodist Church, Grand Rapids, MN
February 7, 2009

Music: Dan Thureen led those in attendance with music selections.

The meeting was called to order by President Dennis Anderson at 11:15 a.m. Devotions were provided by Pastor M. Stoller of Cook & Katya Ouchakof of Madison, WI.

A MOTION BY BILL BAUMAN WAS MADE WITH SUPPORT FROM DAVE HOLMES TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF 2008. MPU

Reports:

- President: D. Anderson reviewed his report with highlights of VLM finances & the building project at Vermilion. Future of VLM is excellent, but we need to use the camps as an extension of our church. We need the member churches to step up and meet their PCM obligations. Why do we need the camps? We sit by the camp-fires, experience the presence of God while listening to the message, spreading the word. We ask for your support.
- Executive Director: Joel Abenth indicated he visited 40 churches this past year; established visibility with the synod; had informational meetings for delegates so they know what is expected of them while supporting their camps. Joel also introduced Rick Scheuring as the new Maintenance Director at the Vermilion site.
- Camp Director: Paul Leslie reviewed his time with VLM and highlighted segments of his report included within the annual report itself. He thanked everyone for their support over his past ten years as Camp Director.
- Finance: Daryl Solem reviewed the finance report since Mike Bradley was absent. The number of campers was down this year which precipitated the low revenue flow. The PCM of all churches would have given VLM an additional \$100,000 if all churches would have met their commitment in the last 4 years. Daryl also reviewed the endowment fund.

A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE ABOVE REPORTS WAS MADE BY DON JACOBSON WITH SUPPORT FROM DON HAGESTUEN. MPU

Old Business:

Vermilion Kitchen:

Joel Abenth reviewed the Vermilion kitchen condition and referenced page 19 of the annual report. He will give more detail later under new business.

New Business:

Budget: Joel reviewed the proposed 2009 budget. He indicated it was a "bare bones" budget for this next year given the state of the economy. He also noted that the budget contained no salary increases for the period.

It was moved by Sarah Bustrom to approve the 2009 budget as submitted. Her motion was supported by Tom Whittaker. MPU

BY-LAW CHANGES:

Joel Abenth presented changes to the VLM By-Laws as printed in the annual report. Part 2 was accepted with no comments; Part 3 received comments about voting, participation & payment of the PCM obligation. Part 7-1 received some comments about the number of total Board of Directors. Part 7-5 was clarified by Joel with a comment that members could be from the ELCA and/or other denominations.

It was moved by Bob Oswald with support by Dave Holmes that the By-Law changes be approved. MPU

Board Nominations:

Joel Abenth provided information regarding candidates recommended by the Nominating Committee and recommended that the following individuals be elected to the VLM Board: Jeff Gilbert, Sharon Bloomquist, Don Hagestuen & Barb Murray to fill current openings on the Board.

A motion was made by Bill Bauman with support by Sonja Hagestuen to elect the above individuals to the Board. MPU

Other:

Paul Leslie was recognized for his service to VLM for the past ten (10) years and presented with gifts from the Board, churches & individuals.

Announcements:

- Camp Vermilion's 50th Anniversary will be held on July 12th -17th this summer.
 - There will be a Thrivent Partnership dinner this evening at the Sawmill in Grand Rapids.
- A reminder about the 2009 Calendar highlights, workdays and Staff training was given by Joel Abenth.

Having no further business, **a motion was made by Jessica Cox with support by Don Hagestuen to adjourn the meeting at 3 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe Dennie, Secretary

"The greatest gift of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it"!

***We Thank
Dennis Anderson, Catherine Anderson &
Rev. Emily Hegener-Rova
for their wonderful service
to the board
and to both
Camp Hiawatha and Camp Vermilion***

VLM Budget - Revenue

	2009 Actual	2009 Budget	2010 Proposed
Annual Fund			
Congregational Support	\$72,149.00	\$65,000.00	\$71,500.00
Women of the ELCA	\$6,048.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Builders	\$64,626.00	\$52,000.00	\$57,140.00
Groups & Individuals	\$24,505.00	\$28,000.00	\$23,600.00
Offerings	\$20,339.00	\$11,000.00	\$15,000.00
Fund Raisers	<u>\$16,587.00</u>	<u>\$8,000.00</u>	<u>\$15,500.00</u>
Annual Fund Income	\$204,254.00	\$169,000.00	\$187,740.00
Special Funds			
Memorials	\$12,784.00	\$6,000.00	\$8,200.00
Grants	\$13,683.00	\$12,000.00	\$10,800.00
Other Grants	<u>\$1,000.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Special Funds Income	\$27,467.00	\$18,000.00	\$19,000.00
Program Income			
In-Camp Revenue	\$178,763.00	\$221,100.00	\$194,300.00
Hockey Camp	\$18,335.00	\$30,750.00	\$29,000.00
Family Camp	\$2,995.00	\$10,000.00	\$8,500.00
Half-Pint Camp	\$2,640.00	\$2,625.00	\$3,975.00
L.O.S.T. formerly SHS	\$1,825.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
Fine Arts Camp	\$0.00	\$9,700.00	\$3,325.00
Houseboat Camp	\$10,580.00	\$14,304.00	\$35,300.00
Day Camp	\$25,536.00	\$20,500.00	\$24,280.00
BWCA Voyageur Canoe	\$51,401.00	\$50,020.00	\$97,850.00
Canteen	\$32,640.00	\$33,925.00	\$38,500.00
Retreat Income	<u>\$67,235.00</u>	<u>\$57,500.00</u>	<u>\$61,600.00</u>
Total Program Income	\$391,950.00	\$451,424.00	\$498,630.00
Misc. Income	<u>\$39,972.00</u>	<u>\$15,000.00</u>	\$12,600.00
Misc. Income	\$39,972.00	\$15,000.00	\$12,600.00
Total Revenue	\$663,643.00	\$653,424.00	\$717,970.00

VLM Budget - Expense

	2009 Actual	2009 Budget	2010 Proposed
General Administration			
Year-Round Payroll	\$175,273.00	\$185,991.00	\$205,440.00
Pension/Medical/Taxes	\$91,662.00	\$80,083.00	\$84,163.00
Travel/Education	\$2,933.00	\$2,050.00	\$2,930.00
Office Administration	\$43,481.00	\$37,879.00	\$50,562.00
Financial Development	\$6,899.00	\$8,400.00	\$11,800.00
Property Insurance	\$22,218.00	\$28,280.00	\$22,800.00
Interest	\$1,705.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Misc. Administration	\$6,002.00	\$1,526.00	\$8,610.00
Canteen	<u>\$22,494.00</u>	<u>\$23,000.00</u>	\$24,790.00
General Administration Total	\$372,667.00	\$367,209.00	\$411,595.00
 Program Expense			
VLM Staffing Expense	\$7,730.00	\$7,760.00	\$8,450.00
Community Brochures/PR	\$2,590.00	\$2,600.00	\$2,600.00
Misc. Summer Community	\$7,964.00	\$11,550.00	\$10,950.00
Day Camp	\$1,112.00	\$700.00	\$1,200.00
Hockey Camp	\$5,093.00	\$8,000.00	\$6,625.00
Houseboat Program	\$5,139.00	\$7,000.00	\$17,750.00
Fine Arts	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$600.00
Summer Staff	\$99,667.00	\$89,525.00	\$103,000.00
Food	\$46,283.00	\$53,000.00	\$49,900.00
Retreat Program	\$1,297.00	\$2,650.00	\$1,000.00
Retreat Staff	\$14,376.00	\$8,000.00	\$10,300.00
Retreat Marketing	\$488.00	\$400.00	\$500.00
Retreat Food	\$8,839.00	\$8,000.00	\$12,200.00
Misc. Retreat	\$0.00	<u>\$2,000.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Program Expense Total	\$200,578.00	\$202,185.00	\$225,075.00
 Facility Expense			
Maintenance	\$20,559.00	\$26,800.00	\$18,000.00
Utilities	\$38,229.00	\$44,000.00	\$43,200.00
Vehicles	\$13,167.00	\$11,516.00	\$13,800.00
Misc. Facilities	\$5,428.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Special Projects	<u>\$29,395.00</u>	\$9,000.00	\$5,300.00
Facility Expense Total	\$106,778.00	\$92,316.00	\$81,300.00
Expense	\$680,023.00	\$661,710.00	\$717,970.00

VLM is honored to present the following new congregations for membership approval in 2010:

Concordia Lutheran Church – Duluth, MN

Our mission statement at Concordia in Duluth is: "To know Christ Jesus and the power of his resurrection." VLM offers young people opportunities to come to know Jesus through the beauty of nature, the richness of the programming, the engaging worship, and, most importantly, through the lives and witness of the Staff. Faith is caught as well as taught, and VLM is a place where it's easy to be caught by the love of God.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church – Duluth, MN

Jesus once asked his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" When he asked them this question, they were in Caesarea Philippi, a distance away from their usual surroundings. Reflecting on Jesus' life and their relationship with him, the confession of Peter, and Jesus' words about discipleship that follow strengthened them in their own identity as disciples. Gloria Dei sees Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry as a partner in such discipleship - not only for youth but for disciples of all ages. Sometimes being a distance away from usual surroundings, for summer camp or a retreat, or having a day camp in a familiar setting but an out of the ordinary schedule, can help growing disciples focus again on what matters on our journey of faith - relationships with God, with one another, and with all creation.

Roseville Lutheran – Roseville, MN

VLM is a valued ministry partner to our youth ministry at Roseville Lutheran in a number of ways. The most obvious is the opportunity for our younger students to travel into "God's great northwoods," and to experience worship, fellowship and fun in an amazing setting. Of equal importance, though, is the many young adults from RLC that have given their summers at Hiawatha and Vermilion exploring their own gifts for ministry and answering God's call to share the Gospel.

2009 Board Nomination Report

The VLM Corporation base is quite large and it is our hope to have a good representation from our entire area on our Board. Hence, the Board of Directors increased by two members in 2007 to an overall size of the Board to 11 members. According to our By-Laws - each Board Member may be elected to 2 repetitive terms. Below is an overview of Board members (a full list of Board members is on page 5 of this report):

Current Term expires at the end of 2011

Don Hagestuen – First, Aitkin (2nd term)
Jeff Gilbert – Bethany, Deer River (1st term)
Barb Murray – Littlefork Lutheran (2nd term)
*Sharon Bloomquist – Bethlehem, Grand Marais (1st term)

Current Term expires at the end of 2010

*Dennis Anderson – Bethany, Loman (2nd term)
Mike Bradley – Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Duluth (2nd term)
*Rev. Emily Hegener-Rova, United in Christ, Gilbert (1st term)

Current Term expires at the end of 2009

**Catherine Anderson – First, Duluth (1st term)
Sarah Buström – Zion, Grand Rapids (1st term) Re-applying
Joe Dennie – Our Savior's, Virginia (1st term) Re-applying * resigning end of 2009 term
Darryl Solem – Zion, Grand Rapids (1st term) Re-applying ** resigned July 2009

Following is our slate of nominees for VLM's Board of Directors. We've asked them to share a little bit about them-

selves...

Returning Board Member Sarah Bustrom

Family Introduction & Profession:

Hello! I'm Sarah Bustrom. I have a wonderful husband, Kirk and three lovely children, Brian (16), Alec (14) and Kate (10). I spend my days teaching Mathematics at Hill City School, just south of Grand Rapids. My evenings are spent at the pool with the kids. I coach Kate's swimming team and help out as much as I can with the boy's high school team. Kirk owns his own business as an athletic trainer in Duluth.

What hobbies do you enjoy?

As a family, we enjoy boating, golf, yard football, camping in the BWCA, fishing, downhill skiing and, of course, swimming. Individually, I like to have quiet time to read, walk and knit. I have also been known to participate in a triathlon or half marathon on occasion. I am really hoping to do more of that this summer.

How have you been active at VLM or other Outdoor Ministries in the past?

For the past few years I have been a VLM Board member. I have been involved with VLM since 1979 when I first went there as a camper. In 1989, 1990, and 1991 I was a Staff member. I started sending my kids to camp in 1999 and they have not missed a year since. In 2009 I was back at VLM as the Camp Vermilion Weekend Host. I can't get enough!! I love it!

Why are you interested in serving on the VLM Board at this time?

I remain interested in VLM because of the past, present and future. I want to see VLM continue for many, many generations. It is a place I call home and want my kids and many others to call home. It is a special place. I want to see it serving and enlightening others for years to come.

Returning Board Member Joe Dennie

Family Introduction:

Born in Duluth, raised in Wrenshall ("Cabbage Capitol of the World"), graduated in 1961 (so my ring could be put on any way & it still was 1961 when you looked at it), graduated UMD 1966, moved to Virginia, MN - taught in Virginia (automotive) for 10 years, took a job in Eveleth for 24 years with MnSCU; retired in 1999, moved to Lake Vermilion in 1999, built my home and moved the rest of the family in 2001. Have 5 children (2 girls/3boys) & 6 grandchildren. Was on VLM Board in 1980's & was again asked to be a member in 2007.

Profession:

Educator at high school & Administrator at college level.

What hobbies do you enjoy?

Woodworking, snowmobiling, boating, vacations & sightseeing.

How have you been active at VLM or other Outdoor Ministries in the past?

As a Board member, parent of a camper, camper (Men's Retreat), worker & supporter.

Why are you interested in serving on the VLM Board at this time?

To assist in making sure the camp (s) stay around for a long time since those who attend camp will be the lifeblood of all future churches.

Returning Board Member Darryl Solem

Family Introduction: Wife Kathy, hunting dog Kaja.

Profession: Retired from CH Robinson Company - Logistics/Transportation Manager.

What hobbies do you enjoy? Golfing, Hunting, Fishing, Travel, Curling, Snowmobiling.

How have you been active at VLM or other Outdoor Ministries in the past? VLM with Board and Houseboat Captain.

Why are you interested in serving on the VLM Board at this time? It is a wonderful ministry that touches so many lives in God's great Northwoods.

New Board Nominee Sholom Blake

Home Congregation: St. Andrews

Family Introduction:

Wife – Jenny, Children: Mercede – 16 (Daughter), Reid – 12 (Son), Justine – 11 (Daughter)

Profession: Certified Public Accountant

What hobbies do you enjoy?

Fishing, hunting & coaching youth hockey

How have you been active at VLM or other Outdoor Ministries in the past?

I was a camper at Hiawatha as a kid and I performed an audit of the organization's financial statements a few years ago. My two daughters have also been campers at Hiawatha for several years.

Why are you interested in serving on the VLM board at this time?

I see it as an opportunity to give back to an organization that has and will continue to provide great fellowship experiences for me and my family and other families throughout the region.

New Board Nominee: Tom Berkas

Family Introduction: Tom Berkas, married to Becky Berkas, who's a Principal of an Elementary School in the Roseville School District. We live in the northwest corner of Maplewood, met at Augsburg College (though I graduated from the U of Minnesota) and served for over 10 years with ALC and then ELCA Global Missions in Madagascar, which is where I grew up as my parents were ALC missionaries there. Becky and I both worked at camps quite a few years ago. She was at several including Wapo and then Green Lake, while I worked for Wilderness Canoe Base for one summer. Our daughter is a nurse working in the Twin Cities, married to a med student at the University of Minnesota. They both worked at camps (in her case Wapo) when they were younger. Our oldest son is Nathan (Nate), who has worked for VLM for several summers, went there as a camper before that and is currently serving with ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission in South Africa. Our youngest son is a Freshman at Augsburg College and is hoping to work at a camp this summer. Finally, our oh-so-loving and over-protective schnoodle is "Wrigley".

Profession: I'm a professor, primarily at Concordia University where I teach a variety of courses for their MA in Org Management, MA in Leadership & Management and MBA programs. I also teach a couple courses a year for Augsburg College's MA in Leadership program.

What hobbies do you enjoy? Bike riding, reading, swimming, photography.

How have you been active at VLM or other Outdoor Ministries in the past? All 3 of our kids have gone to VLM and I've done some volunteering there. I served on the PCYC Board, representing Roseville Lutheran, in part due to my experience working at Wilderness Canoe Base for 1 summer. Finally, I have assisted our youth ministries' efforts at Roseville Lutheran.

Why are you interested in serving on the VLM Board at this time? Given Roseville Lutheran's use of VLM for several years, it would be nice to be able to help strengthen the links between RLC and VLM. I am also impressed with the ministry of VLM over the years and see it as a very important part of the faith development of our youth (both campers and Staff).

New Board Nominee Paula J. Ziems

Home Congregation: Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Duluth, MN

Family Introduction:

My husband, Patrick, and I have been married for 8 years and we have a 7-year-old son, Benjamin. We adopted Benjamin from Guatemala and brought him home on December 24, 2003. Both my husband and I are very active in our son's life. I coach Ben's soccer team and his flag football team. In addition, Ben is in his first year of Tiger Cubs, and Patrick is his den leader. As a family we love to camp and fish together. We have a 3-year-old English Springer Spaniel named Baxter.

Profession:

I have been involved in youth ministry for over 10 years; serving 7 of those years as a pastor of Youth and Family Ministry. I graduated from Luther Seminary in June 2001 with a Masters of Divinity and a concentration in Youth and Family Ministry. After taking a year off, I returned to ministry this past August, not as an ordained minister, but as

Director of Youth and Family Ministry at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Duluth. Youth Ministry has been, and continues to be, a vitally important part of my life.

What hobbies do you enjoy?

I love to play soccer and am a goalie on a women's recreation league in Duluth. I also love to camp and fish. I just took up ice fishing this year, and am in the process of building my own ice shanty. My husband and I love to ski, and we have a family membership at Spirit Mountain. I love music and play the drums and the bass guitar. In addition, my best friend and I have written a number of songs. I enjoy reading and crocheting in my spare time, as well as spending time with my family and our dog, Baxter.

How have you been active at VLM or other Outdoor Ministries in the past?

Although I am new to VLM, I have been very supportive of and active in outdoor ministries throughout my ministry. In each of my calls as pastor, I have required my Confirmation students to attend Bible Camp at least once during their 3-year Confirmation class, and attended the week-long camp with them. I believe ministry needs to be relational, and Bible Camp is a tremendous way to build upon their faith formation. I've also discovered that, if given the opportunity, the majority of youth who experience a week of Bible Camp are excited to return the following year.

Why are you interested in serving on the VLM Board at this time?

I am interested in serving on the VLM Board because I see this as a tremendous opportunity to help connect VLM to Good Shepherd, our synod, and to the church, as a whole. Although I'm not currently serving as a pastor, I believe my Lutheran education and theological training, along with my experience in youth and family ministry, will help to enhance my experience on the Board. It is also my hope that with my involvement on the VLM Board, more youth from Good Shepherd will attend Bible Camp.

New Board Nominee Bob Pearson

Home Congregation: First Lutheran, Duluth

Family Introduction: Two married daughters: Krista, her husband Jacob, two sons: Kyle and Elijah; Amanda, her husband Blaine, a daughter, Madilyn and a son, Langdon.

Profession: Owns and operates PEARSON'S SEAMLESS SIDING

What hobbies do you enjoy? Woodworking, bird hunting, reading.

How have you been active at VLM or other Outdoor Ministries in the past? NA

Why are you interested in serving on the VLM Board at this time?

I was reintroduced to Camp Vermilion last spring. Noticed the work needing to be done, and my church wanted me involved with VLM.



Summer Camper Mission Funds



2009 VLM Mission Project was split between NEMN Synod Honduras Project and Oak Grove School in Fargo for flood clean-up and rebuilding. VLM Campers donated \$2236.50 this year!

The 2008 VLM Mission Project was divided between: providing Spanish Bibles for our NEMN Synod's companion congregations in Honduras (\$1900), assisting Wilderness Canoe Base, our sister ELCA Canoe Camp that lost numerous buildings in the 2007 spring BWCAW wildfires (\$994), and tree planting at Camp Vermilion (\$994). **VLM Campers donated \$4888 this year!**

The 2007 VLM Mission Project was...the ELCA World Hunger Program which improves the lives of people in need in the United States and around the world by: providing immediate relief for people affected by chronic hunger and poverty; assisting whole communities advocating for justice by changing laws and systems and also educating members of the ELCA in awareness.

All money raised by the World Hunger Appeal comes through specially designated offerings and donations from ELCA members, congregations, and friends. ELCA World Hunger receives no benevolence (general budget money from general ELCA member offerings). **VLM Campers donated \$5295.55!**