SYNOPSIS OF LLC BOARD MEETING
February 23, 2018
Cave Creek, Arizona

The following is a synopsis of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Laestadian Lutheran Church (LLC) held on February 23, 2018, at the Black Mountain Baptist Church Conference Room near the Phoenix Laestadian Lutheran Church in Cave Creek, Arizona. Attending the meeting were all 15 directors. Others in attendance included: Eric Jurmu, Executive Director; Jon Bloomquist, Mission Work Director; Adrian Pirness, Christian Education Director; Rod Nikula, Christian Education Coordinator; Walt Lampi, Publications Director; Elizabeth Juntunen, Recording Secretary/Finance Manager; and Jouko Haapsaari, LLC Shared Pastor/Translator; Harri Vahajylkka, LLC Shared Pastor; Jaakko Kaltakari, Finnish Guest Minister.

Following is a summary of meeting items:

Opening: The meeting opened with a prayer and devotion by Duane Pirness, speaking from John 15:9-17.

Welcome and Overview/Greetings: Chairman Jim Frantti welcomed all to the meeting and remembered Jaakko and Helena Kaltakari, who are completing their month-long mission trip to North America.

Jaakko Kaltakari brought greetings from the SRK Board and staff. He spoke of the many blessings that have come from the mutual work being done by the SRK and LLC. The work is done in the unity and love of the Holy Spirit.

Several former Board members sent greetings and were remembered for their years of service to the LLC.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the October 28, 2017 LLC Board meeting at the LLC office in Loretto, Minnesota, were approved.

Financial Report: Elizabeth Juntunen commented on the 2017 year-end financial statements distributed previously. The checking and savings balance was at $707,000, of which $201,000 is for camp projects, the Atime church project, and Humanitarian Aid. The loans for Kamp Kipa and Silver Springs Land are $527,000. Total 2017 Income was $2,236,000. Expenses totaled $2,208,000. Net income from operations is $28,000. Capital improvement donations are $244,000. Net Income after Capital Improvements donations and expenses was $247,500.

Board members noted how God has given increase to the work and wished to express appreciation to the congregations for their support.

General Spiritual Items:
In a general sense, we continue to enjoy righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit in God's kingdom. However, there remain different understandings among some believers in our day. Questions continue to surface that bring into question teachings of old. This is not isolated to one

area or region but affects throughout North American Zion. The Board's discussion touched on the following items:

Forgiveness
Robe of righteousness
Continual Forgiveness
Office of the Holy Spirit
Christian freedom/liberty

It was acknowledged that there have been some questions and differing understandings on these topics that have caused concern. However, the Board discussion was one of freedom and unity, and it was recognized that the majority of believers want to simply believe according to the timeless teachings of God's Word and Spirit. Meeting attendees spoke about the endeavor of faith, how a believer lives under God's grace and desires to keep faith and a good conscience, living of the power of the gospel.

Communications Items: Eric Jurmu gave an update to the Board on several items.

1. We again appreciate the work of the Arizona congregations and the local planning committee in hosting the 2018 LLC Phoenix Winter Services. The service motto is, *With God all things are possible (*Mark 10:27). Rod Nikula will read a presentation for the congregation and youth evening on the topic, written by Juhani Liukkonen, *The Priesthood of Believers*. A committee continues exploring possibilities of moving the service site to a bigger venue, perhaps already in 2019.
2. Planning continues for the 2018 LLC Summer Services to be held July 5-8 at the Glacier Peak High School, Snohomish Washington. Plans are being made for 3500 service guests. The chosen motto is, *Be still and know that I am God* (Ps. 46:10).
3. Future Summer Services have been approved by the LLC Board as shown below.

   2018 Western Area (Seattle)
   2019 Midwestern Area (Rockford)
   2020 Eastern Area (Ishpeming)
   2021 Midwestern (Menahga)
   2022 Western (Longview)
   2023 Midwestern (Monticello)
   2024 Midwestern (Saskatchewan)

   Planning is underway for Rockford in 2019. A planning committee has been established. Plans are to use the Monticello facility and LLC land at Silver Springs.
4. The Ministers Pension Plan financial report for the year ended December 31, 2017 was attached to the Board agenda as informational.
5. The Humanitarian Aid Committee report for the year ended December 31, 2017 was attached to the Board agenda as informational.
6. Matthew Keranen will begin working at the LLC office July 16, 2018 replacing Walt Lampi as Publications Director.
7. Gordie Kumpula continues his work as property manager at Silver Springs. He and a small committee will work in preparing the property for 2019 Summer Services.
8. Renovation work on the lodge at SLC is nearing completion. Expansion of bunkhouses and sauna building will begin in the spring with completion in time for the 2019 camp season.

9. An interim Camp Board is in place at Prairie Shores Camp in Saskatchewan. Initial plans are being made for local area-wide ownership of the facilities.
10. Plans are being made for joint LLC-SRK-SFC meetings to be held in Sweden May 2-5, 2019.
11. New tables and chairs have been purchased for the LLC office conference room. Also, a new monitor, replacing the old projector, has been installed, enhancing video conferencing. The old tables and chairs will be utilized at SLC.
12. Plans are in place for the LLC Ministers Camp at SLC – April 13-15, 2018.

Committee Reports: The Board heard reports from each of the six Board Committees.

1. **Personnel/Facilities Committee:** Jim Frantti reviewed the Personnel Committee's recent discussions on several items noting Rod Nikula's retirement June 29, 2018. Gordie Kumpula has agreed to continue as Silver Springs property manager. The Board took the following actions:
   a. Approved the appointment of Jessica Nikula to replace Rod Nikula as Christian Education Coordinator.
   b. Approved hiring Adam Wuollet as Kamp Kipa director, replacing Jim Moll.
   c. Approved hiring Steve Laiho as HLC caretaker, replacing Tom Nevala.
   d. Approved hiring Bernice Riutta as HLC Kitchen Manager, replacing Joyce Honga.

2. **Finance Committee:** The Board received a report from the Finance Committee and due to higher hotel costs in the Seattle area, approved a small increase in hotel allowance for Board and staff lodging at 2018 Summer Services. The committee reviewed the finance and budget section of the 2019 Operating Plan. The Finance Committee has reviewed 2017 year-end financial statements, and the Board approved a construction loan for SLC expansion.

3. **Christian Education Committee:** The Board received a report from the Christian Education Committee outlining final plans for shortening Confirmation school to 8 days in 2019. The Board also reviewed and accepted the confirmation school booklet which will be used in support of teachers. This year, three workshops specific for confirmation school teachers will be held introducing the updated confirmation curriculum. Plans are in place to build a new dorm at Kamp Kipa in 2018. Renovation of the lodge building at SLC is nearing completion. Prairie Shores Camp is being renovated in time for the 2018 camp season. A Home & Family workshop will be held in March for LLC congregation contacts. In conjunction with the workshop, members will attend a conference outlining MN Social Services. The Board also approved the formation of an Opisto Alumni committee, with its primary focus is to work with opisto alumni to find ways to increase support for future North American students wishing to attend opistos.

4. **Mission Work Committee:** The Board received a report from the Mission Work Committee. Jon Bloomquist noted that the MW3 (LLC-SFC-SRK) committee continues to make progress on an organizational model for use in foreign mission fields and the development of various operating tools. MW3 operated with a joint budget for the first time in 2017. A simple tracking method was used and it worked well. Webinars were

held for ministers going to Gambia-Senegal, Ghana-Togo, and Kenya in December. The Board received an MW3 Facilities Committee update on church projects being planned in Kwasi Tenten, Kessibo, and Atime. The seven-member Togolese national board that was elected in conjunction with the approval of the new bylaws is now functioning and off to a good start. A confirmation school for 30–40 students will be held in Ghana next August.

5. **Pastoral Committee:** The Board received a report from the Pastoral Committee, noting current spiritual topics. While there are many positive developments in the work of the kingdom, in recent months, the Pastoral Committee work has centered largely around the concerns in Zion. The LLC Ministers camp at SLC April 13–15 will focus primarily on these topics. Plans are being made for the ministers and board members meeting, and the youth presentation at 2018 LLC Summer Services, and for the October ministers and wives camp to be held in Saskatchewan. A column, *doctrine and life – questions of our time*, was added to the VZ. It will be a regular feature on the back page of the VZ.

6. **Publications Committee:** The Board received a report on the activities of the publications staff and Publications Committee. The Board approved Phil Grangroth's request to retire from the committee; he will be replaced by Keith Kariniemi. A two-year publication plan was approved. A model *Policy/Guideline for LLC Congregation Bookstore Sales and Marketing of Publications* has been sent to local congregations. Publications Week 2018 will focus on "What it takes to produce a book or periodical from the people and background story perspective." The May issue of the Voice of Zion will include a 4-page color marketing insert dedicated to LLC Publications. A number of publications are scheduled for release in 2018.

New Business: The Board dealt with the following new business items.

1. **LLC Directors Attending Area-Wide Board Meetings:** To aid in communication and to support the work of local boards of directors, LLC staff directors will continue to attend annual area-wide board meetings. Jon Bloomquist is scheduled for the Western Area Board Meeting in Longview on March 10, 2018. Adrian Pirness is scheduled for the Eastern Area Board Meeting on November 3, 2018, and for the Midwestern Area Board Meeting in Rockford on November 17, 2018.

2. **LLC Annual Meeting and Operating Plan:** The Board will review the 2019 LLC Draft Operating Plan along with the agenda for the July 7, 2018, LLC Annual Meeting at its next meeting on April 12, 2018.

For additional information on any of the LLC Board Meeting items, please contact one of the LLC Board members from your area or the LLC office.