

The Texas District Board of Directors meeting was held on May 21, 2024, at St. John's Lutheran Church, commencing at 8:30 a.m.

The session began with Rev. Jon Thomas welcoming the attendees and providing an overview of the ministry at St. John's, followed by a tour of the church facilities. Rev. Brian Hesse then delivered a devotional based on Acts 2:3-4, setting a reflective tone for the meeting.

An agenda item was the recommendation for a new circuit assignment for Cypress Chapel, which is transitioning to chartered status. Additionally, Rev. Brackman was appointed as the circuit visitor for Circuit 36.

President Newman provided a comprehensive update of his activities, updating the progress of background checks in the call process using a Synod tool called MinistrySafe. This tool is available to anyone working with congregations, marking significant progress in ensuring safety and security.

Spring placements at seminaries were also discussed, with Texas receiving one graduate and three vicars. Newman highlighted the importance of congregations raising local leaders and the support provided through secondary programs like SMP (Specific Ministry Pastor) and EIIT (Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology) to meet worker demand.

Rev. Hesse reported on the by-law updates, noting that no amendments were needed at this time due to recent changes in the Synod by-laws.

Rev. John Davis, along with other Vice Presidents, presented on circuit realignment. The aim is to create more realistic numbers and foster stronger relationships among congregations.

Treasurer Linda Hagge provided a detailed financial update, followed by an overview from the Audit Committee. The audit report, which raised no substantial issues, was approved by the board.

Becca Jones presented on the Texas District Church Extension Fund, providing insights into its operations and impact.

Rev. Dr. Jon B. updated the board on strategic planning and the district's status. He emphasized the collaborative efforts of district team leads in the REACH process, aiming to achieve strategic goals successfully.

Lisa Candido, Director of External Relations, shared results from the Texas Messenger survey and outlined the next steps. She also updated the board on financial support to Texas Partners in Mission.

Rev. Guerra provided mission updates, highlighting several key developments:

- The transition of Gathering Lutheran Church into a chartered congregation.
- The official assignment of five vicars and intern deaconesses during a special service at St. Timothy.
- The certification of new evangelists across the district, with more individuals joining the training program.
- The attendance of 40 pastors, leaders, and evangelists at the Exponential Conference reflects the district's commitment to growth and a mission movement.

The meeting concluded with a sense of accomplishment, driven by the collective efforts of the Texas District leadership and their dedication to their mission.