

NORTH AMERICAN REGION LUTHERAN MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER BOARD VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 27 AND JULY 12, 2020

NORTH AMERICAN REGION  
CALL TO BE FAMILY  
DBA Lutheran Marriage Encounter  
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June 27, 2020 and July 12, 2020

Hello NAR Board Members,

This package provides the minutes of the virtual NAR Board Meetings that were held on June 27 and July 12, 2020 via Zoom.

The minutes record the proceedings of the meeting. We attempt to avoid repeating the contents of the prepared District and Staff reports, so please read the entire package for completeness.

**Please Note:** The posted reports are prepared before the meeting for presentation and discussion. Concerns, requests and proposals may be modified during the meeting, so the reports attached to the minutes may not reflect decisions of the board. Matters of consensus are recorded in the minutes.

**Next NAR Board Meeting:** The next NAR Board meeting TBD

The **Distribution List** for these minutes is as follows: NAR Lay & Clergy Execs, NAR Staff, District Lay & Clergy Execs, District Presenting Couple Coordinators (PCCs), Area Lay & Clergy Contact Couples, Area Presenting Couple Coordinators (APCCs), European Region Lay & Clergy Execs, ILME Chair Couple, Canadian Facilitators, and Canadian Finance Couple.

To accommodate distribution of the minutes, the contents will be organized into several sections for easier downloading and printing. The minutes are available to all presenting couples, at [www.ilme.org](http://www.ilme.org) and at [godlovemarriage.org/document-center](http://godlovemarriage.org/document-center) .

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**Attending NAR Board Members:**

June 27 - Hartmans, Prestons, Fells, Guynns, Guillfoiles, Pedersens, Coles, Engles, Redmans, Ricks, Leinickes.

Saturday, June 27, 2020

Zoom video call. This was originally supposed to be in person meetings on June 26-28, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic, in person meetings could not be held.

Opening prayer by Dave and Linda Pedersen.

Confirmation of Mick and Sandy Preston as NAR executives to replace John and Jennifer Pettinger was completed by email consensus. Verbal confirmation today. Welcomed by all!

Minutes from the January 11, 2020 virtual meeting were approved with the following changes: per Jean Fell, the attempt to register LME as a not-for-profit is not for all states, but only states where we are active and it is required. Currently those states are Colorado, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Washington. The 50 couple weekend mentioned was held by the Anglicans, not World Wide.

**Staff Reports**

Media – Report by Craig and Connie Leinicke

See the 2020 06 Analytics Report in the appendix. They continue to monitor the website to determine trends of what pages couples visit, also how they found the site. Most are from a mobile device. Brochures are still available. Let them know if you need any.

Finance – Report by Dean and Marcia Redman

See attachment in Appendix. There has only been one weekend, with 8 couples, held in 2020 so far. This is mainly due to the Covid restrictions, and will likely keep the numbers down for the rest of the year. This has also affected the Dream Fund balance, which is lower due to stock market drops.

In questioning, it was noted that eBlasts to encountered couples mentioned in January has not happened. Connie stressed that the blog is not something that is paid for by LME, but something she does on her own time, and she has not been able to keep it up. eBlasts to the churches to advertise upcoming weekends are still going. Local areas should be sharing the Continuing the Journey information within their groups, as the Leinicke Group does not have email addresses for everyone. Guynns asked the Leinickes if they are compensated appropriately? They explained that when they use their employees to do things for LME, then they need to charge. Much of what they do is volunteer. They are okay for now. Publicity of weekends is increasingly important.

### **Pending and New Business Matters**

Call for **consensus to eliminate District Finance Couples**. All finance items would go to NAR Finance, currently Dean and Marcia Redman. With fewer weekends being held they can handle the load and it would eliminate multiple bank accounts. Consensus given by video. District Finance Couples will be contacted with details on how to close accounts and transfer funds to Redmans, requesting this be done by July 15 if possible.

Call for consensus to keep registration at \$100 and continue pre-pay for weekends. This brought discussion and questions, do couples not register because of the cost or distrust, what is holding them back? We need to be sure they understand that scholarships are still available. Currently we break out finances in 3 parts, registration, hotel and meals, and the dream fund. The registration helps cover the cost of rooms for the presenters. Why not eliminate registration fee and roll all into fee for the weekend? After much discussion, Kevin Guynn proposed that for 2020 and 2021 we use the Dream Fund to pay the registration fee and only charge couples the actual hotel and meal costs. Still have the Dream talk during the weekend. Be sure it is still clear that scholarships are available. **Consensus was given by video voting to continue the pre-paid weekend system for all 2021 ME Experiences, with no registration fee. Coles and Fells will work on wording for the publicity.**

### **Pilot Outline**

Hartmans, Prestons and Coles are fine tuning the weekend outline from their experiences over 3 events which they presented as a team. They will be sending out soon for areas to pilot. This will include many special touches they have added to make the weekend experience more adaptable to today's couples.

Due to time constraints, the meeting was ended after 3 hours as planned, with a decision to send out dates to continue and complete the planned agenda. Meeting was closed with prayer by Ted Hartman.

July 12, 2020

### **Attending NAR Board Members:**

July 12 – Zoom video call - Hartmans, Prestons, Fells, Guynn (Kevin), Pedersens, Coles, Engles Bates, Spencers, Redmans, Ricks, Leinickes (by phone).

### **Possibilities of Experiences**

The InterFaith Board is now looking at new options. These include virtual events. With the current Covid situation virtual may be the only option. The Anglicans are doing 3RE as a series of date nights from home with Zoom. A suggestion was made to try this with already encountered couples first. They could be anywhere in the country, just need to agree on dates and times. You could send out kits to the couples or find other ways to create interest.

### **Restructuring**

The leadership has proposed that we change from 4 districts to 3, basically combining current Districts 2 and 3 into one. Additional discussion suggested making it two districts, on either side of the Mississippi River. It was decided to table this change until another time.

### **Succession Plan**

It was proposed that current board members bring young newly encountered couples to board meetings to encourage future leadership and mentor them for future positions on the board. Of course this will work better once we are able to meet in person again.

### **App Development**

It has been the desire of the board for several years to develop a mobile app for encountered couples that would offer daily dialogue questions and other encouragement for marriages. The Leinickes will be working with two other newly encountered couples that Prestons know to explore what would be included and costs. They will then develop a proposal and come back to the board with costs.

### **Finance Request**

District 3 has asked for financial approval (see appendix) for ad money for Facebook ads. Leinickes brought in their concerns about the discrimination restrictions they were given when exploring this in the past. Further research is needed before this can be approved. They also asked for finances to create an email distribution list with Gaggle.email at a cost of \$2 per year for each address. They are looking at 100 addresses. Consensus was given for this request.

### **WorldWide Update**

You must use the new WorldWide logo as is. No changes are permitted. Please share it with your communities. Go to [wwme.org](http://wwme.org) for more information.

Next meeting will again be virtual, dates to be determined but probably in a couple of months.

Meeting was closed with prayer led by Ted Hartman.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dan and Charlotte Ricks, NAR Board Secretary Couple