

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
NATIONAL LUTHERAN SECRETARIAT
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2015

The NLS Executive Committee meeting was called to order by Steve Gielda, President, at 7:08 p.m. EDT, on September 21, 2015, via teleconference.

Pastor Doug led us in prayer.

Those in attendance were Steve Gielda, President; Wendy Showalter, VP Outreach; Carol McGill, Secretary; Brenda Accola, Treasurer; Pastor Doug Givan, Spiritual Director; Paul Schmidlin, Executive Director; Diane Purcell, Financial Advisor; Carol J. Reedstrom, Newsletter Editor; and, Rick Hanzlik, Webmaster. Absent: Steve Barnett, VP Administration.

The Minutes of August 9, 2015, were approved as corrected.

Executive Committee Initiatives & Updates

Steve G. has had e-mail exchanges with Ed Broestl, Immediate Past President. Ed is currently serving the Board as "Project Manager" for (i) NLS & Secretariat Best Practices; (ii) NLS Policies; (iii) Pastoral Video Completion; and, (iv) Calendar of Events.

Secretariat Best Practices (A Tool for Novice Lay Directors) – Paul has not had any conversation with Ed regarding this. History of how these came into being should be explained in a cover letter for those who are coming in with no knowledge. Rick will be contacting Ed regarding his position for inclusion in this document.

Policies – Diane asked, "Are we governing or are we not governing?"

Steve G. struggling with the question, "How to define who we are?" "We are an advisory board with a set of policies that we must govern to protect the advisory board." We have to hold the secretariat accountable that they are following to protect the greater good.

Wendy views NLS as advisory; Executive Committee is the governing body.

Paul and Steve G. will work on clarification. Paul to check with Tracy Schmidlin (a past NLS President) regarding this.

Tracy has always used the statement: "We have been charged by the Secretariats to protect the integrity of the movement." It was suggested that this should be used in the opening statement of the Best Practices document.

NLS Policies – This is nearly complete, just needs to be cleaned up. Steve G. will confirm with Ed.

Pastoral Video Completion – Wendy has been in contact with Ed. The presentation has been shortened and tightened it up. There are two audiences: national church leadership and local pastors. The presentation is broken into three smaller presentations. Open-ended questions have been created for the presenter to use during a presentation. A short introduction will precede this longer version.

When can we set a "launch date"? Review this item at Midyear. Launch Jan 2016? This is not on time line that Ed put together. Paul will contact Ed about possible dates.

Calendar of Events – There is an NLS Drop Box on Google Docs. This document will be put in that Drop Box. A column for completion date will be added to this document.

National Gathering – Steve B. has not yet compiled the evaluation results. Have not yet received an updated attendance roster. What is its status? Paul will check on this.

Midyear Meeting – Board members should make their reservations prior to the next Board meeting. Send copies of itineraries to Brenda & Steve G. Steve G. will send out the meeting agenda prior to Thursday, November 12th.

Executive Director -- Paul will forward two applications he has received for the Data Coordinator to Rick. All Regional Coordinators will be in place soon.

Pastor Doug -- Spiritual Director Manual update is in process. Copies will be sent the Board for review and comments. The Spiritual Director Facebook Group presently has 50-some pastors in the group. Currently trying to get a dialogue going and is in the process of arranging a telecom with local VdC groups. Continuing to work on 2019 Gathering being hosted by either INKY or Oregon.

Paul will ask Regional Coordinators to provide e-mail addresses for Spiritual Directors in their area and will forward that information to Pr. Doug.

VPO -- Wendy has read all the Executive Committee meeting minutes posted on the web site, dating back to 2008, trying to gain as much insight as possible regarding outreach activities by past VPOs.

Has shared a telephone call with Tedd and got details as to his communications with two specific locations.

Has spoken with both Steve G. & Paul as to how she can tap into their experiences and knowledge.

Has reviewed the "starting a new secretariat" information on the web site

Has opened communication with folks in the Orlando/Villages area and beginning discussions as to the viability of starting a new secretariat there.

Has had a very brief conversation with Dave Erdman (VPO prior to Steve Gielda). Has another call scheduled for this week.

Treasurer – The financial update should be ready by next meeting.

Carol M. – Has received updated Bylaws from Texas. Will send copy to Diane, Steve G., and Paul.

Carol R. – Next newsletter deadline is November 15th. Notice that there is nothing on website that explains who NLS is.

Diane – Query: Has anyone been in contact with Mark Carson regarding 2013 financials? Steve B. may have info on that. Has received many follow-up questions as a result of her presentations at the Gathering.

Rick – Has not been receiving any input from the Board and asks that we respond to his requests. Still needs to locate the original artwork for the logo. Has contacted Randy Mullins and he does not have it. Next person to try is Bob Northrup. Paul will help track this down.

Next Meeting will be October 19th at 7:00 p.m. EDT.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m. EDT.

Closing prayer – Steve G.

Carol A. McGill
Secretary