

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries' 2024 Annual Meeting
The Maritime Conference Center
Meeting #1: Wednesday, Nov 13 3:30 pm

Prior to meeting start:

Announcements from ELCA seminaries

Announcement of winner of Ipad: Paul Kopjar, Kuriakos, Sylvan Lake, Alberta

Trivia question re oldest camp in ELCA: Camp Okoboji

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by President Dave Jarvis at 3:42 pm

Motion to approve the agenda as presented; seconded and passed by acclaim.

Nominating committee report and explanation of election process

The audience was directed to the Whova app for the Nominating Committee Election Guide

Paper ballots were distributed, and voting proceeded.

Presentation from the Community Expectations Task Force

Matt O'Rear and Rozella Haydee-White presented the work of a 5-person task force - a Community Expectations Agreement - and a process for feedback, education, revision, training and eventually implementation of the document. This Agreement once fully implemented will guide our interactions when we gather together. This document is about creating hospitable, affirming spaces that reflect our organization's core values. The task force asks for survey responses to this Agreement. This survey is available on the lomnetwork.org website.

President's Report - Dave Jarvis

Dave summarized his written report, listing many accomplishments of the organization over the last year. He emphasized one point - our organization fully lived into our purpose as LOM by providing support to Red Willow Ministries and Park River Bible Camp, as well as Bear Creek Lutheran Camp during trying times this last year.

Committee Reports

Development - Jen Hellie

Education - Jessica Jackson

Leadership Training Event (LTE) - Karen Ramage

2025 Budget Presentation - Dallas Shealy

Projected Income of \$275,825 with projected expenses of \$275,617. The overall budget is less than 2024 due to the fact that the annual LOM conference will be supplanted by the OMC Great Gathering. Don emphasized the importance of the auction in providing scholarships and support to camps in crisis.

Brief words from our sponsors:

Mission Investment Fund - Kent Peterson

ELCA Foundation - Marianne Brock, Regional Gift Planner for PA and VA

The meeting was recessed at 4:55 until 11/14/24.

The meeting reconvened on Thursday, Nov. 14 at 1:35 pm

Amanda Rasner for the Auction Committee invited the membership to assist with next year's auction. The auction emcees reported that we raised \$35,274.50. \$3527 of that will go to LOM's emergency fund.

LOM Election Results:

LOM Professional Staff Position 1: ***Leah Pletscher***

LOM Professional Staff Position 2: ***Drew Tucker***

LOM Board Elected Position: ***Phil Geleske***

Nominating Committee Positions:

Grace Crevier

Charlotte Strom

Ecumenical Relations Task Force Report

Nathan Pile reported on the task force's report on their work in writing the bylaws for the new-to-be incorporated Outdoor Ministry Connections. This is a group of outdoor ministry associations, specifically, in addition to LOM: Presbyterian Church, Camp and Conference Association (PCCCA); United Methodist Camp and Retreat Ministries (UMCRM); Episcopal Camps and Conference Centers (ECCC); Outdoor Ministry Association of the UCC (OMA-UCC); Outdoor Ministry Association of the United Church of Canada.

Those bylaws must then be approved by all the member boards (LOM board has already approved). Once all member boards approve, the 501(c)(3) application process can proceed. Nathan also lifted up the Compass Points program, and the two capstone projects presented at this LOM conference today. The OMC is working on starting regional interdenominational leadership gatherings.

Executive Director Report

Don Johnson opened his comments about the great loss that Red Willow Camp and Park River Camp suffered in early summer 2024. He spoke about how the LOM network of camps stepped in to help to provide temporary/substitute staff and financial assistance. Bear Creek Camp suffered a devastating loss of a camper later in the summer and was also supported by the LOM network. Don also mentioned that NovusWay and its members Lutheridge and Lutherock suffered terrible property losses due to Hurricane Helene in September.

Don highlighted this work in the past year: planned giving, annual fund donations, rebranding of LOM, a new curriculum, Total Inclusion work and symposiums, and an LOM Songwriter Workshop held in October, He celebrated part-time employees and territory coordinators, as

well as a number of camps celebrating significant anniversaries. His written report lists in detail personnel transitions at many camps, as well as upcoming 2025 events. Don especially highlighted the Nov 9-13 OMC Great Gathering in NC, including a special day for LOM.

Don recognized and provided certificates to two outgoing LOM Board members - Dave Jarvis and Karen Muse.

Preview of the 2025 Great Gathering Conference

Judy Smith and Colin Grooms described the 2025 Great Gathering Thursday-Sunday, Nov 9-13, 2025 at Lake Junaluska in North Carolina. Early bird registration is open now at omcgreatgathering.com.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Karen Muse
Secretary