

**Christ in Media Institute Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
*Friday 23 September 2011 - 1:30 pm, Luther High School, Onalaska WI*

Present: Don Moldstad (chair), Dennis Behr, Greg Schibbelhut, Deb Uecker (via Skype), Tom Kuster (director), and guests Pat McGuire and James Mahnke. Excused: Bill Bukowski (in Rome on sabbatical)

1. Don Moldstad opened the meeting with a Scripture reading and prayer.
2. Chairman Moldstad called the meeting to order. Greg Schibbelhut volunteered to be recorder.
3. The Board reviewed previous planning for the fall 2012 **Media in World Missions Conference**: Dates: October 12-14, 2012; Place: Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato MN, USA; Preliminary Theme: Exploring the Six (or Seven?) Challenges.

Each of the six previously identified challenges was reviewed, and an additional one added: "Discipleship: How can scattered believers, created by the Spirit through mass media Gospel messages, be gathered and nurtured in their faith?"

Dennis suggested regarding Technology, a possible framework for discussion could involve these points: Purpose, Acquisition, Storage, Manipulation, Distribution.

Prior to the conference: Invitations have been sent to faculty members at MLC, BLC, and WLC, encouraging them to find ways to guide their students into conference-related research projects.

During the conference: we should consider live-streaming conference sessions. The Board will likely be the core of the ad hoc committee charged with identifying action items. Rather than saving all action items for the final session (some participants may leave early), ways will be found to inject action items into the conference discussion as the conference goes along.

Conference Schedule: Some discussion occurred on whether to shorten the session on "Stewardship/ finances," or to set it up only for certain participants outside the general session. Consensus seemed to indicate that this aspect of the work is very important, and that the general audience could be helpful in finding ways to address this challenge.

Invitations to Mission Workers: A short list of missionaries to be invited to be discussion and panel leaders was considered. Three names were selected for invitation (Tom will write to them), and several others remain under consideration pending further inquiries. Conference support (stipends) will preferably go to those with overseas mission experience.

Tom will pursue the matters of a conference logo, brochure, posters and other such items at Bethany. Jim Mahnke suggested using an online site (such as regonline.com) for

registration. A registration fee in the area of \$25/person was suggested, with special lower rates for students.

Budget: A preliminary conference budget was examined, with total cost in the neighborhood of \$18,000. Dennis suggested rounding all numbers up to be realistic. The major expense is transportation for mission workers; Tom will contact the various synodical mission boards for help with this expense. Dennis suggested engaging a grant writer to help with finances.

Don volunteered to lead arrangements for conference worship.

4. Current opportunities: Opportunities in the US through the BLC Production Company and through Multi-lingual Publications (WELS) were briefly mentioned. Pat McGuire presented a detailed illustrated report of the many challenges facing the work in Mexico. An outline regarding how to proceed with a south Asian satellite opportunity was approved by the Board, pending prior approval by appropriate synodical boards.

5. Educational activities for students and others: The previously mentioned invitation to research for college students was reviewed and approved, as was the third annual Christian screenstory competition for next spring. Tom reported on materials he has gathered to support a Christian screenwriting unit for high school students; he gave a copy to Greg, and will send another to Carrie Pfeifer at St. Croix LHS for review and comments. The Board approved this educational venture.

6. Outreach and networking: forming “networking opportunities” (NetOpps): The Board encouraged Tom to continue developing the proposal for forming online interest groups involving students, teachers, media industry professionals, and mission worker professionals. Questions about format and procedures remain to be answered.

7. Organizing the Board: Tom read a letter from President Bruss at Bethany appointing him as Executive Director of CMI for a three year term, and pledging routine office support for CMI for the foreseeable future. The matter of choosing an executive assistant from the Bethany staff was postponed.

8. Financial report: The only changes since the last meeting involved expenses from that meeting.

9. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 2, 2012, at Wisconsin Lutheran College in Milwaukee. Precise time will be set later.

10. Don closed the meeting with prayer at about 4 pm.

Recorded by Greg Schubbelhut