

Sugar Creek Bible Camp
Minutes of 2025 Annual Meeting
February 23, 2025

1) Welcome

- a) Devotion: The assembly was led in a devotion by Board President Carla Stanton reminding us that we all matter. Children are especially reminded that they matter—aside from achievements, posts, clothes, money, etc. when they attend Camp and learn about the unconditional gift of love Christ provides.
- b) Introduction of the Board of Directors by President Carla Stanton.
- c) Introduction of Staff by Executive Director, Jesse Klosterboer
- d) Minutes from the 2024 Annual Meeting were approved unanimously.

2) Reports

- a) Directors Report
 - i) Several of the statistics and the story behind the statistics in the “Your Ministry Impact: 2024 in Numbers” were shared.
 - ii) Camper numbers were down last year from the previous year, continuing a 20-year decline in camper registration. It was noted that this is a trend, particularly across faith-based camps, as children are showing a preference for screen time v. play or interaction-based childhood activities.
 - iii) We need to grow our camper numbers for both the success of Sugar Creek and for the health of children. A screen-based childhood often leads to an increase in emotional and physical problems. Studies, including those by Dr. Jake Sorenson, show that outdoor camp ministries often counteract these negative effects.
 - iv) On a positive note, Summer 2025 camp registrations are above where they were this time last year.
 - v) Costs increased last year but so did donations. Jesse highlighted several very substantial and important gifts including a brand new Bobcat Skid Loader, a minivan, and a horse.
 - vi) Sugar Creek is taking part in a 5-year project funded by a grant to the La Crosse Area Synod from the Lily Endowment titled “Engaging Children in Worship.” This brings us approximately \$20,000 annually towards program elements to connect kids in participatory ways with worship experiences, both at camp and in their home communities of faith.
 - vii) Jesse personally invited all present at the assembly to like and share Sugar Creek’s social media posts and to talk with us about your congregation’s needs so we can support those needs wherever possible.

- b) Special Report from Development and Marketing Committee Chair Addison Arndt
 - i) Shared news of the success of the Quilt and Golf Outing fundraisers.
 - ii) Discussed marketing efforts including: (1) Hiring of Tic Tac Toe, a Lutheran-based marketing firm to get the word out about Sugar Creek. This firm made two long and three short form videos that we can use as we see fit. (2) Sending print newsletters biannually and camp brochures in the winter. (3) Continued focus on social media. He asked that the assembly assist in spreading the word about Sugar Creek by pulling out their phones, liking and then following Sugar Creek's Facebook page.
 - iii) Introduced the "We Want You" bookmark that was handed out at the end of the meeting reminding the assembly that Tuesdays are "Volunteer Tuesdays." We are always in need of more volunteers, especially since our amazing longtime volunteers are aging.
- c) Sugar Creek Bible Camp Trust Foundation Treasurer Paul Arena directed attention to the report included in the handouts and gave a brief summary.
- d) Carla shared that we would be playing "Bingo" throughout the meeting to share additional information about the year at Sugar Creek.

3) Financial Reports

- a) Board Treasurer, Ed Johnson, reviewed expenditures year over year, highlighting a number of line items that were of particular interest. He noted that the Board opted to extend our line of credit when finances were tight last fall, but we have not needed to utilize those funds. He then shared the 2025 Proposed Budget, again highlighting important points including a goal to increase camp program enrollment by 20%.
- b) Motion to approve the 2025 Proposed Budget by Pastor Steve Meyer, second by Pastor Harald Bringsjord, and unanimously approved by the assembly.
- c) A report of the audit of 2024 financial records showed no concerns. A motion to approve the audit was made by Ed Johnson, second by Brenda Skittone, and unanimously approved by the assembly.

4) Elections and Proposals

- a) President Carla Stanton shared that her tenure on the Board was complete but that it was a joy and privilege to serve in this capacity. She offered a farewell and thank you to the other board members whose time on the Board was complete: Kristen Swedlund, Pastor Lori Kleppe, and Pastor John Twiton.
- b) The assembly was directed to the screen where a list of Board candidates was displayed including: for election to a 2nd term: Bryce Griffin, Ed Johnson, and Dr. Ann Marty; and for election to open positions: Jared Ingenthron, Marie Leafblad, Pastor Holly Slater, and Lynn Rider. No nominations were made from the floor. A motion for a unanimous ballot was made by Pastor Harald

Bringsjord, second by Pastor Steve Meyer and unanimously approved by the assembly.

- c) The Trust Foundation Board nominees: Michael Douglass, Suzanne Bartels, and Ed Johnson (as Board liaison), were presented. Brenda Skittone made a motion for approval of the full slate of candidates, second by Dawn Barney and unanimously approved by the assembly.
- d) Carla presented a proposal to allow the executive team to nominate candidates rather than forming a separate Nominating Committee. A motion to approve this proposal was made by Pastor Lucy Hardie, second by Brenda Skittone, and unanimously approved by the assembly.

5) Homework

- a) Delegates and the assembly were reminded to spread the word about Sugar Creek Bible Camp, invite children and families to attend camp (with a goal of 90 more individuals attending camp this summer), direct Thrivent Choice Dollars to Sugar Creek if so moved, and that Sugar Creek is open 52 weeks per year and can be enjoyed through programmed events and cabin and other facility rental.

6) Other Business

- a) Prize drawings were held with several assembly members receiving an assortment of prizes.
- b) The meeting closed with Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacey Markuson, Secretary