EXTRAORDINARY LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

Board Of Directors Public Update September 2026

1. **Interim Executive Director Update highlights for September**
    - Roberto has been focusing on building relationships across the church to find opportunities for connection around ELM's ministry and mission.
        i. This includes attending installations, events, and celebrations around the country
        ii. Participated in an ongoing international leadership summit at the Vatican, where Roberto was the only Lutheran participant and the only leader representing a queer-focused ministry. He will be attending this gathering again in November.
    - Churchwide and Ecumenical connections
        i. Continued conversations with phoenix rahel, Project Coordinator for Queer Lutherans at the ELCA Churchwide Organization, learning more about resources currently in

development and identifying opportunities for collaboration.

ii. Other conversations include ELCA Innovation Lab, Wartburg Seminary, and ReconcilingWorks around resource sharing and connection

- Wanting to improve communication within ELM and Proclaim — looking for grant funding to support a redesign of the website

2. Financial update

- Little change in finances since June - regular giving is low, but endowments are supporting us for now. Expenses have been low due to low discretionary spending.
- The board approved a $500 request from Rev. Luke Harris-Ferree to support a TDOR Service planning and Hymn Festival featuring only out trans hymn writers. This money came from the board travel budget.

  i. The board also made note to develop a policy around how much we can pull from endowments each year to support requests like this.

3. Proclaim Community Update

- No major updates, but Roberto is still seeking more ways to connect with the existing Proclaim community, especially around how to connect with and support our more at-risk members.
- The board is planning a larger conversation around restructuring how and where Proclaim conversations/connections happen, especially due to how online spaces have grown increasingly less safe.