

Briarwood Lutheran Ministries
Description of the Director Role
Spring 2023

Briarwood Lutheran Ministries was incorporated September 11, 1999. At that time the stated objectives of the corporation were to be...A ministry of service to people of all ages and the congregations and synods of the ELCA, the Corporation seeks:

1. To be an integral part of the life and ministry of the church.
2. To be a servant of the gospel in outreach and to be a resource to the community.
3. To provide Christ centered programs which meet the needs of the constituency.
4. To provide opportunities to develop an awareness of and a sense of responsibility for our environment.
5. To provide quality training for staff, governing bodies and volunteers.
6. To provide and maintain safe, functional and environmentally sensitive facilities.
7. To serve other units of the church and to work cooperatively with them in providing services.
8. To provide programs for young and old that enhance the development of faith in God through Jesus Christ and that promote the development of the whole person (body, mind, and spirit) in reaching the God given potential accorded each person.

Observing that the vast majority of these objectives can continue to be accomplished without the liability of operating a large facility and managing staff, the proceeds of the sale, after related costs of the sale and expenses, will be utilized to establish the “Briarwood Legacy Endowment.”

This endowment’s purpose will be to continue the objectives of the providing leadership development and support for NT-NL synod congregations including but not limited to...

1. Providing scholarships and financing to ensure NT-NL youth of all congregations can access outdoor ministry, synod youth discipleship programming, and other youth and young adult programming. Preferencing ministries of the ELCA.
2. Continuing to fund lay and rostered educational opportunities at sites around the territory of the synod as well as online.
3. Supporting leadership development in the synod including scholarships/stipends for NT-NL Seminarians and transitional ministry in places deemed essential for the synod’s mission.
4. Providing financial resources to support congregations doing outreach ministry to their context. Particularly those congregations seeking to serve historically marginalized communities, communities of color, and immigrant communities.
5. Other purposes that fulfill the initial objectives of the corporation.

The Briarwood Lutheran Ministries incorporation is not tied to owning property resources. As such it shall continue on in a modified way. The current board’s service will end with the sale of the property. The constitution of Briarwood does not specify the number of directors required. As such 3 board members (the Briarwood Executive Team) will be appointed by the NT-NL Synod Council.

These directors will work with the NT-NL Synod Council executive team and the office of the bishop to ensure proper investment of the sale proceeds. Protecting and growing the corpus while providing annual distributions to ensure the objectives are achieved will be their charge. Directors will be active members of an NT-NL congregation, serve a two year term, renewable once, and have the endorsement of their pastor or conference dean.

The directors will meet three times per year prior to the regularly scheduled meetings of the synod council either online or in person to ensure accountability and the safety of the endowment. They will prepare at that meeting a report to the synod council meeting. One of their primary tasks will be to work with the investment firm to ascertain the appropriate disbursement of funds from the endowment on an annual basis and communicate that to the synod council.

Funds will be disbursed once per annum. These funds will be held in a synod designated account and distributed to support ministries that fulfill the purposes of the endowment as designated by the board and listed 1-5 above. Funds will be distributed at the recommendation of the synod council executive team in coordination with the synod council finance team.

The directors will be supported by the NT-NL Synod admin staff to ensure proper communications and accounting for the funds. It is estimated the directors will have to dedicate no more than 15 hours per year to this work. They will be reimbursed for any expenses related to this work by the fund.