

# Cross Trails Ministry Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide unique settings & experiences  
in which youth, adults & families  
are strengthened in their relationship  
with Christ, each other, the church & community

## Agenda for 2018 Corporation Meeting

### Cross Trails Ministry

Southwestern Texas Synod Outdoor & Retreat Ministries, Inc.

May 5, 2018

Embassy Suites, San Marcos

Call to Order	Mike Childers <i>Board of Directors President</i>
Opening Prayer	Rev. Marcus Bigott <i>Board Member</i>
Introductions	Rev. Tom Dietzel <i>Board Member</i>
State of the Ministry	Deanna Christensen <i>Executive Director</i>
Election of At-Large Board Member	Mike Childers <i>Board of Directors President</i>
Financial Report	Aaron Pyle <i>Board of Directors Treasurer</i>
Future of the Ministry	Deanna Christensen <i>Executive Director</i>
Closing Prayer/Adjourn	Denise Blomquist <i>Board Member</i>

# At-Large Board of Directors Applicant

**Name:** Henry Howe

**Congregation:** Christ Lutheran Church, Georgetown

**Occupation:** Currently Director of Communication for Texas Wing, Civil Air Patrol (volunteer position) Retired US Air Force officer and retired aerospace Systems Engineer and Program Director

## **Why do you want to serve on the Cross Trails Ministry Board of Directors?**

I have a passion for outdoor ministry. I have participated at events at Camp Chrysalis and Ebert Ranch and have seen the potential both sites offer. I have worked with youth and adults in camping and community service organizations. I want to be a part of the growing ministries that can be offered through the Cross Trails Ministry by sharing the resources I have acquired and used. I have led one service project weekend and attended 4 men's hunting retreats with men of my congregation at Ebert Ranch. I have come to appreciate the facilities that each site offers and the potential that enhanced facilities would bring to the Synod's outdoor ministry.

## **What experience do you have with Lutheran Camp Chrysalis, Ebert Ranch, off-site programs or other camps?**

I have served over six years on the Board of Directors of Briarwood Lutheran Ministries in the Northern Texas and Northern Louisiana Mission Area (Synod) and served for almost a year as the Briarwood Interim Executive Director during the Executive Director search process. I have attended the American Camping Association (ACA) Executive Director training and participated in two ACA accreditation inspections at Briarwood. I have also served on the Board of Directors for Lutheran Men in Mission for 6 years as the Director for ELCA Region 4 which encompasses the Synods in Nebraska, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, and Texas. My outdoor ministry experience includes being on the staff of the One Year to Live spiritual retreat for men.

## **What experience, skills, or other gifts do you have to offer the Cross Trails Ministry Board?**

I offer my past experience as a member of the Briarwood Board of Directors and as an Interim Executive Director. I am an experienced Program Manager having worked with Collins, Rockwell, E-System and L-3 Integrated Systems where I had to develop budgets and meet performance criteria. I have experience with budget development and analysis, program development, staff reviews, non-profit Board management, policy development and fundraising. I also have experience visiting congregations to promote Lutheran Men in Mission programs. As a lay person I have related to the clergy colleagues of my wife who is now a retired Lutheran minister and therefore can relate to ministry from the lay and clergy prospective.

I would be delighted to serve as At-Large Board Member for the Southwestern Texas Synod on the Board of Directors of Cross Trails Ministry.

# At-Large Board of Directors Applicant

**Name:** Jonathan Zitelman

**Congregation:** Spirit of Joy, Seguin

**Occupation:** Director of University Events, Texas Lutheran University

## **Why do you want to serve on the Cross Trails Ministry Board of Directors?**

I have a life long passion for camp and have been involved with Cross Trails in many ways over the past 20+ years. Working with camp at different stages has given me insights in my own life, but has also always allowed me to provide a different perspective which I am able to share with the ministry. Now that I have a young family (two children under 3yrs), I feel that I can provide yet a different perspective, as well as offer many of the same gifts that were helpful as a board member in the past.

## **What experience do you have with Lutheran Camp Chrysalis, Ebert Ranch, off-site programs or other camps?**

I have had a long history with Cross Trails in varying roles:

- As a youth I participated in confirmation camp ('95), as well as two years of the LYLE program available at the time ('97,'98).
- As a college student I worked two Summers each at both Ebert Ranch ('99, '03) and Camp Chrysalis ('00, '01) primarily serving as maintenance assistant, but also filling in many gaps as needed, including cabin leader, and as a wrangler in my final year at Ranch. I also assisted with many off-season retreats. This has given me a wide perspective on the many areas of camp in both support and direct leadership with campers during typical Summer camp.
- As a young adult, I was fortunate to serve on the Board of Directors for two terms ('10-'16), participating heavily with the development of a new master plan and a complete revision of bylaws, as well as serving on the property committee, multiple task forces and several years as the board secretary.

Additionally I participated many years with the Boy Scouts of America, as a youth and an adult leader; assisting in coordinating short-term camping trips as well as designing a complete Summer camp for the troop.

## **What experience, skills, or other gifts do you have to offer the Cross Trails Ministry Board?**

I offer my experience different areas and styles of camping, both regarding weekend and week long styles. Having minored in theology (including multiple youth ministry courses) I am familiar with connecting to youth. Additionally, I am a quick learner with a wide skill-set which has allowed me to assist the camp in building and maintenance projects, organizational projects, as well as regulatory projects; these are all gifts I feel can continue to assist the ministry.

Lastly, now having a young family, my wife and I plan to begin participating in family camp, which will give me fresh eyes to a new relationship with camp. I hope this will allow me to see areas or strengths we may not be promoting, and possibly areas that we can lift up or where we might be better able to reach out.