



*Bringing people together
To experience Christ
Through natural settings
And programs.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The LOMO Board of Directors started on a journey in 2015 to re-vision and re-imagine how to effectively carry out God's mission and ministry through outdoor ministries in this rapidly changing culture. This big audacious goal is to transform LOMO by 2020. We received input from anyone who would share their thoughts through numerous "Faith Vision 2020 Listening Posts." We studied trends from the ELCA and the culture at large. We looked at LOMO's trends of camp, retreat and environmental education participation. We analyzed LOMO's assets, challenges and opportunities. Potential partnerships were researched. New streams of revenue were explored. We prayed, and ask for prayers, for God's guidance through-out this visioning process. The question was and is always, "how we can effectively share Christ and make disciples in a world that does not look or act like the 1940's when Camp Luther, Camp Mowana and Lutheran Memorial Camp came into existence?"

Conclusions:

1. Our mission is still relevant and needed in today's world – *Bringing people together to experience Christ through natural settings and programs.*
2. We have a new vision – *Connecting all people to faith and nature for a changing world.*
3. We revised and simplified our core values – *faith, nature, relationships, leadership and stewardship.*
4. LOMO is an effective ministry that shares the gospel in unique ways through faith and nature.
5. LOMO can successfully carry out its mission and ministry without all the property and facilities we currently own. (This fifth conclusion reminds me of a paragraph from Bishop Abraham Allende's May 14 Monday Musings, "My definition of the Holy Spirit is this: That power which moves people to do God's will." No one on the Board, including me, wanted to conclude that we have more camps than we need to carry out this mission.)
6. If LOMO is to right-size its ministry we will make decisions that carry forward our core values. We made the decision to pursue a land conservancy at Camp Mowana with The Trust for Public Land. A land conservancy will make this sacred space open to the public and preserve this land in perpetuity; even more people may benefit from this property than are currently. LOMO will continue to operate Camp Mowana for summer camp and retreats until it becomes a land conservancy.
7. We will continue this unique outdoor ministry through Camp Luther, Lutheran Memorial Camp and LOMO Outreach. We will discern new opportunities for ministry that are relevant to the 21st century and reach out to new and diverse audiences.

We firmly believe God will continue to work through LOMO. We trust that God is bringing about shoots of new life and growth. "I am about to do a new thing: now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:18-19

Thank you for giving LOMO the privilege of serving as the Lutheran Outdoor Ministry organization for all three ELCA Synods in Ohio!

In Christ's Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Penny Christensen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Penny Christensen
Executive Director