



*Our mission is to support and encourage the members of the District in carrying out the mission Christ has given His Church (Matt. 28).*

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## LCMS Kansas District Board Report Summaries October 2017

### DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

#### President's Office

Rev. Peter Lange

**Call Process.** Ten congregations are now fully engaged in the call process. Another eight are looking for some kind of pastoral help but are not involved in a formal call process. We've been hearing positive feedback on the process of producing call lists. During the past year, vacancies have averaged 13.5 months from a pastor's last Sunday to the installation of the next pastor. Most vacancies require only one call list (which take around a month to produce). Some require two or more.

**Visitations.** Proactive visitations to congregations (in keeping with LCMS Bylaw 4.4.4) have been very well-received. President Lange, the circuit visitors, and vice-presidents are involved in these visitations.

**PALS.** For the second consecutive year, our newest pastors (in their first three years of ministry), along with their wives, are participating in the LCMS's Post-Seminary Applied Learning and Support (PALS) program. This year, the District is divided into two groups, one west and one east.

**Reformation 500 events.** Circuits and congregations around the District have planned many wonderful and edifying events for the celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation (a listing of which has been available on our website).

#### Missions and Stewardship

Rev. Dan Galchutt

**Mission Partnerships.** Rev. Dr. Brent Smith, Mission Development Counselor, has contacted circuit visitors in the District about meetings, per the new collaborative agreement with Mission Central and LCMS Mission Advancement. The District is currently working on a similar agreement with the LCMS Office of International Mission.

**Support for Church Plants.** The church plant group in Concordia held its first worship service on Sunday, Oct. 1, with around 20 people in attendance.

**Re:Vitality.** The re:Vitality program is undergoing a few changes. Ultimately, the program will include 10 workshops to help congregations assess and strengthen congregational life. Dan Galchutt is being trained as a facilitator for the first workshop, "Connect to Disciple," which is largely video-based. The workshops were initially offered free of charge, but Synod is now transitioning to a paid model. The

Board of Missions, on the recommendation of the executive staff, is discussing having funds available for congregations for re:Vitality workshops.

**Stewardship Workshops.** In the fall, two LCMS stewardship workshops were offered in the Kansas District: Philippians and Generational Generosity, the latter of which was new to Kansas. Rev. Heath Curtis, who presented Generational Generosity, also addressed circuit visitors at their conference. There has been discussion about working with circuits on future planning for our congregations facing significant challenges.

**Mission Grants.** The Board of Missions completed its review of proposals for 2018. (See Board of Missions summary.)

## Educational Services and Caring Ministry

James Bradshaw

**Youth Ministry.** The Rev. Michael Ada (Beautiful Savior, Olathe) has agreed to serve as the next chair-elect for the District Youth Ministry Team (DYMT) beginning at the January 5-6, 2018 DYMT retreat in Herington. DCE Brian Amey (Holy Cross, Wichita) will begin a two-year stint as chair.

**Adult Education.** All Kansas LCMS congregations were mailed a complimentary DVD of the Rev. Dr. Paul Maier's presentation entitled: "The Reformation's Impact on World History," recorded at Mt. Calvary, Wamego on Sunday, June 25. Next year's adult education focus will be on home-based catechesis, with an emphasis on daily devotions, Bible instruction in the home, and equipping parents to be 'teachers of the faith.'

**Early Childhood.** The 2018 District-sponsored summer workshop will be held at Lord's Lambs Preschool at Faith/Emporia on Saturday, July 28.

**Lutheran Schools.** Jane Limback (NLSA District Commissioner) and Jim Bradshaw visited with KSDE Accreditation personnel on Monday, October 23 about the state's review of NLSA as a potential accreditation option for LCMS Kansas District schools. In Wichita, work is underway to investigate the feasibility of a classical Lutheran school for grades 6-12; the target date to begin operations is Fall, 2019.

**Disaster Response and Caring Ministry.** A statement defining "critical incidents" has been developed to assist in clarifying the role and use of comfort dogs with congregations and schools. The statement will soon appear on the District website.

## Business Office

Debbie Crites

**LCEF Reorganization.** Steve Bremer, Sr. Vice President for LCEF, outlined the reorganization of the West Region of LCEF, noting that the reorganization will consolidate marketing, communications and promotions at the regional level rather than district level. With the reorganization, funding to the District will change. Future budget support will be through LCEF's District Relations and Support Funding (DRS), which allocates the dollars we receive as unrestricted to support the mission of the District.

**District Property.** The driveway, public sidewalks and front entry concrete work was completed in early October, with the last of the landscape project on the east side finished in late October. The final item to be completed is the replacement of a couple of crumbling parking blocks in our south parking lot. Inside the building, the Mission and Stewardship department is moving to first floor to provide coverage for the reception area left vacant due to the LCEF reorganization.

**Retreat Center Property.** LCEF performed a Property Needs Assessment on the retreat center in August. No new issues were discovered, and none previously identified were considered structural with a need for major repairs. Management for the Retreat Center has been transferred to Rev. Mark and Kristi Lovett, who will handle marketing and promotions, scheduling rentals, collecting fees, overseeing repairs and maintenance, and providing for security.

**New email for district secretary.** The District has provided a laptop to Dave Meier to use for secretary business. A new permanent email address has been established for the District secretary: secretary@kslcms.org.

## LCEF

Jeff Maltz

### Business Summary

- Through September 2017, the Kansas District has 40 LCEF loans outstanding with a balance of \$15,797,196.
- The Kansas District has 2,019 investors.
- Total number of investments: 3004
- Total amount invested is \$49,043,438

**LCEF Kansas Board of Managers.** Chris Anderson has been recommended for reappointment to the LCEF Kansas Board of Managers. (Note: This appointment was later approved at the Board of Directors meeting.)

**Current LCEF Activity.** 14 churches are engaged in LCEF activity. Zion, Chanute paid its loan in full in July 2017.

## BOARD REPORTS

### Board of Missions

Dave Bruns, Chair

**Pentecost Offering Update.** There have been some questions about Pentecost Offering receipts; some churches submitted funds designated for “Guinea” around the same time Pentecost Offerings were being received. When funds labeled “Guinea” are combined with Pentecost Offering funds, the total offering is around \$15,000.

**2018 Mission Grants.** The Board met in mid-October to review mission grant applications. Among the grant projects recommended for funding, funds have been earmarked to help congregations with re:Vitality and Every One His Witness. The priorities for grant funding continue to be church and school planting leading to Word and Sacrament ministry, revitalization, and assistance with outreach projects leading to Word and Sacrament ministry.

**Partnership Doc with OIM.** OIM has reviewed the proposed partnership document drafted by the Kansas District and is working on clarifying a few details.

**Re:Vitality.** Dan Galchutt is completing re:Vitality training as a facilitator, and four other pastors have begun the process. The board affirmed its interest in providing support to congregations that would like to take advantage of re:Vitality and Every One His Witness resources.

**Possible Overture Topics.** The Board discussed overture topics for the 2018 District convention, affirming the importance of statewide and international outreach, providing resources to small, struggling, and isolated congregations, and recognizing and supporting *all* of the areas for which the Board has responsibility.

### Board of Education

Jeremy Pera, Chair

**Committee Reports.** The Board reviewed reports from the Children & Family Life Committee, Adult Education, Lutheran Schools Committee, 2017 Professional Church Worker Conference Planning Team, and Youth Ministry.

**Action Item: Kansas District Youth Gathering Offering.** The Board adopted a motion to direct the offering from the Kansas District Youth Gathering to support the 2019 NYG registrations of students from Our Savior Lutheran Church, New York, NY.

**Action Item: Approval of Legacy Fund Requests.** The Board adopted a motion to distribute \$500 to two Legacy Fund applicants.

#### **New discussion Items:**

- Identification of targets for support of additional youth activities
- Extension of appointment of current education executive
- Process for appointing the District Youth Ministry Team Chair
- Possible education overtures for the 2018 District Convention

### Board of Caring Ministry (includes GoToMeeting 10.17.17)

Larry Junker, Chair

**Church Workers Care Team.** The care of professional workers is a priority. The board is working on developing resources for professional worker care including recommendations for forming care teams in congregations. Recommendations will address support of marriages, providing funds to identify and train care worker teams, and budget models to meet the challenge of financial debt of workers. A report and resolutions are to be ready in January for the Board.

**Review of Reports:** The Board reviewed reports addressing comfort dogs, Disaster Response, Life Coordinator appointment, parish nursing, Pastors' Wives Retreat, and Saints Alive After 55.

**2018 Events:** The Saints Alive After 55 Retreat will be held July 29-31 in Wichita; Barb Guy is the 2018 Chair. LERT training events are being held on Nov. 4 and January 19-20, 2018. The Pastors' Wives Retreat will be held the first weekend of March 2018; Deaconess Natalie Sabol will speak on Katie Luther.

**Convention Resolutions.** Resolutions will be ready in January for the next Board of Directors meeting.

### Board of Stewardship

Ruth Holste, Chair

**2017 Budget Review.** Income exceeds expenses by \$264,264, including \$183,171 in unanticipated gifts.

**2018-19 Proposed Budget.** The Board is proposing a figure of \$1,480,720 million in congregational receipts. Mission grant giving is being set at 10% of congregational receipts. Synod giving is being set at 28% of congregational receipts.

**Action Item:** The Board passed a resolution that proceeds of the 2018 Ash Wednesday Offering be allocated in equal amounts for the Kansas District Scholarship Fund and the Kansas District Loan Repayment Fund.

**Convention Overtures.** The Board discussed topics of potential overtures to the 2018 District Convention. Overtures will be discussed in a conference call December 7.

### Board of Administration

Rick Hanebutt, Chair

**Action Items.** The Board adopted the following resolutions:

- Acknowledgement of gifts received from July 16, 2017 through October 15, 2017
- Appointment of Annual Auditor
- Authorization for Retreat Center Operating Expense LCEF Account
- Authorization to Add Retreat Property Manager to Accounts
- Authorization to Set Up Credit/Debit Card Acceptance (Retreat Center)
- 2017 Housing Allowance Designation
- Approval of Kansas District Bylaw Revision (as recommended by the Committee on Constitutional Matters)
- Appointment of Chris Anderson to the LCEF Kansas Board of Managers

### Salary Review Committee

Ruth Holste, Chair

**Action Items.** The Board adopted the following resolutions:

- Grandfather Existing Executive CRSP Benefit (Discontinue for Future Executive Staff)
  - Note: The Board of Directors later split this motion. The motion to grandfather the 3% CRSP benefit for existing staff passed. A motion that the District not offer the 3% benefit for future executive staff also passed.
- Approve 2018 Staff Salary and Benefit Proposal