



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

LCMS Kansas District Board Report Summaries February 2018

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

President's Office

Rev. Peter Lange

Visitation. The District President traveled over 5,000 miles in the last quarter, visiting circuit conferences, workers, and congregation; preaching; and attending installations and pre-call meetings. Regions and circuits visited include:

- Region I: 2 (2X), 3N, 3S, 6 (3X)
- Region II: 7 (3X), 9, 12
- Region III: 5, 10, 11 (2X)
- Region IV: 4, 15 (2X), 16 (3X)

Call Lists. The Office of the District President is averaging 26.5 days per call list, which is 9.7% of the total average vacancy.

District Convention Preparations. Convention preparations are moving along as planned. We've had four planning meetings to date with a fifth scheduled for February 15 and are now busy with overtures, delegate registrations, reports, floor committees, and the convention schedule. Floor committees are scheduled to meet April 28, 2018 to review overtures. The host congregation for the convention is Immanuel, Norton.

District Life Coordinator. Rev. Matthew Durance (Bethlehem, Greenleaf) has been appointed to serve as District Life Coordinator. Rev. Durance and a group from the Kansas District attended the March for Life in Topeka in January.

Missions and Stewardship

Rev. Dan Galchutt

Partnership with OIM. The District is ready to formalize a collaborative partnership with the LCMS Office of International Mission to advance mission work in French-speaking West Africa.

Re:Vitality Training. Rev. Galchutt is now a fully trained re:Vitality facilitator in the Kansas District. The training has enabled him to lead workshops as well as coach participants after the workshop. We're working on getting more people trained as facilitators and coaches.

Visits to Circuits. In the months to come, the District Missions Executive will be making visits to circuit meetings to discuss planning for the future. The visits are intended to help pastors as they deal with changing and challenging realities regarding finances and available pastors in the years to come. These visits may begin as early as April, with a number of them likely to be scheduled for August or September.

New Resources. A couple of new resources are in development. The first is a stewardship Bible study called, "Placed for a Purpose," which should be ready for distribution by the next Board of Directors meeting. The second is a resource requested by the Adult Education Committee in conjunction with their 2018 focus of teaching the faith at home (see item below under "Educational Services").

Church Planting Update. Work continues with Rev. Dan Chrismer (Pratt) and Rev. Jason Toombs (Downs), who are involved with recent and ongoing church planting efforts in Pratt and Concordia. Rev. Galchutt will be visiting Pratt in April.

Educational Services and Caring Ministry

James Bradshaw

Adult Education. The committee will be focusing in 2018 on home-based catechesis, with an emphasis on daily devotions, Bible instruction in the home, and equipping parents to be "teachers of the faith."

KAIRS Conferences. The Annual KAIRS (Kansas Association of Independent and Religious Schools) Administrators Conference will be held in Topeka on February 12-13. The theme: *Servant Leadership Makes a Difference*. On March 3, the KAIRS Early Childhood Conference will be held at Prince of Peace, Topeka.

LCMS 'Genesis Project' – Wichita. *Genesis* consultants Stu Tietz and Rev. Steve Kieser made an on-site visit November 30-December 2 at Trinity, Wichita with the steering committee led by the Rev. Geoff Boyle, and they conducted a variety of interviews. A demographic study of the area was presented as a part of the *Genesis* Feasibility study. The committee is to complete congregational surveys and expand the number of participants on the steering committee. A target date to begin the classical grade 6-12 operations is Fall 2019. The final *Genesis* report with recommendations is pending.

Youth Ministry. The Rev. Michael Ada (Beautiful Savior, Olathe) was appointed to serve as the Chair-Elect for the District Youth Ministry Committee (DYMC) beginning at the January 5-6, 2018, DYMC retreat in Herington. Upcoming 2018 youth events include:

- **Teen Fellowship Retreat** – Hesston, April 6-7 – **registration closes March 19**
- **Lutheran Valley Retreat** – Woodland Park, CO, July 15-20 – **registration opens March 1**
- **Higher Things 2018** - Lawrence, Kansas, July 24-27.
- **Junior High Rallies** – Rexford & Williamsburg, KS, October 12-13
- **The 2018 Kansas District Youth Gathering (DYG)** – Hutchinson, November 16-18
- **The 2019 National Youth Gathering** - Minneapolis, MN, July 11-15. The Kansas District NYG Coordinators are DCE Kate Soeken (McPherson) & DCE Amanda Adams (Christ, Topeka). District Coordinator training is April 11-14 in Minneapolis. The theme for the NYG is *Real. Present. God.* (Psalm 46).

Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT). LERT Leaders met at the Retreat Center in Herington, January 19-20. Topics included addressing a regional approach to disasters in the District, identifying contact persons in defined areas, establishing policy and procedures, review LERT training materials, scheduling continuing education for existing teams, and the initial training schedule for 2018.

District Disaster Response Coordinator, Donna Williams, has a new email address: ksddrc@gmail.com

Church Worker Care. The Children's and Family Life Committee met in January to advance church worker marriage enrichment, which is one of the two priorities that emerged from the 2016 District Core Needs Survey with church workers and spouses. The Church Worker Care Team, led by Rev. Lee Hovel, also met in January to further advance the establishment of congregational care teams for church workers.

Business Office

Debbie Crites

Upgrades and Improvements. In the past quarter, we've upgraded our network, repaired our elevator and light poles in the parking lots (which had been stripped of copper wire by thieves), and solicited architectural drawings and bids to address the back stairs and sidewalks along the alley and south side of the building.

Security Assessment. The District Office recently had an on-site visit from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to evaluate security and safety weaknesses and deficiencies. The assessment resulted in nine recommendations, including dusk-to-dawn lights on the roof (will end copper theft), a security system with exterior cameras, and an Emergency Operation Plan (EOP).

Department of Homeland Security Checks. DHS assessments are free of charge for any congregation or school; we highly recommend that our members take advantage of this service and all DHS resources. For more information or to set up an appointment, contact Chuck Clanahan, Kansas Protective Security Advisor for U.S. Department of Homeland Security at chuck.clanahan@dhs.gov or 785-213-8699.

Retreat Center Updates. Rev. Mark and Kristi Lovett took over management in August and have made several changes to the operations, including consolidation of paperwork, forms and agreements; creating a new Facebook page and online calendar; and updating furnishings. As of this date, approximately one-quarter of the nights in 2018 have been reserved.

District Archivist. Michael Grau recently agreed to serve as District Archivist. We'll be working with Michael and current Archivist Dean Landman over the next months to set up a plan for the transition. Concordia Historical Institute has offered resources and one-on-one training for our new Archivist.

LCEF

Jeff Maltz

Business Summary

- Through December 2017, LCEF Kansas District has **38** LCEF loans outstanding with a balance of **\$15,565,482**.
- LCEF Kansas District has **2023** investors.
- Total Amount invested: **\$48,164,720**
- Total Number of Investments: **3002**
- 2017 LCEF Operating Results: **\$63,539** (2016: \$60,758)

BOARD REPORTS

Ed. Note: In addition to the highlights below, all boards also discussed 2018 district convention business related to their boards.

Board of Missions

Dave Bruns, Chair

Mission Development Counselor. Rev. Dr. Brent Smith is working to raise awareness of and support for international mission work as part of our agreement with LCMS Mission Advancement and Mission Central. Smith is available to preach at mission festivals (currently booking 6 months out) and meet with congregations and workers (more available during the week).

Guinea/West Africa Task Force. The task force met on January 29, 2017. The 2018 Pentecost Offering will once again support seminary students at the CLET. In 2017, we collected \$14,600.00, which covers one year of tuition for the 3 Guinean seminary students currently enrolled. The task force also discussed setting up a booth for West Africa at the upcoming District Convention.

Re:Vitality. Money from the annual mission grant fund has been allocated to help congregations make use of re:Vitality and Every One His Witness. Mini-grant applications are available on the District website; awards will be decided on a case-by-case basis. The cost for Every One His Witness kits, which are available from CPH, is \$129.99 (kit includes 12 workbooks). The cost for a re:Vitality workshop is roughly \$500.00.

KansaSEED. KansaSEED is hosting an international conference in Topeka July 18-21, 2018. The group has met with Debbie Crites on preparations and details.

Action Item

- The Board approved a resolution to recommend that the Board of Directors approve the partnership with the West Africa area of OIM and secure the signatures for the partnership documents.

Board of Education

Jeremy Pera, Chair

Education Executive Reappointment. The Board discussed call status and term of service for the Assistant to the District President for Educational Services.

Report Review. The Board reviewed reports from the Children & Family Life Committee, Adult Education, Lutheran Schools Accreditation, and Youth Ministry.

Action Item

- The Board approved a resolution to extend the current appointment of James P. Bradshaw. (*Note:* The BOD approved this appointment though May 2021.)

Board of Caring Ministry (includes GoToMeeting 10.17.17)

Larry Junker, Chair

Report Review. The Board reviewed reports from Jim Bradshaw (Caring Ministry report for the convention), the Parish Nurse, and the District Disaster Relief Coordinator.

Disaster Funds for LERT Training. The Board is working on a resolution to designate disaster funds for the needs of LERT training expenses and LERT training equipment needs, to include completion of vouchers with receipts attached. If the request exceeds \$1,000, it will need to be preapproved by the Business Office in consultation with the chair of the Caring Ministry Board.

Regional Care Ministry Facilitators. The Board will research the process of putting this group together. Lee Hovel will be inviting Rev. Fran Lieb to a future board meeting to hear ideas for caring ministry. Lieb, a retired pastor from Timothy, Blue Springs, is a Care Ministry Support Facilitator in Missouri.

Board of Stewardship

Ruth Holste, Chair

Budget Review. In 2017, the District received \$1.504 million in congregational receipts; \$1.48 million was budgeted. The Board approved a balanced budget for 2018 that includes 28% of congregational receipts for Synod support and 10% of congregational receipts for mission grants to Kansas congregations.

2018 Congregational Commitments. The Board reviewed commitments received to date. Congregations have been sent another reminder letter.

Generational Generosity. Circuit 7 and 8 will host a Generational Generosity workshop in October 2018.

Action Items

- The Board approved a resolution that the 2018 budget as presented be approved by the BOD.
- The Board approved a resolution that the BOD extend the appointment of Jeffrey Maltz to 2019.

Board of Administration

Rick Hanebutt, Chair

Review of Congregational Receipts. 2017 year-end congregational receipts are \$45,150 more than the previous year's receipts. Receipts are ahead of pledges by approximately 25%.

Acknowledgement of Quarterly Gifts. The District received \$13,490.68 in gifts from individuals and other LCMS entities from October 16, 2017 to January 15, 2018. Of those gifts, \$11,155.98 was undesignated/unrestricted.

Action Items

- The Board approved resolutions to secure BOD approval for the following: LCMS Kansas District Personnel Manual, revisions to the District Operations Manual, and revisions to the Nominations and Elections Procedures (to go into effect July 1, 2018).
- The Board approved a resolution to encourage congregational participation in the Church's Plan with Concordia Plan Services.
- The Board approved the revised position description for Business Manager.