



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 May 2018

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

President's Office

Rev. Peter Lange

Visitation/Travel. President Lange put on 5,262 miles in the past quarter traveling to circuit winks, pre-call meetings, congregational visits, and other meetings.

Call Lists. Ten Kansas District congregations are currently calling, with eight seeking a sole or senior pastor and two seeking an associate. President Lange noted that production of call lists has slowed down more than he would like due to planning for the upcoming district convention. He's aiming to improve the process going forward to ensure efficient facilitating and expediting of call lists, even in the lead-up to the triennial convention.

Convention Preparation. Convention preparation has taken considerable time in the past quarter. The planning team has made several changes and improvements to the process, including extra efforts to maximize registration, adding a work session for floor committees six weeks prior to the convention, and creating a more detailed timeline of "who does what by when." President Lange is expecting a good delegate turnout at this year's event.

COP Secretary. Pres. Lange was elected Secretary of the LCMS Council of Presidents for 2018-2021. His election puts him on the leadership team, called the Program Committee, along with Pres. David Maier (MI) – Chair; Pres. Richard Snow (NE) – Vice Chair; Pres. Don Fondow (MNN) – At Large; Pres. Scott Sailer (SD) – At Large; LCMS Pres. Matthew Harrison – Advisory; LCMS 1st VP Herbert Mueller – Advisory; LCMS Secretary John Sias – Advisory.

Business Manager Search. The search for a new Business Manager has also taken considerable time this quarter. Thanks go to the Search Committee and especially to Debbie Crites for her many years of excellent service to the Kansas District.

Missions and Stewardship

Rev. Dan Galchutt

Worker Support. In the past quarter, Rev. Galchutt has traveled extensively, visiting seven circuit winks, attending various meetings, and preaching. He's been getting more requests for preaching on Stewardship Sundays. He's also started meeting with pastors in Western Kansas about the need to

strategize and form new partnerships and has fielded requests to conduct similar meetings elsewhere in the state.

Re:Vitality Training. We continue to promote *Every One His Witness* and *re:Vitality*, the Synod's programs for outreach and church revitalization. Rev. Galchutt has visited a few places this past quarter for *re:Vitality* coaching.

Stewardship Bible study. "Placed for a Purpose," a four-part Bible study on vocational stewardship, was pilot tested at St. John's in Topeka during Lent. The study materials are now being revised and will be posted, along with three related sermons, on the District website this summer.

Kansas District Life Ministry. Rev. Galchutt is working with President Lange and Kansas District Life Coordinator Rev. Matthew Durance to bring more attention to life issues in the Kansas District.

Pentecost Offering. Pentecost Offering bulletins were sent to all congregations at the end of April in preparation for the upcoming Pentecost Offering on May 20, which will support Guinean students at the Lutheran Center for Theological Studies (CLET) in Dapaong, Togo. Last year's offering raised nearly \$15,000.

Educational Services and Caring Ministry

James Bradshaw

Commissioned Workers. Six congregations are currently involved in the call process for a Commissioned Minister of Religion. Four commissioned workers will be retiring this year.

Ministry Team Updates

❖ **Adult Education.** The committee, which is focusing on home-based catechesis in 2018, met in April to discuss a promotional video for the convention in June and the development of downloadable video resources.

❖ **Children and Family Life Committee.** A church worker marriage retreat is being planned for September 21-22 in Herington, with Rev. David Muench serving as retreat presenter.

❖ **Early Childhood Committee.** The Kansas Association of Independent and Religious Schools (KAIRS) hosted an Early Childhood Conference in Topeka in March; our Lutheran preschools accounted for the majority of the 70+ participants. The Early Childhood Summer Workshop is scheduled for July 28 at Faith, Emporia.

Lutheran Schools

❖ **Genesis Project – Concordia Academy, Wichita.** The *Genesis* consultants recently shared their findings with the steering committee, noting that they'll need to formulate and implement additional start-up plans and actions to create stronger evidence for the viability of a classical Lutheran 6-12 school.

❖ **Homeschool Co-op in Basehor.** Risen Savior, Basehor is set to open a K-12 Academy School August 20. The home-school co-op is expected to enroll 65 students and will operate 2 full days a week.

❖ **Accreditation.** Zion, Independence will be a pilot site for demonstrating alignment between KESA and NLSA standards. Jeanette Nobo, KSDE Assistant Director for Teacher Licensure and Accreditation, has agreed to serve as the Onsite Visitation Team (OVT) chair and will work closely with Zion to see how the alignment works.

Youth Ministry Updates. 77 participants are registered for the upcoming Lutheran Valley Retreat summer camp in Woodland, CO, being held July 15-20. The Kansas District Youth Gathering, scheduled for November 16-18 in Hutchinson, will feature the theme, "One God, One Love, One Mission." Plenary

speakers are Rev. Travis Hartjen and DCE Hailey Jo Miller of the LCMS Texas District; the Gathering band is Remedy Drive.

Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT). Three LERT training events have been hosted in the District in 2018, at St. John, Ellinwood; St. Luke's, Manhattan; and Christ, Overland Park. These trainings have produced 95 new LERT team members. The District Disaster Relief Coordinator position, held by Donna Williams, has reached the end of its one-year trial.

Business Office

Debbie Crites

Audit. The audit for 2017 is finalized. All recommendations that were noted last year have been addressed, with no additional recommendations this year. Starting with fiscal year 2019, our financial statements will change; they're expected to be more user-friendly.

Human Resources. Heather Williams has been hired as Business Manager. She has her accounting degree from Washburn University and is a member of Calvary Lutheran Church in Topeka. She and Debbie Crites will be working together for six weeks to prepare for the leadership transition in the Business Office in June.

District Office Improvements. The office upgraded its network in March and will soon need to upgrade the phone system software. Estimates have been secured for exterior concrete replacement on the south and west sides of the building. We're also securing bids to install new lights on the roof of the building to replace light poles, which have been the target of copper thieves.

Retreat Center Updates. Occupancy for 2018 is expected to be 100+ nights, which is a slight increase from recent years. Future marketing changes are being considered, including weekday specials and short-notice discounts and incentives to increase occupancy even further.

District Archivist. Michael Grau has agreed to serve as our District Archivist. We're working with Dean Landman to transfer archival material from his personal website to our District server.

LCEF

Jeff Maltz

Business Summary

- Through March 2018, LCEF Kansas District has **37** LCEF loans outstanding with a balance of **\$15,450,759**.
- LCEF Kansas District has **2031** investors.
- Total Amount invested: **\$48,626,770**
- Total Number of Investments: **2993**
- 2018 LCEF Operating Results: **\$63,539** (2016: \$60,758)

Loans Paid in Full. In February, Topeka Lutheran School and Risen Savior, Basehor paid off loans.

Rate Changes on Investments. Rates for PartnerPLUS have increased to 2.375% (2 years) and 2.875% (4 years). The rate for the Family Emergency Steward Account has increased from 1% to 1.125%.

BOARD REPORTS

Board of Missions

Dave Bruns, Chair

OIM/Mission Central Updates. We now have a formal Memorandum of Agreement with the LCMS Office of International Mission (OIM) for advancing our work in West Africa. That work is being strengthened further by Rev. Dr. Brent Smith of Mission Central, whose presence continues to grow in the Kansas District. He recently visited the LWML convention in April and Circuit 7 and 8 meetings.

Quarterly Mission Grant Reports. The Board reviewed the reports and briefly discussed issues related to the grants, including congregational partnerships. We haven't awarded a significant amount from the \$20,000 allocated for *Every One His Witness* and *re:Vitality*. Rev. Galchutt reports that there is interest, though. We'll have these materials on display at the District convention.

Church Planting Visit. The Mission Board discussed the possibility of a visit from Rev. Steve Schave, who focuses on church planting in large urban areas. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Rev. Galchutt to invite Rev. Schave for a visit in the upcoming year.

Concordia and Lake Wabaunsee Groups. The church plant in Concordia is operating as a satellite of Zion, Downs. The group is worshipping every Sunday and has opened a bank account. They're working on growing their core group of 10-15 people. Another group, in Lake Wabaunsee, has been worshipping for 20-25 years but is not a chartered congregation. Dan Galchutt has been discussing the possibility with the group.

Board of Education

Jeremy Pera, Chair

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

Action Items

- The Board approved Legacy Fund requests from teacher Daniel Gibson (SLED 18 program) and teacher Mary Schultz (master's degree program). The Board also discussed the need for ongoing support and sustainability of the Legacy Fund.
- The Board approved designating the offering for the fall 2018 conference for LeadaChild in honor of its 50th anniversary.
- The board approved changes in the position description for the Ministry Assistant to the District President for Education and Youth as well as the ministry description for the Board of Education and Youth.

Board of Caring Ministry

Larry Junker, Chair

Review of Committee Reports. The Board reviewed reports from Parish Nursing and Saints Alive After 55, which is hosting a gathering July 29-31 with the theme "Great Is Thy Faithfulness."

Worker Care Discussion. The Board discussed worker care via phone with Rev. Fran Lieb, who shared what the Missouri District is doing with respect to Christ Care with Church Workers. The information will be communicated to the Kansas District Church Worker Care Committee; Rev. Lieb will be available to the committee as it explores possible training in this area.

Action Items

- The board recommended that President Lange reappoint Donna Williams, District Disaster Relief Coordinator (DDRC), for a period of 18 months, which would align with the beginning of the 2020 year. The Board commended Williams her for her initiative with the District’s disaster relief program.
- The Board approved a request that Mark Trivilino of King of Kings, Gardner, be named the back-up DDRC.

Board of Stewardship

Ruth Holste, Chair

2018 Budget. Congregational receipts are 26.6% of the budget projections. 2018 congregational receipts are up from last year’s receipts at the end of the first quarter. Receipts are ahead of pledges by approximately 59.5%, or \$150,634. The District received three gifts totaling over \$1.574 million last quarter; \$875,962 is restricted to scholarships, while the remaining \$698,747 is unrestricted.

2018 Congregational Mission Commitments. The Board reviewed mission commitments. The number of congregations in the “no pledge/no receipt” category is 37.

Financial Management and Stewardship Resources

❖ **Resources for Congregations.** The Board discussed developing resources for congregations (e.g., commitment cards, a narrative budget, and “telling the story” examples), with the goal of enabling pastors and congregations to “talk stewardship” in their contexts.

❖ **Financial Advisor.** Brad Brunkow, a financial advisor and member of St. Luke’s, Manhattan, will have a vendor table at the upcoming Church Workers Conferences in the fall. Brunkow is a financial resource for congregations and workers.

❖ **Planned Giving.** There is a 2018 Kansas District convention resolution to explore a Kansas District Planned Giving Coordinator.

Board of Administration

Rick Hanebutt, Chair

2018 Budget. The Board reviewed the District budget (see information in Stewardship report above) and congregational receipts history.

Action Items:

- Acknowledged quarterly gifts
- Resolved that the Board of Directors distribute the proceeds from the sale of Faith, Hugoton as follows: \$30,000 to Christ Lutheran Church, Elkhart and \$5,000 to each of the remaining congregations in circuit 16
- Authorized a list of account signers for the District

- Adopted revised position descriptions for district officers and executive staff
- Authorized funding not to exceed \$55,000 for District Office improvements, including upgrades to the phone and security systems and concrete replacement