



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

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## LCMS Kansas District Board Report Summaries July 2018

### DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

#### President's Office

Rev. Peter Lange

**Call Lists.** 11 Kansas District congregations are currently seriously engaged in the call process, with 10 seeking a sole or senior pastor and one seeking an associate. In addition, nine other congregations are thinking about entering the call process or are looking for some type of part-time pastoral assistance. President Lange completed three call lists last quarter; no congregations are presently waiting for a list.

**Convention/District Challenges.** The District convention in June demanded a substantial amount of planning and preparation time, which reduced President Lange's travel and official visitation activities. The president also dealt with an unusual number of challenging situations in the District during the past quarter, which also called for significant time and attention.

**Licensed Lay Deacon to SMP Colloquy.** The deadline for Licensed Lay Deacons to apply for SMP Colloquy was July 1; the Office of the District President worked to keep people apprised of the impending deadline throughout May and June. The deadline was related to action taken at the 2016 Synod convention to regularize the status LLDs (Res. 13-02A), which has affected many districts, including Kansas.

**Strategic Planning.** The district staff has been working on a strategic plan for the 2018-2021 triennium, which is now in the "wet cement" stage. In the next quarter, the staff will be finalizing the plan. The president will also be appointing committees under various service boards.

**Travel to South Africa.** This fall, President and Marcia Lange will be traveling to South Africa to visit their daughter and son-in-law, who will be serving his vicarage in the town of Wittenberg.

#### Missions and Stewardship

Rev. Dan Galchutt

**Travel.** Rev. Galchutt traveled frequently over the last quarter, attending circuit meetings, mission festivals, and various planning meetings for conferences, life ministry, and urban ministry. He's often asked to preach on stewardship topics. In June, he attended a planned giving seminar in Mequon offered by the LCMS Foundation.

**Business Manager Transition.** Rev. Galchutt spent significant time in the second quarter assisting with the onboarding of our new District Business Manager, Heather Williams, who began work in May and assumed full responsibilities for the Business Office after Debbie Crites' retirement June 13.

**Challenges Facing Small and Struggling Congregations.** In keeping with convention resolution 18-01-04, Rev. Galchutt will continue visiting circuit forums and meeting to discuss ways in which small and struggling congregations can prepare for the future.

**Resource Development.** Work continues with the new Life Coordinator, Rev. Matthew Durance. Also in development are resources for teaching the faith in the home and the "Placed for a Purpose" Bible study on stewardship, which will be available for download by the end of the summer.

**Urban Church Planting.** We're exploring possibilities for an urban church plant in the Kansas City area. Rev. Steve Schave, who works on church planting for the Synod, has been invited to speak to the Kansas District Board of Directors in October.

## Education and Youth / Caring Ministry

James Bradshaw

**Commissioned Workers.** Two congregations are currently involved in the call process for a Commissioned Minister of Religion; both are seeking a DCE. Seven teachers will be installed in August. This year's Pastors and Educators Conferences are being held two weeks apart in Salina; in 2019, the conferences will be held during the week of October 6 at Bethany in Overland Park.

### Ministry Team Updates

❖ **Adult Education.** The Adult Education Committee, which is focusing on home-based catechesis in 2018, plans to videotape three presentations at the upcoming Educators Conference and will be making those presentations available to congregations.

❖ **Children's and Family Life Committee.** A marriage retreat is being held September 21-22 in Herington, with Rev. David Muench serving as retreat presenter. The event is open to eight couples; two slots are presently filled.

❖ **Early Childhood Education.** The Early Childhood Summer Workshop was held July 28 at Faith, Emporia. KAIRS is planning a conference for March 2, 2019, at Christ, Overland Park.

### Lutheran Schools

❖ **Accreditation.** Work continues on establishing alignment between KESA and NLSA. Schools interested in using KESA-NLSA (not using the other State-approved system, AdvanceEd) will follow the KESA process, using pieces of the NLSA system to address faith-based components.

❖ **Principals Conference.** The Principals Conference is being held on September 13 and 14, with Rev. Dr. Matt Hoehner speaking on character formation; KESA training is also on the agenda.

**Youth Ministry Updates.** 87 participants attended the Lutheran Valley Retreat summer camp in Woodland, CO, held July 15-20. Registration will open soon for the Kansas District Youth Gathering (November 16-18 in Hutchinson), the National Youth Gathering (July 11-15, 2019 in Minneapolis), and the Junior High Youth Rallies (October 12 and 13 in Rexford and Williamsburg).

**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; 95 LERT members were added. LERT teams assisted with disaster response efforts in Eureka, KS following the June 26 tornado

under the direction of Donna Williams, District Disaster Response Coordinator, who has extended her agreement to serve as DDRC through 2020.

## LCEF

Jeff Maltz

### Business Summary

- Through March 2018, LCEF Kansas District has **38** LCEF loans outstanding with a balance of **\$16,379,454**.
- LCEF Kansas District has **2019** investors.
- Total Amount invested: **\$48,263,175**
- 2017 LCEF Operating Results in Kansas: **\$63,539** (2016: \$60,758)

**Activity in the Kansas District.** 13 congregations are involved with LCEF-supported projects, which include building loans, architect advisory services, Consecrated Stewards, and Laborers for Christ.

**National Marketing Focus.** LCEF continues to focus on the “Big Four” investment programs (ConnectPLUS; PartnerPLUS; Family Emergency StewardAccount; Y.I. Club) as well as the Church Improvement Loan.

## Business Office

Heather Williams

**Human Resources.** We’ve hired new cleaning staff at the Retreat Center. Shannon Oldham, administrative assistant for the Business Office, will be on leave between August 13 and September 12. During her absence, all business inquiries and correspondence should be directed to Heather Williams.

**District Office Improvements.** The concrete stairs, sidewalk and curbing improvements on the west side of the building have now been completed. Repairs were also made to the elevator, which was temporarily inoperable in early July, as well as the phone system, which has now been upgraded. The one item remaining on the improvement agenda is building security. New estimates are being secured, with priority given to upgraded video cameras with monitors and entry key fobs.

**Convention.** Income for the convention (which included congregational assessments and support from LCEF) was \$55,002, while expenses totaled \$63,632. The convention operated at a net loss of \$8,630; however, carryover funding of \$8,070 from the 2015 convention brings the 2018 convention to a net loss of \$560, or 0.9%.

**Retreat Center Update.** The Retreat Center for the year-to-date is breaking even, thanks to the efforts of Rev. Mark and Kristi Lovett, the property managers. Income currently exceeds expenses by \$651. Occupancy for the year-to-date is 43% higher than the entire 2017 fiscal year. The Retreat Center Task Force has established new marketing and occupancy benchmarks for 2019.

**Planned Giving Receipts.** Over the past quarter, the Kansas District has received several generous gifts from the Doris Meyer estate. Mrs. Meyer, a Lutheran teacher and wife of the late Rev. Erwin Meyer, was a member of Immanuel, Linn. These gifts will support multiple ministry projects to be determined by the Board at future meetings.

## Communications

Kris Bruss

**Convention.** Much of the communication agenda in the second quarter was devoted to convention planning, preparation, and special projects (e.g., editing and proofing materials, working with video producers, publicizing convention news, etc.). Now that the convention is over, work on other projects, including a Kansas District style/editorial guide, are moving ahead.

**Website.** New webpages have been added for RSOs and Auxiliaries, Life Ministry, and Educators and Pastors Conferences. Webpages are in development for the upcoming Kansas District Youth Gathering and National Youth Gathering, and the Board of Directors page will be updated with profiles and photos of newly elected members. The most visited page after the homepage continues to be “Calls and Vacancies” (by a large margin).

**Publications (Workers and Witness).** We’re planning on running a feature article on the Retreat Center in an upcoming issue of *The Lutheran Witness* insert (around 3700 subscribers). In the monthly *Workers Together* e-newsletter (roughly 850 subscribers), we’re considering adding a general schedule of planned visits of the executive staff to let people know when a District visitor will be visiting their church or school.

**Facebook.** The District launched a new Facebook page on May 1 and began a new weekly post series called “Prayers for Congregations and Schools,” which features a different congregation and/or school each Monday. During the 2018-2021 triennium, we’ll be featuring every church and school (including early childhood programs) in the District.

## BOARD REPORTS

### Board of Missions

Marvin Schulteis, Chair

**OIM/Mission Central Updates.** D. Galchutt noted recent changes in Synod mission leadership. Rev. Robert Zagore is now the Executive Director of the Office of National Mission, while Rev. Dan McMiller is the new Executive Director of the Office of International Mission. The Board reviewed Rev. Dr. Brent Smith’s travel schedule and activity report (Mission Central).

**Mission Grants.** The Board reviewed quarterly reports and noted that next quarter will be the busiest for mission grant activity, with 2019 applications coming in for review.

**West Africa Missions Committee/Pentecost Offering.** We’ve received about \$7500 from the Pentecost Offering thus far. D. Galchutt expects that contributions will continue to come in, based on giving from previous years.

**Upcoming Events.** A Mercy Medical Team (MMT) event is scheduled for September 7-17, 2018, in Togo. Closer to home, the KansaSEED International Conference will take place in Topeka July 18-21, 2019; Heather Williams is assisting the group with conference planning.

## ACTION ITEMS

- **Renewal of Mission Central Partnership:** The Board resolved that the Letter of Understanding between the Kansas District and Mission Central be renewed for another year, as amended.
- **Mission Grant Process for 2018.** The Board for Missions decided to meet in Salina on Oct. 2 after the Pastors Conference to review grant applications. The due date for applications will be September 21. Applications will go out Aug. 8.

### Board of Education

Bruce Schultz, Chair

**District Operations Manual Review.** The Board reviewed descriptions of the Board of Education and Youth and the Assistant to the President for Education and Youth Ministry.

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

## ACTION ITEMS

- The Board approved by a Legacy Fund request from Faith Lutheran Preschool in Derby for \$250 for an early childhood workshop on July 28.
- On August 27 from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., the Board will meet via GoToMeeting to discuss budget.

### Board of Caring Ministry

Jim Bradshaw (Advisory Member)

**Board Priorities.** J. Bradshaw noted several priorities of the Board, including bolstering District disaster response efforts and enhancing church worker care. He also mentioned 2018 convention resolutions related to Caring Ministry.

**Pastors Wives Retreat.** The Board is looking at some realignment to support the annual Pastors' Wives Retreat. This event has recently been held on the first weekend of March, but it may be held at a different time of year in the future.

**Parish Nurse Ministry.** J. Bradshaw thanked Mary Hume for her service as the Parish Nurse Ministry District Representative.

### Board of Stewardship

Rich Schotte, Chair

**Congregational Receipts.** Receipts as of July 15, 2018 were \$747,474.74, or 50.48% of the budget year total.

**Draft Budget.** The Board discussed the proposed 2019-2020 budget. A draft budget will be brought at the October 2018 meeting. Potential ministry opportunities were discussed.

**Resource Individuals.** Heath Curtis of LCMS Stewardship will present at Mt. Calvary, Wamego for Circuits 7 and 8 on October 18. LCMS Foundation Planned Giving will be invited to a future BOD meeting to share information about their services. Brad Brunkow (St. Luke's, Manhattan) will be available at the fall church workers conferences for personal financial education for our workers.

**Scholarship Update.** Twenty-seven (27) applicants qualified to receive scholarships. The committee will disburse scholarships totaling \$27,175.

**Retreat Center Task Force Update.** The Board reviewed an update from the Retreat Center Task Force and noted that the benchmark goal of a 30% increase in occupancy has been met (and surpassed). The Board brainstormed marketing ideas, including brochures, online promotional materials, and special attention in *The Lutheran Witness*.

### Board of Administration

David Bruns, Chair

**Treasurer's Report.** District congregational receipts are 28.6% of the budget projections. The 2018 congregational mission receipts are \$24,083 less than last year's receipts at the end of the second quarter. Congregational receipts are ahead of year-to-date pledges by \$215,560, approximately 40.5%.

**Reviews.** The Board reviewed the budget and congregational receipts history.

### ACTION ITEMS

- Acknowledgement of quarterly gifts in the amount of \$19,273.70.
- Resolved to set the congregational assessment rate for the 2019 Synod Convention in the amount not to exceed \$1.42 per communicant member.
- Resolved the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors adopt the revised position descriptions for Bylaws and District Operations Manual as presented.
- Resolved that \$300,000 of the Doris Meyer Estate funds be placed in the District's LCEF Steward Account and \$665,000 be placed in a LCEF 5-year term note

### Salary Review

Bruce Schultz, Chair

### ACTION ITEMS

- The Board approved a resolution to increase in the base salary for the 2019 Salary Guidelines by 2.5%, the annual inflation rate at June 2018.
- The Board also approved a resolution to continue the District's enrollment in the Church's Plan in 2019 and offer the High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) with Concordia Plan Services for eligible Kansas District staff. The HDHP will be supplemented by an annual contribution by the District to a Health Savings Account for those employees enrolled in the CHP.