



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 October 2018

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

President's Office

Rev. Peter Lange

Vacant or Calling Congregations. Fifteen Kansas District congregations are currently seeking a full-time pastor; an additional seven are seeking some kind of pastoral assistance. During President Lange's 40 months in office, 31 vacancies have been filled.

Third-Quarter Activities: In addition to his usual duties, the president has spent time this quarter making committee appointments for the new triennium and responding to a higher-than-usual number of requests for assistance. To manage the increasing demands on his time, President Lange has been working on delegating responsibilities.

Synod Task Force: Resolution 13-01A. Shortly after the 2016 Synod convention, President Lange was appointed to the Resolution 13-01A task force, which was charged with finding ways to foster ongoing conversation about the partnership between the royal priesthood and the Office of the Public Ministry. The task force has now completed a roughly 50-page report; the Commission on Theology and Church Relations has also completed a report on the royal priesthood.

Lutheran Family Service of Iowa. The District is in the initial stages of discussion with Lutheran Family Service (LFS) of Iowa about a possible partnership. LFS, a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the LCMS, provides counseling (e.g., pregnancy, marriage, mental health), adoption support, advocacy in the public square, and church worker care. LFS is interested in partnering with more districts and is tentatively scheduled to meet with the Board of Directors in May 2019.

Missions and Stewardship

Rev. Dan Galchutt

Travel. Rev. Galchutt had a busy travel schedule in the third quarter, including several preaching assignments at mission festivals, stewardship Sundays, congregational partnership meetings, and *Every One His Witness* and *re:Vitality* workshops and conferences.

Re:Vitality. The *re:Vitality* and *Every One His Witness* programs continue to be a high priority in the District. The *re:Vitality* program will soon add a fourth workshop on assimilating new people into a congregation.

Mission Grants. The Board of Missions met in October to consider 23 applications for mission grants; the amount available for awards this year is \$145,000. The Board is recommending 18 awards, keeping in mind the District's priorities of church planting, mission outreach, and specialized ministries (e.g., Hispanic ministry, campus ministry).

Missions and stewardship resource development. Several free resources will be available in the next quarter, including the "Placed for a Purpose" stewardship series with Bible studies and sermons, a narrative budget resource guide, and an information sheet on congregational partnerships.

Education and Youth / Caring Ministry

James Bradshaw

Commissionings and installations. The third quarter is the busiest quarter for Education & Youth, due to the high number of commissionings and installations in late summer and the workers conferences.

Workers Conferences. Pastors Toombs and Kilgo were elected to the Pastors Conference Planning Committee for 2019. Educators Kathy Pluff (EC), Jeremy Pera (DCE), and Calah Stichler (teacher) were elected to the 2019 Educators Conference Planning Committee. The educators selected LCMS School-to-School Hurricane Relief as the 2019 Hearts for Jesus offering designation. Teacher Sarah Kuske (Bethany, Overland Park) will serve as the 2019 Synod Convention Commissioned Advisory Delegate. The 2018 District Educators passed the overture, "To Affirm and Celebrate 60 Years of DCE Ministry in the Synod," to be forwarded to the 2019 Synod Convention in Tampa, FL.

Ministry Team Updates

❖ **Adult Education.** Workshops on teaching the faith in the home were recorded at the Educators Conference in Salina and are now being edited.

❖ **Children's and Family Life Committee.** On September 21-22, seven District church worker couples participated in a church worker marriage retreat in Herington. Rev. Dr. David Muench served as the retreat presenter.

❖ **Early Childhood Education.** The 2019 KAIRS Early Childhood Workshop will be held at Christ, Overland Park, on Saturday, March 2, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Cari Ebert will present the keynote topic: "Making Sense Out of Sensory." The 2019 District-sponsored Summer Workshop is scheduled to be held at Zion, Chanute, on Saturday, July 27.

Lutheran Schools. The following educators were elected as 2018-19 officers for the Lutheran Schools Committee: Eric Pralle (Independence), Chair; Lisa Brookover (Atchison), Chair-Elect; and David Beikmann (Linn), Secretary. Andrea Kosmicki (Topeka) and Miranda Mondary (Shawnee) were elected to three-year terms on the Professional Development Committee.

Youth Ministry Updates. Alicia Feyerherm (Messiah, Hays) has been selected as a new Lutheran Youth Fellowship representative for the District.

Church Worker Care. Rev. Lee Hovel, Rev. Neil Buono, and Rebeka Cook (Trinity, Shawnee) represented the District in St. Louis at a meeting of the Ministerial Care Coalition on October 12. The meeting was primarily devoted to reviewing recent survey data on worker wellness, with some focus on mental health.

LCEF

Jeff Maltz

Business Summary

- Through March 2018, LCEF Kansas District has **39** LCEF loans outstanding with a balance of **\$16,006,342**.
- LCEF Kansas District has **1997** investors.
- Total amount invested: **\$48,755,046**
- Total number of investments: **2951**

Activity in the Kansas District. The LCEF Kansas Board of Managers approved loans to Our Redeemer, Hutchinson; Trinity, Garden City; Faith, Emporia (DVP approved); Bethany, Overland Park (refinance); and King of Kings, Gardner. Thirteen churches are engaged with LCEF in some respect (e.g., Consecrated Stewards; Capital Funding Services). St. John's, Meade paid its loan in full.

National Marketing Focus. The current marketing focus for LCEF, starting in October, is the 40-month note at 4%, which is aimed at helping LCEF raise \$100 million.

Business Office

Heather Williams

Human Resources/Personnel. In November and December, we will be shifting some work assignments in the office. Janet Powell will become the part-time administrative assistant for the Department of Education and Youth, which will provide more support for Jim Bradshaw, and certain Missions and Stewardship projects will be shifted to the Business Office, with final approval on all items still provided by Dan Galchutt. In addition to working out these transitions, time was also devoted in the third quarter to the development of a professional level for our organizational structure.

District Office Improvements. Projects completed this quarter include concrete stairs, sidewalk and curbing on the west side of the building (\$26,000), boiler repairs (\$2000), and security upgrades (\$9100), including six cameras for the perimeter of the building. Local law enforcement has already requested footage from these cameras twice.

District Treasurer. Thad Sullivan accepted the appointment as Treasurer. Since then, he and Heather Williams have been working together on a monthly basis to establish oversight procedures. They've also been working on updating our financial reports so they're more user-friendly and in compliance with upcoming GAAP accounting pronouncements.

Retreat Center Update. Rev. Mark and Kristi Lovett continue to support the District as our property managers. Since the last meeting, we've added an additional washer and dryer set and replaced the lawn mower. The District staff is planning a work day at the Retreat Center on November 5.

Doris Meyer Estate. Doris Meyer's total estate gifts to the District to date are \$2,080,000. The \$875,000 portion designated to scholarships is housed at Thrivent, where it is earning 3%. Until the BOD decides where to direct the remaining \$1.2 million in unrestricted funds, those funds are being housed at LCEF in both a 5-year term note (which can be withdrawn early for minimal penalty) and in the District's Stewardship account.

Communications

Kris Bruss

Website. In addition to regular updates and changes, new event pages were created for KDYG, NYG, and the worker conferences. With respect to conferences, we added links to online evaluation forms, as we did with convention. Tami Lierz reports that these online evaluations are saving significant time in processing responses. We also updated our education pages in response to an audit by LCMS School Ministry. Tuesday continues to be the highest traffic day on the website; Saturday is the lowest.

Publications (Workers and Witness). We just added a monthly schedule of visits for our executives in *Workers Together* to keep readers informed about when a District staff member is going to be in their area. We also prepared a couple of special items for *The Lutheran Witness*: 1) a feature on the Retreat Center, designed to let readers know how the property might be useful to them and 2) a “Triennium Checklist” of items from the 2018 convention that congregations have been encouraged to consider.

Special Projects. Third-quarter projects included the “Placed for a Purpose” Bible study and sermons (fine-tuning stage), narrative budget resource and partnerships handout (draft stage), congregational commitment materials, strategic planning documents, special offerings, and event photography. High priority for next quarter: The Kansas District style guide.

BOARD REPORTS

Board of Missions

Marvin Schulteis, Chair

Church Planting. The board visited with Rev. Dr. Steve Schave of the LCMS about how the Synod might help the Kansas District in considering church planting opportunities in Kansas. The board also reviewed the Church Planting Committee description for the District Operating Manual and suggested changes. New members of this committee will be appointed by February.

Mission Central Updates. We’ve renewed our partnership with Mission Central and are now receiving a quarterly report from LCMS Advancement summarizing contributions to Synod coming from the Kansas District.

Mission Grant Reports. The board reviewed reports and started a discussion about simplifying the reporting process.

West Africa Missions Committee/Pentecost Offering. The Pentecost Offering has raised roughly \$17,000, enough to cover the tuition of three students at the Lutheran Center for Theological Studies (CLET) in Togo.

Board of Education

Bruce Schultz, Chair

Education Executive Report. The board discussed the transition period between convention and new committee appointments, noting Jim Bradshaw’s suggestion (broadly applicable to all District committees) that committee appointments for this triennium should be in effect until a new committee is appointed in 2021, no longer than the October 2021 board meeting.

Committee Reports. The board reviewed reports from Adult Education, Children & Family Life, Lutheran Schools, and Youth Ministry, taking time to discuss at length the formation of a Youth Ministry Task Force, with the goal of increasing participation in District-sponsored youth events.

2018 KDYG Host Congregation. Pastor Henry Blickhahn of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church has agreed to be the Communion celebrant for the Sunday morning worship service at the Kansas District Youth Gathering.

ACTION ITEMS

- The board approved two Legacy Grant requests, one to DCE Tyler Tollefson for KINDLE enrollment and one to preschool teacher Susan Wells for continuing education.
- The board approved directing the KDYG Worship Offering to support the 2019 NYG registrations of students from Our Savior Lutheran Church in New York, NY.

[Board of Caring Ministry](#)

Rick Hanebutt, Chair

Board Description. The board reviewed and edited its current position description for the District Operating Manual. They will also be reviewing and updating various committee descriptions.

Pastors Wives Retreat. The board discussed the Pastors Wives Retreat with Marcia Lange, who has been organizing the event for the past several years. They agreed to develop a subcommittee to help organize the retreat and discussed other ways to support pastors' wives.

Report Review: Reports from Disaster Response and Parish Nursing were reviewed.

ACTION ITEMS

- The board approved up to \$1000 for Brian Mead to attend a LERT chainsaw training event.
- The board also approved a request from Donna Williams, District Disaster Response Coordinator, to use District letterhead for an appeal for a reduced fee for surgery for Evie the comfort dog. The draft of the letter will be forwarded to the Business Manager and Communication Specialist for review.

[Board of Stewardship](#)

Rich Schotte, Chair

Congregational Receipts. District congregational gifts are at 73.3% of budget. The 2018 congregational mission receipts are \$10,696 less than last year's receipts at the end of the third quarter. In 2018, there are 16 no-pledge/no-receipt congregations. 2019 mission commitment letters have been sent to congregations.

Budget Review. A proposed figure of \$1,449,625 million in congregational receipts is being proposed, reflecting a 2.1% decrease from the previous year. 10% of congregational receipts will be used for mission grants, while 28% has been allocated for Synod support. The proposed budget is balanced at \$0.

Convention Resolutions. The board reviewed several convention resolutions related to stewardship, noting actions that have been taken or are being planned. As one example, the LCMS Foundation is being invited to the February 2019 Board of Directors meeting to share more information about what they offer in the area of planned giving.

ACTION ITEMS

- The board approved designating the Ash Wednesday offering for education loan repayment and scholarships, with 75% supporting loan repayment and 25% supporting scholarships. The proposed percentage for scholarships has been reduced in light of new support for scholarships from the Meyer estate gift.

Board of Administration

David Bruns, Chair

Treasurer's Report. The board reviewed the Treasurer's Report. (See information in "Congregational Receipts" in the Stewardship report above.) We're seeing a trend of declining congregational commitments, while expenditures have held steady.

ACTION ITEMS

The board adopted the following resolutions:

- Acknowledge quarterly gifts in the amount of \$500,178.90 (higher than usual due to one large estate gift)
- Add a professional level in the District Personnel Manual
- Add a professional level to the District pay scale
- Approve the 2019 payroll proposal
- Establish staff housing allowances for 2019 for the District President, Assistant to the President for Missions and Stewardship, and Assistant to the President for Education and Youth.
- Appoint the LCMS auditors for 2019
- Move unspent funds from the Human Care-Worker Care line item at the end of the fiscal year into a restricted fund for worker care
- Set the total assessment for the 2019 Synod Convention for congregations at \$2.15 per communicant member

Salary Review

Bruce Schultz, Chair

Discussion Items. The committee discussed the following items:

- Addition of the professional level in the District employee pay scale
- Salary Review Committee position description
- Salary guidelines comparisons
- Vacancy/pulpit supply pay comparison