



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 2019

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

President's Office

Rev. Peter Lange

Symposia at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW). President Lange attended the symposia series at CTSFW January 15–18. The exegetical symposium was on the Gospel of John. The Confessions Symposium observed the 500th anniversary of the Leipzig Debate. As in the past couple years, we plan to continue scheduling the annual District Pre-Lent Conference so that it doesn't conflict with the CTSFW symposia.

Task Force Appointments. We've made progress on appointments to two District task forces. The Older Adult Ministry Task Force, mandated by the convention, has been appointed; the group met for the first time in late January. Invitations have just gone out to potential appointees for the Koinonia Task Force, with the aim of securing representation from a wide cross-section of the District. The goal of the task force will be to develop a plan to implement the Koinonia Project as widely as possible throughout the Kansas District.

Lutheran Social Services (LSS). President Lange and Nicole Boyle are the Kansas District representatives for Lutheran Social Services, Incorporated (a Kansas not-for-profit corporation), which recently adopted new Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, and Bylaws. Member agencies of the organization include the LCMS Kansas District, the LCMS Oklahoma District, the Missouri District ELCA, and the Oklahoma District ELCA.

Visit with the Wisconsin Synod District President. On January 8, President Lange met with WELS Nebraska District President Rev. Phil Hirsch, whose district includes congregations in Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, and several other states in the region. The LCMS and WELS have been conducting annual talks during December since approximately 2010.

Congregational Visits. President Lange has visited 136 of the 160 Kansas District congregations since he took office in 2015, with three more visits scheduled. The majority of the visits have been for all-congregation occasions or large group meetings; the remainder have been private visits or circuit conferences. In other congregation-related news, President Lange reports that 95 of our congregations are able to support a full-time pastor, and 65 are not (and so are part of a dual or multi-point parish or are being served part-time).

Missions and Stewardship

Rev. Dan Galchutt

Travel. In the past quarter, Rev. Galchutt attended three circuit meetings, preached at four Stewardship Sunday/Weekend events, and participated in several *re:Vitality* and *Every One His Witness* meetings. He also attended the Rural and Small Town Ministry Conference in Kansas City in November and the first annual District Life Conference in January.

West Africa Committee. On January 18, Rev. Galchutt met with the newly appointed members of the West Africa Committee: Rev. Chris Craig, Rev. Joel Hiesterman, Adam Maddox, DCE Heather McCormick, and Jay Meyer. The committee received an update from Rev. Gary Schulte, LCMS West Africa Area Director, who joined the group via GoToMeeting. They also reviewed previous Pentecost Offerings and began discussing materials for the 2019 Offering, which will once again support students at the Lutheran Center for Theological Studies (CLET) in Togo.

Special Projects. Rev. Galchutt continues to assist the district president as needed with projects including circuit meetings and committee appointments. He has also assisted with the District budget and finances as well as congregational commitments.

Missions and Stewardship Resources. The “Placed for a Purpose” stewardship series went live last quarter. Work continues on the narrative budget guide, and a “What’s Next for Your Congregation” web resource is in the planning stages.

Education and Youth / Caring Ministry

James Bradshaw

DCE News. The overture, “To Affirm and Celebrate 60 Years of DCE Ministry in the Synod,” will be forwarded to the 2019 Synod Convention in Tampa, Florida. Ten Kansas District DCEs attended the National DCE Conference in San Diego January 2–4.

Teaching the Faith Videos. The videos recorded at the 2018 Fall Educators Conference in Salina are now available on the District’s YouTube channel. The emphasis is on home-based catechesis, daily devotions, Bible instruction in the home, and equipping parents to be teachers of the faith.

Older Adult Ministry Task Force Appointments. President Lange has appointed the following individuals to serve on the Older Adult Ministry Task Force, per District Convention Resolution 18-04-09: Tom Perry, Chair, Rev. Cliff Winter, Rev. Dennis Fangmeyer, Betty Amey, Grace Dahlke, and Barb Geuy. The first meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, January 29, at Our Redeemer, Hutchinson.

Lutheran Schools. 2018–19 NLSA scheduled site visits include Zion, Independence (March) and Holy Cross, Wichita (April). Extensions have been granted to 2019 for the early childhood centers at Beautiful Savior, Olathe and King of Kings, Gardner. Jim Bradshaw’s 2018–19 school visits are scheduled to be completed in February, with remaining visits to Independence and Linn.

Upcoming Events. The 2019 District-sponsored Summer Workshop at Zion, Chanute, is scheduled for Saturday, July 27. The 2019 District Youth Gathering will take place November 22–24, 2019, at the Hyatt in Wichita. The 2019 Lutheran Valley Retreat camp is scheduled for June 16–21, with the 2019 National Youth Gathering taking place the following month, July 11–15, in Minneapolis, MN.

Youth Ministry Task Force Appointments. President Lange appointed the following to serve on the new Youth Ministry Task Force: Rev. Michael Ada, Chair (Beautiful Savior, Olathe), DCE Brian Amey (Holy

Cross, Wichita), Rev. Tim Heath (St. John, Aliceville), DCE Paul White (Mt. Calvary, Wamego), DCE Amanda Adams (Christ, Topeka), Rev. Dennis Kootz (Trinity, Salina), Rev. Ben Ockree (Calvary, Topeka), lay representative Kim Kristalyn (Grace, Iola), Rev. Stan Palmer (Kinsley, Offerle), and lay representative Keith Harmoney (Messiah, Hays). The task force has two primary charges: 1) assess the youth ministry needs of Kansas District congregations of every type (Spring 2019) and 2) propose initiatives, based on needs (Fall 2019).

LCEF

Jeff Maltz

Business Summary

- Through December 2018, LCEF Kansas District had **36** LCEF loans outstanding with a balance of **\$15,822,455**.
- The LCEF Kansas District has **1999** investors.
- Total amount invested: **\$49,552,140**

Activity in the Kansas District. Fifteen churches are engaged with LCEF in some respect (e.g., Consecrated Stewards; Capital Funding Services). Two Topeka congregations, Faith and St. John's, paid their loans in full.

LCEF Marketing Focus. The 40-month note at 4% offer closed in January. The marketing focus now is the Church Improvement Loan.

Business Office

Heather Williams

Human Resources/Personnel. Administrative Assistant Janet Powell is now working part-time for Education and Missions, providing more support to Jim Bradshaw with his various committees and accreditation tasks. Tami Lierz will continue providing support to Education & Youth with events and rosters/statistics as she continues her support of the Office of the District President. Stewardship tasks have now shifted to the Business Office, with final approval on all items still provided by Dan Galchutt.

District Office Improvements. We recently learned that the copper wire has not been stripped from our outside light posts. However, we do have a faulty timer box that will need to be repaired in order to get the lights working again. We also intend to solicit bids to place a gate on the outside stairwell to the basement to prevent loitering and other activities. With respect to the interior of the building, we will be replacing seven computers this year because of discontinued support for Windows 7 and will also be considering possible AV improvements in the Melanchthon room.

Conferences and Conventions. Plans are underway for the next Church Worker Conference in Overland Park October 6–9, 2019. Bethany, Overland Park, will serve as the event venue. The District has entered into a contract with the nearby Hampton Inn for sleeping rooms. Synod convention assessments will go out to congregations in the next couple of weeks. An information meeting for our delegates traveling to Tampa, Florida, will be at Trinity, Salina, on Saturday, June 22. Looking out a bit further, the District now has a contract with the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka for our District convention June 10–11, 2021. The dates reflect a new two-day convention schedule that we'll be following in 2021.

Retreat Center. In November, the District staff had a workday at the Retreat Center to give it some much-needed attention. From the workday, we became aware of several needed improvements, including spreading of dirt, mud-jacking of lower corner and front column of the main building, and

replacement of some minor fixtures. We'll continue to work with the property managers on these projects.

Archivist. District Archivist Mike Grau has been in the office nearly every day, organizing files and building an internet platform to share our archives in a more cohesive way. He plans for the archives website to link easily and seamlessly from our Kansas District website.

Communications

Kris Bruss

Website. We're in the process of updating contact names for Education, Missions, and Stewardship pages in light of recent changes in responsibilities of the office staff. This spring, we'll be working on bigger revisions of some of our pages, including Missions (all pages), Family Ministry, Worker Wellness, and Communications, and we'll be building a new page for Adult Education.

Lutheran Witness Features. Special emphases in the past quarter have included the new "Teaching the Faith in the Home" video series (December), life issues and our Lutheran schools (January), and the strategic direction document and LERT activities (February). We're planning to solicit "Joy:Fully Lutheran" material from readers for the June/July issue, in conjunction with this summer's Synod convention.

District Offerings. We're currently preparing materials for two upcoming special offerings: 1) the Ash Wednesday Offering (March 6), which supports District scholarships and education loan repayment grants, and 2) the Pentecost Offering (June 9), which supports mission work in Francophone West Africa.

Communications Guide. The Kansas District Communications Guide has now been drafted and is in review. The guide includes six sections: 1) grammar and style (including Kansas-specific guidelines), 2) an editing checklist, 3) submission guidelines for District publications, 4) guidelines for District-affiliated committees and coordinators, 5) conference presentation guidelines, and 6) requests. After all necessary reviews are complete (staff; DOM Committee), the guide will be posted on the website.

BOARD REPORTS

Board of Missions

Marvin Schulteis, Chair

Missions Central. Rev. Dr. Brent Smith joined the meeting to discuss national and international missions.

Resolutions Review. Board members discussed the status and progress of resolutions assigned to it. All are being addressed.

Church Planting Committee. President Lange's appointments will be presented to the full Board of Directors at its meeting.

Vacancies and Congregational Partnerships. Rev. Rostek reported on the possibilities for ministry to the congregations in Lakin and Ulysses.

Re:Vitality and Every One His Witness. Dozens of congregations are using these programs.

Campus Ministry. Rev. Galchutt recently visited Fairmount Ministries in Wichita. He also met with Deacon Bob Prue at Haskell LIGHT Ministry in Lawrence. Deacon Prue plans to start attending Circuit 6 meetings.

Action Items

- The Board approved a 2019 mission grant allotment of \$145,000.

Board of Education & Youth

Bruce Schultz, Chair

Report Review. Jim Bradshaw expanded on written committee and coordinator reports from Adult Education, Children and Family Life, Lutheran Schools, Early Childhood Education, and Youth Ministry.

Resolutions. The board devoted substantial time to reviewing resolutions assigned to it. Specifically, they discussed progress on 18-03-04 (home catechesis), 18-03-05 (use of CPH materials in preschools and ECE Centers), and 18-04-07 (Lutheran instruction and colloquy for non-Lutheran teachers). As a result of the discussion, the board will take the following steps:

- Invite Amy Schultz, Early Childhood Consultant, to attend the next meeting in May.
- Draft a letter regarding Res. 18-04-05 and 18-04-07 for Jim Bradshaw to take to the Lutheran Schools Committee.

Youth Events. The board discussed registration numbers for the Kansas District Youth Gathering, noting a downward trend in registrations (down by half over 20 years). Attendance at junior high rallies, in contrast, is up.

Board of Caring Ministry

Rick Hanebutt, Chair

Report Review. The board reviewed reports from Disaster Response, Parish Nurse Ministry, Church Worker Care, and the Pastors' Wives Retreat. As part of this review, the board noted the importance of keeping expenses within the allocated budget, which they will communicate to committee chairs.

Pastors' Wives Retreat. The board discussed parameters of a position description for the Pastors' Wives Retreat Committee, which will provide organizational support for the annual retreat. The board will review the description for the Church Worker Conference Planning Committee as a possible model.

Policy for Funding Church Worker Care. The committee discussed funding mechanisms, types of expenses, approval and reimbursement policy ideas, confidentiality needs, and potential limits on expenses or number of services. The board also discussed the need for guidelines or requirements for accessing services.

Resolutions Review. The board reviewed assigned convention resolutions.

Board of Stewardship

Rich Schotte, Chair (reported by Justin Panzer, Secretary)

2018 Budget Review. 2018 receipts from congregations totaled \$1,474,093, which is 99.6% of the amount budgeted (\$1,480,720). Eight congregations were late in submitting their 2018 pledge before the end of the fiscal year.

2019 Budget Discussion. The proposed 2019 budget has been set at \$1,449,625 in congregational receipts, a 2.1% decrease from the previous year. The proposed budget includes a 28% pledge to the Synod and 10% for mission grants. This would leave a projected balanced budget.

Stewardship Resources. Rev. Galchutt's *Placed for a Purpose* stewardship series is available for free on the District website. Brad Brunkow continues to be available to District workers for stewardship purposes.

Planned Giving. The LCMS Foundation is scheduled to visit the August 2018 Board of Directors meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

- The board passed a resolution that the 2019 budget as presented be approved by the Board of Directors.

Board of Administration

David Bruns, Chair

Review Items. The board discussed deferred maintenance, the budget, insurance coverage, the District's event software contract, server and computer replacement, and endowment documents.

Treasurer's Report. The board reviewed the Treasurer's Report. (See information in "Congregational Receipts" in the Stewardship report above.) 2019 congregational mission receipts are \$30,864 less than the prior year's receipts for the fiscal year. Congregational receipts are ahead of congregational commitments by \$418,654 (38.9%).

ACTION ITEMS

The board adopted a resolution to acknowledge quarterly gifts in the amount of \$8,102.64.

Salary Review

Bruce Schultz, Chair

Salary Guidelines. Both the pastors and parish professionals compensation decision support tools from Concordia Plan Services (CPS) have now been released. Before the Kansas District recommends the CPS guidelines, the Salary Review Committee will be testing assorted sets of data to compare to the District salary guidelines. Until those data sets have been reviewed, we will continue to recommend that congregations use the Kansas District salary guidelines.