



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 2019

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

President's Office

Rev. Peter Lange

Visits/Travel. The Kansas District includes 16 circuits and 14 winkels (circuit meetings), which President Lange aims to visit each year. He visited eight winkels in the past quarter and made it to all four regions of the District. He also stopped by the DCE Retreat in Herington.

Calling Congregations. This list of calling congregations remains high, with 17 parishes on the list. Thirteen congregations are seeking a sole pastor, one is seeking a senior pastor, and three would like an associate/assistant. In the past quarter, five call lists were completed; five congregations are now waiting for call lists. President Lange mentioned the decreasing number of available seminary candidates, noting that in his first year in office, the Kansas District received eight candidates. This year, we received just one.

Call Day 2019. The one candidate assigned to the Kansas District is heading to First, Phillipsburg. The District also received four vicars (to Ascension, Wichita; Risen Savior, Basehor; Beautiful Savior, Olathe; and Trinity, Girard) from our two LCMS seminaries. Trinity, Girard is a new vicarage site this year.

Nomination for First Vice-President. Nominations for LCMS first vice-president were announced March 12. Twenty candidates are on the list of nominees, including President Lange. Much could happen between now and the election, but the staff has nonetheless initiated some preliminary "what if" discussions. The next milestone will be the election of the Synod president, which occurs in late June.

Kansas District Report to the LCMS Convention. President Lange highlighted several aspects of the Kansas District's 1500-word report to the LCMS convention, including the District's work in Guinea, the call process, the Koinonia Project, visitation, licensed lay deacons, and improvements in the District in the past three years. The report is now available on the District website.

Missions and Stewardship

Rev. Dan Galchutt

Visits/Travel. Rev. Galchutt traveled to six circuit meetings and eight missions and stewardship events (e.g., meetings, festivals, conferences) in the past quarter. He also made several trips related to partnership discussions and committee work.

Partnership Discussions. Congregational partnerships are a high priority here in Kansas as well as in other districts. Rev. Galchutt is aiming to convene a meeting in Topeka within the next six months that will involve a guided conversation with pastors who have formed or are serving in partnerships as well as missions executives in the region. That conversation is expected to be the basis of a new partnership resource for our congregations.

Campus Ministry. Campus ministry leaders met at the District Office on May 1 to discuss strategies for strengthening campus ministry in the District. The group will be working on producing messages for students, parents, and congregations, with a special emphasis on reaching students before they go off to college.

Urban and Hispanic Ministry. Rev. Galchutt is currently working with the Missouri District on a potential partnership to support Hispanic ministry in the Kansas City area.

2019 Pentecost Offering. Interest in participating in the District's Pentecost Offering is increasing, which is encouraging, since the need for support is growing in West Africa. There are currently three students from Guinea enrolled at the Lutheran Center for Theological Studies (CLET) in Togo. Additionally, the new Guinea Institute trained 10 first-year students locally; four are expected to continue their studies. In related news, the Kansas District LWML has named the West Africa Partnership as its Day of Prayer offering recipient for April 1, 2019–March 31, 2020.

Education and Youth / Caring Ministry

James Bradshaw

Calls – Principals. In the last quarter, one principal/teacher accepted a call into the Kansas District (to St. John, Alma), one was installed (St. Paul, Leavenworth), and one accepted a call into another district (from Trinity, Winfield).

Adult Education. The Adult Education Committee conducted a month-long online survey of District pastors and laity in February. Thirty-six pastors (26%) completed the survey while 237 laity offered responses; preliminary analysis points to a need for resources like guides, seminars, and training courses. The committee will next meet on August 10 to further dissect the results and formulate an action plan.

Lutheran Schools. The 2019 KAIRS Early Childhood Workshop was held at Christ, Overland Park, on March 2 with 180 participants in attendance. Eighteen Kansas District early learning centers (40%) were represented. Accreditation site visits were completed at Zion, Independence (March 24–26) and Holy Cross, Wichita (April 29–May 1). The Topeka Lutheran School Association kicked off a \$2.5 million three-year capital campaign on March 29. Concordia Academy (classical Lutheran school, grades 6–12) in Wichita will host a kick-off event on Friday, September 6, 6–9 p.m.

Youth Ministry Event Updates. As of January, 598 Kansans (46 congregations) had registered for the National Youth Gathering (July 11–15). Forty campers are registered for Lutheran Valley Retreat (June 16–21), with 20 spaces still available. Junior High Rally dates for 2019 are September 27–28, while the 2019 DYG is scheduled for November 22–24 at the Hyatt, Wichita.

Church Worker Care Committee. The newly constituted seven-member committee met with President Lange and Jim Bradshaw on February 21. The two primary topics that were discussed at this meeting were 1) the delivery of church worker care, and 2) the importance of providing resources to

congregations. Committee member Rev. Lee Hovel will present a proposal for a Congregational Church Worker Care Team within District congregations at the May 21 meeting.

Task Forces. The Older Adult Ministry Task Force and Youth Ministry Task Force have both created surveys related to their assignments. The Older Adult survey is complete, while the Youth Ministry survey will be launched this summer.

LCEF

Jeff Maltz

Business Summary

- Through April 2019, the LCEF Kansas District has **35** LCEF loans outstanding with a balance of **\$16,026,645**.
- The LCEF Kansas District has **1,983** investors.
- Total amount invested: **\$51,434,580**

Activity in the Kansas District. The LCEF Kansas Board of Managers approved a loan to Faith Lutheran Church, Topeka, for a building purchase. 15 other LCMS Kansas congregations are currently involved with LCEF activity.

National Marketing Focus. LCEF is making \$16,000 in Outreach Ministry Grants available to congregations, schools and other LCMS organizations within the LCMS Oklahoma and Kansas Districts to support local outreach events. Grants will be awarded in amounts of \$250 to \$1,000. The application period runs from May 15 to June 15, with grants awarded by June 28, 2019.

Kaleidoscope Grants. The 2019 Kaleidoscope Fund Grant process opened April 1; proposals are due May 31. This year, LCEF has narrowed the focus of impact for the grants to LCMS K-8 schools. (RSOs are not eligible.) Schools are invited to submit grants in the following categories: faculty enrichment, curriculum development, facility improvements and endowment creation.

LCEF Natural Disaster Assistance for Ministries. LCEF loans are available for disaster assistance. Loans are structured over 60 months, with 0% interest and no payment required for first 12 months. Loans are subject to loan underwriting and LCEF's issuance and terms of an approval letter.

Business Office

Heather Williams

Human Resources/Personnel. The Compensation Decision Support Tool from Concordia Plan Services (CPS) is now complete. The "LCMS Schools" tool for educators has just been added, joining the previously released "LCMS Churches" tool for pastors and parish professionals. An initial analysis of the CPS tool shows it to be significantly below the Kansas District Salary Guidelines. The Salary Review Committee will study the differences and make a recommendation about which tool (if not both) the District should utilize.

District Office

- **Building maintenance.** We had a 60-gallon flood from corroded and worn-out parts on the downstairs water fountain; we replaced the outdated unit with a less expensive upright water cooler. Scheduled improvements to the exterior of the building include replacement of the timer box for the dawn-to-dusk lights as well as improved security around our basement stairwell.

- **Technology** – Seven computers and docking stations have been ordered to replace machines still running Windows 7. We recently completed our server security assessment and have no major concerns, but a few suggestions to tighten our security. Our firewall will need to be replaced sometime in the next year.
- **Office Security** – We have a new building emergency information sheet that will be posted in meeting rooms that includes processes to follow in case of fire, severe weather, explosion, or an active shooter.

Synod Convention Business. Synod convention assessment payments, due July 1, have been submitted by 58% of congregations. An informational meeting for our Synod convention delegates will be held at Trinity, Salina, on June 22. All delegate hotel and travel information has been arranged with the Synod.

Audit. The Synod’s auditors have finished the January 15, 2019, audit and have issued the financial statements in draft form.

Archivist. District Archivist Mike Grau continues to make good progress on our archives website. He’s been especially helpful in connecting members of the District with treasured documents.

Communications

Kris Bruss

New on the District Website: The website now includes pages for Adult Education and Lutheran Youth Representatives (LYR, formerly Lutheran Youth Fellowship). Next quarter we’ll be revising several pages and creating separate pages for specialized ministries (e.g., Campus Ministry, Deaf Ministry, Urban and Ethnic Ministry).

Life Ministry Resource. At the request of our District Life Coordinator, we drafted a “Start a Local LFL Chapter” handout. This document might serve as a template for other “Kansas District Quick Guides” (e.g., starting partnership discussions, conducting annual stewardship campaigns, building a website).

2019 Pentecost Offering. We’ve produced a variety of materials for our annual Pentecost Offering (with thanks to our LCMS West Africa personnel for photos and information). We plan to devote special attention on Facebook to West Africa activities in the latter half of May and first part of June in conjunction with the offering.

Communications Guide. The Kansas District Communications Guide is now available on our website. The guide includes six sections: 1) Grammar and Style (including Kansas-specific guidelines), 2) Editing Checklist, 3) Submission Guidelines: *Workers Together* and *The Lutheran Witness*, 4) Guidelines for District-affiliated Committees/Coordinators, 5) Conference Presentations, and 6) Requests.

Narrative Budget Guide. We’ve received some helpful feedback on a draft-in-progress of our Narrative Budget Guide, which we shared this quarter with the Kansas District Board of Stewardship as well as a local congregational stewardship board. We’ve also started brainstorming ideas for a narrative budget for the Kansas District.

BOARD REPORTS

Board of Missions

Marvin Schulteis, Chair

Missions Executive Report. The board heard more details from Rev. Dan Galchutt about church planting plans, Hispanic ministry possibilities in Kansas City, campus ministry ideas, and congregational partnership conversations.

Quarterly Mission Grant Reports. The board reviewed grant reports. Board member Sue Kleber noted the many positive things happening in the District (e.g., food pantry, silent social).

West Africa Committee. The board heard more news about the work in West Africa, especially as related to the upcoming Pentecost Offering. The District West Africa Committee has discussed the possibility of a Kansas District contingent traveling to West Africa.

District Convention Resolutions. The board reviewed convention resolutions assigned to it. The four resolutions address the Eugene Schmidt Memorial Mission Fund, use of Synod evangelism and revitalization programs, support for work in Guinea and West Africa, and church planting.

Grant Request from TIG Partnership (SW Kansas). The board discussed a preliminary grant request to support a partnership between Trinity, Garden City; Immanuel, Lakin; and Grace, Ulysses.

Board of Education

Mark Wolters, Secretary

Reports. The board heard a report from Jim Bradshaw and read committee reports from Adult Education, Children and Family Life, Lutheran Schools, and Youth Ministry.

Board of Education and Youth Description. The board reviewed a proposed description of the Board of Education and Youth for the District Operating Manual (DOM) and suggested minor changes. The description will now be forwarded to the DOM Committee.

ACTION ITEMS

- The board approved a Legacy Fund request from DCE LeAnn Miller (Hope, Shawnee) for participation in the KINDLE program, which focuses on training Christ-like servant leaders.

Board of Caring Ministry

Paul Tessaro, Acting Chair

Report Review. The board reviewed reports from the District Disaster Response Coordinator, Parish Nurse Representative, and Church Worker Care Committee.

District Operating Manual Descriptions. The DOM Committee is currently reviewing previously submitted descriptions for the Church Worker Care Committee and Pastors' Wives Retreat Committee.

Policy Discussion. The board reviewed past and current District procedures for responding to funding needs with respect to Parish Nurse Ministry and Ministry with Comfort Dogs. In order to provide better guidance and direction for District staff, the board will review other districts' policies and procedures and establish funding policies and planning for continued use and expansion of these ministries.

Board of Stewardship

Rich Schotte, Chair

2019 Budget Review. District congregational receipts are 27.2% of the budget projections for the first quarter. First-quarter receipts in 2019 are ahead of first-quarter receipts from the last three years. Expenses are 24.85% of budget. All expenses are on track this quarter. Heather Williams has been able to find savings in the budget in the areas of telephone and video conferencing services for the District.

2020-21 Budget Projections. Budget projections reflect a 2.1% decrease in congregational giving to the District per year. 2021 budget receipts are projected at \$1,857,753, leaving a projected deficit of \$40,595. 2022 budget receipts project at \$1,824,750, with a projected deficit of \$75,891. These amounts assume the same LCEF operating results income. Considering budget projections, the Board of Stewardship would like to ask each service board in the District to submit their budget requests for 2020 in writing by July 1, 2019.

On the calendar. The District Scholarship Committee will meet in June to review scholarship applications. The LCMS Foundation will be joining us at the August 2019 Board of Directors meeting. At that same meeting, Rev. Dan Galchutt's three-year reappointment will be an agenda item.

Board of Administration

David Bruns, Chair

Treasurer's Report. The board reviewed the Treasurer's Report. District congregational mission commitments are at 27.2% of the fiscal January 15, 2020 budget and ahead of the prior year's receipts at the end of the first fiscal quarter. Actual congregational mission receipts are ahead of pledges by approximately 72.9%, or \$175,351.

Auditor's Report. Heather Williams presented a draft of the auditor's report.

Budget Review. The board reviewed the three-year budget projection.

Discussion Items. The board talked about a possible fund for deferred maintenance, noted current work on a dashboard of internal financial controls for congregations, and began exploring the amendments to the Articles of Incorporation.

ACTION ITEM

The board adopted the following resolution:

- Acknowledge quarterly gifts in the amount of \$66,984.40