



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 August 2019

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

President's Office

Rev. Peter Lange (Outgoing District President)

Visits/Travel. President Lange made visits to every region of the District in the past quarter. The number of visits was a bit lower than usual, due in part to activities related to the LCMS national convention.

Calling Congregations. We currently have 17 calling congregations. Twelve are seeking a sole pastor, one is seeking a senior pastor, and four are looking for an associate or assistant. In the past quarter, call list activity was high, with seven call lists completed. Only two congregations are now waiting for lists.

Koinonia. Work on "Koinonia 2.0" began last fall with Rev. Dean Nadasdy's presentations at the 2018 Pastors Conference. The 10-member Koinonia Task Force, appointed in the months following the Pastors Conference, has met three times, with a fourth meeting scheduled for August. The group, chaired by Rev. Alan Stahlecker, is making very good progress and should be wrapping up face-to-face meetings soon. The next step: District-wide implementation.

Contingency Planning/Election to First Vice-President. With the First Vice-President election outcome determined, the District can move beyond contingency planning. Departing President Lange will begin his new job in St. Louis by September 1; in the meantime, he'll be working with incoming President Panzer and focusing on getting the president's files in good order before leaving. His last official appearance in the district will be the 150th anniversary celebration at Immanuel, Bremen.

President's Office

Rev. Justin Panzer (New District President)

Statement on New Role. Rev. Panzer made several comments as the incoming District President, citing Matthew 20:28 and noting his full support for the strategic direction of the District. President Panzer will be serving as president on a part-time basis while continuing to serve part-time as pastor of Faith, Abilene.

Synod Convention Resolutions. President Panzer expects to share relevant Synod convention resolutions with Kansas District service boards and committees soon. The Synod's emphasis for the coming triennium is "Making Disciples for Life."

District Vice-President Appointment. Rev. Panzer's transition to president of the Kansas District will leave a vice-president spot vacant. A new vice-president will be appointed by the Board of Directors this fall.

Missions and Stewardship

Rev. Dan Galchutt

Visits/Travel. Rev. Galchutt traveled to Kansas City frequently in the last quarter, with a special focus on urban and Hispanic ministry. He also participated in floor committee work in St. Louis and attended the LCMS convention in July.

Meetings/Support for the District President: Rev. Galchutt held 17 meetings with workers, which is a higher number than usual. Additional time was also devoted to working with District staff and members of Faith, Abilene on contingency planning and assisting the president with the call process and other tasks as needed.

Congregational Partnership Meeting. A small group of pastors and missions leaders will meet August 20 at the District Office to discuss best practices for forming congregational partnerships. The insights gained from the meeting will be used to create a partnership resource webpage on the District website.

Planned Giving. The District is exploring planned giving options in response to a 2018 convention resolution that encourages congregations to develop long-term funding strategies. As part of that effort, Rev. Phil Krupski of the LCMS Foundation was invited to address planned giving in a presentation to the Board of Directors.

Education and Youth / Caring Ministry

James Bradshaw

Commissioned Worker Update. There were 13 commissioned worker calls in the last quarter. Two congregations are currently involved in the call process.

Education. The Adult Education Committee sent out a survey and received responses from 36 pastors and 237 laypeople; the committee is now assessing the results. In Lutheran school news, 2019-20 NLSA site visits have been planned for four District schools. The 2019 kickoff for Concordia Academy, Wichita (a proposed classical school) has been postponed.

Youth Ministry Event Updates. Forty campers attended the Lutheran Valley Retreat summer camp in Colorado in June, and 671 Kansas participants made their way to the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis in July. 2019 fall youth events include the Junior High Rallies in September and the Kansas District Youth Gathering in November. The Youth Ministry Task Force sent out a 19-question online survey to pastors and youth leaders this summer; as of July 19, 59 of 160 congregations had completed the survey.

Church Worker Care. The Church Worker Care Committee is working to bolster District support for worker care. To this end, they're developing a resource manual for congregations, researching a "regional care facilitators" model, and identifying useful resources for the Worker Care page on the District website.

Disaster Response. This quarter was shaped largely by the District LERT response to the tornado outbreak on Tuesday, May 28, that impacted south Lawrence and surrounding communities, including Linwood, Kansas. The Kansas District LERT teams and Lutheran Church Charities Disaster Response from

Illinois spent a week in June working together to help residents recover. They stayed at and worked out of two LCMS churches in Basehor, Kansas: Trinity Family of Faith and Risen Savior. The teams were able to complete major chainsaw work and debris cleanup at 13 homes.

LCEF

Jeff Maltz

Business Summary

- Through April 2019, the LCEF Kansas District has **36** LCEF loans outstanding with a balance of **\$15,819,419**.
- The LCEF Kansas District has **1,980** investors.
- Total amount invested: **\$50,852,666**

Activity in the Kansas District. The LCEF Kansas Board of Managers approved three loans to congregations totaling \$941,000. Eleven additional congregations are engaged in LCEF activity.

Outreach Ministry Grants. LCEF was able to make \$16,000 available for Outreach Ministry Grants in the Kansas District. Twenty-seven grants were awarded in support of various ministries across Kansas, for projects including Vacation Bible School, community celebrations, and service events.

Business Office

Heather Williams

Human Resources. Rev. Dan Galchutt and Heather Williams met with leaders and voters of Faith, Abilene to iron out details regarding President Panzer's work arrangement. Many thanks go out to Board of Directors members Dave Bruns and Thad Sullivan for their legal expertise, time and energy in drafting and reviewing the contracts needed for this transition.

District Office. Recent repairs and improvements include the exterior security lights and timer box and commercial carpet cleaning. On the technology front, seven computers and docking stations were replaced to bring machines up to the current Windows 10 platform needed for networking support. We plan to wipe data from the old machines and donate them to one of our early childhood centers.

Synod Convention. Assessment payments have come in from all but 20 congregations. Assessments were due July 1 but continue to be received. With the continuing receipt of assessments, along with the delegate reimbursement requests that are still coming in, a financial report for Synod Convention will be presented next quarter. Delegate registration, travel and lodging arrangements went smoothly.

District Events. Registration will open in early August for the October Church Worker Conferences to be held at Bethany, Overland Park. These will be the first events to utilize our new Cvent registration platform. In July, KansaSeed hosted the 2019 International Lutheran Deaf Association convention at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka. The planning committee reported that the convention went well.

Audit. The Synod's auditors presented the final January 15, 2019 audited financial statements along with a letter indicating no management comments. They expressed an unqualified (or "clean") opinion on our financial statements. The audit report can be found on our website under Business Office, District Resources.

Communications

Kris Bruss

Transition Communication. President Lange's election triggered a number of communication-related activities, including news announcements, website changes, event planning and materials (e.g., Farewell and Godspeed service), and special features in District publications. Transition communication will continue for the next couple of months.

Website. In the past quarter, we completed revisions of the Missions and Stewardship pages as well as the Worker Wellness page. The LERT page also got a fair amount of attention, especially in the weeks following the tornado in the Basehor/Linwood/Bonner Springs area. We also added a District email address for archivist Mike Grau, who can now be reached at archives@kslcms.org.

LW Subscription Drive: *The Lutheran Witness* insert is our main channel for communicating with the general LCMS population in Kansas. To encourage subscriptions, we created a special LW promotional flyer to send to congregations in conjunction with the annual subscription drive, which is underway now.

Priority Projects on the Radar. Several special communication projects are slated for completion by the end of the year, including a Kansas District Ministry Impact Report, overview document of 2020 Kansas District Offerings (to be shared with churches in late summer/early fall), a web-based partnership resource, and 2020 Life Ministry Conference promotion materials.

BOARD REPORTS

Board of Missions

Marvin Schulteis, Chair

Missions Executive Report. Rev. Dan Galchutt addressed highlights from the 2019 Synod convention, the upcoming partnership meeting Aug 20 in the District Office, and Hispanic ministry developments in Kansas City, which include the first-ever *Every One His Witness* workshop held entirely in Spanish, held at Jesus El Buen Pastor Lutheran Church.

Quarterly Contributions Report from the Synod. The board reviewed the giving report for the Kansas District for July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 (full fiscal year), taking special note of giving to Togo (\$55,781.61) and Central/West Africa Support (\$27,487.86).

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.

Church Planting Committee. Texas District President Michael Newman is scheduled to meet in October with the committee to discuss network-supported church planting.

2020 Mission Grant Process. Applications for 2020 mission grants will be sent to congregations in early August, with a due date of Sept. 20. The Board of Missions will meet October 1 in Salina to review applications.

ACTION ITEMS

The Board moved and approved the following:

- **Resolved**, that Kansas District renew its Letter of Understanding with the LCMS Mission Development Counselor and Mission Central.
- **Resolved**, that Rev. Dan Galchutt be reappointed to serve another three-year term.

Board of Education

Bruce Schultz, Chair

Report Review. The board reviewed and approved reports from the Assistant to the President for Education & Youth and several committees, including Children and Family Life, Lutheran Schools, Early Childhood, Adult Education, and Youth Ministry.

LCMS Convention Resolutions. The board discussed resolutions from the 2019 Synod convention, especially those from Floor Committee 12, Retention: Schools, Family, Youth and Young Adults. The board noted implications for the Kansas District, including the importance of reinforcing family involvement in faith formation and helping college-age students maintain a connection to faith communities.

ACTION ITEMS

The Board moved and approved the following:

- **Resolved**, that Lottie Lee be renewed as Chair of the Professional Development Committee of our Lutheran Schools for 2019-20.
- **Resolved**, that Jane Limback be renewed as the Lutheran Schools Accreditation Commissioner for the Kansas District for 2019-20.

Board of Caring Ministry

Rick Hanebutt

Report Review. The board reviewed reports from committees and coordinators, including a detailed report from Kansas District Disaster Response Coordinator Donna Williams on a busy quarter with disaster relief efforts.

Policy Discussions. The board discussed progress on several policies, including the Pastors' Wives Retreat Policy, Policy for Ministry with Comfort Dogs, and Policy for Parish Nurse Ministry. The goal with all the policies is to produce drafts by the end of August, which will then be discussed by the board via email.

Older Adult Task Force Report. The board gratefully received and reviewed the Older Adult Task Force Report and commended the report to the Board of Directors for review.

Board of Stewardship

Rich Schotte, Chair

Congregational Receipts. The board reviewed 2019 congregation receipts (see Treasurer's Report in the Board of Administration Report below) and 2019 mission receipts.

2019 Budget Review. The 2020 proposed budget was discussed. A draft budget will be presented at the November Board of Directors meeting.

Stewardship Activity. 1) The board discussed having a 2020 event in the Kansas District led by Rev. Heath Curtis or Rev. Nathan Meador from LCMS Stewardship. 2) The District will continue to explore planned giving after the presentation by the LCMS Foundation. The goal is to bring a recommendation through the Board of Stewardship for possible implementation in 2020. 3) The Scholarship Committee reported that students are receiving more money this year due to the recent Doris Meyer Estate gift.

Retreat Center. Heather Williams is working on renewing the contract with the Lovetts for management of the Retreat Center.

ACTION ITEMS

The Board moved and approved the following:

- **Resolved**, that Rev. Dan Galchutt be reappointed to serve another three-year term.
- **Resolved**, to approve a special request for scholarship support for a pastor colloquizing into the LCMS.

Board of Administration

David Bruns, Chair

Treasurer's Report. District congregational mission commitments are at 49.52% of the fiscal January 15, 2020 budget and behind prior year's receipts at the end of the second fiscal quarter. Actual congregational mission receipts are ahead of pledges by approximately 51.54% or \$251,247. Maintaining the ability to continue as a going-concern is not an issue.

Audit Review. The board reviewed the final audit and management letter.

"Give Now" Button. The District continues to explore online giving options. Prolific, which is affiliated with the Lutheran Federal Credit Union (LCFU), has some attractive features, including tithing 10% of fees back to congregations and ministries. Prolific's transaction processing fees are also about half of other options available.

ACTION ITEMS

The board adopted the following resolutions:

- **Resolved**, to acknowledge quarterly gifts in the amount of \$57,547.14.
- **Resolved**, to approve of the Employee Sharing Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding between Faith, Abilene and the LCMS Kansas District and Diploma of Vocation for Rev. Justin A. Panzer.
- **Resolved**, to authorize the District President, in consultation with the Business Manager, to expend up to \$5,000 for additional part-time staff hours.

Salary Review Committee

Bruce Schultz, Chair

ACTION ITEMS

The committee moved and approved the following:

- **Resolved**, that the Board of Directors of the Kansas District establish the base rate for the 2020 Salary Guidelines in the amount of \$34,767, an increase of \$412 or 1.2%.

- **Resolved**, that the Board of Directors of the Kansas District continue their 2020 enrollment in the Church's Plan and offer the High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) with Concordia Plan Services for eligible Kansas District staff.