



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 2020

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

President's Office

Rev. Justin Panzer

Call Updates. We presently have 13 calling congregations. Eight are seeking a sole pastor, two are seeking a senior pastor, and three are looking for an associate. Four call lists were completed in the last quarter; no congregations are currently waiting for call lists. Seven pastors were installed in the past quarter. Several of our congregations are seeking seminary candidates; the pool of available graduates is expected to be 106 at most.

Visits. President Panzer visited with all the vice-presidents and circuit visitors last quarter. He also visited five winkels.

Service Completed at Faith, Abilene. President Panzer's last day as pastor at Faith, Abilene was January 12. He is now serving as district president full-time.

Resolutions Update. The president has 10 convention resolutions for which he has some responsibility, covering topics including the sanctity of life, koinonia, and visitation. All 10 of the resolutions are moving forward.

Missions and Stewardship

Rev. Dan Galchutt

Travel. Among Rev. Galchutt's many meetings this quarter, church planting has received special emphasis. The Church Planting Committee has been very active in the past quarter as they planned and hosted the first in a series of exploratory meetings focused on church planting possibilities in the District.

Re:Vitality. St. Peter, Humboldt offered a new workshop in the *re:Vitality* series: "Shepherding Our Strays." There are now three *re:Vitality* workshops available to congregations, including the introductory workshop, "Connect to Disciple," "Shepherding Our Strays," and "Serving in God's Mission: Strategic Planning for Congregations" (now in beta testing).

Church Partnership Resources. Resources for church partnerships are expected to be available on the District website shortly after Easter. The partnership think tank (with members from Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa West) will be meeting February 10 at the University Lutheran Chapel in Lincoln, NE, to provide

feedback on draft materials (which were presented to Kansas circuit visitors in January) and offer ideas as we move forward.

Reconciler Training. Rev. Galchutt and President Panzer attended reconciler training in St. Louis January 20-24, along with Rev. Tom Harmon of Risen Savior, Wichita. Harmon and Ron Sims of St. John's, Topeka (who attended training a week later) will join Rev. Scott Snow (Holy Cross, Wichita) and Jeremy Pera (St. Paul, Clay Center) on the Kansas District team of reconcilers.

Circuit 6 Pulpit Supply. Rev. Galchutt has been assisting with pulpit supply in Circuit 6 about every six weeks to help cover vacancies in the area.

Education and Youth / Caring Ministry

James Bradshaw

Calls. The last quarter was fairly quiet with calls. One teacher was commissioned and installed. Four schools are seeking commissioned workers. One teacher call is pending.

Special Projects. Several major projects have been completed this quarter, including reports from the Youth Ministry Task Force and Older Adult Task Force. The Church Worker Care Committee has produced a Church Worker Care Team Guide that will be pilot tested at three congregations this year. The Children and Family Life Committee is working on preparing a comprehensive resource list to support Christian education efforts in the family.

Early Childhood Events. The Kansas Association for Independent and Religious Schools (KAIRS) will offer a one-day workshop at Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School in Wichita on Saturday, March 7. The topic is STEAM. The 2020 District-sponsored Early Childhood Summer Workshop will be held at Trinity, Mission and Shawnee, on Saturday, July 25. Dr. Marianne Gibbs is the keynote speaker.

Youth Ministry. Over 300 youth and adults attended the 2019 DYG, November 22-24, 2019 in Wichita. \$1,009 was contributed at the gathering worship for Disaster Response in the Kansas District. The 2020 KDYG will be held in Topeka November 20-22; DCE Heather McCormick (Faith, Topeka) is the chair. In January, the District Youth Ministry Committee held their annual retreat at the Retreat Center in Herington. The chair for the next two years is the Rev. Mike Ada; Rev. Ben Ockree (Calvary, Topeka) was appointed secretary.

Pastors' Wives Retreat. The Pastors' Wives Retreat is being offered March 27-28, after taking a year off. Deaconess Tiffany Manor of the New England District is the featured speaker.

LERT Training. On March 21, there will be a Train the Trainer workshop offered at the District Office in Topeka, led by Kathy O'Day of Lutheran Church Charities. The workshop is the perfect opportunity to jump into LERT activities for congregations interested in getting involved.

LCEF

Jeff Maltz

Business Summary

- Through December 2018, LCEF Kansas District had **32** LCEF loans outstanding with a balance of **\$15,325,200**.
- The LCEF Kansas District has **1919** investors.
- Total amount invested: **\$52,045,207**

Activity in the Kansas District. Three congregations paid off loans in the last quarter: First, Sabetha; Faith, Derby; and Immanuel, Wichita.

LCEF Marketing Focus. The focus this quarter is on ConnectPLUS, PartnerPLUS, and the Jumbo Term Note, a new investment option (fixed-rate term note at 3%; minimum \$100,000; no maximum).

Business Office

Heather Williams

Human Resources/Personnel. Circuit visitors have been encouraged to submit call documents to Heather Williams for financial review before calls are officially extended. This will help address any financial peculiarities or concerns before the call reaches the worker. We're also working on creating an email list of congregational treasurers, which will enhance our ability to communicate important information to them.

Property. We now have a second room available for electronic meetings. After our GoToMeeting contract expires in March, we'll be switching to Zoom.

Events. For the 2019 fiscal year, the District managed nearly \$320,000 in event revenue for 17 events. Event expenses came in at \$349,000. \$20,000 of the deficit was covered by funding designated by the Board of Directors for the Synod Convention, along with additional funding from event rollover funding. All our events are designed to break even, if possible.

IRS Group Exemption. Our Business Office has received numerous calls and emails expressing concern about our LCMS group exemption ruling. The IRS accidentally deleted the entire LCMS out of their federally tax-exempt master file. **We have not lost our federal exemption**, but proving that we are tax-exempt may be a challenge. This affects every Synod organization *including districts and congregations* since we all share a group exemption ruling. The staff at the International Center is working with the IRS on getting this issue corrected.

Audit. Our annual District audit is scheduled for the week of March 9.

Communications

Kris Bruss

District Website. We continue to add new event materials and resources to the site (e.g., Older Adult Ministry Task Force Report) while planning new additions (most notably, the page for church partnerships, which is coming in the next quarter). In 2019, the most visited pages on the website, after the homepage, were (in order) Calls and Vacancies, District Staff, District Resources, and KDYG.

Reverse the Ruling Communication. Since October, we've responded to multiple requests to participate in some way with the effort to overturn the 2019 Kansas Supreme Court ruling on abortion. We've worked to keep people updated on the latest developments while also producing special communication when warranted.

2021 Convention. We expect to launch our 2021 convention website May 4, in conjunction with the nominations mailing that marks the start of the public phase of the convention cycle.

Synod Resolution 4-04A Committee. Materials will be coming to districts, congregations, and schools in April, encouraging people to get involved in providing feedback on the Synod's triennial mission and ministry emphases. We've started talking about ways we might reinforce this effort through our own communication here in the Kansas District.

On the Radar. Priority projects in the coming months include church partnership resources (expected to be available on the website this spring), a special update on 2018 convention resolutions (early summer), and a Kansas District Ministry Impact Report (August).

BOARD REPORTS

Board of Missions

Marvin Schulteis, Chair

Report Review. The board reviewed reports from Rev. Galchutt on congregational partnerships and Hispanic Ministry. They also reviewed quarterly reports from Mission Advancement and Mission Central.

Quarterly Mission Grant Reports. Mission grant activity snapshots were featured in our *Lutheran Witness* insert in February. We'll continue to publicize mission grant activity on a regular basis in the District.

T.I.G. Partnership. The T.I.G. Partnership (Trinity, Garden City; Grace, Ulysses; Immanuel, Lakin) would like to call a seminarian to assist Pastor Michael Hageman (Trinity, Garden City) as an associate in the partnership. The board is considering a grant request to support outreach activity in the new partnership. A resolution will be coming to the Board of Directors in May.

2020 Mission Grants. Recommendations for funding 2020 mission grants will be coming before the board as part of the proposed District budget for 2020-21.

Campus Ministry. Redeemer, Lawrence is now a recognized LCMS U chapter.

Board of Education & Youth

Bruce Schultz, Chair

Report Review. The board reviewed committee reports from Adult Education, Children and Family Life, Lutheran Schools, and Youth Ministry as well as the education executive's report, which included enrollment figures for our Kansas District Lutheran schools. 1062 K-8 students and 2581 preschool students are enrolled in the 2019-20 year.

Legacy Fund Balance. The board noted that the balance in the Legacy Fund, which supports continuing education, is getting low, with no identified source of funds to rebuild it.

Educators Conference Offering Designation. The Educators Conference Planning Committee is proposing that congregations and/or schools designate their September chapel/Sunday School offerings to support the Church Worker Care Fund, with the goal of a \$50 contribution from each congregation.

Convention Resolution Update. The board reviewed resolutions, including a resolution focused on colloquy. J. Pera presented the results of a survey on colloquy sent to Kansas District principals. Among the findings: There is a need to raise awareness of the desirability of rostered status for teachers. There

is also a need to think about financial considerations, which are a strong determinant for entering the colloquy program.

ACTION ITEMS

- The board approved Resolution 20A-03-01: To Release Board-Designated Youth Funds for Youth Ministry Promotion

Board of Caring Ministry

Rick Hanebutt, Chair

Presentation from the Church Worker Care Committee. The board heard from Rev. Lee Hovel, the District's wellness champion, on church worker care.

Report Review. The board reviewed committee reports from Disaster Response, Parish Nursing, Church Worker Care Committee, Older Adult Task Force, and Pastors' Wives Retreat.

Resolutions Review. The board reviewed the four resolutions assigned to it.

Committee Position Descriptions. The board has completed position/policy descriptions for Comfort Dogs, Pastors' Wives Retreat Committee, Older Adults, and Disaster Response funds. The descriptions will now be forwarded to the District Operations Manual (DOM) Committee for review.

Board of Stewardship

Rich Schotte, Chair

Reappointment of Jeffrey Maltz as Kansas District LCEF Vice-President. The Board discussed the reappointment of Jeffrey Maltz as the Kansas District LCMS Vice President of LCEF and supports the resolution coming from the Executive Council.

2019 Budget Review. 2019 congregational receipts total \$1,429,584 (\$44,509 behind last year and 98.62% of the budgeted amount of 1,449,625). A 2.1% decrease in congregational receipts has been the budgeting model, but the board will continue to monitor this percentage decrease for possible adjustment in future budgets.

2020 Proposed Budget. Congregational receipts have been set at \$1,419,183 in the 2020 proposed budget, a 2.1% decrease from the previous year. The proposed budget allocates 28% of congregational receipts for the Synod pledge and 10% for mission grants. This would leave a projected balanced budget.

Stewardship Education. The Board of Stewardship asked Rev. Galchutt to invite Rev. Heath Curtis from LCMS Stewardship to lead a stewardship event in the District in the near future.

Retreat Center Task Force. The Retreat Center Task Force has recommended to the board that the District Office resume responsibility for day-to-day operations of the Retreat Center in the wake of Rev. Mark Lovett's call to Wichita. Rev. Alan Stahlecker will work with Business Manager Heather Williams to search for facility trustees in the Herington area. The board endorsed the recommendations of the Retreat Center Task Force.

Resolutions Spreadsheet. The board shared a spreadsheet documenting progress on the five resolutions assigned to it.

ACTION ITEMS

- The Board approved Resolution 20A-05-01: 2020 Budget Adoption
- A Planned Giving Agreement was discussed in response to 2018 District Convention Resolution 18-01-06. The board approved Resolution 20A-05-02: Planned Giving Agreement with LCMS Foundation

Board of Administration

David Bruns, Chair

Review Items. The board reviewed financial reports.

District Attorney. President Justin Panzer and Business Manager Heather Williams engaged Eric Turner of Foulston Siefkin LLP as attorney of record for the District (an action ratified by the Board of Directors).

Resolutions Update. The board reviewed the two resolutions in their area, which address encouraging use of the District's salary guidelines and participation in the Church's Plan (CPS).

ACTION ITEMS

The board approved the following resolutions:

- 20A-01-01: Acknowledgement of quarterly gifts
 - The board acknowledged gifts in the amount of \$10,040.73 for the period of October 16, 2019 to January 15, 2020.
- 20A-01-02: 2020 Housing Allowance Designation for President Panzer
- 20A-01-03: District Office Weather Closure Policy
 - The District will follow the State of Kansas Topeka Office's weather delay and closing policy.

Salary Review

Bruce Schultz, Chair

The Salary Review Committee did not meet this quarter.