



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 2021

SYNOD VISITATION

LCMS First Vice-President Rev. Peter Lange and LCMS Central Region Vice-President Rev. Benjamin Ball visited the Kansas District this quarter as part of the Synod's regular triennial visitation program. The Synod visitors addressed the Board of Directors for 90 minutes at their meeting, walking board members and staff through various sections of the 15-section [District Visitation](#) book.

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

President's Office

Rev. Justin Panzer

District Tour. The Kansas District staff will be touring the state in November, with visits planned for six locations: Manhattan, Hays, Dodge City, Wichita, Iola, and Mission. These interactive networking events, open to workers and laypeople, will focus on "Living as the Baptized" (i.e., our calling as the royal priesthood). President Panzer encouraged board members to attend one of these events if they are able.

Visits. This was a high-mileage quarter for President Panzer, who put on close to 10,000 miles as he traveled to preaching sites, pre-call and partnership meetings, installations, and District events.

Calling Congregations. We currently have 10 congregations that are calling. Eight call lists were completed in the past quarter, with no churches currently waiting for lists. Several congregations are involved in partnership discussions. The partnership between Immanuel, Herington and St. John's, Herington, has been dissolved, and a new partnership between Immanuel, St. John's, and Our Redeemer in Herington has been formed.

Alliance Defending Freedom. The Kansas District has been invited to join the Church Alliance of the Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF). President Panzer encouraged board members to study the available material before the next board meeting.

Missions and Stewardship

Rev. Dan Galchutt

Kansas City Hispanic Ministry. Hispanic ministry developments in Kansas City are encouraging. Daniel Jordan continues to help serve Jesus El Buen Pastor and is working with Deb Hartje and Immanuel Community Outreach Association (ICOA) to do outreach at Immanuel. ICOA recently purchased the

property of Immanuel, KCK, and has assumed the expenses and upkeep of the church building and facilities.

Church Consulting. Rev. Galchutt conducted a formal consultation with St. Andrews in Wichita in August and has also had some informal consulting opportunities with pastors and a handful of church leadership retreats over the past quarter.

Haskell LIGHT. Lutheran Indian Ministries (the parent organization to Haskell) is no longer an RSO of Synod, which effectively ends our partnership with Haskell. We have communicated this change to our District pastors.

Soldiers of the Cross Response Initiative. The Synod is ending the special Soldiers of the Cross Amplified program, launched in the initial months of the pandemic to help workers in need. We estimate that the special program helped roughly 20 Kansas District workers, with around \$30,000 awarded. After we receive all outstanding paperwork from recipients, we will be able to close the program here in the District, report official final numbers, and redesignate the remainder of the money that the Board of Directors designated in spring 2020.

Fall Conferences. Planning for this year's workers conferences has taken a significant amount of time, due in part to the fact that there were two separate conferences. The Koinonia-based framework for the Pastors Conference (prompted by a convention resolution) also increased the time needed for planning and preparation.

Education and Youth / Caring Ministry

James Bradshaw

Commissioned Workers/Lutheran Schools. Seven new teachers were installed in August, with two DCE installations pending for the fall quarter. Four congregations are seeking DCEs. Enrollment in our Lutheran K-8 schools is 1,170, up 4% from last year. Enrollment at early childhood centers is 2,212, a bit lower than the previous year. Two of our early childhood centers have closed.

Educators Conference. Rev. Dr. Darrell Zimmerman, executive director of Grace Place Wellness, was the keynote speaker at the Educators Conference. Dr. Zimmerman addressed church worker wellness. Next year's worker conferences will be held in Manhattan on the KSU campus.

Youth Ministry News: Registration for the **LCMS Youth Gathering** and the **Higher Things Conferences** opens in November. 230 youth and adults are registered for the Kansas District Youth Gathering in November. **Lutheran Valley Retreat** registration will open in early 2022, with only one camp offered in the summer due to the LCMS Youth Gathering. The **Middle School Huddle**, with the theme, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," will be offered in the spring of 2022.

Committee News. The **Church Worker Care Committee** released the Church Worker Care Team manual and an associated CWCT resources webpage this fall. In **Older Adult Ministry** news, a Saints Alive After 55 event is being planned for July 18-19, 2022, in Wichita.

District Disaster Response/LERT. A LERT chainsaw training event was held at the Retreat Center in Herington, October 15-16. The next LERT Leaders retreat will take place February 25-26, 2022, at the Retreat Center in Herington.

LCEF

Jeff Maltz

Business Summary

- Through June 2021, the LCEF Kansas District has **29** LCEF loans outstanding with a balance of **\$14,879,748**.
- The LCEF Kansas District has **1,850** investors.
- Total amount invested: **\$60,018,082**

LCEF Earnings Distribution. Based on its strong operating performance, LCEF is providing an earnings distribution to partner districts and the Synod. The earnings distribution being made available to the Kansas District is \$74,737. LCEF's Board of Directors is also making available an "enhanced distribution" to member districts, which districts can obtain through a proposal that provides "solutions that enhance ministry, innovation, and growth" while being in strategic alignment with LCEF. Each member district is eligible to receive an enhanced distribution up to the amount granted through the regular earning distribution.

District Activity. Trinity Lutheran Church in Garden City has secured a Church Improvement Loan. Beautiful Savior in Olathe paid off a loan in September 2021.

Featured Investment Product: Church Worker StewardAccount, offering 1.5% on balances up to \$10,000.

Business Office

Heather Williams

Human Resources/Personnel. The Business Office reviewed financial compensation for 13 call documents and planning scenarios this quarter.

Financial News. Financial results for the third quarter are positive. Thanks be to God and to our congregations for their continued support! Congregational giving is currently over 77% of budget for the nine-month fiscal period, with year-to-date receipts ahead of commitments. Expenses came in less than 72% of budget for the same period. In other financial news, convention assessments have been received in full by 107 congregations, with seven months remaining until the due date.

District Office Roof. The roof on the District Office building has been completed on budget. Late spring storms delayed the project and caused damage to the building. The roofing company took responsibility for fixing all damages. We will be seeking a roof inspection to ensure no residual effects.

Retreat Center. We replaced all the mattresses at the Retreat Center. The Retreat Center trustees have installed security lighting, secured the deck railing, installed a new dishwasher, and fixed a plumbing issue. We will be having a contractor or engineer look at the deck, as the stability is in question due to warped support posts.

Planned Giving. We're ramping up communication about planned giving services in the District. Articles have been planned for the newsletter, and planned giving will be addressed on the District Tour. We set up a planned giving display table at the Pastors and Educators Conferences, and it generated a good amount of buzz.

Communications

Kris Bruss

LW Series. Our “Living as the Baptized” series, introduced by President Panzer in the June/July issue, continues in *The Lutheran Witness*. VP Rick Rostek wrote about Bible study for the August issue, while VP Mark Schulz addressed mentorship in September. The October issue includes a piece on Christian education from VP Scott Snow. In the November issue, about to hit mailboxes, VP Alan Stahlecker covers “Service to Neighbor.”

“Living as the Baptized” Tour. One of the main special projects for the quarter was preparing for the “Living as the Baptized” staff tour. We’ve produced a variety of materials for the tour, including invitation messages, articles for our publications, a bulletin insert, a flyer, an event webpage, a PowerPoint, a group discussion exercise, and a small four-page brochure designed to serve as a springboard for discussion at the events.

Social Media “Groups” Strategy. We recently moved to a Facebook groups strategy, starting with Kansas District Youth Ministry. Setting up group pages under the Kansas District umbrella has a couple of advantages: 1) It creates a “one-stop-shop” for the District and its ministries, and 2) it ensures administrative continuity, with a member of the District staff included as an administrator on all accounts.

Convention Preparation. Dan Galchutt and Kris Bruss met in late September with Jenn Eickman, who produced one of our convention videos in 2018, to generate ideas for our three planned videos on the convention theme, “Proclaim, Teach, Share.” We’re looking forward to seeing rough cuts of the videos in April 2022.

BOARD REPORTS

Special note: Service board meetings continue to be conducted via Zoom, with board chairs providing brief verbal highlights at the full Board of Directors meeting.

Board of Missions

Marvin Schulteis, Chair

Synod Resolution 4-04A. Teams representing the LCMS Board for National Mission and LCMS Board for International Mission will be visiting with all 35 districts in the coming quarter to gather feedback on the Synod’s seven mission priorities and triennial mission and ministry emphasis, *Making Disciples for Life*.

Mission Grant Awards. We received over 20 applications for 2022 Mission Grants, requesting a total of \$226,258. The board was able to recommend awards in the amount of \$143,042 (a figure based on congregational receipts). This figure is part of the proposed 2022 budget.

2021 Mission Grant Reports. The board provided a few highlights from the latest round of 2021 Mission Grant reports (e.g., the Disciple Garden in Kansas City; Campus Ministry group at Redeemer, Lawrence).

ACTION ITEMS

The Board of Missions moved and approved the following:

- **Resolved,** That unspent 2021 mission grant funds earmarked for Kansas City area church planting be added to the board-designated fund “Kansas City Area Church Planting.”

- **Resolved**, That unspent 2021 mission grant funds earmarked for Kansas City Hispanic Ministry be moved to a new board-designated fund called “Kansas City Area Hispanic Ministry.”

Board of Education

Bruce Schultz, Chair (Mark Wolters, reporting)

Report Review. Jim Bradshaw highlighted the work of various committees, including Children’s and Family Life, Adult Education, and District Youth Ministry. He also reported that one teacher is nearing completion of the colloquy process, and two others are working towards that end.

Review of Convention Resolutions. The board considered nine overtures for the 2022 District Convention. After discussion, the board agreed to retain five overtures for further consideration and refinement and to refer three overtures to other committees.

ACTION ITEMS

The board moved and approved the following:

- **Resolved**, That the KDYG offering be split between LCMS World Relief and Human Care and the Topeka Rescue Mission.

Board of Caring Ministry

Rick Hanebutt, Chair

Shine Campaign. The board heard from Leah Sieveking, Missouri District Assistant to the President for Mission Advancement, about the “Shine” campaign they conducted in the spring of 2021. Over 5100 people participated in the campaign, completing service projects in communities throughout the Missouri District. The board is considering how we might implement a similar campaign in the Kansas District during the 2022-2025 triennium, possibly in 2023. If there is enough interest, the Board of Caring Ministry could bring an overture to the Board of Directors in February 2022.

Committee Report Review. The board reviewed reports from Disaster Response, Parish Nurse Ministry, Church Worker Care, Older Adult Ministry, and the Pastors’ Wives Retreat. One report item that sparked some discussion was the Synod requirement for mandatory annual background checks of LERT volunteers. The board plans to discuss implications for District implementation and policy with District Disaster Response Coordinator Donna Williams.

Budget Review. The board reviewed its proposed 2022 budget, making no changes.

Overtures. The board has received draft overtures titled “To Support Church Workers” and “To Reject Racism and Advance the Gospel.” Both will be considered at the January BOCM meeting.

Board of Stewardship

Dan Thalmann, Chair

2021 Budget and Financials Review. Heather Williams reviewed the Budget-to-Actual report for the first three quarters of the year, noting that income is up, thanks in part to some significant gifts, while expenses are about 3% under budget. Education Loan Repayment Grants of \$38,000 were approved and will be paid in the next quarter.

Congregation Receipts Review. Congregational receipts for the three months of the most recent quarter are about \$4,000 below the prior three-year average for the quarter but giving remains above average for the first three quarters (nine months) of the fiscal year. The board reviewed giving by congregation and circuit, noting a few congregations that either exceeded or fell below their normal giving patterns.

2022 Budget. The board reviewed a budget similar to the one presented at the last quarterly meeting. Jeffrey Maltz addressed the desire to present a balanced budget for the upcoming year.

Overtures. The board considered a draft overture related to planned giving. The board will continue the discussion at their next meeting.

Board of Stewardship Description. Jeffrey Maltz discussed the Board of Stewardship description in the District Operations Manual (DOM), noting potential changes related to timing for work on the budget and consolidation of the work of the Scholarship Committee and Education Loan Repayment Committee.

ACTION ITEMS

The board moved and approved the following:

- **Resolved,** That the 2022 budget as presented be approved by the Board of Directors.
- **Resolved,** that the proceeds of the 2022 Ash Wednesday Offering be allocated 25 percent to the Kansas District Scholarship Fund and 75 percent to the Kansas District Education Loan Repayment Fund.

Board of Administration

Dave Bruns, Chair

Financial Reports. Business Manager Heather Williams reported on the financial status of the District. She also presented a revised 2022 budget.

ACTION ITEMS

The board approved the following for consideration by the Board of Directors:

- Resolved, That the Kansas District Board of Directors acknowledge gifts received from July 16, 2021, to October 15, 2021, in the amount of \$203,838.93.
- Resolved, That the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors establish the staff housing allowances for 2022 for Rev. Justin Panzer, Mr. James Bradshaw, and Rev. Daniel Galchutt.
- Resolved, That the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors appoint the LCMS auditors for 2022.