



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 2022

SPECIAL ITEM: Triennial Board Review

Jim Bradshaw led a discussion of feedback from service boards addressing goals and activities for the past term as well as suggestions for the future.

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

President's Office

Rev. Justin Panzer

Turnover in the Term. There has been a fair amount of turnover in the past four years, not only in the president's personal life, but with the board and the ordained and commissioned workers of the Kansas District. God truly provides for His Church, and we are looking forward to the next triennium and what He has in store for us in our common work together to strengthen the saved and reach the lost.

Floor Committee Weekend. Floor Committee Weekend April 1-2 went smoothly. We were blessed to be served by many around the District and by our staff. Convention preparations continue; it's truly a team effort.

Summer Installations. Many installations are already scheduled in May and throughout the summer months. We will be blessed in the District with one new seminary candidate and four new vicars. We continue to pray for those congregations in partnership talks and for our congregations and schools in need of workers.

Church Worker Recruitment Initiative. "Set Apart to Serve" (SAS) is an initiative of the LCMS to recruit church workers. Since church work is rooted in Baptism and a lifetime of hearing the Word, SAS encourages young people to consider church work vocations primarily through their continued and faithful involvement with their congregation. Dr. James Baneck, executive director of the LCMS Office of Pastoral Education, will be speaking at several district conventions this summer, including our own.

Visits/Travel. Over the past quarter, President Panzer put on 9,889 miles as he traveled to installations, meetings, church services, and Call Day services at both seminaries.

Congregational Activity. There are currently nine calling congregations in the Kansas District. Five churches are seeking a sole pastor, two a senior pastor, and two an associate/assistant. Five call lists were completed in the past quarter; one congregation is waiting for a call list.

Missions and Stewardship

Rev. Dan Galchutt

District Convention. The past few months have been quite busy with convention tasks, which have included assisting with convention videos, regular convention meetings, and work for Floor Committee Weekend. The latter included a mock convention to help prepare President Panzer for running the actual event.

Congregational Partnerships: Rev. Galchutt is actively facilitating two congregational partnership conversations (one wrapping up and one just starting). At least five partnership conversations are underway across Kansas, with other places on the radar. We need to continue to encourage District congregations to explore opportunities to work together to advance mission and ministry.

Church Planting: Rev. Bert Tegtmeier continues to meet with a small group for Bible study in DeSoto. The group is meeting two times per month, with about 12-15 people attending. The group needs our continued prayers as they seek ways to reach out and invite others to participate (something that we can ask God to bless for all our Kansas District congregations).

Hispanic Ministry: Three items are worth noting. 1) The search continues for a senior pastor who can work with Daniel Jordan on Hispanic Ministry in the Kansas City area. 2) Pastor Geoff Boyle, who has worked with Hispanic Ministry in the Wichita area, has accepted a call to Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. Please pray that the Lord will provide for Hispanic Ministry in Wichita. 3) A few people from the Kansas District will be attending the triennial Hispanic National Convention in Orlando, Florida, in August.

Soldiers of the Cross COVID-19 Response Initiative: This special effort in partnership with the Synod and LCEF has ended. Fifteen workers received \$32,034.48, with \$9,206.90 coming from the Kansas District. Rev. Galchutt thanked the board for supporting workers through this program.

25th Anniversary Pentecost Offering. This year marks the 25th anniversary of our partnership with the LCMS to support mission work in Guinea. Our Pentecost Offering will be used to help the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guinea (ELCG) construct a new CLET seminary.

Education and Youth / Caring Ministry

James Bradshaw

Lutheran Schools. Six congregations and schools are currently searching for commissioned ministers. Teacher Kathy McIntosh (Hope, Shawnee) was recognized as the Kansas Association of Independent and Religious Schools (KAIRS) Lutheran Distinguished Teacher of Year February 7.

Youth Ministry Updates. Hundreds of youth from Kansas will be attending the LCMS Youth Gathering in Houston in July. Buses depart July 7 and 8. Other summer youth events include Lutheran Valley Retreat (June 3-8) and Higher Things Conferences in July. This fall, the District will hold a confirmation retreat October 7-8 in Augusta, Kansas, and two regional District Youth Gatherings November 19 in Olathe and Wichita.

Committee Resources at the Convention. The Children's and Family Life Committee (CFLC) and Church Worker Care Committee plan to promote resources at the convention this summer.

Disaster Response. The LCMS Disaster Response Conference will be held at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN, September 28-30.

Older Adult Ministry. Barb Geuy (Our Redeemer, Hutchinson) is chairing the planning committee for Saints Alive After 55, to be held July 18-19, 2022, in Wichita. Additional 2022 regional Older Adult events are being planned for May 14 (Trinity, Mission campus) and August 13-14 (Messiah, Hays).

LCEF

Jeff Maltz

Business Summary

- Through March 31, 2022, the LCEF Kansas District has **25** LCEF loans outstanding with a balance of **\$13,527,287**
- The LCEF Kansas District has **1,801** investors.
- Total amount invested: **\$59,582,261**

Activity in the Kansas District. A construction loan and bridge loan to Christ, Overland Park, were approved by LCEF (national). Trinity, Atchison and St. John's, Meade paid off loans this quarter.

LCEF Outreach Grants. In partnership with the LCMS Kansas District, LCEF will once again be making outreach grants available in the spring. \$16,000 will be awarded, with grants ranging from \$500 to \$1,000.

Business Office

Heather Williams

Human Resources. The Business Office reviewed financial compensation for eight call documents and planning scenarios this quarter. District communications specialist Kris Bruss has accepted the position of chief communications officer at Concordia Fort Wayne Theological Seminary. A search committee is working to find our next communications specialist.

Finances. Financial results for the first quarter of 2022 are positive. Congregational giving is beyond commitments and came in at 26.41% of budget for the period end. Expenses are reported at 24.65% of budget. All but nine congregations have paid their convention assessments in full.

Insurance Bids. After soliciting bids for insurance, the District has elected to remain with its current insurer, in part due to a smaller deductible for wind and hail damage.

Kansas Secretary of State. While assisting with a congregational closure, Heather Williams discovered that 22 Kansas District congregations are currently not in good standing with the Kansas Secretary of State, for failure to file annual reports. She will be communicating with and assisting these congregations to become reinstated.

Planned Giving. There are three planned giving presentations scheduled for this summer. Congregations interested in scheduling a presentation in their area are encouraged to contact Heather Williams, Rev. Dan Galchutt, or Jeffrey Maltz, the three trained planned giving advocates in the District Office.

Communications

Kris Bruss

Workers Together. The refreshed *Workers Together* newsletter was launched in March. The new template has already made it easier to put an issue together. This summer, we're making another move in a new direction and will publish one combined June/July issue.

2022 Convention Tasks. Convention-related projects this quarter included workbook editing, website updates, assisting with convention videos and the bylaws reformatting project, and preparing for Floor Committee Weekend.

25th Anniversary Pentecost Offering. Materials created for the annual Pentecost Offering include an updated webpage, bulletin inserts (which we're once again printing and sending to congregations unless they opt to print on their own), graphics, announcements, and a suggested collect for Pentecost Sunday. We'll also be celebrating the anniversary of the partnership at the convention June 9.

Transition Tasks. To prepare for a new communications specialist, time was devoted to reviewing and updating job responsibilities, helping the staff work through options for handling the work, and identifying high-priority projects.

BOARD REPORTS

Board of Missions

Marvin Schulteis, Chair

4-04A Update. A summary article from the Synod's mission boards regarding their visits with the 35 LCMS districts is available in the *May Reporter*. The information gathered will assist the Synod boards in preparing overtures for the 2023 Synod convention and thinking about goals and policies for the upcoming triennium.

Quarterly Mission Grant Reports. Kansas District congregations have been busy with mission grant activities. Ascension, Pratt is remodeling their church and will welcome a new pastor this summer. St. Andrews, Wichita, is working hard on outreach. Several congregations are actively engaged with Hispanic ministry. Campus ministries in Lawrence and Manhattan have been busy, as well. Lord of Life, Leawood is focusing on strengthening its digital presence.

Campus Ministry Coordinator Job Description. The board reviewed the description, which has been reviewed and approved by the DOM Committee. No additional changes were suggested.

Board of Education

Bruce Schultz, Chair

Reviews. The board reviewed committee reports from Adult Education, Children and Family Life, Lutheran Schools, Youth Ministry, and Youth Ministry.

Teacher Placement. This has been a busy quarter. Schools are needing to look outside the rostered list for teachers, which underscores the importance of the Synod's new church worker recruitment initiative, "Set Apart to Serve."

Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF). The LCMS Kansas District is collaborating with the [ADF Church Alliance](#) and [ADF Ministry Alliance](#) to help educate, prepare, and protect congregations and schools on matters involving religious liberty. District schools have received information about potential benefits of joining the Ministry Alliance.

Board of Caring Ministry

Rick Hanebutt, Chair

Report Review. The board reviewed reports on Disaster Response, Parish Nurse Ministry, Church Worker Care, Older Adult Ministry, and the Pastors' Wives Retreat. Regarding the Pastors' Wives Retreat, the board believes that it's important to get a stable committee to oversee the event. The board also discussed the possibility of a Doxology-like retreat for pastors' wives.

Doxology. Doxology is offering respite retreats for commissioned workers. One of the upcoming retreats will be held in Wichita July 19-21.

Disaster Response. The board noted that our District LERT leadership and volunteers are regarded as a leader in the Synod.

ACTION ITEM

The board adopted the following resolution:

- **Resolution 22B-02-01 – To Board Designate Unspent Funds for Pastors' Wives Retreat**
Resolved, that unspent 2021 funds earmarked for Human Care—Pastor's Wives Retreat be moved to a board-designated fund for "Human Care—Pastor's Wives Retreat" for the 2022 year.

Board of Stewardship

Dan Thalmann, Chair

2022 Budget Review. Heather Williams reviewed the *Budget to Actual* report for the first quarter of the fiscal year through April 15, 2022 (at which 25% is the key number for comparison). She noted that congregational receipts for the quarter are strong at 26.41% of budget. Total income stands at 33.53% of budget and total expenses stand at 24.65%, resulting in an increase of greater than \$170K to Net Assets from Operations for the first quarter.

2022 Congregation Mission Receipts Review. The first three months of the year have continued the trend from last year of tracking above the three-year average. This period has been more level than previous years.

2022 Congregation No Pledge/No Receipt. There are no major concerns at this point in the year. There are congregations with no pledge and for which no receipts were noted for the year, but it is not out of line with previous years.

2023 Budget. Service boards and sub-committees will be encouraged to make their needs known while striving to keep the budget relatively flat. Discussion of firm numbers will be left to the new members of the Stewardship Board at the July 2022 meeting.

LCEF Operating Result. The District received a double operating result from LCEF this year. LCEF encouraged that the funds be used in a way that supports the District and aligns well with LCEF's goals.

\$5,000 was given this spring to each of the LCMS Kansas District elementary schools, with a letter of encouragement to use the funds to enhance ministry, innovation, and growth.

Planned Giving Update. Heather Williams has two planned giving presentations scheduled for the summer, and Rev. Galchutt has one scheduled. Congregations need to be encouraged to utilize this opportunity to enhance their ministries.

ACTION ITEM

The board adopted the following resolution:

- **Resolution 22B-05-01 – Designate Funds for Soldiers of the Cross**
Resolved, that the Kansas District Board of Directors re-designate the remaining money from the Soldiers of the Cross Fund to the Church Worker Care Fund to continue to help and support church workers in the LCMS Kansas District.

Board of Administration

Dave Bruns, Chair

Report Review. The board heard reports on the District's finances.

ACTION ITEM

The board adopted the following resolution:

- **Resolution 22B-01-01 Acknowledgement of Quarterly Gifts**
Resolved, that the Kansas District Board of Directors acknowledge gifts received from January 16, 2022, to April 15, 2022, in the amount of \$26,626.65.