



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
July 2022

SPECIAL ITEMS: Board of Directors Orientation, July 29; BOD First Meeting of the New Triennium, July 30

The newly appointed Board of Directors met for orientation on Friday, July 29. Mr. Brad Brunkow (St. Luke's, Manhattan) was appointed as the District Treasurer. Service Board members and chairs were appointed, and each Service Board had their first triennial meeting. The new Board had their first meeting on Saturday, July 30.

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

President's Office

Rev. Justin Panzer

The new triennium. President Panzer welcomed the new Board by sharing thoughts on what it means to be Lutheran, and to live as a royal priesthood. He is looking forward to working with the new Board over this next triennium, and seeing what God has in store for the Kansas District. He closed with the convention prayer and invited those present to share it with local congregations and circuits, and to make it a part of daily life.

The Convention Prayer: Lord God, bless Your Word wherever it is proclaimed. Make it a word of power and peace to convert those not yet Your own and to confirm those who have come to saving faith. May Your Word pass from the ear to the heart, from the heart to the lip, and from the lip to the life that, as You have promised, Your Word may achieve the purpose for which You send it; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Multiple Events in Second Quarter. There were a number of significant events which took place during this last quarter, including but not limited to the 74th Kansas District Convention; District Convention planning and wrap-up meetings; New Worker Orientation; Communications Specialist search committee meetings; PCWC meetings; Constitution and Bylaws Committee meetings; LCMS Youth Gathering; a LCEF Magazine interview; President's Council meeting, and the Board of Directors orientation and first triennial meeting.

Installations and Partnerships. Many installations took place throughout this past quarter. There were also two new partnerships formed between church congregations in the District. We continue to pray for those congregations in partnership talks and for our congregations and schools in need of workers.

Visits/Travel. Over the past quarter, President Panzer put on 7,070 miles as he traveled to installations, meetings, church services, circuit visitor calls, and preaching engagements.

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

Missions and Stewardship

Rev. Dan Galchutt

Meeting with Communications Specialist. Rev. Galchutt has been meeting on a regular basis with the new Communications Specialist, Jackie Schaefer, as she continues to settle into the role. He is thankful for her efforts and hard work.

District Convention. The District Convention in June was well received by members across Kansas. Rev. Galchutt's work for the convention included serving on the Proclaim Floor Committee, helping with the 25th anniversary celebration of our mission work in Guinea and West Africa, finalizing convention videos, connecting with delegates, etc. We are all thankful the convention went well!

Congregational Partnerships. The two congregational partnership conversations Rev. Galchutt was actively facilitating wrapped up this past quarter, and both went well. The partnership materials on the Kansas District website continue to bear fruit. 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 an average of 15 people at the bible study. Please keep this group in your prayers as the Board of Missions discusses next steps.

Hispanic Ministry. Daniel Jordan continues to be instrumental in his work with the Hispanic Ministry in Kansas City. The call for a senior pastor is inching closer to a conclusion, with two good candidates being considered. Changes are in store for Hispanic Ministry in Wichita with Pastor Geoff Boyle having accepted a call to Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. Please keep this in your prayers. A few people from the Kansas District will be attending the triennial Hispanic National Convention in Orlando, Florida, in early August.

Partnership for West and Central Africa. The Pentecost offering has been a big success! To date, there has been over \$35,000 raised to support a new seminary building in Guinea. As Pentecost offerings continue to come in throughout the summer and into the fall, it is the hope to have total construction costs by the next BOD meeting in November.

Education and Youth / Caring Ministry

James Bradshaw

DOXOLOGY Commissioned Worker Respite Retreat. The DOXOLOGY Retreat was held at the Spiritual Life Center in Wichita July 19–21. 35 commissioned ministers from Kansas, Texas, Oklahoma, and Minnesota attended. Ten of the participants were Kansas District workers.

Fall Worker Conferences. The 2022 Pastors Conference will be held October 3-4, in Manhattan. The theme is, "Confession & Absolution – The Sacrament of Reconciliation," based on Romans 5:11. The keynote speaker will be Rev. Ed Keinath. The 2022 Educator's Conference will be held October 9-11, also in Manhattan. The theme is, "Finding Hope" based on 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3. The keynote speaker will be Heidi Goehmann.

Early Childhood Education Conference. 80 registrants attended the District Early Childhood Conference Workshop on July 23 at Faith in Ottawa.

Lutheran Schools. Three congregations and schools are currently searching for commissioned ministers. Mr. Kyle Johnson officially entered service as the new CEO/Principal for the Topeka Lutheran School Association on July 1. Johnson is a member at St. John's/Topeka. Concordia Academy in Wichita officially commences with its first class of students on August 22. So far, Concordia Academy has 11 committed ninth and tenth grade students (the goal was 7!) and several other families are still strongly interested.

Youth Ministry Updates. Approximately 600 youth and adults attended the LCMS Youth Gathering July 9–13, 2022, in Houston, TX. There were around 450 youth who participated in two service projects on July 8 and attended the District event at Stampede Houston July 9. Many thanks to our two District Coordinators, DCE Amanda Adams (Christ, Topeka) and Lay Leader Debbie Dennett (Trinity, Winfield). Other summer youth events included Lutheran Valley Retreat, June 3-8, and Higher Things Conferences July 26–29. This fall, the District will hold a confirmation retreat October 7-8 in Augusta, Kansas, and two regional District Youth Gatherings on Saturday, November 19, in Olathe and Wichita. The Synod Youth Ministry Office has rebranded the old *Lutheran Youth Fellowship* (LYF) program as *YouthLead*. The team was introduced at the July 9 District event at the LCMS Youth Gathering in Houston.

District Disaster Response. The District Disaster Response Coordinator is Donna Williams (Zion, Newton). If you are interested in Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) training, Donna can be contacted by email ksddrc@gmail.com. The LCMS Disaster Response Conference will be held at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN, September 28-30.

Older Adult Ministry. Saints Alive After 55 event that was held July 18-19, 2022, in Wichita. There were 35 participants. The next 2022 regional Older Adult event is scheduled for August 13 at Messiah, Hays.

LCEF

Jeffrey Maltz

Business Summary

- Through June 30, 2022, LCEF Kansas District has **25** LCEF loans outstanding with a balance of **\$13,372,760**
- LCEF Kansas District has **1,771** investors
- Total Amount invested **\$60,972,019**

Activity in the Kansas District. Ascension, Wichita paid off their loan this quarter.

LCEF Outreach Grants. LCEF awarded a total of \$16,000 for outreach ministry grants, funded by LCEF Operating Results.

PEER Mentor. Jeffrey now serves as a PEER Mentor to three other LCEF districts – Nebraska, Montana/Wyoming, and the Rocky Mountain District. He will be spending some additional time in the Rocky Mountain District with the retiring of the current LCEF DVP, and the transition to a new DVP.

Business Office

Heather Williams

Human Resources. The Business Office reviewed financial compensation for six call documents and planning scenarios this quarter. Jackie Schaefer has been hired as our new Communications Specialist. She began her service with the LCMS Kansas District in May and was able to join us for District Convention.

Property. The District Office boiler inspection produced a deficiency. The pump on one of the units is leaking. Repairs have been scheduled. Once repairs are completed, we will submit photos and payment receipts to clear the deficiency. The Kansas District Retreat Center needs to have a contractor take a look at the deck to see what repairs need to be made in order to properly stabilize it.

Finances. Financial results for the second quarter of 2022 are positive. Congregational giving is beyond commitments and came in at 59.85% of budget for the period end. Expenses are reported at 56.44% of budget. Our financial statement audit is complete. Our report contains a clean opinion, and we were not issued any management comments. District Convention assessments have been received in full by all congregations.

Planned Giving. Staff has planned giving presentations scheduled for Zion, Independence; Calvary, Topeka; St. John's, Topeka; St. Peter's, Humboldt; and Grace, McPherson. 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

Jackie Schaefer

Learning the Communications Specialist role. Jackie has been learning as much as she can about her new role as the Communications Specialist with the LCMS Kansas District. She is very thankful for Kris Bruss and her guidance while she was here, as well as the support from the District staff.

Kansas District Website. Several website security and theme updates were completed in July. Jackie is becoming more familiar with managing the website. Website projects for this quarter have included creating the Pastors and Educator's conferences webpages and going live, updating various applications and newsletters onto the website, and updating the LCMS Youth Gathering page before and after the event.

Workers Together. The August *Workers Together* newsletter will be emailed out to subscribers the first week in August and posted on the website. It's a bigger issue this month, as it covers many topics such as the District convention results, highlights from the LCMS Youth Gathering, highlights from New Worker Orientation, and announcements for the upcoming fall conferences.

Lutheran Witness Kansas Insert. The August insert for Kansas was also a larger publication, covering many highlights from the District convention, summer events around the District, and several installations which took place in May and June.

"2022-2025 Strategic Direction" Placemat. The new 2022-2025 triennium "Living as the Baptized" placemat has been completed and will be posted on the website under the "Mission/Overview" page. Jackie will look into having the placemat printed on large foam boards, to be placed around the District Office.

BOARD REPORTS

Board of Missions

Marvin Schulteis, Chair

Rev. Dan Galchutt reappointed. The Board of Missions was notified that the Executive Committee voted to recommend Rev. Dan Galchutt's reappointment for the next three years.

Church Planting. Discussion took place especially regarding the DeSoto area. It was discussed that the DeSoto area is expected to grow significantly because of the recently announce battery plant that will come to the area. The bible study group continues to meet and is planning events for the future. The Board discussed plans and possibilities for the days ahead.

2023 Mission Grant Application. The board reviewed materials related to the Mission Grant Application process for 2023. Suggestions for edits were made and the timeline was adjusted. Materials will be made available to the Kansas District the first week in August.

Action Item: Regarding the opportunity of a church plant in the DeSoto, KS area

- *Resolved*, that the Assistant to the District President for Missions and Stewardship in conjunction with the group currently meeting in DeSoto, would be charged with exploring and researching the possibility of purchase of land for this church plant; and be it further
- *Resolved*, that the above-named report back to the Board of Missions in the next 6 months.

Board of Education & Youth

Dan Thalmann, Chair

Orientation. The board reviewed the ministry purpose of the committee and Jim explained the Triennial Service Board Review from 2018-2022. Jim reviewed his role in the district and how that role works with individual schools in the district.

Reports. There were no quarterly reports for the Lutheran Schools, Parish Education or Youth Ministry committees, but the board reviewed the summary of purpose for each of the three committees, including the newly merged Parish Education (formerly Adult Education and Children's/Family Life).

Business. The renewal of stipend positions for 2022-23 (Jane Limback - Accreditation; Lottie Lee - Professional Development) were reviewed. A motion was made by Pastor Schotte and seconded by Dan Thalmann to approve the stipend at the current budget-approved rate. The proposal for the Parish Education Committee – District Operations Manual was reviewed and will be forwarded to the district operations manual committee for their consideration. The resolution tracker for the 2022 District Convention Resolutions will be discussed at the next meeting.

Board of Caring Ministry

Rick Hanebutt, Chair

Board of Caring Ministry review. The board reviewed the position description of the BOCM and updated the list of duties and responsibilities. The board also reviewed the recommendations from the previous Triennium Service Board review, including the continuation of coordinators, the development of a program similar to the Missouri District 'Shine' service outreach in the Kansas District, and the Older Adult Committee addressing the continued involvement of retired ordained and commissioned workers in the District.

Report Review. The board reviewed the report on Disaster Response. No other reports were needed to be reviewed. There was a brief discussion of the Pastors' Wives Retreat and a desire to emulate the Doxology format for the Pastors' Wives retreat. The BOCM will continue to pursue this by contacting Doxology executive Rev. David Fleming.

Church Worker Care Team (CWCT). The BOCM will pursue supporting the Church Worker Care committee in implementing CWCTs in the District.

"Shine" Service Events Project. The Convention resolved to implement a districtwide service project for this triennium:

Resolution 22-03-02 To Offer a Districtwide Model for Christ-Centered Community Service

- *Resolved,* That the Office of the District President of the Kansas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod give a high priority to create a task force to develop and implement districtwide, congregation-based service projects for the triennium (2022-2025).

This resolution has been assigned to the Board of Caring Ministry. The board discussed establishing key leadership and a task force, selecting a date, congregations based for projects, needing to establish budgeting and costs, and the use of T-shirts for promotion. Rick will ask the Missouri District about the Shine program coordinator job description, task force description, and budget. There was discussion pertaining to a time frame for projects, and establishing the task force this year in preparation to begin work in 2023.

Board of Stewardship

Mark Wolters, Chair

Board of Stewardship Position Description. Action Item: Rev. Dan Galchutt and Jeffrey Maltz will come to the next meeting with a draft that combines the position descriptions for the Board of Stewardship and the Church Extension Fund Board of Managers.

Mileage Reimbursement. As of July 1, the IRS rate was 62.5 cents per mile, and the Kansas District is set at 57.5 cents. **Action Item:** The Board of Stewardship would like Heather to put together a summary of how much is spent on mileage each year, to better evaluate the idea of adjusting the Kansas District mileage reimbursement rate.

Planned Giving Updates. The partnership with the LCMS Foundation is bearing fruit. However, we need to raise awareness of this resource across Kansas so that more congregations and members can make use of what the LCMS Foundation offers. Rev. Dan Galchutt and Heather Williams will be giving presentations in the months ahead on this and the staff continues to look for ways to let others know about this opportunity.

Stewardship Board Sub Committees. Action Item: Rev. Dan Galchutt and Jeffrey Maltz will come to the next meeting with a draft that combines the position descriptions for the Scholarship Committee and the Education Loan Repayment Committee.

Rev. Dan Galchutt and Jeffrey Maltz reappointed. The Board of Stewardship was notified that the Executive Committee voted to recommend the reappointments of Rev. Dan Galchutt and Jeffrey Maltz for the next three years.

Board of Administration

Dave Bruns, Chair

Report Review. Heather Williams presented her third quarter report, the financial dashboard, the balance sheets, the statement of activities, and the budget-to-actual tables she prepared. She also shared the Audited Financial Statements for the years 2021 and 2022.

Action Item: The board adopted the following resolution:

- **Resolution 22C-01-01 Acknowledgement of Quarterly Gifts**
Resolved, that the Kansas District Board of Directors acknowledge gifts received from April 16, 2022, to July 15, 2022, in the amount of \$27,049.15.