



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

November 2022

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

President's Office

Rev. Justin Panzer, District President

Third Quarter Meetings and Events. President Panzer highlighted the need to raise up more workers for churches and schools and gave thanks to God for those who are currently serving in church work around the District. Events over the third quarter include but are not limited to: multiple meetings, both in-person and virtual, with District staff, President's Council, service boards, and various committees; multiple preaching events and installations; "Money Matters" online preaching workshop; Pastors and Educators fall conferences in October; KFUO "Coffee Hour" interview on *Set Apart to Serve*; Circuit Visitor/Region VP orientation and conference; pre-seminary interview, and Circuit Winkel visits.

Installations and Partnerships. There were four pastoral installations in the third quarter (Revs. Matthew Goehring, Immanuel, Norton; Aaron Filipek, Trinity, Wichita; Andrew Wright, St. John's, Topeka, and Timmothy Heath, Trinity, Holton). There was a new partnership formed between Liberal, Grace, and Peace, Beaver, OK.

Visits/Travel. In the third quarter, President Panzer drove 12,693 miles as he traveled to installations, meetings, Circuit Winkels, conferences, and preaching engagements.

Congregational Activity. In the third quarter there were eleven calling congregations in the Kansas District, with nine churches seeking a sole pastor and two an associate/assistant. Six call lists were completed in the past quarter; three congregations are currently waiting for a call list.

Missions and Stewardship

Rev. Daniel Galchutt, Assistant to the President for Missions and Stewardship

Planned Giving. Rev. Galchutt gave two planned giving presentations at congregations in the third quarter, as well as visited with pastors at Circuit Winkels and presented on planned giving at the Pastors Conference business meeting in October.

Church Planting. Rev. Bert Tegtmeier continues to meet with a small group for Bible study in De Soto. There was a significant meeting with LCEF about the possibility of purchasing land around the De Soto area.

Hispanic Ministry. The Hispanic Ministry National Convention was a good opportunity to network and was a great encouragement to the Hispanic leaders who attended from Kansas City. The call process continues for a senior pastor for the Hispanic Ministry in Kansas City.

Campus Ministry. There was a very good meeting with pastors and a DCE involved with campus ministry at the Manhattan Pastors Conference in October. A video is being created to encourage high school students to get involved with campus ministry as they transition to college.

Partnership for West and Central Africa. Around \$55,000 was raised from the Pentecost Offering to support the CLET-Guinea seminary! It was called the "shining star" of the African seminaries at a recent regional meeting.

Education and Youth

James Bradshaw, Assistant to the President for Education and Youth

Fall Worker Conferences. The 2022 Pastors Conference was held October 3-4, in Manhattan, and the 2022 Educator's Conference was held October 9-11, also in Manhattan. Both conferences went well. The 2023 fall church worker conference will be a joint conference, and held Oct. 8-10 at Holy Cross, Wichita.

Lutheran Schools. Three congregations/schools are currently involved in the call process for a Commissioned Minister of Religion: Emporia, Messiah (DCE); Overland Park, Bethany (DCE); Marysville, Good Shepherd (Headmaster). Concordia Academy in Wichita officially commenced with its first class of students on August 22.

Youth Ministry Updates. The District Confirmation Retreat was held Oct. 7-8. Eight congregations were represented among the 41 participants in attendance. The Kansas District Youth Gathering will take place Saturday, Nov. 19 in two locations: Beautiful Savior, Olathe and Risen Savior, Wichita. Upcoming youth events include the Middle School Huddle April 21-22, 2023, and Lutheran Valley Retreat (LVR) June 4-9, 2023.

Parish Education Committee. Following the July Board of Directors meeting, the Adult Education and the Children's & Family Life Committees combined to form the Parish Education Committee. The committee met for the first time in August and began specific work on faith building initiatives that address adults, children, and families across the Kansas District.

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF)

Jeffrey Maltz, LCEF District Vice President

Business Summary

- Through September 30, 2022, LCEF Kansas District has **26** LCEF loans outstanding with a balance of **\$13,752,370**.
- LCEF Kansas District has **1,748** investors.
- Total amount invested: **\$58,102,373**

Activity in the Kansas District. A \$150,000 Church Improvement Loan was approved to Immanuel Lutheran, Lawrence this quarter, to replace the church roof and acquire an outdoor digital sign. Grace Lutheran, Wichita, paid off their loan this quarter.

LCEF Business Notes. LCEF Operating Revenue - funding received from 2022 LCEF Fiscal Year is \$81,478. LCEF loan rates are currently stable. LCEF Real Estate Solutions (RES) is working with the Kansas District on the De Soto project. Investment rates will increase again in November 2022, with the top rates at 3.50%. LCEF Kansas Loan Review Committee combined with BOS.

Business Office

Heather Williams, Business Manager

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

Property. The District office boiler inspection which produced a deficiency has now been cleared. Our server is at the end of its life/capacity for IT support. An IT engineer is currently evaluating it and making recommendations for next steps. The District Office copier has also reached the end of its life in terms of supply availability and maintenance support. Information has been gathered on the purchase of a new copier.

Retreat Center. Repairs have been made to the deck structure, and the repairs were examined by an engineer that serves on our Board of Directors and found to be satisfactory. Additional repairs are being made to our HVAC system to replace the furnace burners.

Finances. Financial results for the third quarter of 2022 are positive. Congregational giving is beyond commitments and came in at 85% of budget for the period end. Expenses are reported at 81% of budget. Synod Convention assessment invoices have been sent out, and we have already received assessments from 34 congregations.

Planned Giving. Staff has given planned giving presentations this quarter at Zion, Independence; Calvary, Topeka; St. John, Topeka; St. John, Palmer; and Grace, McPherson. St. Peter's, Humboldt is on the schedule in November.

Estates. In August, the District learned of a fund administered by the LCMS Foundation for the benefit of the LCMS Kansas District. The Charles and Vivian Herren Fund has been established to provide dollar-for-dollar matching construction grants to Kansas District ministries. Kansas District staff will serve as grant administrators. Information will be going to congregations, schools and RSOs in December, and applications will open in February.

Communications

Jackie Schaefer, Communications Specialist

Kansas District Website. In mid-September, the District website over to a new server. Other website projects for this quarter included updating the Board of Directors and District staff webpages, creating registration pages for fall conferences and youth events, and making modifications to department sections.

Social Media. Regular postings include “Prayers for Congregations and Schools,” “Out and About in the Kansas District,” and LCMS memory Bible verses. There will also be more regular postings on *Set Apart to Serve* to encourage church work recruitment. Research is being gathered on best social media practices.

Workers Together. In September, there was a higher-than-normal bounce back rate on emails after the newsletter was sent out, in particular with yahoo email accounts. Customer support made some back-end changes to insure better deliverability.

BOARD REPORTS

Board of Missions

Marvin Schulteis, Chair

2023 Mission Grant Applications Review. The Board of Missions reviewed 23 mission grant requests. A total of \$240,729 was requested and \$143,000 is available to award. The Board of Missions also reviewed the 3rd Quarter Mission Grant Reports.

New Business item, per request of Chairman Marvin Schulteis: Discuss the timeliness of Board of Directors approval to pursue a church plant in De Soto, KS. Marvin discussed a possible motion for the Board of Directors to allow President Panzer, Rev. Galchutt, and the Kansas District leadership staff to implement the ways and means necessary to create a new LCMS congregation in the De Soto area. Ultimately it was decided to request time at the November Board of Directors meeting for Rev. Galchutt to have an informational session and express the urgency of moving forward with this project sooner than later.

Board of Education & Youth

Dan Thalmann, Chair

Reports. Two elementary schools and three early childhood development centers had NLSA renewed; one is scheduled for a site visit this academic year. There is concern on behalf of the schools that NLSA fees have been raised to \$750 annually. Ten of the twelve schools in the District are approaching KESA re-accreditation. There has been a substantial turnover in personnel at the KS Department of Education, which has increased challenges in the submission and review of some documents.

Legacy Fund Requests. An application for support was received from Ms. Arlene Cook to cover expenses for School Leaders Licensure Assessment through national Praxis testing. It was moved by Bruce Schultz to provide reimbursement in the amount of \$425 for successfully completing the Licensure Assessment on Oct. 12. The motion was seconded and passed. Chairman Thalmann will inform Ms. Cook and the District Office that this award for reimbursement has been granted.

Business - Triennial Service Board Review. A resolution tracker, in Excel format, was introduced. Included are resolutions for which the Board of Education and Youth are expected to take a lead role.

Board of Caring Ministry

Rick Hanebutt, Chair

Church Worker Care Committee. Rev. Lee Hovel asked for assistance in identifying ways to communicate CWCT to circuits and congregations. The BOCM discussed various questions and ideas and will keep working on this topic.

Reports Review. District Disaster Response Coordinator Donna Williams posed a question to the BOCM regarding expenses covered by the District if she was invited or requested by the LCMS Disaster Response office to assist with a disaster (e.g., Hurricane Ian aftermath in FL). After discussion, The BOCM requested Donna Williams to further develop information prior to Jan. 1, 2023 with proposals in accordance with the *Guidelines for Sequence of Disaster Response (GSDR)*. The board will review prior to and as part of the next BOCM meeting. Additional reports were reviewed from Parish Ministry, Older Adult Ministry, Pastor’s Wives Retreat, and the Life Coordinator.

Resolution 22B-03-02 – To Offer a Districtwide Model for Christ-Centered Community Service. Jim Bradshaw is in discussions with individuals for possible leadership of a District-wide service event (similar to the Missouri District “Shine” events).

Board of Stewardship

Mark Wolters, Chair

Business. The 2022 Budget report and congregational receipts were reviewed. It was noted that 2022 congregational receipts were well above the 2019-2022 three-year congregational giving average. An update for 2023 congregational receipts was presented, as well as a review of the proposed 2023 Budget. Heather Williams reported that applications for Education Loan Repayment had been reviewed by the Committee, with 13 applicants receiving a total of around \$29,000 for education loan repayment.

The following resolutions were proposed, seconded, and approved to advance to the Board of Directors meeting:

Resolution 22A-05-01 – 2023 Budget Adoption

Resolved, that the 2023 budget, as presented, be approved by the Board of Directors.

Resolution 22D-05-02 – Ash Wednesday Offering Designation for 2023

Resolved, that the proceeds of the 2023 Ash Wednesday Offering be allocated 25 percent to the Kansas District Scholarship Fund and 75 percent to the Kansas District Education Loan Repayment Fund.

Resolution 22D-05-03 – Kansas District Mileage Reimbursement Rate

Resolved, that the Kansas District mileage rate be set at 10 cents below the IRS rate.

Resolution 22D-05-04 – Release Doris Meyer Board Designated Funds to Assist “Set Apart to Serve”

Resolved, that \$20,000 from the Doris Meyer Board Designated Funds be released to assist the *Set Apart to Serve* (SAS) Initiative.

Board of Administration

Dave Bruns, Chair

The following resolutions were proposed, seconded, and approved to advance to the Board of Directors meeting:

Resolution 22D-01-01 – Acknowledgement of Quarterly Gifts

Resolved, that the Kansas District Board of Directors acknowledge gifts received from July 16, 2022, to October 15, 2022, in the amount of **\$3,923.73**.

Resolution 22D-01-02 – 2023 Housing Allowance Designation

Resolved, that the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors establish the staff housing allowances for 2023 for: Rev. Justin Panzer, Mr. James Bradshaw, Rev. Daniel Galchutt.

Resolution 22D-01-03 – 2023 Auditor Appointment

Resolved, that the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors appoint the LCMS auditors for 2023.

Resolution 22D-01-04 – Replacement of District Office Copier

Resolved, that the Kansas District Board of Directors replace the District Office copy machine utilizing 2022 unrestricted funds at a cost not to exceed \$13,000.00.

Resolution 22D-01-05 – To Release Board Designated Doris Meyer Funds to the Charles and Vivian Herren Memorial Fund

Resolved, that the Kansas District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod release \$200,000 from the Board Designated Doris Meyer Estate Fund to the Charles and Vivian Herren Memorial Fund at the LCMS Foundation to be administered in accordance with Resolution 22D-01-05 terms and conditions, and with the following additional parameters:

1. Eligible projects are those that have taken place in 2022 for which new money continues to be raised through ongoing capital campaigns, or those that will take place in 2023.
2. The maximum award per eligible ministry will be \$40,000 or less depending on the number of eligible applications received.
3. District contributions to the Fund will be made immediately prior to the approved distribution requests in order to maintain the market value and impact of the gift.