



**Kansas District Board of Directors**

**November 4, 2022**

President:	Rev. Justin Panzer
Vice-Presidents:	Rev. Dr. Mark Schulz, Vice-President, Region 1 Rev. Alan Stahlecker, Vice-President, Region 2 Rev. Michael Schotte, Vice-President, Region 3 Rev. Michael Hageman, Vice-President, Region 4
Secretary:	Rev. Joshua Woelmer
Treasurer:	Mr. Brad Brunkow
Circuit Visitor Chair:	Rev. Andy Keltner
Commissioned Ministers:	Mr. Rick Hanebutt Mrs. Sue Kleber
Laity:	Mr. David Bruns Mr. Curt Engelbrecht Mr. Mark Wolters Mr. Marvin Schulteis Mr. Dan Thalmann Mr. Kevin Fredrickson
Lead Staff:	Mr. Jim Bradshaw, Assistant to the President for Education and Youth Ms. Jackie Schaefer, Communications Specialist Rev. Dan Galchutt, Assistant to the President for Missions and Stewardship Mrs. Heather Williams, Business Manager Mr. Jeff Maltz, LCEF Vice-President
Excused:	Bruce Schultz, Ben Venteicher

Dave Bruns called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Rev. Alan Stahlecker led our devotions, based upon 2 Tim 3:14–17.

The minutes from the previous regular meeting, the special budget meeting on August 10<sup>th</sup>, and the synod assessment meeting on September 26<sup>th</sup> were approved.

The Board of Directors entered executive session.  
The BOD exited executive session.

Six items were proposed for inclusion on the consent Agenda:

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

Resolved, that the Kansas District Board of Directors acknowledge the gifts received from July 16, 2022 to October 15, 2022 with the designation as follows:

West Africa Seminary	\$150.00
Undesignated/Unrestricted	\$1,281.19
KansaSEED Deaf Ministry	\$150.00
Church Worker Care	\$242.54
DeSoto Church Plant	\$1,100.00

Reformation	\$1,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,923.73</b>

**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-05-02 – Ash Wednesday Offering Designation for 2023**

Whereas, there is need for identifying sources of funding for Scholarship Grants to students pursuing degrees in professional church work at LCMS universities and seminaries; and Whereas, there is also need for identifying sources of funding for grants to church workers in the Kansas District who have education loan indebtedness; therefore, be it 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-06-02 – District Operations Manual Revisions for “Position Descriptions – Board of Directors & Officers”**

- Board of Directors
- Executive Committee
- President
- Presiding Officer
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Vice-President
- Board of Administration
- Board of Caring Ministry
- Board of Education & Youth
- Board of Missions
- Board of Stewardship

**Resolution 22D-06-03 – “Position Description”: Parish Education Committee**

**Resolution 22D-06-04 – District Operations Manual Revisions for “Position Descriptions – Executive & Professional Staff & Other”**

- District Archivist
- Assistant to the President for Education and Youth
- Assistant to the President for Missions and Stewardship
- Business Manager
- Campus Ministry Coordinator
- Communications Specialist

- District Disaster Response Coordinator
- District Convention Managers
- District Life Coordinator
- Lutheran Church Extension Fund Vice-President
- Parish Nurse Representative
- Parliamentarian

**Resolution 22D-06-05 – District Operations Manual: Eliminate Position Descriptions for Vacant Positions**

- Executive Chaplain
- Planned Giving Counselor
- Mission Awareness Coordinator
- Kansas District Editor (Lutheran Witness)

**Resolution 22D-06-06 – First, Paola**

Resolved, that the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors approve the First, Paola Constitution and Bylaws.

Approval of District President’s Appointment to the **Kansas District Youth Ministry Committee (DYMC)**: Amanda Adams, Chair-elect (DCE: Christ, Topeka)

**Action: Consent agenda adopted**

Staff and Board Reports

Rev. Justin Panzer, President, presented his report, highlighting the need for young men to enter seminary to serve the many congregations that are calling.

The BOD entered executive session.

The BOD exited executive session.

Rev. Dan Galchutt, Assistant to the President for Missions and Stewardship, presented his report. He highlighted work on mission plants, Hispanic ministry, and campus ministry.

Mr. Marvin Schulteis, chair of the Board of Missions, presented the report of the board, which highlighted the mission grant applications. A total of \$240,729 was requested, and a total of \$143,000 was available to award in 2022.

Mr. Mark Wolters, chair of the Board of Stewardship, presented the report of the board. He noted the discussion on the 2023 Budget, which includes a change to the mileage reimbursement. He reported that the Scholarship and Education Loan Committee approved 13 requests for loan repayment assistance.

Mr. Jim Bradshaw, Assistant to the President for Education and Youth, presented his report. He reported that our K–8 schools are growing and doing well, and there have been some inquiries about starting schools in different areas of the District. The fall District Youth Gatherings have a

good number of registrations. The next LCMS Youth Gathering will be July 19–23, 2025, in New Orleans.

Mr. Dan Thalmann, chair of the Board of Education and Youth, presented the report of the board. He noted the accreditation that is approaching for many of our schools.

Mr. Rick Hanebutt, chair of the Board of Caring Ministry, presented the report of the board. He highlighted work by Donna Williams on Disaster Response, especially the Hurricane Ian response. The board appreciated a meeting they had with Rev. Lee Hovel on Church Worker Care Teams and how such teams can assist congregations with caring for their called workers.

Mr. Jeff Maltz, LCEF Vice-President, gave us information on the loans and investments held by congregations in the District.

Ms. Jackie Schaefer, Communications Specialist, presented her report. Our website moved to a new server and gave her the opportunity to update each page and fix broken links throughout the website.

Mrs. Heather Williams, Business Manager, presented her report. She noted the upgrades and repairs that are needed or done for various items in the District Office and Retreat Center. She reported on her work with planned giving and estates in congregations around the District. She presented minor changes to the budget since the September 26<sup>th</sup> BOD special meeting.

Mr. Brad Brunkow, Treasurer, presented the Financial Dashboard, Balance Sheet, Statement of Activities, and the Budget-to-Actual Tables. He presented a new report to view the Net Asset Fund Balances to assist the boards in knowing what funds are available for their various activities.

Mr. Dave Bruns, chair of the Board of Admin, presented the report of the board, highlighting the work that Brad Brunkow is doing to ensure the assets of the District are invested wisely. He presented on the new grant from the Charles and Vivian Herren Memorial Fund for brick-and-mortar projects in the District.

Rev. Dan Galchutt gave an update on the De Soto mission plant proposal that Vicar John Kastner put together. There are many opportunities in that area, and no Lutheran congregations within a 10-mile radius. There is a Bible study that meets biweekly and evangelism efforts ongoing in the area.

The Board of Missions presented a motion, to be taken up in New Business, to locate suitable land to purchase in the De Soto area.

Rev. Joshua Woelmer, Secretary, gave a report on the registrations of voting and advisory delegates to the 2023 Synod Convention. He gave an update on the District Bylaws & Operations Manual Committee and Congregational Constitutions & Bylaws Review Committee.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

**Resolution 22D-05-01 – 2023 Budget Adoption**

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

**Action: Adopted**

**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.

**Action: Adopted**

**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.

**Action: Adopted**

**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.

**Action: Adopted**

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

Whereas, Dr. Charles Herren has made a generous gift to the LCMS Foundation in honor of his late wife Vivian, and intended it to be used for Laborers for Christ; and

Whereas, the Laborers for Christ program has discontinued operations; and

Whereas, the LCMS Foundation, in carrying out the intent of Dr. Charles Herren’s gift, has established the Charles and Vivian Herren Memorial Fund (the “Fund”) according to the following terms and conditions:

1. The Fund is established as a separate fund of the Foundation.
2. The Fund is invested as determined by the Foundation.
3. Distributions will be made to ministries in the Kansas District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as a dollar-for-dollar match to donor contributions of new funds for constructing or improving their building space.
4. The Foundation will rely on the Kansas District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to advertise availability of the grant, determine eligible ministries and amounts, and request Fund distributions.
5. The Foundation will consider all distribution requests received from the Kansas District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Approval of the request, as well as the timing and amount of any distribution, will be made in the sole discretion of the Foundation.
6. Distributions will be made from Fund income and, to the extent Fund income is not sufficient, from principal. There is no limit on the amount that can be distributed. If a

distribution depletes the balance of the Fund, the Fund will be terminated. Requests for distribution from the Fund should be no less than \$15,000.

7. The Foundation will be reimbursed for all Fund expenses per the Foundation's policy on Reimbursement of Expenses in effect at the time the expenses are paid or incurred.

8. Additional contributions may be made to the Herren Fund by other donors to further the reach of this work of expanding Kansas District ministry.

9. The Foundation reserves the right to amend the terms of this Fund. The Kansas District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod will be advised in advance of any amendment.

Whereas, the purpose of the Fund aligns with the mission of the Kansas District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in supporting its members; therefore be it

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 the terms and conditions listed above, 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.

**Action: Adopted**

### **Resolution 22D-06-01 – To Recommend Moving to a Four-Year Convention Cycle**

Whereas, Both decreases in the size of many Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregations and the uncertain economic climate of our times have placed an increased financial burden on many of those who are assessed a portion of the cost of the Synod convention; and

Whereas, We are all charged to be good stewards of our time and treasure; and

Whereas, The urgency of matters coming before a district or Synod convention does not demand a three-year cycle; and

Whereas, Significant savings of time and money would be made possible by moving to a four-year cycle; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Kansas District Board of Directors memorialize the Synod to move to a 4-year convention cycle; and be it further

Resolved, That the President of the Synod, district presidents, and circuit visitors and their respective staffs utilize the extra year to accomplish visitation and the implementation of both district and Synod resolutions in a more reasonable and equitable fashion; and be it further

Resolved, That this become effective upon completion of the 2023 Synod convention and shall affect every Synod and district convention thereafter; and be it further

Resolved, That bylaw provisions shall be determined for adoption at the 2023 Synod convention for immediate implementation of election cycles, terms of office, staggering of terms, and any other necessary issues that arise prior to the 2027 Synod convention; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Commission on Handbook shall make changes necessary for a four-year convention cycle.

**Action: Adopted**

## **Resolution 22D-06-07 – Establish Task Force to Develop Circuit Realignment**

### **Recommendations**

Whereas, a number of circuits in the Kansas District do not meet the minimum requirements for representation to the Synod Convention and received exceptions for the 2023 Convention, and Whereas, the Kansas District Board of Directors, when requesting exceptions for the 2023 Convention, told the Synod that circuit realignment would occur at the 2025 Kansas District Convention, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Board of Directors authorize the District President, in consultation with the President's Council, to appoint a task force for circuit realignment to assess the situation and make circuit realignment recommendations to the 2025 Kansas District Convention.

**Action: Adopted**

## **Resolution 22D-04-01 – Locating Suitable Land in the De Soto Area**

Whereas, the mission opportunities for a congregation plant in the De Soto, Kansas, area are great, and

Whereas, mission work is already underway through Light of the World Lutheran Mission with the intent of forming a congregation, and

Whereas, the timeframe for purchasing land is acute given the growth in the area, therefore be it Resolved, that the Board of Directors authorize the District President, the Missions Executive, the LCEF Vice-President, and other District Lead Staff, to move ahead expeditiously to locate suitable land in the De Soto area for the express purpose of planting an LCMS congregation in the De Soto area; and be it further

Resolved, that the District leadership identify such suitable land for sale, at a price reasonable in the real estate marketplace at the time; and be it finally

Resolved, that the District leadership present a purchase proposal to the Board of Directors or, upon reviewing the options, recommend a delay or rejection of land purchase with an explanation of such reasons.

**Action: Adopted**

### Announcements

- Future BOD Meetings
  - o February 3, 2023 (*Hybrid model; Friday meeting via Zoom*)
  - o May 5, 2023 (*Hybrid model; Friday in-person meeting dates*)
  - o August 11, 2023 (*Hybrid model; Friday in-person meeting dates*)
  - o November 3, 2023 (*Hybrid model; Friday in-person meeting dates*)
- 68<sup>th</sup> LCMS Convention @ Milwaukee, WI
  - o Kansas District Delegate Information Meeting – May 25, 2023 (over Zoom)
  - o Floor Committee Weekend – June 9–12, 2023 @ St. Louis
  - o Convention Dates – July 29–August 3, 2023

The board adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Closing prayer was led by Rev. Justin Panzer.

Respectfully,

Rev. Joshua J. Woelmer, Secretary