



Kansas District Board of Directors

February 2, 2024

- President: Rev. Justin Panzer
- Vice-Presidents: 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: Mrs. Rachel Goodpasture
Mr. Rick Hanebutt
Mrs. Sue Kleber
- Laity: Hon. David Bruns
Mr. Curt Engelbrecht
Mr. Kevin Fredrickson
Mr. Marvin Schulteis
Dr. Bruce Schultz
Mr. Dan Thalmann
Mr. Mark Wolters
- Lead Staff: Mr. Jim Bradshaw, Assistant to the President for Education and Youth
Rev. Daniel Grams, Assistant to the President for Congregational and School Services
Mr. Jeff Maltz, LCEF Vice-President
Ms. Jackie Schaefer, Communications Specialist
Mrs. Heather Williams, Business Manager
- Excused: Rev. Dr. Mark Schulz

Hon. Dave Bruns called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Rev. Andy Keltner led our devotions, based on Psalm 147 and Isaiah 40:21–31.

The minutes from the previous regular meeting and the special email vote were approved.

Four items were proposed for inclusion on the consent Agenda:

Resolution 24A-01-01 Acknowledgement of Quarterly Gifts

Resolved, that the Kansas District Board of Directors acknowledge the gifts received from October 16, 2023 to January 15, 2024 with the designation as follows:

Undesignated/Unrestricted	\$1,029.91
KansaSEED Deaf Ministry	\$3,954.07
Reformation	\$445.00
Worker Care Fund	\$75.00
LERT/Disaster	\$50.00
Total	\$5,553.98

Resolution 24A-06-01 – First, Phillipsburg

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

Resolution 24A-06-02 – Zion, Downs

Resolved, that the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors approve the Zion, Downs Constitution and Bylaws.

Resolution 24A-06-03 – Risen Savior, Basehor

Resolved, that the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors approve the Risen Savior, Basehor Constitution and Bylaws.

Action: Consent agenda adopted

Staff and Board Reports

Rev. Justin Panzer, President, presented his report. He introduced the theme for the next District Convention, “Abiding in the Word.” This will encourage our congregations to “Abide, Connect, Equip, Engage”—first among one another and then in mission outreach to those around us. He gave an update on his meetings and events attended, congregational calls, pre-call meetings, and ordinations and installations.

Rev. Daniel Grams, Assistant to the President for Congregational and School Services, reported that his transition has gone well as he works with Jim Bradshaw and gets to know the schools, churches, and ministries around Kansas. He has been working particularly on the SGO plans that the Board of Directors authorized the District to pursue, and he shared the challenges that accompany it. He gave updates on his work with youth ministry and Hispanic outreach. He informed us of the church planting grants by the LCMS and how they will help the De Soto church plant.

Mr. Marvin Schulteis, chair of the Board of Missions, presented their report. He highlighted the outreach that happened across the District over Christmas time. Jackie Schaefer provided an update on the West (and Central) Africa Mission and the work that is being done at the seminary in Guinea. Sue Kleber touched on the various Hispanic Outreach ministries throughout the District, from Kansas City to Wichita to Linn and Sabetha.

Mr. Mark Wolters, chair of the Board of Stewardship, presented their report. Two loans through LCEF have been paid off. The board has been communicating with LCEF through Jeff Maltz regarding funding for property for the De Soto church plant. Congregational receipts for the 2023 fiscal year were up (109.82%), and due to some year-end technology expenses, the expenses on the year were slightly up, at 103.86%. He reported on the Planned Giving presentation that happened this quarter, as well as the work of the subcommittees.

Mr. Jim Bradshaw, Assistant to the President for Education and Youth, presented his report. He recently received the Dale E. Griffen Master Statesman Award for exemplary service and impact for the Director of Christian Education ministry. He is also being inducted into the Kansas Association of Independent and Religious Schools (KAIRS) Hall of Fame. This honors outstanding educators who have made life-long contributions to independent and religious

schools in Kansas. The Board of Directors congratulated him by singing the Doxology. He gave an update on commissioned calls to and from the District. He noted the *Genesis Project* updates on proposed school starts around the District. He recapped the well-attended Kansas District Youth Gathering in November, as well as noting the upcoming deadlines for the 2025 Youth Gathering in New Orleans. He provided an update on the *Faith at Work* Service Projects for this spring in April. He reported on the work of the Church Worker Care Committee, LERT, and Older Adult Ministry. He also presented his request for a sabbatical leave in the Fall.

Mr. Dan Thalmann, chair of the Board of Education and Youth, presented the report of the board. He echoed what Rev. Grams said on the challenges that present us for starting an SGO.

Mr. Rick Hanebutt, chair of the Board of Caring Ministry, presented the report of the board. He provided updates on Disaster Relief, Parish Nurse, the Church Worker Care Committee, Older Adult Ministry, and Pastors' Wives retreat. The LERT training event scheduled for early January was postponed due to the inclement weather. Rick emphasized the District-Wide Service Project named "Faith at Work." A number of registrations have come in, and things are gearing up for those projects. The Board invites pictures and videos from these events for publicity during and after those events.

Mr. Jeff Maltz, LCEF Vice-President, gave us information on the loans and investments held by congregations in the District. Two loans have been paid off this quarter. In addition to other competitive investment opportunities, LCEF continues to offer investment options to support the Church Worker Loan Pool. This will bring down the interest rates for loans offered to church workers, including residential mortgages, home equity, debt consolidation, and educational consolidation loans.

Ms. Jackie Schaefer, Communications Specialist, presented her report. She continues to work on and update the website with various events throughout the District, especially the *Faith at Work* page and resources. There has been good engagement on social media with the highlights of churches and schools around the District. The Ash Wednesday Offering materials have gone out. She has also designed the logo for our 2025 District Convention.

Mrs. Heather Williams, Business Manager, presented her report. She has reviewed the financial compensation plan for several call documents. She reported on the technology updates to the server and laptops at the District Office. She presented the final numbers for the 2023 fiscal year. She reported updates on property, accounting/finance, planned giving, and the Herren Fund grants and publicity. She noted that the 2025 District Convention will take place at the Tony's Pizza Event Center (TPEC) in Salina.

Mr. Brad Brunkow, Treasurer, presented the Financial Dashboard, Balance Sheet, Statement of Activities, and the Budget-to-Actual Tables. He noted that the Cash improvement for Operations has benefited because of improved congregational receipts as well as the gap of time between Executive Assistants. He presented the General Process of Financial Flows and Investable Fund Statements, as they have been updated in January to reflect the work that has been accomplished on them to date.

Hon. Dave Bruns, chair of the Board of Administration, presented the report of the board.

Rev. Joshua Woelmer, Secretary, gave his report. There has been good movement on the governing documents of District congregations; six have completed the review process this quarter. He gave an update on the work of the Congregational Constitutions & Bylaws Review Committee and answered questions regarding outdated congregational constitutions and bylaws around the District. He reported on his work with Tami to digitize the Nomination and Delegate Forms in preparation for the District Convention. There was no action in the District Operations Manual Committee. He presented the report of the Executive Committee.

Unfinished Business

Conversation continues on the challenges and complexities relating to the Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGO) that the Board approved last meeting. No further action from the Board is needed at this point.

New Business

Resolution 24A-05-01 – To Establish a Board Designated Fund for Mission Project Support using Excess Unrestricted Reserve Funds

Whereas, the unrestricted funds of the LCMS Kansas District have grown substantially due to accumulated additions to unrestricted net assets in the past few years; and

Whereas, the Lord has especially blessed the LCMS Kansas District throughout this past year; and

Whereas, there are significant opportunities for mission work in Kansas, including, but not limited to a potential church plant in De Soto, therefore, be it

Resolved, that \$150,000 from the overage funds received in 2023 be board designated to a general Kansas mission fund so that these funds would be available to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the opportunities that the Lord gives us in the days ahead.

Action: Adopted

Resolution 24A-06-04 – Voting to Fill Vacancies on the Kansas District Nominations Committee

Whereas, KSD Bylaws 3.7.4 says, “Vacancies in the other elective or appointed offices or any other board, special committee, or commission shall be filled by appointment by the Board of Directors. At least one nominee shall be submitted by the Executive Committee. A vacancy in a position of a regionally elected layperson on the Board of Directors shall be filled with an appointee from that region.” And,

Whereas, The Ordained Minister position on the Nominations Committee may only be filled by someone from Regions 2 or 3. Rev. Sean Kilgo will represent Region 1, and Rev. Michael Hageman will represent Region 4. The Commissioned Minister position is not region-bound; it is the only Commissioned Minister representative on that Committee. The nominees not elected during the 2022 convention for this position are Betty Amey and Cynthia Lavrenz. (Cynthia Lavrenz has retired and is no longer living in the Kansas District.); therefore, be it Resolved, that the Kansas District BOD vote for 1 Commissioned Minister and 1 Ordained Minister to fill the vacancies on the Kansas District Nominations Committee.

Action: The Board of Directors held a vote, and Rev. Troy Slater was elected to represent Region 2, and Mrs. Bethany Johnson was elected to represent the commissioned ministers.

Announcements

- Future BOD Meetings
 - May 3, 2024 (*Hybrid model; Friday in-person meeting date*)
 - August 2, 2024 (*Hybrid model; Friday in-person meeting date*)
 - November 1, 2024 (*Hybrid model; Friday in-person meeting date*)
 - January 31, 2025 (*Hybrid model; Friday Zoom meeting date*)
 - May 9, 2025 (*Hybrid model; Friday in-person meeting date*)
- October 13, 2024 at Beautiful Savior, Olathe: Official Send-off for Jim Bradshaw

The board adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Closing prayer was led by Rev. Justin Panzer.

Respectfully,
Rev. Joshua J. Woelmer, Secretary