



Kansas District Board of Directors

May 3, 2024

- President: Rev. Justin Panzer
- Vice-Presidents: Rev. Dr. Mark Schulz, Vice-President, Region 1
Rev. Alan Stahlecker, Vice-President, Region 2
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. Marvin Schulteis
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: Kevin Fredrickson, Bruce Schultz, Michael Schotte

Hon. Dave Bruns called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Rev. Joshua Woelmer led our devotions, based on Luke 13:18-30.

The minutes from the previous regular meeting were approved.

Four items were proposed for inclusion on the consent Agenda:

Resolution 24B-01-01 – Acknowledgement of Quarterly Gifts

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

Undesignated/Unrestricted	\$395.68
KansaSEED Deaf Ministry	\$150.00
Education Loan Repayment	\$950.00
Ash Wednesday	\$845.00
Total	\$2,340.68

Resolution 2B-06-01 – Grace, Ulysses

Resolved, that the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors approve the Grace, Ulysses Constitution and Bylaws.

Resolution 24B-06-02 – District Operations Manual: Revision to Position Description
o Board of Administration

Approval of District President's Appointment to the Kansas District Older Adult Committee
Chair: Sharon Kolanowski

Action: Consent agenda adopted

Staff and Board Reports

Rev. Justin Panzer, President, presented his report. He reported on the call nights from the seminaries that resulted in six pastors, two deaconess, two vicars, and two deaconess interns coming to Kansas! He shared an update on church plants and partnerships. He gave an update on his meetings and events attended, congregational calls, pre-call meetings, and upcoming ordinations and installations.

Rev. Daniel Grams, Assistant to the President for Congregational and School Services, reported that they have purchased a home in Olathe and will be moving this summer. He reported on the Hispanic Ministry Convocation on March 7th and the mission work to Hispanic communities throughout the state. He provided his first Stewardship presentation. He has been working on finding board members for the Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) that the District authorized to establish. Due to possible audit complications, the SGO will need to be separate from the District and have its own board. He and Heather answered questions regarding the establishment and board of the SGO.

Mr. Marvin Schulteis, chair of the Board of Missions, presented their report. Jackie Schaefer provided an update on the West (and Central) Africa Mission and the work that is being done at the seminary in Guinea. Marvin highlighted the campus ministry outreach. He spoke on Bethany, Wichita's infant room ministry and the Jesus Door-2-Door outreach at Hope, Shawnee.

Rev. Alan Stahlecker, member of the Board of Stewardship, presented their report. Work on the 2025 Budget will begin this summer.

Mr. Jim Bradshaw, Assistant to the President for Education and Youth, presented his report. He reported the vacancies and calls of Commissioned Ministers. He updated us on the DCE and Teacher retreats and conferences that have happened or are coming up. There are four *Genesis Project* school feasibility studies. Marriage Enrichment seminars around the District have started and will continue for the rest of the year. Youth Ministry continues to go well with the Gatherings, Huddles, Retreats, and Conferences. He reported on a Disaster Response Roundtable with KSD LERT leaders and LCMS Disaster Relief. He thanked Rick Hanebutt for the *Faith at Work* Service Projects that took place this April.

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. He also provided updates on school accreditation with regards to KESA 2.0.

Mr. Rick Hanebutt, chair of the Board of Caring Ministry, presented the report of the board. He noted the work that Cliff Winter has done in the Older Adult Ministry Committee. The Board of Directors unanimously passed a resolution thanking Rev. Dr.

Cliff Winter for his dedication to Older Adult Ministry in Kansas. He spoke about the 2024 *Faith at Work* service project; over fifty servant events were registered with at least an estimated two thousand participants, based on the number of t-shirts that we provided (many more than that number likely participated). The committee will provide a report after the May committee meeting.

Mr. Jeff Maltz, LCEF Vice-President, gave us information on the loans and investments held by congregations in the District. 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, as well as the *Faith at Work* highlights. Her special projects this quarter have included the District Convention graphic and webpage, as well as the Pentecost Offering materials.

Mrs. Heather Williams, Business Manager, presented her report. She has reviewed the financial compensation plan for nineteen call documents. She reported on maintenance and repairs expenses due to changes in state code changes for fire systems and elevators. Congregational giving is above year-to-date commitments at 26.49% of budget, and expenses are also at 26.34% of budget. Some of these expenses are front-loaded, one-time costs. The audit has come back with a “clean” opinion. She will be conducting four regional Congregational Treasurer Workshops this fall (dates to be determined). She reported updates on accounting/finance, planned giving presentations, and the estates.

Mr. Brad Brunkow, Treasurer, presented the Financial Dashboard, Balance Sheet, Statement of Activities, and the Budget-to-Actual Tables. He presented an idea for a Maintenance Budget for KS District facilities to provide a financial basis for major maintenance, which is estimated at 1-2% per year of replacement value. The idea is to slowly build up to \$250,000 in reserves for this Major Maintenance fund.

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

Rev. Joshua Woelmer, Secretary, gave his report. He gave an update on the work of the Congregational Constitutions & Bylaws Review Committee. He reported on his work with Tami and Jackie to digitize and publicize the Nomination and Delegate Forms for the District Convention. He noted that the Nominations Committee will begin meeting in October to prepare for the 2025 District Convention. He presented the report of the Executive Committee.

Unfinished Business

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

New Business

Resolution 24B-01-02 – Authorization of 2025 District Convention Assessment

Whereas, the 2022 congregation statistics indicate that the Kansas District has approximately 34,997 communicant members; and

Whereas, 3-year inflation has impacted costs; and

Whereas, there are no rollover funds from the 2022 Kansas District convention, and

Whereas, in order to meet \$52,495.50 of the proposed budget for the Kansas District Convention in 2025, a budgeted assessment is needed to cover costs, and

Whereas, the District will cover an anticipated convention budget deficit of \$15,000 from the Doris Meyer Fund; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Board of Directors authorize the 2025 District Convention congregational assessment at \$1.50 per communicant member.

Action: Adopted

Resolution 24B-06-03 – Approval of Sabbatical for Mr. Jim Bradshaw

Whereas, following the guidelines of the Kansas District, Mr. Jim Bradshaw has requested a sabbatical for the dates of September 1 – November 30, 2024; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Kansas District Board of Directors grant Mr. Bradshaw’s sabbatical as planned and supervised in coordination with his sabbatical accountability team.

Action: Adopted

Resolution 24B-06-04 – Designation of the October 2024 Pastors & Educators Church Worker Conferences Offering for the Worker Care Fund

Resolved, that the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors approve the designation of the October 2024 Pastors and Educators Church Worker Conferences offering for the Worker Care Fund.

Action: Adopted

Resolution 24B-06-05 – 2025 District Convention Offering to Support Theological Education

Whereas, the 2025 Kansas District Convention theme is “Abiding in the Word” (John 8:31–32); and

Whereas, there are 15 Lutheran Schools (Elementary and High School) in the Kansas District and the Kansas District will be celebrating its 28th year of partnership with the West Africa mission in 2025; and

Whereas, the Board of Directors is setting a goal of \$24,000 for the Convention Offering, or \$1500 per the 16 receiving entities; therefore be it

Resolved, that the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors designate the 2025 District Convention Offering to go towards the support of “Theological Education Books for our Kansas District Lutheran Schools” and “Theological Education – Books, Materials, Visiting Professors” in West Africa.

Action: Adopted

Announcements

- Future BOD Meetings
 - 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 8-9, 2025 (*Hybrid model; May 8 – Board “Appreciation Farewell”; Friday in-person meeting date*)
- October 13, 2024 at Beautiful Savior, Olathe: Official Send-off for Jim Bradshaw

The board adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Closing prayer was led by Rev. Justin Panzer.

Respectfully,
Rev. Joshua J. Woelmer, Secretary