



Kansas District Board of Directors

January 31, 2025

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:	Mrs. Rachel Goodpasture Mr. Rick Hanebutt Mrs. Sue Kleber
Laity:	Hon. David Bruns Mr. Curt Engelbrecht Mr. Kevin Fredrickson Mr. Marvin Schulteis Mr. Bruce Schultz Mr. Dan Thalmann Mr. Mark Wolters
Lead Staff:	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:	none

Hon. Dave Bruns called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Rev. Michael Schotte led our devotion based on Luke 3:21–22, drawing on C. F. W. Walther’s introduction to *The Proper Distinction between Law and Gospel*. Walther emphasizes that God does not treat us as pampered children, excusing sin in indolence. Rather, God has placed that sin upon Jesus, whom He has declared His Son, who paid His life for our sin. We now live with the Spirit, which He has sent into our hearts to strengthen our faith and live by His will.

The minutes from the previous regular meeting were approved as amended. The minutes from the special Board meeting were approved.

One item was proposed for inclusion on the consent Agenda:

Resolution 25A-01-01 Acknowledgement of Quarterly Gifts

Resolved that the Kansas District Board of Directors acknowledge the gifts received from October 16, 2024 to January 15, 2025 with the designation as follows:

Undesignated/Unrestricted	\$14,437.40
Church Worker Care	\$20.00
Reformation Offering	\$300.00
Ash Wednesday	\$735.00
LERT/Disaster	\$500.00

Education Loan Endowment	\$19,659.40
Total	\$35,651.80

Action: Consent agenda adopted

Staff and Board Reports

Rev. Justin Panzer, President, presented his report. Call Days from the seminaries are coming up soon after Easter. There are two Kansas congregations that desire to call from the seminary. He reported on the calling congregations, ordinations and installations, and other changes with regards to called workers. He encouraged the Board of Directors members to attend the upcoming District Convention.

Mr. Rick Hanebutt, chair of the Board of Caring Ministry, presented the report of the board. He highlighted the Life Conference that recently occurred, as well as the plans to continue the District-wide “Faith at Work” service project again next year.

Rev. Daniel Grams presented the report of the Retreat Center Task Force. Following the meeting with Rev. Bueltmann (Shepherd’s Canyon), the task force has considered his suggestions for changing how the District could operate the Retreat Center. The task force has weighed various options, and it will present a report to the Board of Directors, likely suggesting the sale of the property.

Rev. Daniel Grams, Assistant to the President for Congregational and School Services, presented his report. He began with a report on the church plant in De Soto, Light of the World Lutheran Church. They are looking to move locations to a store front, which would provide better visibility and church services or Bible studies throughout the week. Although forming a preschool continues to be in the future plans, they would like to become more established before pursuing a more permanent location. He noted that there will also be some research into a possible church plant in southern Johnson County (Spring Hill area).

Mr. Marvin Schulteis, chair of the Board of Missions, presented the report of the board. He highlighted the work of “Jesus Door-2-Door,” an active mission outreach that encourages members of our Lutheran congregations to share the gospel with those they encounter in their communities. He also highlighted from the report the new campus ministries in Garden City, serving those attending Garden City Community College, and also in Topeka, serving students attending Washburn University.

Rev. Grams continued with his report on Education and Youth. He highlighted the opening of the Scholarship Governing Organization, which was able to receive donations in December 2024. Most of the donations have come earmarked for particular Lutheran schools. It is also encouraged to donate generally to the SGO to assist all the children enrolled throughout the District. Online giving will be the next task for the SGO to roll out. The newly formed Lutheran Schools of Kansas District Leadership Team met to review KESA 2.0 requirements, and the initial set of school goals will be an increased focus on the development of math skills along with skill assessment. He reported that enrollment in church worker training programs is increasing, but there is still a large gap between teachers graduating (85) and the requests for candidates

(472). He reported on the District Youth Gathering in November and the other youth activities that are being planned by Miriam Wehling, coordinator for youth activities.

Mr. Dan Thalmann, chair of the Board of Education and Youth, presented the report of the board. He noted that the SGO and discussions with the State on NLSA have consumed much of the time of the Board. There are further discussions about promoting “Set Apart to Serve,” to encourage our youth to look into the various church work opportunities. The board congratulated Rev. Grams for being awarded the Masters of Nonprofit Administration by the University of Notre Dame.

Rev. Grams then reported on the work of missions and stewardship around the District. He highlighted the Philippians Conferences that have been hosted in the District.

Mr. Mark Wolters, chair of the Board of Stewardship, presented the report of the board. He noted the changes to the LCEF rebranding to shift their focus to making transactions and offerings online rather than by paperwork.

Mr. Jeff Maltz, LCEF Vice-President, gave his report. Kansas Loans and Investment dollars are both up from previous years. No loans have been approved or paid off this quarter. He invited feedback on the new LCEF rebranding and the behind-the-scenes online options.

Mrs. Heather Williams, Business Manager, presented her report. She noted that Jim Bradshaw and Janet Powell have retired from the District, and she conducted exit interviews and check-out procedures with them. There have been no major property issues this quarter. She reported that this has been one of the best years for congregational giving, at 105.6% of budget. Expenses also came in below budget, at 94.7%. There has been a learning curve on receiving and processing the SGO gifts. She reported on a Planned Giving presentation and the Congregational Treasurer Workshops that will happen along with the Nebraska District Business Manager this year. She reported updates on the estates, two of which are new in this past quarter.

Mr. Brad Brunkow, Treasurer, presented the Financial Dashboard, Balance Sheet, Statement of Activities, and the Budget-to-Actual Tables. Even though there was a projected deficit of \$62,211 from the 2024 Budget, there was actually an increase to net assets of \$44,774 when the books closed on January 15, 2025. He thanked the congregations for supporting the work of the District, and prayed that this is a sign of health throughout the District.

Hon. Dave Bruns, chair of the Board of Administration, presented the report of the board. He echoed the work on the SGO that is ongoing. He spoke to possible changes to our scholarship program to benefit other church youth activities like Christ Academy or Concordia Tours that encourage churchwork for high schoolers.

Ms. Jackie Schaefer, Communications Specialist, presented her report. She thanked all those who have been sending in their convention reports, both from staff and boards, as well as the Circuit Visitors. She has begun the first round of compiling and editing the material for the Convention Workbook. She continues to work on and update the website with various events and their online

registrations throughout the District. She works on and sends out various publications, such as *Workers Together* and the *Lutheran Witness* Kansas Insert.

Rev. Joshua Woelmer, Secretary, gave his report. He presented the report of the Executive Committee. He gave an update on the work of the Congregational Constitutions & Bylaws Review Committee and the District Operations Manual. He reported that the Nominations Committee has met three times, and the slates of candidates will be sent to Jackie soon for inclusion in the Convention Workbook. The LCMS Committee on Constitutional Matters has approved the pending changes to the District Bylaws that will be presented to the 2025 District Convention. He answered a question about the eligibility of delegates for convention; they may submit their qualifications on the day of convention, but it is highly encouraged that they register early for convention. There was no significant update on the Synod Task Force for Circuit Realignment.

The Board considered and discussed the convention overtures that have come from the Executive Committee and the Service Boards.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

Resolution 25A-05-01 – Kansas District Mileage Reimbursement Rate

Resolved, that the Kansas District mileage rate be set at 15 cents below the IRS rate.

Action: Approved

Resolution 25A-06-01 – Standing Rules for the 2025 Convention of the LCMS Kansas District

Resolved, that the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors approve the edited Standing Rules for the 2025 Convention of the LCMS Kansas District.

Action: Approved

Resolution 25A-06-02 – To Prioritize “Abiding in the Word” as a Mission and Ministry Focus for the 2025-2028 Triennium

Resolved, that the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors approve the overture, “To Prioritize “Abiding in the Word” as a Mission and Ministry Focus for the 2025-2028 Triennium.

Action: Approved

Resolution 25A-06-03 – Request Exception for Circuits 3N and 3S and 4 and 9

Whereas, Circuits 3N (4,098 communicants) and 3S (2,336 communicants), far exceed the required number of aggregate communicant membership requirement, but each are one congregation short of the seven (7) member congregation requirement. (This is caused because the 2nd campuses or satellites of these two circuits are not counted as qualifying.); and Whereas, the aggregate communicant membership is twice as large as most circuits, giving Circuits 3N and 3S a lower proportionate representation than other circuits; and

Whereas, Circuit 4 (1541 communicants) and 6 congregations is below the requirement of 7-20 congregations (Bylaw 3.1.2 (a)). This was caused by the closing of Trinity, Garnett in January 2024; and

Whereas, Circuit 9 (1405 communicants) is below the requirement of 1500 confirmed members (Bylaw 3.1.2 (a)); and

Whereas, The LCMS Kansas District will not be realigning visitation circuits at its 2025 District Convention until the work of the 2026 Synod Convention regarding the 2023 Synod Convention Resolution 9-06A takes place; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors request an exception to the circuit size requirement be granted by the President of Synod to the electoral circuits of 3N, 3S, 4, and 9 for the upcoming 2026 convention of Synod.

Action: Approved

Resolution 25A-06-04 – Adoption of Overtures from the Kansas District Board of Directors to the 2025 KSD Convention

Missions

1. To Plant Churches in the LCMS Kansas District
2. To Promote Partnership in the Gospel in the LCMS Kansas District
3. To Engage in Training for Witness and Outreach

Education

4. To Encourage National Lutheran School Accreditation
5. To Support the Kansas Lutheran Schools Scholarship Foundation
6. To Embrace the *Set Apart to Serve* Church Worker Initiative

Caring Ministry

7. To Cultivate a Culture of Life in the Congregations and Schools of the LCMS Kansas District

Stewardship

8. To Increase Faithful Stewardship in the LCMS Kansas District

Executive Committee

9. To Prioritize “Abiding in the Word” as a Mission and Ministry Focus for the 2025 2028 Triennium
10. To Approve Standing Rules for the 2025 Convention of the LCMS Kansas District
11. To Approve Revisions to the LCMS Kansas District Bylaws regarding Term Limits
12. To Approve Revisions to the LCMS Kansas District Bylaws regarding Ministers Conferences
13. To Approve Kansas District Bylaw Revisions regarding Quarterly Board Meetings
14. To Approve Kansas District Bylaw Revisions regarding Term of Office of Appointive Boards
15. To Approve Kansas District Bylaw Revisions regarding Filling Vacancies in Standing Committees
16. To Approve Kansas District Bylaw Revisions regarding Ranking the Vice-Presidents
17. To Approve Kansas District Bylaw Revisions regarding Credentials for Voting Delegates

18. To Approve Kansas District Bylaw Revisions regarding Expenses for Conferences
19. To Approve Kansas District Bylaw Revisions regarding Determination of Electoral Circuits
20. To Approve Kansas District Bylaw Revisions regarding Cleaning Up Formatting

Action: Approved

Resolution 25A-03-01 – Adoption of an Additional Overture from the Kansas District Board of Directors to the 2025 KSD Convention

21. To Plant Schools and Lutheran Early Childhood Centers in the LCMS Kansas District

Action: Approved

Announcements

- Future BOD Meetings
 - May 8–9, 2025 (*Zoom service boards; May 8 – Board “Appreciation Farewell”; Friday in-person meeting date*)
- 2025 Kansas District Convention in Salina – June 5–6
- Future BOD meetings, 2025–2028:
 - August 7–8, 2025 (2-day in person meeting; Board orientation – tentative)
 - October 31, 2025 (*Zoom service boards; Friday in-person meeting dates*) – *Synod Visitation*
 - February 6, 2026 (*Zoom service boards; Zoom BOD*)
 - May 8, 2026 (*Zoom service boards; Friday in-person meeting dates*)
 - August 7, 2026 (*Zoom service boards; Friday in-person meeting dates*)
 - November 6, 2026 (*Zoom service boards; Friday in-person meeting dates*)
 - February 5, 2027 (*Zoom service boards; Zoom BOD*)
 - May 7, 2027 (*Zoom service boards; Friday in-person meeting dates*)
 - August 6, 2027 (*Zoom service boards; Friday in-person meeting dates*)
 - November 5, 2027 (*Zoom service boards; Friday in-person meeting dates*)
 - February 4, 2028 (*Zoom service boards; Zoom BOD*)
 - May 5, 2028 – BOD in person, District Office, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
 - Thursday, May 4, 2028 (BOD farewell dinner)

The board adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

Closing prayer was led by Rev. Justin Panzer.

Respectfully,
Rev. Joshua J. Woelmer, Secretary



Kansas District Board of Directors

March 4, 2025

The Kansas District Board of Directors conducted an electronic vote pursuant to the Kansas District Bylaws 3.2.1.3(b)(6), which reads:

Actions Using Electronic Ballot: In situations where Board members are not able to meet as described above, the Board may take action by use of electronic ballot (e.g., e-mail, internet-based voting, etc.), provided all voting members of the Board cast a vote and the result of the voting is unanimous.

The resolution on the table is below:

Resolution 25A-05-02

Resolved, that the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors approves the LCEF loan for Trinity Family of Faith in Basehor, KS in the amount of \$1,500,000 - Interest rate at 6.635% adjusted annually over a 25-year term/amortization.

The election was conducted from March 3–4. Votes were sent to and tabulated by Secretary Woelmer. The vote was unanimously in favor of the resolution with all members participating.

Action: Adopted

Respectfully,
Rev. Joshua J. Woelmer
LCMS Kansas District Secretary