



**Kansas District Board of Directors**

**February 6, 2026**

- President: Rev. Justin Panzer
- Vice-Presidents: Rev. Alan Stahlecker, First Vice-President, Region 2  
Rev. Michael Schotte, Second Vice-President, Region 3  
Rev. Andrew Wehling, Third Vice-President, Region 1  
Rev. Philip Hoppe, Fourth Vice-President, Region 4
- Secretary: Rev. Joshua Woelmer
- Treasurer: Mr. Brad Brunkow
- Circuit Visitor Chair: Rev. Andy Keltner
- Commissioned Ministers: Mrs. Rachel Goodpasture  
Deac. Bethany Stoever
- Laity: Mr. Scott Bokelman  
Hon. David Bruns  
Mr. Curt Engelbrecht  
Mr. Marvin Schulteis  
Dr. Bruce Schultz  
Mrs. Kara Titus
- Lead Staff: Rev. Daniel Grams, Executive 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: Christopher Dehning; Mark Wolters

Hon. Dave Bruns called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Rev. Michael Schotte led our devotions, based upon 1 Corinthians 1:28–31. During this season of Epiphany, we recall how God has revealed His Son to us. This passage from Paul reminds us that we lack no good thing from God. We have what we need to be prepared for Christ to come again, and He gives us the words to testify to Jesus Christ in our life. Our boast is always and only in our Lord Jesus Christ.

The minutes for the previous regular Board meeting and electronic Board votes were approved as sent.

Several items were proposed for inclusion on the consent Agenda:

**Resolution 26A-01-01 Acknowledgement of Quarterly Gifts**

Resolved, that the Kansas District Board of Directors acknowledge the gifts received from October 16, 2025 to January 15, 2026 with the designation as follows:

Undesignated/Unrestricted	\$582.90
KansaSEED Deaf Ministry	\$1000.00
LERT/Disaster	\$600.00
Reformation	\$2,400.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,582.90</b>

**Resolution 26A-06-01 – Immanuel, Lakin**

Resolved, that the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors approve the Immanuel, Lakin Constitution and Bylaws.

**Resolution 26A-06-02 – Immanuel, Wichita**

Resolved, that the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors approve the Immanuel, Wichita Constitution and Bylaws.

**Resolution 26A-06-03 – Mt. Calvary, Marysville**

Resolved, that the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors approve the Mt. Calvary, Marysville Constitution and Bylaws.

**Resolution 26A-06-04 – First, Sabetha**

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

**Resolution 26A-06-05 – Calvary, Topeka**

Resolved, that the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors approve the Calvary, Topeka Constitution and Bylaws.

**Resolution 26A-06-06 – Trinity, Girard**

Resolved, that the LCMS Kansas District Board of Directors approve the Trinity, Girard Constitution and Bylaws.

**Action: Consent agenda adopted**

Staff and Board Reports

Rev. Justin Panzer, President, presented his report. He noted two dual parishes that have been formed between St. Paul, Ellsworth and Bethlehem, Sylvan Grove; and Zion, Chanute and St. Peter's, Humboldt. The Fort Wayne seminary has sent back their opinion pursuant to 2025 Resolution 25-01-05, "Ecclesiastical use of the Title 'Father,'" and it has been distributed to the delegates of the 2025 District Convention.

Mr. Curt Engelbrecht, chair of the Board of Caring Ministry, presented the report from their meeting. He reported on the January Life Conference. Donna Williams, the Kansas District Disaster Response Coordinator, is still working on the MT100 Bobcat details and hopes to have things lined up for purchase later in the year.

Pres. Panzer reported that the sale of the Retreat Center returned \$450,000 to the District. The resolution in New Business to allocate this money emphasizes the desire to continue honoring the intent of the original donors—supporting church worker rest, renewal, and wellness through the church worker care fund—directing additional funds to the Spring Hill church plant.

Rev. Dan Grams reported on the revitalization and church planting efforts that are underway across the District, especially in Spring Hill. The Hillside Community Lutheran Church voted to

close, and we plan to pursue planting an LCMS church at their site. In the meantime, the members will be attending area LCMS congregations. He noted that Pastor Daniel Jordan at Immanuel Hispanic will now be mentored by Rev. Jim Bender at Our Saviour, KCK. Rev. Bender has experience mentoring, so this looks to be a promising partnership to support Rev. Jordan. There have been some frustrating discussions with the Kansas State Department of Education regarding state accreditation, especially on the compliance end due to licensing of principals and superintendent. He does not see the conversations leading in the direction of recognition of NLSA. He reported on the youth events, including the past and upcoming events.

Mr. Marvin Schulteis gave the report for the Board of Missions. He highlighted the door-to-door work by Revs. Tim Koch and James Woelmer. Both encourage ongoing contact from the local congregation and pastor to follow up with interested individuals and to continue the on-the-ground outreach to communities.

Dr. Schultz, chair of the Board of Education and Youth, delivered its report on Lutheran schools, youth ministry, and parish education. The new schools of Christ, Manhattan and Ascension, Wichita are working on fundraising to prayerfully open this fall.

Rev. Grams has continued promoting the Kansas Lutheran Schools Scholarship Foundation. It supported 51 students from 7 schools. For the 2025 donation year, there were 53 donors with \$271,527 in total donations. The \$10m cap was exceeded on December 19<sup>th</sup>. He plans to direct KLSSF to apply for the Federal Tax Credit when that begins in 2027.

Mr. Jeff Maltz, LCEF Vice-President, presented his report. The LCEF Kansas District has 74 loans with a balance of almost \$23 million, and it has 3190 investors with over \$67 million invested. There have been no loans approved or paid off in this quarter.

Mrs. Heather Williams gave her report. The sale of the Retreat Center is final; all funds have been released from escrow. She also noted that the Spring Hill church plant site looks to be in good condition, with no foreseen deferred maintenance issues. Congregational giving is reported at 107.9% of budget, and expenses are reported at 101.1% of budget. She has explored other options for providing planned giving presentations through the LCMS Foundation using a full-time counselor; the Foundation is offering a part-time counselor, shared with the Missouri District. This individual would not be an employee of the District but rather of the LCMS Foundation. Synod Convention assessments continue to come in; 45 have chosen to pay the full assessment. She reported on the Education Loan Repayment Grants and the Estates.

Mr. Brad Brunkow presented the Treasurer's Report. He presented the financial dashboard, the balance sheets, the statement of activities, and the budget-to-actual tables from fiscal year 2025. Our financial standing looks good.

Dave Bruns, chair of the combined Boards of Administration and Stewardship, gave its report, noting that most of the information in it had already been mentioned by Heather and Brad.

Ms. Jackie Schaefer, Communications Specialist, presented her report. Much of her work this quarter has involved updates to the website, creating new webpages, and setting up event sign-ups. She has a number of planned Facebook posts for the various events around the District. With support for Microsoft Publisher ending later this year, she has been migrating the projects to Adobe InDesign and other editable formats. She continues to work on and publish the District newsletters and inserts.

Rev. Joshua Woelmer gave a report on the upcoming Synod convention. Delegates have been elected and District overtures sent in. The nominations process is ongoing, as are the registrations for the electronic vote prior to the convention for Synod President, First Vice-President, and Regional Vice-President. More registrations from Kansas are needed. He gave an update on the Congregational Constitutions & Bylaws Review Committee and the District Bylaws & Operations Manual Committee.

#### Unfinished Business

The Board noted the sale of the Retreat Center; the funds will be allocated in New Business.

#### New Business

##### **Resolution 26A-01-02 – Planned Giving Agreement with LCMS Foundation**

Whereas, Convention Resolution 18-01-06 encouraged the Kansas District to explore planned giving options for the Kansas District; and

Whereas, Convention Resolution 25-01-03 encouraged Kansas District congregations to utilize opportunities for gift planning presentations; and

Whereas, the five-year planned giving contract utilizing trained planned giving advocates expired December 31, 2025; and

Whereas, the LCMS Foundation has proposed a three-year contract placing a half-time planned giving counselor in the Kansas District for a cost of \$30,000 per year; and

Whereas, the Kansas District has received the fruits of faithful and generous planned giving through funds including the Doris Meyer estate; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Planned Giving Agreement with the LCMS Foundation be approved; and be it finally

Resolved, that the Planned Giving Agreement be funded for up to three years with a total of up to \$90,000 from the Doris Meyer Estate fund.

**Action: Adopted**

##### **Resolution 26A-02-01 – Allocation of Sale Proceeds from the District Retreat Center**

Whereas, the Kansas District Board of Directors passed Resolution 25B-05-01, “To Sell the District Retreat Center” and the Resolved said, “That the Board directs the District President to present, for the Board’s approval, a plan for the allocation of sale proceeds, including a contribution to the church worker care fund;” and

Whereas, the total proceeds from the sale of the Retreat Center was \$455,053; and

Whereas, an allocation proposal has been presented to the Board of Directors at the February 2026 meeting; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the total sale proceeds be allocated as follows: \$330,053 to a Board designated church worker care fund and \$125,000 to be designated towards the purchase of the Spring Hill property for church planting purposes.

**Action: Adopted**

The Board entered Executive Session for legal and financial matters.  
The Board exited Executive Session.

Pres. Panzer continued with the announcements.

Announcements

- Future BOD Meetings
  - 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)
- 69<sup>th</sup> LCMS Convention @ Phoenix, AZ
  - Floor Committee Weekend – May 29 – June 1, 2026 @ St. Louis
  - Convention Dates – July 18–23, 2026

The board adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Closing prayer was led by Rev. Justin Panzer.

Respectfully,  
Rev. Joshua J. Woelmer, Secretary