

**KANSAS DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD**  
**Kansas District Office Building**

Highlights of the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of The Kansas District of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod held in Topeka, Kansas on April 30, 2005.

Christ-care devotion opened the meeting with a brief devotion, hymn and prayer.

**Treasurer's Report**

The financial summary for the quarter ended April 15, 2005 was reviewed.

On the income side, District Congregational Receipts collections are 23.2% of the budget projections. The fiscal year to date receipts are \$11,217 less than the previous year, a decrease of 2.8%. The remaining Income items are 21.0% of budget projections.

The Synodical Pledge, which represents 33.0% of the total expense, is 23.2% of budget projections. This pledge is 42% of congregational receipts. The remaining 67.0% of the expense is 21.2% of the budget projections.

**Board of Missions**

Adopted a resolution establishing a Mission Awareness Coordinator position in consideration of Marvin Kohlmeier's upcoming retirement. This will be a part time position and will continue to be funded by Guinea Mission partnership funds.

The position is accountable to the Board of Missions quarterly and to the District President in the interim.

Budgetary issues to be reviewed annually and personnel assignments to be reviewed in three-year increments.

Board of Missions and Board of Caring Ministry met together to explore ways to share mission outreach through acts of mercy.

- a) Discussion of needs and funding available through various sources.
- b) Discussion of "caring" activities of other religious groups.
- c) Discussion of "caring" needs in urban vs. rural settings.
- d) Discussion regarding the process of identification of our resources and the process of identification of local needs.

The Boards of Missions and Caring Ministry proposed that the Kansas District staff convene a Task Force to generate, share and offer suggestions, ideas, and advice to local congregations regarding local outreach activities and local "caring" issues. Such Task Force is to offer ideas regarding the surveying of local needs, acts of mercy, funding opportunities and grant writing.

Mission Executive presented his report. In some areas, predominantly western Kansas, an emphasis toward Hispanic outreach seems appropriate. Also, rural parish/small town survival continues to be an issue of concern. In inner city areas, economic viability is also a challenge, however most inner city congregations continue to believe that they are called to exist as "lights in the darkness" in their areas. Suburban/metro congregations struggle with issues of serving their parishioners and growth opportunities.

**Board of Parish Education**

The Board gave recognition to Barb McComas' as Lutheran Teacher of the year at the LEA Convention Indianapolis, IN.

Adopted a resolution to allocate funds from the Professional Church Workers - Joint account to help minimize costs to workers and congregations at the 2005 Professional Workers Conference in 2005.

Pres. Kohlmeier will be appointing a candidate to fill the vacancy on the Board of Education and Board of Directors created by Jim Bradshaw's Call as Executive Director.

The Education and Youth Executive presented his report. Among goals to be accomplished in the near future are to visit with all Kansas Lutheran schools by June and work to enhance early childhood ministries in Kansas. The Family Life Committee has adopted a new vision statement: "Encouraging, equipping and empowering congregations to develop home-centered, church-supported family ministry." Family Life Ministry will be

developing a one or 2-weekend program for churches who have limited financial or time resources. Two churches have applied for the 2005 Academy but a third congregation is needed for the Academy to be a reality.

### **Board of Administration**

The annual LCMS internal Audit is complete. Management letter was very positive. Resolution adopted to accept the financial statements and the auditors report.

Resolution was adopted to acknowledge the gifts Kansas District received the previous quarter with designation as follows: Guinea Mission, Kansas District Missions, Kristen Schmaltz Guinea Support, LCEF, Education Loan Repayment, Lay Leadership Training.

Resolution adopted to set aside the net sales proceeds from the Arkansas Retreat Cabin and its contents, to be applied to the future development of a retreat facility in Kansas.

It was noted that the 2006 District Convention is scheduled for June 8 - 10 at the Capital Plaza Hotel in Topeka.

### **LCEF Board of Managers Report**

Ratified loans that have been approved during the previous quarter to: Ascension, Wichita; St. John Lutheran Church, Alma; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Junction City; Christ Our Savior, Louisburg; Hope, Shawnee.

Other congregations presently working on loan inquiries and requests include the following: First, Philipsburg (sanctuary expansion and remodeling); Zion, Latimer (elevator); Bethany, Overland Park (2<sup>nd</sup> campus development); Trinity, Mission; Immanuel, Norton (new site); Our Redeemer, Herington; Immanuel, Wichita; St. Paul, Haven; St. John, Topeka.

Adopted a resolution to encourage as a condition for receiving LCEF loan dollars, a minimum of 10% of a congregation's communicant membership to have an investment relationship with LCEF. In addition, each congregation borrowing from LCEF will select a local representative to receive correspondence and promote LCEF in the congregation.

**LCEF Interest Rates** increased on the fixed and floating rate investments. Congregation endowments also increased. StewardAccount rate remained steady. **Cost of Funds** for May increased slightly to 3.8750%. This means that the borrowing rate for congregations on a monthly, quarterly or annual adjustable loan is 5.375%. LCEF Vice President distributed his report.

### **Board of Caring Ministry**

Lutheran Disaster Response is proceeding. Regional meetings have been held in conjunction with ELCA partners under the direction and support of Lutheran Disaster Response of Nebraska.

District Chaplain offered his report.

### **Executive Council**

A committee has been appointed to explore the possibilities for a Retreat Center for Kansas workers.

Ted Kober has resigned from the Board of Directors of Synod. The Kansas District Board of Directors has the option of nominating a replacement.

Considered for approval, a constitution submitted by a Kansas Congregation. After reviewing the comments of the constitution and bylaw committee, the Board adopted a resolution that the Board of Directors seek an opinion from the Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) concerning the inclusion of the phrase "as a teacher of an adult Bible class containing men" in a By-law provision limiting the role of women in the ministry.

### **Board of Stewardship**

Adopted a resolution to authorize the Children's Christian Concern Society to ask Kansas congregations to hold a CCCS Sunday in 2005 and/or 2006. The results are to be reported to the Board of Directors.

Adopted a resolution to distribute the Undesignated Bequests and Gifts as follows:

Place \$30,000 in the quasi-endowment for Financial Aid (Grants).

Distribution of remaining funds between Lay Leadership Institute and Educational Loan Repayment will be recommended at a future date.

Planned Giving Counselor distributed his report.

**District President**

President Kohlmeier presented his report:

Pres. Kohlmeier distributed a list of Task Force and Committee appointments for the District Retreat Site task force; Bylaw and Handbook committee; and the Theological Convocation.

Seminary candidate & vicar placements have taken place. The Kansas District will be receiving 7 pastoral candidates, 7 vicars and 1 deaconess intern.

Pres Kohlmeier noted that a Synodical meeting of Circuit Counselors is scheduled for Sept. 12 - 14, 2006.

A motion was adopted to release the District Education/Youth Executive Call Committee with thanksgiving.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer and blessing.

Following the meeting of the Board of Directors, the District Executive for Education and Youth was installed at a worship service held at St. John's Lutheran Church, Topeka.