

**KANSAS DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD**  
**January 28, 2006**  
**Kansas District Office Building**  
**Topeka, Kansas**

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

Christ-care devotion was led by Ken Jorns.

At the Board's Friday evening dinner, Matthew Harrison, Director of LCMS World Relief, reviewed the work being done to offer relief following the Tsunami disaster and the devastation from Hurricane Katrina.

The minutes of the October 29, 2005 meeting were reviewed and approved.

**Treasurer's Report**

The financial summary for the year ended January 15, 2006 is as follows:

Description	Actual	Budget	Percent of Budget
Income	\$ 2,274,779	\$ 2,297,599	99.0%
Expenses	\$ 2,199,076	\$ 2,297,132	95.7%
Variance	\$ 75,704	\$ 467	

Income- District Congregational Receipts collections are 96.7% of the budget projections. The fiscal year receipts are \$12,609 less than the previous year.

Congregational receipts were as follows:

Congregation	No.	Pledge	Receipt	Variance
Pledge & Receipt	131	\$ 1,566,035	\$ 1,512,768	\$ -53,266
No Pledge & Receipt	21	-	\$ 131,525	\$ 131,525
Pledge & No Receipt	1	\$ 200	-	\$ -200

Expenses

The Synodical Pledge is 96.7% of budget projections. This pledge is 42% of congregational receipts. Staff Salaries represent approximately 21.3% of the expenses and is 96.8% of the budget projections. Travel expense is 84.7% of budget projections.

The annual financial audit will be conducted during March, 2006. A complete report will be provided at the next Board of Director's meeting.

**Board of Missions**

**Mission/Stewardship Exec. Position**

Met jointly with Stewardship Board to discuss Executive Director position and coverage during the interim. President Kohlmeier expressed the need to have another ordained minister on staff. Both Boards and President Kohlmeier agreed that Mission should be the primary emphasis. Adopted a resolution to negotiate a contract with an individual to serve as interim head of the Mission position until the position is filled by the call process, and authorize President

Kohlmeier, in consultation with the Mission & Stewardship Chairs, to procure necessary resource people, as needed, to cover the special ministry needs of the District.

The Mission Board will work on developing a survey to gather input from pastors, commissioned workers and lay people throughout the Kansas District regarding the position of Executive for Mission & Stewardship. The goal is to send the survey out as soon as possible and have results presented at the April Board of Directors meeting.

Campus Missionary Central position is filled in interim by King Crawford. The calling process to fill this position has been placed “on hold” pending further review of the situation, studies of the locations, and evaluation of the relationship between the potential candidates and the potential Executive for Mission/Stewardship.

Adopted a resolution to provide up to \$5,000 of the Wabaunsee County Pasture funds be made available to Rev. Tim & Beth Heiney for renovation of volunteer housing quarters in Conakry, Guinea.

Reaffirm Resolution inadvertently omitted from the Board of Director Minutes of October, 2004, which authorized mission support dollars for Grace, KCK.

#### **Board of Parish Education**

Adopted a resolution to provide an additional \$400 for the Gunderman Memorial Grant Program from Kansas District undesignated funds for the purposes of providing one additional grant beyond the original approved plan of five \$400 grants.

**District Youth Protection Policy and Guidelines** for District sponsored youth events: The Board of Education presented the policy to the Board of Directors for first reading. Comments should be submitted to any member of BOE by March 31. District legal counsel will also be invited to respond.

#### **Board of Administration**

Adopted a resolution to acknowledge receipt of gifts for the previous quarter with designations to the following: Guinea Partnership; Guinea Theological Educator; New Mission Endowment Fund; Oetting Family Support; Hurricane Katrina – TDR; Lay Leadership Scholarship; Lay Leadership Training; Family Life Academy; Education Loan Repayment; Inner City Mission, Kansas City; Kansas District LCEF; Undesignated.

#### **District Mileage Reimbursement Rate**

Adopted a resolution to increase the district mileage reimbursement rate from 35 to 39.5 cents per mile.

#### **Sale of La Santa Cruz**

Received a report on the final disposition of the sale of the La Santa Cruz property in Garden City which closed on November 3, 2005.

## **Camp Tomah Shinga Proposal**

Adopted a resolution to approve the Restructuring Proposal that includes the bylaw changes submitted by the Board of Directors for Camp Tomah Shinga. Subject to the receipt of a full release of all liabilities of the The Kansas District of the LCMS which includes the full release of liability on the letter of credit in favor of Camp Tomah Shinga.

## **Staff Vacancy**

Received an update about the vacant staff position in the business office and LCEF. Staff will be looking for an immediate temporary replacement.

## **Updates**

Telephone and internet service has changed from Birch to Cox. Some lingering issues remain and will hopefully be completed soon.

Computer System upgrades and purchases have been completed. Still a couple installations to be done.

A Master Insurance Policy that would benefit all Districts is being developed by LCMS.

Adopted a resolution to authorize the President's office to move forward with efforts to identify a suitable property for the development of a Retreat Center in accordance with the Task Force recommendations.

## **LCEF Board of Managers Report**

Adopted resolutions ratifying loans to the following congregations: Christ, Augusta; Peace, Andover; Emmaus, Bonner Springs; Immanuel, Lawrence.

Received a report on other congregations currently considering LCEF Loans and Services.

Other action and news includes the following:

**LCEF Interest Rates** have remained fairly steady on the fixed and floating rate investments. StewardAccount rate has increase. LCEF is offering a special 18 month note for 4.50% to generate new investments to meet anticipated loan demand.

**Cost of Funds** remains at 4.125%. This means that the borrowing rate for congregations on a monthly, quarterly or annual adjustable loan is 5.625%.

**LCEF Architectural Awards-** LCEF presented awards at the Fall Conference to Karl Fay of Faith, Topeka for Outstanding Community Participation in Art and to Redeemer, Olathe for Best Architectural Project - Under One Million Dollars. A total of 5 awards were presented throughout the Synod.

**Right Reasons, Right Rate, Right Now Promotion-** LCEF is looking to increase investments by \$100 million to fund anticipated loan demand.

## **Grant Writing Services**

Adopted a resolution to appoint a Blue Ribbon Task Force to explore the provision of Grant Writing services for entities within the District. The District President will appoint the Task Force.

### **Board of Caring Ministry**

Rev. Matt Harrison (LCMS World Relief and Human Care), and Charlie Kiersch (LCMS World Relief and Human Care Gifts Officer), were special guests of the Board and reviewed the work of LCMS World Relief in response to the Tsunami and Hurricane Katrina disasters.

Received a report on the activities of parish nurses in the Kansas District. Currently 45 congregations have active parish nurses. In 2005 there were 10 new contacts to investigate the opportunity for a parish nurse. There was an LCMS workshop in Salina that had a small turnout. A state-wide workshop for parish nurses was held in Wichita (multi-denominational).

Adopted a resolution to authorize the collection of funds from Kansas District congregations and the expenditure of those same funds for hurricane relief efforts in Slidell, Louisiana. This relationship will be re-evaluated in January, 2007.

### **Executive Council**

#### **Constitution Revisions:**

Adopted resolutions to approve Constitutions/Bylaws submitted by Immanuel, Wichita; Calvary, Topeka and St. Luke's, Manhattan by recommendation of the Constitution Committee

Adopted a resolution to approve the Constitution/Bylaws of Christ our Savior, Louisburg by recommendation of the Constitution Committee. The Committee recommends the addition of a provision recommended by the CCM defining procedures for filling a vacancy in the pastoral and/or teaching office.

#### **Bylaw and Handbook Task Force report**

Adopted a resolution to submit the working copy of the Revised Handbook and Bylaws of the District to the Secretary of the Synod for his review and recommendations. His response will be considered at the April Board meeting prior to final presentation to the District Convention (June, 2006).

#### **Documents governing Deacon relationships with Supervising Pastors and congregations.**

Tabled a resolution that the Board adopt the documents "Guidelines for a Pastor Supervising the Work of a Deacon in The Kansas District" & "A Policy Concerning the Use of Deacons in the Kansas District"

### **Board of Stewardship**

#### **Undesignated Gifts Designation**

Adopted a resolution to designate the following items from Undesignated Bequest and Gifts;

- i.) \$3,500 to offset Lay Leadership Training deficit in 2005.
- ii.) \$2,000 for Six Pack Conference hosted by the Kansas District in March 2006.

### **Concordia Historical Institute**

Adopted a resolution to give permission to the Concordia Historical Institute to include a one-time mailing to Kansas District congregations to solicit support of the church's Concordia Historical Institute new museum.

### **Budget**

The Board of Stewardship has been discussing which Board should have responsibility for presenting a Budget to the Board of Directors. The Board of Stewardship has had responsibility, but feel that the Board of Administration would be more appropriately responsible. The two Board chairs will discuss this and bring a recommendation to the April Board of Directors.

Adopted a resolution to approve the 2006 Option Budget with the amended changes in the Mission and Stewardship salary and benefit line items.

The next weeks will become a focus for preparation for the District Convention. Nominations for President, Vice-President and Circuit Counselors have been received. The Nominating Committee has begun working to present a ballot for other positions. The deadline for Overtures and Reports is March 1.

The meeting adjourned with prayer and blessing.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be April 27 – 29, 2006