

Board Report Summaries

February 2017

DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

President's Report

Rev. Peter Lange

New Vice President. Pastor Dave Schemm was elected 4th Vice President of the Kansas District. He replaces Rev. Dan Galchutt, who resigned after accepting the call to serve as Assistant to the President for Missions & Stewardship.

Licensed Lay Deacons. We're working in earnest on implementation of this summer's LCMS convention resolution regarding licensed lay deacons (Resolution 13-02A: "To regularize status of Licensed Lay Deacons involved in Word and Sacrament Ministry").

Convention 2018. We have begun to meet and plan for the 2018 District convention, which will be held June 7-9, 2018. The call for nominations will go out in May 2017, earlier than previously.

Missions and Stewardship

Rev. Dan Galchutt

Orientation Activities. My orientation to the District staff has involved meetings with District colleagues as well as conversations with Kansas pastors. At this point, I've reached out to about 65% of the District pastors to ask them how the Kansas District can help them in the areas of missions and stewardship.

Guinea/West Africa. The Guinea Task Force and I are discussing ways the Kansas District can move forward in our partnership in Guinea. The Task Force has requested that the District Pentecost offering support Guinean men at the Lutheran seminary in Dapaong, Togo.

Rural and Small Town Mission. The Synod's Rural and Small Town Mission presented an "Engaging the Wandering" workshop in Humboldt, which was well received by those in attendance.

Congregational Visits. I've been preaching and teaching at a handful of congregations around the District and am looking forward to visiting other congregations throughout Kansas.

Educational Services

Jim Bradshaw

Personal Servant Leader Development. In September 2016, I began an 18-month learning process called [*KINDLE–Finishing Well*](#), which focuses on strengthening the servant leader capacities of participants.

The 2016 Kansas District Youth Gathering (DYG) was held in Wichita, November 18-20. 450 Kansas District and 65 Oklahoma District youth and adults attended the Gathering.

2017 KAIRS Distinguished Lutheran Teacher of the Year - Ms. Rebecca Denney (St. Paul/Leavenworth) has been named the Kansas District Lutheran Teacher of the Year by the Kansas Association for Independent and Religious Schools (KAIRS). Ms. Denney has faithfully served since 1992. Congratulations!

LCMS ‘Genesis Project’ to Commence in 2017 – Several congregations in the Greater Wichita area have granted their initial support in studying the potential for establishing a classical Lutheran high school in Wichita. The Genesis Project was established to help congregations and communities explore opportunities to start Lutheran elementary and secondary schools. For more information, contact Jim Bradshaw.

Church Worker Core Needs Survey Update: We continue to unpack the data from the District-wide survey conducted in early 2016 and have identified initial strategies to strengthen the spiritual wellbeing of our church worker households within the next three years.

Business Office

Debbie Crites

New District Treasurer. The Board of Directors welcomed our new District Treasurer, Lee Thaete, who replaces our previous treasurer, Chris Anderson. Lee holds the designations of Certified Public Accountant, Chartered Financial Consultant and Chartered Life Underwriter and has extensive experience in public accounting, auditing, financial planning, tax prep and advisory services. He is a member of Christ Lutheran in Overland Park.

Information Technology Upgrade. The District office just completed an upgrade of our Information Technology system which provides enhanced virus and malware protection, 24/7 monitoring of all hardware and software performance and functions, and enhanced back-up systems.

SOP Manual. Revision work on the District’s Standard Operating Procedures Manual continues. Over the past year the committee has worked diligently to update the District’s Personnel Manual to reflect current policies and procedures and ensure compliance with all federal and state employment laws.

New Website. The District website is undergoing a complete renovation. We expect the new website to be launched in late spring.

LCEF

Jeff Maltz

Business Summary

- Through December 2016, Kansas District has 40 LCEF loans outstanding with a balance of \$16,306,267
- The Kansas District has no delinquencies.
- Kansas District has 1,929 investors.
- 4.5% of communicant members are investors.
- Total amount invested is \$49,853,900.

Chaplain

Rev. Rocky Mease

Disaster Response. As of January 21, 2017, we have nearly 200 LERT (Lutheran Early Response Training) volunteers in the Kansas District. We have also received two tool trailers through a grant from the Office of National Mission and the National LWML. We have placed the trailers on the east and west end of the states in Gardner and Garden City.

DISTRICT BOARD REPORTS

Board of Missions

Dave Bruns, Chair

Discussion

- Explored various options for revitalizing struggling rural congregations, including possible "Hub" ministries and use of technology.
- Reviewed current church and school planting opportunities in the Kansas District.

Actions

- Approved 2017 Pentecost Offering to support students from Guinea to attend the Lutheran Center for Theological Studies in Togo (CLET) to become ordained ministers.
- Approved additional assistance to help with Hispanic Ministry in Wichita.
- Approved 2017 mission grants as previously recommended to Board of Directors.

Board of Caring Ministry

Larry Junker, Chair

Discussion

- Noted a need to determine a new leadership approach for the areas of District Disaster Response, Ministerial Care Commission, District Worker Care Committee, and Emergency Service Chaplain.
- Noted a need to review and update Board of Caring Ministry guidelines.

Actions

- The Board met with the Family Ministry Board to coordinate the work of the two boards for caring of church workers.
- A resolution of farewell was written, thanking Rev. Rocky Mease for his quality, pastoral care for the professional church workers and their congregations of the Kansas District.

Board of Stewardship

Rev. Justin Panzer, Secretary

2016 Budget Review. 2016 Congregational Receipts received were \$1.459 million. The 2016 budget was \$1.55 million. As of January 15, 2017, income over expenses stood at \$56,782.72, with savings primarily from the Missions/Stewardship area (executive position and administrative assistant).

2017 Proposed Budget. The proposed budget is \$1.480 million in congregational receipts, with 25% of congregational receipts being given to the Synod. The budget funds the Executive Chaplain position until the end of the 3-year contract in October of 2017. The proposed budget has a surplus of \$178.00.

Board of Administration

Rick Hanebutt, Chair

Discussion

- Reviewed the 2016 and 2017 District budgets.
- Considered an insurance bid and discussed District properties.