



DISTRICT MISSION BOARD REPORT

Pastors' Conference ★ May 2-3, 2011
Grace Lutheran Church ★ Lowell, Arkansas

“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.” (John 20:21)

1) **WELS Kingdom Workers Programs for 2012.**

The deadline for submitting requests to Kingdom Workers for 2012 is August 15, 2011. This deadline includes requests for Faith in Action Teams (Travel Canvass Witness, Youth in Service, Senior Burst) and National Projects. Note: Funding for National Projects in 2011 decreased drastically, however, the Kingdom Workers office is optimistic and working hard to have more fund available for 2012. All requests are now required to be submitted on the WELS Connect site.

2) **Builders for Christ (WELS Kingdom Workers).**

Last year the BFC launched a pilot project that was extremely successful. Since there was a “lull” in NEW construction activity, a BFC team organized work at several different established congregations within a 150 mile area. The BFC team did multiple “small” projects (painting, interior renovations, shed construction, garage repairs, etc.) and multiple congregations. If a group of congregations in the South Central District would be interested in working with BFC on a project like this, contact the Builders for Christ Administrator, Dale Mueller (bfc@wkw.wels.net).

3) **The Antioch Foundation.**

If you have a project or effort that could benefit from grant funding, you might consider submitting a request to the Antioch Foundation. This WELS family has generously supported various WELS ministries across the nation and several in the South Central District. More information is available on their website: www.TheAntiochFoundation.org. The foundation begins receiving grant applications on October 15.

4) **School of Outreach (WELS Evangelism).**

There will be a School of Outreach at Beautiful Savior – Bella Vista, AR, on the weekend of September 24, 2011. For more information, contact John Hering (pastor@divinepeace.com).

5) **Seminary Student Assistants (a.k.a. Summer Vicars).**

A limited amount of designated funding was available to help fund approximately four positions where students from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary are able to assist with ministry for 12 weeks during the summer. Funding was approved for Trinity – Mountain Home, AR, to receive a student assistant for work at both the established congregation and the preaching station (Good Shepherd – West Plains, MO).

6) **Vicar in Mission Settings (ViMS) Program.**

For the 2011-2012 school year, there were 39 applications submitted to the ViMS program. Funding was approved for 23 vicars, and six additional applications were approved but not funded. (This list of six serves as an alternate list of sorts. For example, funding has been approved for two supervising pastors who are currently holding calls to serve elsewhere.) Funding was approved for two vicars to serve in the South Central District: Holy Word – Austin, TX (Don Patterson), and Beautiful Savior – College Station, TX (Caleb Schoeneck). Redeemer – Edna, TX (Andy Schroer) is an alternate. [Note: The vicar who serves at Grace – Scroggins, TX (Vilas Glaeske), is not part of the ViMS program.]

7) **South Regional Mission Board / WELS Board for Home Missions.**

The South Central District Mission Board now functions as part of the South Regional Mission Board. The first RMB Meeting was on March 1, 2011, in Atlanta, Georgia. Pastor Caleb Schoeneck continues to serve as the Chairman of the South Central District Mission Board. Mr. Paul Mattek represents the SCDMB on the Board for Home Missions Executive Committee as the lay member from the South Regional Mission Board.

■ The SCDMB has not had any problems continuing to function and move forward with work in the South Central District under the new “regionalization” structure.

■ A copy of the WELS Board for Home Missions Spring 2011 Report is attached to this report.

8) **New Ministry Requests.**

The January 2011 SCDMB Report mentioned \$350,000 of BHM funding available for new funding. That funding needs to be approved at Synod Convention this summer. Details for how the BHM will use that funding are included in the BHM Spring 2011 Report (attached).

9) **WELS Church Extension Fund.**

Several weeks ago, the bi-weekly *Together* e-news announced that CEF has given \$1,000,000 in funding to the BHM for the specific use of spending on home mission land acquisition or facility construction. The details for how this funding will be used are included in the BHM Spring 2011 Report (attached).

Don't forget to look at your "offering circular" for personal and congregational investment options.

10) **Greater Houston Mission Team.**

Details about the GHMT are included in the January SCDMB Report. The GHMT brought the first phase of their work to a close in March 2011. We give thanks to God for the fruit of this labor! The total amount of funding raised... 2010 = \$34,000; 2011 = \$7,500; 2012 = \$7,500. Grand total = \$49,000.

11) **South Central District Mission Board Vision 2020.**

The South Central District received a copy of the District Mission Board's "Vision 20/20" in October 2010. That document states that one of the goals is "to assist all congregations to increase the number of adult confirmations and baptisms, through the work of God the Holy Spirit blessing our outreach efforts, so that they double the number in 2009," and that the "District Mission Board Chairman will monitor the adult confirmations and baptisms in South Central District congregations." That data is below.

<u>2009 Adult Confirmation Data</u> (44 congregations, 140 adult confirmations)	<u>2010 Adult Confirmation Data</u> (47 congregations, 149 adult confirmations)
Adult Confirmations	Adult Confirmations
<u>0</u> = 17 congregations (includes 3 preaching stations)	<u>0</u> = 17 congregations (includes 5 preaching stations)
<u>1</u> = 4 congregations	<u>1</u> = 6 congregations
<u>2</u> = 4 congregations	<u>2</u> = 6 congregations
<u>3</u> = 5 congregations	<u>3</u> = 5 congregations
<u>4-7</u> = 8 congregations	<u>4-7</u> = 7 congregations
<u>8-11</u> = 5 congregations	<u>8-11</u> = 4 congregations
<u>More than 11</u> = 1 congregations (22)	<u>More than 11</u> = 2 congregations (17, 22)
Averages	Averages
Mean = 3.18	Mean = 3.17
Median = 2	Median = 2
Mode = 0	Mode = 0
Summary (including other membership activity)	Summary (including other membership activity)
Professions of Faith = 55	Professions of Faith = 59
Transfers in = 235	Transfers in = 238
Youth Confirmations = 85	Youth Confirmations = 89
Adult Confirmations = 140	Adult Confirmations = 149
<u>TOTAL GAINS = 515</u>	<u>TOTAL GAINS = 535</u>
Transfers out = 118	Transfers out = 170
Released = 82	Released = 111
Removed = 85	Removed = 109
Deceased = 43	Deceased = 45
<u>TOTAL LOSS = 328</u>	<u>TOTAL LOSS = 435</u>
<u>NET TOTAL = 187</u>	<u>NET TOTAL = 100</u>
Average Baptized Membership = 172	Average Baptized Membership = 162
Average Communication Membership = 126	Average Communication Membership = 120
Average Sunday Attendance = 83	Average Sunday Attendance = 80
<i>Q: How many WELS members does it take to make an adult confirmation?</i>	<i>Q: How many WELS members does it take to make an adult confirmation?</i>
<i>A: About 40 (there were 5,542 communicant members)</i>	<i>A: About 38 (there were 5,629 communicant members).</i>

South Central District Mission Field Reports

The Board for Home Missions uses five categories to organize home mission efforts.

The categories, with their descriptions, are listed below,

as well as the sites in the South Central District that fit under each category.

Field Reports: Mission Encouragement

Part of the purpose of the District Mission Boards (DMB) is to encourage individuals, groups and congregations in their outreach and ministry plans. A congregation or a group may request assistance from its DMB to investigate a new area of ministry of the congregation or a new location. It might also include older congregations that need to regain their focus in reaching out to changing neighborhoods. The DMB will assist the organization by allowing the Mission Counselor to work with them, helping them find other outside advisors, or finding other congregations to partner with them in ministry. This assistance and support does not include financial assistance from Home Missions.

- 1) **Beautiful Savior – Bella Vista, Arkansas. Pastor Neil Hansen.**
 - * This site is an *unsubsidized* mission development effort.
 - * In April, the congregation received CEF approval to finance their first land purchase.
- 2) **Trinity – Mountain Home, Arkansas. Pastor David Kapler.**
 - * Currently serving an *informal* preaching station in West Plains, Missouri.
 - * Seminary Student Assistant for Summer 2011.
- 3) **Holy Cross – Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Pastor John Strackbein.**
 - * Providing mission encouragement resources for the work at “Grace” in Norman, OK.
- 4) **Holy Word – Austin, Texas. Pastor Don Patterson, Pastor Karl Gurgel.**
 - * Providing mission encouragement resources for the work at “Holy Word North” in Pflugerville, TX.
- 5) **Grace – Scroggins, Texas. Pastor Vilas Glaeske.**
 - * Providing mission encouragement resources for the work at Tyler, TX.
- 6) **Redeemer – Edna, Texas. Pastor Andy Schroer.**
 - * Providing assistance from the Mission Counselor.
- 7) **Abiding Faith – Fort Worth, Texas. Pastor Nathan Bourman.**
 - * Providing assistance from the Mission Counselor.
- 8) **Christ Alone – Keller, Texas. Pastor Paul Seager.**
 - * Providing mission encouragement resources for the work of establishing a new mission congregation.
- 9) **Abiding Savior – Weslaco, Texas. Pastor Joel Sauer.**
 - * Providing assistance from the Mission Counselor.

Field Reports: Mission Enhancement

A congregation or ministry group has seen a need to enhance its ministry program. Plans have been developed and the congregation or group has committed personnel and financial resources to the program. However, the local financial resources are not enough to permit the plan to succeed. With the approval of the DMB, plans and financial needs are submitted to the Board for Home Missions (BHM). If approved by the BHM, financial resources are approved for a limited time. The limited funding will normally be for 3-5 years. If the program cannot be supported locally after the approved limited funding by the BHM, alternate funding must be secured.

- **Currently there are no formal Mission Enhancement efforts in the South Central District.**

Field Reports: Mission Establishment

The DMB in coordination with BHM has studied a location and has determined that there is potential to support a new congregation. All “exploratory” work has been completed prior to submission of a request to establish this ministry. A ministry plan has been developed, ministry partnerships identified and resources required to activate the plan have been determined. When funding is approved by the BHM, the ministry team will be gathered, the plan activated and the ministry started. The Establishment Phase should require approximately 2-3 years. No later than the middle of the third year after the ministry team has been functioning, the DMB will determine if this ministry is a viable opportunity to serve the Kingdom. If it is determined that it is viable, action should be initiated to enter the Development Phase. If not, an alternate form of ministry without BHM funding should begin.

- **Currently there are no formal Mission Establishment efforts in the South Central District.**

Field Reports: Mission Development

The DMB in coordination with the ministry team has determined that a ministry has been established and is ready to move toward a goal of self-support. The DMB has approved the ministry plans that the ministry team has developed and the resources needed to support the plan. The plan should include financial planning that would have the ministry off of BHM financial support within 5-7 years. If financial plans cannot be developed to meet this timetable, alternate financial arrangements need to be considered.

1) King of Kings—Alexandria, Louisiana. Pastor Chris Esmay.

* An *unsubsidized* mission development effort. New land and facilities purchased with CEF funding. Update from Missionary Chris Esmay... Our Grand Opening and Preschool Showcase, complete with carnival fun for the community, will be Saturday, May 14. Most of the work should be done by then. We just had the playground installed this week. Preschool opens August 1, 2011

We are delaying the dedication because LWMS picked our church for the altar and pulpit build they do for their national convention. The altar and pulpit will first be used at their national convention this summer. After that we will find a way to get it down here, putting our dedication somewhere toward the end of summer.

2) Christ the Lord—Houston, Texas. Pastor Larry Schlomer, Pastor David Bivens.

* An *unsubsidized* mission development effort. Land purchased in Sienna Plantation with CEF funding.
* At the April CEF meeting, "concept" approval was given to proceed with new facility construction.

3) Abiding Savior—Killeen, Texas. Pastor Steve Dorn.

* Receives mission development subsidy from WELS BHM.
* At the April BHM meeting, the mission was approved for an additional two-year funding agreement.

4) Christ the Rock—Round Rock, Texas. Pastor Matt Doebler.

* An *unsubsidized* mission development effort.

Field Reports: Mission Enrichment

Various individuals, groups, and organizations donate funding to help ministries over and above their normal operating budget. A ministry team can submit a request at any time through its respective DMB and if funding from one of these sources is available, the administrators of Home Missions will act on the request. All requests must be approved by the DMB to ensure that they are part of the ministry team's program and included in their plans. This area includes funding from WELS Kingdom Workers (WKW), Thrivent, and Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS). In some cases, requests may be accepted only at a specific time of the year.

- **Currently there are no formal Mission Enrichment efforts in the South Central District.**

Field Reports: Church Extension Fund (CEF) Interest Subsidy

The WELS Church Extension Fund is organized to assist with the purchase of land and facilities for the purpose of establishing and developing new congregations. Currently, CEF offers a discounted interest rate starting at 4.0%. While some new efforts in the district are pursuing new loans, others congregations continue to pay down their mortgage with CEF at a reduced interest rate. In addition to the list below, there are 12 other congregations in the district that have a mortgage with CEF, but the interest rate is not discounted.

Note: The congregations listed below will soon be requested to submit monthly reports to the South Central District Mission Board.

- 1) Risen Savior – Austin, Texas. Pastor Paul Kuehn.**
- 2) Beautiful Savior – College Station, Texas. Pastor Caleb Schoeneck.**
- 3) Cross and Crown – Georgetown, Texas. Pastor Eric Hartzell.**
- 4) Christ the Lord South – Sienna Plantation, Texas. Pastor Larry Schlomer, Pastor David Bivens.**
- 5) Victory of the Lamb – Katy, Texas. Pastor Nathan Buege.**
- 6) Abiding Savior—Killeen, Texas. Pastor Steve Dorn.**
- 7) There are several other congregation that have loans from CEF with "regular" interest rates.**