

Home Missions

2014 District Convention

Board for Home Mission Spring Meeting - The Board for Home Missions and the Board for Home Mission Executive Committee met April 2 – 4. During the BHM EC meeting on April 2 and 3rd the BHM EC worked through 17 new start / new ministry requests totaling \$1.2M, looked at 51 mission program subsidy agreements which totaled \$3.9M of the Home Mission budget and in partnership with Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary prioritized 32 Vicar in Missions (VIM) requests. On Friday, April 4, the Board for Home Missions ratified the actions of the BHM EC.

Of the 17 new start / new ministry requests, 3 requests were denied. 14 requests were prioritized. On April 4 only the first 2 prioritized requests though, were authorized. Being authorized means those two locations have funding to Call from the field or to request a graduate from the Assignment Committee. Those two locations are:

Goodyear AZ (south-west side of Phoenix); \$76,900
Menasha WI (bilingual-Hispanic); \$48,500

There were two reasons why only two locations were authorized and ratified on April 4th. After the financial decisions of the April 2-4 meeting, BHM Administration wanted to fully understand the financial ramifications on its FY 14-15 budget. Also, the BHM wanted to hear what would happen at the April 25th Synodical Council (SC) meeting. Since the news from the April 25th SC meeting didn't discourage the BHM from moving forward, and since BHM Administration determined funds were available to authorize additional missions, on April 28, the BHM EC did authorize four more missions. Thanks to consistent and generous divisional fund gifts to Home Missions as well as financial support from the Joint Mission Council and WELS-Canada, the BHM EC made the decision to move forward. The next 4 prioritized locations which were authorized to Call from the field or request a graduate from the Assignment Committee are:

Watertown NY (90 miles north of Syracuse); \$139,000
Maryville TN (30 miles from Knoxville); \$60,000
Fulshear TX (south-west side of Houston); \$115,000
Vancouver BC; \$146,000 (USD)

Home Missions has additional missions prioritized, but won't consider authorizing them until sometime in July. Since the Conference of Presidents, working through circuit pastors, is asking congregations to consider raising their congregational mission offerings and results won't be known until last June / early July, Home Missions needs to wait. If the CMO does not increase, Home Missions will not authorize 1-3 additional missions in July. Conversely, there are

prioritized missions waiting to be authorized. We pray the Lord continue to bless our church body as we reach out with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Vicar in Mission program continues to receive strong support from both the Board for Home Missions (BHM) and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (WLS). WLS provides \$250,000.00 toward the cost of placing vicars into mission or mission minded congregations and the BHM provides \$315,000.00. At the April 2nd BHM Executive Committee meeting, the requests of 32 congregations were prioritized. Twenty-two of the prioritized locations were presented to the Conference of Presidents to be assigned a VIM. There are another 10 congregations which will be assigned a vicar as well. Regarding the 22 locations, on average these congregations contributed \$10,000.00 toward the \$38,400.00 cost of a vicar.

Home Mission Training – Starting in 2011 Home Missions has worked to provide annual training for the District Mission Boards (DMBs). DMBs are comprised of 2-3 pastors and 2-3 laymen, all serving as volunteers.

The past two years the focus of the training has been on the implementation of Home Missions Strategic Ministry Plan. Two of the key elements of the plan call for each DMB to start at least one new mission a year and that missions work to be self-supporting after 8 years of financial support.

In addition to the annual training sessions, there will also be a special training session for DMB members and new DMB members July 28 and July 29 at the Center for Mission and Ministry, the synod's office in Waukesha. At 2014 District Conventions, new DMB members will be elected. Having an orientation training session for these new men helps them to acclimate into District Mission Board ministry.

Mission Counselors - As District Mission Boards support current missions and work to start new missions, another supportive group of missions is the Mission Counselors (MCs). MCs are pastors who now serve full-time assisting DMBs, mission congregations and mission pastors. MCs are able to spend more time with mission pastors, especially those new to a mission or with those pastors who are starting a new mission. From their background and experience, they are able to give guidance and direction for sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. Those serving as MCs are: Pastor Mark Birkholz, Pastor Peter Kruschel, and Pastor Ed Schuppe. Also serving the cause of Home Missions in the area of Hispanic ministry is the Hispanic Ministry Consultant, Pastor Tim Flunker.

Campus Ministry – The majority of the information in the following paragraphs on campus ministry comes from Pastor Ken Brokmeier, Campus Ministry Committee Chairman.

The WELS Campus Ministry Committee (CMC) is an eight-member committee of laymen and pastors that serves under the Board for Home Missions. The CMC exists to assist congregations in ministering to college students and other young adults with the Means of Grace so that they

may grow in the faith, be trained for service in Christ's kingdom and reach out to the lost of this world.

The CMC administers a budget of nearly \$406,800 and, in many ways, functions like a District Mission Board. Partnering with local or district advisory boards, the CMC helps to oversee a full-time campus ministry at UW-Madison. Financial support is also given for part-time Campus Ministries in the Twin Cities, MN; at Mankato, MN; Brookings, SD, East Lansing, MI; Oshkosh, WI; Houghton, MI, Milwaukee, WI and La Crosse, WI. Over 25 other smaller campus ministries have CMC budgets. The WELS also owns campus ministries properties in Brookings, SD; Mankato, MN; Oshkosh, WI; Milwaukee, WI; and La Crosse, WI that are maintained by the CMC. There are also a growing number of WELS campus ministries that are doing mission work among International students.

The sheer numbers indicate that vast majority of WELS high school graduates will not attend Bethany Lutheran, Wisconsin Lutheran or Martin Luther College. Instead they will enroll in some other institution of higher learning. To help serve the spiritual needs of those students the CMC has identified over 350 pastors as campus ministry contacts (cf. WELS yearbook). Our Synod strives to maintain an updated database of college students. There are typically about 6,500 names in that database. It is imperative for each congregation to regularly submit new names and update the current students on that list. For that reason the lists are mailed out to (W)ELS congregations twice a year.

Please consider finding someone in your congregation to contact all the college age students in your congregation each year to find out their educational plans for the fall. Contact information for college students should then be sent to Karen Marshall (WELS Campus Ministry Committee Secretary) cm@wels.net or (414) 256-3279 or fax to 262-522-2800 or mail: N16W23377 Stone Ridge Dr., Waukesha, WI 53188. Or visit the Campus Ministry website at: www.wels.net/campus-ministry.

While college students are away at school we encourage local congregation to continue regular contact with them. Please consider sending your college students your congregational newsletters, a care package and/or bulletins. Arrangements can also be made through the CMC to send students the Meditations and Forward in Christ during the school year **for free**. Six times each year the Forward in Christ features a column called Campus Cornerstone which is geared for college students.

In recent months more campus ministries have discovered innovative ways to minister to college students through electronic media including social networking. Remember – please send in the contact information for students (home address, school address, cell number and e-mail) from your congregation to the Campus Ministry Office (cf. above). For more information or if you have questions, please contact Karen Marshall at the above address.

Joint Mission Council – Through the past years the Mission Administrators and Chairmen, plus a layman from the World and Home Boards along with the Director of Mission Operations

comprise the Joint Mission Council (JMC). The JMC's role is to work together where missions in Home and World overlap.

Over the past years, Home Missions has been serving more cultures. Approximately 30% of its budget goes to support ministry to the Koreans, Sudanese, Hmong, Hispanic, Vietnamese, Navajo, Chinese and other cultures. Also more international students from around the world come to the USA for education. Some students come during their grade school years and more are coming to high schools and staying through college. After their education, the majority return home. And while we want to continue to serve them with the gospel and want them to be ambassadors for the gospel, as a church body, there aren't formal plans to continue to serve them or equip them to share the gospel. And in mission fields (whether abroad or in the States), there are people of culture travel to be with family and friends. Again, while we would like to continue to serve them, we often lose contact with them

Since the summer of 2013 the JMC has been studying how it could best serve the church body and all the contacts we have with those from so many cultures. More and more in this mobile and moving world, souls we serve in our Country return to their Country and souls we serve in World mission settings, relocate to the USA. We see some real opportunities to not only continue to support these travelling brothers and sisters in Christ, but also the opportunity to use them as they travel to tell others about Jesus Christ.

To assist WELS in its endeavors to reach more souls in cultural settings, the JMC called Rev. Paul Prange, administrator of the Board for Ministerial Education (BME) for one year to study this issue and devise a ministry plan. With the blessing of the BME, Pastor Prange accepted the Call. Starting April 1st he began his service to the JMC. As a plan develops, Pastor Prange will run those plans past both the World and Home Mission Boards. We pray the Lord's blessings on this huge undertaking.

Over the past months, these cultures have had special conferences:

- A Hmong / Asian Conference at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Oct. 9 / 10.
- A Hispanic Conference at Doral FL. Feb. 10-12.
- A Sudanese Conference at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Feb. 26 & 27

The JMC also supports a Muslim Outreach Consultant serving in North America, Pastor Pieter Reid. Pastor Reid is working to help congregations be aware of opportunities to reach out to their Muslim neighbors. He is also taking steps to work directly with 2 to 3 congregations on doing outreach ministry to Muslims.

Partners – While Home Missions is very appreciative of its portion of the congregational mission offerings to support its budget as well as the many special gifts which come to Home Missions, Home Missions also has a number of active partners who assist in mission congregations moving forward.

Church Extension Fund

This non-profit lending agency assists missions in buying land and building / buying its worship facility. In addition to typically low interest loans, since 1993 CEF has also provided grants to qualifying mission churches. If you would like to know more about CEF or invest in CEF to help support Home Missions, please go to: cef.wels.net

In Sept. of 2013 the CEF Board of Directors made a special grant to Home Missions. To help support six missions a special grant of \$1.3M was given to help support six mission congregations buy land or build/buy a worship facility. The mission locations prioritized for a portion of the \$1.3M grant are:

- Shepherd of the Hills, Las Vegas
- Grace Hmong, Kansas City KS (working to buy a LC-MS church in which they currently worship)
- Morristown TN (have made an offer on a piece of land)
- Sparks NV (have bought land and are in the early stages of the building process)
- St. Lucia (finish the building of their church – waiting to proceed)
- Pflugerville TX

In Feb. of 2011 the CEF Board of Directors granted Home Missions the first of these special grants in the amount of \$1M. Thanks to that grant, four of the prioritized missions have dedicated new worship facilities; Peace in Jesus, Boise ID (Sept. 30, 2012), Amazing Love, Frankfurt IL (had been New Lenox – May 19, 2013), Trinity, Woodbridge VA (Jan 27, 2013) and Spirit of Life Caledonia MI (March 23, 2014). One mission, Beautiful Savior Moncks Corner SC bought land (Nov. 2012) and has dealt with some setbacks relating to building. Construction might not be until the fall of 2014. A sixth prioritized mission, Christ Lutheran Denver CO is using the grant to help assist covering remodeling costs of their worship facility / ministry center. That project is in progress.

With twelve missions blessed by the additional grant monies from CEF, Home Missions is tracking those missions and comparing them with the other missions which started around the time when these missions did. While there are many variables which won't make for equal comparisons, it will be good to watch the general trends to see if the extra grant money helped these missions to reach self-support sooner. Home Missions thanks CEF for these 2 special grants.

Kingdom Workers

This ministry supports both Home and World missions through the coordination and support of lay volunteers.

- Builders for Christ (BFC) uses members skilled in construction to build houses of worship, schools, or other ministry structures for existing and new congregations of believers. After many years of service as the director for BFC, Mr. Dale Mueller retired

the end of December. On Feb. 23 Mr. John Lautz was installed as the next Builders for Christ director.

- Faith In Action works with Christians and congregations in the area of worship, Bible teaching, community outreach and evangelism. Volunteers of all ages serve missions throughout North America as well as into all the world.
- The Lutheran Health Alliance works with members to serve and care for families and people through community health ministry and long-term development support, developing leadership and outreach opportunities.

On January 9th and 10th, Kingdom Workers along with other ministries is sponsoring a “2015 Global Leadership Summit – Tools for Tomorrow’s Mission” in Scottsdale AZ. To learn more, go to the Kingdom Worker web-site: www.kingdomworkers.com.

Lutheran Women’s Missionary Society

This ministry supports both Home and World missions. There are two primary ways in which LWMS supports missions.

- LWMS coordinates many volunteers to communicate and connect with our mission pastors, wives and families. They offer prayer support, send letters of encouragement, and provide care package support. Our Missionaries and families very much appreciate this active support.
- Through spring and fall Rallies and the LWMS National Convention, the ladies of LWMS raise funds to help support special projects which typically aren’t covered by the budgets of mission congregations. Also, every other year, Home Missions receives the KIDS c.a.r.e. gift. In the summer of 2013 this gift was \$55,000.00 which was designated for VBS and Sport Camps in the summer of 2014. 16 missions are receiving anywhere from \$1,000.00 to \$5,000.00 to help support their program.

The next LWMS Convention is June 26-29, 2014 in Dallas Texas. To learn more about this ministry go to: www.lwms.org

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

We are thankful for the faithful ministry which takes place at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (WLS). We partner with WLS in several ways.

- The Summer Student Assistant program takes place during the summer months. 1st and 2nd year students serve in a mission congregation for around 10 weeks. The students receive practical ministry experience and the congregation receives ministry assistance. Home Missions provides locations and some financial support for

mission congregations which participate. WLS does the coordination and placement of the students.

-The Vicar in Missions program was referenced on the first page of this report.

-The Pastor Study Institute program brings the WLS curriculum to ethnic students where they live, rather than having the student and family uproot from their familiar surroundings. Using local pastors as well as seminary professors, ethnic students (Hispanic, Laotians, Sudanese, Hmong, Korean and other cultures) are trained for pastoral ministry.

- Mission and Ministry is a three day event at WLS. On one day Home Missions is featured. On a 2nd day World Missions is featured. On a third day congregational ministry is featured. For each day, the area of ministry works with a seminary student to put together the day's workshops.

Mission Promotions – Presentations

To ask for information you could use for mission presentations on either Home or World missions, email: missionspromotions@wels.net For schools which are focusing on a specific mission field, this can be a good source for resources to help explain the field to children.

To arrange for a speaker for a Mission Festival, church service, bible study, LWMS rally or other event as well as learn more about WELS missions, go to: www.wels.net/missions

District Mission News

We have the goal of starting one new congregation each year in our district. We pray you will consider being God's instrument to make this happen.

Circuit contact pastors: Working with the circuit pastors and the Commission on Evangelism (Pastor Joe Fricke of Mauston, coordinator), a "Missions pastor" has been identified in each circuit. A brief training session was held in June 2013 at the district convention. These pastors will be sharing information from the District Mission Board and Commission on Evangelism, as well as alerting us to possible new missions and new outreach opportunities in the district. Thanks for giving this pastor in your circuit time as needed at circuit meetings.

Roscoe, IL: Pastor Tom Englebrecht continues reaching out in this community and the congregation is being blessed with growth. Their synod subsidy will end in 2015. If your congregation takes a mission offering for Sunday School, Day School, Ladies' Group, etc. consider this mission as a recipient. The funds will be well used to help spread the good news of Jesus.

Mauston/Adams:

This is an awesome example of a congregation taking the lead in starting a new church and doing so without synodical subsidy. We are happy to help more congregations make this step.

Verona/Mt. Horeb: Good News Lutheran in Mt. Horeb had 75 attend grand opening worship on September 15, 2013 and is averaging 40 in worship each Sunday. Pastor Jon Bauer has accepted the call to serve at Good News. He will be installed on July 13, 2014 at 4:00 p.m., God-willing.

Dubuque, IA: Pastor Mike Krentz continues serving the congregation, Living Savior in a semi-retired capacity. Worship attendance is in the 20's. They are located in a growing section of town and continue to faithfully reach out. They applied for funding to secure a more permanent 24/7 location and to make Pastor Krentz' call full-time. That request was deferred and the congregation is considering next steps.

Mission Mindset Seminar: The District Mission Board and the Commission on Evangelism are partnering to offer Mission Mindset Seminars in each circuit of the district. This seminar is intended for pastors and laypeople. Focus is on improving the outreach mindset in a congregation and thinking about worship from an outreach perspective. "Huddle sessions" are built in as well so pastor and laypeople can discuss and take home specific ideas for implementing the seminar material. The seminar lasts a couple of hours and can be done at any time you choose, Sunday afternoon, Saturday morning, etc. We have field tested one presentation in Milton, WI and are refining to make improvements. Others are scheduled for September 21 in Reedsburg and September 28 in the Chippewa Falls area.

Missions Conference: A special conference is held each year at the Wintergreen Conference Center in Wisconsin Dells. Dates for 2014 are October 27 and 28. This is open to all congregations of all sizes. Theme for this year's conference is: "Something for Everyone." The Central Conference of our District has made the first day of this conference their fall conference, conducting conference business on the second day. Other pastor's conference are welcome to do the same, as there is plenty of room at the hotel and conference center. **Topics for this year include: Mission Outreach 101 by Andrew Schultz, Delinquents for Discipline or Prospects for Proclamation by James Werner and associates at St. Mark, Harvest Strategy with your Child Care Center by Darin Aden, Small Town Congregation's Sphere of influence by Ross Henzi, Pastor as the Lead Evangelist by Robert Balza, The Pastor Embracing his Role in a Small Town panel discussion led by David Scharf, Joe Fricke and Nathan Strutz, Mission Partners by Steve Wilkens and Tom Engelbrecht, Building Your Church by Elton Stroh, How to Get your Church off Square One by David Scharf and Pep talk by Mark Birkholz.** Updates from WELS Kingdom Workers, CEF, BHM and the Commission on Evangelism will also be given.

Through grants and the partnership of the Western Wisconsin, Southeast Wisconsin, Northern Wisconsin and Minnesota District Mission Boards, the conference itself is free. Participants are asked only to cover their own costs for lodging, meals and travel. To register speak with Nathan Strutz, or email Ron Demulling, Western Wisconsin DMB treasurer. A registration form is included with this report.

Questions, feedback, input? Contact Nathan Strutz, Western Wisconsin District Mission Board Chairman: pastorstrutz@rlcverona.com 608-515-4334 (talk or text).

2014 Missions Conference Registration Form

October 27 & 28, 2014

Wintergreen Resort & Conference Center

Wisconsin Dells

Name: _____ **District:** SEW ___ NW ___ WW ___ MN ___

I will stay: 1 night: _____ 2 nights: _____ Room Total: \$ _____

(Rooms are \$60.00 per night) (Families or two per room)

I plan to arrive: Sunday _____ Monday _____

I will room with: _____

(Name)

Meal packages:

Total meal package: _____

(\$43.00) Includes: Monday Lunch & Monday Supper Banquet

Tuesday Buffet Breakfast & Box Lunch

Two meal package: _____

(\$21.50) Includes: ***Any two meals of your choice:***

Monday Lunch _____

Monday Supper Banquet _____

Tuesday Buffet Breakfast _____

Tuesday Box Lunch _____

One meal package: _____

Includes:

Any meal of your choice:

Monday Lunch \$9.00 _____

Monday Supper Banquet \$17.00 _____

Tuesday Buffet Breakfast \$8.00 _____

Tuesday Box Lunch \$9.00 _____

Meal Total: \$ _____

I will attend the Monday evening fellowship: Yes ___ No ___

(\$5.00 charge)

Room Total: \$ _____

Meals Total: \$ _____

Fellowship: \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Send your completed registration either by E-mail or USPS to Ron Demulling.

E-mail: rondsts@centurytel.net

Address: Ron Demulling

25301 274th Avenue

Holcombe, WI 54745

You may pay Ron Demulling at the conference or in advance with your registration. Checks can be made out to ***Western Wisconsin District Mission Board*** or cash payments will be accepted.

Registrations must be in no later than October 15, 2014

