

**CROWN OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**MISSION BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**OCTOBER 8, 2021**

**Board Members Present:** Marilyn Engelken  
Marty Irwin  
John Thomas  
Gene Axelson  
Darlene McAfee  
Dick Anderson  
Pastor Phill  
Cathy Meyer

**Board Members Excused:** Gene Kuebler

Note: Items found below in *{brackets}* have been added after the meeting, for the information of the board members for future budget discussions.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Phill.

The minutes from the September 10, 2021 meeting were approved.

Marilyn reviewed the proposed agenda. The main goal for this meeting was to determine the proposed MAJOR budget items to support the church budget meetings this month.

Pastor reiterated discussion in previous meetings that the Mission Board needs to take some time to get an answer to the question: "WHO ARE WE?" Year on year, we have been doing the same thing but we need to maybe look at the bylaws and at some point soon we need to evaluate our mission.

Pastor pointed out that In the Mission Board Budget, there are only 4 line items, and that for the purposes of this meeting they are the only things we need to come up with specific amounts:

- Mission Pledge District
- Mission Pledge Circuit
- Scholarships
- Mission Support

That being said, Pastor moved on to the current financial sheet and started going through each item. For the benefit of some of the newer members, Pastor, Gene and Dick provided some of the history (in no particular order).

**Mission Pledge/District:**

70% of the churches in the district give \$5000 or less to district; 60% give nothing.

10% of the funds goes to Synod, the balance goes to operations for parishes and schools.

Conference fees funded by an assessment based on the number of people in each congregation.

There are a large number of materials made available online to the congregations in the district through these funds.

- **Mission Pledge/Circuit:**

In the past we have given mission money to the Circuit. For a while it was used by the Regional Mission Council #4 to support the Latino program at Apostle's.

However, there have been a number of changes made in the way Circuit is handling the pledge money. These changes were made without coordination with the churches in the Circuit. They seem to be trying to solve a problem that doesn't exist.

The way they work today is things are broken down into the following categories:

- \$1500 or less – for ‘start-up’ efforts, there is no criteria to be met
- \$5000 - \$50,000 – for specific needs
- \$50,000 or more – for larger, ongoing projects

Pastor and Gene Axelson both serve on the Mission Council #4 and do not feel comfortable at this time with this new process.

**RECOMMENDATION:** leave the \$21,000 in the budget, but make it “un-allocated” so that if at a later time, we feel comfortable sending it to Circuit, we can, **OR** we can use it for a different purpose.

**VOTE:** Gene made a motion; John seconded that we increase the overall budget to \$135,000, increasing the Mission Support Line Item by \$3,000. (Gene provided the history that several years ago, he was asked to reduce the Mission Board budget by \$3,000; but was assured we could get it back at a later date.) The motion was approved.

**VOTE:** Gene made a motion; Darlene seconded that we move the \$21,000 Circuit pledge to remain unspecified under the Mission Support line. The motion was approved.

**Mission Support:**

- Papua New Guinea  
The Mission board started supporting them when there was a member of the congregation who used to serve there. There are others that are familiar and have relations who serve there.
- Greater Things, St. Louis  
-This organization started with one congregation in St. Louis. They work with youth in the low-income region.  
-We got involved because Ray Mirley knows the Pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.  
-They have a deaf ministry of 10-14 people  
-They have Bible study before basketball (which brings in the kids).  
-Because of the pandemic, they started working in Ferguson and another community to keep groups smaller.  
-The kids are coming to church and bring their parents.  
{More info can be found here: <http://mo.lcms.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/May-4-2020.pdf> (Scroll to page 6) and here: <https://mo.lcms.org/missouri-district-partners-with-ferguson-ministry-to-bring-gospel-to-children/> }
- Christ’s Care for Children, Kenya  
Gene Kuebler brought this to the board.  
{Since Gene was not able to attend meeting due to surgery, the following links are being made available: <https://www.lcms.org/make-a-gift/christs-care-for-children-kenya>  
[https://mcusercontent.com/7632c42424c67f7addaf5fed2/files/da677902-e810-49a2-95be-63b7c1371455/Feb. 2021\\_newsletter.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/7632c42424c67f7addaf5fed2/files/da677902-e810-49a2-95be-63b7c1371455/Feb. 2021_newsletter.pdf) }
- Mission Central Missionaries  
Everyone was familiar with Mission Central, so it was not reviewed.  
{Further information can be found here: <https://missioncentral.us/> }
- Trinity Hope Haiti  
If interested, we can sponsor a school.

**Scholarships:**

- Concordia Irvine
  - We provide money to fund undergraduate scholarships.
  - There are just over 100 students that have identified pre-church work studies.
  - The school is the largest they have ever been, and growing.
  - This is partly because in the last few years, 3 synodical colleges have been closed (Selma, NYC & Portland). Many of the students from those schools were accommodated for at Irvine.
- Cross Culture, Irvine
  - The Cross-cultural Ministry Center (CMC) trains seminary students, many from around the world, in partnership with Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.
  - They are now almost 100% electronic, with a goal to make it available across the country.
- Surprise Christian Preschool
  - We have discussed them before.
  - They are very appreciative of our support and personally delivered a thank-you note.
  - They have a waiting list of 19
  - They have 7 teachers
- Valley Lutheran H.S. Phoenix, AZ
  - Tom Mertins sits on the board of directors; His daughter Stacy is the chair.
  - They have had some issues in the past.
  - They replaced the principle of the school.
  - Pastor had recent conversations with both Tom and Stacy and indications are that the changes in leadership should help to get things back in the right direction.
  - They have 126 students; 8 children under budget.
  - Tom suggested that we perhaps hold and wait.
  - They do have a dedicated fund that can be used if they get into financial difficulties.
- North Valley Christian Academy (B.E.S.T.)
  - This is a special program for developmentally disabled students.
  - There is a waiting list of 32, mainly because not many schools in the area have this kind of program.
  - It is an expensive program.
- North Valley Christian Academy (General Fund)
  - Gene Kuebler sits on the Board.
  - They are growing like crazy (covid caused enrollment to explode).
  - Not being run as a LCMS School, but more as a high level private school.
- Concordia University Nebraska
  - There are a number of people in the congregation who attended school here, it is highly represented!
- Concordia Seminary St. Louis
  - All familiar, we have adopted a student each year for many years.
- Ft. Wayne Seminary
  - All familiar, we have adopted a student each year for several years.

**VOTE:** Cathy made a motion; Gene seconded that we submit the following line items for the 2022 budget meeting. Further breakdown within each line item

Mission Pledge / District	\$23,000
Mission Pledge / Circuit	\$0
Scholarships	\$65,000
Mission Support	\$47,000
Total	\$135,000

The motion was approved.

Memorial Fund – The board recommends to the Church Council how it should be spent

Development Fund – Pastor mentioned that there is a Circuit Goal to have 10 starts in the next 10 years. There may be an opportunity

Dick Anderson has decided that it is time to retire from the Mission Board. He has been serving for over 25 years. He is proud of all that the boards have accomplished over the years.

Thank you Dick, for your service!

Marty suggested Diane Hammann would be a good person for the board. He took the action to talk to her.

Gene took a few minutes to provide some history:

Crown of Life was a mission church out of Fountain of Life in Sun City

Word of Life in Surprise was a mission church out of Crown of Life.

Money was and has been set aside (the development fund) for another mission church, but the opportunity has not presented itself.

We supported Hispanic Churches in Phoenix (they were 3 chapels led by Pastor Chris) for \$50,000 - \$60,000 a year for several years until he retired.

After that, the board shifted to supporting the Seminaries and education through scholarships.

Historically, the board supported LCMS ONLY except Surprise Christian Preschool and Benevilla.

We need to find a new goal or objective!

Meeting was adjourned.

Recorded by Cathy Meyer