

BORAM Summary Report

Board For Home Missions

Floor Committee #9

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Summary Thoughts

- The BHM continues to carry out its desire and directive within the limitations imposed by funding and manpower.
- Because the United States and Canada continue to be cultural “melting pots,” home mission work regularly has an international flavor to it.

Some Specifics

Mission Openings

- There were sixteen requests for new missions or ministry when the BHM met in March.
- Four new fields have been authorized to receive funding in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017 (Westminster, CO, Chattanooga, TN, Hendersonville, NC, Huntersville, NC.)
- Three established congregations will be receiving funds for ministry enhancement: Mt. Lebanon, Milwaukee, WI; Immanuel, Waukegan, IL; King of Kings, Little Rock, AR.
- Funding for these efforts comes from the synod operating budget, designated gifts and grants, and endowment funds from the Church Extension Fund.

Mission Support

- The BHM works with 116 congregations – 32 unsubsidized, 84 subsidized.
- 30% of the BHM budget is used to support cross-cultural ministries (Hispanic, Hmong, Lao, Sudanese, Korean, Japanese, Chinese, Navajo, and Vietnamese).

Personnel

- Three mission counselors are part of the full-time staffing of the BHM.
- Term limits, retirements, calls to other areas of ministry have brought a number of personnel changes to the BHM. Former BHM chairman Pastor Charles Westra was elected to be a district president and therefore stepped down from the board.
- To bring new district and synod board members up to speed on BHM matters, training seminars are held annually.

Support for BHM and Missions

- The planned budget for the BHM for 2017-18 is \$10,154,500; for 2018-19 the number is \$9,917,900, a decrease of \$236,600 or 2%.
- Synod support at \$5,556,000 (the same for both fiscal years) is a little more than ½ the BHM budget.
- Reserves will support \$1,005,000 of the budget in 2017-18, \$839,000 in 2018-19. The balance will come from gifts and grants.
- Roughly 6.75% of the BHM budget is spent on administration; the balance is spent on ministry.
- The LWMS contributes \$50,000 to \$90,000 per year for BHM work.
- At its Feb. 14, 2017, meeting, the CEF Board of Directors decided to turn its \$25,000,000 in restricted net assets into an endowment fund for home missions. This should make available roughly \$1,000,000 per year for home mission work.
- In the 23 years that the CEF has been exercising a grant program, roughly \$36,000,000 has been offered to missions and mission congregations for land or building grants.
- Home and World Missions have been partnering with the Ministry of Christian Giving to encourage gifts for missions. So far, \$515,000 has been offered through this initiative.

Other Administration Matters

- The Joint Mission Council (JMC) works to coordinate work that might be reaching the same ethnic groups in different locations (e.g. a Hmong ministry in MN and Hmong ministries in Viet Nam, China, Laos, and Thailand).
- Home Missions includes Campus Ministry. A major push this year to get more names of students attending various universities and colleges was successful. The BHM engaged the help of Senior Vicar Philip Janisch. He called every congregation that hadn't responded to Campus Ministry mailings to obtain contact information for those congregations' high school seniors. As a result of this effort, he was able to gather information from an additional 400 congregations.
- Pastor Thomas Trapp is stepping down from campus ministry after serving 41 of his 42 ministry years in campus work.
- The BHM staff has recently produced videos entitled "Moments with Missionaries." The style and format is similar to that of the WELS Connection videos. Other materials are on the site which allows you to get "up close and personal" with missionaries and their work.
- A "Multi-Site Conference" was held at Grace, Tucson, AZ. Roughly 140 attended to learn more about this option for expanding Gospel ministry.
- Builders for Christ, part of Kingdom Workers, has put together a 3-man staff to advise congregations regarding the building process. These are men who have "been there, done that" and so can bring expertise to congregations that are lacking it.