

Home Mission and PNW DMB Report

Home Missions Mission Starts

The Board for Home Missions met on April 14-15, 2016. One of the items of business was to prioritize new mission starts for the coming fiscal year. Eight new starts were authorized to receive funding starting July 1, 2016. After some of the locations, the general vicinity of the community is identified.

1. Lehi, Utah (south of Salt Lake City)
2. Fredericksburg Virginia (south of Washington DC)
3. Coeur d'Alene Idaho, St Matthew (east of Spokane WA)
4. Meridian Idaho, Cross of Christ (south-west of Boise ID)
5. Atlanta Georgia (inner city mission)
6. Rockwall Texas, Divine Peace (east of Dallas)
7. Victoria Texas, Redeemer (south-east of San Antonio)
8. Stevens Point Wisconsin, The Word (central WI)

Five of the eight new missions are multi-site missions (#3, #4, #6, #7, and #8). This means the mission is connected with an existing church. For example, the mission starting in Coeur d'Alene ID is connected with St. Matthew in Spokane WA. While there are going to be two locations where worship and ministry take place and one site – Coeur d'Alene is a new site, overall there is one leadership team with one budget. Also, with each multi-site location, members from the existing church are either going to be full-time members at the new site or will help for one to two years in getting the second site going. Later in this report will be an invitation to a WELS National Multi-Site Conference coming up in November.

In addition to the eight mission starts, the Board for Home Missions approved three enhancements and one relocation. Enhancements are typically 2-4 year subsidy agreements to assist a congregation with expanding or cross-cultural ministry. The four ministries are:

1. Centennial Lutheran in Milwaukee WI; three years of support to Call a Hispanic pastor
2. Risen Savior Lutheran in Lakewood Ranch FL; subsidy to assist the congregation to Call a pastor
3. Abiding Grace in Covington GA and Henry County GA (multi-site) to support existing ministry
4. Peace Lutheran in Holiday FL to relocate to Trinity FL

Overall, the Board for Home Missions received twenty-four requests. The total funding for the twelve requests which received authorization (means funding starts July 1, 2016) is \$983,000. In being able to take the above steps, Home Missions says “thank you” to our church body for its mission offerings and synod members for the many individual gifts which make it possible for Home Missions to do what it does.

While not a part of the funding which supported the above twelve ministries, Home Missions also wants to say “thank you” to the Church Extension Fund (CEF) for its unrestricted net asset policy distribution. Established in February of 2015 to aid Home Missions, the distribution in FY 15 of \$832,000 and the projected \$800,000 distribution for FY 16 allowed Home Missions to authorize two missions in the spring of 2015. Without these distributions, in 2015 our church body would have opened two less missions. Home Mission truly appreciates this “over and above” support from our CEF partner.

Church Extension Fund

As noted on the first page of this report, Church Extension Fund (CEF) is a valuable Home Mission partner. Through the ministry of CEF, loans are made to mission churches to purchase land and help build/buy the first worship facility. Not only does CEF give loans, through its grant programs mission churches receive additional financial support which allows them the opportunity to afford buying land and building a worship facility. Since 1993 when the grant program has begun, over \$26M in grants have been given.

In the recent past, CEF also has given two special grants (\$1M in Feb. of 2011 and \$1.3M in Sept. of 2013). There are twelve churches which have received portions of those two grants to help those churches purchase land / put money toward building costs. Home Missions continues to track how those mission ministries are doing with the special grant blessing.

LWMS National Convention 2014 & 2015

The 51st LWMS National Convention took place in Dallas TX. Once again the single focus was on what the Lord is doing through His people as they share the gospel message. It is very humbling, encouraging, inspiring, invigorating.....to hear how the gospel is at work in so many lives in so many locations. If you have the opportunity, you will appreciate attending.

At the Convention, LWMS offers gifts to World and Home Missions. Home Missions received a check for \$37,023.18 to the equipment fund, Half of the Thursday and Sunday offerings were designated to Home Missions for General Hispanic Outreach which surpassed \$20,000.00. (the other ½ to another World Mission project.) The k.i.d.s. c.a.r.e. gift of \$49,000 went to World Missions. In 2015 the k.i.d.s c.a.r.e gift will go to Home Missions.

The 52nd LWMS National Convention took place in Rapid City SD. Once again the Convention was a blessing as attendees heard what God is doing through His people as they share the gospel of Jesus Christ. *Mission Projects Selected 2015* Project #HM-2014-04 ~ Tools for Outreach - \$38,349.19, Project #WM-2014-16 ~ Asia Lutheran Seminary Projects - \$38,349.19, *Worship Service Offerings:* Project #HM-2014-01, First Public Service Assistance - \$23,429.13 Project #WM-2014-01 ~ International Missionary Wives Conference - \$23,429.14 Kids C.A.R.E gift This year went to Home Missions and the Home Missions Children Ministry Assistance special project was the recipient of a gift of \$39,762.00.

Future Convention Sites

2016 - 53rd Annual LWMS Convention

June 23-26, 2016

St. Charles, Illinois ~ hosted by Chicago Area Circuit

2017 - 54th Annual LWMS Convention

June 22-25, 2017

Orlando, Florida ~ hosted by North Florida Circuit

WELS National Multi-Site conference for WELS churches takes place November 14-16, 2016, in Tucson AZ

What is it all about?

The multi-site movement is all about reaching more people, and bringing mission work to many more congregations, by helping to start new churches in new locations. The potential for this relatively new strategy among WELS congregations is tremendous. While multi-site churches may have many practical benefits such as shared resources,

efficient organization, cost-effective programs, and more; the greatest blessing possible is that God would use it to reach more people with the gospel.

Why should you join us for this conference?

Some congregations are already multi-site churches. Others could benefit from considering multi-site ministry, or learning from those who have multi-site church experience. For these reasons, the national multi-site conference for WELS churches has been organized and attendance is open to everyone. There will be beneficial information for churches that are already doing multi-site ministry as well as churches that are considering multi-site ministry as a way to reach more people with the gospel.

Host: Grace Lutheran Church in Tucson, Vail, Sahuarita, and Benson, Arizona.

Activities: The conference will include nearly a dozen speakers from some of the most experienced WELS Multi-site churches and pastors. Their experience will be valuable for all participants – pastors, congregational leaders, and interested lay people – regardless of their level of multi-site church experience

Vicar in Mission Settings

For many years Home Missions has supported a program called Vicar in Missions (VIMs). Some of the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary class assigned to be vicars are assigned into mission or mission-minded congregations. The past six years Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary has joined Home Missions in this venture. Before this partnership 8-12 students were assigned into a VIM setting. Now with this partnership up to 21-22 students have been assigned as a VIM. During the Home Mission meeting, the Home Mission Executive Committee and two representatives from WLS considered thirty-four requests for a VIM.

Ministry of Christian Giving

On Oct. 15, 2015 the Conference of Presidents approved an “Individual Campaign” for Home and World Missions for FY 16-17; July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017. Over the past years the Ministry of Christian Giving has been assisting our synod or different ministries with special campaigns. An “Individual Campaign” means that while individuals will be approached to consider making a special gift to Missions, promotional materials and invitations to each WELS congregation won’t be a part of the campaign. While WELS churches won’t be directly invited to participate, congregations are welcome to do so if they so choose.

Missions (Home and World) have been working with the Ministry of Christian Giving Director, Pastor Kurt Lueneburg and his staff in preparation for the campaign. During the fall months of 2016, Planned Giving Counselors (PGC) will make visits to donors. Joining the PGCs on many of their visits will be Mission representatives; mission pastors in both home and world settings, administrative committee members as well as district mission board members and other Mission personnel as well.

The gifts to Missions will be going to new initiatives in both Home and World mission efforts. The distributions of the gifts will be 40% to Home, 40% to World and 20% to the Joint Mission Council.

Joint Mission Council

The Joint Mission Council (JMC) is made up of the two mission administrators; Pastor Keith Free - Home, Pastor Larry Schlomer - World, the two mission chairmen; Pastor Howie Mohlke – World, Pastor Chuck Westra – Home, Mr. Sean Young, Director of Mission Operations (Chair) and a layman from the World Mission Board – Dr. Bob Anderson, and a layman from the Home Mission Board – Mr. Jude Peck. The JMC works on mission issues which impact both Home and World Missions.

Serving under the JMC are the Global Ministry Committee (GMC) and the Global Hmong Committee (GHC). The GMC assists WELS congregations in reaching out to immigrant people groups here in the United States and in their country of origin. The assistance can be connecting people together who have interest and ability to move the ministry forward, planning, encouraging, and recommending ministry plans to the JMC for funding. Serving on the GMC are Pastor Nathan Seiltz (Chair), Professor Tom Hunter, Pastor John Vogt, Mr. Bill Meier, Mr. Juan Garcia, Pastor Paul Prange and Mr. Sean Young.

Since July 1, 2015, the GHC has been looking at Hmong ministry both in the United States (US) and Asia determine what are good ways to coordinate Hmong ministry as well as what are the best ways to utilize and allocate the funds designated for Hmong ministry? Two Hmong pastors; Bounkeo Lor and Pheng Moua and two Anglo pastors; Keith Free (chair) and Robb Raasch serve on the GHC. A US Hmong Convention takes place July 8-10 in St. Paul MN. On October 5 & 6, an Asian Conference takes place at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary.

Through gifts and endowment earnings, the JMC uses these resources to help support US ministry which is also reaching back to the country of origin where its members are from. Two examples of this are:

1) Chapel of the Improvement Lutheran Church in Las Vegas NV – this ministry has a Liberian spiritual leaders. In March and April of this year, Isaac David and Anglo mentor Matt Vogt were in Liberia for two weeks training spiritual leaders to share God's Word where they live. Funding has been approved for two fiscal years.

2) Jerusalem Lutheran Church and School in Morton Grove IL serves a number of Koreans through its school. Morton Grove itself is close to 30% Korean. The JMC is financially helping Jerusalem Lutheran so that a Korean MLC Graduate was able to receive an assignment to this school. In addition to classroom duties, the Korean teacher would look to start an after school Academy. The prayer is more Korean students will participate and through more Korean contacts, we may learn of more contacts in South Korea with whom we can share God's Word.

Subsidized Missions / Unsubsidized Missions

At the April 2016 Board for Home Mission (BHM) meeting, the BHM approved changing designations for mission congregations. Over the years there have been various designations. Starting on July 1, 2016, there will either be subsidized missions or unsubsidized missions. A subsidized mission receives financial support from the BHM. An unsubsidized mission is a truly a mission but does not receive financial support from the BHM (both subsidized and unsubsidized missions are eligible for special project funds on a per request basis). In both the subsidized and unsubsidized missions, before receiving its specific designation, required documentation is submitted and the BHM determines whether or not to grant authorization of the mission request. Over the past 10 years there have been a number of churches which have been under the unsubsidized classification. In Home Missions we are thankful to work with all the mission congregations in order to reach more souls with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Summer Student Assistants

Similar to the vicar program, Home Missions and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (WLS) work together on the Summer Student Assistant (SSA) program. This program places first or second year WLS students into mission or mission-minded congregations over the summer for a 10 week period. The students lead in worship as well as preaches. They participate in outreach events as well as do canvassing and witnessing. These students receive a mini-vicar training experience during the summer. For the coming summer (2016) Home Missions is supporting three SSAs in mission congregations. Peace in Eagle River Alaska will receive another SSA through this program.

Campus Ministry

The WELS Campus Ministry Committee (CMC) is an eight-member committee of laymen and pastors who serve under the Board for Home Missions. Pastor Charlie Vannieuwenhoven serves as the chairman. 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 and be trained for service in Christ's kingdom. These congregations reach out to about 6,500 students. Please consider finding someone in your congregation to gather each college-age student's educational plans and share it with the CMC. To sign up and learn more about submitting information, visit wels.net/campus-ministry.

At its November 5 & 6, 2015 meeting, one of the action items of the CMC was to grant to Divine Word Lutheran in Plover WI \$50,000 from its special project funds to assist this congregation in the purchase of a building which is a mile from the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point. The building will serve two functions. Starting in the fall of 2016 it will serve as a campus center for the active campus ministry Divine Word has. The building will also serve as a second worship site as Divine Word has chosen to take the multi-site approach (see above). The Stevens Point location is called "The Word." Thus, while there will be one congregation (Divine Word and The Word), there are going to be two locations where this congregation offers worship services as well as having a "home" for campus ministry.

As it does every two years the CMC is looking to encourage and enhance campus ministries by hosting a Campus Ministry Conference in Waukesha on May 15 & 16, 2017. More information will be coming on this Conference.

Home Mission Personnel

Continuing to serve as Mission Counselors are Pastor Mark Birkholz, Pastor Peter Kruschel and Pastor Ed Schuppe. Pastor Tim Flunker serves as the Hispanic Outreach Consultant. We thank these men for the many ways in which they serve Home Missions. We also thank Dr. Keith Eldred, Pastor Nate Strutz and Pastor Wayne Uhlhorn. For the past years they have served on the Board for Home Mission's Executive Committee (BHM EC). Their terms are done. Replacing them on the BHM EC are Pastor Mark Gabb, Mr. Mark Hartman and Pastor Matt Vogt. We thank them for their willingness to serve. Also on the BHM EC are Pastor Chuck Westra (also BHM Chairman) and Mr. Steve Wolf.

Our mission board also is appreciative of its partnership with the AZ/CA DMB. Over the past four plus years we have held joint meetings twice each year. These meetings have enabled us to sharpen our skills and fine tune our requests to the Board for Home Missions. Starting this past winter and moving forward, our joint meetings will be held at one of our districts' mission sites (one each year in each of our districts). A part of each meeting will be at least a half day of doing canvassing work in the community on behalf of the mission.

PNW DMB Report

New Mission Openings in 2014-2016

Coeur D' Alene ID	2016-17 Subsidy \$124,000.00
Meridian ID	2016-17 Subsidy \$121,000.00

Renegotiations for Ongoing Support 2014-17

Light of Light, Covington WA	2014/15 \$34,000, 2015/16 \$24,000
Holy Trinity Korean Des Moines WA	2014/15 \$35,000, 2015/16 \$35,000
Faith Hmong Anchorage AK	2014/15 \$63,000, 2015/16 \$60,000
Peace in Jesus Boise ID	2014/15 \$78,000, 2015/16 \$75,000
Grace Hispanic Outreach Yakima WA	2014/15 \$60,000, 2015/16 \$30,000

Special Grants in 2014-16

In addition to the large mission grants reported above, our District Mission Congregations received special Home Mission Funds. These are not in order.

Grace Hispanic Yakima WA - \$9,971.00
 Shepherd of the Hills, Anchorage AK – CEF WEF Grant \$200,000.

King of Kings Kennewick, WA - \$100,000 plus CEF WEF Grant
St. Matthew Spokane – \$20,000.00 Outreach Grant
PNW & AZ/CA Praise and Proclaim Canvassing Outreach Grant
Holy Trinity Sudanese Bibles - \$500.00
Light of Light Direct Mailing for Easter - \$651.00
Faith Hmong Conference Travel - \$2000.00
Holy Trinity Korean Lutheran ESL - \$4560
Faith Hmong Parsonage Down payment - \$23,000.00

In the Works – New Mission Start Opportunities

Looking to the future, the mission board is working with a number of congregations on sites for possible future mission expansion. Annually the mission board meets for two days of mission expansion planning. Our goal is to have our top two to three priority sites ready for application to the Board for Home Missions in the spring of each year. Those sites include, but are not limited to: Albany, Oregon, South Portland OR, North Portland Oregon, South East Tacoma WA, Tri-Cities WA, Bellingham WA, Chehalis WA, and Bend OR.

If you have any opinions, advice, former members or prospects to contribute toward any of these fields, please contact the mission board. Any insights or help you might have to offer would be greatly appreciated.

Please understand that this is not intended to be busy-work. We need to be proactive in determining where we (under God's grace) can open missions and advance the Kingdom. Even work on fields that don't ever work their way to the top of the list is time well spent as a part of this determination process.

“Saving Sacred Spaces” Mission efforts

Over the past years a number of mission efforts have been serving as a bit of a training grounds for a couple different pilot projects, which are now being endorsed and encouraged by the Board for Home Missions. “Saving Sacred Spaces” is the term used to describe the efforts of a mission-focused missionary and ministry to assume the facilities of an established and dying congregation and breathe new life and apply aggressive outreach minded ministry to that mission field. This is particularly valuable in areas of our district/synod where the cost of purchasing land and building facilities is cost-prohibitive. Mission Counselor Peter Kruschel is happy to meet with leaders, members or pastors to talk about partnering opportunities and possibilities at any time.

Praise and Proclaim Ministries

Having participated in a Praise and Proclaim Ministries outreach campaign as a mission board (on behalf of our new mission effort in Vistancia, AZ and a future campaign in Couer D' Alene ID. Also, Living Hope in Redmond and Messiah Nampa ID have used this ministry.), Mr. Dave MAInes is the director of this Ministry which is base in Boise ID. We are happy to endorse and encourage the use of Praise and Proclaim Ministries, a WELS gospel outreach campaign ministry. Praise and Proclaim Ministries can help a congregation in its outreach efforts in the following ways: 1) Help congregations train and equip members on how to conquer fears and share the gospel by providing a well-organized, meaningful, and transforming experience going door-to-door. 2) Help congregations who may be having a difficult time gaining traction in their outreach efforts by providing a campaign that can help spur outreach momentum. 3) Help pastors by taking over all the nitty-gritty, but necessary elements associated with outreach activities so they can focus on what they do best – teach and preach. To learn more about Praise and Proclaim Ministries, go to: www.praiseandproclaim.com.

PNW District Mission Board:

Pastor Craig Wasser – Chairman Immanuel, Salem OR

Pastor Kevin Schultz - St Matthew, Spokane WA

Pastor Brian Hackmann – Eagle River AK

Mr. August Gabert – Amazing Grace, Milwaukie OR

Mr. Ted Weiss – Christ the King, Bremerton WA

Mr. Mel Kam – Faith, Tacoma WA

Pastor Peter Kruschel, Western Region Mission Counselor, Beautiful Savior, Las Vegas NV