

2015 Report to Synod Assemblies
Paul Baglyos, Coordinator for Missional Leadership, ELCA Region 3

Candidacy in the ELCA: Leading Those Who Will Lead Others

All four gospels in the New Testament tell of Jesus calling people to discipleship with the invitation, “follow me.” Following Jesus, however, means more than merely trailing along behind him. As the gospel narratives progress, it becomes clear that Jesus’ invitation, “follow me,” involves learning to do *with* Jesus everything that Jesus does. On the eve of his Passion, Jesus tells his disciples that those who believe “in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these.” One of the principal works of Jesus is to lead others in relationship with God. Because that is Jesus’ work, it is therefore also the work of Jesus’ disciples.

My call as Coordinator for Missional Leadership in Region 3 of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America involves numerous responsibilities, including collaboration with our bishops on the assignment of new leaders for first calls in our congregations, the development of a new program of education for Synodically Authorized Ministers in our region, and some work with our campus ministries. The largest area of my responsibility, however, is *candidacy*, which is the process by which people become rostered leaders (diaconal ministers, deaconesses, associates in ministry or pastors) of the ELCA. Every synod of the ELCA has a candidacy committee that guides and accompanies people through that process, and the regional coordinators work closely with all the candidacy committees in the regions that they serve. (Region 3 includes the nine ELCA synods in the three states of North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota.)

While candidacy prepares people for leadership in the ELCA, it also involves an exercise of leadership on the part of everyone engaged in it. The members of your synod’s candidacy committee are themselves leaders, because they participate in Jesus’ work of leading people toward particular ministry roles in the church. The members of your congregations and all other ministries in your synod likewise lead by helping others to discern a call to enter candidacy. No one becomes a leader in the church without the leadership of others who guide and accompany them along the way.

Not all disciples will become rostered leaders, but all disciples are called to be leaders. What opportunities has God given you to lead others toward candidacy in the ELCA? Who have you helped, or who might you help, to lead along the way toward rostered ministry in this church? How do you, or how might you, participate in your synod’s work related to candidacy?

ELCA Region 3 Archives Report to 2015 Synod Assemblies

Introduction

This year marks the *27th year of the ELCA Region 3 Archives*. I continue in the archivist position half-time for the 9 synods of Region 3 and half-time for Luther Seminary. This shared position continues to work well, with Luther providing space and access to the student worker pool and Region 3 providing the school a large and useful research collection. We also benefit from the much-needed help of 7 regular volunteers, (part of the seminary “friends” group) and technical support from the school’s IT office.

Use of the Region 3 Archives

Our website (www.luthersem.edu/archives) has greatly increased use of both collections and services. Luther Seminary hosts the website and provides technical support for it. The site is regularly updated with new training material for congregational audiences as well as listings of the actual archival holdings. The website remains our “front door”, attracting a growing number of users from within, as well as beyond, the ELCA. In addition to the internet, researchers reach us via phone calls, mailed letters and personal visits.

+The Archives assisted a total of 955 reference patrons in the past year with a range of research interests. The majority (64%) are congregational committees working on scanning projects, anniversary celebration planning, history writing and related questions. Other significant user groups include synod offices and church wide offices as well as individual researchers.

+Daniels worked on-site with all 9 synod offices, gathering permanently valuable office records and assisting with retention plans for each office. He visited each office at least 6 times during the year. These visits were coordinated with 31 on-site congregational visits throughout the 3 states of Region 3.

+Daniels spoke at 16 adult forums and study groups in congregations throughout the Region. The main focus of these presentations is the use of memory in the congregation and Region 3 Archives services.

Collection Growth

+The Archives received 520 linear feet of synod office records from the 9 offices. These included legal, financial, personnel and program files.

+Gathered an additional 288 congregational histories – collection now totals 6,322 histories.

+Received 520 biographical pieces for files on clergy and lay leadership – collection now totals 6,725 files.

+Additional 14 congregations filmed their valuable church records through the new scanning program.

+Completed negotiations with the board of the Metro Lutheran newspaper for permanent retention of all 29 years of newspaper history upon their closure, May 2014. This large collection is being processed now.

Outreach and Education

+Daniels led workshops on congregational archives at 4 Region 3 synod assemblies in 2014. He also presented Archives services information at 2 fall theological conferences.

+Daniels recently completed meeting with all 9 synod councils in the Region during the past year to acquaint and update this key leadership group with the services and activities of the Region 3 Archives

+Distributed over 565 copies of “Memory Work: A Guide for Congregational Archives and History” to congregations and individuals. It is also accessed electronically via the Region 3 Archives website.

+Continues off-site storage program for all Region 3 synods for professional and permanent care of sensitive files, including candidacy, camping staff, and financial records using Iron Mountain Co.

+Promotes and manages a new records scanning service for congregations to replace the long-running microfilming program. This new service of digitizing vital church records began in April 2013.

Professional Development

+Daniels is an active member of several professional archival organizations, including the Society of American Archivists, the Midwest Archives Conference and the Twin Cities Archives Roundtable.

+Daniels maintains his professional certification in the Academy of Certified Archivists.

+Daniels continues active participation in the Lutheran Historical Conference, a pan-Lutheran group of historians, archivists and librarians.

*Respectfully submitted, Paul A. Daniels, ELCA Region 3 Archivist and Luther Seminary Archivist,
3.1.15*



Mission Investment Fund
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

About the Mission Investment Fund

The Mission Investment Fund (MIF), a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, makes low-interest **loans** to established ELCA congregations, new-start congregations and ELCA-related ministries for capital projects.

Established congregations use MIF loans to renovate, expand or relocate. New-start congregations rely on MIF loans to buy land and construct their first church buildings. ELCA-related ministries use MIF loans for a variety of capital projects.

To fund these loans, MIF offers a variety of **investments** for congregations, their members, synods and ELCA-related ministries to purchase. MIF investments offer adjustable- or fixed-rate terms and earn interest at competitive rates.

The Mission Investment Fund is **financially strong and stable**, with a record of steady, controlled growth:

- With total assets of \$661 million and net assets of \$192 million at year-end 2014, MIF achieved a capital ratio of 29 percent—maintaining MIF's position in the top tier of well-capitalized church extension funds.
- At year-end 2014, loans for capital projects for more than 780 ELCA congregations and ministries totaled \$461 million. MIF investments by congregations, their members, synods and ELCA-related ministries totaled \$464 million.

Investments and Loans in the South Dakota Synod

As of December 31, 2014:

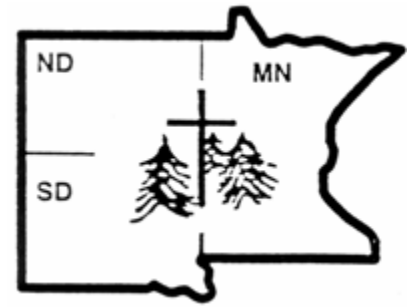
- 9 Mission Investment Fund loans, with a balance of **\$1,748,634**, are at work throughout the synod.
- Investments in the Mission Investment Fund by 227 individuals, 103 congregations, 21 ministries and the South Dakota Synod totaled **\$9,518,433**.

MIF representative for the South Dakota Synod:

The Rev. Daniel B. Carlson, Regional Manager: Tel. (773) 682-2943; e-mail: dan.carlson@elca.org

Mission Investment Fund | 8765 West Higgins Road | Chicago, Illinois 60631
Tel: 877-886-3522 | Web: mif.elca.org

ELCA Region 3 Camping Network
8231 County Road 11 NE, Alexandria, MN 56308
Ph: 320-846-2431
www.r3campingnetwork.org



Executive Committee: Marv Nysetvold (Shetek) President
Nick Johnson (Upper Missouri), Vice President
Paul Hanson (Luther Crest), Treasurer
Mara Stillson (Lutherans Outdoors in SD), Secretary
Grant Winter (Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry), MN Representative
Rev. Janis Sloka III (Camp of the Cross Ministries), ND Representative
Christy Schmal (Lutherans Outdoors in SD), SD Representative

Hear the Gospel!

Celebrate God's Creation!

Find Spiritual Renewal!

2015 Annual Report of the ELCA Region 3 CAMPING NETWORK

The ELCA Region 3 Camping Network exists to support outdoor ministry professionals in Region 3 and its nine synods, and to serve the people and congregations working with them.

The ELCA Region 3 Camping Network is a grass roots network of ELCA-affiliated Bible camps serving congregations in Region 3. The network is sustained by the pledges of network camps, as well as synod contributions and other gifts. The Camping Network serves outdoor ministry and congregations in the following ways:

- **Recruiting**—Midwest recruiting fairs at colleges and universities are scheduled annually. Network camps participate in the fairs, as well as additional camps from across the country.
- **Communication**—The network website is www.r3campingnetwork.org. The website includes a listing of all participant camps, program ideas, job postings, a calendar of regional and national camp events, resources for camp staff and Summer Staff recruiting information. The network also sends out the *GRAPEVINE*, a biweekly e-newsletter reporting camp-submitted news and information.
- **Cooperative Ministry**—The network works to strengthen existing connections with campus ministry, seminaries and congregations.
- **Grants** – The network established annual grants for outdoor ministries to explore new ways to partner with congregations in the region.

Region 3 has a wealth of Bible camping opportunities, with more than 40 outdoor ministry sites serving congregations. Ways in which you can partner with outdoor ministries to enrich your congregation's ministry include:

- Designating a week or two of the summer camp schedule for your congregation to participate as a group.
- Offering day camp programs for children and youth during the summer.
- Making confirmation camp and retreat experiences an integral part of your confirmation program.
- Participating in wilderness, high adventure camp programs and mission trips.
- Offering Family Camp.
- Developing programs for older adults.
- Using camp staff to help plan and implement youth and adult programs.
- Encouraging youth and adults to work at camp as paid or volunteer staff.
- Supporting camps in prayer and financially.

There is a place for you! Whether you are a camper, a “work-weekend” volunteer or a financial supporter, you and your congregation can be part of this ministry that is living out the gospel of Christ and shaping leaders for the future!

South Dakota Synod Vice President's Report

It continues to be a privilege to serve as the Vice President of the South Dakota Synod. I had the opportunity to attend an orientation for ELCA vice presidents in Chicago this past fall. Information and resources were presented regarding the roles of the vice president and synod council. Overviews were shared by representatives of the churchwide organization including Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Secretary Chris Boerger, and ELCA General Counsel Phil Harris. The Conference of Bishops was held at the same time enabling the vice presidents and bishops to spend time together hearing reports and participating in a visioning exercise.

The 2014 South Dakota Synod Assembly authorized an Appeal for Leadership and Mission in response to the Synod's vision that all may be fed. This appeal, titled "Listen...God is Calling, Never be the Same" highlights three broad categories of leadership, mission, and partner support. Specific initiatives are uplifted within each of these categories. Pastor Bob Hansen has been hired as the appeal director and Debbie Gallipo as the appeal coordinator. Individuals have graciously agreed to serve in leadership roles as chairs and honorary chairs for the appeal. Work has begun in the synod leaders, rostered leaders, and major gift portions of the appeal. The congregational phase of the appeal will begin this summer.

I urge you to learn more about the appeal and to prayerfully consider how you, as individuals and congregations, can participate in the appeal and contribute towards the appeal goal. By working together, we will fund ministry for the people of South Dakota and across the church, leaving a legacy for generations to come.

I would like to extend a special word of appreciation to outgoing members of the Synod Council: Michael Miller, Teri Gayer, Lon Moeller, Pastor Greg Myrmoe, Peggy Namanny, Pastor Tom Opoien, and Matthew Johnson.

Thank you also to Bishop Zellmer, Pastor Bill Tesch, Susan Marone, Suzanne Hansen, Pastor Nate Lizarazo, Pastor Karen Rupp, Crystal McCormick, Lois Borchardt, Kevin Stillson, Jim Schade, and Kurt Osborne for their dedication and passion for the ongoing work of the South Dakota Synod.

God's blessings to you as we continue to listen to the ways that God is calling us into mission and ministry together.

Caroly Borchardt

Report of the Support to Ministries Committee
2015 South Dakota Synod Assembly
Pastor David Schoeld, Chairperson

This has been a busy year for the Support to Ministries (STM) Committee – but, then, I expect every year is a busy year. Congregations are in a constant state of change, and in like fashion, the reality of ministry is changing. What used to be assumed realities within the church, no longer are. We are seeing fewer pastors in the candidacy/seminary process; we are seeing more and more pastors entering ministry with a heavy debt-load; we are even seeing the way we “make” pastors changing as seminaries and synods work to address these realities.

In like fashion, the STM committee is seeking to better address our current realities. We are working to get the deans more connected with congregations as they enter into, or journey through, the call process. We are making an effort to engage congregations in the midst of their healthy seasons so we might better understand their needs when change does come. We are trying to create a system that utilizes the resources we have available, mixed with good conversation and relationships, to connect pastors with congregations.

As we seek to better our recruitment and communication, we still face the difficulty of fewer pastors (retirements, fewer seminary students, more pastors seeking calls in urban areas, etc). As Pastor Hahn mentioned in last year’s report, we will do our best, but it is the congregational members and pastors who have the best ability to change this. Do you know a pastor who might like a change? Have you promoted the synod resources and direction – feeding the hungry, physically and spiritually, as well as our “Answer the Call” campaign to keep pastors on the prairie? You’re words, you’re invitation, may be just what’s needed.

Throughout this year, as we’ve addressed everything above and more, I’ve been thankful for the members of the committee: their prayerful support of each other and the congregations of South Dakota in the midst of change; their familiarity with, and concern for, congregations throughout the synod as they ask difficult questions and deal with difficult situations; their joyful conversation and uplifting spirit in the midst of ministry. They are a blessing to me, and to this synod.

Also, thank you to Susan Marone and Bishop Dave for direction, encouragement, and support. Thanks to Susan, especially, for her diligent work and care with congregations and pastors. Finally, a huge thank you to Crystal McCormick, as we discovered this year just how much we truly rely on her. Susan and Crystal really are the ones who make this work, so if you see them, be sure to thank them.

Lutheran Campus Ministry in South Dakota 2014-2015

This past year has been a year of transition for Lutheran Campus Ministry at **South Dakota State University** as Pastor Herb Wounded Head continues in his new role as campus pastor.

Ministry at the Luther Center at **University of South Dakota** centered on Kingdom of God as a present reality for our lives and the world. A variety of guests shared how God's Kingdom broke in their lives during worship opportunities throughout the year. Students were involved in other community activities: serving meals at the Welcome Table, ringing bells for the Salvation Army, supporting prisoners by attending worship at the prison in Springfield. All these activities celebrated what God is up to in the USD community and the world. Pastor Andy Nelson has resigned his position as Campus Pastor so the board is looking to call another leader for the fall.

2014-2015 was a time of transition for campus ministry in West River at **Black Hills State University** and **South Dakota School of Mines and Technology**. Both campuses are now being served by Rachel Nelson, former staff at NeSoDak and Klein Ranch of LOSD. BHSU continued their Mom's group to assist moms and single parents to continue their education. The Boards of Directors of SDSM&T and BHSU **are in** partnership together to continue Lutheran Campus Ministry at Spearfish and Rapid City.

Collegians in Christ's Service (CICS) at **Northern State University** continue to be very active in serving in the local Aberdeen community. Bible study and service is the core of ministry at NSU. Their service continues after graduation.

Your undesignated gifts to Campus Ministries add up: The sum of \$4054.66 was distributed to each campus program this past year.

You can find addresses, names and emails for Campus Ministry at the Synod's website, www.sdsynod.org/campus-ministry. If a family member, church member, or friend attends or is planning to attend one of our South Dakota universities, encourage them to give Lutheran Campus Ministry their contact information. They can submit contact information at the above link.

South Dakota Synod Candidacy Report 2015

The South Dakota Synod is blessed with fifty-two individuals, or candidates, that seek to become rostered leaders in the ELCA. As these candidates make this journey to become leaders in our church, there are 15 individuals from throughout the SD Synod, both pastors and lay people that walk with the candidates on their journey. The individuals walking with the candidates are members of the SD Synod Candidacy Committee.

Candidates for rostered leadership in the ELCA pass three mileposts: applicant for entrance, endorsement, and finally approval for leadership in the ELCA. The Candidacy Committee meets to discuss with the candidates the process of candidacy and major steps in candidacy. A relator from the Candidacy Committee is assigned to each candidate to walk with them on their journey to become a rostered leader in the ELCA.

The SD Synod has been blessed with money that has been given by individuals, organizations, endowments and foundations for scholarships for those in candidacy. In 2014, the Candidacy Scholarship Committee awarded \$167,538.61 to 18 candidates on this journey to become rostered leaders in the ELCA.

As members of the SD Synod, we play an important role in talking with and encouraging individuals that have the qualities to become rostered leaders in the ELCA. As Paul writes in Romans chapter 12 of the different gifts of Christian service, we are called to lift up those with gifts to become leaders in our church.

If you have any questions about candidacy, please contact Susan Marone, AIM, Associate to the Bishop, smarone@sdsynod.org, phone: 605/274-4022; or Crystal McCormick, Candidacy and Mobility Office Coordinator, cmccormick@sdsynod.org, phone: 605/274-4024. Or visit: www.sdsynod.org/candidacy.

Report Multicultural Committee 2015

By Natanael Lizarazo, Chair

For us Lutherans, Multicultural Ministry represents opportunity, challenge and mission frontier. Given the fast demographic changes taking place in South Dakota and the United States, opportunities abound for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with new immigrants, refugees and ethnically-specific communities, the people who historically have not been part of our Lutheran history and mission. A missional reading of the signs of the times does invites us to grow into the diverse and multicultural church God is calling us to be, the church colorfully reflected in the diversity we see in gas stations, grocery stores and in every aspect of daily life.

Our Committee represents all seven Conferences of our Synod and works in collaboration with our Synod's Evangelical Outreach Committee. This structure facilitates greater participation as well as improved communication. And though geography is wide-spread, technology allows us to participate in meetings without spending traveling time or spend significant financial resources. Still we have face-to-face meetings complemented by technology if necessary.

Current members of the Multicultural Committee are: Rev. Bill Schrub, Rev. Daryl Schubert, Gayle Cole, Rev. Natanael Lizarazo, Daniel Gayetaye, Rev. Kwen Sanderson, Sheldon Engen, Rev. Tim Sersen, Connie Woehlhoff, Rev. Chris Baesler, Dennis Paulson, Rev. Karen Rupp, Sarah Holz, Rev. David Piper, Rev. Herb Wounded Head, Jim Bishop and Rev. Bill Tesch, Director of Evangelical Outreach.

Our core responsibilities are: (1) advise the Evangelical Outreach Committee on matters related to the oversight and funding of ethnic specific ministries (2) develop strategies to help us become a more multicultural church (3) advocate with and for ethnic communities at every level of ministry and leadership in our Synod, and stand in solidarity with people who experience injustice (4) teach the people of our Synod how to listen and interact with different cultures, so that there may be a mutual blessing (5) encourage congregations and leaders who are involved in multicultural ministry (6) seek generous giving and participation from churches, individuals, and organizations toward the cause of multicultural ministry.

The ethnic specific ministries we accompany are: Lakota Retreat Center in Pine Ridge, Woyatan Lutheran Church (Rapid City), Intentional Young Adult Community (Rosebud), Pueblo de Dios (Sioux Falls) First Lutheran African Ministry (Sioux Falls). Though challenges are present, these ministries keep moving forward in proactive ways. As we address our growing ethnic diversity, it is critically important that together as Synod we make these ministries visible, invest in leadership development and provide greater participation for people of color in our shared life. In terms of culturally competent leadership development, as Synod we have entered into a relationship with a multicultural training initiative alongside five synods in the region, called Agora. Agora is housed at Luther Seminary in St Paul MN and offers great promise for leadership development among ethnic communities. On behalf of our Synod's Multicultural Committee, we invite you to support these ministries with your prayers and financial resources.

Report of the Evangelical Outreach Committee

The purpose of the Evangelical Outreach Committee is to advance the spread of the gospel by discerning, encouraging and supporting new, redeveloping, ethnic specific, and emerging ministries.

The Evangelical Outreach Committee offers oversight, support, and advocacy on behalf of new starts, congregations focused on renewal, and ethnic specific congregations that are supported by the South Dakota synod. This work is in partnership with the Multi-Cultural committee and reinforced through three working groups: new starts, renewals, and mission partners.

New starts: The committee oversees and supports congregations in development and identify possible areas for new congregations. First Lutheran Africa Ministry (Sioux Falls), WestSide Lutheran (Sioux Falls), Wopila House (formerly Youth Adult Community on Rosebud Reservation), Pueblo de Dios (Sioux Falls), and Woyatan Lutheran (Rapid City) have all undergone changes or transformations in their ministries. Please view more information for some of these ministries on the Multi-Cultural committee report.

Renewals: It is the committee's goal to encourage congregations to seek renewal that fits their context. The South Dakota synod currently has a number of congregations in renewal. Several are still pursuing the "Vibrant Faith Model – with as many as 21 engaged in this way over the last 6 years. We have three congregations receiving direct grant support for renewal and utilizing the "transformational ministry" model. We recently revised the transformational ministry model for better use in our context and renamed it GiFT (Growing in Faith Together). While this new model has generated a lot of interest, we have found that the four-day retreat format is prohibitive for most congregations. Therefore, the committee reformatted the GiFT model so that it is offered over 4 shorter workshops. A Discovering Hope renewal event will be made available across the state in 5 locations on June 27th. Ne newly reformatted GiFT model will be offered as an excellent follow up to the Discovering Hope Event – watch for more information this summer!

Mission Partners: This is an exciting opportunity available for congregations and individuals (mission boosters) to financially support our mission congregation. Please check the synod website for more information so that you can actively participate.

The Evangelical Outreach committee invites you to include the above congregations and ministries in your congregational prayers. We thank you for your support and partnership in furthering the good news of Jesus Christ within the South Dakota synod in new ways.

Report to South Dakota Synod Assembly by Coordinator Companion Synods

"He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your resources and increase the harvest of your generosity...For the rendering of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows in many thanksgivings to God". 2 Cor. 9:10-12. Overflowing generosity! Ministering to the saints! Thanksgivings to God! More than a slogan, these are the realities which inspire and engage our Synod's relationships with The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon and The Lutheran Church of Faith & Hope of Nicaragua.

With profound gratitude, our Synod celebrated the services of Cathy Larson who retired as Coordinator of Companion Synods at the end of 2014. Thank you Cathy for your faithful service. Regarding our mission relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon, we facilitate communication, collaborative relationships and shared work not only with our ELCA Global Mission Unit but also with other companions in the United States and Canada. Our South Dakota Synod is integral part of the Cameroon Network which just met in Winnipeg, Canada to share experiences and coordinate ongoing mission efforts. We also celebrate in this Assembly the completion of last's year goal to raise funds for 25 roofs. Our heart-felt gratitude to congregations, W/ELCA groups, Sunday schools, ministries and individuals for such amazing generosity. Our Synod's generosity also allowed us to support the "Train up A Child" Initiative and to respond to the emergency of the Hospital in Garoua Boulai which continues serving about 30,000 refugees from the conflict in Central African Republic. As much as we worked to make it happen, Bishop Ruben Ngozo will not be present with us at this Assembly.

Regarding the Lutheran Church of Faith and Hope of Nicaragua, we share very personalized relationships thanks to congregational groups from our Synod who travel to experience the hospitality and joy for ministry of our Nicaraguan Companions. These experiences are highly enhanced thanks to the presence of Michael Busby, our Synod's missionary in Nicaragua. By the time this Assembly closes, Michael would have also completed his service. We are thankful for his service and actively recruiting a new person to continue this vitally important relationship.

As approved by our Synod Assembly last year, the most significant project we continue to support is the Green Project of Cedro Galan, a pioneer ecologically-sound agricultural project with national impact. As Companion Synods Committee, we highly encourage congregations, church organizations, ministries and individuals to continue supporting this vital project. As we join in the 25th Anniversary of ILFE in this Assembly, a Resolution of Thanksgiving encourages us not to lose sight of our ongoing financial commitment to the Green Project of Cedro Galan. Other projects which need our ongoing financial support include the National Youth Retreat, our Synod's missionary and the exchange of pastors. Whether it is in Cameroon or Nicaragua, our shared experiences, mutual gifts and prayers glorify God and built our mission capacity to be the church God calls us to be. Thank you indeed for your ongoing mission generosity!

South Dakota Synodical Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in American

Report to the South Dakota Synod Assembly, 2015.

In June of 2014, our 27th Annual Synodical Convention of the South Dakota Women of the ELCA was held at First Lutheran Church in Brookings. There were 113 in attendance. Our theme was “Who? Me? Women of Faith Making a Difference,” based on Micah 6:8: “. . . and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.”

We had evening vespers at the Lutheran Center on the campus of South Dakota State University. Pastor Herb Wounded Head was our keynote speaker.

We passed three resolutions:

#1 Campus Ministries: Resolved that the SD Synodical Women's Convention encourage its units to continue supporting, or begin supporting, South Dakota Campus Ministries.

#2 Whereas the Women of the ELCA is encouraging synodical organizations to arrange and help finance members of their companion synods, to enable women to attend the next Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis in 2017, it was resolved that the SD Synodical Women's organization appoint a committee to study the costs and begin a fund to make this possible.

#3 Dina Johnson Scholarship: The South Dakota Women of the ELCA established this endowment, which is awarded each year to a female student at Augustana College, who is from South Dakota, and who demonstrates a strong Christian character. It was resolved that SD WELCA encourage units to support this scholarship and donate additional funds to the endowment, to bring it up to the minimum level of \$25,000.

In July, 29 women from South Dakota, traveled to Charlotte, NC for the 9th Triennial Gathering and Convention of the WELCA. They all felt it was a wonderful experience.

The 10th Triennial Gathering of the WELCA will be July 13-16, 2017, in Minneapolis. We plan that more women will attend because of the location.

In late August, Lutherans Outdoors held their annual Quilt Auction at Joy Ranch. The women of our Synod made beautiful quilts and other items, thereby giving financial support to our camping ministry in South Dakota.

The Women of the SD Synod continue to meet in Circles each month for fellowship, service, and participation in Bible study, using our national magazine, Gather. We also make quilts and kits for Lutheran World Relief.

In October, we held our “Winter Board Meeting” at Faith Lutheran, Rapid City. Our coming convention will be there on June 26-27, 2015.

Women of the ELCA, SD Synod, is on Facebook, Pinterest, and Twitter. We also have a blog.

Vivian Westgard, President

The State of South Dakota

Strengthening Christian Communities and Churches

As a membership organization of Christians, we have 48,566 Thrivent Financial members in the State of South Dakota who are our owners. Our purpose is to serve our members and society by guiding both to be wise with money and live generously. We believe that all we have is a gift from God and that generosity is an expression of faith. We succeed when our members, their families and their communities thrive.

Member Activation - 2014

Our members don't just raise money. They raise people up by building homes, serving food, assisting a neighbor in need and more. And because we're a membership organization, members often get together just to have fun. Over the next few years, our current chapter system is moving to new structure: Thrivent Member Networks. Soon it will be even easier for members to start conversations, form connections and help others.

- 36,854 members and others participated in Thrivent Action Team and chapter activities in the State of South Dakota, resulting in 181,923 volunteer hours. Funds raised through these local activities total \$2,657,913, which was combined with \$456,068 from Thrivent to increase the impact.
- 195 people activating, along with the Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity program, resulted in building 1 home in the State of South Dakota, which impacted 4 individuals.
- 273,289 Thrivent members directed \$54.9 million Thrivent Choice Dollars to 25,652 enrolled churches, schools, social ministries and other nonprofits. In the State of South Dakota 631 churches and organizations received \$1,431,890 in Choice Dollars charitable grant funds.

Other Impact - 2014

- \$1.8 billion paid out to member families/beneficiaries through insurance and annuity benefits.
- \$182.5 billion life insurance in force, ready to help when needed.
- 43,839 life and disability income insurance contracts written to protect members and families.
- \$125,393 Thrivent added to its impact in this state through grants awarded to Christian and community organizations and by supporting additional volunteer and outreach efforts.

Support from the Thrivent Financial Foundation - 2014

Thrivent and its subsidiaries contribute to the Thrivent Financial Foundation, which provides grants to Christian and other nonprofit groups nationwide. The Foundation awarded more than \$16.3 million in 2014, of which \$8.6 million was from employee matched gifts.

For more information, please visit <http://www.thrivent.com> or <http://www.thriventbuilds.com> or <http://www.thriventfoundation.com>