
**CALIFORNIA-NEVADA-HAWAII DISTRICT OF
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
September 11-12, 2015**

ABOUT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

Due to the added time and effort required to formulate the Outcome Statements that will serve as the guiding principles for the Board and Staff during this Triennium, a two day gathering was called by the Chairman. All of Friday's session and a portion of Saturday's were used to focus on that task.

CALL TO ORDER

The September meeting of the CNH District Board of Directors was called to order at 2:00 p.m. on Friday September 11th by Chairman Thomas Zelt

1. BOARD ROLL CALL

√ = present
* = voting member

District Officers:

- √ *President: Rev. Dr. Robert Newton*
- √ *1st Vice President: Rev. Dr. Thomas Zelt*
- √ *Secretary: Rev. John Standley*
- √ *Treasurer: Donna Herzog*

Regional Vice-Presidents:

- √ *Rev. Jim Beyer *(Northern)*
- √ *Rev. Aaron Smith *(Pacific)*
- √ *Rev. Clarence Eisberg *(Southern)*
- √ *Rev. Norm Milz *(Nevada)*
- √ *Rev. Bill Carney *(Hawaii)*

Regional Directors:

- √ *Mrs. Marilyn Maxner *(Southern)*
- √ *Mr. Bill Swift *(Northern)*
- √ *Mr. Jim Hillmann *(Pacific)*
- √ *Mr. Tom Brannan *(Nevada)*
- √ *Ms. Dinnie Kysar* (Hawaii)*

Commissioned Minister Director:

*Mr. Mike Mancini**

CEF Representative

√ Mr. Scott Belyea

District Staff

Rev. Ted Hartman - Mission Counselor

Rev. Michael Lange - Ex. Dir. for Mission Development

Mr. Joel Koerschen - Director Of Educational Services

2. FRIDAY SESSION OPENING DEVOTION

Rev. Zelt offered the opening devotion based in part on John chapter 10 with a theme of “*Jesus is Lord*”. The hymn, “*Voices Raised to You We Offer*” was sung by the Board. The devotion ended with prayer.

3. “GET TO KNOW” EXERCISES

After the devotion the Chair instructed all in attendance to break into pairs. Each pair asked and answered questions concerning life and faith, allowing the participants to better know those they will be working with for the next three years. The process was repeated a few times.

4. OPENING COMMENTS

Rev Zelt advised that because of the nature of the meeting some of the agenda items would be out of order.

He asked if there were any changes to be made to the agenda. It was noted that there were two congregations in addition to Addis Kidan whose Bylaws and Constitutions would be presented for approval by the Board.

The Agenda with the aforementioned changes was approved.

5. STRATIGIC GOALS (OUTCOMES)

The ground work for the Strategic Goals was based on conversation that took place at the joint meeting with the previous Board of Directors held in June.

In the interim, Chairman Zelt and others from the Board met and used that foundation to draft the following statements that served as a starting point for work on the Strategic Goals during the Friday session.

1. The CNH district consists of well-equipped, missionally-committed pastors and specific or site-specific leaders.

- a. Resources are identified that will continue to produce and improve these leaders.
- b. Personal contact is used to invite and challenge these leaders.
- c. Funds are available and distributed to enable this outcome.
- d. Exposure to transforming opportunities are identified and made available.

- e. Significant, regular effort is made to identify pastors and leaders who have demonstrated these traits and are suggested to congregations and ministries as they search for new staff.
 - f. There is a culture of expected continuing education.
 - g. Indigenous specific or site-specific leaders are being identified and developed.
 - h. The practice of leader accountability and openness is widespread.
 - i. Leaders are encouraged and assisted in identifying unserved communities.
- 2. The CNH District has a growing number of well-equipped, missionally-committed critical congregational leaders.**
- a. Resources are identified that will continue to produce and improve these leaders.
 - b. Funds are available and distributed to enable this outcome.
 - c. Exposure to transforming opportunities are identified and made available.
- 3. Basic congregational support services are provided in an efficient and cost-effective way. (e.g., not necessarily by staff)**
- a. Training is provided for frequently identified needs (e.g., treasurers, personnel matters, governance)
 - b. Resources are identified that can be used to address these needs.
 - c. Resources and training are provided that address preschool and elementary school needs.
 - d. Cooperative ministries between congregations is fostered and enabled.
- 4. Resources are repositioned**
- a. A high percentage of resources are allocated to “in-the-field” ministries.
 - b. The giftedness and expertise of individual leaders throughout the district are used effectively.

The remainder of Friday was spent discussing, wordsmithing and re-working this basic framework in an attempt to put together a set of Outcome Statements that would express the direction the Board desires staff to work toward in this triennium.

The session was ended with prayer at approximately 8:30 pm

CNH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SEPTEMBER MEETING – SECOND SESSION – Sept 12, 2015

6. MORNING DEVOTION

Southern Region Vice President Clarence Eisberg offered the morning devotion based in part on Revelation chapter 14. The opening hymn was “*Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven*”. Rev. Eisberg reminded the Board that the harvest continues. God is always at work even if we don’t

see it. He invites us to join Him in His work – He desires a love relationship with us. The devotion ended with prayer and the singing of “Abide O Dearest Jesus”.

7. ADOPTION OF STRATIGIC GOALS

The Board continued the work that was started in the previous session. After a period of discussion it was agreed by consensus that the following Strategic Goals would be the guidelines that the Board and Executive Staff would work with to begin the 2015-2018 triennium.

CNH Board of Directors -- Outcomes 2015-18

1. The CNH district consists of pastors and specific or site-specific leaders who are engaged in the mission of Christ and are equipped to lead it.

- a. Resources are identified that will continue to produce and improve these leaders.
- b. Personal contact is used to invite and challenge these leaders.
- c. Funds are available and distributed to enable this outcome.
- d. Transforming opportunities are made available.
- e. Regular effort is made to identify pastors and leaders who have demonstrated missional commitment and recommend them to congregations and ministries as they search for new staff.
- f. There is a culture of expected continuing education.
- g. Leaders from within the community are being identified and developed for specific or site-specific ministry.
- h. The practice of leader accountability and openness is widespread.
- i. Leaders are encouraged and assisted in identifying and reaching underserved communities.

2. The CNH District has a growing number of congregational leaders engaged in the mission of Christ and well-equipped to lead it.

- a. Resources are identified that will continue to produce and improve these leaders.
- b. Congregation leaders are encouraged to place a high value on mission when calling new staff.
- c. Funds are available and distributed to enable this outcome.
- d. Exposure to transforming opportunities is identified and made available.

3. Basic congregational and school support services are provided in an efficient and cost-effective way, not necessarily by staff.

- a. The needs are identified
- b. People and other resources are identified that can be used to address these needs.
- c. Training is provided to meet those needs.

d. Collaboration between congregations and schools is fostered and enabled.

4. There is new funding for the support of our shared mission.

5. A high percentage of financial resources of the district is allocated to in-the-field ministries, and the giftedness and expertise of individual leaders throughout the district are used to accomplish these outcomes.

A motion was made to adopt these as Strategic Goals / Outcomes. The motion was seconded and approved.

8. AGENDA ITEMS RELATED TO STRATEGIC GOALS

BOD Policy 2.4.9.3. This policy deals with the reception and assignment of contributions and assets coming into the District. The policy was reviewed and discussed by the Board. Rev. Standley offered some background around the creation of the policy. The rationale that drove the creation of the policy was to assure that a larger portion of gifts coming into the District would be dedicated to Mission activity.

Chairman Zelt raised concerns about the separation between the District and the Mission Agency in connection with this policy. Does this cause confusion for congregations and laity? A discussion around how the Mission Agency interacts with the District Board ensued. It was noted that this confusion may be leading some congregations to divert funds away from the District directly to the Mission Agency.

BOARD REPORTS AND BUSINESS

9. CEF CONSOLIDATION

Mr. Don Busse presented the following resolution for the Board's consideration concerning the consolidation of the CNH District Church Extension Fund with the National LCEF.

TRANSFER AND PARTICIPATION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the California-Nevada-Hawaii District Church Extension Fund's (the "Fund") Board of Directors has passed a resolution to consolidate with the Lutheran Church Extension Fund-Missouri Synod ("LCEF") and is currently soliciting the Fund's members for approval thereof.

WHEREAS, the California-Nevada-Hawaii District ("District") Board of Directors has expressed its support for the Fund to consolidate with LCEF and for the District to become a participating District with LCEF.

WHEREAS, it is deemed proper that the District Board of Directors authorize its President and his designees to execute any documents necessary and perform such acts as may be deemed by them necessary, proper or convenient in connection

with the Fund's consolidation with LCEF and the District becoming a participating District with LCEF.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the District Board of Directors:
Does hereby authorize and approve the District becoming a participating District with LCEF and the District's President and his designees to execute any documents necessary and perform such acts as may be deemed by them necessary, proper or convenient in connection with the Fund's consolidation with LCEF and the District becoming a participating District with LCEF.

The path to this decision began in early 2014 due in part to concerns over reduced loan requests, the high cost of operations, investor ages and the feeling that the agency was no longer doing mission and ministry.

Positives include: Lower cost of operation by way of eliminating duplicated functions – Loan approval up to \$10,000,000; – CNH District shares in annual LCEF Profits (estimated to be 65 - 75 thousand dollars) – Loans to Rostered Church Workers – The District remains the interface with the customer – The ability to share in a larger pool to a worldwide mission.

Negatives include: Possibility of lower rates for investors in certain investment categories – Reduction in staff – Elimination of Short Term Mission Grants.

A motion was made, seconded to accept the resolution as presented. The motion was approved.

The proposal will now go before the CEF Representatives from the congregations for final consideration before moving forward.

10. CEF REPORT

CEF President Scott Belyea reported that there is only one delinquent loan and stated that it will be brought current by the end of the year.

A loan of \$223,426.00 was approved for Bethlehem/Monterey -- Town & Country/Sacramento has received an increase in their Line of Credit. There is a loan under study for St. Mark / Kaneohe

July's opening revenues came in below budget by 5.7%, primarily due to below budget investment income. July aggregate loans grew by \$2,613. As of July 31, 2015, net loans receivable were \$39,318,787, projecting annual interest income of \$1,787,014 with a weighted average annual yield of 4.55%. Sold loan participations of \$1,467,936 have been excluded from the calculations. Budgeted interest income for 2015 is \$1,807,147.

Scott added that the CEF Board is excited about the possibility of merging with LCEF.

11. FINANCE

Northern Region Director Bill Swift discussed the District's Investment Policy that was adopted by the previous Board. He suggested that in keeping with that policy a certain

percentage of the District's reserves should be allocated for investment in order to gain additional income.

Chainman Zelt appointed Lay Directors Bill Swift and Dinnie Kysar, Treasurer Donna Herzog and Secretary Standley to serve on the District's Finance Committee. He noted that he would also speak with former Finance Committee Chair Timothy Kramer to see if he would be willing to serve on the committee. The Finance Committee will present a recommendation concerning investment of District Funds at the December Meeting.

12. MISSION

Rev. Zelt directed the Board to refer to the report from Mission Director Michael Lange. That report is included in the addendum for these minutes.

Mission Agency Chair Bill Swift reported on some of the highlights of their last meeting. Alan Zacharias has been contracted to assist in training volunteers to encourage investment in Mission work. Bill also talked about LINC (Lutheran Intercity Network Coalition). This is a program that is being utilized in many areas of the country. LINC is designed as a way to raise up indigenous leaders. Houston Texas has been very successful using the LINC model. Locally, Prince of Peace – Fremont is working with LINC, as are other congregations in the District.

13. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Newton asked the Board to turn to page three of his report, specifically to the section titled "*In Preparation for developing our Outcome Policies.*" In that section he speaks about some of the realities that are critical to our mission, including:

Our identity as Lutherans –

The balance that needs to be achieved between Mission and Church

The fact that we are living in a time of transition in our District.

On page five of his report he encourages the board to continue the work that was begun by past Boards, saying;

"Our CNH BODs over the last twelve or so years developed Outcomes that strongly and boldly emphasized Christ's Mission to the world. Two outcomes present in some form or another with each of the last three BODs were

Missional outreach: *The planting of new churches (people gathered regularly around Word and Sacrament)*

Missional education: *Equipping our church leaders and all of the baptized for active engagement in the Mission of Christ.*

I would be so bold as to recommend that this present BOD consider adopting these priorities in some form. Given the need for new and younger leadership, I would also add a third priority for consideration—the transition of district leadership and structure to match better the post-Christendom world in which we live."

The President also spoke of the challenges of Circuit organization due in large part to the size and geographic makeup of the District. He suggested that the Bylaws of the Synod that regulate the size of our Circuits do not fit well with our larger geographic Districts. He went on to discuss vacancies in the District, pointing out those which are vacant and actively in the call process. He also spoke about his vision for working with District youth and moving forward with the development of a District Youth program.

The President's full report can be found in the Addendum that is attached to these minutes.

14. FINANCE

Treasurer Donna Herzog reviewed the operating report ending 8/31/2015. For that period, Year to Date revenue was \$962,999 while expenses were \$960,846, resulting in a positive balance for the period of \$2,153. No funds were drawn from reserves during this period for general operations.

Expenses Year to Date as of 8/31/2015 for the Mission Agency were \$445,453. This year, as of the end of August the Mission Agency has drawn the remainder of the \$500,000 grant, depleting those funds. Any expenses over anticipated Agency revenues in the near future will come from the balance of the Mission Agency's share of the sale of the Richmond property. The Mission Agency receives 15 percent of the congregation's remittance to the District as well as direct contributions.

As of 8/31/2015 the available balance in the Board Designated Fund was \$1,735,692

15. FINANCIAL MATTERS

COLA -- The Finance Office has recommended that the "Cost of Living" percentage be set at 1.5% for 2016. This is the percentage that will be used in determining the base amounts for the District's Compensation Guidelines

**A motion was made to accept the recommendation of the Finance Office. The motion was seconded and approved.*

INTERNAL AUDIT -- The District's Finance Office is recommending that the Board approve the using the Synod's internal auditors for the 2015 Financial audit.

**A motion was made, seconded and approved to contract with the Synod's Internal Auditors for the 2015 District Financial audit.*

16. COMPENSATION GUIDELINES FOR DISTRICT EXECUTIVES

A discussion concerning compensation guidelines for District Executives grew out of the request from the Finance Office to set the COLA for the coming year. Board members questioned how Executive compensation has been set. President Newton offered background on the process and noted that it is governed by Board policy. Under the current system, benchmarks such as length of service, education, time in the particular field are not taken into account.

After considerable comment and discussion, Chairman Zelt called for a motion to direct the President's Performance Appraisal Committee to review the policy and make recommendations

for District Executive Salary Guidelines. The motion was seconded and after discussion was defeated.

A second motion was made and seconded to direct the Finance Committee to review the policy and make recommendations for District Executive Compensation Guidelines. The motion was seconded and approved.

17. GOVERNING DOCUMENT APPROVAL

Southern Region Director and Chair of the District Commission on Constitutional Matters, Marilyn Maxner, has recommended the approval of the Constitution and Bylaws of the following congregations:

1. **Addis Kidan / San Francisco** This is a new congregation. Acceptance of the Constitution and Bylaws will also serve as acceptance as a congregation of the District
2. **Zion / San Francisco** – Update and review of Constitution and Bylaws
3. **St. Paul / Mountain View** -- Update and review of Constitution and Bylaws

Separate motions were made and seconded to accept the recommendation of the DCCM for each congregation. Each motion was approved.

According to our bylaws a member of the District Board cannot serve as Chair of this committee. President Newton noted that he was in the process of adding members to the DCCM and appointing a new Chairperson.

18. STAFF SHARED EQUITY

In 2008 the District entered into an Equity Share Agreement with John and Debbie Whaley. Now that John has retired, the terms of the agreement require that the contract be terminated and the debt resolved. Bill Swift has been working with the Whaley's and reported that they are in the process of refinancing the property. It is estimated that the District will receive approximately \$27,000.00 above the original amount due to an increase in the value of the property.

****A motion was made to terminate the Equity Share Agreement with John and Debbie Whaley according to the terms of the original agreement. The motion was seconded and approved.***

19. CONSENT AGENDA

The Chair asked that the Consent Agenda be approved without the Future Meeting Dates.

The Consent Agenda was approved as modified by Board consensus.

A discussion continued concerning future meeting dates. It was the opinion of some of the members of the Board that one day each quarter would not be adequate to thoroughly deal with the tasks at hand. Secretary Standley noted that while there would be meetings that will require extra time, such as the December meeting in which the budget will be discussed, there are others that can be accomplished in one day. He suggested that we might look at meeting dates individually and plan accordingly.

The December meeting was set for December 11th and 12th, 2015 by consensus of the Board.

Consent Agenda items are included in addendum attached to these minutes.

20. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Time did not permit discussion of Outcome Metrics, those statements that are designed to measure the progress of the Strategic Goals. Input from the Board will be used by a task force appointed by the Chair to establish proposed Metrics to be discussed at the December meeting.

21. CLOSING DEVOTION

Pacific Region Vice-President Aaron Smith offered the closing devotion. He spoke on Paul's defense of the Gospel before Agrippa as found in Acts chapter 26. The session was closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted

Rev. John M. Standley
CNH Dist. Secretary

ADDENDUM

September 11-12, 2016 Meeting

California – Nevada – Hawaii District

Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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Future Meeting Dates

Changes in the District

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Education

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FUTURE MEETING DATES

Dec. 11-12, 2015	Dec. 10, 2016	Dec. 9, 2017
Mar. 12, 2016	Mar. 11, 2017	Mar 10, 2018
June 11, 2016	June 10, 2017	June 9, 2018
Sept.10, 2016	Sept. 9, 2017	Sept. 8, 2018

CHANGES WITHIN THE DISTRICT

CALLS ACCEPTED:

REV. MARK AIREY, Lutheran Church of Prayer, Bakersfield, CA, to Good Shepherd, Healdsburg, CA, as pastor.
REV. TYREL BRAMWELL, Our Savior/First, Chester/Greenville, CA, to Christ, Murray, UT, as pastor.
REV. MATTHEW W. DUERR, to Zion, Lodi, CA, as pastor.
CHRISTINA GRACE, Deshler, Deshler NB to Calvary, San Lorenzo, CA as a teacher.
CHRISTINE KLUG, Grace, Modesto to Immanuel, Lewistown, MN, MN S as a teacher.
REBEKAH KOHLMEIER, LHS - Honolulu, HI to LHS - Greendale, WI, S WI as a teacher.
DONNA LAUGHLIN, Zion, San Francisco to Immanuel, Batavia IL N IL as the principal.
KRISTI MORLOCK, Calvary, San Lorenzo to Peace, Aurora, CO Rky Mtn as a teacher.
DAVID RINDT, POP, Fremont to LHS Kansas City, MO as a teacher/asstn principal.
CHELSEA SPEERS, Emmanuel of Maui to St Matthew Holt, MI as a principal.
MINDY THEWS, Grace, Modesto to Redeemer, Redwood City, CA, as a teacher.
DAVID WARMIBIER, Candidate - NOW District to St. Peter, Lodi, CA, as a principal.
GINA WILSON, Calvary, San Lorenzo to Redeemer, Redwood City, CA, as a teacher.
KATIE WORTHINGTON, Bethlehem, Carson City, NV, to Emanuel, Hamburg, MN S as a teacher.

CALLS DECLINED:

REV. TYREL BRAMWELL, Our Savior/First, Chester/Greenville, CA, to Faith, Seaside, CA, as pastor.
REV. AARON SMITH, St. Paul, Mountain View, CA, to First Good Shepherd, Las Vegas, NV, as pastor.
REV. PETER WOODWARD, Faith, Pleasant Hill, CA, to Peace, Kent, WA, as pastor.

CALLS EXTENDED:

Rev. Chris DelCol, candidate, by First, Lucerne, CA, as pastor.

CHANGE IN STATUS:

REV. VERN OESTMANN to Rocky Mountain District as pastor emeritus.

BONNIEJO ALLE, Active Emmanuel, Maui, HI, to Candidate.
ASHLIE ANDREW, Concordia, Irvine, CA, as Candidate
STEPHEN GLOCK, Active Prince of Peace, Fremont, CA, to Emeritus.
RUTH HEINITZ, Active Calvary, San Lorenzo, CA, to Non-Candidate.
PAMELA STEINER, Active, St. Peter, Lodi, CA, to Emeritus.
JEFFREY VIGARS, Active Grace, Modesto, CA, to Non-Candidate.

DEATHS:

REV. FRANK A. JACOBSEN, pastor emeritus.
REV. DR. VERNON R. KETTNER, pastor emeritus
REV. ROBERT J. KOCH, pastor emeritus.
REV. MARLIN J. SAMPSON, pastor emeritus.

PLACEMENTS:

RACHEL DETLAFF, Concordia, Mequon to St. Peter, Lodi, CA, as a Teacher.
LAURA EDMONDS, Concordia, Irvine (CQ) to Trinity, Gardnerville, NV, as EC Director.
HOLLY NELSON, Concordia, Seward to Trinity, Gardnerville, NV, as a DCE.
KRISTINA KRATZ, Concordia, Irvine (CQ) to Trinity, Paso Robles, CA, as a Teacher.
JENIFER REYNOLDS, Concordia, Irvine (CQ) to Trinity, Paso Robles, CA, as a Teacher.
SAMUEL TROMEL, Concordia, River Forest to St. John's, Napa, CA, as a DCE

PASTORAL VACANCIES:

Lutheran Church of Arcata, ARCATA, CA
Bethany, BAKERSFIELD, CA
Grace, BAKERSFIELD, CA
Light of the Hills, CAMERON PARK, CA (Associate pastor)
Bethlehem, CARSON CITY, NV
St. John, CLEARLAKE, CA
Shepherd of the Sierra, COARSEGOLD, CA
Trinity, EXETER, CA
Messiah, EWA BEACH, HI
St. Mark, FERNDALE, CA
Our Savior, FREMONT, CA
Christ, HILO, HI
Our Savior, LIVERMORE, CA
First, LUCERNE, CA
St. Paul, MERCED, CA
Grace, MODESTO, CA
Trinity, REDDING, CA
Our Redeemer, REDWOOD CITY, CA (Senior pastor)
Canaan, SAN FRANCISCO, CA
Christ the Life, SAN JOSE, CA

Faith, SEASIDE, CA
Mt. Olive, SEBASTOPOL, CA
St. Mark, SUNNYVALE, CA
Peace, TAFT, CA
Bethany, VACAVILLE, CA (Senior pastor)

SCHOOL CLOSURE:

Grace Lutheran School, Modesto, CA.

Board of Directors
Administration Report
September 11-12, 2015

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We begin this new triennium in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I look at this triennium from a vantage point quite different from those previous. I title it in my own mind as “Passing the Baton.” A baton brings to my mind a race—in this case a Missions Race. Thus the theme of our 2015 district convention: Run the Race, Eyes fixed on Jesus. Passing the baton indicates three realities: (1) We’ve been running the Race of our Lord’s Mission for some distance already, (2) we now intently focus on running this triennium’s leg of it, and (3) we consider how to run this leg in terms of the larger race set before us (beyond these three years). As Les Stroh recommended in the June BOD meeting, we need to think strategically five to six years down the track rather than simply two or three.

The baton is already passing with the formation of our 2015-2018 BOD. Eleven of the fourteen members of our BOD are new, that is, were not part of the 2012- 2015 BOD and perhaps new to what has taken place over the last triennium. I am excited about the honor and opportunity to serve along side you as our CNH Board of Directors. I give thanks for your sincere love for the Lord and His church, your passion for the Harvest, your faithful and sacrificial service, and the wisdom and gifts you bring to the church.

We met with the outgoing BOD members in June. In that meeting we reviewed the basics of our Policy Based Governance model and thoroughly reviewed the Outcome Statements and related metrics of the previous triennium—a most valuable exercise. We began working on our overall vision and preliminary outcomes. This BOD meeting demands a great deal from all of us. Vice-President Zelt will lead us in setting our BOD Outcomes and concomitant metrics for the next three years (and, hopefully, beyond that). With those outcomes in hand, I will work with my staff over the next weeks to develop the strategy needed to meet those outcomes and craft corresponding Operational Paths for the executive staff and myself.

I look forward to our work together, hammering out the outcomes that will guide our service for the next three years. I was deeply impressed at our last BoD meeting by the clarity with which you understand our present “Post-Christendom” environment, your commitment to be faithful Lutheran Christians in the midst of it, and your earnest desire that we reach out to it as Christ’s missionary people.

- 1) In our work together as national synod, the following stand out:
 - a) All 35 districts have completed their conventions. As was the case in CNH the majority of conventions exhibited a oneness of faith, joy, and mission that blessed and encouraged all in attendance. Nine new District Presidents were elected. Priscilla and I met almost all of them with their wives at the COP retreat in

August on Mackinac Island, MI. I am impressed and grateful for their churchmanship and evangelical spirits.

- b) Our CNH Secretary, John Standley, and I corresponded back and forth with LC-MS First Vice-President Herb Mueller regarding needed electoral circuit exemptions for the upcoming Synodical Convention. Our requested exemptions were accepted.
- c) The Rev. Robert Kuhn resigned in August as Sixth Vice-President of the Synod due to health reasons. He is a faithful, longtime churchman, having served as District President of Central Illinois for several years, First Vice-President of the Synod under Dr. Barry, and following Dr. Barry's death as President of the Synod. These last two years in retirement he has served as Sixth Vice-President of the Synod representing the eight districts of the Eastern seaboard. His leadership will be greatly missed.

LCMS Bylaw 3.3.2.4 notes, *[Any] vacancy in a regional vice-presidency shall be filled by appointment of the President in consultation with the district presidents within that region.* President Harrison consulted the eight District President of the Eastern seaboard and received unanimous recommendation for Dr. Jon Diefenthaler of the Southeastern District. The eight respective District BODs highly recommended him. Dr. Diefenthaler served as District President of the Southeastern District for nine years, served on the CTCR, and presently serves as an adjunct faculty (History) at Concordia Seminary.

Regarding this appointment process, President Harrison wrote: "There are, of course, many qualified men in the East Southeast region who would be able to serve faithfully and well. In the final analysis, however, the person I appoint needs to be someone whom I know and in whom I have confidence. Of course, Vice Presidents come from a region and have the interests of that region at heart. Vice Presidents also represent the Office of the President in their region."

President Harrison appointed the Rev. Christopher Esget, pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Alexandria, Virginia. In his appointment letter, the President wrote, "[Christopher] is an excellent parish pastor serving faithfully in a parish that includes high profiled and "high powered" individuals who work on Capitol Hill. He is deeply involved in the pro-life movement. His church and school are growing tremendously. He is both humble and an excellent theologian respected by many (he was part of the Southeastern District delegation at the Synod-wide model theological conferences). He is a delightful man whom I am sure the members of the Council will enjoy getting to know." I look forward to reacquainting myself with Pastor Esget (he was one of my students at Concordia Theological Seminary) and serving together on the Council of Presidents.

- 2) Our work together as CNH District
 - a) Circuit 9 (Central Coast) regularly hosts missional workshops/seminars for its member congregations. These take place on Saturday mornings and utilize the materials from Lutheran Hour's "Mission U(niversity)." The circuit hosted three

- half-day workshops/seminars this summer focused on the Mission of God. I was privileged to lead those seminars. The sessions were videotaped and once edited will be available for use in our congregations.
- b) On August 15, 30 members of CNH congregations participated in the “Bay Area Mission View Tour.” They spent the day touring various mission sites and new congregations in the Bay Area to learn about their mission outreach efforts including LINC Bay Area, Faith Lutheran Church (Chinese), and Addis Kidan (East African).
 - c) September 20-21 the district will officially welcome and provide two days of orientation for ten new teachers serving in our several Lutheran Elementary Schools. The feedback from past orientations has been very positive. They have been well received and highly appreciated by those who attend.

3) In Preparation for developing our Outcome Policies

As we commit ourselves to the formation of our District Outcomes I feel compelled to hold before us realities critical to our ministry. As stated above, the 2015 CNH District Convention gathered around the theme “Run the Race, Eyes fixed on Jesus.” It was drawn from the book of Hebrews, Chapter 12

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Our race of faith runs a course set specifically by our Lord Jesus Christ. It follows His lead, which centers in the Mission for which His Father sent Him: *To seek and to save the lost*. His Mission shapes our vision. Our vision must also take into account our Lutheran identity and the unique ministry contexts that make up the CNH District in the 21st century. Key to our Lutheran identity are the following:

- We are a people born of and committed to **God’s eternal and Saving Word**
- We are **God’s people**, baptized into Him and filled with His Spirit. CNH is blessed with
 - The legacy of pastors and people who have faithfully served over the last several decades (the Builder and Boomer generations of Northern European ancestry)
 - The emergence of new and younger generations of Christians reflecting the multi-cultural context of the West Coast.
- We respond joyfully to **God’s call** to proclaim the Gospel to people (John 21:15-17) who live in very different arenas
 - The “church” arena where the Lord serves His people who regularly *gather* around His Word (Acts 20:28).
 - The “missions” arena where the Lord serves His people who are *scattered* far away from the church and His saving Word (John 10:16).

Balancing Church and Mission

The church and mission arenas present particular challenges that impact our district vision and strategy. From the church arena we strive to serve the 185 congregations, all of which seek to remain strong in God's Word and faith in the midst of significant cultural change. They also find themselves in very different places as regards their capacity to carry out a robust ministry of Word and Sacrament. Several congregations continue growing stronger in the Word and their witness in the world. Several other congregations continue to wrestle with how to reach out in their community with the Gospel, and, unfortunately, a growing number of congregations struggle even to maintain regular Word and Sacrament ministry in their own midst.

From the mission arena, we are constantly challenged to remember the lost. That is, not to neglect the unchurched in our everyday business as people of God. That requires the development of a solid base or structure dedicated to those outside the Christian faith. Mission fields are best understood as arenas beyond the influence and earshot of the church that need to hear the Gospel. In the past, CNH effectively utilized a mission strategy that centered on the local church as the “*come to*” place to meet the Savior. The local congregation was, therefore, the primary structure for mission work. That strategy was built on the time-tested assumption that the local church enjoyed a place of significance in the larger community.

Many unchurched people appreciate the services our congregations provide in the communities such as Christian Day Schools or Pre-Schools, and are attracted to our churches through those means. That, however, is not the case for the majority of people. This latter group, known as the “Nones” (no religious or church affiliation), is growing rapidly, especially among those under 40 years of age. Our challenge is to develop a “*go to*” strategy and structure that carries the Gospel to them where they live, building relational bridges that connect them to other Christians gathered around Christ's Word and Sacraments (churches).

As we minister in the church and mission arenas, we are also challenged by the need *to balance* the ministry needs of those already gathered around the Gospel and the ministry needs of those who are not.

Time of Transition

As we address these ministry challenges we must keep in mind that an entire generation of CNH leaders and congregants are passing from the scene. Last week I attended the memorial service of Betty Iverson, the wife of Pastor Ted Iverson. In attendance were several senior citizens who beautifully represent the Builder Generation of the district. Builders indeed, as many of them formed the infrastructure of the CNH Church Extension Fund—a strong network of mission minded Lutherans. That day powerfully drove home the reality that the time had come to transition from the strong “Builder and Boomer Generations” of CNH to our younger generations including millennials.

We hold in deepest appreciation the sacrifices and contributions of the Builder and Boomer generations as they faithfully kept and passed on the faith to younger generations. We further recognize the ongoing contribution of these generations in “passing the baton” of faith and mission to emerging generations of young leaders.

Simultaneously, we optimistically maintain that our Lord Jesus Christ, through His Spirit, is raising up a new generation of Christ followers dedicated to the planting of the Gospel in the pre-Christian, church, and post-Christendom populations in CNH.

- CNH is home to the children and grandchildren of the Builder and Boomer generations who are increasingly unchurched, (Post-Christendom culture)
- CNH is home to the children and grandchildren of Latino Americans and others who tend still to appreciate the role of the church in the larger culture as do many of the immigrants coming from African nations, (Christendom/church culture).
- CNH is home for several Asian and Middle Eastern people groups that are not acquainted with Christianity--Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, and Animistic traditions, (Pre-Christian culture).

We need, therefore, to reposition our resources to invest in this new generation of disciples, equipping them to lead us in serving our Savior and His world in this time and place. We might summarize this vision as follows

The CNH District

... a new generation planting the Gospel.

Built on the Cornerstone of Christ and the witness of faithful Christians, a new generation of Christ followers in the CNH District is planting the Gospel among those outside Christ’s Church.

Our CNH BODs over the last twelve or so years developed Outcomes that strongly and boldly emphasized Christ’s Mission to the world. Two outcomes present in some form or another with each of the last three BODs were

- Missional outreach: The planting of new churches (people gathered regularly around Word and Sacrament)
- Missional education: Equipping our church leaders and all of the baptized for active engagement in the Mission of Christ.

I would be so bold as to recommend that this present BOD consider adopting these priorities in some form. Given the need for new and younger leadership, I would also add a third priority for consideration—the transition of district leadership and structure to match better the post-Christendom world in which we live.

4) Action Items

- a) Set Board Outcomes and Metrics
- b) Review Preliminary Budget

5) Business office

Presented to the Board at this meeting is a preliminary budget for 2016. While exact figures are not yet available (all mission requests have not been finalized) the overall budget amount is close enough for us to discuss.

6) Compliance Issues

The president is not aware of any policies with which he is not in compliance.

CHANGES WITHIN THE DISTRICT

CALLS ACCEPTED:

REV. MARK AIREY, Lutheran Church of Prayer, Bakersfield, CA, to Good Shepherd, Healdsburg, CA, as pastor.

REV. TYREL BRAMWELL, Our Savior/First, Chester/Greenville, CA, to Christ, Murray, UT, as pastor.

REV. MATTHEW W. DUERR, to Zion, Lodi, CA, as pastor.

CHRISTINA GRACE, Deshler, Deshler NB to Calvary, San Lorenzo, CA as a teacher.

CHRISTINE KLUG, Grace, Modesto to Immanuel, Lewistown, MN, MN S as a teacher.

REBEKAH KOHLMEIER, LHS - Honolulu, HI to LHS - Greendale, WI, S WI as a teacher.

DONNA LAUGHLIN, Zion, San Francisco to Immanuel, Batavia IL N IL as the principal.

KRISTI MORLOCK, Calvary, San Lorenzo to Peace, Aurora, CO Rky Mtn as a teacher.

DAVID RINDT, POP, Fremont to LHS Kansas City, MO as a teacher/asstn principal.

CHELSEA SPEERS, Emmanuel of Maui to St Matthew Holt, MI as a principal.

MINDY THEWS, Grace, Modesto to Redeemer, Redwood City, CA, as a teacher.

DAVID WARMIBIER, Candidate - NOW District to St. Peter, Lodi, CA, as a principal.

GINA WILSON, Calvary, San Lorenzo to Redeemer, Redwood City, CA, as a teacher.

KATIE WORTHINGTON, Bethlehem, Carson City, NV, to Emanuel, Hamburg, MN S as a teacher.

CALLS DECLINED:

REV. TYREL BRAMWELL, Our Savior/First, Chester/Greenville, CA, to Faith, Seaside, CA, as pastor.

REV. AARON SMITH, St. Paul, Mountain View, CA, to First Good Shepherd, Las Vegas, NV, as pastor.

REV. PETER WOODWARD, Faith, Pleasant Hill, CA, to Peace, Kent, WA, as pastor.

CALLS EXTENDED:

Rev. Chris DelCol, candidate, by First, Lucerne, CA, as pastor.

CHANGE IN STATUS:

REV. VERN OESTMANN to Rocky Mountain District as pastor emeritus.

BONNIEJO ALLE, Active Emmanuel, Maui, HI, to Candidate.
ASHLIE ANDREW, Concordia, Irvine, CA, as Candidate
STEPHEN GLOCK, Active Prince of Peace, Fremont, CA, to Emeritus.
RUTH HEINITZ, Active Calvary, San Lorenzo, CA, to Non-Candidate.
PAMELA STEINER, Active, St. Peter, Lodi, CA, to Emeritus.
JEFFREY VIGARS, Active Grace, Modesto, CA, to Non-Candidate.

DEATHS:

REV. FRANK A. JACOBSEN, pastor emeritus.
REV. DR. VERNON R. KETTNER, pastor emeritus
REV. ROBERT J. KOCH, pastor emeritus.
REV. MARLIN J. SAMPSON, pastor emeritus.

PLACEMENTS:

RACHEL DETLAFF, Concordia, Mequon to St. Peter, Lodi, CA, as a Teacher.
LAURA EDMONDS, Concordia, Irvine (CQ) to Trinity, Gardnerville, NV, as EC
Director.
HOLLY NELSON, Concordia, Seward to Trinity, Gardnerville, NV, as a DCE.
KRISTINA KRATZ, Concordia, Irvine (CQ) to Trinity, Paso Robles, CA, as a Teacher.
JENIFER REYNOLDS, Concordia, Irvine (CQ) to Trinity, Paso Robles, CA, as a
Teacher.
SAMUEL TROMEL, Concordia, River Forest to St. John's, Napa, CA, as a DCE

PASTORAL VACANCIES:

Lutheran Church of Arcata, ARCATA, CA
Bethany, BAKERSFIELD, CA
Grace, BAKERSFIELD, CA
Light of the Hills, CAMERON PARK, CA (Associate pastor)
Bethlehem, CARSON CITY, NV
St. John, CLEARLAKE, CA
Shepherd of the Sierra, COARSEGOLD, CA
Trinity, EXETER, CA
St. Mark, FERNDALE, CA
Christ, HILO, HI
Our Savior, LIVERMORE, CA
First, LUCERNE, CA
Grace, MODESTO, CA
Trinity, REDDING, CA
Our Redeemer, REDWOOD CITY, CA (Senior pastor)
Canaan, SAN FRANCISCO, CA
Christ the Life, SAN JOSE, CA
Faith, SEASIDE, CA

Mt. Olive, SEBASTOPOL, CA
Peace, TAFT, CA
Bethany, VACAVILLE, CA (Senior pastor)

SCHOOL CLOSURE:

Grace Lutheran School, Modesto, CA.

Activity Report

Joel Koerschen
June-August

June

Worked with Pastors Joe Schrul, Lon Haack and Ron Youngdale in consultation with Grace, Modesto and the closing of their school.

I also started working with the governance board at St. Paul, Merced. That work will continue for the rest of the year.

I attended a planning committee meeting for the 2015 Lutheran Educators Conference.

I worked with the staff at Calvary, San Lorenzo; they were experiencing conflict.

I spoke at Calvary, San Lorenzo's eighth grade graduation service.

I did a board orientation for Our Savior, Livermore.

July

In July I attended the GOSPEL conference; this event serves the educational executives of the LCMS. It is a time for professional development as well as networking. The networking was especially beneficial as I was able to spend time with Mike Zimmer from Northern Illinois. Mike's been developing a process in Illinois that coordinates the mission work of parishes that sponsor schools. I believe this model will work in CNH.

For my own professional development I took a brief course on coaching to brush up on my coaching skills. Coaching is part of the process that Mike Zimmer uses in Illinois.

I also vacationed in July.

August

I prepared and presented a day of inservice for the faculty at St. Paul, Merced. We specifically worked on team development. St. Paul has a new principal this year as well as many new teachers.

I also researched and wrote a leadership workshop that will be presented to principals and preschool directors at their meeting in September.

I attended a planning committee meeting for the 2015 Lutheran Educators Conference and spent time working on my responsibilities for that conference.

Prepared documents and met with the governance board at St Paul, Merced.

Executive Director Mission Awareness and Awareness -- Michael Lange

Mission Agency and Board Report -- (End of Triennium) *with September additions*

Dear Brothers and Sisters, this report ties together my June report on the end of the triennium with activities or changes that occurred during the summer of 2015 in blue.

This report will

- summarize the triennium (according to Board Outcomes)
- comment on the strengths we discovered as well as those areas that are growth areas.
- Highlight changes or activities that occurred during the summer months.
- share hopes and vision for 2015-2018 triennium.
- Included at the end is a summation and presentation to the Circuit Visitors

All that we do and all that we are must be submitted before the cross of Christ. We offer our best and persevere in His mission responding to the sacrifice, freedom and direction he has provided as Lord of the church. "The son of man came to seek and to save the lost." We are the body of Christ, and by grace we are active participants in the mission of Jesus for the sake of the world.

Report towards Board Outcomes

- 1) **Church Planting and Mission Advancement** -- *The CNH District will work together with its congregations, clergy, professional workers, and laity to promote mission awareness, advancement, and education which will culminate in new mission outreach from existing congregations and new church plants within the CNH District.*

Strategies and Metrics:

A.) *We will form a CNH Mission Agency whose primary purpose is to reach those who do not know Christ. This agency will:*

- i) *Highlight mission outreach through print and social media.*

- (1) *In Mission (monthly newsletter)*

- (2) *Utilize In Touch (pointing towards events, writings and videos)*

- (3) *Missional leadership, (periodic e-magazine)*

- (4) *Semi-monthly CNH Prayer Newsletter*

- (5) *Mission Pages* (on web-site, also archives the above periodicals)

- (6) *Social Media* including CNH Acts 17 Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram feeds

- ii) *Assist in providing ongoing oversight for new work, including providing assistance in supervision of missionaries, counsel in "funding the mission," vision planning, and strategic review training to the Congregations, Mission Societies and Circuits receiving mission loans and grants*

- (1) *Mission Counselor supervision and counsel including but not limited to ...*

- (a) Assistance in the formation, planning and funding which has allowed **LINC Bay Area** to enter the incubation stage under the umbrella of LINC Houston.

- (b) Support and oversight to our **DCE's and Youth Leaders** to assist and encourage their work in Mission and with the next generations.

- (c) Ongoing **mission coaching** -two or more Missionaries

Executive Director Mission Awareness and Awareness -- Michael Lange

Mission Agency and Board Report -- (End of Triennium) with September additions

- (d) Meet and set vision and facilitate direction for **Hispanic Counsel and Hispanic Mission Counselor Asst.** Enrique Vallejo**
- (e) Worked with other staff and CV and others to assist **First in Hanford, CA; Our Savior in Chester, CA; First in Greenville, CA; and St. Matthew's in Kauai** to enter or consider mission revitalization/replant efforts.**
- (f) Assist the **Oromo Language group** at Good Shepherd in officially becoming a satellite mission ministry of Good Shepherd.**
- (g) Assist Missionaries in **development and review of mission plans**: Clarence DeLude, Dawit Bokre, David Chan, Tesfai Tesema, Berhanu Didanu, Dr. Kou Seying and Vicar Doua Xiong,**
- (h) Working with **Grace El Cerrito** in consideration of an intentional mission revitalization (Replant) at their location.**
- (i) Assist St. John's Bakersfield and **Trinidad Castaneda** in mission satellite **St. John's Valley of Faith in Arvin CA****
- (j) **Interview seminary candidates and field candidates** for purpose of finding "good fits" for CNH missions and congregations**
- (k) Process Mission Loans**
- (l) Processed Pastor Daniel and Melody Hues through CPAC evaluation for potential church planting**

B.) Six new faith communities will be started in this triennium

Faith Communities and Congregations planted (updated)

1. Addis Kidan, San Francisco - presently worshipping/ ministering in three locations in San Francisco and Oakland
2. Faith Lutheran, (chinese language and 1.5) - So. San Francisco
3. St. John's Valley of Faith (St. John's Bakersfield)

In the incubation/ Launch Stage

- (1) He-Nani-Pu Aloha in Waianae, HI (Hawaiian indigenous work in partnership with Lutheran Indian Ministries);
- (2) Good Shepherd in Hayward (1.5 Generation Millennial Mosaic Church Plant) - now associated with LINC
- (3) Lutheran (Oromo language group) meeting at Good Shepherd in Hayward; (Now associated with LINC)
- (4) Joy of Harvest Hmong mission work (So. Sacramento, Greenhaven Lutheran; and at Stockton, St. Andrew's Lutheran
- (5) Davis Ethiopian ministry at Our Faith Davis also sponsored by Town and Country, Sacramento, CA

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(6) LINC Bay Area is also in the incubation/launch stage in partnership with LINC Houston under the part-time leadership of Rev. Aaron Putnam and the support of Prince of Peace in Fremont as well as the CNH Mission Agency.

In Study/ Activity leading to potential launch

1. Sanger (Fresno Churches meet to consider mission society and activity in Sanger.
2. Avila Beach, (Peace, Arroyo Grande)
3. S. Lake Tahoe, (Bethlehem, Carson City) - leadership left (no longer active)
4. Other potential "ripe" opportunities
 - a.) Yuba City Hmong
 - b.) Reno - English speaking plant
 - c.) St. Andrew's Stockton (Recovery ministry plant)

Intentional Mission Revitalizations (Re-Plants)

1. St. Matthew in Kauai — planned for October 2015
2. Chester/ Greenville - (Nevada Circuit and CNH partnership) - launched 06/22/14 Working to place a new revitalization pastor here and envisioning with these congregations, circuit visitor, and two other mountain churches a California Mt. Churches mission station model.
3. Hanford congregation - Set for April 11, 2015

C.) Build, equip and encourage a solid network of mission-minded professional church workers and lay leaders dedicated to the planting of new faith communities.

i.) Through an annual energizing and encouraging mission conference experience

(2) Two Mission Conferences held. (A third planned for Spring 2016)

iii) Through Missional learning communities developed in each region

(1) Learning communities with Dwelling 114 have been established in Hawaii and 2 in Sacramento.

(a) New locations opening South and North in CA in 2016

(b) missional community activities in some congregations in Sacramento.

(2) Pursuing other avenues of Congregational Mission Extension from congregations with 4 congregations utilizing 3DM Model (MISSION EXPANSION)

(3) Introducing Catalyst (Multiplicative) Discipleship Training through presentations, blogging, books, and training

iv) Through three "Hands on Mission" opportunities each year within the District this triennium.

(the purpose of these events is to bridge experience and learning in contextual mission involvement to God's people around the CNH District)

Hands on Mission Events - (Building Bridges in Mission Activity, Learning, and Partnership)

Held events at 1st Mission Conference, 2014 Youth Gathering, Grace in Gridley.

Summer 2015: Event at **the Reconcile Conference** and the **Bay Area Mission View Tour** in July and August respectively

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Mission Agency and Board Report -- (End of Triennium) with September additions

D.) We will deliberately raise resources through prayer, people and funding

Missional resource events will be offered at least once in every circuit in the District by the District Convention in 2015

- (1) Missions Conference was utilized to accomplish this purpose and touched every circuit.
- (2) "Taste of CNH Events" 2 events held in 2013 and 2014, (we now use Congregational Mission Sundays)
- (3) Congregational Mission Sundays (48 congregations visited at least once as of August 31)

Recruitment of Partners in Mission including

- (4) Mission Communication leaders appointed for each circuit

(a) training planned for October/ November 2015

- (5) Prayer Partners one in each congregation

(a) Will be combined with Mission Communication leaders October/ November 2015

(b) CNH Prayer Partner newsletter published semi-monthly since December 2013

- (6) CNH Mission Donors (100 pledged to designate regular gifts to CNH mission agency)

(a) 82 total donors engaged

(b) Engaging and contracting Alan Zacharias as an Advancement trainer and Consultant for the CNH Mission Agency and engaging 2 (hopefully 3 part-time Mission Advocates to enliven mission funding support in the CNH District.

- (7) Donor Funding -- \$150,000 by end of triennium

(a) \$42,273.00 received in 2013. \$81,765 raised in 2014. \$29,593 raised through 2015 by 05/31/15. TOTAL: \$153,622 raised from congregations & individuals as of 05/31/2015.

E.) We will challenge and assist congregations, mission societies and circuits to plant faith communities that focus on reaching those who do not yet know Christ.

- (8) 7 mini-grant applications were processed in 2014.

- (9) 8 mini-grant applications have been approved through June 8, 2015.

1 more slated for September meeting

- (10) Developed the CNH Church planting vision, which includes multi-cultural opportunities, by December BOD Meeting 2013

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v) ***The CNH Church planting vision and reporting will be shared with 40 congregations, every circuit, and interested individuals by April 2015***

(1) 43 congregations have been visited in this triennium to date (Mission Sundays)

(2) 5 more congregations visited this summer

(3) Bay Area Mission View Tour hosts and presents to 30 participants

Other Notable Staff contributions and activities between August 2013 and June 2015

- Assist District President in identifying individuals at Seminaries and from the field for call lists and placement.
- Contracted and assist in Overseeing the Communications staff for CNH District
Matt Newton (part-time In Touch editor & Doug Benton: (Communication's Assistant)
- Other as assigned by president and/or in team with District staff
- Began D.Min studies with a focus on missiological application at Concordia Seminary St. Louis (6 hours work)

STRENGTHS and GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES discovered

Strengths

Team: The primary strength for Missions in the CNH District is found in “**who we ALL are together as the District engaged in the Mission of God where we worship, live, and work.**” The CNH is all 180 plus congregations pulling together in prayer, action and witness in each specific congregational location and in new opportunities God grants. (Ideally these are birthed and owned by God’s people in each area).

God has been at work: One of the unexpected strengths we discovered in the first two years of the Mission Agency was that there were many circumstances “ready-to-go” that needed someone to pay close attention. Some of these had been nurtured by former staff members, and others were simply God’s timing, brought to the surface by faithful leaders, lay and clergy alike. Mission plants like Addis Kidan, and St. John’s Valley of Faith had been worked on prior to the beginning of the triennium by staff members, congregations and circuit counselors. We watched God use the efforts of the Mission Agency to walk alongside these mission ministries to assist them into a greater bloom. Revitalization replants in the Lake Almanor region and in Hanford were the fruit of Revitalization and Circuit Visitor (leaders). We in the mission agency are pleased to see that our efforts are truly the “wider District” working together in Mission.

People’s Hearts were prepared: The Mission Agency assisted by encouraging, inspiring, communicating, funding, and coaching Mission opportunities as they have surfaced. We see the fruit as the Mission Agency work in circumstances like Faith South San Francisco, the two new plants at Good Shepherd in Hayward, the incubation and launching of LINC Bay Area, the partnership with LIM: (Lutheran Indian Ministries) in

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Waianae, Oahu. We see further examples as we experience new traction in language and culture specific ministries among the Hmong, Hispanic, Eritrean and Ethiopian groups. We are privileged to be able to serve as a facilitator for training and encouragement through Mission Conferences, Congregational Mission Mini-grants, partnership with Dwelling 114 and the Center for US Missions.

Growth Areas:

Structuring the Network for growth: Our Mission Agency needs a clear structure and lines of authority that help it to function and do not need to be closely administered by any one person.

Enable God's people to engage: God's people desire to engage in mission in meaningful ways so that they might see and experience how their part is a valuable piece in God's Mission.

Engaging New Generations: It is imperative that the efforts of the mission agency directly seek to partner with the new generation(s) that God has raised up and is revealing.

Presenting a Clear and Dynamic Purpose and Means (Case): President Newton's CNH Mission Vision was well received by the 70th District Convention. This Mission Vision must be clearly and winsomely stated so that God's People in the CNH might see and hear a calling to invest their time, energy, and resources both in what we do together and in our specific congregations

Planting Churches that Plant Churches: While God has opened the door for a variety of church plants, we want to be watchful and strategic in regards to those opportunities to develop strong "church-planting" churches in a variety of language and cultural groups.

Hopes and Vision for next Triennium: (My thoughts)

- 1.) A culture of church planting has a foothold in every corner of our CNH District
- 2.) A leadership training pipeline for mission leaders in our District has been identified and engaged.
- 3.) A strong foundation for support of the CNH Missions has been established: (Resources, Leaders, Education)
- 4.) The Vision for CNH Missions and its Mission Agency (attached below) is owned by the baptized, lay and professional within the CNH and spreads spontaneously into new areas of influence because it has become part of the culture of our District.

Presentation to the Circuit Visitors (see attached)

Activity Report: Sept 10, 2015

June-August, 2015

For President Robert Newton from Ted Hartman, Mission Counselor

Transforming for Mission Consultations:

St. Mark, Sunnyvale

Approved by congregation August 23

Planning Consultations

Christ for All Nations 2

St. John's Bakersfield

Messiah, Santa Cruz

Development

Trinity, Paso 2

St. Paul, Merced

Grace, Visalia

First, Hanford

St. Matthew, Roseville

St. John, Bakersfield Staff 2

Christ, Mt. Shasta

Chester/Greenville

Call Consult

Grace, Modesto

LCOP, Bakersfield

Coaching

36 interviews