

Letter of Understanding
for collaboration between
LCMS Mission Development Counselor and Mission Central
(*A strategic extension of LCMS Mission Advancement, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*)
and
The Kansas District, LCMS

Principal Role:

The Mission Development Counselor (Mission Central), LCMS Mission Advancement, will labor to serve God's people in congregations, organizations and groups within the Kansas District of the LCMS, and especially those who desire to carry the Gospel of Jesus to people beyond their own communities.

The primary role of the Mission Development Counselor, or MDC (may also use the title *Missionary and Mission Support Advocate*) is raising awareness of mission among God's people in the Kansas District for work that extends the Gospel to the four corners of the world through district-, national- and international-level efforts of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The MDC will do this by informing, inspiring and inviting individuals, families, organizations, agencies, circuits and congregations to be directly involved through prayer, mutual encouragement, volunteer involvement, and the voluntary joyful giving of financial resources that support the mission priorities of the contributor, their congregation(s), the Kansas District, and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's offices of National and International Mission (The LCMS). This work will reflect a collaborative working relationship between The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Inc. and its LCMS Mission Advancement unit (of which Mission Central in Mapleton, Iowa is a vital, integrated strategic extension), and the Kansas District.

As mutually agreed, the Mission Development Counselor(s) will focus special attention on the mission efforts (projects, missionaries, programs) carried out by the LCMS Office of International Mission in select countries in West Africa that align with the Kansas District's mission priorities. This does not preclude the Mission Development Counselor from supplying information, counsel and assistance to contributors, potential contributors or other stakeholders who express philanthropic interests or priorities beyond those of The LCMS and/or the Kansas District, as the primary role of the MDC is to serve God's people as they seek to extend His mission and kingdom through their charitable giving and other philanthropic activities.

The LCMS, including LCMS Mission Advancement/Mission Central, commits to providing the Kansas District and its congregations with:

- The services of a Mission Development Counselor(s) connected to Mission Central in Mapleton, Iowa;
- The services of additional Mission Advancement personnel with expertise in areas other than missions/missionary support, such as seminary support and humanitarian work (e.g. disasters) with advanced notice to the Kansas District President of said personnel and those to be visited;
- The position description for the Mission Development Counselor(s);

- Compensation and benefits (personnel costs) for the Mission Development Counselor(s) working with and in the Kansas District
- Funding MDC-related travel to/from and within the District;
- Supervision of the Mission Development Counselor(s) by the LCMS International Center and Mission Central, and any required support staff as needed;
- Services to the District that honor and respect Synod Bylaw 3.4.3.6, which places responsibility for fundraising activity of the national office (including Mission Central) in the hands of the LCMS Chief Mission Officer.
- Services that remain within Synod-defined limits of “prudence” for fund-raising overhead costs and that reflect biblical stewardship of Synod resources;
- Training, technology access, supplies, promotional materials, etc.;
- Direct access to LCMS-called or appointed missionaries through their regional or programmatic leadership, missionary financial information and work updates, as well as project and program information;
- Reports on contributions to Synod coming out of the Kansas District, as requested or scheduled.
- Recognition of this partnership and expressions of appreciation in relevant, appropriate Synod resources.

The Kansas District commits to:

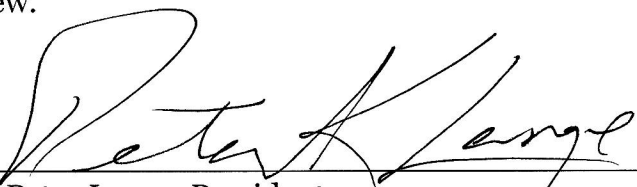
- Receiving and supporting the Mission Development Counselor as a fellow laborer in God’s harvest fields;
- Providing information and promotional resources about District mission and ministry priorities and projects;
- Periodic access to the District President, mission executive, and other district personnel to review activities, plans, performance and contributor/stakeholder feedback;
- Granting access to committees and/or boards upon the written request of the MDC sent to the District President, or to a District staff member specified by the District President;
- Providing at least one opportunity each fiscal year to speak or present before the District Board of Directors;
- Arranging for and publicizing a formal commissioning service for any new or replacement MDC, where the partnership is recognized and affirmed;
- References to the MDC in District materials and resources such as a profile or listing in any printed staff directory or on the district’s website.

The Mission Development Counselor(s) commits to:

- Accepting direct supervision by the Senior Mission Development Counselor, Mission Central (presently Mr. Gary Thies) and additional oversight and supervision by the Director of Missionary Network Care and Support, LCMS Mission Advancement.
- Providing services to the District that honor and respect Synod Bylaw 3.4.3.6, which places responsibility for fundraising activity of the national office (including Mission Central) in the hands of the LCMS Chief Mission Officer;
- Providing services that remain within Synod-defined limits of “prudence” for fund-raising overhead costs and that reflect biblical stewardship of Synod resources;

- Maintaining a close, collegial working relationship with the Kansas District President and the district mission executive;
- Providing regular reports on activity and outcomes to his immediate supervisor, and a quarterly report to the Kansas District President and district mission executive on any activity planned for or conducted within the District, for the purpose of sharing work schedules, activities and outcomes;
- In the interest of serving contributors, Mission Central will send district-focused contributions to the Kansas District for appropriate gift management.
- Provide detailed reports and any information deemed necessary from time to time by the Senior Mission Development Counselor and/or LCMS Mission Advancement;
- Working diligently to meeting and maintaining objectives mutually agreed to by the Kansas District, LCMS Mission Advancement (Mission Central), and the LCMS (example attached).

This agreement will be reviewed at least annually by all parties to make necessary adjustments prior to renewal for the following 12 months. The agreement may also be cancelled following a review.



Rev. Peter Lange, President
Kansas District, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

8/5/19

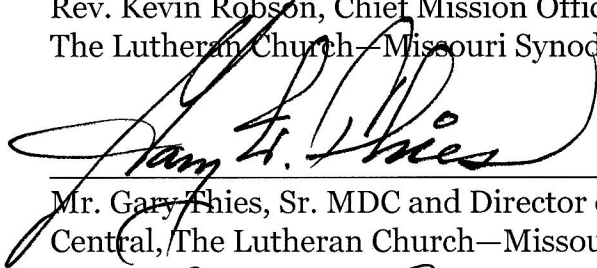
Date



Rev. Kevin Robson, Chief Mission Officer
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

8/23/19

Date



Mr. Gary Thies, Sr. MDC and Director of Mission
Central, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

9-1-19

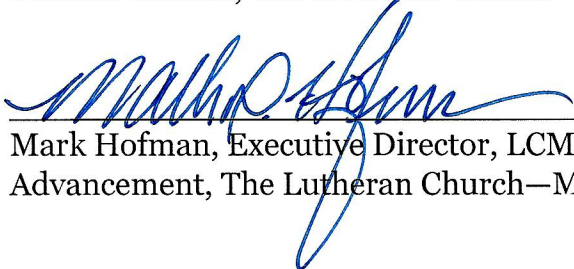
Date



Rev. Dr. Brent Smith, Mission Development Counselor,
Mission Central, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

9-5-19

Date



Mark Hofman, Executive Director, LCMS Mission
Advancement, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

8/20/2019

Date