

# The Future is Now!



*An accounting of mission and ministry  
through the Michigan District, LCMS  
by its congregations.  
Fiscal year ending January 31, 2007*

# A letter from the President...



*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

As another year of mission and ministry has been completed in the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, we praise God for all He has allowed us to accomplish as servants in His Kingdom. **Thank you** for your support in the work of the church in District and Synod. God is good and He is good through you. May He be praised! It is with gratitude and joy that we provide this **annual report** for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2007. May it serve not only as a report of activity within the Michigan District, but as an encouragement to continue our service with commitment and perseverance.

In July 2006, the triennial Michigan District Convention was held on the campus of Concordia University, Ann Arbor. It continues to be a joy and a privilege to serve with you. May God bless our mutual ministry with opportunities of service that can be accomplished in our continuing partnership. May His Spirit guide, empower and bless our labors on His behalf.

The Convention served as the announcement of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thank Offering for the Michigan District. This campaign, titled *The Future Is Now*, emphasizes two extremely important aspects of the future of our church in Michigan. The campaign will assist the district in planting future **mission congregations** and enhance our ability to provide scholarships to future **professional church workers** who attend the Concordia Universities and the Seminaries. May God be praised for this wonderful opportunity to see His Kingdom expand with new churches and a new generation of pastors, teachers and a multitude of other church workers to serve, teach and lead those who gather in our congregations.

Earlier, the Michigan District Board of Directors adopted two **Ethics documents**. The 2006 Convention received and commended them to the congregations and professional church workers for study. *Partners in Ministry: Ethical Conduct for Congregations* has been prepared to assist congregations in examining the way we deal with our workers and with sister congregations of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. *Partners in Ministry: Ethical Conduct for Professional Church Workers* is designed to remind us of opportunities and responsibilities to the Lord, our family, ourselves, and the community. The documents, along with respective study guides, are available from the District Office. After a period of study, feedback, and revision, it is our plan that the revised documents will be presented at the 2009 District Convention for action that will facilitate their use among the congregations and professional church workers in the District. May God grant ever more effective ministry as we walk and work together.

May God continue to bless each congregation of the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and our individual members in special and abundant ways. May His love be magnified in each of us as we work together in **shared ministry and service**. We share a special partnership, one which exists for the sake of our precious Lord and Savior and for the growth of his Kingdom. Together we serve!

*“What a true blessing it is to be part of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and, in particular, the Michigan District. Our congregation rejoices in the partnership we have with others in our district and synod that serves to multiply the ministry we do in our state, nation, and world. At the same time, the ministry support and personal encouragement we receive from our District President and the entire district leadership team helps to make us more enthusiastic and effective in ministry. We treasure that relationship.”*

Rev. Mark Brandt, Pastor  
St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth

In His Service,

*C. William Hoesman*

C. William Hoesman, President  
The Michigan District

# 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thank Offering Announced at Convention

Among the many items of business conducted at the 2006 Convention was the announcement and official kick-off of *The Future is Now* 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thank Offering campaign. When completed, this endeavor will have a significant impact on the future planting of new mission congregations and the awarding of scholarships to Michigan District students choosing to become professional church workers.

While the Michigan District celebrates 125 years of ministry outreach, *The Future is Now* campaign will prepare the District for what we will face in the future. Although the Michigan District has been blessed for many years with wonderful pastors and teachers, within ten years we will face a shortage of professional church workers as we staff many new mission congregations resulting from the *Ablaze! Initiative*, and from the retirement of many current church workers. The District seeks to address this challenge now.

The Thank Offering goal is \$10,000,000 with \$5,000,000 targeted to go into each of the two identified areas of the campaign:

- Intentional Mission Development
- Recruiting, Supporting, and Deploying Professional Church Worker Students

## Intentional Mission Development

With the enormous need for starting new mission congregations and in response to the 125 years of blessings that God has bestowed upon His people, the Michigan District seeks to begin ten additional mission starts and one urban mission start over the next five years, and place funds into the Michigan District Endowment Fund for Mission Development. The Michigan District has planted approximately 45 mission congregations since 1985 and will continue this longstanding commitment to growing our church through new mission starts for many years to come.

## Professional Church Worker Support

The Michigan District has a wonderful history of men and women who have answered the call of Matthew 9:37-38, "Then he said to his disciples, the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers

into his harvest field." While we clearly need additional students, the financial support to assist those who have answered the call in past years has been far below the cost of tuition and expenses. In the past five years the support has averaged approximately \$400 per student. *The Future is Now*

campaign seeks to address these financial issues which will help encourage more men and women to follow the call to serve in the church. The Michigan District desires to increase the financial aid offered to professional church worker students attending Concordia University-Ann Arbor, the other Concordia

University System Schools, and the Seminaries as well as to add to the Michigan District Endowment Fund for Professional Church Workers.

Since the beginning of *The Future is Now*, many faithful and generous donations have already been made to help advance the campaign. The Michigan District Board of Directors and staff would like to extend a sincere thank you to the congregations and individuals who have already given and pledged their support. For *The Future is Now* campaign to reach its anticipated goal and provide the level of financial support necessary, the participation of many more donors is required.

For more information about *The Future is Now* campaign, to make an immediate or planned charitable donation, or to request a speaker for your church or group, please contact Ray Zavada, Michigan District Development Executive at 888.225.2111 or [ray.zavada@michigandistrict.org](mailto:ray.zavada@michigandistrict.org) or Jenna Roubal, Development Assistant, at the same number or [jenna.roubal@michigandistrict.org](mailto:jenna.roubal@michigandistrict.org). Information and online donations are available at [www.michigandistrict.org](http://www.michigandistrict.org).

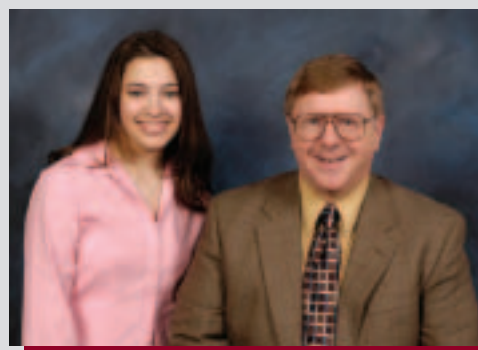
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***"The establishment of The Future is Now – Michigan District Church Worker Endowment will have a direct and lasting impact on the lives of our students and those whom they will serve through various ministries. We are very excited to be partnering with the Michigan District and look forward to seeing how the Lord will use this endowment to bless our students and, in turn, the church."***

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**Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer, President  
Concordia University, Ann Arbor**

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*Michigan District  
Development Office  
(R) Ray Zavada and  
(L) Jenna Roubal*

*From the shores of Lake Michigan to the inner city of Detroit, undertaking the Great Commission requires many different sets of skills. The Lord has raised up, and is raising up, His Church in many ways. Here are a few examples of how the Michigan District's mission dollars are at work:*



Through the Michigan District Endowment Fund, last year, over \$157,000 was given to 205 church worker students. Students, such as Rebecca Mueller (left) of Concordia University, Ann Arbor are able to continue their education and become future leaders of the church.

*“As a family, it is comforting to know that we have people working for us to keep our churches connected. The Michigan District has caring staff that helps to keep the true meaning of our Lutheran Faith in Christ strong in our communities.”*

**Ronald and Helen Bales  
Members of Guardian, Dearborn**

*“Lutheran Benefits Group Inc. is proud to support the Michigan District's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Michigan District sets the standard for mission and ministry in Michigan and throughout the Synod. The stronger our district becomes, the more they are able to assist our local churches and schools in sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”*

**Keith W. Mueller, President  
Lutheran Benefits Group Inc.**

Rev. Bertram Lewis was called and commissioned to reach the Afro-American middle class population through Tabernacle of Praise in Romulus. He is working to gain Christian release time through the public school system and will feature an on-line radio broadcast, “In God's Presence 24-7.”

Established congregations are utilizing ethnic and multi-cultural missionaries and partnering in new ministries among the Hispanic, Hmong, Sudanese, and Arabic people.

Vicar Lang Yang works through St. Michael, Richville and Our Savior, Lansing reaching the Hmong population for Christ. These distinct groups of people come to the United States as refugees from Laos. This ministry seeks to transform their lives by sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.



Rev. Greg Lorenz and Deaconess Teresita Rodriguez serve in the Southwest and Downriver areas of Detroit reaching the Hispanic community through Vacation Bible Schools, teaching English to younger children, Junior Confirmation, Mission Sundays, and encouraging immigration reform.

*“I have been privileged to serve in the Michigan District nearly 30 years. Many of those years have been spent on the District Education and Accreditation Committees whose goals are to strengthen the teaching ministry of the congregations. The district has assisted in countless Calls for teachers in our Lutheran High Schools. Furthermore, the District Church Extension Fund has helped provide the facilities for ‘Keeping Faith With Our Youth.’ All I can say is, Thank God for the blessings of this dynamic Mission Minded District.”*

**Rev. Dr. John Herzog, Superintendent  
Lutheran High School Association**

# Michigan District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

## Summary of Financial Activities For the Year Ended January 31, 2007

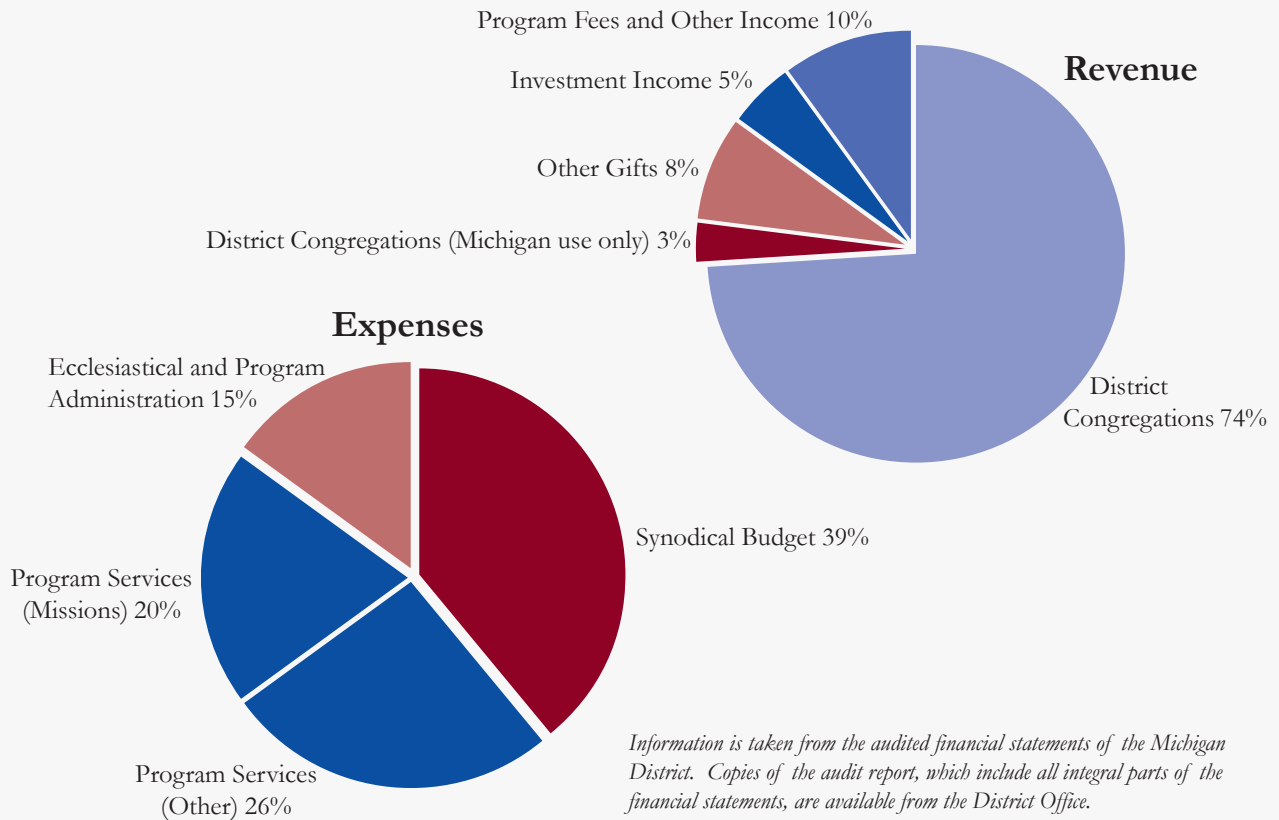
### Support, Revenues, and Gains

District Congregations.....	5,579,107
District Congregations (Michigan use only).....	226,614
Other Gifts.....	628,986
Investment Income.....	360,369
Program Fees and Other Income.....	749,589
Total Support, Revenues, and Gains.....	<u>7,544,665</u>

### Expenses

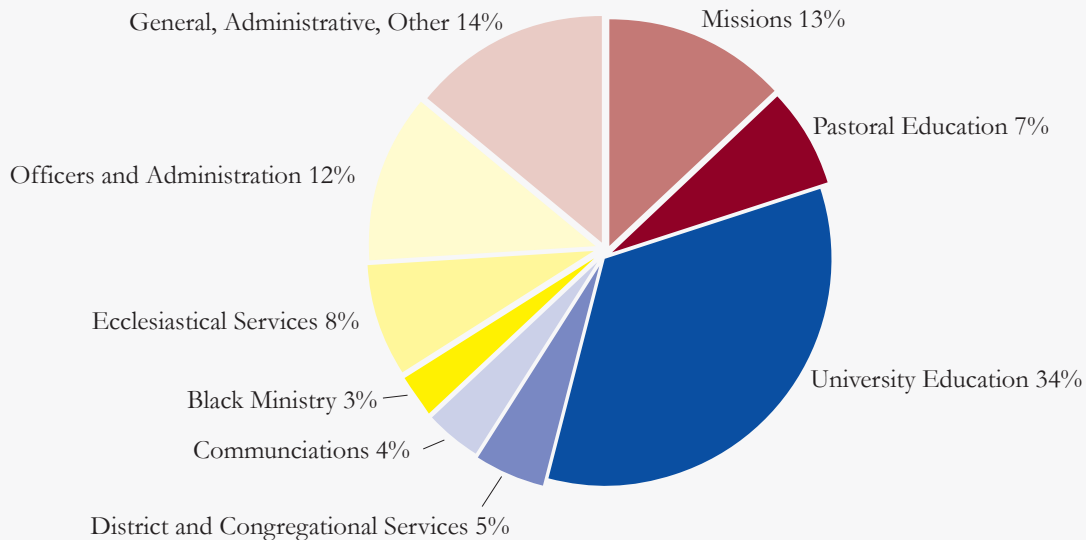
Synodical budget.....	2,832,990
Program Services	
Missions.....	1,478,714
Congregation Ministry Facilitators.....	442,612
Christian Care.....	185,709
Lutheran Schools.....	280,637
Youth Ministry.....	33,926
Other Congregation Program Services.....	203,729
Communications.....	266,936
Student Aid.....	152,188
Planned Giving.....	93,518
Worker Care.....	237,851
Ecclesiastical and Program Administration	
Administration.....	642,818
Convention.....	154,033
District properties and Depreciation.....	269,978
Total Expenses.....	<u>7,275,639</u>

Change in Net Assets..... 269,026



# Support for National and International Ministries

During the fiscal year ending January 31, 2007, the Michigan District contributed \$2,832,990 to Corporate (national) Synod, which represents 50% of the District's unrestricted gifts from congregations. The 35 Districts of the Synod contribute roughly \$20 million of undesignated revenue to Corporate Synod annually in support of national and international mission and ministry. The balance of the \$88 million 2006/07 budget of Corporate Synod comes primarily from restricted gifts and sales of materials and services. The Program Budget Summary for Corporate Synod indicates that 65.8% of the undesignated revenue is allocated directly to the Program Boards of Synod (including 13.3% for missions and 40.7% for education). The accompanying chart indicates the various allocations of the budgeted use of undesignated revenue for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007



## Michigan District Board of Directors

Rev. Dr. C. William Hoesman, President  
*Ann Arbor*

Rev. David P.E. Maier, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
*Lansing*

Rev. Dr. Wayne H. Wentzel, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
*Grand Blanc*

Rev. Michael J. Roth, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President  
*St. Joseph*

Rev. Dr. K Frank Graves, 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President  
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Rev. David H. Reed, Secretary  
*Auburn*

Mr. William H. Young, Treasurer  
*Jenison*

### Metro East Region:

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*Macomb*

Dr. Stanley R. Topel  
*Sterling Heights*

Ms. Margaret O'Reilly  
*Clinton Twp.*

Mr. John E. Held  
*West Bloomfield*

### North & East Region:

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*Frankenmuth*

Mr. Henry M. Pickelmann  
*Bay City*

Dr. Harold M. Braeutigam  
*Frankenmuth*

Mr. Larry A. Bauermeister  
*Fenton*

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Mr. Richard C. Krueger  
*Grand Rapids*

Ms. Ruth E. Martin  
*Grand Rapids*

Mr. John C. Raffel  
*Greenville*

### Metro West Region:

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*Flat Rock*

Mr. Harvey M. Schmit  
*Canton*

Mrs. Chris Chauvin  
*Fenton*

Mr. Duane A. Renken  
*Ann Arbor*



## Michigan District

Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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