 Southeastern Wisconsin District

Mission Board

“Lord, enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.”

Acts 4:29

**SEW District Conference Report – 2021**

Our SEW DMB has 5 main areas of focus for the mission work in our district.

* **New start-** *identify new areas to plant a new church*
  + A new field / A new worker
* **Thriving**- *partner with thriving churches with outreach efforts*
  + A new start (daughter/merger) / An enhancement
* **Voucher**- assist voucher schools with outreach
  + Personnel / Building a church and school connection
* **Multi-cultural**- assist congregation connect with other cultures
  + Personnel / Funding and strategies
* **Mission Critical-** *help “critical” congregations* 
  + Restart or Multisite or Merger / Commission on Congregational Counseling

**Why does the DMB seek new starts?**

* Identify **new areas** where we can plant a new congregation
  + We will assist a core group to explore mission potential
  + Encourage a cooperative spirit among congregations

Examples of new starts are:

* Living Word in Waukesha, WI which built a new sanctuary and had their opening service on May 9.
* Lamb of God in Lafayette, IN which moved from a store front into a church they purchased this spring. They held their first service on their new property on May 2.
* Light of Life in Greenwood, IN which is in their last year of funding from the BHM.

**Why does the DMB seek thriving churches?**

* Identify **outreach-minded** congregations and pastors
  + Who have a ripe mission field in their community
  + Who have identified a new way to share the gospel
  + Who need 3 years of funding for this new outreach - for manpower usually $80K, $60K, $40K / or full financial support, ⅔ support, ½ support

Examples of thriving congregations:

* Grace in the Ward, Milwaukee WI where mission work is being done in a unique part of downtown Milwaukee. Grace in the Ward is in their last year of funding.
* Trinity in Waukesha, WI where Pastor Gurgel has been called to serve the Hispanic community in Waukesha with the gospel. Trinity is in the last month of funding.
* There are other churches in our district that have reached out to us looking to expand ministries with a second site or an enhancement of a new outreach ministry.

**Why does the DMB seek voucher schools?**

* Identify **outreach-minded** church ministries
  + Who have a ripe mission field in their school
  + Have begun working in this ripe mission field
  + They need more assistance connecting their school families with Word & Sacrament ministries in their church
  + Help them create a Harvest Strategy

Examples of a voucher school:

* Wisconsin Lutheran School in Racine, WI where their School Chaplain Mark Blauert has served for the past 3 years. WLS is in the last month of funding.
* We have recently reached out to the churches with voucher schools in our district. We have had 15 reply they are interested in learning more about partnering with our DMB for a School Chaplain or School Pastor.

**Why does the DMB seek multi-cultural ministries?**

* Identify **outreach-minded** congregations
  + Who have a ripe mission field in their community
  + Have begun working in this ripe mission field
  + Connect them with our Hispanic Mission Counselor, Tim Flunker
  + Connect them with our Asian Mission Counselor, Neil Birkholz
  + Possibly connect them with Joint Mission Council

Examples of multi-cultural ministries:

* Christ/Christo, St. Peter/San Pedro, Risen Savior in Milwaukee, WI and Immanuel in Waukegan, IL have long-standing Hispanic outreach ministries. St. Paul in Round Lake, IL will be installing Jacob Shepherd on August 1 as their pastor. He will be leading the congregation in multi-cultural ministry.
* Other congregations have reached out to our DMB to examine multi-cultural ministry in their community. They are looking to reach out to Japanese, Korean, Eastern European and other cultures.

**Why does the DMB work with mission critical churches?**

* A **mission critical** congregation needs help. Humanly speaking, they are on life-support
  + Congregational Counseling Center (CCC)
  + CCC can encourage working with the DMB to do something new / different
  + Restart / merger / cross cultural
  + We don’t want to lose a foothold in the neighborhood or a beachhead for outreach

Examples of merged congregations:

* Epiphany and New Hope in Racine, WI have merged to become Water of Life. Bethany, Friedens, Mt. Zion and St. Luke’s in Kenosha, WI that have merged to become New Life. There are other congregations in our district that are currently discussing or working on merging.
* St. John’s on the Hillside in Milwaukee, WI recently received unsubsidized mission status. They will be installing Isaac Hayes on July 11 to be their pastor.

**Our goal in the WELS is to open 100 missions and 75 enhancements in the next 10 years. If you can see our SEW DMB assisting you in any way with a new mission start, a ministry enhancement, a school chaplain in a voucher school, starting a multi-cultural ministry, helping with a merger or a restart, please contact us. May the Lord of the Church bless our outreach efforts in our district and within our WELS home and world missions.**

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