

**Report to the  
2019 Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod Assembly  
From the  
Mission Endowment Fund**

**“SEEDS THAT CHANGE”**

*The Mission Endowment Fund (MEF) continues to use the theme “Seeds That Change” as they focus on what makes people give of their time, talents and resources to the organization.*



The 2018-2019 year has already seen many changes on the Mission Endowment Board. Ms. Hattie Hammer retired as of December 31 after 13 years of guiding and growing the fund to 1.4 million dollars. Grants this year have totaled an unprecedented \$80,000. The Board and the NT-NL will greatly miss Hattie and the special gifts and loyalty she has given to grow a healthy Fund.

Beginning January 1, 2019, Linda Ness has been hired as Executive Director of the Fund. Linda brings knowledge of the Synod, familiarity with the congregations, a background of fund raising, organizational skills, experience with other endowment funds and a strong desire to continue in the direction set by Hattie and the current Board. Additionally, the MEF Board will meet with Bishop Gronberg and the Synod Council twice a year at Briarwood to share information more fully and to further a cooperative spirit between the two leadership groups.

The financial report for MEF is included in the report of the Synod’s treasurer report found elsewhere in the Assembly Reference Materials (formerly called the Book of Reports).

At its February 2019 Board meeting the following ministries were awarded grants totaling \$80,000: **Advent, Arlington** - Trunk or Treat, Iglesia Luterana Adviento, and the Lord’s Pantry, **Calvary, Richland Hills** - **Podcast-To hell with the Hot Dish**, **Church of the Damascus Road** – Prison Ministry, **Community of Hope, FW** - Outreach Ministry to Seniors, **Emanuel, Dallas** - Leadership Development/ Neighborhood outreach, **Emmanuel, Granbury** - Community Story Time, **First, Longview** - Local Playground Community Outreach, **Four Mile, Mabank** - WELCA-Aiding Local Graduating Seniors and Community Day Camp with Briarwood, **Latino Conference/San Gabriel** - Couples Retreat and Women’s Retreat, **Hispanic/Latin@ Conference/Emerging Missions Youth** - Bishop assistance to Raising Up Youth Leaders, **Our Redeemer, Grand Prairie** - **New Hispanic/Latin@ Mission Start**, **Lutheran Via de Cristo-N Texas** - Clergy Experience, **Mosaic, Dallas** - Creating Meaningful Lives, **Mount Olive, Dallas** - 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Conference, **NT-NL Public**

**Witness Team** - Mental Wellness/Suicide Prevention, and Technological Outreach, **NT-NL Stewardship Team** - Education/Leader Development, **New Hope, Keller** - 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, **Our Redeemer, Grand Prairie** - Day Camp with Briarwood, **St. John, Wilson** - Mobile Food Pantry, **Santa Maria in Exile, Irving** - The Church is Coming to Me and VBS, **Umoja International Church, Dallas** - Mission Outlook in Dallas Area, **Umoja International, Ft Worth** - Leadership Training, **Zion, McGregor** - "Let's Do Lunch". Total grant applications were \$121,610, exceeding the amount authorized to be granted.

The MEF Board is grateful for the continued financial support of many congregations and individuals in NT-NL. In October 2018, the MEF held its 14<sup>th</sup> annual "Seeds That Change" Dinner/Fund Raiser at Calvary Lutheran Church, Richland Hills. Members of Calvary Lutheran were the sponsors of the event and Pastor Phil Heinze was the chef. The event provided over \$13,000 for the fund. The annual event in 2019 is planned for Saturday, October 19, 2019 the location and venue are yet to be determined.

The Board expressed its thanks in a Ritual of Transition to outgoing board member, Pastor Mark Hadley of Shepherd of Life, Arlington, and welcomed Virginia Worley, Christ, Dallas, to replace Linda Ness on the Board for the remaining two years of her term. New member, Pastor Miles Holder, New Hope, Keller will begin serving in May of 2019.

The following persons serve as the Board of Directors of the Mission Endowment Fund from May 1, 2018 to April 30, 2019: **Pastor Mark Hadley**, Shepherd of Life, Arlington; **PLM Timothe Mast**, Four Mile, Mabank; **Pastor Clay McCord**, Trinity, Clifton; **Pastor Yvonne Kiebler**, retired, **Jon Krueger**, Faith, Wichita Falls; **SAWL Sandra Gass**, Rejoice, Frisco; **Marie Levier**, Mount Olive, Dallas; **Linda Ness**, Advent, Arlington (until December 31, 2018), currently replaced by **Virginia Worley**, Christ, Dallas; **Bill Anderson**, First, Longview; **Pastor John Schelter**, Our Savior, Mesquite; **Peri Segeran**, Gloria Dei, Garland; **SAWL Nicholas Chove**; **PLM Parma Kersten**, New Life in Christ, Duncanville, **Sabrina Walker**, St. John, Dallas, **Pastor Edy Santos**, Iglesia Luterana Adviento, Arlington. **Hattie M. Hammer**, Our Redeemer, Grand Prairie, Executive Director (through December 31, 2018) currently replaced by **Linda M Ness**, Advent Arlington as Executive Director of the Mission Endowment Fund. **Erik Gronberg** serves as Bishop of the Synod.

**Pastor Yvonne Kiebler**  
**Board Chair**

**Linda M. Ness**  
**Executive Director**

**Dated: March 2019**