

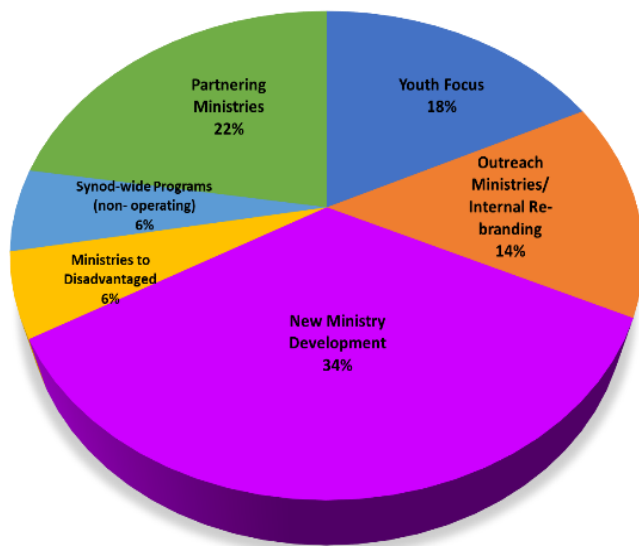
NT-NL Mission Endowment Board is in (EXCITING!) Mission Together!

Submitted by Linda Ness, MEF Executive Director

The NT-NL Mission Endowment Fund Board has much to celebrate this year! WHAT? Though 2020 has NOT been a normal or expected year, MEF has been working diligently to serve our Synod. Just as the congregations in our Synod have experienced challenges and changes, so has MEF also faced modifications and unanticipated altered directions this year. While the Board continues its objective to manage the investments and to select deserving ministries for the annual grants, this has been a year of re-routing and overcoming challenges caused by the restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic. Activities include awarding grants of \$82,000 to 28 ministries for 2020, organizing a Covid-19 Relief Fund/Good Faith Loan Program, adapting the Seeds That Change FUnD-raiser, and managing an ever-changing year of intended grant cancellations and reapplications. And most exciting of all, the MEF will celebrate 25 years of ministry to our Synod!



Awarding financial grants to NT-NL congregations and organizations for specific ministries or community service that are underfunded is the primary function of the MEF. Who could have predicted the state of our congregations in October 2019, when applications for Grants were submitted? We are not the Synod today as we were in 2019! With months of



health issues, social restrictions, the absence of in person worship, and important cultural concerns, some of the intended ministries were cancelled, thus resulting in a re-allocation of funds to different ministry needs arising after Covid-19. Also, several of the planned ministries had to pivot quite creatively by restructuring and revising the original plans. The Board has worked closely to help grant recipients work through a creative process to further their missions. The new resourcefulness is exciting!

The 25 years of financial assistance to our congregations can be illustrated best by showing HOW these funds have supported the NT-NL. The original vision was to help finance start-up ministries and the largest portion of funding over the years continues to be awarded in that direction.

25 Years of Service: 1996-2020 -- Grants totaling \$875,650 have been awarded

- **34%** New ministry start-up and development
- **22%** Partnering with agencies: prison ministry, Briarwood, Via de Cristo, podcasts, immigrant orientation, literacy programs
- **18%** Youth programs, Day Camps, training
- **14%** Congregational Community Outreach programs, rebranding, identity focus
- **6%** Programs/ministries including food banks, school lunches, nursing home, elderly pharmacy assistance
- **6%** NT-NL hosted seminars, learning, Synod Teams (non-operating expenses)

Additionally, in this unprecedented year, the Board felt the need to offer more support to our congregations. In May of 2020, in quick fashion, the MEF Relief Funds/Good Faith Loan program was initiated to provide emergency financial assistance to NTNL congregations and organizations who have been affected by the restrictions of the home sheltering and economic distress. Again, this has never been done before. \$60,000 has been designated for emergency needs by application. Over a two-year period, repayment can be made in full, in part, or may be forgiven. Learn more at <https://www.ntnl.org/ministries/mef/>.

The Board is celebrating 25 years of MEF ministry. The first grants in 1996 totaled \$5000. Over the 25 years, total grant awards have reached \$875,650. A pressing MEF goal is to cross the \$1,000,000 mark! Can we accomplish this in 2021 or 2022? The vision of the 40 Founding Partners – those individuals, organizations, and congregations whose initial vision started this fund – will be honored at the 2020 Seeds that Change FUNd-raiser. Currently the date is Oct. 17, originally scheduled at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Mesquite.

However, the Board determined that the event should be reformatted to an online event this year and is now strategizing how best to achieve our goals of promoting awareness of the MEF goals, promoting the grant recipients' successes in 2020, and seeking additional funds to help overcome the economic set-backs this year. Again, the Board has accepted this challenge. Are you able to assist the MEF with a contribution? The fund reached approximately 1.5 million at the end of 2019. The downturn in the market and the decision to offer relief funds have diminished the size of the fund. The Board expects the ministry needs for grants to be significant in 2021. Your financial help will be greatly appreciated! <https://www.ntnl.org/ministries/mef/donation/>

**Celebrate 25 Years of ministry of the Mission Endowment Fund.
Can you help us cross the \$1 Million grant giving total!**



The MEF Board Members are a diverse group of talented and committed pastors and lay members from various NT-NL Congregations. Normally, the Board meets only four times a year to conduct business. But, this year, not so! The members of the 2020 Board include: SAWL Nicholaus Chove, Pr Miles Holder, PLM Parma Kersten, Pr Yvonne Kiebler, Chair, Ken King, PLM Jon Krueger, Marie Levier, PLM Timothe Mast, Treasurer, Pr Edy Santos, Pr John Schelter, Peri Segaran, Vice-Chair, Bill Terry, Sabrina Walker, Secretary, Virginia Worley, and Pr Donna Wright. The Board mourns the loss of Sandra Gass this year, a long-time active Board member.

The MEF goal for 2021, is to launch a campaign called Legacy Partners Enduring Vision for Mission – a planned giving promotion. We invite you to join and become a partner with MEF to enable the fund to grow, and, thus, provide even more financial support to ministries in the NT-NL. More information about this new endeavor will be distributed in the future. If you have already named MEF in your estate plan, please contact Linda Ness to become a founding partner in this campaign (mef@ntnl.org).



Yes. This is the NT-NL Mission Endowment Fund Board at work for all members of the NT-NL. The Board is grateful for all donations, support from our leaders, and assistance provided by Bishop Erik Gronberg and the Synod office. Please keep informed of the activities and support the efforts of the NT-NL Mission Endowment Fund. We are at work and in (exciting!) Mission Together for YOU.

Blessings to you and your ministries!

Linda Ness, MEF Executive Director

MEF@NTNL.org