

## MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD

### REPORT TO 2021 NT-NL SYNOD ASSEMBLY

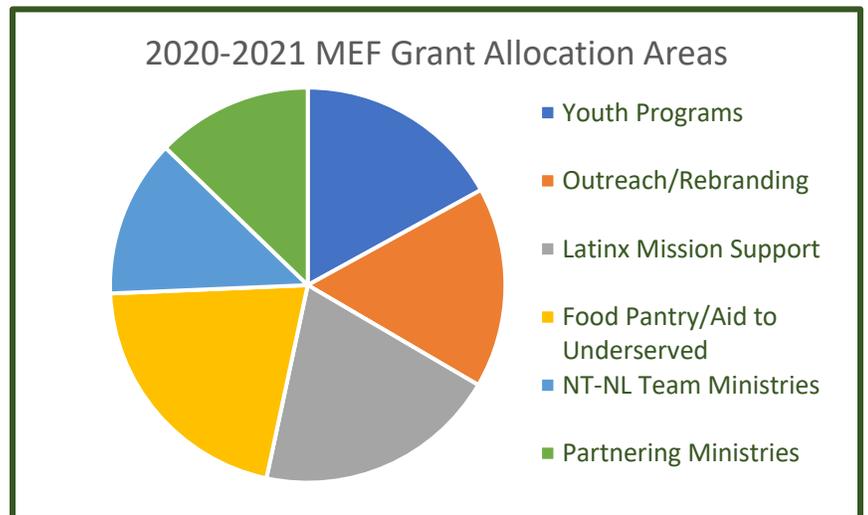


The single most important report item to the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod Assembly from the Mission Endowment Fund Board, is a huge **THANK YOU** for the support during the last year. Thank you to Bishop Gronberg and the staff for consistently leading us through a difficult year. Thank you to the congregations, pastors, and individual members of our Synod for the generosity shown in our Seeds that Change campaign and for the financial support during the full 25-year history of the MEF grant-giving ministry. Thank you to the MEF Board members for their dedication and discernment to extend our ministry during this challenging but exciting year of growth and exploration of new ideas. I offer sincere words of gratitude.

I am delighted to report on the NT-NL Mission Endowment Fund activities, programs, and successes between last Assembly and this 2021 Assembly. The leadership of our Synod should be proud that even though we have been hindered by the restrictions of the long pandemic, this has been a good year. The fund continues to grow. The **Seeds that Change, Gather in Thankfulness**, fund raising campaign in October exceeded the unprecedented goal of **\$50,000**. The focus last October was an online worship service in which individuals representing 29 different churches participated in the production. MEF also received an endowment gift of \$110,000 from **Ascension Lutheran Church** in Garland as a legacy gift due to the closing. With these additions and because the investments have done well, the fund is now about \$1.7 million. The NT-NL Synod is blessed to have significant funds available help create and financially support ministries that are serving communities all across our geography.

**Last year's 2020 Grants totaling \$82,000 were awarded to 28 recipients**, and with some creative realigning, several recipients revamped their projects and programs to comply with restrictions. All in all, it was one of the most successful years for the NT-NL grant recipients who met or exceeded their goals.

This year's **2021 Grants, with a total of \$60,000, have been awarded to 17 recipients**. The chart illustrates what types of ministries have been funded in the last two years. The recipients are listed at the end of this report. From the grant perspective, the trend has become more community and outreach minded, a pivot from the original concept of funding mission start-ups. In addition to the 2021 Grants, six congregations received a total of \$55,000 in "good faith" loans for Covid-19 Emergency Relief. That brings the financial support to our ministries for the last two years to an amazing \$197,000.



The MEF Board has chosen to promote an educational and informative initiative in 2021, **Legacy Partners Enduring Vision for Mission**. The goal is to communicate the Joy of Giving, not only during your lifetime, but at life's end with legacy giving. This is an exciting approach to giving, allowing the donor to be remembered after their life has ended by continuing their financial support to the Mission Endowment Fund and recipients they have honored during their lifetime. The Task Force is currently developing a strategy and involving experts in the area of planned giving and estate planning. We are also cooperating with

the Stewardship Team to explore educational opportunities within the Synod. We hope to provide in person opportunities in 2021 to communicate this message to our Synod membership.

At this time, the MEF Promotions Team has not yet determined what form the annual **Seeds that Change fundraising campaign** will take. Please set aside **October 16, 2021** for the event.

The MEF Board Members are fully dedicated to its mission of financially supporting congregations in our Synod. It is a privilege to learn about the creative ways our churches are serving their communities and changing lives. We are thankful that God has blessed this mission for 25 years. I am indebted to the Synod Staff, Council, and MEF Board members for their continued support of my role as Executive Director. I look forward with thankfulness to the future development of ministries within our church body.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Ness, Executive Director

April, 2021

**Board members for 2021:** Executive Director, Ms Linda Ness/Advent, Arlington; Board Chair, The Rev. Donna Wright Faith, Fort Worth; Vice Chair, Mr. Jon Krueger, PLM/Faith, Wichita Falls; Secretary, Ms Sabrina Walker/St. John. Dallas; Treasurer, Mr. Ken King/Preston Meadow, Plano; SAWL Nicholas Chove/Community of Hope/Umoja, Fort Worth; Ms Marie Levier/Mount Olive, Dallas; Ms Virginia Worley/Christ, Dallas; The Rev. Edy Santos/Iglesia Luterana Adviento,,Arlington; The Rev. John Schelter/ Our Savior, Mesquite; The Rev. Miles Holder/New Hope, Keller; Mr. Steve Maziarz/Gloria Dei, Garland; Ms. Gwen Vernon/Community of Hope, Ft. Worth; Ms. Linda Allen/Beautiful Savior, Amarillo; Ms. Katelyn Hicks/St. Stephen, Shreveport, LA; The Rev. Jesus Escamilla/San Gabriel, Alvarado

**2021 Grant Recipients:** 50th Anniversary Task Force, NT-NL Lenten Journey/Landscapes of Our Soul; Advent Lutheran/The Lord's Pantry; Church of the Damascus Road/Church of the Damascus Road; Emanuel Lutheran Church/Sharing Our Faith; First Lutheran – Longview/The Success Center; First Sagrada Familia Lutheran/Congregational Vitality Project; Four Mile Lutheran/High School Technology Necessities; Four Mile Lutheran/Feeding vulnerable elderly; Iglesia Luterana; mission development; Mount Olive Lutheran/SALT (Save a Life Today) Youth Initiative; NT-NL Coaching/Grief, Loss & End of Life Coaching; Santa Maria in Exile /Church in My Neighborhood; St John Lutheran/Wilson/Mobile Food Pantry; St. Luke's/Richardson/St Luke's Community Breakfast; Walnut Hill Lutheran/Spread the Word; Walnut Hill Lutheran/Church Council Spiritual Retreat