



# NED NEWS

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Summer 2018

## **“President Yeadon, we have a problem here. What can the District do to get rid of it for us?”**

In my years as District President I am so grateful to the Lord for the *infrequency* of times I have been asked that question. But when it does arise, I know in my heart that we have a serious issue here. When it gets to the point that the District President is brought into the picture it usually means that most avenues of reconciliation or attempts at repair simply aren't working. I also find myself in the dilemma of walking the fine line between what I can do as a District President (or what the District can do) and what I or the District cannot do under the bylaws and guidance of my office or the bylaws of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

To be honest, the situation that creates this question usually involves a breakdown between a congregation and her called Shepherd, the Pastor. It does not always imply that one party is solely in the wrong. But it does imply that the situation has deteriorated to the point that the Pastor and the Congregation cannot resolve the issue on their own.

On occasion, the Pastor might assume that I can come in and tell the Congregation where they are in error and that they must listen to the guidance of their called Shepherd. Advice I can possibly give and gladly will with the help of our Savior and the true Lord of the Church. But mandates are often outside my ability to give. On occasion, the leadership of a congregation might assume that I can simply remove a Pastor from his office and, to put it bluntly, “send him packing.” The reality is that the congregation owns the call and the severing of that call with a Pastor is a serious matter that the congregation must handle. Of course, I would again be available for counsel and advice. But making a problem go away never has been an easy situation when it comes to the breakdown of the relationship between Pastor and People of God.

If a Pastor has determined that it is best for him to ask the Lord of the Church for a move to another harvest field it does not mean he has failed where he is or that his call to his current parish is no longer valid. Only the Holy Spirit can generate a call and move the heart of a Pastor to accept it. From my point of view as District President, my official actions would include getting the Pastor's name out to our own congregations that may be vacant or to get the Pastor's name (and appropriate Personal Information Files and the like) to other Districts where a pastoral vacancy may exist in a congregation. Less formally, but just as importantly, I would want to be available to the Pastor and his family for the providing of wisdom, guidance, and counsel as the Pastor considers his current situation and his conclusions. At times, the advice might be that he should stay where he is, seek resources, and help to alleviate a problem. Those resources can be found in the Synod, the District, and in District workers trained to deal with specific issues be they financial, personal, or of another nature. As mentioned, at times when the District President feels a move would be best he will use his office to put the Pastor on call lists or make his name and information available to other Districts of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

“Can the District President remove the Pastor?” In some church bodies in the United States a District President, Bishop, or other ecclesiastical supervisor can indeed move the Pastor to another setting by right of  
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**NED NEWS is published for members and friends of the LCMS churches throughout New England.**

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**THE MISSION OF NED is to encourage and assist its congregations in their ministry of Word and Sacrament to build up the body of Christ and to make disciples of all peoples.**

Submissions from NED congregations are welcomed and encouraged, share what is happening in your congregation with the rest of the New England District!

Please keep all articles under 250 words. All submissions are considered available for use by the New England District for any district communication piece including digital and print.

**The next deadline is Oct. 15**

Email submissions to [NEDcommunications@ned-lcms.org](mailto:NEDcommunications@ned-lcms.org)

Digital photos need to be high resolution and unedited (no reformatting or cropping) NED Staff and Editors reserve the right to edit articles and submissions for clarity and space.

his office. But in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, where the Church Body is seen ultimately as advisory to the congregations, such privileges are quite limited. In fact, if you search the by-laws of the LC-MS you will find only a few instances where a District President can suspend and remove a Pastor. They are noted herein:

*“A district president may place an individual member of the Synod on restricted status if information with respect to such member provides a substantial basis to conclude that such member*

*a) has engaged in conduct which could lead to expulsion from the Synod under Article XIII of the Constitution;*

*b) is incapable of performing the duties of the office or position because of physical, mental, or emotional disability; or*

*c) neglects or refuses to perform the duties of the office or position.*

To be blunt, a District President cannot suspend a Pastor because, “He preaches lousy sermons”. He cannot suspend a Pastor because “We are not meeting our Budget... Membership gains have not kept up with losses”. The serious nature of charges brought against a Pastor would include things such as the committing of adultery or engaging in fornication, a serious addiction to drugs or pornography without repentance or a desire to deal with the problem, the persistent teaching of false doctrine. These issues do indeed include suspendable offenses and even in the cases where the District President feels suspension and removal are warranted there must exist ample documentation and evidence that the reasons are genuine and can be substantiated after an investigation by the District President into the matter.

I admit that I have not covered every single situation in this short article and in the end have presented a general overview of the topic, “Can the District Get Rid of our Problem?” The final conclusion is that much exists that a District President and the District can do when a serious problem arises in the congregation and especially when it involves the breakdown of the relationship between Pastor (or Church Worker) and the Congregation. But some things the District President cannot do and it takes wisdom to know the difference.

All I can say as President of the New England District is that I love our Pastors and Church Workers and I love our Congregations. My heart is for all under Jesus Christ. I will do all I can within the boundaries of what I can do. I want to be there when problems arise and I want to help the people of God find answers. But I will also respect my limits which are in place for the good of all as well; even if they do not seem to be particularly convenient. In the end, I believe there exists far more that a District President can do when serious problems arise. I truly want to be available when the need arises and I assure you that the last words I ever want to hear are: “When we needed President Yeadon the most he was not there for us.” May the Lord Jesus forbid that such should ever be the case.

# Let Us Not Grow Weary of Doing Good

## The 18<sup>th</sup> New England District Convention

June 14-16, 2018, Springfield, MA

Submitted by Rev. Walt Harper, NED Secretary

During the 18<sup>th</sup> regular convention of the New England District delegates voted to create a Worker Support Team. This continues a major focus of President's Yeadon's tenure, the well-being of the workers in the district.

Part of implementing that has been the work of Deaconess Tiffany Manor, who now becomes the Director of Worker Support, a full-time position she holds with the district since the arrival of Deaconess Manor several parishes have also called a deaconess. This is seen as a strength of the district and its mission of caring.

The district passed a resolution, (18-01-05) "To Respond to Gender Identity Issues with Truth and Love." This resolution affirmed the creation of humans as male and female, it affirmed a biblical view of marriage, and it called on the parishes of the district to be "places of great hospitality and pastoral care for persons struggling with gender identity issues."

The Convention Offering was designated to support new church plants. This is the beginning of a new fund-raising effort to support the planting of churches in New England, one of the least church-ed regions of the country

### ELECTIONS

Rev. Timothy Yeadon was re-elected to his third term of office on the first ballot of the convention.

1st Vice President, re-elected, Rev. Robert D. Beinke, St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Norwalk, CT.

2nd Vice President, re-elected, Rev. Scott R. Schuett, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Lebanon, CT.

3rd Vice President, re-elected, Rev. Dr. James E. Butler, St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Dedham, MA.



Photo to left is the newly elected Vice President's and Secretary with President Yeadon. Photo to right is the newly elected Board of Director members present at the convention.

Photo below is the installation of New England District officers, directors and circuit visitors following the conclusion of the 18<sup>th</sup> regular convention on June 16, 2018.



### **Christian Reconciliation by Deaconess Tiffany Manor**

President Yeaton wrote his article for this issue of the NED News on a topic that can be difficult to think about because underlying the question *“Can the District Get Rid of our Problem?”* is conflict and problems. He mentions that this question comes up when avenues of reconciliation or attempts at repair aren’t working. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if he never again has to hear that question?

Did you know that our district has trained Reconcilers? There are lay people and rostered church workers, pastors and deaconesses, throughout New England who have been selected because of their spiritual maturity and peacemaking abilities, and then these folks dedicate a great deal of time preparing to work with saints of God desiring to resolve conflict and be reconciled to one another in Christ Jesus. These Reconcilers are available to serve our New England District congregations. But... they will be most effective and successful in peacemaking when their involvement is sought earlier rather than when conflict is advanced and has spread throughout the congregation. Contact the District Office at 413-783-0131 to learn more.

When I work with congregations and church workers when reconciliation (making peace and resolving conflict) is needed we often begin our time together remembering and reflecting on the covenant that is established when a worker is installed at the congregation. In contemporary society we don’t experience covenants very often, mostly we are used to contracts. Covenants are very different from contractual arrangements and were established in the Old Testament (Genesis 15, Jeremiah 31) and made between the Lord and His people in the New Testament (Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22). Do you remember the covenant promises you made when your pastor was installed? It comes from our Lutheran Service Book, ask your pastor, or even email me [tmanor@ned-lcms.org](mailto:tmanor@ned-lcms.org). I won’t put it all in this article but I will include the part of the covenant that particularly addresses when conflict and problems arise... the question put to those assembled for the installation is: **Will you be diligent to “put the best construction on everything,”** [Small Catechism, meaning of the 8<sup>th</sup> commandment] **recognizing that “love covers, a multitude of sins?”** [1 Peter 4:8] Then **God’s people respond saying “We will with the help of God.”** The blessing then given is: **The almighty and most merciful God strengthen and assist you always. Amen!**

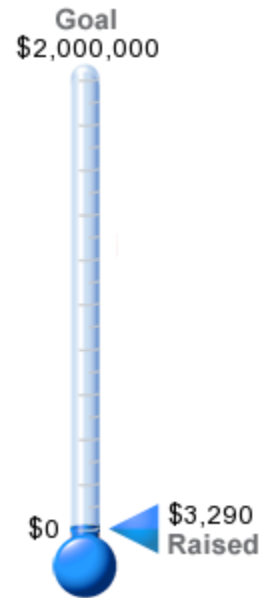
# New England District Mission Department Kicks Off Church Planting Campaign

The NED Mission Department introduced a capital campaign at the New England District convention on June 8 in Springfield, MA that has been in the planning stages for more than a year. The five-year, \$2 Million campaign goal is designated to fund new church plants in the New England District. The NED Board of Directors approved the capital campaign last year, agreeing that all money donated to this fund will be awarded as grants within the NED for new church plants.

United under the convention theme of not growing weary of doing good (Galatians 6:9), the delegates of the convention designated the convention offerings towards this goal, providing the first \$790 of the campaign. The week following the convention, the first donation from a congregation was pledged in the amount of \$2500. This is a good beginning towards staving off weariness in doing the good of preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Committed to funding new church plants in the district and the spread of the Gospel message, the Mission Department will be expanding its efforts to individual contact with interested donors and presentations to available congregations. A donate page with an online secure donation form is already present on the NED website ([www.NED-LCMS.org](http://www.NED-LCMS.org)). The form can be found on the homepage or among the pages the Mission Department. As Rev. Sandeno introduced the \$2M Church Planting Capital Campaign to the convention, he likened giving to the Congregation of Exodus 35, emphasizing that all giving should be as a freewill offering after regular pledges to the local congregation have been fulfilled.

Additional information, including grant applications and church planting guidelines, is also available on the NED website. The Mission Department is excited about the prospects of giving initial financial stability to new church plants. If you wish to assist this effort beyond making a donation, please contact Rev. Sandeno at [timothy.sandeno@gmail.com](mailto:timothy.sandeno@gmail.com).



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## New Spanish resources for Hispanic ministry

If you'd like to share the Gospel with your Spanish-speaking neighbors, or if you're heading out on a short-term mission trip to Central or South America, the Lutheran Heritage Foundation ([www.LHFmissions.org](http://www.LHFmissions.org)) has translated and published two new resources for you: *A Child's Garden of Bible Stories* and the *Bible with Small Catechism*, both in the Spanish language. Donations to help cover the printing and shipping costs are gratefully accepted, but as with all of LHF's translated materials, both of these books are free of charge to the ministries, churches, or individuals who need them. Call the LHF office at (800)554-0723 or email [info@LHFmissions.org](mailto:info@LHFmissions.org) with your order (number of copies, hardcover or paperback).

## Installations



Rev. Paul Nielsen (also serving Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Waterville, ME) and Deaconess Kimberly Slininger, installed on April 22, 2018 at Hope Lutheran Church, Bangor, Maine



Principal George Evensen (center front row), accepted the call to Trinity Christian School, Keene, NH and was installed on July 8, 2018



Rev. Evan Scamman, newly ordained Pastor of First Lutheran in Greenwich, CT installed on July 21, 2018



Rev. Bryan Stecker – newly ordained Associate Pastor of Grace Lutheran in Greenwich, NH installed on August, 5, 2018



Photo to the left is of Rev. Tim Gordish, his wife and son along with other NED pastors and District President Yeadon at his installation at–Faith Lutheran Ch in Groton, CT on August 18, 2018

## Parish Happenings



Lutheran Church of the Savior in Bedford, Ma Celebrating her 60-year anniversary. The theme of the celebration was Psalm 78:4 “Telling the next generation.”

### St. Paul’s in Providence, RI - Gbarnga Lutheran Training Center

Many new and wonderful things are happening at the Gbarnga Lutheran Training Center (GLTC) in Liberia, but one of the most exciting things to happen for the Deanville community, where GLTC is located, is the installation of solar panels for the school. These newly installed panels make it possible for evening Adult Literacy Classes to be offered for the sake of the general area surrounding Deanville. May other exciting development are happening in the successful operation of the Gbarnga Lutheran Training Center. For more information, please contact Pastor Schultz at St. Paul’s Church or speak with Donna Bucu—Church Secretary and also Secretary for the Gbarnga Lutheran Mission Project (401-941-5100).

### Vacation Bible School

On June 25-29, 2018, Trinity Lutheran Church in Keene, NH was host to Shipwrecked VBS, which taught over 85 kids about how Jesus rescues us. With the help of 35 volunteers, the kids participated in Bible-learning activities, sang catchy songs, played teamwork-building games, devoured yummy treats, experienced one-of-a-kind Bible adventures, collected Bible Memory Buddies to remind them of God’s love, and tested out Sciency-Fun Gizmos they took home to enjoy all summer long.



### Christ Lutheran Early Childhood Center – Amston, CT

Dr. Kimberly Mordasky from Hebron Veterinary Hospital paid a visit to the campers at Camp Christ Lutheran this week. Dr. Mordasky talked to the campers about what a Vet does, answered questions and even brought a full scrub outfit to show them what she wears while she performs operations and procedures on the animals. Shown in the picture to the left is Dr. Kimberly Mordasky and camper Sullivan Dwight in full scrub attire.

## Circuit and Regional Breakdown

### REGION I

REV. JAMES BUTLER, VICE-PRESIDENT

#### CIRCUIT NO. 1

○ CIRCUIT VISITOR — Rev. Don Colageo, Immanuel Lutheran, Manchester, NH  
 Pastor Steven Bartell and Associate Pastor Christopher Bartell, Regeneration Lutheran, Exeter, NH  
 Pastor Edwin Harkey, Trinity Lutheran, Keene, NH  
 Pastor George Ruwisch and Associate Pastors Michael Meyer and Bryan Stecker, Grace Lutheran, Nashua, NH  
 Pastor William Ringer, Our Redeemer Lutheran, New Ipswich, NH  
 Pastor David Muehler, Good Shepherd, Peterborough, NH  
 Pastor William Ringer, Christ Lutheran, Troy, NH  
 Served by Pastor Paul Nielsen, Hope Lutheran Church, Bangor, ME  
 Pastor Timothy Sandeno, Redeemer Lutheran, Gorham, ME  
 Pastor Paul Nielsen, Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Waterville, ME  
 Pastor Calvin Kemp, Williamstown Lutheran Church, Williamstown, VT  
 Pastor Matthew Rasmussen, Community Lutheran, S. Burlington, VT

#### CIRCUIT NO. 2

○ CIRCUIT VISITOR — Pastor Paul Gramit, Trinity Lutheran, Clinton, MA  
 Pastor Timothy Knapp and Associate Pastor Eric Sahlberg, Mt. Calvary Lutheran, Acton, MA  
 VACANT, Lutheran Church of the Savior, Bedford, MA  
 Pastor David Jacoby, Messiah Lutheran, Fitchburg, MA  
 Pastor Jeremy Pekari, Messiah Lutheran, Lynnfield, MA  
 also serving Messiah Lutheran is Specific Ministry Pastor Dave Brezina  
 Served by Deacon Steve Vekasy, Trinity Lutheran, W. Roxbury, MA  
 Pastor Jeffrey Jensen, Our Savior Lutheran, Topsfield, MA  
 Pastor Peter Gregory, Our Savior, Westminster, MA

#### CIRCUIT NO. 3

● CIRCUIT VISITOR — Pastor Paul Lantz, Lutheran Church of the Cross, Hanover, M.  
 Pastor Ingo Dutzmann, First Lutheran, Boston, MA  
 Pastor Thomas Dornan, St. James Lutheran, Canton, MA  
 Pastor James Butler, St. Luke's Lutheran, Dedham, MA  
 Pastor Steve Law, Lutheran Church of Wollaston, Quincy, MA  
 Pastor James Hopkins, Lutheran Church of The Way, Raynham, MA  
 Served by Pastor Bob Schipul, Christ Lutheran, Scituate, MA  
 Pastor Leon Schultz, St. Paul Lutheran, Providence, RI  
 VACANT, Our Redeemer Lutheran, Smithfield, RI

### REGION II

REV. SCOTT SCHUETT, VICE-PRESIDENT

#### CIRCUIT NO. 4

□ CIRCUIT VISITOR — Pastor Jonathan Manor St. Paul's Lutheran, New Hartford, CT  
 Specific Ministry Pastor Kevin Mongeau  
 Pastor Jim Rice, Trinity Lutheran, Easthampton, MA  
 Pastor Randall Bessette, First Lutheran, Holyoke, MA  
 Pastor Ralph (Butch) Lanphar, Trinity Lutheran, Springfield, MA  
 Pastor David D. Riley, St. John's, Westfield, MA  
 Pastor Michael Coons, Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Enfield, CT  
 Pastor Randall Pekari and Associate Pastor John Rasmussen, Our Savior, South Windsor, CT  
 Served by Pastor Ralph (Butch) Lanphar, Good Shepherd, Suffield, CT

#### CIRCUIT NO. 5

■ CIRCUIT VISITOR — Pastor Joe Nollet, Hope Lutheran, Storrs, CT  
 Pastor James Wiese, Trinity Lutheran, Ashaway, RI  
 Served by Pastor Bob Mikulastik, Prince of Peace Lutheran, Coventry, CT  
 Pastor Timothy Gordish, Faith Lutheran, Groton, CT  
 Pastor Phillip Booe, Christ Lutheran, Amston, CT  
 Pastor Scott Schuett, Redeemer Lutheran, Lebanon, CT  
 Pastor Volker Heide, Lutheran Church of Madison, Madison, CT  
 VACANT, Zion Lutheran, Manchester, CT  
 Pastor Mark Valigorsky, St. Matthew's, New Britain, CT  
 Served by EIIIT Pastor Gem Gabriel, Our Redeemer Lutheran, New London, CT  
 Pastor Paul Scheyder, Christ Lutheran, Niantic, CT  
 VACANT, Bethany Lutheran, W. Hartford, CT

### REGION III

REV. ROBERT BEINKE, VICE-PRESIDENT

CIRCUIT VISITOR — Pastor Mark Clow, Grace Lutheran, Middletown, CT  
 Pastor Kevin Karner, Immanuel Lutheran, Bristol, CT  
 Pastor Scott MacDonald, St. John's Lutheran, Meriden, CT  
 Served by Pastor Kevin Mongeau, Shepherd of the Hills, Morris, CT  
 VACANT, St. Paul Lutheran, Naugatuck, CT  
 Pastor Christian Bunzel, Trinity Lutheran, New Milford, CT  
 Pastor Joel Kotila, Holy Trinity Lutheran, Terryville, CT  
 Pastor Robert Hass, Zion Lutheran, Wallingford, CT  
 Served by Pastor Joel Kotila, St. John's, Waterbury, CT

#### CIRCUIT NO. 7

CIRCUIT VISITOR — Pastor Eric Wismar, Holy Cross Lutheran, Trumbull, CT  
 VACANT, Zion Lutheran, Bridgeport, CT  
 Pastor David Rowold, Cheshire Lutheran, Cheshire, CT  
 Pastor Walter Harper and Pastor Christopher Chandler, Immanuel Lutheran, Danbury, CT  
 Pastor Justin Smith, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, New Fairfield, CT  
 Pastor Evan Scamman, First Lutheran, Greenwich, CT  
 Pastor Rob Morris, Christ the King, Newtown, CT  
 Pastor Robert Beinke, St. Peter's Lutheran, Norwalk, CT  
 Pastor Timothy Boerger, Zion Lutheran, Orange, CT

