

Report of the Treasurer
2017 Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly
Chris Walda, Treasurer

My first nine months as treasurer have been busy learning the intricacies of the synod's operations and different programs. As you can imagine each of these programs touches the finances in some way. I've been amazed by how much the synod staff and our many volunteers get done with a limited budget.

The good news coming from our last fiscal year that ended January 31st is we maintained the significant gains made two years ago. The mission support our churches shared beat our budget by almost \$68,000. This was done while holding overall expenses below the prior year. The increase in mission support and holding back expenses was due to the generosity of our churches and the efforts of the synod staff.

As you may know we take a fixed percentage (43% currently) off the top of the mission support you send to us and share it with ELCA Churchwide. The remaining amount is used for outreach, church development, pastoral candidacy, campus ministry and many other things within our mission territory. In my four years on the synod finance team I've witnessed how finances affect almost every decision made by the synod staff and volunteers.

The fiscal year that ended January 31, 2017 was our first using the MIF Synod Financial Services (SFS) pilot program. The SFS team processes our mission support payments, accounts payable, payroll, financial reporting and coordinates the annual audit. They do this for us and five other synods. Moving to SFS reduced our finance administration costs by \$15,000 and freed up time for our staff.

In March, we received an announcement that MIF is discontinuing the SFS pilot program at the end of this fiscal year, one year early. They found that each synod is unique in how we operate and could not find enough efficiencies to significantly lower costs. This gives the synod staff and finance committee a unique opportunity to design an effective accounting process without the usual time pressures. The finance team has already begun the process of identifying specific needs. In the next six months, we will choose the accounting software, develop procedures and transition to the new accounting format.

The Indiana-Kentucky Mission Territory finance team has its work cut out for them over the next year. I feel confident we have the right team in place to tackle each item and provide the support to further our overall mission.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Walda, Treasurer Indiana-Kentucky Synod, ELCA