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**SUMMARIES OF PROPOSED MISSION GRANTS OF LWML MICHIGAN DISTRICT APPROVED FOR 2024 CONVENTION BALLOT BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MARCH 2, 2024**

**#1 New Shepherds for South Sudan - $18,000 – Lutheran Heritage Foundation.**  The people of South Sudan are in need of the Gospel, living in extreme poverty, civil war, famine, and disease, with average life expectancy of only 56 years. The evangelical Lutheran Church in South Sudan (ELCSS) has more than 200 congregations, but fewer than 80 pastors to serve them. Need for new pastors is great, as each pastor is responsible for preaching God’s Word to at least three congregations, often long distances apart. Lutheran Heritage Foundation in Macomb, MI, has partnered with ELCSS to establish a seminary, The Concordia Lutheran Institute for the Holy Ministry (CLIHM) to provide theological education for new pastors. These CLIHM seminarians come from extreme poverty and do not have funds to cover educational costs. This grant would support five South Sudan seminarians for one year, providing tuition, supplies, room, and board.

**#2 Caribbean Children’s Foundation Medical Clinic for Ile-a-Vache, Haiti - $25,000.** If voters approve this request, $25,000 would be used to begin furnishing a medical clinic on the island of Ile-a-Vache, Haiti. Once the clinic is established the Caribbean Children’s Foundation will provide to the island’s residents basic health care, laboratory and pharmacy services, and opportunity to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Currently, health care is a long, often unaffordable, weather-permitting boat trip to the mainland.

**#3 Gospel Building for a Child’s Future - $14,500 – Hands of Mercy.** If the proposal of Hands of Mercy wins approval by voting delegates, the students of local Lutheran congregations supported by an expanded Hands of Mercy training center at Yambio, South Sudan, will be able in schools to gain Bible literacy using My First Catechism with workbooks and children’s Bibles at actual wooden desks with whiteboards. The classrooms will be fitted for children’s safety and improved learning environments to build futures with Christ.

**#4 Filling Pulpits by Providing Scholarships for Michigan Men in Synodical Seminaries - $25,000.** With ever-increasing numbers of Lutheran congregations waiting for their pastoral vacancies to be filled, an approval by voters of this proposal could help provide supports for seminary students seeking to complete their pastoral preparations at either Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN, or Concordia Seminary St. Louis.

**#5 Scholarships for Female Students Studying to be a Deaconess or Professional Church Worker - $20,000.** Women students who are preparing at any of the Concordia universities for careers in church work would be eligible to apply for scholarships if this grant proposal is approved by voters. Two disbursals, each of half of the total, would each be divided equally among qualifying applicants to help address increasing undergraduate education costs.

**#6 Dominican Republic Disabled Receive Eternal, Life-Changing Care - $18,000.** If delegates approve this proposal, the LCMS Dominican Lutheran Mission will continue to provide care of body and soul for residents of their group home for abandoned youth and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in the Dominican Republic, as well as outreach to others with IDD in the community.

**#7 Powering the Expansion of Franklin Avenue Mission Mobile Ministries - $25,000.** If chosen, this grant to Franklin Avenue Mission in Flint, Michigan, would provide $25,000 to purchase a used transit passenger van for mobile ministry use. The van would enable the Mission to expand service and reach more families with Jesus’ love by transporting people to and from the Mission, and to doctor and service appointments.

**#8 Starting an Afghan Ministry in Michigan - $25,000 – POBLO International.**  Voters’ consideration of this proposal would help POBLO establish a ministry specific to Afghan Arab refugees. The funds would be used to support a female Afghan bilingual coordinator, as well as provide Bibles and Luther’s Small Catechism in the refugees’ native languages. Participants would also be provided transportation to attend the programs and events.

**#9 CTSFW Food Co-op to Purchase Food for Seminary Students - $15,000.** Students from this country and the world come to Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN, to study in preparation for serving God’s people in the U.S., as well as in mission work around the world. Due to their decision to leave their jobs and attend seminary with their families, often students no longer have the same financial flow of funds. The seminary seeks to reduce the financial burdens by providing students access to a Food Co-op, which supplies at no cost 80% - 90% of all families’ food and household needs each month. The grant of $15,000 would be used to purchase only perishable food items for the CTSFW Food Co-op.

**#10 Be Thou My Vision – Eyeglass Evangelism Outreach - $25,000.** MOST Ministries has a well-developed and Christ-centered eyeglass and evangelism ministry that meets the physical needs of vision correction and eyeglass distribution while sharing the Gospel in word and deed. If approved, this proposal would enable MOST Ministries to use $25,000 to continue their work by allowing the purchase and maintenance of eyeglasses and equipment.

**#11 “The Love of Christ for Pity’s Sake” - $18,000 – Orphan Grain Train – Michigan.** This proposal would provide $18,000 to Orphan Grain Train – Michigan to enable continuation of humanitarian shipments to countries such as Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia, Panama, and other places of need worldwide. OGT shares the Gospel of Jesus Christ along with the distribution of clothing, medical equipment, and other supplies.

**#12 Physical Wellness for At-Risk Children - $15,000 – Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch.** Physical education/activity has been determined as one of the essential wellness components that women of LWML Michigan could help address, were this proposal approved by convention delegates. Helping to update flooring in the gymnasium at the Minot campus would be among means to nurture “the whole child” of an often highly traumatized population of children being cared for at Dakota Ranch.

**#13 Proclaiming Christ to Those Living in Visual Darkness - $25,000 – Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW).** LBW serves free of charge blind or visually impaired people around the world, including prison inmates, with Bibles and other Christian materials in a format and language they can read. LBW is producing new prison Bibles and Bible studies in English and Spanish for incarcerated individuals. LBW will provide in Braille format Christian information that addresses today’s issues. Additionally, this project will use a Prison Braille Transcription program located in Michigan or California to transcribe 1,300 pages of new Christian titles. This is new and specific to LWML Michigan District and the LBW Michigan Ministry Production Centers. The $25,000 grant would be for supplies and equipment to produce approximately 2,500 volumes of Braille or Large Print materials.

**#14 COFA – Bringing the Love and Hope of Christ to Impossible Situations - $25,000 – Christian Outreach for Africa.** A quality Christian education at a Christian college in Mhluzi, South Africa, would be supported by this grant to a scholarship fund, were it approved by 2024 LWML convention voters. Parents of this township are not likely able to afford for their children education of this sort, which could help those educated through hope in Christ to rise above the effects of their heritage of segregation.

**#15 Providing Quality Education and Proclaiming the Gospel to Impoverished Children in India - $25,000.** The Moriah School in southeastern India provides a quality education in a Lutheran setting primarily for children from economically disadvantaged homes. Graduates are well prepared for higher education, and many have gone on to successful professional or skilled employment, breaking the cycle of generational poverty. This proposal would provide $25,000 to update outdated facilities and equipment, purchase new equipment and academic materials, and hire additional English-speaking staff.

**#16 ASL (American Sign Language) Storybook Apps - $17,950.** If approved, mites of $17,950 would enable St. Martin Lutheran School for the Deaf, Dearborn, Michigan, to purchase equipment to transform Christian-based print books into ASL apps. This would allow deaf children across the U.S. to view a book entirely by a deaf performer, and to build deaf children’s reading fluency, as text and illustrations also will appear on the screen.

**#17 Afghan Refugee Ministry - $25,000 – St. Michael Lutheran Church, Portage, MI.** Support of this proposal would allot to St. Michael Lutheran Church $25,000 to support Afghan Ministry to an extended Afghan refugee family in nearby Kalamazoo. With guidance from POBLO, the family patriarch, a Christian missionary, would receive assistance through LWML’s grant toward ordination as a Lutheran pastor through the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

**#18 Welcoming All God’s Children - $25,000 – Lutheran Special Education Ministries.** Were this grant proposal approved, LSEM, now with 150 years of service, would be enabled to supply Lutheran schools and teachers with necessary resources to support educational and spiritual growth of children who, though in Christian environments, do need special learning difficulties addressed.

**#19 Equipping Church Workers to Bless International Students - $20,000 – International Student Ministry, Inc.** There are one million international students studying on U.S. campuses who have few opportunities to hear the gospel. Many seminarians and Concordia university students serve near these universities. International Student Ministry, Inc. (ISM Inc.) hosts an annual Equipping Conference to teach our students how to share about Christ in a cross-cultural manner. This proposal would provide ISM Inc. $20,000 to promote awareness of and to award scholarships for our students to attend the conference.

**#20 Ministry Scholarships for Shepherd’s Canyon Retreats - $20,000.** Shepherd’s Canyon Retreat is an LCMS Recognized Service Organization. If delegates approve this proposal, this grant would help pastors, DCE’s, and teachers who are suffering from depression and compassion fatigue to receive through scholarships for week-long retreats in Arizona the help, hope, and healing by God’s grace which they need.