

Policy for Implementation of Resolution #2.03 Nebraska District Funding for Mission Trips

Background:

The Nebraska District – LCMS in convention adopted the following policy:

**To Encourage our Nebraska District to Fund Mission Trips for Pastors, Professional Church Workers, and Lay People of the Nebraska District of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod.
Resolution #2.03**

Minutes Exhibit 8-Friday Morning Session, June 2, 2000

OVERTURE #2.05 from *Workbook (Overtures section-page 8)*

WHEREAS, Congregations of the Nebraska District need to increase their zeal for missions; and

WHEREAS, There is a need to raise the awareness of our congregations in the Nebraska District; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Nebraska District of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod in convention direct the Board of Directors to designate or establish funding for annual mission trips; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Nebraska District set a goal of sending 20-25 pastors, other professional church workers, and lay people per year on such a mission trip to give them first-hand knowledge of world missions; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Nebraska District and its congregations encourage and recruit people to consider a trip from the list that the Board for Mission Services provides; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Nebraska District Board of Directors utilize a scholarship application process to help people in their financial needs as they make their plans.

Action: Adopted

Administrative Policy:

In response to Resolution #2.03, the Nebraska District Board of Directors hereby adopts the following policy:

1. The Nebraska District-LCMS will budget a specific annual amount for short term mission scholarships. (*Short Term* is defined by *LCMS World Mission as A team ranging from two to 20 people and serving from two days to six months.*)
2. Applicants must demonstrate their personal investment in the mission trip by committing personal financial investment.
3. Applicants must demonstrate the financial support of their home congregation above and beyond, and not in place of their regular congregational commitment to District and Synodical missions.
4. The District will offer scholarship funding based on the level of demonstrated financial need, availability of funding, and considering the response of the applicant to application criteria #4 on the following page.
5. Applications must be received in their entirety at the District Office 45 days in advance of a planned mission trip.
6. Within 30 days of receiving the application, the District President and Administrative Assistants will review the application, determine the scholarship to be awarded, and inform the applicant of the award.
7. Applicant agrees to write a follow-up article describing the mission trip in co-operation with fellow participants, if any, and to be available for presentations.
8. In the interest of broadening the base of District support for participants in mission experiences, the District Committee reserves the right to limit scholarship awards for repeat applicants.

9. In the interest of extending the coverage of District support for participation in mission experiences to as many congregations as possible, the District Committee reserves the right to limit or deny repeat scholarship awards to a congregation/person.
10. A limit of \$500 per fiscal year will be placed on total scholarship grants to support any one congregation/person and/or mission trip.
11. Grants will be considered and issued on a first come, first serve basis.
12. Money granted will be written in one check to the supporting congregation associated with the applicant/applicants and dispersed by the church to the applicant/applicants.

Criteria for Applicants:

An applicant for a mission trip scholarship from the Nebraska District – LCMS must:

1. Be a member in good standing of a congregation of the Nebraska District.
2. Verify (by letter from Gary Thies, Mission Development Counselor, or the LCMS Board for Mission Services*) that the proposed trip is approved by the **LCMS Board for Mission Services** and is to a destination on the list provided by the Board for Mission Services. This connection to must be done by the applicant and forwarded to the District Office.
3. The letter referred to in criteria #2 must be done solely by the applicant and each applicant must have his/her own application on file.
4. Complete a scholarship application which specifies the mission field to which the applicant hopes to travel, the missional contribution(s) the applicant is equipped to bring to the mission field, the goals of the trip, the approximate time and destination of the trip, accurate and complete cost projections for the trip, and all sources of financial support for the trip.
5. Provide a statement of personal financial investment in the proposed trip.
6. Provide a statement of congregational investment above and beyond and not in place of the congregation's regular commitment to Synod and District.
7. Specify unmet financial need for the trip.
8. Secure the needed passport, visas, and immunizations required for the trip well ahead of the deadline for leaving on the trip.

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