REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Due to length you can find this report online under the reports heading: http://milwaukeesynod.org/synod-assembly/

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

The Greater Milwaukee Synod (GMS) continues to exercise a high level of fiscal responsibility in fulfilling its various mission objectives. I am pleased to report the Mission Support from our congregations were $2,036,573 in fiscal year 2014. This is $87,400 less than last year's total, continuing a trend of eight consecutive year of decreased General Mission Support. We received 94.7% of our budgeted income based on congregational intents. I would like to thank all of our congregations for their generous support in our ministry and mission.

The GMS forwarded 55.0% of our mission support to the Churchwide ministries of the ELCA. The total amount sent for 2014 was $1,120,115. The funds we forward on to the ELCA support global missions, synodical and congregational missions here in the Greater Milwaukee area, mission advancement (Sharing the ELCA's message of God's love to a diverse audience) and support of the ELCA leadership, who represent us in a myriad of ways nationally and globally. Much of this is directed right back to our synod to help us with our ministry here in the GMS.

We were also able to support our partnership ministries with $106,787.00. These partnerships include Lutheran Campus Ministry here in the Greater Milwaukee Synod, our seminaries where the leaders of tomorrow are being prepared today and partnerships with other denominations in the Greater Milwaukee area through the Wisconsin Council of Churches, Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee, also Lutheran Office of Public Policy and others.

Through our generous giving, we also provide resources to enable the Synod to help support our congregations and their ministries. This includes the bishop and his staff, youth and family Cross Generational programs, shepherding candidates for rostered ordained and lay leadership, leadership development and anti-racism training.

Our challenge this year it to try and grow the congregational support for 2015-2016 and the future. This support provides key resources to help us in daily ministries at the congregational, synodical and Churchwide level. We have done and continue to do great things in this Synod all because of the direct support from our congregations. God's work, our hands is truly embodied in the GMS; stories of which will be shared with you in the days to come. However, we need to build on this giving in order to continue the level of support to our congregations. While we have made cuts within the budget, the overwhelming opinion of the council has been to provide necessary support and guidance to our congregations. This can only be done with the faithful support from our congregations.

Please take time to review the budget for fiscal year 2016-2017 provided in the Assembly Supplement. You can always contact any of the members of the Synod Finance Committee with any questions or concerns.

I would like to thank our Director of Finance, Dave Groenewold, for the great work he does in the day-to-day handling of the finances. I would also like to thank Sandy Chrostowski, Director of Evangelical Mission, and the entire Synod Stewardship and Finance committees for their hard work and dedication in working with congregations as they plan their budgets and mission support. Our efforts help to provide the great ministry that happens every day in our GMS.

It is truly a great privilege to serve as Synod Treasurer and I want to thank you for this opportunity.

Yours in Christ,

Lee D. Johnston, Treasurer