

## REPORT OF THE TREASURER

The Greater Milwaukee Synod continues to be a good steward of all of the Mission Support that we receive from our member congregations.

In the fiscal year that ended on January 31, 2019, we received a total of \$1,883,107.94 in mission support. We had budgeted a projected income from Mission Support of \$2,000,000, and other income for a total revenue of \$2,047,500. When we passed that budget at the Synod Assembly in 2017, we projected a deficit of \$104,980. We ended the year with a deficit of \$84,058. We had some unrestricted reserve funds that allowed us to cover the deficit.

Our congregations continue to be incredibly generous, both to Mission Support and to other benevolences, both within the ELCA and also outside of it. In the last fiscal year congregations of the Greater Milwaukee Synod gave more than half a million dollars to World Hunger, and more than \$200,000 each to our El Salvador and Meru partners and to the ELCA designated gifts including Disaster Relief and Good Gifts. The total direct giving to the ELCA apart from the portion that we as a synod send through our sharing of mission support from congregations of the Greater Milwaukee Synod totaled \$1,348,655. This is in addition to the \$1.88 million shared with the Synod in regular mission support. Many congregations support local ministries and partner congregations in addition to their Mission Support that we receive at the Synod.

I learned stewardship from some great mentors and have learned to live with the sense of abundance, not scarcity. As treasurer of the Greater Milwaukee Synod, I do see the many, many blessings that our congregations share in so many inspiring ways. Our synod is blessed with great leaders in our congregations and in our synod staff.

At our synod level we continue to keep our spending at or below budgeted levels and closely monitor every opportunity to keep spending down. We are good stewards. It was a very difficult discussion in the finance committee and the synod council to recommend the budget that we are bringing to this Assembly, with a lowering of our shared support to the ELCA from 55% to 52.5%. We all wanted to keep our support at the current level, but the realities of being good stewards of the resources entrusted to us required us to make difficult decisions. Knowing that congregations are supporting the ELCA so generously with direct gifts made the difficult decision more acceptable, so that we can propose a smaller deficit budget to you at this assembly.

Yours in Christ,

Tom Gauthier