

*Each candidate was asked to describe the challenges, opportunities and priorities that face the Mid-South District over the next five years and to limit their answers to 300 words or less.*

Rev. Dr. Roger C. Paavola —

In 2018, the District will spend 102% of what we received from congregation commitments on missions! With over 3 million unchurched people in the District, our harvest field is waiting. Therefore, we will

Coordinate congregation's outreach with "***Each One – Reach One***" for personal witness, establishing a ***Lutheran Identity Task Force*** to develop members who can boldly share our Lutheran Confessions.

Coordinate outreach efforts with the LWML and LLL.

Expand **COMPASS and CAR** resources to provide information to grow congregations and schools.

Refine ***Church Planting*** to maximize successful planting opportunities.

Partner with congregations, schools, and ECC's where there is excess capacity of their facilities to explore the possibilities of ***Planting Schools and Early Childhood Centers and possibly Virtual Schools***.

Build the **Small and Rural Congregations Network** to maximize the possibilities of missions in their communities.

Increase our congregations' abilities to develop and strengthen children and youth ministries in the **Generations2Generations** Initiative.

Continue Town Hall Meetings to gather ideas and concerns for services from the District.

Expand ***Tuesday Sermon Studies*** for pastors and laity.

Offer ***SMP Colloquy***, and financial assistance to seminaries SMP.

Continue the **District's stewardship** council to bring understanding of Christian stewardship to congregations.

Expand financial ***scholarships*** for students for church work and offer assistance in ***Education Debt Relief***.

Seek additional opportunities to ***Expand Ethnic Ministries***.

Offer **data and financial management** assistance and accounting for congregations unable to acquire their own fiscal management systems.

Expand "**Funding the Ministry**" opportunities.

**Support Lutheran International Missions and Ministries** with the SELVD, the Malagasy Lutheran Church, and Trinity/Hope through support of our congregations.

At congregation's requests, **develop multi-parish arrangements** and alternative arrangements.

Work with congregations interested in providing ***Housing for the Elderly and Condominium Development***.

Develop live-streaming options from our existing congregations that have the need for arrangements of providing **televised worship programming**.