

The Ohio District

ONE Church MANY Partners
in Kentucky, West Virginia & Ohio

October 2008 update of our shared ministries



Southern Region Facts & Stats

- The Southern Region includes all of West Virginia, northern Kentucky and southern Ohio.
- The Southern Region has more than 35,000 square miles with about 25,000 square miles in Appalachia and Appalachian foothills.
- There are 55 congregations churches in the Southern Region which are organized into six circuits. Three churches are in West Virginia and four in Kentucky.

Mission Church Facts & Stats

- The Ohio District has 10 new churches or new campuses being planted at this time. There are also nine other on-going Gospel missions, such as our deaf churches.
- The Ohio District has budgeted \$415,500 in 2008 in direct support to these missions.
- The New Mission Fund is being created to ensure future funding for new churches.

In Touch In Touch

“In Touch” Interview Rev. Kevin Wilson

What “hats” do you wear for the Ohio District?

I serve as the Mission and Ministry Facilitator for the Southern Region and MMF for New Missions throughout the district.

Where is your home base?

The Southern Region office is in Marysville, OH, about 30 miles northwest of Columbus. Living in the Marysville area places me 2 1/2 hours from the churches I serve.

How do you serve the churches of the Southern Region?

My level of involvement in the churches is totally determined by the local congregation. I pray for all the congregations weekly. Some churches want resources or training in specific areas of ministry, such as evangelism and stewardship. Other churches want full facilitations. Facilitations involve assessing the health of the congregation, helping the church develop a ministry plan and coaching the congregation for 12 to 18 months while the plan is implemented.

The Ohio District-LCMS exists to fulfill the Great Commission in ways that are faithful to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions through:

Healthy Workers
Healthy Mission Outposts
Healthy Partnerships

How do you serve new mission churches in the district?

I work with new missions from the first organizational meeting through the sixth year of congregational development. I am responsible for ensuring church planters have coaching and peer groups, providing training for launch teams and trouble shooting missions that are not growing. I also assess potential church planters for the district. In addition I am responsible for the district's long range planning for new mission starts.

Why do you think the Ohio District called you to serve in these roles?

The district was looking for practical experience. The first church I served was a turn-around church that ultimately planted a daughter church. I also have planted a free standing mission. I think I also fit the southern region. My family roots are Appalachian. As the family moved west they lived in areas like Boone County, KY, which is part of the Southern Region.

What do you like most about serving the churches of the Ohio District?

I deeply appreciate the opportunity to serve churches with under 70 in worship, congregations that couldn't afford a consultant. I know what it is like to pastor a church with 50 people in worship. I also enjoy coaching church planters because God has placed such a great challenge before them.

Your District Staff



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