One of my goals for 2019 as Treasurer of Western Iowa Synod is to provide regular financial updates to the people of our Western Iowa Synod thru the E-Spirit. My intention is to provide a brief summary of where we have been, where we are at currently and what we are working on from a financial standpoint. For the fiscal year ending on January 31, 2018, mission support income came in $30,000 lower compared to the previous year. When looking at it from a budget prospective, we came up $50,000 short from our $900,000 budget goal for fiscal year 2018. Due to the lower mission support income, the mission support sent on to Churchwide came in $22,000 short of our budget goal of $308,000. Internal undesignated funds were used to lessen the shortage that was sent to Churchwide.

For February 2019, mission support income came in $7,900 less in mission support compared to previous year for February. The total mission support income for February was $48,952. In prospective we are looking for mission support income of around $60,000 a month to pay the Synod’s bills and meet our Churchwide Mission commitments which are approved at Synod Assembly.

There are multiple ways to look at the financials over the past year. When you look at the farm economy over the previous couple of years, an aging population in Western Iowa and expenses going up from an inflation standpoint the margins in a Church are shrinking. Does that mean we should accept the position we are in and state this is what is going to be? I believe this is an opportunity for conversation to begin on what we want the Church to look like for the future. What roles/programs/opportunities do we want to be apart of going forward and how are we going to finance it? We must remember that we are all in this together, Churchwide, Western Iowa Synod and the Congregations you worship in. Let’s start the conversation today on how we can grow the Church for tomorrow!

Western Iowa Treasurer

Michael Jacobson