

Floor Committee #4: Ministry of Christian Giving

**Subject: General report**

Reference: *Book of Reports and Memorials*, pp. 23-26

Report No. 01

We commend the Ministry of Christian Giving (MCG) director, office staff, and Christian giving counselors (CGCs) for their continued faithful work in encouraging monetary gifts for gospel ministry. We thank God for the high level of congregational support received through Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO) and for the 98 percent participation rate for submitting CMO commitments for 2023.

We further commend the MCG for its decision, at the direction of the Conference of Presidents, to contract with consulting firm BWF to learn how to better nurture relationships with donors and connect them with their areas of interest. We thank God for the many contacts made by our CGCs and for the generosity of WELS members.

We encourage the MCG to continue to coordinate efforts with WELS Communication Services and the various areas of ministry (e.g. Ministerial Education, World/Home Missions, etc.) to prepare giving appeals that are directed and timely. We especially encourage every effort to try to prevent possible “donor fatigue” among WELS donors.

We commend the MCG for its assistance with important projects and campaigns, both past and current, including the Martin Luther College competency-based education initiative, “100 missions in 10 years” with the Board for Home Missions, and Luther Preparatory School’s new music center.

We praise God for the CGCs’ efforts to remain up to date on best practices for giving. We specifically thank God for Rev. Rich Kogler, Rev. Phil Gieschen, Mr. Rick Kneser, and Rev. Dr. Michael Dietz, who finished their service as CGCs in this past biennium. We ask for God’s blessing on new Christian giving counselors Rev. Steve Schmeling, Rev. Craig Wasser, Mr. Pat Ruehrdanz, and Mr. Terry Helton. We pray that God will enable the MCG to fill its office vacancy and two CGC vacancies.

In a time when our world and nation’s economies are uncertain, what an amazing blessing it is to see that our synod’s membership continues to support gospel ministry through their monetary gifts. Praise be to God for his gifts to us and the generosity of his people!

Pastor William Carter, chairman

Staff Minister Levi Nagel, secretary