

Floor Committee #6: Synodical Council

Subject: Final report

Reference: *Book of Reports and Memorials*, pp. 43-57

Report No. 1

We are encouraged by the Synodical Council's understanding of the Congregational Services report presented by Pastor Jonathan Hein at the synod in convention on Aug. 1, 2023.

A main focus of our committee's discussion was the plan to start 100 new missions in 10 years. We are excited about the prospect of more outreach and are in full agreement that along with the expansion of our congregational footprint, consolidation of ministries should be considered where possible.

Other questions raised concerned the future of Martin Luther College (MLC) and some of our current efforts to grow our called worker pool. Have we properly studied the potential unintended consequences to our worker training college regarding competency-based education, synod certification programs, and the calling of public school teachers into WELS schools? While these programs have the potential to provide much needed workers, we wonder where they will leave MLC in the long run as going to New Ulm is becoming less and less necessary. We encourage the Synodical Council to look into this issue.

We are encouraged and excited by the "Christ through us" long-range plan, specifically its focus on one-on-one evangelism. We see many benefits to the approach and believe Christ's church should continue to be empowered to and encouraged to share the saving truths of the gospel with those closest to us. We are all missionaries, and it will serve our church well if we truly adopt this attitude and culture.

Pastor Carlos Leyrer, chairman

Teacher Andrew Willems, secretary