

Floor Committee #7: Ministry financial plan

**Subject: Ministry financial plan (2023–25) FY24/FY25 Biennium**

Reference: *Book of Reports and Memorials*, pp. 71-95

Report No. 01

It is with joyful thanks for the blessings of our gracious God that we note that WELS is financially strong. Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO), unrestricted special fund support, and other unrestricted support increased in Fiscal Year 2021–22 leading to an overall increase in reserves of \$6.0 million. Projections indicate that these trends will continue and be on pace as planned for Fiscal Year 2022–23. The worker training schools remain financially strong with healthy reserve levels and support without donor restrictions trending higher than planned levels. Recent enrollment trends at Martin Luther College, however, are concerning, and long-term financial impact is being closely monitored. WELS Church Extension Fund, WELS Foundation, WELS Investment Funds, and Northwestern Publishing House finished FY22 financially stronger than when they began the year. Projections for Fiscal Year 2022–23 (FY23) are similarly strong with reported increases of reserves without donor restrictions. The FY24 ministry financial plan of \$101.8 million and FY25 ministry financial plan of \$104.6 million does assume a 0.5 percent increase in CMO and relies on the drawdown of the Financial Stabilization Fund of approximately \$4.0 million and on areas of ministry and schools using \$11.5 million of reserves.

Pastor Matt Brown, chairman

Teacher Adrian Smith, secretary