

Floor Committee #15: Subsidiaries

**Subject: WELS Historical Institute**

Reference: *Book of Reports and Memorials*, pp. 145-147

Report No. 01

The committee wishes to thank all those past and present who have been involved in the preservation of our WELS history through the work of WELS Historical Institute. We note the service of Dr. Joel Pless who served on the board for 17 years and chairman for four years. Since WELS Historical Institute is self-funded through membership dues, gifts, and memorials, the committee would encourage the membership of WELS to consider the wide variety of ways they can support WELS Historical Institute, including membership in the institute, monetary gifts, donation of items for WELS Archives, tours of the WELS museum at Salem Lutheran Landmark Church, and making use of its online presence at its website and on Facebook.

Together with those currently involved with WELS Historical Institute, the committee notes these items, first of all, as they look back:

- A celebration was held on Sept. 25, 2021, at Salem Lutheran Church in Milwaukee to mark the 40th anniversary of WELS Historical Institute.
- A celebration was held on July 10, 2022, at St. John's on the Hillside, the historic church in downtown Milwaukee, to mark the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Synodical Conference. A presentation was given by Pastor Peter Prange on the founding of the Synodical Conference, which can be found on the new WELS Historical Institute website, **welshistoricalinstitute.org**.

Then we and WELS Historical Institute look ahead:

- The goal of WELS Historical Institute is to “completely restore to its 1863 appearance” Salem Lutheran Landmark Church in time for the 500th anniversary of the birth of the Lutheran Church on June 25, 2030. The institute is raising funds to replace the flat roof on the former Salem School, which is attached to Salem Landmark Church.
- The institute is gearing up to have several special events in connection to the 175th anniversary of the founding of WELS.
- Three lectures on historical topics are scheduled for August, September, and October 2023.
- A new pictorial history of WELS and accompanying video are planned for WELS’ 175th anniversary. All members of WELS are invited to submit historical pictures of people, buildings, events, and ministry activities for consideration in these projects.

Pastor Geoff Cortright, chairman

Teacher Michael Henning, secretary