

Committee #13: Christian Aid and Relief

Subject: Report on Christian Aid and Relief

Reference: *2025 Book of Reports and Memorials* pp. 75-77

Report No. 01

WELS Christian Aid and Relief, one of our synod's ministries of compassion, helps our congregations and missions all around the world help people in need. These efforts are not funded through Congregation Mission Offerings but by special gifts of God's people in WELS. This aid can help build trusting relationships that lead to opportunities to share the good news of our Savior. Pastor Daniel Sims is the director of this work.

With thanksgiving to God for his work through his people, the committee notes Christian Aid and Relief has three categories for its work:

Disaster relief: When there is a disaster such as a fire, flood, or hurricane that impacts a community where WELS has a congregation or mission, WELS Christian Aid and Relief works with the congregation to help the community clean up and rebuild. They do this by providing funding, trained volunteer labor, equipment, leadership, and logistics. Leaders have been trained to lead such disaster relief deployments with more planned for the future.

Humanitarian aid: Christian Aid and Relief partners with Home and World Missions to provide basic needs to those who lack them through humanitarian aid programs. Grants are used for food distribution, school supplies, clean water, etc.

To assist self-supporting congregations in compassion ministry, Christian Aid and Relief provides annual matching grants of up to \$4,000 to congregations that are reaching out to their communities with the compassion of Christ. Examples of such work are food pantries, community gardens, pregnancy care, etc.

Individual relief: If a person in our congregations, whether called worker, congregational member, or neighbor, is undergoing a serious medical or financial crisis that is beyond the capacity of the local congregation to handle, assistance is coordinated through the local pastor with Christian Aid and Relief.

Plans for this biennium include training more disaster deployment leaders, producing a manual to assist in deployment of disaster trailers, and coordinating a chainsaw training program.

Christian Aid and Relief has resources available, including presentations to communicate this valuable opportunity to serve those in need. Christian Aid and Relief intends to improve its communication to educate WELS people about the work and its support.

May we take to heart God's Word in Galatians 6:10, "So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who belong to the household of faith."

Teacher Fred Uttech chairman
Pastor Paul Schaefer, secretary