

Floor Committee #16: Board for Ministerial Education

Subject: Financial support for synodical schools

Reference: Memorial (2025-02); *Book of Reports and Memorials*, pp. 196,197

Report No. 02

Memorial 2025-02 acknowledges that our church body has been blessed with a strong ministerial education system to supply called workers. As additional called workers are needed in our synod, the memorial requests the Synodical Council to allocate a higher percentage of the financial stabilization fund to assist with financial needs, particularly for Martin Luther College (MLC).

However, this committee does not believe that a further drawdown of the synod's Financial Stabilization Fund is a viable mechanism to accomplish long-term financial strength. The ministry financial plan for this biennium is the result of a detailed, collaborative process encompassing all areas of ministry, including the four ministerial education schools. The Financial Stabilization Fund is an essential component of the ministry financial plan, being actively used to fund about 34 percent of Synod Operating Support. In fact, the current ministry financial plan already includes aggressive use of the Financial Stabilization Fund, with deliberate, strategic drawdown designed to support current ministry.

Furthermore, MLC has a plan in place to address its budget shortfalls through focused efficiencies and, if needed, the use of available reserve funds. MLC has also set and achieved the goal of reducing deficit spending for FY 2026-27 and has committed to balanced budgets beyond FY2027, while maintaining an emphasis on keeping costs to the student low.

Therefore, we do not recommend Memorial (2025-02) for adoption at this convention. Rather, we encourage the members of our synod to keep MLC and all our synodical schools in their prayers and to promote the need for financial contributions to MLC's general operating funds to provide a long-term solution to the current financial challenge.

And finally, we commend the work of MLC to the Lord of the harvest, that he may continue to bless its efforts in raising the next generation of called workers for our synod and his kingdom.

Pastor Peter Metzger, chairman

Teacher James Rademan, secretary