

Floor Committee #2: Conference of Presidents

Subject: Reports from the Conference of Presidents, WELS Support Committee, Translation Liaison Committee, and Continuing Education for Called Workers Committee

Reference: *Book of Reports and Memorials*, pp. 8-15, 17-23

Report No. 01

Conference of Presidents

We give thanks for the faithful work of the Conference of Presidents (COP) in overseeing doctrine and practice within WELS. We commend the COP for issuing a pastoral brief on critical theory in response to resolutions passed by previous synod conventions and for its pastoral letter on the roles of men and women. We appreciate the clarity these have brought and are encouraged to hear of their positive reception.

We thank God for allowing the COP, in its role as assignment committee, to fulfill its goal of not assigning MLC teacher graduates to school principal positions. We also praise God that 2024 saw the highest Congregation Mission Offerings in our synod's history.

We commend the COP for authorizing Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary and Luther Preparatory School to launch generosity campaigns for upcoming building projects and pray that these efforts bless future generations.

We urge all members to pray for and encourage future church workers, as the COP continues to address pastoral and teaching shortages. We also commend the approval of a new Teaching Ministry Certification proposal, simplifying the path for uncertified or non-active teachers who desire to serve.

We pray for the pastors and teachers who have recently accepted calls extended by the COP to serve in various areas of ministry and extend heartfelt appreciation to the pastors whose terms of service on the COP have recently concluded.

We give thanks for the special 175th anniversary synodwide thank offering and the many celebratory events and resources honoring God's grace across our history. We pray this anniversary inspires renewed dedication to gospel ministry.

WELS Support Committee

We are grateful that the committee has met all support needs, currently aiding 22 retired called workers and spouses. We commend the committee's ongoing care for those who have served faithfully.

Translation Liaison Committee

We appreciate the committee's continued engagement with Bible translation updates and feedback to translation groups. We commend its plans to offer online reviews of significant English translations and to prepare a book on Bible translation and pray that these resources will help to address confusion and concerns among our people. We recognize with gratitude the dedicated service of the seven members of this committee, all of whom have faithfully served since 2013.

Continuing Education for Called Workers Committee

We give thanks for the ongoing continuing education opportunities offered through Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary and Martin Luther College, including options that help address our current shortage of called workers. We encourage our workers to pursue continuing education and urge our churches and schools to support them in that pursuit.

Pastor Samuel Degner, chairman
Teacher Mark Thiesfeldt, secretary