

Floor Committee #4: Congregational Services—Churches

Subject: Congregational Services—Churches

Reference: *Book of Reports and Memorials*, pp. 35-50

Report No. 01

WELS Congregational Services exists to encourage and equip congregations for faithful and fruitful gospel ministry.

We give thanks to our gracious heavenly Father for the many resources that these commissions have faithfully provided to many of our congregations. We have been blessed by the faithful efforts and diligent work of those who lead these commissions: Pastor Jonathan Hein—Congregational Counseling; Pastor Donn Dobberstein—Discipleship; Pastor Eric Roecker—Evangelism; Pastor Joel Gaertner—Special Ministries; and Pastor Paul Prange—Worship. Our committee would like to especially acknowledge Pastor Bryan Gerlach, who served as the director of WELS Commission on Worship since 1995 and retired this past biennium, as well as Mr. Dave Hochmuth for his faithful services overseeing WELS Prison Ministry's efforts for the past seven years.

The committee marveled over the many and varied programs that Congregational Services offers to feed and equip the faithful, as well as reach the lost. We noted what a blessing it was that Congregational Services interacted with between 70 and 90 churches and schools at any given point in time in the past biennium, representing a 150 percent increase in active consultations from a decade prior. We encourage the delegates to become familiar with the many programs and resources described in the report. A number of men from our committee noted their congregational use of several of the resources (for example: **madeknown.net** for more information on LGBTQ issues; Conquerors through Christ for those struggling with pornography; *Let's Go: Personal Witnessing Training* for congregations hoping to enhance their outreach mindset). The committee encourages the delegates to draw attention to this information in your home congregation as well as in neighboring congregations. We also encourage the laymen and called workers of our synod to subscribe to and receive information from the Congregational Services website. The website address is **welscongregationalservices.net**. The committee notes with joy that a great many resources from Congregational Services are free of charge.

Due to the decline of youth and women's attendance and participation in congregational life, we encourage the delegates to promote the upcoming WELS International Youth Rally and WELS Women's Ministry events as a means to engage those demographic groups.

We pray that the Lord of the Church continues to bless Congregational Services as their commissions continue to provide beneficial resources for our congregations and ministries.

Pastor Mark Schroeder, chairman

Teacher Kevin Klug, secretary