

Floor Committee #8: Financial Results and Ministry Financial Plan

Subject: Ministry financial plan (2025-2027)

Reference: *Book of Reports and Memorials*, pp. 88-113

Report No. 01

We praise and thank our gracious Lord for blessing WELS with financial stability. Congregation Mission Offerings, the Financial Stabilization Fund, and other unrestricted funds increased in previous fiscal years. WELS exceeded projections and ended with an overall increase in reserves. Estimates indicate that this trend will continue in the next biennium. WELS subsidiaries remain financially healthy with sufficient reserves. The floor committee appreciates the careful attention the Synodical Council gave to the budget planning over a 15-month period. We recognize that our ministerial education schools are the chief component of the financial plan and encourage the Synodical Council to continue giving careful attention to funding these essential institutions. We praise God for the Financial Stabilization Fund and support the plan to spend it down in the budget during the next biennium. The floor committee recommends the Synodical Council explore options for acquiring input on the ministry financial plan from the districts ahead of future synod conventions. Finally, the floor committee encourages the Synodical Council to be mindful of inflation and rising living costs as it considers changes to the called worker salary scale and compensation guidelines.

Pastor Gary Pufahl, chairman

Staff Minister Brent Bitter, secretary