

Reference: RTD, pp. 11-18  
Report No. 1

Early childhood enrollments continue to grow. Lutheran elementary schools and area Lutheran high school enrollments have grown slightly in the past year. Funding has been challenging for this commission in many areas, requiring more and more synod support. All early childhood education (ECE), Lutheran elementary schools, and area Lutheran high schools are encouraged to participate in the Supplemental Contribution Program. Currently stand alone ECEs are at .05% participation, Lutheran elementary schools are at 54% participation, and area Lutheran high schools are at 52%.

Reference: RTD, p. 32  
Report No. 2

The Commission for Congregational Counseling (CCC) assists WELS congregations in evaluating ministry and developing plans to adjust and expand their ministry. We pray that the Lord will bless the CCC as it trains counselors for working one-on-one with congregations and as they seek to call a director for the ongoing training and coordination of CCC counselors.

Reference: RTD, pp. 11-13, 24-29  
Report No. 3

We thank the Lord for the service of the Commission of Special Ministries as it coordinates thousands of volunteers who meet the spiritual needs of individuals who face special physical, mental, or emotional challenges, serve our members in the military, and reach out to people in prison. All of this work under the commission is carried out without financial support from the synod budget. Please remember the work of Special Ministries in your prayers and stewardship.

We look forward to the contributions of the newly established WELS Nurses Association, the new Chaplain Certification program, and continued efforts to enhance all areas of Special Ministries.

As Rev. Carl Ziemer enters retirement, we thank him for his faithful service as the director of the Commission on Special Ministries.

Reference: RTD, pp. 11-13  
Report No. 4

While the Congregational Ministry Support Group (CMSG) is significantly downsized and unable to deliver the same level of services as in the past, each unit still strives faithfully and creatively to serve congregations, schools, and their leaders.

The CMSG has been working on various stronger partnerships, as envisioned by the Ad Hoc Commission and by the 2009 synod convention. In the time that has passed since 2009, this work in progress seeks to answer these questions:

- How can the CMSG better serve alongside district presidents and a revamped circuit pastor system?

- How can district presidents encourage better usage of CMSG resources and programs?
- How will the CMSG be a part of the growing emphasis on continuing education of called workers and pursuit of excellence in our parishes and schools?

The Institute for Worship and Outreach is a group of WELS pastors who have become convinced, on the basis of study and ministry experiences, that worship forms and outreach methods can and must intersect confessionally and evangelically in efforts to proclaim the gospel of Jesus. With this perspective, they have come together to foster a unified philosophy of worship and outreach in WELS and to be a resource for pastors as they reach out to the lost with the gospel of Jesus in public worship. More information is available at: [www.worshipandoutreach.org](http://www.worshipandoutreach.org)

Reference: RTD, pp. 29-32  
Report No. 5

The Commission on Youth and Family Ministry has a coordinator in each district to carry out work although they currently have no director in office. As they look ahead, the commission continues to struggle with a lack of funding, yet they hope to establish a Youth Rally Fund and continue Kid's Connection.

The Commission on Adult Discipleship currently operates without an administrative director. They look ahead to continuing Schools of Adult Bible Study for Pastors in 2013, New Internet Bible studies later this year, a new marriage course entitled "Distracted Marriage", and two sequels to *Road to Emmaus*.

The Commission for Congregational Counseling is the newest of the commissions in the Congregation and Ministry Support Group. It serves to provide encouragement and support for congregations. They launched E12 (Easter 2012) – serving with 500 congregations, sending over half a million Easter postcard invitations. More E12 info at [connect.wels.net/ccs](http://connect.wels.net/ccs).

Resolution No. 1

Reference: RTD, pp. 33-41  
Subject: Continuing Education for Called Workers Committee (CECW)

- WHEREAS 1) "the sharpened focus on continuing education for called workers sounded by the Ad Hoc Commission (2009) and the re-establishment of the Continuing Education for Called Workers Committee (CECW) by the synod convention of 2009 found specific support and direction in the proposal adopted by the synod convention of 2011. This proposal, titled 'Continuing education for WELS called teachers,' gives detailed directions, marching orders if you will, for the teacher side of the CECW" (p. 34); and
- WHEREAS 2) "two additional resolutions were adopted at the 2011 synod convention that began to lay the groundwork for what this coordinated and comprehensive program of continuing education might look like" (p. 33); and
- WHEREAS 3) the Conference of Presidents (COP), Commission on Lutheran Schools (CLS), Continuing Education of Called Workers Committee (CECW), Synodical Council (SC), and Board for Ministerial Education (BME) began implementing a program in advancement of this goal; and

WHEREAS 4) the COP passed a motion in its October 2011 meeting to require that “any time an MLC teacher candidate is assigned, the school is charged \$1,000/year fee for two years” (p. 35) to supply the school with a trained Instructional Mentor; and

WHEREAS 5) the report is a summary of the policy and as such lacks detail; and

WHEREAS 6) that both the New Teacher Induction and Veteran teacher development programs are “works in progress”, and as such are still being developed and tested; and

WHEREAS 7) acknowledging that this is a work in progress, nevertheless there are some concerns:

\*How will the plan encourage not only professional growth but also the spiritual growth of our called workers?

\*Will there be contingencies for congregations who may have difficulty meeting the NTI fees?

\*There appears to be a mandated increase in staff to Martin Luther College without also increasing synodical funding.

\*That there be definition for the phrase, “appropriate continuing education status of our teachers” (p. 41)

\*That additional stress on the family of the called worker be considered.

Therefore, be it

Resolved, a) the Minnesota District support this program and implementation; and be it further

Resolved, b) the Minnesota District direct the district secretary to forward the following concerns to the CECW; and be it finally

Resolved, c) that the same concerns be addressed by COP or CECW at the time of the Synod Convention 2013.

Resolution No. 2

Reference: RTD, pg. 2  
Subject: Congregational Mission Offerings

WHEREAS 1) a number of congregations have not submitted subscriptions for Congregational Mission Offerings (CMO); and

WHEREAS 2) some congregations do not send any offerings to the synod; therefore, be it

Resolved, a) that we urge all congregations in the Minnesota District to submit subscriptions for CMO; and be it finally

Resolved, b) that we urge all congregations in the Minnesota District to support the blessed ministry of the Synod with Congregational Mission Offerings.

Rev Matthew Rauh, Chairman  
Rev John Meyer, Secretary

Lay Delegates

Christ Baxter  
Bloomington Bloomington  
St John Boyd  
St Matthew Danube  
St John Fairfax  
St John Glencoe  
Immanuel Hutchinson  
Bethlehem Lakeville  
Emmanuel Owatonna  
Cross Rockford  
Good Shepherd Saint Peters

Teachers

Gregory Baures  
Mark Dobberstein  
John Gronholz  
Jonathan Harley  
Jason Jaspersen  
Karl Mantzke  
James Pasbrig  
David Retzlaff  
Steven Rutschow  
Lyle Strehler  
Jeffrey Strehlow  
David Wendler  
Mark Zoeliner

Pastors

Daniel Balge  
Timothy Blauert  
Matthew DeNoyer  
Edwin Fredrich  
Jonathan Hackbarth  
Christopher Hoppe  
Scott Muske  
Stephen Schmiel  
Curtiss Seefeldt  
William Staab  
Timothy Wahl  
Mark Zarling