

Reference: RTD, pp. 77-81.

Report No. 1

“The Board for Home Missions (BHM) works to coordinate the rescue mission of souls through the establishing and supporting of mission churches.”

Currently the BHM serves 11 exploratory missions, 24 missions in development phase, 9 ministries in enhanced phase and 16 cross-cultural ministries. Another 114 congregations are classified as missions because they have loans from the Church Extension Fund.

The BHM serves our campus ministries around the country. Keeping up-to-date student information on databases remains a challenge. However, the BHM continues to work diligently at providing a church home for WELS collegiates throughout our country.

The BHM received a \$1 million grant from the WELS Church Extension Fund. This grant was divided among 6 mission congregations: Peace in Jesus, Boise, ID; Spirit of Life, Caledonia, MI; Christ, Denver, CO; Moncks Corner, SC; Amazing Love, New Lenox, IL; and Trinity, Woodbridge, VA.

In 2011 the BHM opened four new mission congregations: Leamington, Ontario, Canada; Moncks Corner, SC; Morristown, TN; and Vail, AZ. Neighboring congregations are partnering with most of these missions.

In 2010 the BHM opted for a regional approach for Home Missions for two years; it will be reevaluated this fall. Each district maintains its own mission board, but mission boards are working with one another within the four regions: North, South, East, and West.

WELS-Canada continues its move to become an independent church body. The districts with churches in Canada will have to approve this in their conventions.

The BHM also supports a number of cross-cultural ministries, including Hispanic, Hmong, Lao, Sudanese, Korean, Japanese, Chinese, Navajo, and Vietnamese.

BHM partners:

- WELS Church Extension Fund
- WELS Kingdom Workers
- Lutheran Women's Mission Society
- Multi-Language Publications

Looking ahead, the BHM continues to plan new missions, to partner with existing congregations in starting new missions and ministries, and to communicate with members of the Synod about how the Lord blesses the gospel proclamation throughout North America. Our committee takes great joy in all the opportunities our Synod is using to share the gospel with the lost and looks forward to see how the Lord will bless that gospel proclamation.

Rev. James Grabitske, Chairman  
Rev. Ben Kempfert, Secretary  
Jason Rupnow  
Gerald Woodley  
Greg Tobison  
John Hahm  
Andrew Bare  
Bruce Baumeister  
Frederick Panning  
Curt Richter  
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Jeff Limpert  
Ken Caseltine  
Dave Sauer

Resolution No. 1

Reference: RTD, pg. 78  
Subject: Regional Approach for Board Representation

RESOLUTION

- WHEREAS 1) it is the desire of the WELS Board for Home Missions to make the best use of Synod resources as it “works to coordinate the rescue mission of souls through the establishing and supporting of mission churches”; and
- WHEREAS 2) the WELS Board for Home Missions has been in a two-year trial period making use of a regional approach to prioritize home mission activities; and
- WHEREAS 3) a practice of district representatives openly discussing and deciding mission priorities gives valuable grassroots input; and
- WHEREAS 4) the regional system impairs direct district Board for Home Missions input into decisions; and
- WHEREAS 5) the envisioned benefits of the regional system for improved efficiency, reduced costs, and better training may not have been realized; and
- WHEREAS 6) regional representatives may not have necessary information to answer specific questions concerning certain mission opportunities; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED a) that we encourage the dissolution of the trial regional system; and be it further
- RESOLVED b) that we encourage the Board for Home Missions Executive Committee no longer to prioritize mission opportunities in advance of the meeting of the Board for Home Missions at large; and be it finally
- RESOLVED c) that we encourage the Board for Home Missions Executive Committee to prioritize the training of and communication between district Boards for Home Missions.

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