

100 MISSIONS IN 10 YEARS

WELS HOME MISSIONS 2023-2033

Task Force Recommendations

Missionaries

- The Board for Home Missions (BHM) has regular meetings with Martin Luther College and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary to discuss recruiting, encouraging, and equipping men to serve as church planters.
- Home Missions Administration and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary continue to meet at least annually to discuss items of current interest.
- Consider having more vicars serve in missions that are in the early years of existence through the Vicar in a Mission Setting (ViMs) program.

Money

- Train, equip, and encourage District Mission Boards (DMBs) to look at their missions with a critical eye.
- Acknowledge that DMBs are advocates for their missions and we all want each mission to thrive.
- Communicate and put into perspective why defunding may have to occur. i.e., stewardship of resources.
- Have DMBs use a green-yellow-red rating system for tracking their subsidized missions.
- Encourage flexibility and creativity of the DMBs, when appropriate, as to not to abandon a field where a mission is defunded. While this may not always be possible, it could mean that the DMB makes a request for subsidy that is significantly less but allows the people to still be served with the gospel.
- Encourage Church Extension Fund (CEF) to work with WELS Home Missions to find creative ways to reduce debt payments for our mission congregations.
- Consider ways to provide additional awareness/visibility for the best mission candidates and encourage/enable mission-minded donors to financially support these Home Missions efforts.

Internal Operations and Resources

- The Board for Home Missions Executive Committee (EC) establish and publish clear guidelines for budget submissions, including a corresponding budget narrative.
- The EC and Home Missions administration establish and communicate criterion for 2 and 3-year Mission Program Support Agreement (MPSA) renewal requests in addition to the 1-year requests.
- Each DMB will assign a member to review each individual New Start/ Restart/ Enhancement/MPSA request. This review to be part of the submission request.
- Train, equip and encourage DMBs to look at their requests with a critical eye.
- Maintain current EC member level (Chairman, two pastors, two laymen). As the initiative progresses, evaluate and pivot if necessary.
- Core group development and training is our most important “commodity”, and we need to do a better job of strengthening this area of mission work.
- Continue to focus on how we can better transition and train our growing mission churches.
- Encourage DMBs to proactively communicate with their District President if they are having concerns that the missionary may not be the right guy.
- Recommend DMB chairman/members make themselves available to local Lutheran Women’s Missionary Society (LWMS) circuit meetings/rallies to be the focus of the rallies in fall ’22 and/or spring ‘23 to communicate the initiative and their DMB pipeline, ways to support and get involved, etc.
- Continue to provide financial assistance to any mission effort seeking Praise and Proclaim training (this will require increased grant moneys to keep up with increased demand).
- Home Missions encourages DMBs to make use of Praise and Proclaim (in conjunction with Mission Journeys) at current home mission congregations and when exploring new mission fields and training core groups.

