

CONGREGATIONAL AND DISTRICT MINISTRY

Reference: RTTD, pp. 1-26

Report No. 1 – Conference of Presidents

The Conference of Presidents is entrusted with broad responsibilities for the Synod which include supervising, maintaining, and strengthening biblical doctrine and practice; overseeing the calling process; working with congregations to provide for called workers and their families; encouraging financial support of the synod; promoting the synod's mission and ministry, the general welfare of the synod, and providing counsel to the synod president.

We thank our Lord for the faithful service of those serving on the Conference of Presidents (COP).

We also are thankful for how the COP has reaffirmed biblical principles in addressing the roles of men and women, planning to offer several new “model” constitutions for congregations.

Report No. 2 – Convention Evaluation

The COP is reevaluating the benefits of electronic voting. There were hiccups with the system and some votes were not counted.

Also, the COP is putting to the Twelve Districts a proposal to change from a biennial convention to a triennial convention.

Committee No. 10 is thankful that another committee is taking up this proposal.

Report No. 3 – Congregations

We give thanks that the COP works to assist our congregations as they struggle with trying times – ever-changing ministries, a shortage of called workers, and church closures.

Report No. 4 – Elections for Synod Officers

The COP is considering a recommendation to the 2025 synod convention to change the procedure for the election of synod officers. Instead of nominating candidates from the convention floor, nominations would occur before the convention. The upside is that candidates would have more than 24 hours to deliberate such nominations.

A resolution follows at the end of this report.

Report No. 5 – 175 Synod Anniversary.

A committee chaired by Joel Otto has been appointed to plan the celebration of the Synod's 175th.

We give thanks to God through Jesus Christ for these years of grace and the ministry of our Synod and pray for our members as they return to him in praise for these years and ask for his continued blessings.

Report No. 6 – WELS Support Committee

We give thanks to God for the WELS Support Committee which is able to help retired called workers and surviving spouses with financial assistance for those without adequate resources.

Report No. 7 – Continuing Education for Called Workers Committee

We give thanks to God for the opportunities that our Synod affords our called workers to grow in their faith, knowledge, and skill to carry out their vocations. May God bless our called workers who participate in continuing education.

Report No. 8 – Commission on Inter-Church Relations

We give thanks for the CICR as it keeps discussions open with other church bodies who are and are not in fellowship with our Synod.

We find it impressive just how many church bodies throughout the world we are in fellowship with and reaching out with the gospel to all parts of the world.

Report No. 9 – Ministry of Christian Giving

The Ministry of Christian Giving serves the members of our congregations by encouraging them to excel in the grace of giving through Jesus Christ, providing opportunities to give gifts to Jesus for his work in their congregations, synod, and other WELS-affiliated ministries.

We give thanks to God for those who serve in this ministry and those who are blessed by that service.

We thank God for Rev. Michael Hatzung who served our district for so many years as a planned giving counselor and for his continued service in retirement.

Report No. 10 – Communication Services

Communication Services serves by communicating WELS' mission to members of the synod. Among its services are: Forward in Christ, wels.net, WELS Connection, Together, Annual Report. The Communication team creates promotional materials, logos, and videos for use on WELS social media channels.

We give thanks for each mode of communication that is used. We further thank the Lord as Communication Services continues to look for more ways for our people to share the gospel.

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Reference: RTTD, pg. 5

Subject: Election Procedures for Synod Officers

- WHEREAS 1) currently synod officers – president, vice presidents, and secretary – are nominated from the floor of the convention; and
- WHEREAS 2) biographies of those nominated are then given to the delegates present; and
- WHEREAS 3) delegates are currently given a short time to contemplate said nominations; and
- WHEREAS 4) those who are eventually elected have little time to consider a potential divine call to serve as synod president, vice president or secretary; and
- WHEREAS 5) it is desirable for those who serve in these positions to enter them with solemnity in prayer and petition before the heavenly Father, therefore; be it

Resolved, that the Minnesota District in convention urges the Conference of Presidents to move forward with a plan to change the bylaws that would allow an earlier nomination of candidates to synodical offices for the benefit of both the delegates who elect them and those who are elected and serve in those positions.

James Grabitske, Chairman
Peter Markgraf, Secretary

Timothy Denney
Joel Gawrisch
Mark Kaesmeyer
Benjy Pederson
Austin Ziche
Tom Chaleunsouk
Matthew Ewart
Paul Schuler
Don Main
Patrick Feldhus

John Meyer
Craig Morgan
Bradley Nehls
Timothy Plath
Martin Santos
Kirk Schauland
Jeffrey Schoenherr
Phillip Scriver
Adrian Smith
Mark Tacke
Rollin Timm
Jeffery Wiechman
Miles Wurster
Tyson Zarnstorff

Zuber Shah
Joel Grunke
John Augustine
Carlyle Olsen
Robert Marzinske
Steve Prigge
Steve Schwartz