

Committee No. 10

CONGREGATION AND DISTRICT MINISTRY

Reference: RTTD, pp. 1-40

The committee notes the following from the pages of our report:

Conference of Presidents (pp. 1-8)

- We are grateful the COP continues to encourage called workers and lay leaders to exercise their Christian freedom with wisdom, brotherly love, and extensive consultation with others in our fellowship who may be affected [in matters of adiaphora].
- We give thanks for the increase in CMOs but note with concern the pace at which inflation continues to surpass CMO growth.
- We appreciate that the election procedures for synod officers have been adjusted to allow voters more time to consider the candidates, and that the candidates are allotted more time to consider the potential calling and position before they are elected.
- We are thankful for the devoted service of Pastors Charles Westra, Joel Zank, Don Patterson, Doug Free, and Philip Hirsch to our synod on the Conference of Presidents (COP), and we ask God's blessings on the incoming district presidents as well.
- We are especially grateful for the constant work and discernment that the COP has shown as they oversee the call process and prepare an increasing number of call lists within our synod.

Support Committee (pp. 8-9)

- We are grateful for the care and concern the Support Committee shows to our retired called workers and/or their surviving spouses who may need financial help.
- We encourage the COP to promote awareness of this committee's activity.

Translation Liaison Committee (pp. 9-10)

- We are grateful the Translation Liaison Committee continues to evaluate and offer translation suggestions to editors and publishers of the *New International Version*, *English Standard Version*, and *New Living Translation*.
- We appreciate the comment that the *NLT* is a serious translation that insists on clear natural English with a "thought-for-thought" philosophy, that is not to be confused with the *Living Bible* which is a paraphrase of the Bible.

#### Continuing Education for Called Workers Committee (pp. 11-14)

- We recognize the importance of helping calling bodies understand why it is wise to invest in the continuing growth of their called workers.
- We are thankful for Grow in Grace, the materials they provide, and the classes they offer to support the spiritual and professional growth of our pastors.
- We encourage all pastors to make use of the three workbooks and study packets prepared by Rich Gurgel, “*Guard What Has Been Entrusted to Your Care*,” “*Reclaiming Our Christ-Centered Lutheran Devotional Heritage*,” and “*Fan God’s Gifts into Flame*.”
- We are grateful for the many resources that the WELS Commission on Lutheran Schools (CLS) and MLC offers to our teachers as they seek to develop and grow their teaching gifts.
- We encourage all our staff ministers to complete the MATS, “Master of Arts in Theological Studies,” which can be done 100% online.
- We encourage the CLS to facilitate re-entry into the teaching ministry for teachers whose licenses have lapsed or need renewal.

#### Commission on Inter-Church Relations (pp. 14-19)

- We thank the CICR for its work in representing our synod in discussions with other church bodies across the world, and we pray that the Lord of the Church would bless their efforts both to strengthen and to expand our global fellowship of believers.

#### Ministry of Christian Giving (pp. 20-23)

- We recognize God’s rich blessings through the work of our Christian giving counselors, and we encourage our synod and leaders to use these gifts wisely.
- We are thankful for the work of Mr. Mark Werre as current giving counselor for the Western Wisconsin district, and we ask for God’s blessing as Pastor Aaron Glaeske assumes these duties as deferred giving counselor for the Northern Wisconsin district.
- We give thanks for the work of Pastor Kurt Lueneberg for 13.5 years as director of the Ministry of Christian Giving.

#### Communication Services (pp. 24-27)

- We encourage Communication Services to continue pursuing avenues that are most effective for communicating the work of the synod.

#### Congregational Services (pp. 28-38)

- We note with concern the loss of 100,000 members from WELS’ peak membership, and we encourage congregations to make use of the many programs and materials that Congregational Services provides that have been developed to help with spiritual growth and member retention.

Rev. Brian Krueger, chairman

Rev. Erik Lund, secretary

*Pastors*

Rev. Karl Christie  
Rev. Joel Gawrisch  
Rev. Jack Kelly

*Teachers*

Mr. Michael Plocher  
Mr. Nick Kressin  
Mr. Jason Hahn  
Mr. Josh Wong  
Mr. Lucas Boehm

*Lay Delegates*

Mr. Josh Danell  
Mr. D. Scott Bertram  
Mr. Rohn Nelson  
Mr. Terry Stremcha  
Mr. Chuck Siems  
Mr. Greg Lewis  
Mr. Kenneth Ebert