

Committee No. 7

HOME MISSIONS

Reference: RTTD, pp. 99-105

Report No. 1

We praise Christ, who has made us his ambassadors, that Home Missions continues to carry out its chief endeavor of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ within the domestic mission fields of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod by supporting 157 home mission congregations, including 28 cross-cultural ministries.

Report No. 2

We give thanks to our Lord Jesus for the work of WELS Campus Ministry, which provides financial support and resources to nearly 50 campus ministries and assists hundreds of congregations as they seek to connect college students with fellow Christians, strengthen them in the gospel, and encourage them to share Christ with others.

Report No. 3

We thank the Lord of the Church for the continued progress of the “100 Missions in 10 Years” initiative, through which Home Missions has approved 31 new mission starts and 27 ministry enhancements since 2023, and we pray that he would continue to use this initiative to stretch us, strengthen our partnerships, and keep before us the urgency of reaching the lost with the gospel.

Report No. 4

We give thanks to God for the generous support of individuals, congregations, estates, and affiliated ministries, including the Lutheran Women’s Missionary Society and Divine Savior Ministries, whose gifts have helped make new mission starts and enhancements possible.

Report No. 5

We thank God for the partnership of WELS Church Extension Fund, which provides loans and grants that assist mission congregations with land purchases, construction, and facility needs, and we encourage WELS members, congregations, and affiliated organizations to consider supporting CEF through investments, savings certificates, retirement IRA certificates, gifts, and bequests.

Report No. 6

We give all glory to Christ, who lives, reigns, and works through his church, and we pray that he would continue to bless our flawed but faithful efforts to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his gracious will.

Resolution No. 1

Subject: To encourage faithful stewardship if recalibration of “100 Missions in 10 Years” becomes necessary

- WHEREAS 1) WELS Home Missions has been richly blessed by the Lord through the “100 Missions in 10 Years” initiative, which has encouraged zeal, urgency, partnership, and generosity in the work of planting new missions and enhancing existing ministries; and
- WHEREAS 2) the 2026 Report to the Twelve Districts states that the Board for Home Missions Executive Committee approves new start and enhancement requests and helps set the direction for WELS Home Missions; and
- WHEREAS 3) the 2026 Report to the Twelve Districts also states that district mission boards direct and supervise mission work within their districts under the guidelines of the Board for Home Missions; and
- WHEREAS 4) the 2026 Report to the Twelve Districts acknowledges that Home Missions must balance confidence in the Lord’s blessing with the reality of finite resources, and that limited money and manpower may require saying “no” to some requests in order to say “yes” to others; and
- WHEREAS 5) the administrator of the Board for Home Missions has publicly acknowledged that money and manpower are significant challenges for the “100 Missions in 10 Years” initiative and that Home Missions may need to adjust as needed; and
- WHEREAS 6) ministry enhancements may, in suitable circumstances, provide faithful opportunities to reach more souls with the gospel while making careful use of existing congregational resources, facilities, and community presence; therefore be it
- Resolved, a) that we give thanks to God for the zeal, wisdom, and faithful work of the Board for Home Missions, the Board for Home Missions Executive Committee, district mission boards, missionaries, congregations, and supporters of Home Missions; and be it further
- Resolved, b) that, if the Board for Home Missions determines that the numerical goals or timeline of the “100 Missions in 10 Years” initiative need to be adjusted, we encourage the Board for Home Missions Executive Committee to do so in consultation with district mission boards; and be it further
- Resolved, c) that, in any such recalibration, we encourage careful discernment regarding the balance between new mission starts and ministry enhancements, so that available resources may be stewarded for the greatest faithful gospel reach; and be it finally
- Resolved, d) that we pray the Lord of the Church would continue to bless both new starts and enhanced existing ministries so that more people may hear the saving gospel of Jesus Christ.

Jonathan Bourman, Chair

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