

WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
POSITION INFORMATION
ELECTIONS, CONVENTION, 2015

BOARD FOR HOME MISSIONS, CHAIRMAN

The chairman of the Board for Home Missions (BHM) is to be a parish pastor elected by the synod for a term of four years. He may succeed himself twice for a total of twelve (12) years of service. He helps establish the vision and direction of the Board for Home Missions. He chairs all meetings of the Board for Home Missions and of the BHM executive committee. The latter is the group that makes ministry program decisions on behalf of the BHM. In counsel and cooperation with the BHM staff, he produces and executes purposeful agendas for the meetings of the BHM, its executive committee and the BHM Team. He serves on the Synodical Council (SC) and on the Joint Mission Council (JMC). He rotates with the chairman of the Board for World Missions as the chairman of the JMC. He serves as the official representative of WELS Canada on the SC. He oversees the work of the BHM by reviewing BHM correspondence and regularly counseling with staff. He responds to communications directed to him personally as appropriate or by forwarding to the BHM staff. He represents the Board for Home Missions at conventions, conferences, and gatherings as his schedule permits. The above requires travel involving stays of 40 nights per year, on average. Depending on the availability of the chairman, this position involves approximately another 400 man hours per year in preparation and prayer for the Board for Home Missions.

BOARD FOR MINISTERIAL EDUCATION, MEMBER

A member of the Board for Ministerial Education (BME) serves a six-year term and may succeed himself once. He must possess spiritual maturity, be active in his local congregation, be willing to attend local and district conferences and other meetings as a representative of WELS Ministerial Education, and be able to spend approximately three days per year away from home on synodical business. He is a voting member of the BME. He may be asked to serve on one or more of the subcommittees of the BME.

He must have regular, reliable access to high speed Internet for computer communications. He must have computer hardware and software in place to send, receive, print, and review documents in any of the formats included in the Microsoft Office Professional software program package (e.g. Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, Outlook, and Publisher).

All voting members of the Board for Ministerial Education should be aware of the following list of expectations:

A board member will serve ministerial education well if he:

1. Sees his election or appointment as a privilege and an opportunity to serve the Kingdom of Christ with the talents and gifts that his fellow believers have observed in him.

2. Avails himself of every opportunity to grow and mature in faith through regular connection with the means of grace in Word and sacrament.
3. Reviews often the list of qualifications for Christian leadership and the expectations of Christian leaders recorded in 1 Timothy 3.
4. Enters into the role of board member with a sense of accepting a share of the mantle of responsibility for the mission, purpose, and goals of ministerial education.
5. Feels a compelling desire to make a meaningful contribution in promoting the advancement of ministerial education toward its fullest potential.
6. Makes a commitment to grow in his understanding of the complex workings of ministerial education; through attendance and participation at board and committee meetings and through appropriate personal inquiry.
7. Is dedicated to the mission and purpose of ministerial education to the point of personal sacrifice.
8. Assigns among the competing interests of his own life a high priority to serving the ministerial education area of ministry.
9. Is willing to support ministerial education and the schools that make up the ministerial school system through personal generosity and through a willingness to enlist the support of others, being secure in the belief that the worth of what ministerial education accomplishes through its graduates and the impact of their ministry on the world are deserving of consideration by anyone.
10. Believes that any notion of honor associated with being a board member results from effective service to the Board for Ministerial Education and, most important, faithful service to our Lord.
11. Seeks to inspire by personal example an enthusiasm in others to join in support of ministerial education.
12. Understands that the authority of a board member lies only in the right to vote at meetings and that the board has employed and vested in the administrative staff the authority to administer the ministerial education area of ministry.
13. Understands that loyal support of the administrator of the ministerial education office and the ministerial schools, for as long as they serve as such, is fundamental to the success and progress of ministerial education.

What a board member should expect from the Board for Ministerial Education:

Each member of the Board for Ministerial Education should expect to:

1. Receive a clear picture of his role and responsibilities prior to agreeing to stand for election or accepting appointment to serve on the BME. A position description should be available to nominating committees and the synod presidium during the nominating process.
2. Receive a comprehensive orientation and introduction to WELS ministerial education, its staff, and other members of the BME.
3. Be asked to accept responsibilities which are important to the ministerial education ministry area and appropriate to the abilities and interests of the BME member.
4. Serve on one (or more committees) of the BME that is of interest to the new member and of service to ministerial education.

5. Have questions and requests responded to promptly and thoroughly by the administrator or chairman of the Board for Ministerial Education or the appropriate member of a WELS ministerial school.
6. Be taken seriously by other BME members and staff when making suggestions or providing information.
7. Be provided thorough, ongoing orientation as a continuing member to enable him to succeed in accomplishing all tasks and meeting responsibilities.
8. Receive board meeting materials one week in advance of all meetings.
9. Receive essential information about the BME and each ministerial school's mission, vision, goals, activities, objectives, budgets, and financial position and be kept informed about the status and progress of each.
10. Have his time commitment respected and maximized.
11. Receive regular communications and reports from the BME administrator or chairman necessary to monitor the progress toward key institutional objectives.
12. Be given appropriate thanks and recognition for his voluntary service and philanthropic support.
13. Be consulted with by the executive committee regarding the performance of the BME administrator.
14. Know that the BME will remove members in an appropriate way who are not fulfilling their responsibilities.
15. Be asked to evaluate the overall performance of the Board for Ministerial Education and his individual performance on the BME annually.
16. Be asked annually, in a personalized manner, to provide financial support for WELS ministerial education in general and for the ministerial schools in particular.
17. Receive invitations to the ministerial schools' special events held locally or in one's own geographic area.
18. Be asked to speak in WELS settings (e.g. congregations, conferences, conventions, retreats) about the positive contribution being made by the ministerial schools.

BOARD FOR WORLD MISSIONS, CHAIRMAN

The chairman of the board shall be a pastor elected by the synod for a term of four years from a slate of candidates provided by the Nominating Committee. He may succeed himself twice. His duties shall include serving as moderator at board meetings and teleconferences, calling special meetings, and collaborating with the administrator in setting up the meeting agenda. He is responsible and accountable to the board and to the Synodical Council through the president. He must have the time and ability to travel to a different world mission field at least once a year for approximately two weeks, must be able to attend meetings approximately eight days per year plus travel as required, and must be able to spend one to two weeks per year reviewing and generating documents and reports as required. Persons considered for this position must possess experience in cross-cultural and world missions, cultural sensitivity, spiritual maturity, a flexible schedule, a heart for the lost souls of the world, and the willingness and ability to constantly learn about world missions.

BOARD OF APPEALS, MEMBER

The synod Board of Appeals is composed of 10 members, a chairman (must be a pastor), three pastors, three teachers and three laymen. Members' terms are six years and they may succeed themselves once. Members of the Board of Appeals may hold other elective or appointive offices. A five-person Board of Appeals panel is formed to decide each appeal. The chairman or his designee plus four board members selected by the chairman make up a Board of Appeals panel. The decision of a Board of Appeals panel is the final disposition of any appeal.

COMMISSION ON ADULT DISCIPLESHIP, CHAIRMAN

The Commission on Adult Discipleship (CAD) is a part of the Congregation and Ministry Support Group. The CAD exists to assist congregations and called workers in developing lifelong learners from amongst themselves, learners who are imitators of their Savior. The commission provides and promotes tools for spiritual growth through Bible studies and other resources. These tools equip us for Christian living and giving, mutual encouragement, and for training spiritual leaders. The chairman of the CAD is elected by synod in convention. He serves a four-year term and may succeed himself twice. He is accountable to the Conference of Presidents. The chairman presides over the meetings of the Commission on Adult Discipleship. He works with members of the CAD to help establish vision and direction for the commission's work. He should have experience in the area of adult spiritual growth and should have demonstrated effective leadership in that area. He must have a conviction that spiritual growth of adults is essential to the spiritual health of the individual, the family, the congregation, and the synod. He must also have a passion for assisting congregations in this area.

COMMISSION ON CONGREGATIONAL COUNSELING, CHAIRMAN

The Commission on Congregational Counseling (CCC) is a part of the Congregation and Ministry Support Group. The commission will work with congregations and districts to provide advice, expertise, and resources that will enable congregations to address problems and seize opportunities as they carry out their mission. The chairman of the CCC should be a pastor who has experience and ability in providing evangelical leadership to congregations as they carry out their ministry. He should also have the organizational and communication skills that enable him to serve as the chairman of a new commission that will be establishing its role, its priorities, and its policies.

COMMISSION ON SPECIAL MINISTRIES, CHAIRMAN

The chairman of the Commission on Special Ministries must be spiritually mature, possess a deep love for people with special needs, and be in good standing with his local congregation and WELS.

The chairman is accountable to the Conference of Presidents. He will work together with the director and members of the commission to establish vision and direction for the commission's work. He will work closely with the commission director and executive committee to carry out the mission and objectives of the commission, which includes equipping and encouraging the twelve district special ministries committees.

He is responsible to supervise the work of commission subcommittees, each of which focuses on a different area of special ministry (each subcommittee has its own chairman). Current commission subcommittees include:

1. Care Committee for Called Workers
2. Mission to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
3. Health and Wellness Committee
4. Committee on Mental Health Needs
5. Military Services Committee
6. Prison Ministry Committee
7. Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Ministry
8. Mission to the Visually Impaired

The chairman will preside over one or more face-to-face meetings of the commission each year and one or more teleconferences.

He will serve a term of four years and may succeed himself twice.

COMMISSION ON WORSHIP, CHAIRMAN

Those standing for election as chairman of the Commission on Worship (C/W) should be knowledgeable in the style, the forms, and the setting of worship; in preaching; in liturgical orders and rites; in church music for the congregation, choir, soloists, and instruments; in architecture and ecclesiastical arts. The chairman of the C/W is elected by synod in convention. He serves a four-year term and may succeed himself twice. He is accountable to the Conference of Presidents. The chairman of the Commission on Worship presides over the meetings of C/W. He works with members of the C/W to help establish vision and direction for the commission's work.

COMMISSION ON YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY, CHAIRMAN

The Commission on Youth and Family Ministry (CYFM) is a part of the Congregation and Ministry Support Group. The Commission on Youth and Family Ministry exists to assist congregations and called workers in partnering with parents to enrich the spiritual lives of the synod's youth, especially those not participating in full-time, formal Christian education agencies. The chairman of the CYFM is elected by synod in convention. He serves a four-year term and may succeed himself twice. He is accountable to the Conference of Presidents. The chairman presides over the meetings of the CYFM. He works with members of the CYFM to help establish vision and direction for the commission's work. He should have experience in the area of youth and family ministry and should have demonstrated effective leadership in these areas. He must also have a passion for assisting congregations in these areas.

MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE GOVERNING BOARD, CHAIRMAN

The chairman of a ministerial school governing board must be a parish pastor. He serves a six-year term and may succeed himself once. The chairman represents his school on the Board for Ministerial Education as a voting member.

In his role as governing board chairman he presides over the meetings of his school's governing board, sees to it that an agenda is prepared for all meetings, serves as the chairman of his governing board's executive committee, and is responsible for determining that his school's president discharges his responsibilities properly and that the president is functioning within the framework of his position description. He meets or communicates weekly with the school president, and functions as the governing board's representative at official school events (e.g. opening service, anniversary celebrations, graduation).

In his role as his school's voting representative on the Board for Ministerial Education he is expected to attend all BME meetings (usually one day of meetings in the Midwest annually).

He will spend approximately 20 days per year away from home on synodical or school business. He must have regular, reliable access to high speed Internet for computer communications and must have computer hardware and software in place to send, receive, print, and review documents in any of the formats included in the Microsoft Office Professional software program package (e.g. Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, Outlook, and Publisher).

NORTHWESTERN PUBLISHING HOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MEMBER

The Northwestern Publishing House (NPH) Board of Directors has the principal responsibility for fulfillment of the organization's mission and the legal accountability for its operation. The group is responsible for the mission, long-range goals, philosophies, general policies, and financial soundness of NPH. Members of the board should expect to commit approximately 10 workdays per year on board business plus additional time in conference calls and meeting preparation. Directors are expected to support the organization's mission, purpose, goals, policies and programs. They should demonstrate belief in and commitment to ethical standards and the core values of Northwestern Publishing House. They must possess communication and leadership skills and may be requested to represent NPH by speaking to groups on behalf of NPH's mission. They should observe the highest standards of integrity and must be members in good standing in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.