

WELS acronyms

ALHS Area Lutheran high school—a high school operated and funded by area congregations with general, ministerial education, and specialized course offerings

AOC Accounting Oversight Committee—serves the Synodical Council by retaining external auditors and by assisting in ensuring that appropriate accounting policies and internal controls are established and financial systems are efficient and effective; that financial personnel have the requisite skills; and that financial reports are prepared timely, accurately, and in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles

BHM Board for Home Missions—board that oversees mission opportunities in the United States, Canada, and the English-speaking Caribbean; made up of a pastor and layman from 13 district mission boards; coordinates work of various mission districts and allocates available personnel and money

BME Board for Ministerial Education—oversees all areas of educating future WELS called workers; schools include a seminary, a college, and two preparatory high schools

BORAM *Book of Reports and Memorials*—published in odd years; reports the work of the synod to synod convention delegates and also includes recommendations known as memorials for the convention delegates to consider

BPO Benefit Plans Office—administers the synod's self-administered, self-insured insurance program for all called workers and lay workers employed at the Center for Mission and Ministry and in congregations and schools

BWM Board for World Missions—conducts gospel outreach in 40 foreign countries and is exploring outreach opportunities in many additional countries

CAMM Central Africa Medical Mission—a WELS-affiliated ministry that provides health care to people in Africa through clinics in Malawi and Zambia; works closely with WELS World Missions and the Lutheran Church of Central Africa in Malawi and Zambia

CAR WELS Christian Aid and Relief—the synod's ministry of compassion, bringing physical relief to people suffering from natural disasters and severe medical and financial emergencies as well as distributing humanitarian aid through WELS home and world missions

CCC Commission on Congregational Counseling—a commission of Congregational Services that assists WELS congregations to assess and evaluate ministry, review biblical teachings and principles that impact ministry, develop plans to adjust and expand ministry in appropriate ways, and carry out their plans

CCCW Care Committee for Called Workers—a subcommittee of WELS Special Ministries that assists WELS calling bodies in the spiritual, physical, intellectual, and emotional care of their called workers

CCM Committee on Constitutional Matters—reviews questions about and proposed amendments to the WELS Constitution and Bylaws and submits recommendations to the convention

CECW Continuing Education for Called Workers Committee—assists called workers in continuing to grow in all their God-given callings for all their years in service in the public ministry; reports to the Conference of Presidents; includes representatives from the Board for Ministerial Education, Martin Luther College, and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary as well as representatives from WELS Congregational Services

CEF WELS Church Extension Fund, Inc.—primary purpose is to make loans to newly established congregations under the direction of the Board for Home Missions (BHM) and the Board for World Missions (BWM); loans are used to acquire parsonages, land sites, and ministry facilities as tools for gospel outreach

CELC Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference—organization of worldwide church bodies in fellowship, of which WELS is a member

CFO Chief Financial Officer

- CFS** Christian Family Solutions–Wisconsin Lutheran Child & Family Service—a WELS-affiliated organization that offers Christian counseling, member assistance programs, in-home care programs, and an assisted living facility
- CGC** Christian giving counselor—a member of the Ministry of Christian Giving’s team; serves as an information source on planned and deferred giving for congregations and members in all 12 WELS districts
- CICR** Commission on Inter-Church Relations—meets with potential and current sister church bodies; monitors actions of church bodies outside of our fellowship
- CLS** Commission on Lutheran Schools—a commission of Congregational Services that oversees coordination of early childhood ministries, Lutheran elementary schools, and area Lutheran high schools
- CMC** Campus Ministry Committee—helps congregations see the opportunities they have for outreach at area college campuses and provides counsel and aid in such outreach, a ministry of WELS Home Missions
- CMM** WELS Center for Mission and Ministry—synod headquarters located at N16W23377 Stone Ridge Drive in Waukesha, Wis.
- CMO** Congregation Mission Offerings—offerings submitted by local churches for the work of preaching the gospel, training called workers, and administering the synod
- COE** Commission on Evangelism—a commission of Congregational Services that assists congregations in seizing every opportunity the Lord provides to evangelize lost souls, making use of media communications, structured programs, and every-member witness
- COLA** Cost of Living Adjustment—a component of called worker compensation to reflect the variance in the cost of living from region to region
- COP** Conference of Presidents—a group of 15 men—synod president, two synod vice presidents, and 12 district presidents—who maintain the synod’s doctrine and practice and are responsible for funding the synod’s budget
- CRC** Compensation Review Committee—a standing committee that reports to the Synodical Council through its Administration Committee
- CS** Congregational Services—provides services and resources to congregations, schools, and individuals in the areas of Lutheran schools, special ministries, worship, evangelism, discipleship, and congregational counseling
- CSB** Christian Standard Bible—a translation of the Bible published by Holman Bible Publishers
- CSC** Communication Services Commission—assists the Conference of Presidents in communicating WELS’ mission to the members of the synod
- CSM** Commission on Special Ministries—a commission of Congregational Services that provides for spiritual needs of those who are often not served through regular parish programs
- CTO** Chief Technology Officer
- CW** *Christian Worship*—the WELS hymnal, published in 1993 and then revised and published under the same name in 2021
- C/W** Commission on Worship—a commission of Congregational Services that assists parishes with worship that glorifies God and strengthens his people
- DMB** District mission board—oversees home missions within its own district; evaluates mission work in the district, counsels missionaries and missions, and decides the steps to be followed next in a mission effort and also recommends to the Board for Home Missions where missions should be started
- DP** District president—oversees activity of a district and is a member of the Conference of Presidents
- ECE/ECM** Early childhood education/Early childhood ministry—ministry to young children through preschool and childcare programs

EFL/ESL English as a foreign language/English as a second language—English as a foreign language is taught to those who live in a country where English is not the primary language spoken; English as a second language is taught to those who live in a country where English is the primary language spoken but the student's primary language is not English; many home and world mission fields use these classes to build relationships so they can share Jesus with their students

EHV Evangelical Heritage Version—a translation of the Bible published by Northwestern Publishing House

ELFK Evangelical Lutheran Free Church of Germany—sister church body in fellowship with WELS

ELS Evangelical Lutheran Synod—sister church body in fellowship with WELS

ESV English Standard Version—a translation of the Bible published by Crossway

FIC *Forward in Christ*—WELS' official monthly magazine

FTE Full-time equivalent—a way to express employee work hours (for example, an FTE of 1.0 means that the person is equivalent to a full-time worker, while an FTE of .05 means that the worker is half-time)

FY Fiscal year—WELS' fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30

IDDM Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Ministry—this organization, which operates under WELS Special Ministries, strives to share the gospel with those who have special education needs or developmental disabilities and to provide a supportive Christian network for them

IMO Individual mission offerings—offerings given by individual members, not through their congregations

JMC Joint Mission Council—oversees the mission opportunities that are the operational responsibilities of both the Board for World Missions and the Board for Home Missions; members of the JMC are the elected chairmen and administrators of both boards, the senior director of Missions Operations, and a representative designated by each board

KW Kingdom Workers—a WELS-affiliated organization that supports WELS missions through the use of volunteers; also supports ministries in fellowship with WELS

LCMS Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod—not currently a sister church body but engaging in informal doctrinal discussions with WELS

LES Lutheran elementary school—a school operated by a local congregation

LMSG Lutheran Military Support Group—a WELS-affiliated organization dedicated to strengthening ministry to WELS and Evangelical Lutheran Synod military members and their families, as well as to veterans

LPS Luther Preparatory School—synodically supported preparatory school in Watertown, Wis.

LWMS Lutheran Women's Missionary Society—a WELS-affiliated organization of women whose purpose is to support WELS home and world missions

MCG Ministry of Christian Giving—assists the Conference of Presidents by developing programs for funding the synod's budget and for establishing lines of communication between the synod's leaders and local congregations

MDHH Mission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing—this organization, which operates under WELS Special Ministries, seeks to help congregations share the gospel with members of WELS and others who are deaf or hard of hearing

MLC Martin Luther College—prepares teachers and staff ministers for WELS congregations and pastoral candidates for Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary; also offers professional growth opportunities to those already serving in ministry; located in New Ulm, Minn.

MLP Multi-Language Productions—a program of the Board for World Missions that facilitates the production, publishing, warehousing, and distribution of a wide variety of religious materials

MLS Michigan Lutheran Seminary—synodically supported preparatory school in Saginaw, Mich.

MVI Mission for the Visually Impaired—this organization, which operates under WELS Special Ministries, helps people who are unable to read normal print by providing items in Braille, large print, and on cassette tape

NASB New American Standard Bible—a translation of the Bible published by the Lockman Foundation

NIV New International Version—a translation of the Bible published by Biblica

NPH Northwestern Publishing House—the official publishing arm of the synod for printing, publication, and distribution of books, periodicals, and literature considered beneficial to the Lutheran faith

OWLS Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors—this organization, which operates under WELS Special Ministries, encourages involvement, fellowship, mutual support, life enrichment activities, and service to others for those 50 years or older

PAC President's Advisory Council—a group of synod administrators that meets regularly with the synod president to discuss opportunities and challenges facing the synod. Membership includes the administrators of the Boards for Ministerial Education, Home Missions, and World Missions; senior director of Missions Operations; director of Congregational Services; director of the Ministry of Christian Giving; WELS chief financial officer; WELS chief technology officer; WELS director of communications; and the president of Northwestern Publishing House

PSI Pastoral Studies Institute—a partnership between the Joint Mission Council and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary; prepares spiritual leaders from diverse ethnic, cultural, and national backgrounds

RTTD *Report to the Twelve Districts*—publication put out in even years that reports the work of the synod to the districts in their conventions

SC Synodical Council—the governing body of WELS, with all responsibilities not given to the Conference of Presidents or the synod in convention

SMO Synod mission offerings—congregation mission offerings plus individual mission offerings

TELL Think, Evaluate, Learn, Lead—an English-language online Bible-based training platform developed to bring the gospel to English-speakers outside the United States; comprises a Facebook page with more than 1 million followers, self-led Bible study courses, and deeper studies with a live online instructor, all with the goal of students leading their own small group in Bible study or worship; two full-time TELL missionaries focus on furthering relationships with national pastors, lay workers, and volunteers as well as developing relationships with online students

TLC Translation Liaison Committee—established in November 2013 by the Conference of Presidents to carry out a resolution of the 2013 synod convention; its purpose is “to evaluate major Bible translations; to communicate with their editors and publishers; to offer, when appropriate, suggestions to improve such translations; and to share its findings with the synod at large” (2013 *Proceedings*, p. 68)

VEBA Voluntary Employees' Beneficiary Association—WELS employee health-care insurance that gives benefits to called workers

WELSSA WELS Schools Accreditation—an accreditation process for WELS schools coordinated by WELS Commission on Lutheran Schools that involves thorough self-study based upon ten accreditation standards, site visitation by a team of outside individuals, and accountability for annual school improvement

WIF WELS Investment Funds, Inc.—manages investment funds for WELS and its congregations

WLC Wisconsin Lutheran College—private WELS-affiliated liberal arts college located in Milwaukee, Wis.

WLS Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary—offers theological training that prepares men to enter the pastoral ministry of WELS or a church body within its fellowship; also offers theological and professional growth opportunities to those already serving as pastors; located in Mequon, Wis.