



Our Great
HERITAGE
SYNOD CONVENTION 2017

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WELS First Vice President

- The first vice president of WELS must be a parish pastor.
- He is elected for a four-year term with no limit on the number of terms.
- The office is part-time.
- The first vice president assists the president and carries out such assignments the president may assign and those prescribed in the bylaws of the synod.
- He serves on the Conference of Presidents
- He serves as the non-voting ex-officio vice chairman of the Synodical Council.
- He serves as an advisory member on the Commission on Inter-Church Relations.
- He serves as acting president whenever the president is prevented from discharging his duties and, in case of a vacancy in the presidency, serves as president until the next convention of the synod.

WELS Recording Secretary

- The recording secretary is elected for a four-year term with no limit on the number of terms. He may hold no other synodical office at the same time.
- At the direction of the president, the recording secretary gives notice of each convention of the synod by publication in *Forward in Christ* and suitable electronic means. He sees to it that the list of voting delegates is also published in the same ways.
- He determines the number and category of synod conventions delegates allotted by district and notifies the district secretaries of those numbers.
- The recording secretary records the proceedings of the conventions of the synod and attends to their publication and distribution.
- The recording secretary notifies those who have been elected to office at the convention of the synod no later than 14 days after the close of the convention.
- He serves a secretary and as an advisory member of the Conference of Presidents.
- He serves as chairman of the synod's Nominating Committee.
- With the approval of the president, the recording secretary may appoint such assistants in carrying out the above assignments as he may deem necessary.

Synodical Council At-Large Member

The Synodical Council has twenty-one voting members. They include 12 district lay representatives, three district presidents, four area of ministry chairmen, the president of the synod, and two at-large members, a teacher and a pastor. The at-large members are to represent the viewpoint of the synod membership from a non-proprietary point of view. In other words, they are attached to no political office and no area of ministry. The pastor/teacher-at-large is to represent the at-large interest of pastors/teachers/staff ministers in the overall work of the church. Before each Synodical Council meeting they should consciously solicit the opinions of pastors/teachers/staff ministers from a broad range of age, geography and size of congregation. Pastors/Teachers-at-large should be able to attend at least three two-day Synodical Council meetings in Milwaukee per year and be in attendance at synod and district conventions. At each Synodical Council meeting the pastor/teacher-at-large will offer a brief written and oral presentation on the perspective of his constituency. After each meeting, the pastor/teacher-at-large will look for ways to report back to his constituency and gain its perspective for the next meeting.

Board for World Missions Member

The position of World Missions Board members shall be filled by a pastor, teacher or layman as designated for each specific position. The term of office shall be six years and an incumbent may succeed himself only once (12-year maximum). Time and ability to travel to a different world mission field at least once a year for approximately 2 weeks, attend meetings approximately 8 days per year plus travel as required, and 1-2 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.

Requirements for BWM Voting member

Personal Qualifications:

1. Age ~ 35-70 years old in good health
2. Member in good standing of a local WELS church
3. Experience in cross-cultural and world missions
4. Cultural sensitivity
5. Time and ability to travel to a different world mission field at least once a year for approximately 2 weeks, attend meetings approximately 8 days per year plus travel as

required, 1-2 weeks per year reviewing and generating documents and reports as required.

6. Flexibility of schedule
7. Heart for the lost souls of the world
8. Willingness and ability to constantly learn about world missions

Professional Skills:

1. Have regular, reliable access to high speed dial-up 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 MS Office Professional software program package (e.g. Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, Outlook and Publisher) and Adobe Acrobat documents.
2. Administrative skills to include delegation, time-management, decision-making, financial analysis, being a team member.
3. Capable of representing the Synod to its constituents to promote world missions.
4. Capable of working with home missions, ministerial education and parish services on overlapping projects and priorities.
- 5.

Board for World Missions Member Service

A Board Member will serve World Missions 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 World Missions.
5. Feels a compelling desire to make a meaningful contribution in promoting the advancement of World Missions toward its fullest potential.
6. Makes a commitment to grow in his understanding of the complex workings of world missions; through attendance and participation at Board and committee meetings and through appropriate personal inquiry and study.
7. Is dedicated to the mission and purpose of World Missions to the point of personal sacrifice.
8. Assigns among the competing interests of his own life a high priority to serving the World Missions area of ministry.
9. Is willing to support World Missions through personal generosity and through a willingness to enlist the support of others, being secure in the belief that the worth of what

World Missions accomplishes through its 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 World Missions and, most important, faithful service to our Lord.
11. Seeks to inspire by personal example an enthusiasm in others to join in support of world missions.
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 World Missions Area of Ministry.
13. Understands that loyal support of the administrators of the World Missions office, for so long as they serve as such, is fundamental to the success and progress of world missions.
14. Takes the job as well as the position.

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 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). At present he rotates 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 Home Missions at conventions, conferences and gatherings as 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 another 400 man hours per year in preparation and prayer for Home Missions depending on the availability of chairman.

Board for Ministerial Education, Chairman and Members

The chairman of the Board for Ministerial Education (BME) serves a four-year term and may succeed himself twice. He must be a parish pastor and is accountable to the board and to the Synodical Council through the president. The chairman is a voting member of the BME.

The chairman and all members must possess spiritual maturity, be active in their local congregations, be willing to attend local and district conferences and other meetings as representatives of WELS Ministerial Education, and be able to spend approximately three days per year away from home on synodical business. They must have regular, reliable access to high speed dial-up 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 MS Office Professional software program package (e.g. Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, Outlook and Publisher).

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 BME 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 administrators of the BME office and the ministerial schools, for so long as they serve as such, is fundamental to the success and progress of ministerial education.

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary 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 dial-up 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 MS Office Professional software program package (e.g. Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, Outlook and Publisher).

Board of Appeals

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 Evangelism Chairman

The chairman of the Commission on Evangelism (COE) shall possess a deep love for Jesus and a great desire to help the congregations of WELS seize every opportunity to evangelize lost souls. The chairman will work together with members of the commission to help establish vision and direction for the commission's work. He will operate in close association with the commission's director to carry out the mission and objectives of the COE, including equipping and encouraging the 12 district evangelism commissions. He is responsible for moderating the meetings and teleconferences of the commission. The Commission on Evangelism chairman is elected by the synod for a term of four years. He may succeed himself twice.

Commission on Lutheran Schools Chairman

Those standing for election for the position as chairman of the Commission on Lutheran Schools should be knowledgeable in educational ministries including early childhood ministries, Lutheran elementary schools, and Lutheran high schools. The chairman is responsible for chairing one or more face-to-face commission meetings and several teleconferences each year. The chairman will work in close association with the commission's director, associate director, national coordinator for early childhood ministries, and executive committee. He will serve a term of four years and may succeed himself twice. Candidates for the position of chairman of the Commission on Lutheran Schools must be spiritually mature, possess a deep love for Christian education, and have experience in WELS educational ministries

Northwestern Publishing House Board of Directors

The Northwestern Publishing House 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 up to approximately 10 workdays per year on board business plus additional time conference on 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 NPH. They must possess solid 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 WELS.