

## **Accounting Oversight Committee**

### **Our Calling**

The Accounting Oversight Committee (AOC) serves the synod, its schools, its subsidiaries, and its affiliates that are under the oversight of the Synodical Council (SC). The committee serves the SC by assisting management with ensuring appropriate accounting policies and internal controls are established and financial systems are efficient and effective; retaining external auditors; assisting in assuring that financial personnel have the requisite skills; and assisting in assuring that financial reports are prepared timely, accurately, and in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles. The committee keeps the SC informed of its actions through the SC's appointed member of the committee and schools, subsidiaries and affiliate boards, commissions and committees through the synod's chief financial officer.

### **Our Current Situation**

The committee engaged the independent audit firm of Baker Tilly, LLC to conduct the annual audits of the consolidated financial statements of WELS, its schools, and its support services subsidiaries for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017. All audits were completed within five months of year end and all entities received an unmodified opinion, the best you can get, on the financial statements' compliance with generally accepted accounting principles. In addition, the auditors did not identify any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal controls. Copies of the annual financial statements, quarterly consolidated financial statements, and quarterly budget reports are available by request.

In addition to the annual WELS financial statement audits, the committee engaged Clifton Larson Allen CLA to audit the WELS VEBA Group Health Plan, WELS Pension Plan, and WELS Shepherd Plan for calendar year 2016. These financial statements also received unmodified opinions for 2016 and the auditors did not identify any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal controls.

### **A Look Ahead**

During 2018, the committee will continue to work with Financial Services on succession planning and monitoring WELS risk management and insurance programs.

Mr. Bill Schultz, chairman  
Mr. Todd Backus  
Mr. Jim Freer  
Mr. Barry Haller  
Mr. Daniel Riebe  
Mr. Paul Holzhueter, Synodical Council Liaison

Advisory:

Mr. Todd J. Poppe, WELS chief financial officer and treasurer