

Floor Committee 06: Synodical Council

Subject: Synodical Council Report

Reference: *Book of Reports and Memorials*, p. 65-79, 90-92

Report No. 01

Our floor committee notes with gratitude the faithful work of those who serve on the WELS Synodical Council (SC), and highlights the following items:

The SC has set forth a plan for “aggressive, but careful expansion” of the synod’s work. That work is outlined in the long range plan (BORAM p. 72ff and p. 95ff) and reflects a faithful presentation of the plan’s name, “In Christ Alone.” This work includes careful, ongoing monitoring of our financial position during the current biennium and continued efforts to fund the ministry needs and priorities of the various areas of ministry.

We recognize the substantial amount of work that has gone into the WELS long-range plan, and encourage all areas of ministry to work to achieve those goals, confident that they will represent our best efforts to "with one heart and mouth ... glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Rom. 15:6)

We are thankful that the blessing of the Lord on the Financial Stabilization Fund has given us reason to be more confident in how the funding of our work as a synod is carried out.

The plan to retire the synod’s debt of \$4.7 million by the end of 2016 presents a timely opportunity to redirect the gifts of God’s people toward carrying out both the immediate needs of the synod as well as implementing the long range plans presented by the Synodical Council. We pray for the Lord’s blessings on the special offering that is planned toward that end.

We are grateful that the Lord has given us many opportunities to expand our ministry as reflected by the listing of unfunded priorities. We recognize the wisdom of good planning for the future, but in view of past financial difficulties we would note that implementing some of the programs on the list would require funding beyond a “one time” outlay of funds and trust that a careful evaluation and consideration of this will take place before those programs on this list are put into place.

We note with appreciation the diligence of various responsible groups in carrying out the resolutions of the 2013 WELS convention (BORAM p.77).

The Accounting Oversight Committee (BORAM p.78-79), under the oversight of the SC, assists in ensuring that appropriate accounting practices are in place at the synod, its schools, and subsidiaries in an attempt to reduce costs and/or improve services. We are thankful for their continued service.

We give thanks to the Lord for the service of those whose work on the Synodical Council has ended: Mr. Phil Hempel, Mr. Mark Massmann, Mr. David Metzger, Mr. Todd Scott, Pastor Peter Naumann, and Pastor Daniel Koelpin.

Finally, we pray that the Lord would continue to bless our synod through the faithful work of the Synodical Council.

Pastor James Seelow, chairman
Teacher James Grunwald, secretary