

Subject: WELS Foundation/Investment Funds

Reference: *Book of Reports and Memorials*, pp. 175-180

Report No. 01

WELS Foundation, Inc. and WELS Investment Funds, Inc. may be two of WELS' best kept secrets. We would like to shed some light on them. WELS Foundation, Inc. and WELS Investment Funds, Inc. exist to help God's people support, strengthen, and enhance the gospel ministry--locally, nationally, and around the world--of WELS and WELS affiliated organizations.

- Legal complexities, changes in tax law, and accounting and administrative challenges can make it difficult for individuals or congregations to make informed choices for the administration and investment of resources that God's people desire to give in response to God's grace.
- WELS Foundation, Inc. and WELS Investment Funds, Inc. are governed by professionals experienced in all aspects of financial services who volunteer their time and service to the Church. We thank these two boards for their dedicated service and encourage them to continue their work for the Lord.
- WELS Foundation, Inc. provides services such as endowment services for WELS ministries and legacy charitable remainder trusts for individuals while honoring the original intent of the donors. This includes maintaining the records of the original intent of the endowment funds.

To carry out its mission, WELS Foundation:

- Provides knowledgeable planned giving support to WELS members through WELS Christian giving counselors and other WELS advancement representatives.
- Provides various giving opportunities including charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, donor advised funds, and endowment administration.
- Provides printed and online educational material regarding various giving opportunities for WELS and WELS-affiliated organizations.

WELS Foundation, Inc.

- As of June 30, 2013, managed \$78.6 million in assets.
- As of December 31, 2014, managed \$87.4 million in assets.
- That is an increase of \$8.8 million (11%).

To carry out its mission, WELS Investment Funds, Inc.:

- Strengthens and enhances the congregations of WELS and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and their affiliated organizations by providing professionally managed investment portfolios.
- Serves as the administrator of two investment portfolios: WELS Equity Fund and WELS Income Fund.

WELS Investment Fund, Inc.

- As of June 30, 2013, managed \$139.5 million in assets.
- As of December 31, 2014, managed \$165.4 million in assets.
- That is an increase of \$25.9 million (18.5%).

At this time, WELS Foundation, Inc. and WELS Investment Fund, Inc. are discussing key items to lower costs, streamline communications, and determine new funding options.

The opportunity exists for many more WELS congregations who do not currently use the ministry of WELS Investment Funds, Inc. and WELS Foundation, Inc. to take advantage of their services.

Teacher James Sievert, chairman

Teacher Phil Stern, secretary