

Floor Committee 22: Miscellaneous Memorials

Subject: CYFM Restoration of funding for director of the Commission on Youth and Family Ministry

Reference: *Book of Reports and Memorials*, pp. 201-202

Resolution No. 03

WHEREAS 1) it is always our desire that the youth we train in our congregations remain disciples of Christ throughout their earthly lives, on to eternal life; and

WHEREAS 2) the loss of our youth during the high school years and beyond continues to be a troubling trend within WELS; and

WHEREAS 3) Scripture and research both reveal that parents and families are the key factor in keeping youth connected to Christ; and

WHEREAS 4) the 2003 WELS convention resolved to study the extent of and reasons for teen and young adult losses in our church body; and

WHEREAS 5) the report from that study included eleven recommendations. The first point recommended that WELS work more with parents to carry out their leadership role in the spiritual lives of their children; and

WHEREAS 6) according to statistics on the WELS website, a majority of our children do not attend our WELS schools, and

WHEREAS 7) there is no significant difference in membership retention between LES students and non-LES students (38 and 32 percent respectively); and

WHEREAS 8) the Commission on Youth and Family Ministry (CYFM), the area of ministry responsible for working with parents and serving and encouraging our families, remains unfunded and vacant due to budgetary constraints; and

WHEREAS 9) President Schroeder stated in his convention report that "we will commit ourselves to thorough instruction of the young" and "we will do all we can in our families and schools to provide them with a foundation that cannot and will not be shaken"; and

WHEREAS 10) the continuing absence of a director for the CYFM provides serious challenges to those in our synod committed to the retention and growth of our families; therefore be it

Resolved, that we strongly encourage that the Youth and Family Director position be listed on the Synodical Council prioritized list of unfunded programs. (BORAM, page 69)

Pastor Robert Dick, chairman

Mr. Kevin Walker, secretary

ADOPTED