

Floor Committee 07: Home Missions

**Subject: General Report**

Reference: *Book of Reports and Memorials*, p. 109-115, 159-160

Report No. 01

The Board for Home Missions continued its faithful work of planting and nurturing mission opportunities to share the good news of salvation in North America, trusting that we always do so “under the canopy of a perfect plan—the plan of the Triune God already in place from eternity.”

We thank God for the 14 mission starts and ten mission enhancements that were funded in the past biennium. We pray for expanded efforts in the future, as God grants the necessary gifts.

We offer special thanks to God for the 18 years of faithful ministry that Pastor Ed Schuppe was given strength to provide as mission counselor to several districts. His passion for the lost and his compassion for those who serve in the trenches of gospel ministry are a model to be followed. With Jesus, we say, “Well done, good and faithful servant!”

We also thank God for compelling our synod to see the importance of cross-cultural ministry in recent years and to understand how essential it will be for the generations to come. To that end, we also ask him to provide the necessary ministry gifts to serve with compassion the many people groups who are now coming to our nation. What an opportunity he is giving us to share the love of Jesus with people from around the world within our own borders.

We thank God for the efforts currently being made in our WELS campus ministries, which are celebrating their 100-year anniversary in 2019-20. What started as a joint effort of the WELS and Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in 1920 at UW-Madison has now grown into a nationwide network of gospel ministry. With the growth of secularism in our culture, spawned especially on our college campuses, how important it will be to redouble our efforts to help our collegiate members to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus and to reach out with hospitality to college students who do not yet know him.

We commend the Board for Home Missions and the district mission boards for their use of the Vision Traction Organizer (VTO) to produce a six-year strategic plan. While entrusting the results of our efforts to Jesus alone, we must also recognize how important it is to have a solid ministry vision and plan for the sake of efficiency and accountability in ministry.

We are in agreement with the spirit of the memorials presented on pages 159-160 which encourage the continued efforts in exploring multi-site ministry opportunities and ramping up financial support for home and world missions, as God allows. While circumstances will dictate the best course of action, we have no reason to object to the sentiments expressed in both memorials.

“The direction for Home Missions is simple—keep planting churches so more souls can be reached with the gospel of Christ.” We ask God to continue to bless the efforts of all involved to further his kingdom. We encourage our congregations to continue support of Home Missions with their time, prayers, and offerings for the generations to come.

Pastor Peter Prange, chairman

Teacher Matthew Nottling, secretary