

Floor Committee 05: Synodical Council

Subject: Synodical Council

Reference: *Book of Reports and Memorials*, p. 57-84

Report No. 01

Our committee notes with gratitude the faithful work of the Synodical Council and highlights the following items:

Synodical Archives: We are thankful for the time and resources dedicated to relocating archival materials from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary to the WELS Center for Mission and Ministry. We appreciate the work of the archivist to process, catalogue, and make available for research the large amount of valuable contributions that preserve the history of our church body.

Accounting Oversight: We rejoice with the Accounting Oversight Committee that all audits were completed within four months of year-end and all entities received an unmodified opinion from the auditors.

CMO Trends and Ministerial Education Costs: We share the Synodical Council's concern over the flat and even decreasing levels of Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO). We also share the concern of the synod about the financial burden on students at Martin Luther College. Published Memorial 2019-07 (BORAM p. 158) proposes the synod direct our ministry financial planners to systematically increase ministerial education funding above the rate of inflation. Memorial 2019-07 also proposes that any increase in the Financial Stabilization Fund be used to benefit ministerial education so that tuition increases can be lower. We believe that the desire to relieve MLC Students of financial burden is sufficiently on the mind of the Synodical Council and will continue to be actively addressed by the Synodical Council without a resolution that binds them to this specific course of action.

Northwestern Publishing House: We commend Northwestern Publishing House for implementing plans to address financial challenges in order to sustain its ministry in the future. While this unfortunately involved the closing of the Milwaukee retail store, we are thankful for the ongoing online retail presence and for the additional benefits that relocating office operations to the WELS Center for Mission and Ministry provides.

Pastor David Bivens, chairman

Pastor John Backus, secretary