

Floor Committee #10: Ministerial Education

Subject: Gratitude for survival

Reference: *Book of Reports and Memorials*, pp. 123-156

Report No. 01

We give thanks to our gracious Lord for preserving the faculty, staff, and students at our ministerial education schools during the pandemic in the last biennium. The reports from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Martin Luther College, Michigan Lutheran Seminary, and Luther Preparatory School demonstrate not just survival but even growth during the last two years of schooling under difficult circumstances. We give thanks that the Lord of the Church continues to supply our synod with men and women who are willing to serve anywhere that the Church needs them. It's an extraordinary blessing that they believe that the Bible is the infallible Word of God, treasure the precious Lutheran heritage of proclaiming the unconditional gospel that has been passed to our generation with remarkable clarity, and present themselves for service as faithful ministers of the gospel who subscribe without reservation to the Lutheran Confessions. We appreciate the resources they put toward their education, and we want to increase financial assistance for them to lower their costs. Therefore, we give thanks for the individual congregations and members in those congregations who still think—contrary to the practice of just about every other national church body—that the investment of energy and financial resources in the thorough preparation of candidates for the public ministry of the gospel and the deepening of those who are already serving is a sound and wise synodical commitment.

Pastor Steven Pagels, chairman

Pastor Christopher Schroeder, secretary