

**Floor Committee #11: Congregational Services A (Congregational Counseling, Discipleship, Evangelism)**

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Reference: *Book of Reports and Memorials*, pp. 31-37

Report No. 01

WELS Congregational Services exists to strengthen ministries of congregations and individuals so that the gospel can be shared to many more people. Because of the positive impact the use of these services can provide, we strongly encourage congregations and individuals within our synod to aggressively use these available resources to help reevaluate the way they carry out their work in a changing world. We challenge our synod's circuit pastors and local conferences to emphasize the tools offered by Congregational Services as a way to help congregations become as effective as possible in sharing the gospel message in our changing world. We strongly encourage all convention delegates—called workers and laymen—to become familiar with the resources that our church body has to offer and to encourage their use in their local congregations.

We believe that the world around us, and its rapidly changing circumstances, are an unprecedented opportunity for WELS members and ministries to reach out in new and exciting ways. We pray that Congregational Services will be used in more ways than ever and that God's people would take advantage of its work and resources to the advancing of the gospel and the furthering of God's kingdom.

We have high regard for the work done by Congregational Services, and we encourage our WELS members, pastors, and teachers to subscribe to Congregational Services' website ([welscongregationalservices.net](http://welscongregationalservices.net)), explore the wide variety of resources available, and receive automatic updates. The number of resources that are available on that website are steadily growing. These resources are prepared to be used "as is" or to be easily adapted for each unique congregational setting. We encourage the broad use of these materials by pastors, church leaders, and individuals.

We commend our synod leaders in charge of these services for providing materials that can greatly assist individual congregations and the synod as a whole. What a blessing it is to have workers who can devote their full-time ministry to planning and producing high-quality materials! We pray these leaders and commissions will continue to bless our church body. We also pray that the Lord will bless Congregational Services with adequate staffing, so that it can continue to support and assist our congregations and members to carry out the Great Commission.

**Memorial 2021-03**

Growing in spiritual maturity is a noble goal and one which all in our church body would share. We feel that this is the purpose and goal of our Congregational Counseling, Discipleship, and Evangelism Commissions. The gospel-centered materials produced by these commissions are readily available, and if they are used by individuals and congregations, spiritual maturity will certainly result under God's blessing; therefore, we feel that no additional action is needed at this time.

**Memorial 2021-05**

This memorial was discussed, and the committee feels that the items mentioned were already being addressed in the resources currently available online and through the new resources that are being created as mentioned in the 2021 *Book of Reports and Memorials*. While it is true that our Northwestern Publishing House has curricula in its *Christ Light* series designed for Sunday schools, we are excited to see that there will be a wide variety of resources for Sunday school programs available on the WELS Congregational Services website by summer 2022. We encourage congregations, pastors, and Sunday school coordinators to access these resources and find ways to improve their current Sunday school programs. It was agreed that no additional action is needed at this time.

Pastor Brian Hackmann, chairman  
Teacher David Retzlaff, secretary