

Floor Committee #12: Congregational Services (Commissions on Special Ministries and Worship)

Subject: Floor committee report on Congregational Services (Commissions on Special Ministries and Worship)

Reference: *Book of Reports and Memorials*, pp. 38-43

Report No. 01

Floor Committee #12 commends Special Ministries for working to assist congregations to serve souls who face unique challenges.

We commend the WELS Health and Wellness Committee for its work to assist those who provide spiritual care and other assistance to individuals in care facilities and private homes. We recommend that this committee publicize the Samaritan Partners Caregiver Support program to further assist all caregivers.

We thank the WELS Military Services Committee for faithfully providing spiritual support to military personnel stationed here and abroad. We also commend it for doing its work so effectively on a very frugal budget.

We commend the WELS Prison Ministry for utilizing hundreds of volunteers to reach out to tens of thousands of incarcerated souls. We further commend this committee for performing its work within its modest means.

We commend the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Ministry for promoting ways and providing encouragement for congregations and individuals to share the gospel with those having special education needs and developmental disabilities. We encourage this group to continue cooperating with Jesus Cares Ministries.

We commend the Mission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for its work with congregations and individuals affected by hearing challenges to enhance their worship and provide other opportunities to grow in the Word of God.

We commend the Mission for the Visually Impaired for producing materials for worship and spiritual growth designed for visually-impaired individuals. We encourage it to continue developing its online audiobook library.

We commend the Care Committee for Called Workers for its work assisting calling bodies to meet the needs of their called workers. We encourage every calling entity to willingly use this committee's materials and resources to support those who share the gospel in our churches and schools.

We thank the Committee on Mental Health Needs for its work to network WELS and ELS mental healthcare professionals, encouraging them to grow in the art and practice of Christian counseling. We further commend two groups under this committee's auspices—Conquerors through Christ and Freedom for the Captives—for providing ongoing support to those facing the temptations of pornography and the pain of child abuse, respectively.

Finally, we thank the Commission on Worship for its continuing work to enhance the worship experience through the development of music, liturgy, and worship-related items. We pray that the Lord bless the upcoming release of the new hymnal. We encourage congregations to use this committee's resources to introduce and promote the hymnal. We further encourage the commission to provide a forum to worship leaders for sharing ideas on introducing the new hymnal.

Teacher James Grasby, chairman

Pastor Jonathan Rockhoff, secretary