

Submission of CMO Subscriptions and Statistics by Congregations

Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO) Subscriptions

The significance of CMO

The Spirit-inspired psalmist suggests we respond to the gospel by lifting up the cup of salvation and calling on the name of the LORD (Psalm 116:12). In other words, we celebrate God's gift of salvation and share that good news with others.

Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO) help our synod to do this in ways we can't do as easily or as well on our own: training pastors, teachers, and staff ministers to lead in sharing the gospel in your congregation, in our nation, and throughout our world.

The synod's CMO has not increased significantly for the past decade. Therefore, please accept the encouragement to work toward setting your CMO at ten percent of your anticipated offerings and then increasing your congregation's offering as you are able.

How WELS communicates the process

In early September instructions were e-mailed and mailed (to the attention of pastors and church presidents) to every congregation that submits CMO.

In the months and weeks ahead of the "first Friday of February" deadline the Ministry of Christian Giving district chairmen will work with district presidents to regularly check in with churches that haven't yet submitted their subscriptions. Another reminder and link to instructions will go out with statistical report instructions in January.

Determining your CMO subscription

Congregations should share the CMO setting materials (some of which are found at mcg.welsrc.net/cmo) with church leaders and, ideally, all members of the congregation. We especially encourage you to view the September *WELS Connection*, which vividly portrays the blessed work we do together in Jesus' name. For churches on a *calendar year* budget, your subscription setting process will coincide with your budget setting process for next year. If your church is on a *fiscal year* budget, you can submit to WELS the CMO figure in your current fiscal year budget.

Submitting your CMO subscription

Go to mcg.welsrc.net/cmo. There is no login required. The form's instructions will guide you through the process of submitting your subscription. If you partner with another church that submits a combined CMO on your behalf, you will be able to indicate your partner congregation on the form. (For accurate communicant giving averages in the upcoming WELS Statistical Report, we suggest that CMO-partnering congregations also combine their statistical data and report it under the name of the CMO-remitting congregation only.) Note that the CMO web form no longer works with Internet Explorer. If you try to access the form with Internet Explorer, you will be directed to download a different web browser.

Deadline

The deadline for submitting CMO subscriptions is “the first Friday of February,” **Friday, February 7, 2020, at noon (Central).**

Remitting CMO

The deadline to remit CMO for 2019 is Wednesday, January 8, 2020.

In late December, a set of coupons and envelopes for remitting 2020 CMO will be sent to your church to the attention of the treasurer. Use of the coupons for remitting CMO is preferred. If using one of the following methods to submit CMO, please note:

- Recurring EFT: The amount of the withdrawal can only be changed once each year for the new year. To change the amount, contact Amy Helwig in WELS Financial Services at amy.helwig@wels.net or 414-256-3263.
- Bill pay is acceptable if the check includes your five-digit church ID and “CMO 2020.” Send to the WELS Center for Mission and Ministry in Waukesha, Wis., not the PO Box address used for coupon payments.

Remitting CMO throughout the year (not just once at year’s end) benefits our ministry and planning.

Resources for encouraging CMO

The following links are all listed at mcg.welsrc.net/cmo:

- The [An Encouraging Word](#) e-newsletter, sent every other month, includes ideas and resources for helping church leaders promote joyful stewardship.
- [WELS Annual Report](#) shows our latest ministry efforts and goals as well as the costs of the different areas of ministry.
- The latest [stewardship program](#) provides worship and Bible study resources to help congregations encourage members toward God-pleasing management of our blessings.
- The [Together](#) e-newsletter provides synodical news updates most weeks.
- [WELS Connection](#) is a monthly video that can be shown before, after, or during the worship service to highlight the work we are doing together in WELS. Included with the subscription is the *WELS Connection Close-up* bulletin insert, which provides further details about some aspect of the video. Please note that the September *WELS Connection* vividly portrays the blessed work we do together in Jesus’ name and should be shared with members as part of your CMO setting process.

How circuit pastors can help

Circuit pastors will have received the CMO setting letter along with other pastors. In the months and weeks ahead of the deadline the Ministry of Christian Giving district chairmen will work with the district presidents to regularly check in with churches that haven’t submitted their subscriptions. Circuit pastors should coordinate with their district president about their role in following up with congregations.

Questions can be directed to the Ministry of Christian Giving (MCG) district chairman (a directory of MCG district chairmen is posted at mcg.welsrc.net/cmo) or the MCG office (call 414-256-3209/toll-free 800-827-5482 or e-mail karen.martinez@wels.net).

Canadian congregations

Canadian congregations pledge their offerings to WELS-Canada rather than to WELS. Leaders of Canadian congregations should not use the online CMO subscription form but should instead e-mail their subscriptions to WELS Canada treasurer Robert Brander at robertbrander@icloud.com.

Congregational Statistics

The significance of congregational statistics

The Statistical Report is a valuable tool for assessing the ministry of our church body—what is taking place as a result of the administration of God’s Word and sacraments, where there are needs, and how we can better plan for the future. Statistical information is reviewed by district presidents as they consider candidates for calls. It is published and used by organizations that evaluate church bodies. Therefore, it is beneficial for this information to be as accurate as possible. To learn more about why WELS does a Statistical Report, go to mcg.welsrc.net/stats and click on “[Why do statistics?](#)”

How WELS communicates the process

Instructions will be mailed to every congregation to the attention of the pastor(s) and church president when the form opens in early January. About the same time an e-mail with the same instructions will be forwarded to each congregation through the district. In the weeks ahead of the deadline, the Ministry of Christian Giving district chairmen will work with district presidents to regularly check in with churches that haven’t yet submitted their statistics.

Gathering your congregational statistics

Go to mcg.welsrc.net/stats and click on “[2018 Statistical Report](#)” for a “Reference copy of form fields, instructions used by congregations to submit statistics.” This will help you know which statistics your church should be recording for submission at the end of each year.

Submitting your statistics

Go to mcg.welsrc.net/stats after the link to the web form is posted at the turn of the year. There is no login required. The form’s instructions will guide you through the process of submitting your statistics. If you partner with another church, you will be able to indicate your partner congregation on the form. (For accurate communicant giving averages in the report, we suggest that CMO-partnering congregations also combine their statistical data and report it under the name of the CMO-remitting congregation only.) Note that the statistics web form no longer works with Internet Explorer. If you try to access the form with Internet Explorer, you will be directed to download a different web browser.

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How circuit pastors can help

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