

Floor Committee #1 Report

Regarding the President's Message that opens the Report to the Twelve Districts, the floor committee commends President Schroeder with a timely and encouraging message. It's this committee's encouragement that pastors share this message with their members for their benefit.

Regarding the Conference of Presidents' report on pages two through five, this floor committee encourages pastors to especially share and celebrate with their members that in 2021 WELS congregations provided the highest level of Congregation Mission Offerings in our synod's history (see page 3). Let us praise God together that this happened in a very challenging time.

The COP especially notes the importance of both recruitment and retention for the pastoral and teaching ministries to deal with the current high levels of vacancies throughout our synod. Congregations would do well to intentionally work on both these goals.

Some committee members expressed concerns with stated goals that were found under the section titled *Retaining the Lutheran Character of our Worship* on page four. These goals were given in the context of the 100 churches in 10 years initiative. It was stated that a committee was formed to identify principles regarding what essential characteristics of Lutheran heritage in worship look like and how to incorporate those principles into the pastoral training of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, into the vicar year, and to be used by District Mission Boards and mission counselors as they work with new missions. This floor committee has produced a memorial to address those concerns.

Regarding the Continuing Education for Called Workers Committee's report found on pages six through nine, this committee notes again the strong emphasis on retention of current called workers. This is obviously an emphasis that should be reflected within the plans of our congregations and our congregational leaders.

On page seven the status of summer quarters held by Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary are reported on. However, this committee is looking for clarity regarding how often summer quarter is held in-person on campus.

Regarding the Commission on Inter-Church Relations' report on pages ten through thirteen, this committee especially notes that the CICR is receiving many requests from other churches and church bodies around the world to receive help with resources and training. Our encouragement is that our called workers and lay members be aware of this work and to pray for it as this is so important in the support and equipping of Christians around the world.