

Summary

In Home Missions, Pastor Keith Free stepped down as Chairman for the Board for Home Missions to be pastor at St John in Mukwonago. Pastor Free emphasized in his letter to us that “mission” work is not just planting churches. Mission work is being done every time the gospel is proclaimed.

The big initiative on the horizon is the “100 missions in 10 years” beginning in the spring of 2023. Teams have been working already for years to understand, anticipate, and begin solving the hurdles to this big goal. This will be a goal that all of WELS will take on together. You can expect to be hearing about this at your church soon.

God has blessed the efforts of many mission starts. Churches are being planted across the country, are growing, and are establishing permanent facilities. The Church Extension Fund continues to be an extremely important element of making these things financially possible.

Home Missions also supports campus ministries across the country. Home Missions invites all to attend in person or virtually the Taste of Missions festival held at the seminary each summer.

World missions continues to be filled with incredible opportunity. This part of the synod’s ministry is tasked with sharing the gospel with the 8 billion people living outside of the US. World missions encourages gospel outreach in 44 foreign countries and is exploring 18 new mission fields.

World missions has been working on clarifying and making use of its teams worldwide. These teams together cover an enormous amount of area. These teams are tied closely to the Pastoral Studies Institute, the Commission on Inter-Church Relations, and the Diaspora Ministry Facilitator.

World Missions is exploring Senegal, London (which just received a graduate from the sem), Vietnam, along with developing missionary teams for East Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America, Native American Peoples, for producing Multi-Language Productions, and for administration.

Your prayers are asked for as world missions seeks to serve as many people outside of the country as we serve inside the country.

WELS Joint Missions supports the opportunities in ministry that are the responsibility of Home Missions, World Missions, and Ministerial Education. This coordination and cooperation is essential.

The Pastoral Studies Institute is responsible for much of the work. In Africa, the PSI team is integrated into the One Africa Team to carry out formal continuing education. In Asia, the situation is similar. In Latin America and in Europe, the PSI team is collaborating with the One Latin America Team to determine the structure of education.

The Joint Mission Council also empowers work and committees of people to reach out to people of other cultures and languages within the United States and without.

God be praised for the good news of Jesus that has been preached through Home Missions, World Missions, and through the work of WELS Joint Missions.

Resolution:

Whereas the synod has adopted the 100 in 10 initiative, and whereas the synod continues to face a called worker shortage, and whereas this is a worthy goal, be it resolved that the Pacific Northwest District encourages the Board for Home Missions to explore creative solutions to staff these mission starts.