

WELS acronyms

ALHS Area Lutheran high school—a high school operated and funded by area congregations with general, ministerial education, and specialized course offerings

AOC Accounting Oversight Committee—serves the Synodical Council by retaining external auditors and by assisting in ensuring that appropriate accounting policies and internal controls are established and financial systems are efficient and effective; that financial personnel have the requisite skills; and that financial reports are prepared timely, accurately, and in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles

BHM Board for Home Missions—board that oversees mission opportunities in the United States, Canada, and the English-speaking Caribbean. Home Missions is made up of a pastor and layman from 13 mission district boards; coordinates work of various mission districts and allocates available personnel and money

BME Board for Ministerial Education—oversees all areas of educating future WELS called workers; schools include a seminary, a college, and two preparatory high schools

BORAM *Book of Reports and Memorials*—published in odd years; reports the work of the synod to synod convention delegates and also includes recommendations known as memorials for the convention delegates to consider

BPO Benefit Plans Office—administers the synod's self-administered, self-insured insurance program for all called workers and lay workers employed at the Synod Administration Building and in congregations and schools

BWM Board for World Missions—oversees WELS missions in 23 world mission fields

CAD Commission on Adult Discipleship—a commission of the Congregation and Ministry Support Group that provides and promotes tools for spiritual growth through Bible classes, for Christian serving and giving, for encouragement, and for training spiritual leaders

CCC Commission for Congregational Counseling—a commission of the Congregation and Ministry Support Group that assists WELS congregations to assess and evaluate ministry, review biblical teachings and principles that impact ministry, develop plans to adjust and expand ministry in appropriate ways, and carry out their plans

CCM Committee on Constitutional Matters—reviews questions about and proposed amendments to the WELS Constitution and Bylaws and submits recommendations to the convention

CEF *See WELS Church Extension Fund, Inc.*

CELC Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference—organization of worldwide church bodies in fellowship, of which WELS is a member

CICR Commission on Inter-Church Relations—meets with potential and current sister church bodies; monitors actions of church bodies outside of our fellowship

CGC Christian giving counselor—a member of the Ministry of Christian Giving's team; serves as an information source on planned and deferred giving for congregations and members in all 12 WELS districts

CLS Commission on Lutheran Schools—a commission of the Congregation and Ministry Support Group that oversees coordination of early childhood ministries, Lutheran elementary schools, and area Lutheran high schools

CMC Campus Ministry Committee—helps congregations see the opportunities they have for outreach at area campuses and provides counsel and aid in such outreach

CMMSG Congregation and Ministry Support Group—provides services and resources to congregations, schools, and individuals in the areas of Lutheran Schools, special ministries, worship, evangelism, youth and family ministry, adult discipleship, and congregational counseling

CMO Congregation mission offerings—offerings submitted by local churches for the work of preaching the gospel, training called workers, and administering the synod

COE Commission on Evangelism—a commission of the Congregation and Ministry Support Group that assists congregations in seizing every opportunity the Lord provides to evangelize lost souls, making use of media communications, structured programs, and every-member witness

COP Conference of Presidents—a group of 15 men—synod president, two synod vice presidents, and 12 district presidents—who maintain the synod's doctrine and practice and are responsible for funding the synodical budget

CSM Commission on Special Ministries—a commission of the Congregation and Ministry Support Group that provides for spiritual needs of those who are often not served through regular parish programs

CW *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal*—the WELS hymnal, produced in 1993

C/W Commission on Worship—a commission of the Congregation and Ministry Support Group that assists parishes with worship that glorifies God and strengthens his people

CTO Chief Technology Officer

CYFM Commission on Youth and Family Ministry—a commission of the CMSG that encourages and assists WELS congregations and parents as they nurture youth in the Word from birth through high school

DMB District mission board—oversees home missions within its own district; organized by each district, they evaluate mission work in the district, counsel missionaries and missions, and decide the steps to be followed next in a mission effort and also recommend to the BHM where missions should be started

DP District president—oversees activity of a district and is a member of the Conference of Presidents

EFL/ESL English as a foreign language/English as a second language—English as a foreign language is taught to those who live in a country where English is not the primary language spoken; English as a second language is taught to those who live in a country where English is the primary language spoken but the student's primary language is not English; many home and world mission fields use these classes to build relationships so they can share Jesus with their students

ELS Evangelical Lutheran Synod—sister church body in fellowship with WELS

FIC *Forward in Christ*—title of WELS' official monthly magazine

FTE Full-time equivalent—a way to express employee work hours (for example, an FTE of 10 means that the person is equivalent to a full-time worker, while an FTE of 05 means that the worker is half-time)

FY Fiscal year—WELS' fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30

GPC Gift Planning Counselor—a member of the Ministry of Christian Giving's team; meets with WELS members to assist in the development of trusts and wills

HRAC Human Resources Advisory Committee—this committee's purposes include the investigation and review of any issue related to HR and ensuring that HR policies and procedures are established and consistently applied across all synodical entities, that HR systems are efficient and effective, that the HR function is staffed appropriately, and that staff has the requisite training and experience

IMO Individual mission offerings—offerings given by individual members, not through their congregations

JMC Joint Mission Council—oversees the mission opportunities that are the operational responsibilities of both the Board for World Missions and the Board for Home Missions; members of the JMC are the elected chairmen and administrators of both boards, the director of Missions Operations, and a representative designated by each board

LATTE Latin America Traveling Theological Educators—provides faculty mobility for teaching pastoral students in several countries of Central and South America and the Caribbean; the four-man faculty is concentrating on course development and ways to deliver courses through technology

LES Lutheran elementary school—a school operated by a local congregation

LPS Luther Preparatory School—synodically supported preparatory school in Watertown, Wis.

LWMS Lutheran Women's Missionary Society—parasynodical organization of women whose purpose is to support home and world missions

MCG Ministry of Christian Giving—assists the Conference of Presidents by developing programs for funding the synod's budget and for establishing lines of communication between the synod's leaders and local congregations

MLC Martin Luther College—synod's four- or five-year college to prepare teachers and staff ministers for our congregations and to prepare pastoral candidates for our seminary; located in New Ulm, Minn.

MLP Multi-Language Publications—a program of the Board for World Missions that facilitates the publishing, warehousing, and distribution of a wide variety of religious materials

MLS Michigan Lutheran Seminary—synodically supported preparatory school in Saginaw, Mich.

MVI Mission for the Visually Impaired—an organization of the Commission on Special Ministries that provides Christian materials for the visually impaired

NPH Northwestern Publishing House—the official publishing arm of the synod for printing, publication, and distribution of books, periodicals, and literature considered beneficial to the Lutheran faith

OWLS Organization of WELS Seniors

PAC President's Advisory Council—a group of synod administrators that meets regularly with the synod president to discuss opportunities and challenges facing the synod. Membership includes the administrators of the Boards for Ministerial Education, Home Missions, and World Missions; director of mission operations; director of the Congregation and Ministry Support Group; director of the Ministry of Christian Giving; WELS chief financial officer; WELS chief technology officer; WELS director of communications; and the vice president of publishing of Northwestern Publishing House

PCC Publication Coordinating Commission—coordinates and prioritizes the publication efforts of Northwestern Publishing House and all synodical boards and commissions

PSI Pastoral Studies Institute—coordinates the pre-seminary training of non-traditional students, including second-career men and students from a variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds

RTTD *Report to the Twelve Districts*—publication put out in even years that reports the work of the synod to the districts in their conventions

SAB Synod Administration Building—2929 N Mayfair Rd, Milwaukee WI 53222

SC Synodical Council—the governing body of WELS, with all responsibilities not given to the Conference of Presidents or the synod in convention

SMO Synod mission offerings—Congregation mission offerings plus individual mission offerings

VEBA Voluntary Employees' Beneficiary Association—WELS employee health-care insurance that gives benefits to called workers

WELS Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

WELS CEF WELS Church Extension Fund, Inc.—primary purpose is to make loans to newly established congregations under the direction of the Board for Home Missions (BHM) and the Board for World Missions (BWM); loans are used to acquire parsonages, land sites, and ministry facilities as tools for gospel outreach

WELSSA WELS Schools Accreditation—an accreditation process for WELS schools coordinated by WELS Commission on Lutheran Schools that involves thorough self-study based upon 10 accreditation standards, site visitation by a team of outside individuals, and accountability for annual school improvement

WIF WELS Investment Funds, Inc.—manages investment funds for WELS and its congregations

WKW WELS Kingdom Workers, Inc.—parasynodical organization that supports WELS missions

WLC Wisconsin Lutheran College—private WELS-affiliated liberal arts college located in Milwaukee

WLCFS Wisconsin Lutheran Child & Family Service, Inc.—parasynodical organization whose services include Christian counseling, educational programming, and senior living facilities

WLS Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary—four-year school that trains pastors after they graduate from Martin Luther College; located in Mequon, Wis.