



"Do not cast me away when I am old; do not forsake me when my strength is gone" (Psalm 71:9).

The WELS Support Committee has been established by the synod to carry out Christ's love for the faithful servants of the church who are now retired but do not have the financial resources to meet normal living expenses. The committee works to identify those individuals and/or their surviving spouses who have needs and provide them with the level of financial support that allows them to live with dignity and in reasonable comfort.

The District Board of Support passes on the names of those who need support to the Support Committee. Our District Board of Support consists of one person, the first vice president of the district. You can assist our District Board of Support and the WELS Support Committee. Identify family units that may need special help and then inform the first vice president. Such family units may include:

- A full-time worker who has retired and is in need or a called worker who has been incapacitated in his/her call (pastors, teachers, professors, missionaries, staff ministers, etc.).
- A widow and/or dependent children of such full-time workers in need

In the Report to the Twelve Districts the synod Board of Support offers the following considerations to show the limitations of this support.

- The fund is not an entitlement program.
- The fund is not an extension of the synod's pension plan.
- The fund is not established to provide temporary assistance to those who resigned from the ministry.
- The fund does not grant financial assistance to those who need assisted living and nursing care.
- The fund is not intended to be the main source of income.

At the beginning of 2016 there were 25 family units receiving support, calling for a monthly expenditure of \$16,795 and an annual budget for approving requests of \$201,540.

Pastor Steven Degner
AZ-CA District First Vice President