



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT
54th Biennial Convention + June 11-12, 2024

Floor Committee #4 – Ministry Recruitment Task Force

Subject: MINISTRY RECRUITMENT TASK FORCE

Reference: Report to the Twelve Districts, pp. 79-114

Report No. 1

The 2023 WELS Synod Convention adopted two recommendations regarding creating a Ministry Recruitment Task Force. President Schroeder appointed this task force in October of 2023.

Their report highlights the pastor and teacher shortage in our synod. The Task Force report has twenty recommendations to address these shortages. Our floor committee commends the task force for their thoughtful and excellent work. We support and strongly encourage the Synod to engage in these recommendations intentionally and actively. While many of these recommendations require effort on a synodical level, others are personal and invite each of you to help your church body with this problem. We encourage you to read the report and remember the role that you play in recruiting future workers for the kingdom.

Our committee would add an encouragement to those involved in recruitment to contact parents, in addition to students who are being encouraged to think about ministry, because parents are influencers as well as. It was pointed out that, without parental support and encouragement, young people with gifts for ministry may be guided in other directions. Young people *and* their parents need to see the blessing and joy of serving in the ministry.

There were, however, some reservations about Recommendation 2 regarding the white paper because of the varied ministries across the synod.

Also, we do not think that Recommendation 20 would help much with recruitment or even retention of workers, but we could see it as a blessing for our young called workers.

In addition to the twenty recommendations, we also discussed recommendations to:

- Recruit for ministry at colleges with active campus ministry. Some students may have matured since high school and be willing to consider ministry.
- Encourage each ALHS to focus on Christian leadership/participation in local congregations as well as college prep.
- Open a prep school in an area that WELS is growing such as Phoenix, Atlanta, or Houston.

Finally, we invite you to join in prayer:

Lord Jesus, the fields remain ripe for harvest. According to your grace, send workers into the fields to proclaim the gospel to those lost in the darkness of sin and to strengthen the faith of your people through the ministry of our schools and congregations. As we have the opportunity, help us to participate in the work of encouraging those with gifts to serve in your kingdom. Continue to bless the efforts of all involved in the training of future called workers. Give them refreshment as they see, by faith, the joy and eternal benefits of the work set before them. Sustain the congregations and schools in our fellowship that struggle due to the current shortage of workers. Give your people patience and zeal to continue the work of sharing the gospel through the difficulties of these ministry vacancies. Grant our leaders wisdom to address this challenge that is before our synod that we may see your kingdom come as the light of the gospel continues to shine in your people who believe in you. We ask this according to your promise to hear and answer our prayers. Amen.

Pastor Tim Wempner, Chairman
Pastor Martin Wildauer, Secretary