

# WELS Endowments



## WELS Ministerial Education Endowment Fund



## WELS Missions Endowment Fund

*The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise (to return as Judge of all mankind), as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, **not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance** (2 Peter 3:9).*

**E**very soul is a treasure to God—a soul purchased by the blood of his Son Jesus.

**E**very soul is a treasure to us who are called by God to proclaim his salvation in all the world.

Walking together as a synod we accomplish precious ministry for treasured souls!

- ▶ We **equip** men and women to serve as pastors, teachers, staff ministers, missionaries, and professors.
- ▶ We **proclaim** the gospel of salvation through mission outposts in North America and around the world.

The work is ongoing and in need of **continuous** financial support!

WELS now has two new endowment funds that provide ongoing and increased financial support, developed in the spirit of our Lord of *not wanting anyone to perish but everyone to come to repentance* (2 Peter 3:9).

*They offer you a new opportunity to support our precious  
WELS ministerial education system and missions now and for years to come!*

## Tell me how these endowments work

### ► Are these true endowments that will continue for perpetuity?

Yes. WELS Ministerial Education Endowment and WELS Missions Endowment are permanently restricted funds. That means that the fund managers have a fiduciary responsibility to preserve the historic dollar value of the funds.

### ► Who are the fund managers?

The WELS Foundation, Inc. will serve as administrators of the endowment funds. The WELS Foundation, Inc. board is comprised of WELS members who are professionals in the fields of law, accounting, banking, and investing. The board is experienced in management of long-term instruments, currently managing hundreds of charitable remainder trusts and charitable gift annuities.

### ► How will they invest these monies?

They will be invested by WELS Investment Funds, Inc. (WIF). WIF is governed by an independent board of WELS members, elected by the Synodical Council, who are professionals in business and finance.

WIF exists to provide cost effective, professionally managed investment portfolios for WELS, WELS subsidiaries, congregations, and other affiliated organizations. Currently WIF is managing more than \$100 million in assets.

For more information and a copy of the current Offering Circular, contact [WELS\\_Funds@sab.wels.net](mailto:WELS_Funds@sab.wels.net) or call 1-877-888-8953. Updated information is also available via the Internet at [www.welsfunds.net](http://www.welsfunds.net).

### ► What is the distribution policy?

Annually the funds will distribute 4% of the three year (or since inception) rolling average market value of the funds. To insure the preservation of the historic dollar value of the funds and to achieve uniformity in resources available for distribution the following limitations are used:

- Spending from a fund will not reduce the fund's market value below 110% of the historic dollar value of the fund.
- The actual amount distributed will not exceed 106% of the prior year's distribution, nor be less than 96% of the prior year's distribution (unless distribution impacts the historic value).

### ► How much will the WELS Foundation charge to administer these funds?

The foundation board has agreed to administer these funds at no charge as a service to WELS! That means significantly more dollars for WELS ministry.

## Why is WELS establishing these endowments?

1. WELS programs of mission and ministry are long-term programs requiring continuing and predictable financial support. These endowments provide needed financial stability.
2. Economies change. In strong economies gifts increase and ministry expands. In weak economies gifts decrease and ministry is reduced, often adversely affecting what has been accomplished. These endowments provide a needed financial buffer.
3. The ministry and mission programs of WELS are very inflation sensitive. Because items such as health care, utilities, and insurance are rising faster than inflation, cost of maintaining ministry programs rises approximately 2% above inflation annually. These endowments provided needed additional income.
4. Endowments meet the desire of many WELS members. They want to give the Lord substantial gifts through their Christian estate plans. They want WELS to be able to use those gifts wisely. Endowments meet these desires.

## So how will my gift support the proclamation of God's gospel?

The following chart illustrates how a gift of \$100,000 may potentially grow and support ministry. The illustration assumes a hypothetical annual total return of 8%. The hypothetical illustration is for informational purposes only; actual results will vary.

Year	Beginning Principal	Income	Distribution	Ending Principal
1	\$100,000	\$8,000	\$4,000	\$104,000
2	\$104,000	\$8,320	\$4,160	\$108,160
3	\$108,160	\$8,653	\$4,326	\$112,486
4	\$112,486	\$8,999	\$4,499	\$116,986
5	\$116,986	\$9,359	\$4,679	\$121,665
6	\$121,665	\$9,733	\$4,867	\$126,532
7	\$126,532	\$10,123	\$5,061	\$131,593
8	\$131,593	\$10,527	\$5,264	\$136,857
9	\$136,857	\$10,949	\$5,474	\$142,331
10	\$142,331	\$11,386	\$5,693	\$148,024
11	\$148,024	\$11,842	\$5,921	\$153,945
12	\$153,945	\$12,316	\$6,158	\$160,103
13	\$160,103	\$12,808	\$6,404	\$166,507
14	\$166,507	\$13,321	\$6,660	\$173,168
15	\$173,168	\$13,853	\$6,927	\$180,094
16	\$180,094	\$14,408	\$7,204	\$187,298
17	\$187,298	\$14,984	\$7,492	\$194,790
18	\$194,790	\$15,583	\$7,792	\$202,582
19	\$202,582	\$16,207	\$8,103	\$210,685
20	\$210,685	\$16,855	\$8,427	\$219,112
			\$119,112	

## WELS Ministerial Education Endowment

### *Unchanging Purpose*

To provide direct and indirect financial assistance to students preparing to serve in the public ministry of WELS and to continue the high level of quality ministerial education provided by WELS ministerial education schools.

- Donations can be made to the fund for the benefit of all ministerial education students and the ministry programs of schools.
- Each ministerial education school has a sub-fund in the endowment to which donations may be directed. All distributions from these sub-funds will go to the designated school for the benefit of its students and operations.
- Current priorities for use of distributions in descending order are:
  - Student assistance
  - Special programs and department chairs
  - Intern programs such as the seminary vicar program
  - Professional development of faculty

*Financial goal: \$150 million*

In cash on hand, in commitments, and in estate plan designations over a 10-12 year period



## WELS Missions Endowment

### *Unchanging Purpose*

To support the continued proclamation of the gospel to more and more people in our nation and the world by WELS missions programs.

- Donations can be made to the fund for the benefit of mission work carried out in North America and the world. Also, there are sub-funds in the endowment for home missions and world missions to which donations may be directed. All distributions from these sub-funds will go to the designated area of ministry.
- Current priorities for use of distributions in descending order are:
  - Enable the synod to carry out a mission strategy which makes best use of available manpower
  - Fund mission initiatives that present opportunities such as: literature distribution in countries closed to missionaries, partnering with self-supporting congregations, and utilizing humanitarian services to proclaim the gospel

*Financial goal: \$150 million*

In cash on hand, in commitments, and in estate plan designations over a 10-12 year period



## *How do I include these endowments in my giving?*

**We welcome all gifts—current and deferred, whatever the size—and give thanks to God for all of them!**

We continue to emphasize Congregation Mission Offerings and thank you for your support of CMO through your congregation.

**HERE ARE TWO WAYS THE NEW ENDOWMENTS CAN SERVE AS A BLESSING TO YOUR GIVING.**

### **† Blessing #1**

#### ***Endow your current giving to synod's mission and ministry***

Are you giving support to one of our missionaries or ministerial education schools? Assure that the Lord's work you love continues and increases after you are in heaven. Endow your gift through your estate plan.

Doing so will often enable you to do more than you thought possible . . . more than you were able to accomplish throughout your lifetime!

### **† Blessing #2**

#### ***Know even more joy of giving today***

Do you have an estate plan in place? Now may be a good time to consider whether or not God's blessings enable you to increase the charitable portion of your designations, possibly to include the endowments.

Having designated a gift in your estate plan for some portion of the Lord's work especially dear to you, you can know still more joy today by participating in WELS Mission Partners program.



### **Help is available**

- Questions about the endowments? About a mission program? About ministerial education?
- Wondering about tax advantages of giving appreciated properties? Don't know how to put a Christian estate plan in place?
- WELS Ministry of Christian Giving and the mission advancement offices of our ministerial education schools can help. They are your fellow Christians who sincerely want to serve you so you can fulfill what you determine you want to do!



1-800-827-5482 (Milwaukee area 414-256-3209)

[www.wels.net/mcg](http://www.wels.net/mcg)

[mcg@sab.wels.net](mailto:mcg@sab.wels.net)