

To WELS Congregation Presidents:

The WELS Commission on Special Ministries is made up of eight main areas to address various needs that may not be adequately met by the regular ministries of WELS churches, schools, and agencies. The Care Committee for Called Workers (CCCW) is one of those committees. The purpose of this committee is to offer support, resources, and practical guidance to calling bodies in caring for their workers. Our Savior demonstrated a loving and caring heart for his disciples throughout his ministry. By his example, Jesus gave us a model of caring for our called workers. His command to love one another surely applies to Christian caring for the workers he sends us. A local CCCW is often the best way to accomplish this.

The CCCW has developed resources on a variety of topics that may be helpful to anyone that is developing or already has a local care committee. A care committee supports workers in several areas. These areas include support for spiritual needs, mental health, continuing education, compensation and benefits, providing encouragement and appreciation, and providing support for practical matters, especially with new workers and those approaching retirement. These resources are available at csm.welsrc.net/.

It has always been a challenge getting these materials in the hands of those who can best make use of them. It is unlikely that many called workers will ask for help and support, so forming and maintaining a group to support them should be initiated by leaders and members of the calling body.

This letter has two purposes. First, if you do not have a group in place to care for the called workers, you are encouraged to consider forming one. A quick start guide is available that provides a good place to start, and there is also a manual that gives more detail. Annual visits with the workers are strongly encouraged.

Also, it is difficult to know how many calling bodies already have a care committee in place. If you already have an active group, it would be helpful if you could communicate that to the WELS CCCW (please email that info to specialministries@wels.net) for several reasons: First, it would be valuable to know how many calling bodies already have a group that is actively supporting workers. Members of active groups would also be able to offer suggestions on new materials and resources that could be developed. Finally, when a new care committee is being formed it can be very helpful to connect with a leader from an active group.

It is our prayer that the CCCW can work with all WELS calling bodies to best support and encourage workers.

Yours in Christ,

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