

**South Central District  
2019 Fall Pastoral Study Conference  
October 21-22, 2019**

**Synodical Council Report  
Brad Johnston**

The Synodical Council (SC) held its Winter 2019 meeting in Milwaukee on February 21-23, 2019. Members of the SC also attended the Synodical Convention in New Ulm, Minnesota on July 29-August 1, 2019. Topics of note include:

- FY 2018 CMO receipts (July 2018-June 2019) were down \$315,300 (1.5%) compared to plan which called for a 0.5% increase in CMO for the fiscal year. CMO receipts in 2018 were 1.2% below 2017 receipts. 2019 CMO subscriptions are 0.9% below 2018 CMO receipts. The good news is that FY 2019-20 receipts through August 2019 (July and August receipts) are up 8.3% over 2018 and calendar year 2019 CMO receipts through August are up 1.9%. Praise God for the continuing support of his faithful followers!
- The Synod Convention approved the Ministry Financial Plan for the 2019-2021 biennium. In the first year of the biennium (2019-2020), the plan calls for a small increase in the synodical support portion and in the overall spending levels (which include support from special funds, gifts, tuition, and fees). In the second year of the biennium (2020-2021), there is a small increase in synodical support and a small decrease in the overall spending levels.

<b>FISCAL YEAR</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>
Synod support	29,308,100	29,417,000	30,137,300
Gifts, tuition, fees	44,976,020	45,744,661	44,964,914
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>74,284,120</b>	<b>75,161,661</b>	<b>75,102,214</b>

The Synodical Council will continue to monitor the financial situation and make changes as circumstances change.

- If you have not already done so, you might want to watch the Synod Convention keynote address by Rev. Jon Hein, Director of the WELS Commission on Congregational Counseling. It provides a sobering evaluation of membership trends and the challenges posed by a changing culture. Rev. Hein outlined the synod's plans to address these challenges making use of the means of grace and committing all result to the hands of the Holy Spirit. You can find a video of his presentation at <https://wels.net/news-media/2019synodconvention/> under "Essay Presentation".
- Funding for the Hmong Outreach Ministry in Vietnam has now reached almost \$1,700,000 of the \$2,000,000 goal to pay for the land, campus construction and the initial two years of operational costs. Land for the theological education facility in Hanoi has been purchased and cleared.
- At its October meeting, the SC will review and consider the proposal regarding the WELS pension plan that received support from the COP at its October meeting. If approved by the SC,

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the details of the proposal will be made public and sent to the districts for consideration at their conventions this coming summer.

- The next scheduled Synodical Council Meeting will be held October 31-November 2, 2019, in Milwaukee.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Brad Johnston