

ADOPTED GUIDELINES FOR FUNDING OF THE CELC

The CELC was organized in 1993 at a plenary meeting held in Oberwesel, Germany. Article VII of the Constitution of the CELC states that "regular plenary meetings of the Conference shall be held triennially". It has been the custom of the CELC to hold these triennial conventions in various locations in the world. The Planning Committee believes that this is a good policy for the member churches of the CELC. This gives them an opportunity to experience first-hand the Gospel ministry in other places; and the member churches can share the spiritual growth in their lives and lend encouragement to one another.

Since the first convention in 1993, subsequent triennial conventions were held in Quebradillas, Puerto Rico in 1996; in Winterhaven, Florida, USA in 1999; Gothenburg, Sweden in 2002; Narita, Japan in 2005; Kiev, Ukraine in 2008; New Ulm, Minnesota, USA in 2011; Lima, Peru in 2014; Grimma, Germany in 2017; and now this virtual convention instead of meeting in person in Seoul, Korea.

The costs of conducting conventions are large. The convention we planned in Seoul in 2020 was expected to cost up to \$100,000 depending on the number of attendees. Registration fees do not cover the cost of the conventions. In Grimma, registration fees covered less than one-half the convention cost and the balance was paid by the CELC treasury.

During the early years of this organization, CELC received several grants of funds from a foundation and from an insurance company. The Planning Committee decided that an alternative source of funds was needed. The Planning Committee proposed guidelines for future funding of the CELC to the convention in Sweden in 2002. The guidelines were adopted by the CELC in convention in Japan in 2005.

The guidelines assess the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) \$5,500 annually, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) \$3,500 annually, and the Lutheran Evangelical Christian Church of Japan (LECC) \$1,000 annually, for a total of \$10,000 per year. A goal of an additional \$10,000 would be contributed by the remaining members of the CELC. The Planning Committee and the CELC recognize that many of the members are struggling toward self-support or are in developing countries. The goal would require an average contribution from the remaining church bodies of the CELC of approximately \$555 per church, per year. CELC realizes that many of its members cannot contribute such an amount. Some may be able to contribute more and some may not be able to contribute anything. It is hoped that each church would make a serious effort to support the CELC to the best of its ability.

This year the Planning Committee is recommending the establishment of a travel assistance fund to help pay travel expenses for delegates who need financial assistance. The travel expenses of delegates are not included in the convention budget. Special gifts separate from the regular contributions and assessments would be encouraged to be given to this fund.