



**Session 2:
The Young Synod
Embraces Confessionalism
(1860–1890)**

Introduction

Our synod is a “confessional” synod. In your small groups, discuss your initial thoughts: “What does this mean?”

Lecture Notes

Feel free to summarize main points or interesting things from the PowerPoint overview of this period of WELS history:

Discussion

In an interview on the 175th anniversary this past year, our current synod president, Mark Schroeder, said his favorite synod president was John Bading. Why do you think he holds Bading in such high regard?

Respond: “We don’t need our own system of ministerial education. Pastors and teachers can get their degrees elsewhere. Or they can get on-the-job training under an experienced pastor or teacher. That will save our synod a lot of money.”

Our day is one of inclusivity and ecumenicalism. “Let’s agree to disagree. Believing in Jesus is what matters most.” What are the practical problems with that? the theological problems with that?

What does it mean for church bodies to be in fellowship with one another?

A challenge today is zealously pursuing outreach, while also maintaining a strong focus on doctrine. How can we do both?

Conclusion

What are the benefits you see in belonging to a confessional church body that emphasizes ministerial education and doctrinal standards?