



**Session 3:**  
**The Wisconsin Synod**  
**Remains Committed to Christ**  
**(1890–1914)**

**Introduction**

In American history, there has always been the debate of state identity vs. federal identity. What's more important to you—the state of Michigan or the country of America? Why?

**Lecture Notes**

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

## **Discussion**

### *Bennet Law*

It's no secret that, at times, the state will have regulations or policies that are not pro-Christian or that can interfere with the church's ministry. When do we stand up to that? When do we stay silent and suffer the consequences? When do we get ingenious and come up with a workaround?

### *Founding of Northwestern Publishing House*

What are the benefits (and downsides?) of pastors (and laypeople) reading and using our own materials published by our own publishing house? What are the benefits (and downsides?) of pastors (and laypeople) reading and using materials published outside our circles?

### *Michigan District Synod Controversy*

To this day, the Michigan District has somewhat of a reputation of independence from the broader synod and of deep pride for Michigan Lutheran Seminary. Consider applications of the Michigan District Synod controversy. Agree/disagree: "The Michigan District needs to think less of itself and its school and more of the synod at large."

### *Wauwatosa Theology*

Respond: "Our pastors don't need to learn the original languages of Scripture, Greek and Hebrew. You can use an English translation to preach a fine sermon. Our doctrinal standards make sure they are teaching the right thing. No point reinventing the wheel with lots of years of wasted language study."

## **Conclusion**

The 1892 federation was the first step to becoming a unified synod across state lines. What are some benefits for you when our synod works together nationally?