



**Session 6:  
The Wisconsin Synod  
Comes into Its Own  
(1963–1993)**

**Introduction**

Agree/disagree: “The Wisconsin Synod is a small synod.”

**Lecture Notes**

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

**Discussion**

*Aftermath of Break with the Missouri Synod*

Agree/disagree: “Breaking with the Missouri Synod was the best thing that happened to the Wisconsin Synod.”

### *World Missions' Humanitarian Aid and Compassion Ministry*

In Malawi, the government required that mission work be accompanied by some sort of aid program, which led to the Central Africa Medical Mission. What are the blessings—and potential pitfalls—of utilizing humanitarian aid or compassion ministries alongside of mission work?

### *Home Missions' "Every State by '78"*

Imagine if you were a synod official during this time and had to balance the calls for mission expansion and filling existing vacancies. Pick a side and advocate for:

1. "We should put more priority on establishing more mission churches, even if that means there's more vacancies in established congregations."
2. "We should put more priority on filling vacancies in established congregations, even if that means there's less mission starts."

Imagine if you were in charge of which new home missions got approved across the country. Pick a side and advocate for:

1. "We need to start new churches near existing churches. That way a core group can form from nearby churches, and they can help get the new church off the ground. Slow, consistent geographic growth is the way to go."
2. "We need to start new churches in large cities coast to coast. It doesn't matter if there is no core group or nearby church. Strategic, demographic growth is the way to go."

### *New Bible Translations, Catechisms & Hymnals*

Respond: "We don't need to adopt a new Bible translation, catechism, or hymnal. There's nothing wrong with the old one. If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

## **Conclusion**

In these decades, the Wisconsin Synod truly turned into an independent, nationwide church body that supported worldwide efforts. What are the benefits and blessings for you to be part of such a large synod?