



# Wisconsin Council of Churches

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## MEMBERS

American Baptist Churches  
Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
Church of God in Christ  
Church of the Brethren  
Episcopal Church  
Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America  
Greek Orthodox Church  
Moravian Church  
Orthodox Church in America  
Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Reformed Church in America  
United Church of Christ  
United Methodist Church

## OBSERVERS

Roman Catholic  
Archdiocese of Milwaukee  
Diocese of LaCrosse

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Benedictine Women  
of Madison  
Church Women United  
Interfaith Conference of  
Greater Milwaukee  
Leadership Conference of  
Women Religious Region 9  
Madison Area Urban Ministry

Scott D. Anderson,  
Executive Director

## **“We must not shortchange our children,” Wisconsin Council of Churches says**

*Ecumenical group asks Gov. Doyle to fully fund School Breakfast Program*

Sun Prairie – The Wisconsin Council of Churches (WCC) has asked Governor Jim Doyle to include increased funding for the School Breakfast Program in his 2009-2011 biennial budget.

“In spite of economic turmoil and the state budget deficit, we must not shortchange our children,” WCC Executive Director Scott D. Anderson wrote in a letter to the Governor dated January 27.

The School Breakfast Program is a federal nutrition program that provides free and reduced price breakfasts for students from low-income families. The state of Wisconsin and the federal government partially reimburse schools for the cost of providing the breakfasts.

“According to the Department of Public Instruction, an increase of \$1,263,100 General Purpose Revenue in Fiscal Year 2010 and \$2,176,900 in FY 2011 for state aids to school districts and private schools is needed to fully fund the state’s contribution of 15 cents for each breakfast served,” Anderson noted.

“We ask that this funding be included in your proposal for the 2009-11 biennial budget.”

The Wisconsin Council of Churches is a statewide association formed by thirteen church bodies in the state, including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the United Methodist Church, and the Presbyterian Church (USA). It comprises some 3000 congregations with 1 million members in every part of the state.

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*We pray and work together for the unity and renewal  
of the church and the healing and reconciliation of the world*

Wisconsin's reimbursement rate was increased to 15 cents per breakfast served in the 2007-09 biennial budget. The increase was strongly supported by the Wisconsin Council of Churches and other anti-hunger groups.

However, the amount appropriated for the state's payments to schools has not kept up with the rise in the number of students participating in the program in the past few years. As a result, the actual payment to schools has been less than 15 cents per breakfast.

Without an increase in the School Breakfast appropriation, the state will be paying less than 9 cents per breakfast by the 2010-2011 school year, according to an estimate by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Elizabeth Burmaster.

Anderson's letter thanked the Governor for his past support of the School Breakfast Program and concluded, "The Wisconsin Council of Churches looks forward to working with you and the Legislature to help ensure that Wisconsin continue and strengthen this important investment in health and learning for all children."

The website of the Wisconsin Council of Churches is [www.wichurches.org](http://www.wichurches.org).