



Today's Business

Issue 4

Tuesday, July 12

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66th Regular Convention

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Milwaukee, WI - July 9-14, 2016

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Daily Prayer

Essay – Upon This Rock: Confess

Essayist: **Rev. Daniel Preus**



The Rev. Daniel Preus is serving as the third vice-president and member of the Praesidium of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). He was elected as fourth vice-president in 2010 and re-elected and ranked as third vice-president in 2013. He represents the LCMS Central Region.

A native of Mayville, N.D., Preus served congregations in Hobart, Ind.; Truman, Minn.; Oak Park, Ill.; and Colorado Springs, Colo., from 1975 to 1995. Beginning in 1995, he served as the LCMS director of Concordia Historical Institute in St. Louis until 2001. From 2001 to 2004, he served as the Synod's first vice-president. From 2005 until 2012, he served as director of Luther Academy, an organization devoted to promoting confessional Lutheran theology. Preus also has served on the LCMS Board for Parish Services and on the Board of Directors for the LCMS and Lutheran Church Extension Fund.

In other areas of church leadership, Preus served from 2003 to 2004 as a leader in discussions resulting in the declaration of church fellowship between the LCMS and the ELCK (Kenya) and was a liaison between Concordia Historical Institute and the Federal Republic of Germany from 1995 to 1996, where he worked for the return of the Luther manuscript *Wider Hanswurst*. He is the author of *Why I Am a Lutheran: Jesus at the Center* (CPH, 2004), a book which explains the foundational teachings of the Christian Church.

Preus graduated from Concordia Senior College, Fort Wayne, Ind., in 1971 and Concordia Theological Seminary in 1975 when it was located in Springfield, Ind. He also holds a Master of Sacred Theology, which he received from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. in 1989, and a Doctor of Divinity degree *Honoris Causa*, received in 2015 from the same institution.

Preus and his wife Linda live in St. Louis, Mo. They are blessed with three sons, two daughters and nine grandchildren.

Morning Worship

Preacher: **Rev. Laokouxiang (Kou) Seying**



The Rev. Laokouxiang (Kou) Seying is the Lutheran Foundation Professor of Urban and Cross-Cultural Ministry and Associate Dean for Urban and Cross-Cultural Ministry at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

A Concordia, St. Louis faculty member since 2015, Seying is the first ordained HMong pastor in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). He previously served the California-Nevada-Hawaii District (CNH), starting in 2004 as a deployed mission developer/strategist for Joy of Harvest Ministries through St. Paul Lutheran Church in Merced, Calif., and Greenhaven Lutheran Church in Sacramento, Calif. Besides serving in the LCMS CNH District for more than a decade, he served as pastor of HMong Lutheran Church in St. Paul, Minn. (1991–1995). He also taught religion and theology at Concordia University, St. Paul, Minn. (1992–2004), and was the Missionary-at-Large for the LCMS Minnesota South District (1995–1998).

Seying holds a Master of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. (1991) and a Bachelor of Pre-Seminary Studies from Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon, Wis. (1987).

Seying also has studied Systematic Theology at Luther Seminary in St. Paul (1995–1998). He is a doctoral candidate in Missiology at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. He was involved in early discussions within the LCMS that led to pastoral training programs for immigrant and nontraditional students. In addition to writing devotional materials, mission articles and frequently giving presentations on missiology, he is the editor-in-chief for various major theological works in the HMong language.

He and his wife Maykou are blessed with four children: Grace, Sarah, Seth and Malachi.

Afternoon Worship

Preacher: **Rev. Dr. John C. Wohlrabe Jr.**



The Rev. Dr. John C. Wohlrabe Jr. is second vice-president and a member of the Praesidium of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), a position to which he was elected in 2010 and re-elected in 2013. He represents the church's Great Lakes Region.

He also serves as editor-in-chief for the *Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly* and as an adjunct instructor at Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon, Wis., and Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Ill.

Previously, Wohlrabe served as third vice-president of the LCMS (2007–2010). He also was regional chaplain for Naval District Washington (2007–2009). He retired with the rank of captain in May 2009, having served as an active duty U.S. Navy chaplain for 22 years. Prior to that, he was in the Naval Reserves and served as an enlisted sailor on active duty.

His tours of duty in the Navy included the USS John F. Kennedy (1973–1976); various Naval Reserve units (1976–1987); Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Forty (1987–1990); Naval Construction Battalion Center, Port Hueneme, Calif. (1990–1992); Naval Facility Brawdy, Wales, U.K. (1992–1995); Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill. (1995–1998); USS Blue Ridge and Commander Seventh Fleet (1998–2001); Naval Air Station, Brunswick, Maine (2001–2004); and First Naval Construction Division and Naval Construction Force (2005–2007). He has received numerous military awards.

In addition, Wohlrabe has served as pastor of Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Fort Lupton, Colo. (1982–1984); guest instructor at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (1984–1986); assistant director of Concordia Historical Institute in St. Louis (1986–1987); and pastor of Concordia Lutheran Church, Geneseo, Ill. (2009–2012).

A native of Mankato, Minn., Wohlrabe earned a bachelor's degree from Concordia College, Ann Arbor, Mich. in 1978. He also received a Master of Divinity in 1981, a Master of Sacred Theology in 1982 and a Doctor of Theology in 1987, all from Concordia, St. Louis. He has published numerous articles for theological journals, church and military publications, and books, including *Ministry in Missouri until 1962* (1992) and *Soli Deo Gloria: Essays on C.F.W. Walther in Memory of August R. Suelflow* (CPH, 2000).

Wohlrabe and his wife Julie live in St. Francis, Wis. They are blessed with three grown children: one daughter and two sons.

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Letters of Greeting

Pax et bonum!

Dear sisters and brothers, dear friends in our sister church – Lutheran Church Missouri Synod! May our gracious Lord bless you with the spirit of wisdom, discernment and courage, as the decisions you will make are very important not only for you, but for many Lutherans throughout the world.

More than 150 years ago Lutherans in Germany resisted to the imperial power to defend their faith and Lutheran identity, they surely realized how much the decision to leave the homeland and settle in America will affect their lives. They probably did not think, however, that their endeavor would exceed limits of their own community. Today Lutheran Church Missouri Synod is the most important bearer of conservative, confessional Lutheran theology in the world. Your bold confession has helped many Lutheran churches around the Globe upbuild their confessional awareness and retain courage and certainty in a rapidly changing world.

About 15 years ago the Synodical Convention voted to enter the fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia. Today we can look back with gratitude to the many and diverse good fruits of our partnership. Especially we have benefited from our co-operation in Theological education and diaconia.

God gave His church the power of keys, which is applied during the holy absolution. But he gave you also the power of finger, which you use to push the “yes” or “no” button during a vote. This is an amazing power, which by a small movement can change the world. May God bless, that the small movements of this 66th Convention of LCMS are led by strong faith, clear confession, warm heart and bright mind. May our good Lord keep you in cordial unity among yourselves and with all Lutheran sisters and brothers.

Yours in Christ,

+ Janis Vanags
Archbishop of Riga, Latvia



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“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.” Phil 4:4

Dear brother in Christ president Matthew Harrison, presidium, and all the delegates:

On behalf of fellow Christians of Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church I rejoice with you at account of the 66th Regular Convention of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. History of our relationships with LCMS surpasses two decades now, and it brings me joy to remember that at the previous Convention of your Synod there was ratified the fellowship between our Church Bodies. Since that time our ties in the matter of ministry and mission have gotten even stronger.

I am thankful to many pastors, teachers, and laypeople of LCMS with whom we built friendship in the unity of love. We are also very grateful for continuous support of our seminary in Novosibirsk that has become established as confessional theological center for people in Siberia and beyond. Cooperating with LCMS, teachers of our seminary participate in educational and catechetical programs in several places in Asia, Europe and Africa by “speaking the truth in love” (Eph 4:15). Together we dare to bring Christ to all people thus fulfilling the Great Commandment of our Lord.

The Church of Christ goes through uneasy time now. For some Christians it is a matter of literal physical survival. Other churches struggle to come up with sufficient resources to maintain their ministry. Still others find themselves in increasingly hostile environment. We are tempted to think that this is unfair for us to happen to live in this day and age when things have gotten so much worse from where they were before. But there has never been a “golden age” in the history of the Church. Every time brings its own challenges, and our Lord always expects us to be faithful to our baptismal calling no matter what the circumstances are.

While we persevere in different contexts and may face various trials, we can always find commonality in our mutual allegiance to Scriptures and the Confessions. For us in the far away Siberia (it is far away for you, while for us it is the center of the world!) it is important to know that LCMS continues to be a confessional beacon that takes our Lutheran Confessions seriously.

Apostle Paul warned St Timothy: “the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions” (2 Tim 4:3).

Candy cover of sweet lies can only hide the poison that lies underneath but no life can result from such nutrition. For years people in the Soviet Union have been fed with spiritual poison, and the fruit of it is the rampant unbelief we see around us today. I hope and pray that you would be spared of this destiny. I wish that you would continue to reflect the light of Christ in front of the people, that you “be ready in season and out of season” (2 Tim 4:2). Times change but the Word of our Lord stays the same.

Blessings for the work of Confession!

With prayer for your assembly,
Vsevolod Lytkin,
Bishop of Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church.

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CCM Opinion

Constitutionality of Historical Appeal to President and Praesidium in Expulsion Cases (16-2791)

On May 29, a member of the Synod and of a convention floor committee developing its responses to overtures submitted to the 2016 convention requested an opinion of the commission:

Question: “In the event that a district president did not take action in matters of expulsion, was the process operative in the Bylaws between 1956 and 2004, enabling the President of the Synod or the Praesidium of the Synod to initiate proceedings and present charges in an expulsion matter, in violation of the Constitution of the Synod?”

Opinion: Requested is an interpretation of the Synod’s Constitution as to whether the bylaws that existed between 1956 and 2004 governing matters of expulsion were then, or would be now, consistent with and not contradicting the Constitution (Constitution Art. XIV). This opinion will deal first with the provision as it first stood (1956–1989), conferring upon the President of the Synod authority to initiate formal proceedings when district officials failed to act. It will then deal with the provision as subsequently amended (1989–2004) to confer essentially the same authority upon the Praesidium instead.

1. Constitutionality of the 1956–1989 provision for the initiation of expulsion proceedings by the Synod President, should the district president fail to act.

The provision in question was adopted by the 1956 convention as follows (italicized portion) and remained essentially intactⁱ until 1989:

5.23 Ineligibility for Service

If the member involved is a pastor, professor, or teacher, and his offense makes him ineligible for further official service in the church and he pleads guilty, the District President shall publish in the official organs of Synod the fact that he is ineligible for service and shall so report to the District. In case the President of the District is charged with any action that would disqualify him for office, the Vice-Presidents of the District shall initiate proceedings, and the First Vice-President shall act. *If the District officers fail to act, the President of Synod, by virtue of the power given him in the Constitution (Article XI, B, 1, 2, 3) may on his own initiative institute proceedings, take administrative action, and, if necessary, present charges to the District Board of Appeals.* (1956 Bylaw 5.23, *Handbook*, n.p.)

1956 Res. 6-11, which effected this addition, was proposed by the Committee on Constitutional Matters, following a suggestion from the Board of Appeals.ⁱⁱ It gave as the rationale for this bylaw addition the following whereas paragraph:

WHEREAS, It is necessary to clarify Article XI, B, 1, 2, 3, concerning the powers of the President if District officers fail to act in cases involving ineligibility for service of pastors, professors, or teachers; therefore be it *Resolved*, That Section 5.23 be amended to read as follows... (1956 *Proceedings*, p. 451)

The provision in question, specifically mentioning the service of pastors, professors, and teachers, was thus adopted by the Synod in convention explicitly as a clarification of the ecclesiastical supervisory power of the President of the Synod when district officers fail to act. This power is granted in Constitution Art. XI B 1–3, the text of which remains today as it was in 1956.ⁱⁱⁱ

This provision was proposed through the Committee on Constitutional Matters, which was charged essentially as is today’s commission, to “examine all reports, overtures, and resolutions to the Synod asking for amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod or which in any manner affect the Constitution and Bylaws, to determine their agreement in content and language with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod” (Bylaw 3.9.2.2.1, cf. similar

1956 Bylaw 2.113 [b]). The committee was also responsible to “interpret the Constitution and By-Laws in cases of controversy” (1956 Bylaw 2.113 [e], cf. 2013 Bylaw 3.9.2), which it had been doing on this very topic for at least four years.^{iv} The 1956 understanding of the Committee on Constitutional Matters was clearly that the provision in question simply elaborated in the Bylaws a constitutional power of the President of the Synod.

A Committee (or Commission) on Constitutional Matters, of course, was and is not the *final* interpreter of Synod’s Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions. The final interpreter is the Synod in convention, and where the Synod in convention has acted *to interpret the Constitution*, especially where it has acted *explicitly and with substantive rationale*, those aspects stand thus interpreted.^v Here, by adopting 1956 Res. 6-11, the Synod in convention explicitly and authoritatively interpreted the Constitution, even including a constitutional rationale both in the text of the resolution and in the resultant bylaw: that the President could initiate proceedings in the case of district officers’ failure to act “*by virtue of the power given him in the Constitution (Article XI, B, 1, 2, 3)*” (1956 *Handbook*, sec. 5.23, n.p.). Indeed, the bylaw language adopted was with the express purpose “to clarify Article XI, B, 1, 2, 3, concerning the powers of the President if District officers fail to act in cases involving ineligibility for service of pastors, professors, or teachers” (1956 *Proceedings*, p. 451).

The convention has therefore spoken using its authority as final interpreter of the Synod’s Constitution. The 1956–1989 provision for the initiation of expulsion proceedings by the Synod President, should district officials fail to act, was constitutional. It elaborated a “procedure as shall be set forth in the Bylaws of Synod” (2013 Constitution Art. XIII 2) for the exercise of “power given [the Synod President] in the Constitution (Article XI, B, 1, 2, 3),” putting “at [the President’s] command” a means “to promote and maintain unity of doctrine and practice *in all the districts of the Synod*” (Constitution Art. XI B 3). Although no similar provision exists in the Synod’s 2013 Bylaws, if such a provision were to be adopted, the constitutional interpretation adopted by the 1956 convention would apply.^{vi}

2. Constitutionality of the 1989–2004 provision for the initiation of expulsion proceedings by the Praesidium, should the district president fail to act.

1989 Res. 5-08A amended Bylaw 2.27 [f], making the Praesidium of the Synod instead of the President of the Synod the recipient of a formal complaint in the event that a district president declined to suspend an accused member or failed to act in 90 days. No rationale was given for the change from President to Praesidium, either in the resolution (*Proceedings*, pp. 130–131) or in the Commission on Structure’s late overture L5-85, which seems to have prompted the convention action. Its single *whereas* paragraph read simply, “certain of the present Bylaws relative to commencing an action to terminate congregational or individual membership are ambiguous and confusing” (*id.*, p. 174).

Unlike 1956 Res. 6-11, which stated that the resolution was “necessary to clarify Article XI, B, 1, 2, 3, concerning the powers of the President if District officers fail to act in cases involving ineligibility for service of pastors, professors, or teachers” (1956 *Proceedings*, p. 451), 1989 Res. 5-08A did not address the constitutionality of the change from President to Praesidium of the Synod. The constitutionality of this change, therefore, is not settled simply by its adoption as a bylaw. Since the question has now been raised, the following response is given.

Ecclesiastical supervision is covered in the Constitution’s Articles XI B 1–3 and XII 6–8, which confer supervisory power first upon the President of Synod, who is to “conscientiously use all means at his command to promote and maintain unity of doctrine and practice in all the districts of the Synod,” and then upon the district presidents, who shall “especially exercise supervision over the doctrine, life, and administration of office of ordained and commissioned ministers of their district...” One element entailed in that ecclesiastical supervision is the authority to suspend a member of the Synod, which begins the formal process that could lead to expulsion from the Synod (Constitution Art. XIII 1–2).

The term *Praesidium* does not occur in the Constitution of the Synod. Article XI C lists the duties of the vice-presidents: “The vice-presidents shall upon request of the President represent him in all his functions.” The Constitution does not assign ecclesiastical supervision to the office of vice-president or to the Praesidium as a whole, but to the President and the district presidents (Constitution Art. XI B 1–3; XII 6–8). While the Constitution provides that in exceptional situations a President could request a vice-president to represent him in this function (Constitution Art. XI C 1), even in this case, final accountability remains with the President (Bylaw 3.3.1.3 [k]). Bylaws implementing the process of expulsion (under Constitution Art. XIII 2) also make allowance, should a

President be disqualified in some manner from dealing with a case, for his role to be carried out by a vice-president (Bylaws 2.14.4.1, 2.15.4.1, 2.17.4.1). In these cases an exceptional circumstance renders the President unable to act (or to act without partiality or the appearance thereof), so the Bylaws provide a mechanism for effecting the necessary procedure, usually performed by a president, through a vice-president.

Even with such allowances made, the constitutional case for assigning the decision to initiate proceedings in the case of district inaction to the Praesidium (including the vice-presidents) cannot be the same as that made from Constitution Art. XI B 1–3 above for assigning the decision to the President himself—for the simple reason that Const. Art. XI B 1–3 does not apply to the Praesidium but to the President alone.

The constitutionality of the provision as enacted between 1989 and 2004, allowing an accuser to appeal to the Praesidium, was accepted when it was enacted—although the record contains no constitutional argument in favor. It was also reviewed by the Commission on Constitutional Matters in its Opinion 01-2242 (Jan. 11, 2002), which dealt with a case seeking to expel a district president, in which the President’s decision not to initiate proceedings was appealed to the Praesidium. The question is narrow, but the commission’s approach is informative. The request asked (in part): “Since both the Constitution and Bylaws clearly state that the President of the Synod has ecclesiastical supervision of all District Presidents and of all officers of the Synod, including the Vice-Presidents, under what constitutional authority would the Synodical Vice-Presidents be charged with the responsibility of determining the continuation of the roster status of a District President under Bylaw 2.27?”

The Commission on Constitutional Matters responded as follows:

The President of the Synod has ecclesiastical supervision of District Presidents by reason of Article XI B of the Constitution. However, ecclesiastical supervision does not include the responsibility of determining the continuation of the roster status of a District President. That matter is covered by Article XIII 2 which provides: “Expulsion shall be executed only after following such procedure as shall be set forth in the Bylaws of the Synod.” Bylaws 2.27 and 8.09 establish the steps to be followed to expel a member from the Synod. Under these Bylaws the President can either decline to seek the expulsion of a District President as a member of the Synod, or pursue such expulsion by following the procedure set forth in Bylaw 2.27 c. If he does pursue such expulsion, the decision to expel is not his but, rather, the decision of the Dispute Resolution Panel (or Appeal Panel, if there is an appeal), which will consider the matter (Bylaw 8.09).

If the President of the Synod declines to seek the expulsion of a District President as a member of the Synod, the complainant has the option to appeal such declination to the Praesidium of the Synod (Bylaw 2.27 b). Should the Praesidium decide to pursue the expulsion from the Synod of the District President, it must follow the same procedure in Bylaw 2.27 c as the President would have had to do should he have decided to pursue the expulsion. As in the case of the President, the decision to expel is not that of the Praesidium but, rather, the decision of the Dispute Resolution Panel or Appeal Panel.

Therefore, the synodical Vice-Presidents in their capacity as members of the Praesidium determine the continuation of the roster status of a District President only in those very limited situations where the Praesidium upholds the decision of the President of the Synod that the alleged actions of the District President are insufficient to expel the District President as a member of the Synod. (CCM Op. 01-2242, 11 Jan 2002)

Here the CCM distinguished the comprehensive sense of ecclesiastical supervision (which belongs to the Presidents under Const. Art. XI B 1–3 and XII 6–8) from the decision to expel (governed specifically by Constitution Art. XIII 1–2). The former belongs to the President (and district presidents); the latter, to such entities as to whom the Bylaws might assign it in the procedure they elaborate under Constitution Art. XIII 2, that “expulsion shall be executed only after following such procedure as shall be set forth in the Bylaws of the Synod.” In such a view there is nothing sacrosanct about the President or district presidents alone making the decision to initiate formal proceedings, although theirs alone is the comprehensive responsibility of ecclesiastical supervision, to which that decision *ordinarily* belongs.^{vii}

Both Commission on Constitutional Matters reviews (Jan. 11, 2002 Op. 01-2242 and October 21–22, 2002 Op. 02-2283) of the 1989–2004 provision, allowing the Praesidium to act, were within the context of an already exceptional situation, a district president being the accused. Both seem to presume the provision’s constitutionality as that sort of “very limited situation” in which implementing bylaws (under Constitution Art. XIII 2) might provide necessary deviations from the constitutional pattern (e.g., a vice-president acting in the stead of a disqualified President). That is not what we have here. This provision, in the general or ordinary case of an appeal for action against a member under district supervision, directed the appeal for action away from the constitutionally designated recipient, namely the President (by virtue of the power given him in Constitution Art. XI B 1–3), to the Praesidium, a recipient with no demonstrable constitutional basis to receive such an appeal.

Ultimately, the language of Constitution Art. III, that “[e]xpulsion shall be executed only after following such procedure as shall be set forth in the Bylaws of the Synod,” does not enable bylaws to override, in the regular case, the design of Constitution Art. XI B 1–3 that appeal for action should be possible to the ecclesiastical supervisor of the whole Synod. In the districts, his supervision is through the district presidents (Bylaw 3.1.1.1 [b]; Constitution Art. XI B 1), but should they fail to act, he may do so “by virtue of the power given him in the Constitution (Article XI, B, 1, 2, 3)” (1956 Bylaw 5.23, *Handbook*, n.p.). While the 1956–1989 Bylaws have been revised away, this interpretation of the Constitution by the 1956 convention stands.

3. Conclusion

Constitution Art. XIV provides that “[t]he Synod in convention may adopt bylaws that are consistent with and do not contradict the Constitution of the Synod, which controls and supersedes such bylaws and all other rules and regulations of the Synod.”

In the case of the former (1956–1989) provision, the case for constitutionality was explicitly made, not only demonstrating that the adopted provision “[did] not contradict” the Constitution, but also that it was “consistent with” the framework laid out clearly by the Constitution, that being that the President himself ultimately has the responsibility, under Constitution Art. XI B 1–3, to “promote and maintain unity of doctrine and practice in all the districts of the Synod.” The 1956 convention adopted this mechanism (of appeal in case of inaction of district officials to the President of the Synod, for him to act) as an organic clarification in bylaw of a power the Constitution already granted the President in essence.

In the case of the latter (1989–2004) provision, the record provides no positive constitutional rationale. Bylaws already adopted by the Synod in convention deserve the presumption of constitutionality, as the convention is the “principle legislative assembly” of the Synod (Bylaw 3.1.1) and adopts bylaws only after positive review by the Commission on Constitutional Matters (Bylaw 7.1.1). Upon later review, could they be shown to conflict with the Constitution, they would, of course, be invalid. The commission’s two narrowly-focused reviews of this latter bylaw provision, as applied in an exceptional case, avoided finding it in conflict with Constitution Art. XI B 1–3’s assignment of these responsibilities to the President of the Synod by grounding the provision instead under Constitution Art. XIII 2.

While such narrow reviews avoided finding the latter bylaw provision in *conflict* with the Constitution, this latter provision and, importantly, the Referral Panels subsequently adopted in its place [Bylaws 2.14.5–2.14.5.3, etc.], are certainly less *consistent with* the Constitution’s overall design and framework than the former (Constitution Art. XIV).

Moreover, this review finds the change of the Bylaws in 1989 and subsequently (namely, to remove the right of appeal for action to the President, should district officials fail to act, and to replace it first with an appeal to the Praesidium and then with an appeal to a Referral Panel) to *conflict* with the Constitution of the Synod. This change unconstitutionally deprived the President of the Synod of procedures for exercising a power granted him in Constitution Art. XI B 1–3. That this power to receive appeals for action, in case of the inaction of district officials, is one of the means constitutionally “at [the President’s] command to promote and maintain unity of doctrine and practice in all the districts of the Synod” (Constitution Art. XI B 3) was the opinion of the Synod in convention in 1956. It expressed this opinion explicitly and with its unique and final interpretive power. It must therefore be the opinion also of this commission.

ⁱ 1971 Res. 5-14 (*Proceedings*, p. 156f.) modified the provision to read, “If the District officers fail to act, the President of Synod, by virtue of the power given him in the Constitution (Article XI, B, 1–3, *inclusive*) may on his own initiative institute proceedings, take administrative action, and, if necessary, present charges to the *appropriate District Commission on Adjudication, provided, however, that such must be in the same manner as hereinabove set forth for the District officers.*” (1971 Bylaw 5.13, *Handbook*, p. 115)

1983 Res. 5-20A (*Proceedings*, pp. 188f.; see Reports 5-03 and 5-04 in 1983 *Workbook*, pp. 200–213) altered it again: “If the District officers fail to act *within 60 days after the complainant has notified the District President in writing that he wishes to pursue the matter, the complainant may petition* the President of Synod, *who* by virtue of the power given him in the Constitution (Article XI, B, 1–3, *inclusive*) *shall make inquiries and* may on his own initiative institute proceedings, take administrative action, and, if necessary, present charges to the appropriate District Commission on Adjudication. *If after a reasonable time the synodical President does not intend to institute proceedings, he shall so inform the complainant and the involved member in writing*” (1983 Bylaw 8.41 [g], *Handbook*, p. 194).

1986 Res. 5-02A (*Proceedings*, pp. 163f.), originating with the Commission on Structure, elaborated the meaning of the 1983 Bylaw words, “If the District officers fail to act,” replacing them with the text, “*If the District President declines to commence an action to terminate membership, or if he neither suspends nor declines to suspend the member*” (1986 Bylaw 2.27 [f], *Handbook*, p. 31).

ⁱⁱ CCM Minutes, 10 Nov 1955, p. 39. See also “Report of the Committee on Constitutional Matters,” 1956 *Proceedings*, p. 445.

ⁱⁱⁱ The convention’s action in 1956 establishes not only that Const. Art. XI B 1–3 grants this power to the President, but also that no other constitutional article diminishes this power. Significantly, Constitution Art. XII 7, stating that district presidents shall “moreover, especially exercise supervision over the doctrine, life, and administration of office of the ordained and commissioned ministers of their district,” read in 1956 as it does today. Constitution Art. XII 7 was understood by the convention as in no way diminishing the President’s authority, inherent in Constitution Art. XI B 1–3, to act, should district officials fail to do so.

Constitution Art. XII 8 and Constitution Art. XIII 2 were altered in 1965 when the adoption of the adjudication system transferred final expulsion proceedings from district and Synod conventions to Boards of Appeals. Before and after 1965, Constitution Art. XII 8 empowered district presidents “to suspend from membership.” Before 1965, Constitution Art. XIII 2 also read, “Such expulsion is executed, as a rule, by the Districts of Synod; yet those so expelled have a right of appeal to Synod.” Neither the wording of Constitution Art. XII 2 (before 1965) nor that of Constitution Art. XII 8 (either before or after 1965) was interpreted so as to diminish the President’s constitutional authority to act, should district officials fail to do so.

Since 1965, Constitution Art. XIII 2 has read, “Expulsion shall be executed only after following such procedure as shall be set forth in the Bylaws of the Synod.” More flexibility is allowed the convention in setting out an expulsion procedure in the Bylaws, but at the same time this constitutional change prohibits, in the case of expulsion proceedings, exercise of constitutional powers for which there is no bylaw procedure specified.

^{iv} See CCM Minutes, 18 May 1952, 28 Sept 1952, 2 Feb 1953, 21 May 1953, 1 Jan 1955, 10 Nov 1955. The presentation and adoption of this proposal can hardly be construed otherwise than as the result of a careful constitutional analysis.

^v An opinion of the Commission on Constitutional Matters “shall be binding on the question decided unless and until it is overruled by a convention of the Synod. Overtures to a convention that seek to overrule an opinion of the commission shall support the proposed action with *substantive rationale* from the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod” (Bylaw 3.9.2.2 [c], *emphasis added*). Implicit here is the recognition that not every resolution of a convention has this final interpretive force. It is possible for the commission or the convention to find that a convention has acted in a manner inconsistent with or contradictory to Synod’s Constitution and therefore invalidly (Constitution Art. XIV). See, *e.g.*, 1962 Res. 6-01, “Constitutionality of Resolution 9 of Committee 3 of the 1959 Synodical Convention,” *Proceedings*, p. 122; and “Supplement to Report of Committee on Constitutional Matters,” *id.*, p. 187.

Where, however, the convention as the Synod’s “principal legislative assembly” (Bylaw 3.1.1) has *explicitly and with substantive rationale* interpreted aspects of the Constitution, it has exercised its own final interpretive authority—that greater, original authority from which it has delegated to the commission its provisional (“unless and until overruled”) interpretive authority. For such an exercise of the convention’s final interpretive authority, see, *e.g.*, 1973 Res. 2-12, “To Understand Article II of the Synod’s Constitution as Requiring the Formulation and Adoption of Synodical Doctrinal Statements.”

^{vi} 1989 Res. 5-08A (*Proceedings*, pp. 130–131) put this provision into the hands of the Praesidium, instead of the Synod President acting alone (1989 Bylaw 2.28, *Handbook*, pp. 31–32). 1992 Res. 5-02A (*Proceedings*, pp. 144–147) adapted that provision to the new dispute resolution framework (1992 Bylaw 2.27, *Handbook*, pp. 30–31). Finally, 2004 Res. 8-01A (*Proceedings*, pp. 165–184) removed the bylaw provision for the Praesidium to act when a district president would not instead

allowing an accuser, in case of district president inaction, to request formation of a Referral Panel, which request the district president must grant (2004 Bylaws 2.14.5–2.14.5.3, Handbook, p. 66). With none of these changes did the convention speak as to the constitutionality of the pre-1989 provision, by which the President of Synod had authority to initiate proceedings in case of a district president’s inaction. On that matter, the constitutional interpretation of the 1956 convention stands.

^{vii} CCM Op. 02-2283, 21–22 Oct 2002, argues similarly, regarding a vice-president acting for the President of the Synod to suspend, reading in part:

The officer of the Synod who is required to conclude whether the facts form a basis for expulsion from the Synod under Bylaw 2.27 c is not granted the authority of the President of the Synod. The dispute resolution process commenced under Bylaw 2.27 designates the individual who is to make the decision required by Bylaw 2.27 c. The individual initially designated to make that choice is the President. If the President is a party to the matter in dispute, has a conflict of interest, or is unable to act, the First Vice-President or the next qualified synodical officer is designated to undertake the task. Such officer is not granted the authority of the President to see to it that the resolutions of the Synod are carried out. Rather, his authority has as its source Bylaw 2.27.

The responsibility of the officer who carries out the provisions of Bylaw 2.27 c is to determine whether the accused member of the Synod has engaged in conduct which Article XIII of the Constitution states to be the basis for expulsion from the Synod: “Members who act contrary to the confession laid down in Article II and to the conditions of membership laid down in Article VI or persist in an offensive conduct shall, after previous futile admonition, be expelled from the Synod.”



Delegates read a resolution on Monday, July 11, 2016, at the 66th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, in Milwaukee.

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Resolution Action Report

2016 Proposed Resolution Actions

		FLOOR COMMITTEE								
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
RESOLUTION NUMBER	01	Adopted (1)	Adopted (1)	Adopted (2)		Adopted (3)		A/Adopted (4)		
	02	Adopted AM (1)	Adopted (1)	Adopted (2)		Adopted (3)	Adopted (4)			
	03					Adopted (3)				
	04					Adopted (3)				
	05			A/Adopted (2)		Adopted (3)		A/Adopted (4)		
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ACTION KEY
 Declined (#): Declined in (session #)
 Pending: Pending before assembly
 Adopted (#): Adopted as printed (session #)
 Adopted AM (#): Adopted as amended (session #)
 (A, B, C...): Revised version adopted

This table is provided for your convenience and the information contained herein is unofficial.
 The official record of actions is contained in the Convention Minutes maintained by the Office of the Secretary.
 The official record will be published in the *Convention Proceedings*.
 The table will be updated daily with action taken.

Resolution Action Report

2016 Proposed Resolution Actions

		FLOOR COMMITTEE								
		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
RESOLUTION NUMBER	01		Declined (3)		A/Adopted (3)	Adopted (3)	Adopted (2)			
	02						A/Adopted (2)			
	03		A/Adopted (3)				Adopted (2)			
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ACTION KEY

Declined (#): Declined in (session #)

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REVISED RESOLUTIONS

4. Life Together

To Convene Task Force to Review Recognized Service Organization Program and Bylaws

RESOLUTION 4-03B

Overture 4-03 (*CW*, pp. 329–330)

WHEREAS, The Synod has a lengthy history of recognizing the contributions made by service organizations as they fulfill the call to love our neighbors (Mark 12:31); and

WHEREAS, There are currently more than three hundred recognized service organizations in the program, including social service agencies, mission societies, camps, and schools; and

WHEREAS, The granting of recognized service organization (RSO) status by the Synod signifies that a service organization, “while independent of the Synod, fosters the mission and ministry of the church, engages in program activity that is in harmony with the programs of the boards of the Synod, and respects and does not act contrary to the doctrine and practice of the Synod” (Bylaw 6.2.1); and

WHEREAS, The needs of the Synod, the work of social service agencies, and the regulation and oversight by governmental agencies have all changed significantly over the 30-plus years of the program; and

WHEREAS, Concerns have been raised over the years by various constituencies within the LCMS, including program leadership and the Board of Directors, as to the objectives of the program and the current policies and procedures associated with the administration of the program; and

WHEREAS, Current state and federal laws may negatively impact an RSO’s ability to “not act contrary to the doctrine and practice of the Synod,” recent same-sex marriage rulings having serious implications for programs and services of RSOs especially in the areas of foster care, adoption, aging, and housing; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS desires and encourages its RSOs to live out their Lutheran identity in the services and programs they provide; and

WHEREAS, The RSO program is intended to benefit the church by contributing to its effectiveness in witness, mercy, and life together; and

WHEREAS, A thorough review of the RSO program was conducted in 2006-07 by Synod staff which brought revision and improvement to the Synod process of recognition of RSOs; and

WHEREAS, A review of the needs of the Synod, including the work of social service agencies; mission societies and other entities granted recognition status; the impact of government regulations and oversight; and a review of mutual benefits to the Synod and RSOs, should be undertaken; therefore be it

Resolved, That the 2016 LCMS convention authorize the formation of a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) Task Force that is charged with the following responsibilities:

- Review and report on the original purpose and intent of the RSO program and its predecessors;
- Determine the needs of and benefits to the Synod with respect to the RSO program and identify the best model for the Synod to engage with organizations which foster the mission and ministry of the church and who engage in programs that are in harmony with the programs of the Synod;
- Recommend changes to the RSO program, and/or the elimination of the program, and/or replacement of the current RSO program with a new relationship model that provides benefit to the Synod and the social service agency, and/or develop and recommend other solutions;

- Recommend appropriate changes to the LCMS Bylaws, as needed; and
- Ensure that all recommendations maintain the important relationships with the agencies that are recognized by the LCMS, foster the mission and ministry of the church, engage in program activity that is in harmony with programs of the Synod, and respect and not act contrary to the doctrine and practice of the Synod.

and be it further

Resolved, That the task force begin work immediately following this convention, and that the members of this task force be the Secretary of the Synod, the Chief Mission Officer, the Chief Administrative Officer, the executive director of the Office of National Mission, the director of the RSO program, a representative from the Office of the President, a representative of the Council of Presidents appointed by its Chairman, and the Chief Executive Officer of two or more RSOs selected by the task force; and be it further

Resolved, That the task force engage with Concordia Plan Services, the Lutheran Church Extension Fund, as well as other entities and RSOs from each of the five regions of Synod; and be it finally

Resolved, That the task force make its first report and recommendations to the Synod Board of Directors and the President of the Synod by August 1, 2018, with a final report, recommendations, and possible bylaw changes to be presented to the 2019 LCMS convention.

11. Structure and Administration

To Change Bylaws re Certification and Verification of District Convention Delegates

RESOLUTION 11-04B

Overtures 11-04 (*CW*, p. 384)

WHEREAS, The process of registering and accrediting delegates for a district convention is cumbersome and confusing; and

WHEREAS, A major source of the confusion is that the current process requires a double registration and accreditation for every delegate. A registration several weeks prior to the convention, all properly certified and submitted to the district office, is required so that the district president can select delegates to assign to floor committees, print their names in the convention workbook, prepare registration material, and various other matters. Then, current Bylaw 4.2.2 (a) requires another set of identical credentials to be submitted to the district secretary at the opening of the convention; and

WHEREAS, Technically, according to the way the bylaw now reads, an individual who does not present the proper form at the time of registration at the convention cannot be accredited, even though forms were previously submitted to the district office; therefore be it

Resolved, That the following amendment to Bylaw 4.2.2 (a) be adopted.

PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

4.2.2 The delegates of a voting congregation to a district convention shall be accredited.

- (a) ~~They shall be entitled to vote upon presenting to the secretary at the opening of the convention the proper credentials provided by the district secretary and signed by two of the congregation's officers.~~
To be entitled to vote, delegates shall return the proper credentials provided by the district secretary and signed by two of the congregation's officers, either by mailing them to the district office at a date determined by the district or by presenting them to the district secretary at the opening of the convention.

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1 **14. Church & Culture**

2 **To Confess Sanctity of Marriage**

3 **RESOLUTION 14-02A**

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7 Overtures 14-02, 14-08, 14-16 (*CW*, pp. 465, 468, 472)

8
9 WHEREAS, Our Triune God, before the fall, created and sanctified marriage as a life-long union between one
10 man and one woman (Gen. 2:24); and

11
12 WHEREAS, Our Lord Jesus through his presence at the wedding at Cana has affirmed God’s original design for
13 marriage (John 2:1–11), and through His teaching has made it clear that the tragedy of divorce is not part of God’s
14 original design or intent, but occurs only because of “the hardness of your hearts” (Matt. 19:4–6); and

15
16 WHEREAS, the apostle Paul sees marriage as an icon or reflection of the union that the heavenly bridegroom
17 Jesus has with His Church (Eph. 5:22–32); and

18
19 WHEREAS, God, not the state, has instituted marriage

- 20
- 21 • to provide fidelity within the lifelong union of one man and one woman;
 - 22 • to continue his procreative work of bringing children into the world;
 - 23 • to enable a father and mother, in their household, to “bring up their children in the fear and instruction
24 of the Lord so that they may offer Him their praise” (*Lutheran Service Book [LSB]*, p. 275); therefore
25 be it

26
27 *Resolved*, That the Synod, on the basis of Holy Scripture, joyfully confess marriage to be an unalterable estate
28 which God continues to uphold and bless within the human community; and be it further

29
30 *Resolved*, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) commend Commission on Theology and Church
31 Relations (CTCR) 1981 report, *Human Sexuality: A Theological Perspective* (p. 40), as a faithful explication of
32 timeless truths of the Word of God; and be it further

33
34 *Resolved*, That the LCMS in convention encourage its seminaries and its universities to place a high priority on
35 equipping their students to articulate the biblical view of marriage and provide resources for the church through
36 continuing education, conferences on marriage, publications, and other resources; and be it further

37
38 *Resolved*, That pastors be implored to provide responsible care in this area through their preaching, teaching,
39 counseling, and administration of the sacraments; and be it further

40
41 *Resolved*, That congregations and commissioned workers be implored to provide care through teaching,
42 counseling, and acts of mercy; and be it further

43
44 *Resolved*, That we, as God’s baptized children living in this broken world, live out our vocation as people
45 shaped by God’s Word and His forgiving love to respond with mercy to those whose lives have been wounded by
46 sin; and be it finally

47
48 *Resolved*, That as a Synod we continue to speak prophetically of God’s institution and preservation of marriage
49 as it is reflected in creation, even as we also give thanks to God for His indescribable gift of the one flesh union
50 between one man and one woman.

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**To Respond Compassionately to Challenges
to Biblical View of Marriage and Human Sexuality**

RESOLUTION 14-03A

Overtures 14-06–07, 14-11, 14-13, 14-17 (*CW*, pp. 466–468, 470–472)

WHEREAS, Before mankind’s fall into sin, God created the estate of marriage (Gen. 1:27–28; Gen. 2:18–26) “for the mutual companionship, help and support that each person ought to receive from each other, that man and woman may find delight in one another and for the procreation of children” [*Lutheran Service Book (LSB)*, p. 275]; and

WHEREAS, After mankind’s fall into sin, Jesus affirms that in the beginning God created marriage as the union of one man and one woman (Matt. 19:3–9); and

WHEREAS, “In marriage we see a picture of the communion between Christ and His bride, the church” (*LSB*, p. 275; Eph. 5:22–33); and

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court of the United States has ruled that marriages may be contracted between two persons of the same sex; and

WHEREAS, Such unions destroy the picture of Christ’s love for the Church and are a matter of grave offense before God (Rom. 1:26–27; 1 Cor. 6:9–11; 1 Tim. 1:8–11); therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in convention affirm and faithfully confess the biblical truth that marriage is God’s creation, the exclusive union of one man and one woman; and be it further

Resolved, That the convention affirm and faithfully confess that same-sex marriage is contrary to Scripture and to God’s design for His creation, and in no way fulfills God’s intention to bless His children through holy marriage; and be it further

Resolved, That the pastors of the Synod continue to deal compassionately with those who struggle with same-sex attraction through the proclamation of the Gospel and the administration of Baptism, the Lord’s Supper, and corporate and individual confession and absolution; and be it further

Resolved, That the pastors of the Synod continue to deal compassionately with the family, friends, and all others impacted by those who struggle with same-sex attraction or those involved in same-sex relationships, through the proclamation of the Gospel and the administration of Baptism, the Lord’s Supper, and corporate and individual confession and absolution; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations be encouraged to utilize current LCMS resources such as these Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) documents: *Human Sexuality: A Theological Perspective*, *Response to Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* and *The Creators Tapestry: Scriptural Perspectives on Man-Woman Relationships in Marriage and the Church*; and be it further

Resolved, That the CTCR be directed to update the document *Human Sexuality* (1981) in order to address current challenges to the estate of marriage; and be it finally

Resolved, That the LCMS in convention direct the Office of National Mission, Concordia Publishing House, and the two seminaries of our Synod to provide resources that enable the church to confess the truth boldly and deal compassionately with those who struggle with same-sex attraction and those who care for them.

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1 **To Encourage Outreach to Muslim Neighbors**

2
3 **RESOLUTION 14-06A**

4
5 Overtures 14-05–06, 14-15 (*CW*, pp. 466–467, 471)

6
7 WHEREAS, The religion of Islam continues to grow in numbers and impact throughout the United States and
8 world; and

9
10 WHEREAS, Our Lord’s command not to fear (Mt. 10:28ff.) frees the Christian from fearing not only the devil
11 and our sinful nature, but also all elements of the world, including those persons practicing the religion of Islam; and

12
13 WHEREAS, Illicit acts of violence committed out of fear or as an expression of religious conviction are contrary
14 to Scripture (Matt. 5:38–39, Luke 22:50–51, John, 18:10–11); and

15
16 WHEREAS, Christ commands us to love our neighbors of all faiths (Matt. 22:39) and to proclaim the gospel to
17 all nations (Matt. 28:19); therefore be it

18
19 *Resolved*, That the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in convention condemn all illicit acts of
20 violence committed out of fear or out of religious conviction; and be it further

21
22 *Resolved*, That the Synod in convention direct the Chief Mission Officer, working in coordination with the
23 Office of National Mission and the Office of International Mission, to adopt as a priority the development and
24 identification of resources (e.g., written and visual materials, conferences, and experts) that will assist districts and
25 congregations boldly and faithfully to reach out to Muslims with the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and be it further

26
27 *Resolved*, That districts be directed and congregations be encouraged to develop specific outreach plans to share
28 the Gospel with their Muslim neighbors; and be it finally

29
30 *Resolved*, That the LCMS in convention commend the work of Gottfried Martens in Berlin, Germany for
31 successfully creating an ongoing outreach to European Muslim refugees and also commend those in the United
32 States conducting similar outreach activities.

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37 **To Encourage Vocation and Confession in Public Square**

38
39 **RESOLUTION 14-07A**

40
41 Report R1 (*CW*, p. 3); Overture 14-02 (*CW*, p. 465)

42
43 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church confesses that we, as people redeemed by Christ, live as citizens of both
44 realms (two kingdoms), who acknowledge the reign of God through His Word and through civil authorities (Rom.
45 13: 1-4; Phil. 3:20; 1 Peter 2:13); and

46
47 WHEREAS, Christians are called to live out their vocations faithfully to God and in service to the neighbor (1
48 Peter 4:12–19; Rom. 12:1; Small Catechism Table of Duties); and

49
50 WHEREAS, When civil authorities command that we disobey what our Lord commands, “we must obey God
51 rather than men” (Acts 5:29); and

52
53 WHEREAS, The church’s power and authority flows from the Word of God alone and is not a coercive authority
54 (Tr 31–37); and

55
56 WHEREAS, Spiritual and civil authority therefore ought not be “mixed” or confused (AC XXVIII 12), and the

1 church itself, as God’s “right hand kingdom,” ought not to seek civil rule and authority (see AC XXVIII, Tr 2, 49–
2 52; *Brief Statement* § 34); therefore be it
3

4 *Resolved*, That the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in convention urge all congregations, pastors,
5 church workers and members to support, teach and live out the biblical doctrines of vocation and of the two
6 kingdoms regarding the relationship between church and state; and be it further
7

8 *Resolved*, That members of the LCMS be encouraged as individual citizens of the left hand kingdom to exercise
9 their rights and responsibilities and within their vocations to hold positions of civil power and authority in
10 government and business (AC XVI; Ap XVI); and be it further
11

12 *Resolved*, That members of the LCMS pray for and seek the good of all, giving special regard to governmental
13 policies that allow the church to practice its faith freely and without hindrance (1 Tim. 2:1–2); and be it further
14

15 *Resolved*, That members of the LCMS pray for Judge Ruth Neely, a member of the LCMS congregation in
16 Pinedale, Wyoming, whose job is threatened as a result of her public confession of the truth concerning marriage
17 (See *Caspar Star Tribune*, May 6, 2016); and be it finally
18

19 *Resolved*, That in the face of hostility and resistance to the Gospel and to the historic teachings of the church,
20 the LCMS in convention encourage the members of LCMS congregations to bear witness to Christ and the truth of
21 the Gospel in word and deed (Acts 4:19).
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26 **To Affirm Compassionate Care to End of Natural Life**

27 **RESOLUTION 14-08A**

28
29
30 Overture 14-02, 14-07 (*CW*, pp. 329, 331)
31

32 WHEREAS, Because the Triune God alone gives life and recalls life unto Himself (Ps. 90), Christians guard and
33 defend human life from conception to natural death; and
34

35 WHEREAS, Because Christians are called to help and protect their neighbor in every bodily need (*Small*
36 *Catechism*), we have the duty and responsibility to care for human life from conception to natural death; and
37

38 WHEREAS, Our culture increasingly sees the lives of the chronically ill, the disabled, and the aged as a burden
39 that individuals, their families, and society should not bear; and
40

41 WHEREAS, Elements of our society are enlisting the medical profession to administer death (physician-assisted
42 suicide) rather than sustaining and protecting life; and
43

44 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has repeatedly affirmed that the medical
45 community has the duty always to care, but never to kill; therefore be it
46

47 *Resolved*, That the LCMS continue as a strong voice for the sanctity of life, especially supporting the truth that
48 life begins at conception and continues until natural death and therefore deserves our protection and care; and be it
49 further
50

51 *Resolved*, That the LCMS continue to oppose physician assisted suicide and euthanasia; and be it further
52

53 *Resolved*, That pastors and congregations be encouraged to utilize resources concerning care at the end of life
54 which have been developed by the LCMS [The *Pastoral Care Companion* (pp. 221–227); by the Commission on
55 Theology and Church Relations (*Christian Care At Life’s End*); and by LCMS Life Ministry (*Mercy at Life’s End*)],
56 all of which offer guidance and counsel concerning end-of-life decisions; and be it further

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NEW RESOLUTIONS

14. Church & Culture

To Affirm the Vocations of First-Responders

RESOLUTION 14-11

President’s Report, Issue 3 (*TB*, p. 330–335)

WHEREAS, To live in this world is to know our human propensity to sin against one another; and

WHEREAS, Our sin often results from our failure to help and befriend our neighbor and often causes our neighbor bodily harm; and

WHEREAS, Our nation has recently witnessed a series of illicit acts of violence and their devastating and far-reaching consequences in our communities; and

WHEREAS, The ongoing results of conflict between victims and perpetrators threatens order and rule of law in our nation; and

WHEREAS, Our Lord richly and daily provides all we need to support this body and life, defends us against all danger, and guards and protects us from all evil; and

WHEREAS, Scripture assures us that in Christ, we find the greatest example of charity and love for the other (John 15:13); therefore be it

Resolved, That congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) be encouraged continuously to pray that the Lord would provide us with honest and faithful public servants and grant them courage, wisdom, strength, and compassion as they live out their vocations; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS, in convention pray for peace and for necessary reforms for our nation and the communities stricken by such violence; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS, in convention, affirm the necessity of faithfully professing that Christ has come to redeem both the victims of and the perpetrators of such violence; and be it finally

Resolved, That the LCMS, in convention, commend our nation’s first-responders for their generous and sacrificial devotion to helping others.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT RESOLUTIONS

2. International Witness

To Assist LCMS Rostered Workers with Their Confessional Integrity as Contract Workers

AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION 2-05

Report R1.2 (*CW*, pp. 40–41)

Change the last *Resolved* to read:



1 and be it finally
2

3 *Resolved*, That district presidents provide appropriate pastoral care to those rostered workers who find
4 themselves striving to bring a ministry of law and gospel in settings where our government has restricted the ability
5 of those workers to serve in ways that do not violate their conscience and the Word of God.
6

7 Submitted by:
8 Rev. Jeff Scheich
9 Pastoral Delegate, Nebraska District
10

11 12 13 14 **4. Life Together**

15 16 **To Appeal to LCMS Congregations, Workers, and Institutions by the Mercies of God** 17 **to Retain a Common Order of Service for the Lord’s Supper**

18 19 **AMMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION 4-04A**

20
21 (*TB*, Issue 3, pp. 349–50)
22

23 An additional *Resolve* to be inserted after the first *Resolve*;

24
25 *Resolved*, That the LCMS in convention call congregations of the Synod to recognize that services of
26 worship when celebrating the Lord’s Supper which do not include the above basic components are not
27 Lutheran; and be it further
28

29 Submitted by:
30 Rev. Vance Becker
31 Pastoral Delegate, Minnesota South District
32
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34
35

36 **7. University Education**

37 38 **To Assist Our CUS Institutions in Demonstrating Our Common Confession**

39 40 **AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION 7-06A**

41
42 Overture 7-10 (*CW*, p. 367); (*TB*, Issue 3, pp. 366–367, line 24)
43

44 The following shall be added to the end of Bylaw 3.10.5.6.2:

45
46 “If prior approval is declined, the reason(s) for declining the approval shall be provided in writing to:

47 (1) The individual whose appointment is declined,

48 (2) The individual’s district president, and

49 (3) The president and theology department head at the university where the appointment was to be made.
50

51 Submitted by:
52 Rev. Jeffery Grams
53 Pastoral Delegate, Wyoming District
54

1 **11. Structure and Administration**

2
3 **To Revise and Enhance Nomination and Election Process for Regional Board Members**

4
5 **AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION 11-05**

6
7 (*TB*, pp. 130–133)

8
9 To strike the sentence on page 132, lines 16–17: “Nominations may be received from persons or parties outside the
10 region.” and replace it with the sentence: “Each region shall nominate candidates from within their region and
11 present these candidates to the national convention for election.”

12
13 Submitted by:
14 Pastor Dennis Durham
15 Pastoral Delegate, California-Nevada-Hawaii District
16

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18
19
20 **PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTIONS**

21
22 **12. Ecclesiastical Supervision and Dispute Resolution**

23
24 **To Amend the Bylaws on Candidate Status**

25
26 **REVISED SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION 12-03**

27
28 Report R60 (*CW*, pp. 231–233); Overtures 12-07–08, 12-10, 12-43 (*CW*, pp. 418, 436)

29
30 WHEREAS, Church vocations exist for active service to the Lord’s Church; and

31
32 WHEREAS, Candidate status and non-candidate status have been granted to rostered workers of the Synod with
33 the hope and expectation that they eventually return to active status (Bylaw 2.11.1); and

34
35 WHEREAS, Members of the Synod have asked for clarity regarding candidate status; and non-candidate status;
36 and

37
38 WHEREAS, Candidates and non-candidates in good standing are eligible to receive a call (CCM 09-2546);
39 therefore be it

40
41 *Resolved*, That with the adoption of this resolution all non-candidates who wish to be placed onto candidate
42 status be granted candidate status upon completion of the “Application for Inactive Status” and submission to his or
43 her district president; and be it further

44
45 *Resolved*, That all time limits and restrictions for both candidate and non-candidate status shall be removed
46 from the bylaws; and be it finally

47
48 *Resolved*, That the Commission on Handbook make all necessary Bylaw changes consistent with this resolution.
49

50 Submitted by:
51 Rev. Joseph Cunningham
52 Pastoral Delegate, Indiana District
53
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16. Family, Youth, and Young Adults

**To Encourage Commission on Theology and Church Relations and Scouting Task Force
To Move Quickly in Providing Guidance Concerning Scouting**

SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION 16-06

Overture 16-03, (*CW*, pp. 476–77); Overture L16-05 (*TB*, Issue 2, p. 387)

Insert the following at Line 38 before the first WHEREAS:

WHEREAS, The National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) on July 10, 2015, lifted the BSA's ban on openly gay Scout leaders, resulting in a dissolution of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the BSA and the cessation of an official relationship with the BSA; and

WHEREAS, The national organization of Girl Scouts of the United States of America (GSUSA) has long permitted adults of any sexual orientation to serve as leaders and allows both its local councils and local units to affiliate with and utilize the materials of Planned Parenthood; and

Insert the following at Line 50 before the first *Resolved*:

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) commend the LCMS Office of the President and LCMS Office of National Mission for dissolving the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the LCMS and the BSA; and be it further

Submitted by:
Jason Gehrke
Lay Delegate, South Wisconsin District

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DELEGATE NEW RESOLUTIONS

To Preserve the Authority and Clarity of the New Testament Scriptures

NEW RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, “The object of all textual criticism is to recover as far as possible the actual words written by the author.” (Kirsopp Lake, *Text of the New Testament* [London, 1913]); 1 and

WHEREAS, The standard critical edition of the Greek New Testament is *Novum Testamentum Graece*, often called Nestle-Aland, abbreviated NA followed by the number of the relevant edition; and

WHEREAS, D. C. Parker correctly writes of *Novum Testamentum Graece* (1993) = NA27, “This text was agreed by a committee. When they disagreed on the best reading to print, they voted.” (*Living Text of the Gospels* [Oxford, 1997]); and

WHEREAS, Decisions in Nestle-Aland have sometimes been based on historical-critical dogma, not textual criticism, e.g., in 1971 “the majority of the committee” favored punctuating Romans 9:5 to replace Paul’s assertion that the Messiah is God with a doxology (see RSV ad loc.) because “nowhere else in his genuine epistles does Paul ever designate ho Christos as theos.” B. M. Metzger, *A Textual Commentary on the Greek NT* (London, 1971) 522; and

1
2 WHEREAS, Future editions of Nestle-Aland will be edited with a new editorial committee, a new methodology, a
3 modified apparatus and a different goal, replacing the “original text” reflecting the autographs with an Ausgangstext
4 that seeks to reconstruct the common source of surviving manuscripts; therefore be it
5

6 *Resolved*, That a New Testament text created by a committee with a new methodology and a different goal that
7 no longer seeks "to recover as far as possible the actual words written by the author" prima facie undermines the
8 Lutheran understanding of claritudo Scripturae, the clarity of Scripture, defended by Luther in Bondage of the Will
9 against Erasmus’ skepticism; and be it further
10

11 *Resolved*, That the President of the Synod appoint a task force to evaluate the methodology of NA28 and future
12 editions and its implications for Lutheran theology; and be it further
13

14 *Resolved*, That the task force report its conclusions and recommendations to the 2019 LCMS Convention; and
15 be it finally
16

17 *Resolved*, That the editorial committee will include textual scholars who have edited critical editions of ancient
18 texts, made emendations accepted by editors of critical editions of ancient texts and/or have published books or a
19 substantial corpus of articles on textual criticism. Committee members will each have one or more of these
20 qualifications.
21

22 Submitted by:
23 Christian Kopff
24 Lay Delegate, Rocky Mountain District
25
26
27

28 20. NOMINATIONS

29 FLOOR NOMINATIONS

30 The following names were ADDED as floor nominations to the existing slate of nominations:
31

32 LCMS Board of Directors (At Large)

33 Ministers of Religion—Ordained

- 34 • George W. Lowrey, Jr. (TX)

35 Board of Regents—Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

36 Layperson

- 37 • Paul P. Edmon (NE)

38 Board of Regents—Concordia University Nebraska, Seward, Neb.

39 Ministers of Religion—Ordained

- 40 • James D. Woelmer (TX)

41 Board of Regents—Concordia University Texas, Austin, Texas

42 Ministers of Religion—Ordained

- 43 • Geoffrey Brent McGuire (TX)
- 44 • M. Alan Taylor (TX)

45 Minister of Religion—Ordained (6 Yr. Term)

46 **George William Lowrey, Jr.**, Arlington, TX; Holy Cross (TX); LCMS 50; Pastor. **S:** Conv. Deleg. 5, Fl. Com. 1,
47 RSO—Belize Miss. Soc. BOD 2. **D:** Prayer & Spiritual Formation Com. 13, Const. Com. 3, Conv. Registrar 1. **C:**
48 Pastor. **O:** Police Chapl. 6.
49
50
51
52

1
2 From serving as a delegate to five Synod conventions to being a part of several other ministries in Synod and
3 District leadership positions, I have loved serving our Lord's church. If elected, I would seek to serve faithfully, as I
4 know all our loving pastors would. I have been in the LCMS my entire life from the day of the Lord's baptism upon
5 me. I would considerate it a joy to continue serving Christ in all areas of our beloved Synod.

6
7 **Layperson (6 Yr. Term)**

8
9 **Paul Pretzer Edmon**, Medford, MA; First Luth., Boston, MA (NE); LCMS 33; ITC Research Computing
10 Associate, Harvard University. **C:** Cong. Pres. & Head Elder 3, Adult Bible Study Tchr. 3. **O:** Astronomy Public
11 Outreach, University of Minnesota 6, History of Astronomy Reading Group, University of Minnesota 5, Canto
12 Armonico & First Luth. Choir Member 4. Luth. Student Fellowship Pres., Univ. of Minnesota.

13
14 Historically, the church has prided herself in having well-educated pastors to shepherd Christ's flock. In my time in
15 academia and in our fine campus ministries it is obvious that pastoral education is still critical. My hope is to use my
16 knowledge gained in academia to help support and improve our seminaries. We need pastors who are both grounded
17 in Scripture and the Book of Concord, and conversant in the broken theology of our post-Christian age. Pastors who
18 can both defend Christ's flock and bring the Gospel forward to a generation that has yet to hear it.

19
20 **Minister of Religion—Ordained (3 Yr. Term)**

21
22 **James D. Woelmer**; Allen, TX; Faith, Plano (TX); LCMS 55. **S:** Conv. Deleg. 2, Church Planting Roundtable 1. **D:**
23 Cir. Visitor 2. **C:** Pastor 26, Helped Start Two Mission Churches 2. **O:** 4-H Leader 9, Taught Marriage & Parenting
24 Seminars 17, "Love Where You Live" Com. Program 1, Randolph Fnd. Secy. 2, Luth. Miss. Alliance Chm. 2.

25
26 My wife and I are graduates of a Concordia, and we are parents of three children who have attended or are attending
27 a Concordia. I have been a pastor at a church with a school my whole ministry, and I currently teach theology at
28 Faith Lutheran High School (Plano, TX). I would use my experience in theology, finance, and administration to
29 advance the goals of Concordia University Nebraska. It would be an honor and privilege for me to serve on the
30 Board of Regents at CUNE. I am thankful for the Gospel and am proud of our Lutheran heritage.

31
32 **Minister of Religion—Ordained (3 Yr. Term)**

33
34 **Geoffrey Brent McGuire**, Dallas, TX; Our Redeemer (TX); LCMS 21; Pastor. **D:** Texas Area B Seminary
35 Applicant Interview Com. **C:** Senior Pastor 8, Assoc. Pastor 2, Asst. Pastor 2. **O:** Chapl. of the Day, County
36 Commissioners Court 2, Harvard Club of Dallas Interview Com. 2, Occasional Guest on KLIF Religion Roundtable
37 Program 4.

38
39 As a graduate of Harvard University, I know the emptiness of secular higher education. The great task of Concordia
40 Texas is the integration of faith and learning into an education that is itself Christian, forming students who are able
41 to think logically and write and speak persuasively; who are curious about the world around them; who can
42 participate in a democratic society in an informed, principled, and caring way; and whose confidence in life and in
43 death comes from Him who made us, still takes care of us, and sent His Son to redeem us.

44
45 **Minister of Religion—Ordained (3 Yr. Term)**

46
47 **M. Alan Taylor**, Galveston, TX, St. John (TX); LCMS 30; Pastor. **S:** Conv. Deleg. 2. **D:** Cir. Visitor 10. **C:** Pastor
48 23. **O:** Adjunct Prof. Concordia Texas 5, LLL Pastoral Adv. 2, Citizens Police Academy 21.

49
50 Concordia Texas is a fine institution with a bright future. Developing Christian leaders in an increasingly secular
51 and anti-Christian culture is a laudable but difficult task. I have been privileged to teach theology classes in the
52 Concordia University Texas Houston-area accelerated degree program. My teaching experience, combined with 23
53 years of pastoral experience, has given me a good foundation for understanding today's challenges in developing
54 Christian leaders. As a CPA (certified but no longer licensed), I understand financial needs, goals, and constraints. I
55 would be honored to serve on the Concordia Texas BOR as we strive to develop Christian leaders.

Slate of Candidates

2016 Synod Convention

Office/Nominee	1 st Ballot	2 nd Ballot	3 rd Ballot	4 th Ballot
First Vice-President				
Minister of Religion—Ordained <i>(elect 1)</i>	Total 1,031			
1. Carl C. Fickenscher, II (IN)	5.04% (52)			
2. Herbert C. Mueller, Jr. (MO)	65.66% (677)			
3. Scott R. Murray (TX)	15.32% (158)			
4. Daniel Preus (MO)	8.34% (86)			
5. John C. Wohlrabe, Jr. (SW)	5.63% (58)			

Central Regional Vice-President				
Minister of Religion—Ordained <i>(elect 1, 3-year term)</i>	Total 1,042			
1. Luther C. Brunette (IN)	13.24% (138)			
2. Charles J. Neugebauer (MDS)	4.13% (43)			
3. Daniel Preus (MO)	57.68% (601)			
4. Ronald D. Rall (MO)	5.66% (59)			
5. Scott K. Seidler (MO)	19.29% (201)			

East-Southeast Regional Vice-President				
Minister of Religion—Ordained <i>(elect 1, 3-year term)</i>	Total 1,039	Total 1,062		
1. Victor J. Belton (FG)	35.13% (365)	39.27% (417)		
2. Jon T. Diefenthaler (SE)	11.45% (119)	7.34% (78)		
3. Christopher S. Esget (SE)	45.14% (469)	53.39% (567)		
4. Robert E. Hartwell (AT)	4.62% (48)			
5. Jeffrey Eric Skopak (FG)	3.66% (38)			

Great Lakes Regional Vice-President				
Ministers of Religion—Ordained <i>(elect 1, 3-year term)</i>	Total 1,046			
1. Greg S. Griffith (MI)	6.41% (67)			
2. C. William Hoesman (MI)	17.78% (186)			
3. Randolph H. Raasch (SW)	9.27% (97)			
4. Keith A. Speaks (EN)	5.16% (54)			
5. John C. Wohlrabe, Jr. (MI)	61.38% (642)			

Great Plains Regional Vice-President				
Ministers of Religion—Ordained <i>(elect 1, 3-year term)</i>	Total 1,048			
1. Nabil S. Nour (SD)	59.83% (627)			
2. Thomas J. Pfothenhauer (MNS)	6.87% (72)			
3. Clint K. Poppe (NEB)	8.21% (86)			
4. Luke R. Schnake (NEB)	6.77% (71)			
5. Russell L. Sommerfeld (NEB)	18.32% (192)			

West-Southwest Regional Vice-President				
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Office/Nominee	1 st Ballot	2 nd Ballot	3 rd Ballot	4 th Ballot
Minister of Religion—Ordained (<i>elect 1, 3-year term</i>)	Total 1,056			
1. Ronald D. Burcham (PSW)	12.41% (131)			
2. Jonathan J. Coyne (CNH)	3.98% (42)			
3. Scott R. Murray (TX)	58.14% (614)			
4. Timothy D. Runtsch (RM)	16.67% (176)			
5. William H. Tucker (TX)	8.81% (93)			

Regional Vice-President Ranking				
Minister of Religion—Ordained (<i>elect 1</i>)	Total 2,747			
2nd VP: Scott R. Murray (TX)	52.70% (557)			
3rd VP: Nabil S. Nour (SD)	52.81% (563)			
4th VP: John C. Wohlrabe, Jr. (MI)	55.70% (581)			
5th VP: Daniel Preus (MO)	54.49% (570)			
6th VP: Christopher S. Esget (SE)	45.51% (476)			

Office of Secretary				
Minister of Religion—Ordained (<i>elect 1, 3-year term</i>)	Total 1,046	Total 1,082		
1. Bart Day (MO)	8.03% (84)			
2. John P. Gierke (MDS)	7.65% (80)			
3. Dan P. Gilbert (NI)	21.22% (222)	33.09% (358)		
4. David L. Mahsman (MO)	6.98% (73)			
5. Martin R. Noland (IN)	8.03% (84)			
6. Ken R. Schurb (MO)	8.22% (86)			
7. John Wollenburg Sias (MT)	39.87% (417)	66.91% (724)		

LCMS Board of Directors (At Large)				
Minister of Religion—Ordained (<i>elect 2, 6-year term</i>)				
1. Eric Ini-Obong Ekong (MI)				
2. Michael L. Kumm (SD)				
3. Jeffery T. Schrank (PSW)				
4. George W. Lowrey, Jr. (TX)				
5. M. Alan Taylor (TX)				
Layperson (<i>elect 1, 6-year term</i>)				
1. Johnny “Crow” Buck (MT)				
2. Ed Everts (FG)				
3. R. Lee Hagan, Sr. (SO)				

LCMS Board of Directors (Regional)				
East-Southeast Region Layperson (<i>elect 1, 6-year term</i>)	Total 989	Total 1,047		
1. Gilbert M. F. Brauch, Jr. (SE)	8.29% (82)			
2. Keith Frndak (EA)	46.51% (460)	55.97% (586)		
3. Jean Hanson (AT)	31.85% (315)	37.63% (394)		
4. Stuart Nichols (SE)	8.39% (83)	6.40% (67)		
5. Lloyd Wardley (AT)	4.95% (49)			
Great Lakes Region Layperson (<i>elect 1, 6-year term</i>)	Total 1,040			

Office/Nominee	1 st Ballot	2 nd Ballot	3 rd Ballot	4 th Ballot
1. James W. Carter, Jr. (NI)	52.12% (542)			
2. Willard Ducharme (MI)	11.54% (120)			
3. Dale D. Gust (MI)	15.29% (159)			
4. Craig V. Timm (NW)	14.13% (147)			
5. Matthew Voigt (NW)	6.92% (72)			
Great Plains Region Layperson (<i>elect 1, 6-year term</i>)	Total 1,038	Total 1,053		
1. Thomas R. Halvorson (MT)	15.90% (165)	18.14% (191)		
2. Larry Harrington (WY)	49.04% (509)	61.54% (648)		
3. John P. Riley (ND)	10.12% (105)			
4. Robert P. Wurl (ND)	7.23% (75)			
5. Andrew Zoeller (MT)	17.73% (184)	20.32% (214)		

Board for National Mission				
Central Region Minister of Religion— Ordained/Commissioned (<i>elect 1, 3-year term</i>)				
1. Douglas M. Christian (IN)				
2. Kenneth E. Lampe (MDS)				
3. Martha J. Milas (CI)				
4. Carl E. Rockrohr (IN)				
5. Alan R. Stahlecker (KS)				
East-Southeast Region Minister of Religion— Ordained/Commissioned (<i>elect 1, 6-year term</i>)				
1. Timothy J. Droegemueller (FG)				
2. Tina G. Jasion (SE)				
3. George E. Murdaugh (FG)				
4. Matthew L. Popovits (AT)				
5. Dien Ashley Taylor (AT)				
Great Lakes Region Minister of Religion— Ordained/Commissioned (<i>elect 1, 3-year term</i>)				
1. Peter C. Bender (SW)				
2. David C. Fleming (MI)				
3. Christopher J. Neuendorf (IE)				
4. Randolph H. Raasch (SW)				
5. David P. Stechholz (EN)				
Great Plains Region Minister of Religion— Ordained/Commissioned (<i>elect 1, 6-year term</i>)				
1. Aaron J. Asmus (SD)				
2. Steven C. Briel (MNS)				
3. Russell L. Dewell (MT)				
4. Dennis L. Heiden (MNS)				
5. Christopher Maronde (NEB)				
West-Southwest Region				

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Office/Nominee	1 st Ballot	2 nd Ballot	3 rd Ballot	4 th Ballot
Minister of Religion— Ordained/Commissioned <i>(elect 1, 3-year term)</i>				
1. Anne E. Bopp (NOW)				
2. Samuel Cosby (TX)				
3. Alfonso O. Espinosa (PSW)				
4. Mark R. Junkans (TX)				
5. Anthony J. Schultz (NOW)				
Central Region Layperson <i>(elect 1, 6-year term)</i>				
1. John Frerking (MO)				
2. Ernest E. Garbe (CI)				
3. Frederick Peter Guengerich (MDS)				
4. Louie W. Kastens, III (OK)				
5. Sharon Rapp (MDS)				
East-Southeast Region Layperson <i>(elect 1, 3-year term)</i>				
1. Eunice Bailey (AT)				
2. Gilbert M. F. Brauch, Jr. (SE)				
3. Julia Habrecht (SE)				
4. Michael Killian (NE)				
5. Andrew Rullman (SE)				
Great Lakes Region Layperson <i>(elect 1, 6-year term)</i>				
1. Robert Knox (NI)				
2. Crysten Sanchez (IE)				
3. Matthew Voigt (NW)				
4. Joyce M. Voss (NW)				
5. K. Allan Voss (SW)				
Great Plains Region Layperson <i>(elect 1, 3-year term)</i>				
1. Michael Borg (WY)				
2. Carla M. Claussen (MNS)				
3. Robert E. Dunker (IW)				
4. Thomas R. Halvorson (MT)				
5. Jack H. Hildner (WY)				
West-Southwest Region Layperson <i>(elect 1, 6-year term)</i>				
1. Jeffrey B. Arthurs (NOW)				
2. Carol A. Hack Broome (CNH)				
3. James Cullen (NOW)				
4. Linda Stoterau (PSW)				
5. Damon P. Tobias (RM)				
Board for International Mission				
Central Region Minister of Religion— Ordained/Commissioned <i>(elect 1, 6-year term)</i>				
1. Peter N. Kirby (MO)				

Office/Nominee	1 st Ballot	2 nd Ballot	3 rd Ballot	4 th Ballot
2. Martha J. Milas (CI)				
3. David A. Mommens (IN)				
4. Carl E. Rockrohr (IN)				
5. John F. Temple (MO)				
East-Southeast Region Minister of Religion— Ordained/Commissioned (<i>elect 1, 3-year term</i>)				
1. Juan A. Gonzalez (FG)				
2. Tina G. Jasion (SE)				
3. Gerhard C. Michael, Jr. (FG)				
4. Johnson E. Rethinasamy (AT)				
5. Roberto E. Rojas, Jr. (FG)				
Great Lake Region Minister of Religion— Ordained/Commissioned (<i>elect 1, 6-year term</i>)				
1. Jesse A. Burns (IE)				
2. Jeffrey W. Pautz (IE)				
3. Randolph H. Raasch (SW)				
4. Edward A. Sikora, Sr. (MI)				
5. David P. Stechholz (EN)				
Great Plains Region Minister of Religion— Ordained/Commissioned (<i>elect 1, 3-year term</i>)				
1. Bruce H. Lesemann (IW)				
2. Funghatou T. Lo (MNS)				
3. Gerald A. Paul (MT)				
4. Bernhard M. Seter (ND)				
5. Kenneth H. Zoeller (MT)				
West-Southwest Region Minister of Religion— Ordained/Commissioned (<i>elect 1, 6-year term</i>)				
1. Ronald D. Burcham (PSW)				
2. Samuel Cosby (TX)				
3. Jonathan J. Coyne (CNH)				
4. Michael E. Gibson (PSW)				
5. Jeffrey E. Shearier (NOW)				
Central Region Layperson (<i>elect 1, 3-year term</i>)				
1. Kristine Bruss (KS)				
2. Marguerite Christman (OK)				
3. Jerry M. Frese (EN)				
4. Eric Gates (MO)				
5. Dean Graumann (OK)				
East-Southeast Region Layperson (<i>elect 1, 6-year term</i>)				
1. Kermit W. (Butch) Almstedt (FG)				
2. Michael Killian (NE)				

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Office/Nominee	1 st Ballot	2 nd Ballot	3 rd Ballot	4 th Ballot
3. Stuart Nichols (SE)				
4. Clarence E. Riley, Jr. (FG)				
5. James Wolf (EN)				
Great Lakes Region Layperson (<i>elect 1, 3-year term</i>)				
1. Robert Knox (NI)				
2. George Neuberger, Jr. (SW)				
3. Mary A. Rinda (EN)				
4. Matthew Voigt (NW)				
5. K. Allan Voss (SW)				
Great Plains Region Layperson (<i>elect 1, 6-year term</i>)				
1. Krista Erickson (SD)				
2. Michael “Mick” Ommen (NE)				
3. Ron Rathe (NE)				
4. Kirk Rosin (ND)				
5. Robert K. Van Gundy (MNS)				
West-Southwest Region Layperson (<i>elect 1, 3-year term</i>)				
1. Jeffrey B. Arthurs (NOW)				
2. Jim Cullen (NOW)				
3. Terence Lung (CNH)				
4. Lois Peacock (CNH)				
5. Ray Tacquard, Jr. (TX)				
Commission on Theology & Church Relations				
Minister of Religion—Ordained (<i>elect 1, 6-year term</i>)				
1. Arlo W. Pullmann (MT)				
2. Paul Robert Sauer (AT)				
Minister of Religion—Commissioned (<i>elect 1, 6-year term</i>)				
1. Adam S. Francisco (PSW)				
2. Timothy D. Hardy (MI)				
Layperson (<i>elect 1, 6-year term</i>)				
1. Jack D. Kilcrease, III (MI)				
2. Charles R. Wiese (EN)				

Concordia Publishing House Board of Directors				
Minister of Religion—Ordained (<i>elect 1, 6-year term</i>)				
1. Michael R. Knox (IE)				
2. Alvin J. Schmidt (MO)				
Minister of Religion—Commissioned (<i>elect 1, 6-year term</i>)				
1. Mark L. Bender (MO)				
2. David O. Berger (MO)				
Laypersons (<i>elect 3, 6-year term</i>)				
1. Paul R. Fowler (SE)				
2. Elaine Graff (RM)				
3. Paul W. Lagemann (EN)				

Office/Nominee	1 st Ballot	2 nd Ballot	3 rd Ballot	4 th Ballot
4. Natalie L. Oleshchuk (MO)				
5. Gretchen A. Roberts (MDS)				
6. Charles H. Wolfmueller (NOW)				

Concordia University System Board of Directors				
Minister of Religion—Ordained <i>(elect 1, 6-year term)</i>				
1. Mark P. Braden (EN)				
2. Byron Northwick (IE)				
3. David P. Stechholz (EN)				
Minister of Religion—Commissioned <i>(elect 1, 6-year term)</i>				
1. Jonathon Giordano (SI)				
2. Carl J. Moser (MO)				
Layperson <i>(elect 2, 6-year term)</i>				
1. Ellen R. Lange (PSW)				
2. Gerhard H. Munding, Jr. (IN)				
3. Mark F. Polzin (FG)				
4. James Tallmon (WY)				

Lutheran Church Extension Fund Board of Directors				
Minister of Religion—Ordained/ Commissioned <i>(elect 1, 3-year term)</i>				
1. David L. Bahn (TX)				
2. Benjamin D. Haupt (MO)				
Layperson <i>(elect 2, 3-year term)</i>				
1. Chris A. Anderson (KS)				
2. Susan J. Elsholz (EN)				
3. J. Michael Melchert (MNS)				
4. Richard T. Peltier (TX)				

Board of Regents—Concordia Seminary, St. Louis				
Minister of Religion—Ordained <i>(elect 1, 6-year term)</i>				
1. William B. Knippa (TX)				
2. Harold L. Senkbeil (SW)				
Layperson <i>(elect 2, 6-year term)</i>				
1. Paul P. Edmon (NE)				
2. Paul R. Hegland (SW)				
3. Kurt E. Johnson (SI)				
4. Adelaida Schlueter (NE)				
5. Glenn Karl Weingarh (PSW)				

Board of Regents—Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne				
Minister of Religion—Ordained <i>(elect 1, 6-year term)</i>				
1. Ronald M. Garwood (WY)				

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Office/Nominee	1 st Ballot	2 nd Ballot	3 rd Ballot	4 th Ballot
2. Gerhard C. Michael, Jr. (FG)				
Layperson (<i>elect 2, 6-year term</i>)				
1. Michael D. Lange (PSW)				
2. Leo S. Mackay, Jr. (SE)				
3. Bradd Stucky (SW)				
4. Beverly Yahnke (SW)				

Board of Regents—Concordia College Alabama, Selma, Ala.				
Minister of Religion—Ordained (<i>elect 1, 3-year term</i>)				
1. Carl L. Beckwith (SO)				
2. Douglas M. A. Shamburger (PSW)				
Minister of Religion—Commissioned (<i>elect 1, 3-year term</i>)				
1. Deborah L. Rockrohr (IN)				
2. Lawrence E. Sohn (SW)				
Layperson (<i>elect 2, 3-year term</i>)				
1. Carol Gross Schmidt (MO)				
2. James Tallmon (WY)				
3. David C. Thomas (MO)				

Board of Regents —Concordia College—New York, Bronxville, N.Y.				
Minister of Religion—Ordained (<i>elect 1, 3-year term</i>)				
1. Jon T. Diefenthaler (SE)				
2. Jon M. Ellingworth (AT)				
Minister of Religion—Commissioned (<i>elect 1, 3-year term</i>)				
1. Mary E. Hilgendorf (FG)				
2. Ross E. Stueber (SW)				
Layperson (<i>elect 2, 3-year term</i>)				
1. James T. Jahnke (MI)				
2. David M. Wolf (NE)				

Board of Regents—Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Ill.				
Minister of Religion—Ordained (<i>elect 1, 3-year term</i>)				
1. Roger B. Gallup (NI)				
2. Martin E. Keller (IN)				
Minister of Religion—Commissioned (<i>elect 1, 3-year term</i>)				
1. Carl J. Moser (MO)				
2. Mark P. Muehl (IN)				
Layperson (<i>elect 2, 3-year term</i>)				
1. Ronald W. Dunbar (IN)				
2. Debra Grime (IN)				

Office/Nominee	1 st Ballot	2 nd Ballot	3 rd Ballot	4 th Ballot
3. Mark O. Stern (NI)				
4. Beverly Yahnke (SW)				

Board of Regents—Concordia University, Irvine, Calif.				
Minister of Religion—Ordained (<i>elect 1, 3-year term</i>)				
1. Scott C. Klemsz (CNH)				
2. Michael A. Morehouse (EN)				
Minister of Religion—Commissioned (<i>elect 1, 3-year term</i>)				
1. Jeffrey S. Beavers (PSW)				
2. Gary G. Gable (NOW)				
Layperson (<i>elect 2, 3-year term</i>)				
1. Richard P. Fielitz, Jr. (CNH)				
2. Peter K. S. Lee (PSW)				
3. Ellen R. Lange (PSW)				
4. Sandra J. Ostapowich (TX)				

Board of Regents—Concordia University Nebraska, Seward, Neb.				
Minister of Religion—Ordained (<i>elect 1, 3-year term</i>)				
1. Keith H. Grimm (MNS)				
2. Ray G. Mirly (MO)				
3. Timothy J. Rynearson (SD)				
4. James D. Woelmer (TX)				
Minister of Religion—Commissioned (<i>elect 1, 3-year term</i>)				
1. Robert L. Cooksey (NEB)				
2. E. David Dolak (MO)				
Layperson (<i>elect 2, 3-year term</i>)				
1. Timothy Hu (WY)				
2. Jonathan M. Jank (NEB)				
3. Jill M. Johnson (NEB)				
4. Marla A. Johnson (NEB)				
5. Glenn E. Van Velson (NEB)				

Board of Regents—Concordia University, Portland, Ore.				
Minister of Religion—Ordained (<i>elect 1, 3-year term</i>)				
1. John E. Rethinsasamy (AT)				
2. Gregory N. Todd (SI)				
Minister of Religion—Commissioned (<i>elect 1, 3-year term</i>)				
1. Keith E. Brosz (PSW)				
2. Gary G. Gable (NOW)				
Layperson (<i>elect 2, 3-year term</i>)				
1. Michael P. Borg (WY)				

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Office/Nominee	1 st Ballot	2 nd Ballot	3 rd Ballot	4 th Ballot
2. August C. Schwark (NOW)				
3. Andrew T. White (NOW)				

Board of Regents—Concordia University, St. Paul, Minn.				
Minister of Religion—Ordained <i>(elect 1, 3-year term)</i>				
1. Larry J. Griffin (MNS)				
2. David A. Kind (MNS)				
Minister of Religion—Commissioned <i>(elect 1, 3-year term)</i>				
1. Mark J. L’Heureux (NEB)				
2. Carl J. Schoenbeck (MNS)				
Layperson <i>(elect 2, 3-year term)</i>				
1. Ronald W. Dunbar (IN)				
2. Willis Robert Myers (SO)				
3. Marvin H. Schulteis (KS)				
4. Amy S. Wenthe (MNS)				

Board of Regents —Concordia University Texas, Austin, Texas				
Minister of Religion—Ordained <i>(elect 1, 3-year term)</i>				
1. R. Richard Armstrong (FG)				
2. Nathaniel W. Hill (TX)				
3. Geoffrey Brent McGuire (TX)				
4. M. Alan Taylor (TX)				
Minister of Religion—Commissioned <i>(elect 1, 3-year term)</i>				
1. Stephen F. Eggold (MO)				
2. Mary Beth Gaertner (TX)				
Layperson <i>(elect 2, 3-year term)</i>				
1. Mark K. De Young (TX)				
2. Peter H. Hames (TX)				
3. Timothy Hu (WY)				
4. Noreen L. Linke (TX)				

Office/Nominee	1 st Ballot	2 nd Ballot	3 rd Ballot	4 th Ballot
Board of Regents—Concordia University Wisconsin Mequon, Wisc.				
Minister of Religion—Ordained <i>(elect 1, 3-year term)</i>				
1. Allan R. Buss (NI)				
2. David C. Fleming (MI)				
Minister of Religion—Commissioned <i>(elect 1, 3-year term)</i>				
1. Lynnette A. Fredericksen (SI)				
2. Jonathon Giordano (SI)				
Layperson <i>(elect 2, 3-year term)</i>				
1. Kenneth Bowman (EN)				
2. Deborah J. Davidson (SW)				
3. Matthew W. Hurtienne (SW)				
4. Janice M. Wendorf (SW)				

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International missionaries are introduced Monday, July 11, 2016, at the 66th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, in Milwaukee.

Notices

Today's LCMS exhibit staff: Leaders in National Work

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

- Rev. Steve Schave, Urban & Inner-City Mission, Church Planting
- Rev. Mark Wood, Witness & Outreach Ministry, Revitalization

12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

- Rev. Heath Curtis, Stewardship Ministry
- Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Gray Jr., Black Ministry
- Rev. Todd Kollbaum, Rural & Small Town Mission

LCMS Human Resources' representatives will be in the LCMS exhibit booth to discuss job opportunities, each day exhibits are open.

Alumni Reception: Meet us in Milwaukee for tonight's Concordia Seminary, St. Louis Alumni Reception!

Come visit with old friends and enjoy some St. Louis-themed food, drink and music at the Alumni Reception from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday in Ballroom AB at the Hyatt Regency.

And don't forget to stop by our booth in Exhibit Hall D for extra swag including Martin Luther flash drives, T-shirts and cross flash drives!

Thank you for your support and prayers for Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and our seminarians. Please stop by our booth today and sign a note of encouragement for one of our seminarians. We will distribute them this fall to our new students.

Winner: Daily drawings for an iPad Mini are happening at the LCMS Booth in the exhibit hall. Monday's winner is Melanie Ave of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Congratulations!

Winner: Congratulations to Susan Geitz, LeMars Iowa! Please stop by the Concordia Plan Services booth to pick up your prize.

The Pilgrim, a new novel by Rev. Fred Baue, published by Pergola Press, is now available at the CPH booth. It is about a young man who leaves home in Missouri, travels to San Francisco, and found a successful rock band ("The Pilgrims") just in time for the 1967 Summer of Love. On a deeper level, Paul, the main character, becomes a serious pilgrim in search of truth and reality in a confusing world. Add in baseball, humor, love, Lutheran theology, and German cooking, and you have a very engaging book.

The 66th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod wishes to acknowledge Catalyst Construction for the generous donation of the beautiful teal and wine convention logoed T-shirts you see on our South Wisconsin LCMS District volunteers scattered throughout the Wisconsin Convention Center. Over 220 individuals are donating their time to the success of this convention. When you see a volunteer or Tim Dittloff of Catalyst Construction around the center, please give each a big thank you. Catalyst Construction is one of southeastern Wisconsin's fastest growing construction firms, providing construction management and design/build services to the religious, education, medical, office, and senior/multi-family housing markets. www.catalystbuilds.com



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The Rev. Dr. George Gude, chairman of the LCMS Commission on Constitutional Matters, congratulates the Rev. Dr. John Wollenburg Sias, right, on being elected as secretary of the Synod at the 66th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod on Monday, July 11, at the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee.