



Today's Business

Issue 2 – Part 2

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Sunday, July 10

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Morning Session

8:00	Matins
8:45	Preparation for Opening Business Session
8:55	Convention Opening and Presentation of Gavel
9:00	Electronic Voting System
9:20	Registration, Credentials, and Elections (#19)
9:25	Standing Rules
9:40	Convention Schedule
9:50	President's Report (Part 3)
10:20	Welcome and greetings from local representatives
10:25	Welcome and greetings from South Wisconsin District
10:30	Convention Essay— <i>Upon This Rock: Repent, Confess, Rejoice</i>
11:00	International Mission (#2)
11:35	National Mission (#1)
12:00	Recess

Afternoon Session

1:30	Midday Prayer—Rev. Nabil Nour
1:55	Registration, Credentials, and Elections (#19)
2:00	Response from Newly Elected President
2:05	Registration, Credentials, and Elections (#19)
2:10	Presentation of slates and balloting for
	- First Vice-President
2:20	- Central Regional Vice-President
2:30	- East-Southeast Regional Vice-President
2:40	- Great Lakes Regional Vice-President
2:50	- Great Plains Regional Vice-President
3:00	- West-Southwest Regional Vice-President
3:10	Election to determine ranking of vice-presidents
3:20	Floor Nominations for Secretary of the Synod
3:40	Omnibus Resolution A
3:50	Routes to Ministry (#13) Introduction
4:20	Reformation (#15)
4:45	Mercy (#3)
5:30	Evening Prayer
6:00	Recess
7:30	LCEF Ice Cream Social (<i>Ballroom, 1st floor</i>)



66th Regular Convention

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

Pages 203 – 392, Sunday 7/10
Pages 1 – 202, First Issue

Daily Worship

Essay – Upon this Rock: Repent, Confess, Rejoice

Essayist: **Rev. Dr. Lawrence R. Rast Jr.**



The Rev. Dr. Lawrence R. Rast Jr. serves as the sixteenth president of Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, Ind., and professor of American Christianity and American Lutheranism. Rast joined the department of Historical Theology in the fall of 1996 after serving as pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church, Madison, Tenn. from 1992 to 1996.

Rast received his Bachelor of Arts in Theological Languages from Concordia College (now University), River Forest, Ill. in 1986. He earned a Master of Divinity in 1990 and a Master of Sacred Theology in 1995, both with a major in Historical Theology and a minor in Systematic Theology, from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. In 2000 he earned a Master of Arts, and in 2003 he earned his Ph.D. in American Church History from Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn.

Rast is a member of the Board of Directors for the journal *Lutheran Quarterly*. He is the chairman of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR), on which he has served since 2006.

Rast has authored numerous articles on a wide range of topics with special interest in the growth and expansion of Lutheranism in the United States in the mid-to-late 19th century. He is also working on an ongoing oral history project dealing with African-American ministry in both the LCMS and the old Synod Conference. He is currently writing a history of the Synod for Concordia Publishing House.

In addition to serving at the Seminary, Rast regularly presents at workshops, retreats and conferences around the United States. He has represented the Seminary and Synod at numerous international conferences and by teaching in Argentina, Brazil, Tanzania, Kenya, South Africa, Ethiopia, Ghana, Russia, Germany, Sweden, the Czech Republic and elsewhere throughout the world.

He and his wife Amy are blessed with three children: Lawrence III, Karl and Joanna.

Morning Worship

Preacher: **Rev. Christopher S. Esget**

The Rev. Christopher S. Esget is senior pastor of Immanuel Evangelical-Lutheran Church, Alexandria, Va., and superintendent of Immanuel Lutheran School. He also serves the Synod as sixth vice-president, representing the East-Southeast Region. He previously was pastor of Bethel Lutheran Church in Du Quoin, Ill.



Active in the pro-life movement, Esget leads Immanuel congregation as they host the annual gathering of Lutherans before the March for Life in Washington, D.C. A member of the LCMS Sanctity of Human Life Committee since 2009, he also serves as the Southeastern District's Life Coordinator. He was a 2015 Washington Fellow of the National Review Institute.

In 2015 Esget taught intensive classes for pastors, evangelists and church musicians of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) in Addis Ababa. He has been invited to return in the fall of 2016 for additional teaching, preparing the way for a new hymnal for Ethiopian Lutherans.

Esget has served as chaplain for numerous Synod events, including the 2013 and 2015 LCMS Life Conferences, the 2014 LCMS Institute on Liturgy, Preaching and Church Music, and the 2015 Free to Be Faithful conference. He was

conference chaplain for Higher Things in 2006 and 2007 and served as their worship coordinator from 2007 to 2008. He is a regular contributor to the Lutheran Witness blog.

A classically trained pianist, Esget studied piano performance with teachers at Augsburg College in Minneapolis and the University of Minnesota. He graduated summa cum laude from Berklee College of Music (Boston, Mass., now merged with Boston Conservatory) with an emphasis in film scoring. He received Master of Divinity and Master of Sacred Theology degrees from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Esget lives in Alexandria, Va. with his wife Kassie and their son James.

Afternoon Worship

Preacher: **Rev. Nabil S. Nour**



The Rev. Nabil S. Nour is fifth vice-president and a member of the Praesidium of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). Elected to the position in 2013, he represents the church's Great Plains Region. He also serves as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Hartford, S.D.

Previously Nour served the Church by holding several positions in the LCMS South Dakota District: circuit counselor (1998–2006), second vice-president (2006–2012) and first vice-president (2012–2013).

Born in Nazareth, Israel, Nour moved with his family to Haifa when he was three and lived on the very slopes of Mount Carmel where Elijah once hid from Jezebel. Nour immigrated to the United States when he was 16 and eventually became a naturalized citizen. He also underwent adult instruction in the Lutheran faith.

Nour graduated in 1978 from Huron College, Huron, S.D., with a Bachelor of Science in Criminology and Sociology and minors in psychology and gerontology. He worked in the construction industry before entering Concordia Seminary, St. Louis in 1989. Upon his graduation from the seminary in 1994 with a Master of Divinity, he was called to Redeemer Lutheran Church, Armour, S.D., where he served from 1994 to 2015.

Today Nour is completing studies for a doctorate in Homiletics at the seminary and writing two books and a Bible study on the book of Ruth. He is a trained reconciler, and he travels widely to preach and teach, including speaking on how to live a Christian life in a postmodern world and witnessing among Muslims.

Nour and his wife Jean live in Sioux Falls, S.D. They are blessed with three grown sons, two daughters-in-law and six grandchildren.

Convention Chaplains

Chaplain: **Rev. William C. Weedon**



The Rev. William C. Weedon serves as The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) International Center (IC) director of Worship and as the IC chaplain. As director of Worship, Weedon is responsible for proposing and creating programs that carry out the purposes and aims of the Synod in matters of worship. As IC chaplain, he works with the Office of the President in planning and supervising all chapel services at the IC (for the 1333 S. Kirkwood building and the LCEF building), as well as offering informal chaplaincy and counseling services to employees as requested.

Weedon brings more than 25 years of ministry to this position. Most recently, he served as pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Hamel, Ill. from 1992 to 2012. From 1986 to 1992, he served as pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Burlington, N.C. He is an author, contributor and reviser for Concordia Publishing House (CPH). His most

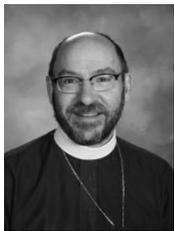
recent works include *Celebrating the Saints* (CPH, 2016), as a contributor to *The Apocrypha: Lutheran Study Edition with Notes* (CPH, 2012), and numerous sermons and studies in *Concordia Pulpit Resources*.

Weedon's service to the Church also includes presenting at conferences on preaching and on the liturgy and hymnody. He hosts a daily radio show on KFUE called "Thy Strong Word" that explores a chapter of the Scripture each day with assistance from various pastors and professors around the Synod.

Weedon holds a bachelor's degree from Concordia College—New York, Bronxville, N.Y., and Master of Divinity and Master of Sacred Theology degrees from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Weedon and his wife Cynthia reside in Hamel, Ill. They have three grown children: Lauren (and husband, the Rev. Dean Herberts); David (and wife, Meaghan); and Rebekah. They are also blessed with five grandchildren.

Assistant Chaplain: **Rev. Peter C. Bender**



The Rev. Peter C. Bender has been the pastor of Peace Lutheran Church and Academy in Sussex, Wis. since 1991. In 1995 he led the congregation in forming the Academy, a classical elementary school in the Lutheran and liberal arts traditions. He is also the founder and director of Concordia Catechetical Academy and an adjunct professor in catechetics for the deaconess program at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. He received his Bachelor of Music Education from Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Ill. in 1983 and a Master of Divinity from Concordia, Fort Wayne in 1987.

Bender has done extensive work in the area of Lutheran catechesis, which he defines as "God's way of teaching the new life in Christ and His forgiveness to sinners." He is the general editor of *The Lutheran Catechesis Series* and the author of a number of volumes in that series, including *Lutheran Catechesis, Catechumen Edition: A Guide to Catechesis for the Lutheran Catechumen and Family (Second Edition)* and *Lutheran Catechesis, Catechist Edition: A Comprehensive Guide to Catechesis for a Lutheran Congregation (Second Edition)*.

Bender also served on the Agenda Committee for *Lutheran Service Book*. His particular areas of responsibility were the membership rites, including the rites of Holy Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation and Guidelines for Pastoral Examination of Catechumens. He also did extensive work on *Lutheran Service Book: Pastoral Care Companion*.

Bender is married to Elizabeth. They have four sons and four grandchildren.

Special Standing Rules

Minutes

1. Minutes shall be distributed every next morning for consideration and adoption and will be included in the issue of *Today's Business* on the day following adoption. The first item of business of the afternoon session shall be the formal approval of these minutes, with the exception of the final day's minutes, which shall be approved by the Board of Directors at its first meeting following the convention. Only corrections to the minutes involving convention actions shall be offered from the floor for consideration. Editorial corrections addressing misspellings of names or faulty references or titles should be provided in writing to the Secretary for incorporation into the minutes.

Resolutions

2. Resolutions shall be prioritized by floor committees and normally shall be presented to the convention in numerical sequence. However, resolutions that impact nominations or elections may be given earlier consideration at the discretion of the chair, in consultation with the floor committee chairman and the chairman of the floor committees on nominations and elections.
3. The preface, preamble, rationale, and whereas sections shall be regarded as integral parts of resolutions and therefore subject to the same consideration and adoption.
4. It shall be the discretion of the chairman or presenting member of the floor committee to read the preface, preamble, rationale, and whereas sections of resolutions from floor committees that are printed in *Today's Business*. In addition, the chair of the convention is not required to read each resolution as he states the questions and then as he calls for the vote.
5. The convention chairman, in consultation with floor committee chairmen, may identify resolutions to which up to 1 ½ hours of continuous consideration should be allotted, as follows:

15 minutes (if needed)	Floor committee presentation
30 minutes (if needed)	Debate on the main motion
45 minutes (if needed)	Presentation of and debate on amendments, substitute motions, main motion, or main motion as amended.
6. Whenever possible, substitute resolutions and amendments to proposed resolutions shall be submitted to *Today's Business* for publication prior to convention consideration of the resolutions to which they pertain. When this is not possible, as in the course of discussion, one written copy of the proposed amendment shall be provided to the Secretary after it is offered from the floor.
7. The delegates will consider omnibus resolutions as part of regular scheduled business. Omnibus A refers to overtures referred to a board, commission or other group of Synod to consider and take action. Omnibus B refers to overtures that affirm an action previously taken in past conventions. Omnibus C refers to overtures of thanks or recognition. Omnibus D refers to overtures declined by the floor committee. A majority vote is required to remove an overture from an omnibus resolution and have it referred to the appropriate floor committee for action.
8. If any resolution is not acted upon by the convention before adjournment, it dies and the subject matter may be reintroduced for possible consideration by an overture to the next convention.

Process

9. Unless covered by these Special Standing Rules, parliamentary procedure shall be governed by the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*
10. The chair shall see that the agenda is followed as closely as possible. The chair may deviate from the printed program when necessary or expedient.
11. All non-voting advisory delegates and representatives may participate in debate, but may not nominate candidates, make motions, or vote.
12. Registered delegates and advisory representatives wishing to address the convention, once recognized by the chair, shall state their name, the name of the district (or other entity of the Synod that they represent), and whether they are a voting delegate, advisory delegate, or advisory representative. Delegates and representatives shall normally address the convention from their assigned microphones.
13. A microphone queue list will be enacted for every debatable motion considered by the assembly. Each time a debatable motion is considered by the assembly, a new microphone queue list will be created and the queue list from any previous motion will be cleared.

14. The pro-con method of debate may be used at the discretion of the chair or by adoption of the assembly. When a member of the floor committee speaks in favor of a resolution, it shall be recognized as a “pro” speech and will be followed by a “con” speech.
15. Delegates and representatives wishing to enter the microphone queue for any reason (debate, make an amendment, call the question, request information or any other action) must always identify themselves, as pro or con speakers, by pressing either 1(pro) or 2 (con) on their queue keypad even if the assembly is not in a pro-con mode. This queue identification is necessary so delegates and representatives are appropriately reflected in the queue should the chair choose to move to a pro-con method of debate. All queue entrees will be addressed as they appear in the queue order. When called upon by the chair delegates and representatives must identify themselves and state the desired action.
16. Ordinarily, questions of privilege (or point of personal privilege) shall be addressed in writing to the chair or his appointee.
17. No delegate or representative may speak in debate any longer than two (2) minutes per speech. No delegate or representative may speak more than twice on the same motion on the same day and may not speak a second time until all delegates and representatives desiring to speak the first time have had the opportunity. The chair shall have discretion to make exceptions to this rule. When a floor committee is called on to answer a question or to give information, this rule shall not apply.
18. A delegate who speaks on an issue may not move to call the question at the close of his or her speech.
19. If a substitute motion is offered and seconded, the presenter shall be offered two (2) minutes to provide the rationale for offering it and a member of the floor committee shall be offered two (2) minutes to present rationale for why the committee believes the original motion is to be preferred. The convention shall decide by majority vote without further debate whether or not to consider the substitute. If the decision is in the affirmative and if the substitute motion is subsequently adopted, the original motion dies. If the substitute motion does not receive favorable action either to consider or adopt, the original motion is again considered.
20. A motion to close debate (“call the question”) shall apply only to the immediately pending question.
21. While any voting delegate may move to close debate (call the question) at any time that it is his or her turn to speak, a vote on closing debate (two-thirds vote required) on the pending motion shall be put by the chair after every twenty (20) minutes of debate (except those to which Standing Rule 5 pertain). The chair may also call for a vote on closing debate (two-thirds vote required) when in his judgment the assembly has heard sufficient speaking from both sides of the issue.
22. Amendments of non-contiguous words may be made to a pending question so long as the consequence of such non-contiguous words does not constitute in effect a substitute motion.
23. During the last two days of the convention, the President shall have the privilege of calling up for action those resolutions that in his judgment must be acted upon before adjournment.
24. No motion to reconsider or rescind shall be made or called up during the last day of the convention.

Floor Nominations

25. No floor nominations will be accepted for the First Vice-President, regional vice-presidents, or regional board elections (Bylaws 3.12.2.1; 3.12.2.5[d]). In the case of election of the Secretary and board and commission members that do not require regional representation, floor nominations are allowed, to take place at the time of the report of the chairman of the Committee for Convention Nominations (Bylaw 3.12.3.7). Such floor nominations may only be made from the list of names which have previously been offered to the Committee for Convention Nominations prior to the final deadline for the submission of nominations, unless the convention shall otherwise order by a simple majority vote (Bylaw 3.12.3.7[c]). Allowable floor nominations for all positions of boards and commissions shall be opened for a period of forty (40) minutes, unless ceased earlier by a two-thirds vote of the assembly. At the end of forty (40) minutes, a vote to cease nominations shall be called by the convention chairman. If a two-thirds vote to cease nominations is not received, the period for floor nominations shall be extended an additional twenty (20) minutes. This cycle shall continue in twenty (20) minute intervals until a two-thirds vote for nominations to cease is received from the assembly. Floor nominations are not debatable and will be voted on individually for approval to be added to the slate (Bylaw 3.12.37[a–b]).

Voting

26. An electronic response system shall ordinarily be used to register votes. If the system is not available, the chair shall take votes by voice, by show of hands, or by a rising vote. The chair may order a count if any voice, show of hands, or rising vote seems inconclusive. When possible, vote tallies shall be

recorded in the minutes.

- 27. An invalid vote is defined as a vote entered on the keypad with a number not offered as a selection, or entered before voting is opened or after voting is closed. Invalid votes are not counted in the total number of votes cast.
- 28. The privilege of granting delegates the right to record their votes in the minutes with respect to a particular resolution shall be granted by the assembly by a majority vote without debate. If such privilege is granted, the votes of record shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Synod within 15 minutes after the close of the day's business on which such privilege was granted.

Use of Electronic Devices

29. In order to promote an orderly and non-distracting convention atmosphere, the following shall apply to the use, and area of use, of electronic equipment, including wired and wireless communication devices, laptops, iPads, tablets, cell phones, smart phones, pagers, PDAs, or other similar electronic devices. In all cases where use is permitted, the sound-producing capabilities of such devices shall not be used. Except as approved by convention staff, personal extension cords shall not be allowed on the convention floor.

Area of Convention Hall	Voice	Type of Usage Permitted in Designated Area		
		Text Message	Other electronic Communications, e.g., laptops, ipads, tablets, pagers, PEDs, smart phones, wearable technology including Apple Watch and like devices.	Laptop computers, ipads, tablets WITH communications disabled (e.g., Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, Cellular, and Infrared communications turned off)
Voting and Advisory Delegates & Representatives	No	No	No	Yes
COP, BOD, CCM, COH, CTCR, Press, Special Guests	No	Yes	Yes	---
Visitors, Back Seating Area	No	Yes	Yes	---
Convention Staff, All Areas	Yes	Yes	Yes	---

Convention Schedule

The 66th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod July 9–14, 2016 • Wisconsin Center • Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Floor committee meetings will be held July 8–9, 2016. The schedule is considered tentative as Bylaw 3.1.9(i)(2) states that the President “shall, at the first session and during the course of succeeding sessions of the convention, announce the order of business for the day and following days.” Unless otherwise indicated, all activities take place in the Wisconsin Center.

Sunday—July 10, 2016

Exhibits open 10:00am—3:00pm (Hall D, 3rd floor)

- 8:00 Matins—Rev. Christopher Esget
- 8:45 Preparation for Opening Business Session
- 8:55 Convention Opening and Presentation of Gavel
- 9:00 Electronic Voting System
- 9:20 Registration, Credentials, and Elections (#19)
- 9:25 Standing Rules
- 9:40 Convention Schedule
- 9:50 President’s Report (Part 3)
- 10:20 Welcome and greetings from local representatives
- 10:25 Welcome and greetings from South Wisconsin District
- 10:30 Convention Essay—Rev. Dr. Lawrence Rast Jr.
Upon This Rock: Repent, Confess, Rejoice
- 11:00 International Mission (#2)
- 11:35 National Mission (#1)
- 12:00 Recess
- 1:30 Midday Prayer—Rev. Nabil Nour
- 1:55 Registration, Credentials, and Elections (#19)
(Announce presidential election result)
- 2:00 Response from Newly Elected President
- 2:05 Registration, Credentials, and Elections (#19)
(Voting delegate registration report)
- 2:10 Presentation of slate and balloting for First Vice-President
- 2:20 Presentation of slate and balloting for Central Regional Vice-President
- 2:30 Presentation of slate and balloting for East-Southeast Regional Vice-President
- 2:40 Presentation of slate and balloting for Great Lakes Regional Vice-President
- 2:50 Presentation of slate and balloting for Great Plains Regional Vice-President
- 3:00 Presentation of slate and balloting for West-Southwest Regional Vice-President

- 3:10 Election to determine ranking of vice-presidents
- 3:20 Committee for Convention Nominations
(Nominations from the floor for Secretary)
- 3:40 Omnibus Resolution A
- 3:50 Routes to Ministry (#13) Introduction
- 4:20 Reformation (#15)
- 4:45 Mercy (#3)
- 5:30 Evening Prayer
- 6:00 Recess
- 7:30 LCEF Ice Cream Social *(Ballroom, 1st floor)*

Monday—July 11, 2016

Exhibits open 10:00am—3:00pm (Hall D, 3rd floor)

- 8:00 Service of Confession and Absolution—Rev. Herbert C. Mueller Jr.
- 8:25 Greetings—Concordia Publishing House, Dr. Bruce Kintz
- 8:30 Structure and Administration (#11)
- 9:15 Church and Culture (#14)
- 9:50 Registration, Credentials, and Elections (#19)
(Balloting for Secretary of Synod and Regional Members of Synod Board of Directors)
- 10:20 Convention Essay—Rev. Roosevelt Gray Jr.
Upon This Rock: Repent
- 10:50 Theology and Church Relations (#5)
- 11:30 Routes to Ministry (#13)
- 12:00 Recess
- 1:30 Responsive Prayer 2—Rev. Gregory Seltz
- 1:55 Minutes
- 2:00 Seminaries (#6)
- 2:35 Special Presentation—Ryan Anderson
- 3:15 Committee for Convention Nominations
(Nominations for Synod Board of Directors, other boards, CTCR, Board of Regents and synodwide entities)
- 3:55 Special Presentation—military chaplains, Rev. Craig Muehler
- 4:05 Ecclesiastical Supervision and Dispute Resolution (#12)

- 4:55 Special Presentation—honoring missionaries
- 5:05 University Education (#7)
- 5:45 Closing Worship
- 6:00 Load buses for Concordia Wisconsin dinner and concert

Tuesday—July 12, 2016

Exhibits open 10:00am—3:00pm (Hall D, 3rd floor)

- 8:00 Matins—Rev. Kou Seying
- 8:25 Special Recognition—newly elected and outgoing Praesidium
- 8:30 Routes to Ministry (#13)
- 9:40 Church and Culture (#14)
- 10:05 Convention Essay—Rev. Daniel Preus
Upon This Rock: Confess
- 10:35 Ecclesiastical Supervision and Dispute Resolution (#12)
- 11:20 International Mission (#2)
- 12:00 Recess
- 1:30 Responsive Prayer 1—Rev. Dr. John Wohlrabe Jr.
- 1:55 Minutes
- 2:00 Registration, Credentials, and Elections (#19)
(Balloting for Synod Board of Directors, otherboards, CTCR, Board of Regents, synodwide entities)
- 2:45 Special Recognition—former officers of Synod and special church body guests in attendance
- 2:55 Registration, Credentials, and Elections (#19)
(Balloting for Synod Board of Directors, other boards, CTCR, Board of Regents, synodwide entities)
- 3:45 Special Recognition—newly elected and outgoing Synod Board of Directors
- 3:50 Theology and Church Relations (#5)
- 5:10 Family, Youth and Young Adults (#16)
- 5:45 Closing Worship
- 6:00 Recess
Alumni Receptions (Hyatt Regency)

Wednesday—July 13, 2016

Exhibits Closed

- 8:00 Matins—Rev. Allan Buss
- 8:25 Greetings—Lutheran Hour Ministries, Kurt Buchholz

- 8:30 Greetings—Lutheran Women’s Missionary League, Patti Ross
- 8:35 Life Together (#4)
- 9:15 Finance (#9)
- 9:55 Convention Essay—Rev. Dr. Berhanu Ofgaa
Upon This Rock: Rejoice
- 10:25 Special Recognition—LCMS President Emeriti
- 10:35 Parochial Schools (#8)
- 11:00 Stewardship: Funding the Mission (#10)
- 11:25 Seminaries (#6)
- 12:00 Recess
- 1:30 Commemoration of the Faithful Departed—Rev. Dr. John Wille
- 2:00 Minutes
- 2:05 Registration, Credentials, and Elections (#19)
(Balloting for Synod Board of Directors, otherboards, CTCR, Board of Regents, synodwide entities)
- 2:45 Omnibus Resolution B
- 2:55 Omnibus Resolution C
- 3:05 Registration, Credentials, and Elections (#19)
(Balloting for Synod Board of Directors, otherboards, CTCR, Board of Regents, synodwide entities)
- 3:50 Routes to Ministry (#13)
- 4:25 Structure and Administration (#11)
- 5:20 Preaching and Church Worker Continuing Education (#17)
- 5:45 Closing Worship
- 6:00 Recess
- 7:30 President-Elect’s Reception (*Ballroom, 1st floor*)

Thursday—July 14, 2016

Exhibits Closed

- 8:00 Matins—Rev. Dr. Scott Murray
- 8:25 Minutes
- 8:30 Worker Wellness (#18)
- 9:10 Eccles. Sup. & Dis. Res. (#12)
- 9:50 University Education (#7)
- 10:15 National Mission (#1)
- 10:40 Life Together (#4)
- 11:10 Unfinished Business
- 11:50 Itinerarium
- 12:00 Adjournment

Presidential Election Results

The following report of the results of the June 11–14 electronic balloting for the election of the President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for the 2016–2019 triennium was received from Election-America, Inc. on June 15, 2016, and publicly announced the same day, following notification of the candidates. Matthew C. Harrison was elected. The official statement received from Election-America, Inc. read as follows:



Official Statement of the Online Vote 2016 LCMS Presidential Vote

Provided by Election-America, Inc.

President	<i>Candidate</i>	<i>Votes</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
	Matthew C. Harrison	3,507	56.96%
	Dale A. Meyer	2,257	36.66%
	David P.E. Maier	393	6.38%
Total Ballots		6,157	
Total Electorate		7,348	
Percentage Voted		83.79%	

This report is the culmination of preparations that began shortly after the 2013 LCMS convention, including again contracting for the services of Election-America, the registration and certification of delegates in attendance at the Synod’s 2015 district conventions (the electorate), maintenance of that voters list for more than a year, and voter preparation for participation by using the Internet to cast their ballots.

Communication efforts to educate all involved regarding the election process included blogs, postcards, the LCMS Internet site, notices in official periodicals, and email transmissions. As a result, voter participation was extremely high, with 83.79 percent of the electorate participating (3,046 ordained and 3,111 lay voters representing 3,865 congregations or parishes from 575 of the Synod’s 578 electoral circuits).

Broken down according to size of eligible congregations that had at least one voter participate—

- 87% of small congregations (0–199 confirmed members) participated (1,386 of a possible 2,109)
- 93% of medium congregations (200–499 confirmed members) participated (1,360 of a possible 1,466)
- 94% of large congregations with 500–999 confirmed members participated (445 of a possible 474)
- 95% of mega congregations (1,000+ confirmed members) participated (224 of a possible 236).

During the four days of electronic balloting, Election-America was available to provide immediate assistance to voters, receiving 81 telephone calls and 36 emails. Several dozen eligibility issues were handled by the Office of the Secretary with the assistance of the Rosters and Statistics Department.

Raymond L. Hartwig, *Secretary*

1st Vice-President Election Ballot

The 2016 convention will mark the second time that the new process for determining the slate of candidates for the election of the First Vice-President will be used. The first step in the process was the Synod-wide balloting that ended February 9, 2016, which resulted in a list of the 20 top vote-getters who agreed to allow their names to be included in the list from which the President-elect would choose the five candidates for the election of the First Vice-President. For more information regarding the nominating process and its results, see page 10 of the *Biographical Synopses & Statements of Nominees* booklet that accompanied the *Convention Workbook* published several months prior to the convention.

The second step in the process is provided by Bylaw 3.12.2.6:

3.12.2.6 Prior to all other elections, the convention shall elect the First Vice-President.

(a) The President-elect shall select from the list of 20 nominees for the Office of First Vice-President five nominees who have consented to serve if elected, at least two of whom shall be taken from the top five nominees.

(b) Balloting will proceed with the candidate receiving the smallest number of votes eliminated from consideration until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, who shall be declared elected.

As required, President-elect Matthew Harrison has selected five of the 20 nominees who received the most ballots in the nominating process and who consented to serve if elected. As required by Bylaw 3.12.2.6 (a), two of the five are taken from the top five nominees. The candidates, therefore, for the election of the First Vice-President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod are the following:

Carl C. Fickenscher, II (IN)
Herbert C. Mueller, Jr. (MO)
Scott R. Murray (TX)
Daniel Preus (MO)
John C. Wohlrabe, Jr. (SW)

Biographical information regarding these candidates is provided on pages 12–22 of the *Biographical Synopses & Statements of Nominees* booklet included with the mailing of the *Convention Workbook*.

The final step in the process, the actual election of the First Vice-President, will be the first election to take place at the convention.

Raymond L. Hartwig, *Secretary*

Corrections to 2016 Workbook

The following paragraph was omitted from page 98 under the “Qualifications” paragraph of the *Biographical Synopses & Statements of Nominees* 2016 booklet:

Restrictions: No more than one member elected by the Synod shall be from the same district, and no executive, faculty member, or staff member from a Lutheran institution of higher education may serve on the Board of Directors of Concordia University system as a voting member. District of current board member not up for reelection: Nebraska.

Late Reports

R62 (Addendum A)

More FAQ’s Re: 4-06A Task Force Proposals

Question: Do the recommendations of the 4-06A Task Force eliminate the work and services of the men in the Licensed Lay Deacon program?

Answer: No. The recommendations of the 406-A Task Force (TF) in essence do two things. First, they provide a means by which deacons who are serving as pastors will be formally recognized by the Synod as pastors. These men have been faithfully preaching and presiding regularly for the Lord’s Supper in their congregations and are providing pastoral ministry. They should be recognized as such in a clear manner. Second, efforts to provide practical theological training for lay people to serve (and be licensed by the district) in congregations in many other areas of congregational life, especially evangelism, are strongly encouraged. All of this is consistent with the Scriptures and Book of Concord (AC & Ap XIV).

Question: Why are the TF recommendations formalized?

Answer: The recommendations are intended to be a means to enhance the ministry of these men and their congregations. District lay training programs are encouraged by the recommendations. There is also available a formal training track from accredited Concordia Universities and our seminaries that will have consistency and unity of curriculum.

Question: What specifically does the TF recommend for licensed lay deacons who are regularly preaching and presiding for the Lord’s Supper in a congregation?

Answer: The TF proposes they undergo a special colloquy process, regionally based, to examine them and approve them as “able to teach” (1 Timothy 3:2), certified for call and placement as pastors, thereby recognizing them by the whole Synod for what they actually do. They would be ordained, that is recognized and placed in the office of pastor by the whole church. They would then be included on the Synod’s roster as a “specific ministry pastor” (SMP), that is, a pastor under the supervision of a “general pastor” (someone with more training and experience), just as a licensed lay deacon is presently under supervision.

Question: Isn’t this then just some kind of name change? Licensed deacon to SMP Pastor?

Answer: The pastoral ministry is an office established by God to which we are bound by the divine command, but it is an office of service, for the purpose of preaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments on behalf of all. Ordination is the churchly order which confirms the call, a practice which

we *for those reasons* gladly affirm and practice. Ordination makes clear to the man and to the gathered congregation what he is to be and to do in their midst.

Question: Isn't the SMP program at the seminary expensive and take a lot of time?

Answer: First of all, we have to make a distinction here. The TF recommendations do not require present licensed lay deacons to enter the seminary SMP program with expensive fees and tuition. The TF is recommending a regional process that will bring these men onto Synod's roster of SMP pastors by colloquy, that is, by an examination and approval process separate from the seminaries. However, for the future, the TF recommendations, if adopted, commit the Synod to raise significant funds so that no one would be turned away from the seminary SMP or Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology for financial reasons. Financial support from the congregation and individual is expected, to demonstrate commitment to the program, but the Synod and District will develop the means to ensure that no qualified candidate is turned away for purely financial reasons.

Question: What do the 4-06A TF recommendations mean for men who are not interested in pursuing pastoral ministry?

Answer: A major TF emphasis is on outreach and evangelism. Specialized training and education will continue to be made available from our University system or perhaps through the districts in order to optimize the skill sets of the men (and women) who wish to serve either in outreach or the internal ministry of congregations and districts.

Question: Why does the TF report suggest an age limit for men interested in the SMP Colloquy?

Answer: The TF recognizes the need for assuring that every congregation has the best options to remain active and growing, and the suggested age is just that – a suggested age. In general, the TF hopes that younger men will seek the most thorough training that is possible and feasible while understanding that older men may not be able to consider further education as a realistic possibility. The TF also offers a suggested way to identify and raise up men for future service, especially in small, rural, and specialized ministries when the current men are no longer interested or able to continue.

Question: What will happen in the future when the current men who will be colloquized to the SMP roster die or retire and new needs arise?

Answer: Two things: First, the Synod will need to be sure the seminary SMP programs are enhanced and that the Synod and Districts provide enough help so that no one is turned away from SMP or other specialized programs for purely financial reasons. Second, the Synod could continue to provide means for qualified men in difficult situations to be colloquized to the SMP roster in the future (in the same manner that the TF is proposing for present licensed deacons).

Question: Has the TF considered a way of grandfathering the current men who are not likely to be involved beyond a few more years?

Answer: Yes, the TF has discussed this matter, and recognizes men who anticipate having five years or less before they discontinue their services may receive special consideration. How the Synod deals with this matter would have to be agreed by all parties so that the issue of LLDs does not continue to be a source of division in the Synod.

Question: Is there a means to identify future workers?

Answer: Some districts are already arranging mechanisms by which men can be identified by congregations and prepared for service in the event of the need to replace a deacon. These men should participate in lay training, either in the district or in one of the Concordias, to be prepared to enter a formal SMP program from one of our seminaries; including the likelihood of him being immediately appointed as a SMP vicar who may be allowed to participate in Word and Sacrament ministry under supervision. The Synod could also make an SMP Colloquy route available to him.

Questions: What happens if a deacon currently involved in Word and Sacrament ministry does not meet the deadline? What happens to the congregation?

Answer: First of all, in making these recommendations the TF does not believe that any congregation will be forced to close its doors, nor does the TF in any way desire that. This is not at all the intent. We wish only to recognize as pastors the men who are already doing the work of a pastor in the congregation. The TF anticipates that as long as men have *applied* for the colloquy by whatever date the Synod chooses as a deadline, he will be able to proceed through the process (one district is already implementing this provision). The TF also supports the idea that in special circumstances and where there is a request from the Council of Presidents to that effect, the Colloquy Committee may waive date provisions regarding any “deadline.”

Question: Do the TF recommendations recognize the Lutheran Confessions with stronger authority over Holy Scripture?

Answer: No. Holy Scripture is the authority for all teaching and practice in the church. The Bible requires that the church appoint ministers of the Gospel (or “pastors” as we typically refer to this office). All believers are priests, but not all are “apostles, prophets, teachers” (1 Cor 12:29)—only “some” are appointed to the office of public ministry in its various forms (Eph 4:11). Since not all are sent or called to preach and teach publicly for the church (Romans 10:15; James 3:1), every church needs a process whereby it will have a pastor (Acts 14:23 “elder” is another biblical term for pastors). The Task Force recommendations suggest an orderly recognition for those who are serving churches as ministers of the Gospel as well as suggestions for how to continue to supply this critical need in the future. The Lutheran Confessions are a correct exposition of Scripture which the Synod as a whole willingly accepts without reservation, so the report quotes freely from them as well.

Question: Is this TF report nothing more than another “hurdle” or “hoop” these men must complete; only to discover years from now that yet another requirement is placed in front of them?

Answer: The TF recommendations are meant to address the Synod’s responsibility to bring a foundation of unity; and enhance ministries and missions throughout all thirty-five districts in the Synod. The recommendations recognize a professional “ladder” that would enable (but not require) a man to move beyond a Specific Ministry and become a general pastor beyond their specific locale. Those whom the church asks to preach regularly and administer the Sacraments in a congregation should be examined and found “able to teach” (1 Timothy 3:2), then called, placed and recognized by the whole church (ordained) as a pastor.

9. PROGRAM AND FINANCE

To Report Operating and Capital Expenditures for Implementing Resolutions
Proposed by Committees 1-18 to the 2016 Milwaukee Convention. Per Bylaw 3.1.7(g).

Res. No.	Title	Impacts	Funds included in budget and future plans			Potential operating budget increases for fiscal years			Notes
			2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	
1-01	To Expand Evangelism and Encourage Use of Every One His Witness	ONM	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$10,000- \$15,000	\$ -	\$ -	
1-02	To Encourage Church Planting throughout the Synod and Supporting the "Mission Field: USA" Initiative	ONM	\$272,000	\$272,000	\$272,000	\$644,000	\$644,000	\$644,000	100k UR; balance Rest
1-03	To Expand the Work of Revitalization and Encourage the Use of re: Vitality Program	ONM	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$10,000- \$15,000	\$ -	\$ -	
1-04	To Encourage Immigrant and Refugee Outreach	ONM	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	cost reflected in 1-02
2-01	To Thank God for Faithful Service of LCMS Missionaries	OIM	\$30,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	UR
2-06	To Maintain Proper Balance in Foreign Missions between Congregations' Right of Self-Governance, the Role of Districts, and Our Commitment to Walk Together	OIM/OTP	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$25,500	\$25,500	\$25,500	UR
3-01	To Commend and Encourage Work of LCMS Disaster Response	ONM	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	no additional cost
3-04	To Create Task Force for Study of Issues Relating to Procreation, Fertility, and Care for Unborn	ONM	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$ -	R
4-03	To Convene Task Force to Review Recognized Service Organization Program and Bylaws	ONM	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$4,000	\$ -	
4-05	To Reaffirm Witness, Mercy, Life Together as the Mission and Ministry Emphasis for the 2016 - 2019 Triennium	President's Office	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	no additional cost
5-07	To Affirm and Encourage the Work of the International Lutheran Council (ILC)	Church Relations	\$136,000	\$136,000	\$136,000	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$14,000	UR
5-10	To Commend and Encourage Faithful Teaching of Article on Which the Church Stands or Falls	CTCR	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$30,000	\$ -	UR

To Report Operating and Capital Expenditures for Implementing Resolutions
Proposed by Committees 1-18 to the 2016 Milwaukee Convention. Per Bylaw 3.1.7(g).

Res. No.	Title	Impacts	Funds included in budget and future plans			Potential operating budget increases for fiscal years			Notes
			2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	
6-01	To Create a Pastoral Formation Committee	Pastoral Education	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	UR
6-04	To Encourage and Support the Global Seminary Initiative (GSI)	Church Relations	\$1.2M	\$1.2M	\$1.2M	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	R
6-05	To Encourage Movement Toward an Alternative to Federal Student Loans for Seminarians	Pastoral Education	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$1,500	\$ -	UR
6-06	To Encourage Use of Existing Training Programs for Pastoral Ministry in Immigrant and Challenging Ministry Settings	ONM	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0-\$800,000	\$0-\$800,000	\$0-\$800,000	UR
7-02	To Preserve Concordia Colleges and Universities as Institutions of the Church and Strengthen Their Structural Bonds with Synod	OTP/CUS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$20,400	\$20,400	\$10,200	UR
7-04	To Study and Recommend Improvements to the Process to Consolidate, Relocate, Separate, or Divest a College or University	CUS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$ -	UR
8-02	To Recruit and Equip Lutheran Administrators for Service in Early Childhood Centers and Schools	ONM	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	UR; potentially R
8-03	To Support the Quality and Sustainability of Lutheran Schools Through the Work of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Lutheran Schools	ONM	\$20,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$20,000	\$ -	UR
11-01	To Hold National and District Conventions Every Four Years		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	savings of 168k each year after 2019 passed on to districts
11-02	To Clarify Four-Year Convention Cycle Ramifications	Secretary	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$10,000	UR
11-07	To Amend Constitution to Grant Lay Vote to Every Congregation	Secretary	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$10,000	\$ -	convention budget
11-08	To Amend Bylaws re District Administration and Electoral Circuit Requirements	Secretary	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	

To Report Operating and Capital Expenditures for Implementing Resolutions
Proposed by Committees 1-18 to the 2016 Milwaukee Convention. Per Bylaw 3.1.7(g).

Res. No.	Title	Impacts	Funds included in budget and future plans			Potential operating budget increases for fiscal years			Notes
			2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	
11-10	To Authorize Review of Synod Nominations/ Elections Processes	Secretary	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$15,300	\$15,300	\$15,300	UR
11-12	To Clarify Synod Administration Matters	Secretary	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
12-05	To Expand the Composition of the Hearing Panels	Secretary	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$15,300	\$15,300	\$15,300	UR
12-09	To Update and Amend Dispute Resolution Process	Secretary	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
13-01	To Extol and Equip the Blessed Partnership Between the Royal Priesthood and the Office of the Public Ministry	OTP	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$16,000	UR
13-02	To Regularize the Status of Licensed Lay Deacons involved in Word and Sacrament Ministry	OTP/ Pastoral Education	\$40,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$150,000 -\$200,000	\$150,000 -\$200,000	UR
13-03	To Address Future Church Leadership Needs in Light of Current and Future Challenges	Pastoral Education	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$13,000	\$26,000	\$26,000	UR
14-03	To Respond Compassionately to Challenges to Biblical View of Marriage and Human Sexuality	CTCR	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$10,000	\$ -	UR
14-04	To Affirm the right of our Clergy to Continue Conducting Weddings in accordance with our Confession	CTCR	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$30,000	\$ -	\$ -	UR
14-06	To Encourage Outreach to Muslim Neighbors	ONM	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$5,000	\$5,000	UR
16-04	To Increase the Engagement of Lutheran Young Adults in the Ministry and Service Work of the LCMS	ONM	\$35,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$125,000	\$125,000	UR
16-05	To Increase Our Efforts to Retain College-Age Youth	ONM	\$20,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$20,000	\$20,000	UR
18-02	To Task Board for National Mission to Assess Worker Wellness and Make Recommendations for Worker Care	ONM	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$5,000	\$5,000	UR

Omnibus Resolutions

RESOLUTION A (Revised)

WHEREAS, Many overtures request action that is the responsibility of various boards, commissions, or individuals to study and to implement; therefore be it

Resolved, That the following overtures be referred to the designated board, commission, or individual:

<u>Number</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Board, Commission, Individual</u>
Ov. 1-02	To Support Sharing the Gospel Through Professionally Produced Musical Stage Play	Office of National Mission
Ov. 2-13	To Require cause for Withdrawal or Release of Career Missionaries	Office of International Missions Legal
Ov. 2-15	To Change Funding Model of Our Missionaries	Board for International Missions Office of International Missions
Ov. 3-01	To Help Our Mercy Agencies Be Free to Be Faithful	Concordia University System and Board of Directors in consultation with President of the Synod
Ov. 3-08	To Request Thrivent Financial for Lutherans to Open Up Choice Dollars for Lutherans for Life	Board for National Mission
Ov. 3-09	To Add a Synod Prison and Jail Ministry Coordinator	Office of National Mission
Ov. 4-17	To Again Publish in Luther's Small Catechism the Fourth Commandment's Divine Promise	Commission on Theology and Church Relations
Ov. 4-20	To Translate and Publish Book of Concord of 1580 Into French Language	Office of International Mission
Ov. 4-21	To Develop Social Media Agreement for Professional Church Workers	Council of Presidents
Ov. 4-25	To Investigate Organization Named FiveTwo in Light of Constitution Article II	Commission on Theology and Church Relations
Ov. 4-26	To Require Super-Majority Votes to Adopt Convention Resolutions	Commission on Handbook
Ov. 4-28	To Establish Task Force for Social Media Policy Development	Council of Presidents
Ov. 5-06	Seminaries to Evaluate Fellowship with AALC	Office of the President Commission on Theology and Church Relations
Ov. 5-07	To Warn Against Occult Pseudoscience Practices	Commission on Theology and Church Relations

1			
2	Ov. 5-08	Provide Suggested Guidelines/Policies for Implementing Social Media	Commission on Theology and Church Relations
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5	Ov. 5-21	To Encourage Synod to Complete Work on Transforming Churches Network, Joint Prayer With Those Who Deny Christ and Role of Women in Church	Office of National Mission in consultation with Commission on Theology and Church Relations
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10	Ov. 5-22	To Direct CTCR and Seminaries to Evaluate Transforming Churches Network	Office of National Mission in consultation with Commission on Theology and Church Relations
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14	Ov. 5-23	To Suspend Application of “Reduction in Force” to Pastoral Office Pending CTCR Decision	Office of the President Commission on Theology and Church Relations Council of Presidents
15			
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19	Ov. 5-24	To Change Intentional Interim Ministry Program to Reflect Historic LCMS Theology and Practice of the Call	Office of National Mission in consultation with Commission on Theology and Church Relations
20			
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23	Ov. 5-25	To Review Role of Women in Congregation and Synod Offices	Commission on Theology and Church Relations Office of the President
24			
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27	Ov. 6-01	To Reaffirm in Practice Biblical Qualifications for Office of the Holy Ministry	Council of Presidents Faculties of Both Seminaries
28			
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30	Ov. 6-02	To No Longer Allow or Compel Vicars to Appear to Rightly Administer the Sacrament	Council of Presidents Faculties of Both Seminaries
31			
32			
33	Ov. 6-03	To Require Use of Synod Hymnals at Synod Seminaries and Universities	Faculties of Both Seminaries Religion Department of all Universities
34			
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36	Ov. 6-04	To Fraternally Admonish Seminaries to Give Due Weight to Lodge Membership Issue	Faculties of Both Seminaries
37			
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39	Ov. 7-18	To Divest Concordia College Alabama from Concordia University System	LCMS Board of Directors
40			
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42	Ov. 7-19	To Encourage Concordia University System Institutions to Request Religious Exemptions	CUS Board of Directors
43			
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45	Ov. 7-22	To Instruct CUS Institutions to Teach Synod’s Position on Church Ministry	CUS Board of Directors
46			
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48	Ov. 9-03	To Urge Synod to Increase Seminary Financial Assistance	LCMS Board of Directors
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51	Ov. 11-01	To Review LCMS President’s Authority	Praesidium
52			
53	Ov. 11-02	To Review Powers of Synod President, Secretary, CCM, and District Presidents	Praesidium
54			
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1	Ov. 11-06	To Appoint Committee to Study District Restructure	Praesidium
2			
3	Ov. 11-12	To eliminate distinctions between visitation and electoral circuits	COP & President
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6	Ov. 11-24	To Change Formation of Electoral Circuits	COP & President
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8	Ov. 11-38	To make Uniform the Process for Restructuring Circuits for Synod Convention Delegate Representation	COP & President
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12	Ov. 11-39	To Make Uniform the Process for Restructuring Circuits for Synod Convention Delegate Determination	COP & President
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16	Ov. 11-25	To Establish Board for International Mission Representation at Synod Conventions	LCMS Board of Directors
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19	Ov. 11-28	To Establish Board for National Mission Representation at Synod Conventions	LCMS Board of Directors
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22	Ov. 11-30	To Declare CCM Opinion 13-2696 re: Doctrinal Resolutions Null and Void	LCMS President
23			
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25	Ov. 11-31	To Complete Study of Constitution Article VII	LCMS President
26			
27	Ov. 11-32	To Overrule CCM Opinion 13-2694	LCMS President
28			
29	Ov. 11-33	To Affirm Article II as Only Required Confession	LCMS President
30			
31	Ov. 11-34	To Honor and Reaffirm Advisory Nature of Synod	LCMS President
32			
33	Ov. 11-35	To Affirm Advisory Nature of Synod	LCMS President
34			
35	Ov. 11-36	To Have Equal Lay and Ordained Representation on Convention Floor Committees	Praesidium
36			
37			
38	Ov. 11-36	To Have Equal Lay and Ordained Representation on Convention Floor Committees	LCMS Board of Directors
39			
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41	Ov. 11-37	To Discuss Advisory Enabling Advisory Delegates to Become Voting Delegates at Future Conventions	LCMS President Commission on Constitutional Matters
42			
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45	Ov. 11-41	To Affirm Past Policy re: Display of Literature at Synod Conventions	Convention Manager
46			
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48	Ov. 11-49	To Amend Bylaws to Affirm That Conscience is Bound by the Word of God	Commission on Theology and Church Relations
49			
50			
51	Ov. 12-02	To Return to Pastoral-Based Model of Governance	Council of Presidents
52			
53	Ov. 12-05	To Specify Inactive Members in Official Publications	Rosters & Statistics
54			
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1	Ov. 12-22	To Clarify Proper Use of Social Media and Internet Postings by Church Leadership During Expulsion Process	Council of Presidents
2			
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5	Ov. 12-31	To Clarify Ecclesiastical Supervision of Roster Workers Serving Outside Home District	Council of Presidents
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8	Ov. 12-32	To Address Unbiblical Removal of Pastors from Office	Council of Presidents
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11	Ov. 12-34	To Improve Transparency of Council of Presidents Procedures and Meetings (Pastors Conference, Northern Illinois District)	Council of Presidents
12			
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15	Ov. 12-38	To Call to Faithful Confession	Council of Presidents
16			
17	Ov. 12-41	To Establish Procedure for Removal of Officers of the Synod or District from Office	Legal Counsel
18			
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20	Ov. 14-01	Legal Defense Fund	LCMS Board of Directors
21			
22	Ov. 14-09	Change LSB Rite	Office of National Mission
23			
24	Ov. 18-01	To Encourage Development of Retirement Assistance Program for Parish Pastors	Districts
25			
26			
27	Staff R1.2 (pp. 22-23, 30, 42-44)	To Encourage Congregational Education	Office of National Mission
28			
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Voting delegate Rex Watt reacts during an open hearing of Floor Committee #13 "Routes to Ministry" at the 66th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod on Saturday, July 9, 2016, in Milwaukee.

Resolution Action Report
2016 Proposed Resolution Actions

		FLOOR COMMITTEE								
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Resolution Action Report
2016 Proposed Resolution Actions

FLOOR COMMITTEE									
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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.

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REVISED RESOLUTIONS

2. International Witness

To Maintain Proper Balance in Foreign Missions Between Congregations’ Right of Self-Governance, the Role of Districts, and Our Commitment to Walk Together

RESOLUTION 2-06A

Reports R56–57 (*CW*, pp. 133–137, 147–148); Overtures 2-01–12, 2-14 (*CW*, pp. 315–324); President’s Report, Part 2 (*TB*, p. 21–31)

WHEREAS, God’s Word speaks to the responsibility of all Christians to make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:18–20) and is replete with examples of individuals and congregations directly caring for the needs of missionaries and foreign mission fields (Rom. 15:25–29; 1 Cor. 16:1–14; 2 Cor. 8:1–9:15; Phil. 2:19–30; 4:10–20; etc.); and the Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) rendered opinions in 14-2724 and 15-2771 that affirmed and recognized the right of congregations to participate in mission work around the world; and

WHEREAS, As a condition of membership in the Synod, congregations and rostered church workers have voluntarily agreed not to participate in “heterodox tract and missionary activities” (Constitution Art. VI 2 c); and

WHEREAS, Article VII of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) Constitution states, “In its relation to its members, the Synod is not an ecclesiastical government exercising legislative or coercive powers, and with respect to the individual congregation’s right of self-government it is but an advisory body”; and

WHEREAS, Article XIV of the Constitution states that the 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; and

WHEREAS, A purpose for forming the Synod is for congregations to join together in ministry (Bylaw 1.1.1):

1.1.1 Committed to a common confession and mission, congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod join with one another in the Synod to support one another and to work together in carrying out their commonly adopted objectives. The Synod is organized to work in support of and on behalf of congregations to assist them in carrying out their ministries as they seek to serve our Lord Jesus Christ, the members of His body, and the world which stands in need of the Word and the impact of His redeeming love.

(a) The Synod functions in support of its member congregations by providing assistance as congregations conduct their ministries locally, as well as their ministries at large.

(b) The Synod on behalf of its member congregations administers those ministries that can be accomplished more effectively in association with other member congregations through the Synod. In this way member congregations utilize the Synod to assist them in carrying out their functions of worship, witness, teaching and nurture, service, and support.

And

WHEREAS, The Board for International Mission (BIM) and the President of the Synod have encouraged congregations and districts to be engaged both locally and internationally; and

WHEREAS, Congregations, occasionally districts, and other entities have with the best intentions engaged in unilateral work overseas which has caused offense, confusion, and consternation among partner churches (e.g., supporting Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) partners, charismatic, or other non-Lutheran churches and groups), exacerbated or created division on the field, necessitated hours of remediation by LCMS mission personnel, left projects costing hundreds of thousands of dollars incomplete—all with little or no communication with LCMS missionaries responsible for various regions and partner church relationships; and

1
2 WHEREAS, Districts are the extension of Synod, and the Synod may limit its own activity for the sake of good
3 order; and
4

5 WHEREAS, 2010 Res. 8-32B encourages the Synod to study Article VII of the Constitution, including study of
6 “Congregations and Synod, Background Material on the Advisory Nature of the LCMS” along with opinions of the
7 Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) related to this topic; and
8

9 WHEREAS, CCM Opinion 09-2573 states in part that “there is a common understanding that a congregation
10 exercises its self-government...in carrying out...its own ministry programs and financial affairs...”; and
11

12 WHEREAS, Bylaw 3.8.3 states in part, “Upon the recommendation of the Office of International Mission, the
13 board shall serve as the only sending agency through which workers and funds are sent to the foreign mission areas
14 of the Synod, including the calling, appointing, assigning, withdrawing, and releasing of missionaries (ministers of
15 religion—ordained and ministers of religion—commissioned) and other workers for the ministries in foreign areas”;
16 and
17

18 WHEREAS, CCM Opinion 14-2724 states in part, “Congregations may not send funds to mission societies and
19 non-Synod entities for work in foreign areas without taking into consideration policies developed and determined for
20 this purpose by the Board for International Mission as the only sending agency”; and
21

22 WHEREAS, The world is now a place that has become much smaller due to things like airplane travel, the
23 internet, cell phone communication, and social media outlets like Facebook, Twitter, etc.; and
24

25 WHEREAS, It is possible to find bylaw language which is more applicable to the circumstances today, while
26 ensuring harmony and Synod unity in international work; and
27

28 WHEREAS, It is desirable to maintain the right of local congregations to engage in mission activity while at the
29 same time working to ensure that the international mission work of the Synod goes on in good order and without
30 conflict; therefore be it
31

32 *Resolved*, That the Synod in convention request that the President of the Synod form a “Bylaw 3.8.3 Task
33 Force” to study and review the proper balance in foreign missions between congregations’ right of self-governance
34 and commitment to walk together with the Board for International Mission (BIM) and Office of International
35 Mission (OIM) to ensure that the international mission work of the Synod goes on in good order and without
36 conflict, and that a report be prepared for the next regular Synod convention; and be presented to the Synod by
37 September 15, 2018; and be it further
38

39 *Resolved*, That this “Bylaw 3.8.3 Task Force” may include, but is not limited to, representation from pastors and
40 laity from congregations, district presidents, BIM members, OIM staff, and the Commission on Handbook; and be it
41 further
42

43 *Resolved*, That the Synod in convention recognize and accept the current practice and understanding of Bylaw
44 3.8.3 as clarified by CCM Opinions 14-2724 and 15-2771 as correct interpretations of Bylaw 3.8.3 during the time
45 that the task force reviews Bylaws 1.1.1 and 3.8.3; and be it further
46

47 *Resolved*, That for the sake of “walking together,” congregations be encouraged to communicate and coordinate
48 with the OIM, and districts of the Synod with the President of the Synod as the chief ecumenical officer (Bylaw
49 3.3.1.1.2) as they contemplate engaging in mission activities in any part of the world, including but not limited to
50 those areas officially identified and listed as the Synod’s “foreign mission area[s]” according to Bylaw 3.1.4.3; and
51 be it further
52

53 *Resolved*, That thanks be given for the great mission zeal of congregations and districts, both in their support of
54 the Synod’s official mission agencies but also where entrepreneurial activities have been blessed by the Lord and
55 have brought great blessing to the Synod; and be it finally
56

8. Parochial Schools

**To Encourage and Strengthen the Lutheran Ethos of Our LCMS Early Childhood Centers,
Elementary Schools, and High Schools**

RESOLUTION 8-01A

President’s Report – Part II (*TB*, pp. 21–31)

WHEREAS, The Holy Scriptures and the Small Catechism are foundational for our faith and life in Christ; and

WHEREAS, Luther was concerned that “[a]ll the people are supposed to be Christians, have been baptized, and receive the Holy Sacrament even though they do not know the Lord’s Prayer, the Creed, or the Ten Commandments and live like poor animals of the barnyard and pigpen. What these people have mastered, however, is the fine art of tearing all Christian liberty to shreds” (Small Catechism – Preface); and

WHEREAS, The prefaces to the Small and Large Catechisms enjoin both the teaching and understanding of the Ten Commandments, the Creed, and the Lord’s Prayer, as foundational for the Lutheran ethos in the Christian congregation, home, and school; and

WHEREAS, The Word of God and the Catechism teach us how to receive God’s gifts in the Divine Service, how to pray, how to confess, how to forgive, and how to live where God has called us, with faith in Christ and love to the neighbor; and

WHEREAS, The congregations and schools of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) are bound to the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions for the teaching of the faith and the practice of that faith; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of the liturgy and the hymnody of the Church is to teach us what we need to know about Christ (AC XXIV); and

WHEREAS, Our Synod has always placed a high value on doctrinally sound hymnals and agendas for teaching the faith (Constitution Article VI); and

WHEREAS, *Lutheran Service Book* is a blessing to our Synod and has been joyfully received in many Lutheran schools as the basis of their worship and catechesis; and

WHEREAS, The Bible, the Catechism, and the hymnal are central to the Lutheran ethos and are God’s gifts to us that we might lovingly and clearly confess the Christian faith to children and families of our schools, believers and unbelievers alike; and

WHEREAS, The increasing presence of non-Lutherans in our schools presents an opportunity to evangelize them, calling them to repentance and faith in Christ, so that they may be buried with Christ by baptism into death in order that they, too, might walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:4); and

WHEREAS, For the mission of the Church, it is imperative that we confess the Christian faith before the world in all aspects of our life, especially to those whom God has placed in our charge; and

WHEREAS, Trained Lutheran teachers in our LCMS schools daily integrate theology in their teaching, model the Christian life, rightly apply Law and Gospel for the admonition and comfort of their students, and ultimately help them attain the fullness of maturity in Christ (Eph. 4:13); and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran ethos of our schools would greatly benefit from their dedicated non-Lutheran teachers receiving further catechesis in the Lutheran faith; and

WHEREAS, The National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) process recognizes the importance of the Lutheran ethos in our schools; therefore be it

1
2 *Resolved*, That all pastors, administrators, teachers, and parents in the schools of the LCMS continue to build a
3 Lutheran ethos in their schools characterized by the following:

- 4
- 5 1. Daily use of the Scriptures, prayer, Luther’s Small Catechism, and the hymnal in the instructional and
- 6 devotional life of their students at school and at home;
- 7 2. A consistently faithful and winsome witness to God’s judgment on sin and His grace in Jesus Christ to all
- 8 students and family members;
- 9 3. A life together rooted in the forgiveness of sins and Christ-like love;
- 10 4. Regular memorization of Holy Scripture and Luther’s Small Catechism;
- 11 5. LCMS-trained Lutheran teachers who know and are committed to the truths of the Scriptures as confessed
- 12 in our Lutheran Confessions;
- 13 6. A pastor who eagerly serves the school as its spiritual leader, faithfully ministering with faculty, students,
- 14 and their families;
- 15 7. A joyful affirmation and use of the historic, liturgical orders of the church in the worship life of students at
- 16 school and at home;
- 17 8. A lively integration of our Scriptural and confessional worldview into all the arts, sciences, and academic
- 18 disciplines, recognizing these disciplines as gifts of God to be informed by the Word of God (Col. 3:16-17);
- 19 9. Students growing into the full stature of Christ (Eph. 4:13-15) as His mature disciples, fulfilling their
- 20 vocations in service to Him and to their neighbors;
- 21 10. Resources offering guidance and support for parents as they teach the faith at home;
- 22 11. Training of students to confess and model their Christian faith with family, friends, and neighbors who do
- 23 not know Christ;
- 24

25 and be it further

26

27 *Resolved*, That the Synod in convention encourage pastors, administrators, teachers, and parents to work
28 together in establishing this Lutheran ethos in their churches and schools; and be it further

29

30 *Resolved*, That the Synod in convention encourage congregational members of all churches in the LCMS to
31 receive, care for, and pray continually for their pastors and teachers as blessings from God; and be it further

32

33 *Resolved*, That the Synod in convention give thanks to those, past and present, who have faithfully served in our
34 LCMS schools; and be it further

35

36 *Resolved*, That the pastors, administrators, teachers, students, and families in our LCMS schools regularly
37 rejoice in and give thanks for their partnership in the Gospel; and be it further

38

39 *Resolved*, That the Office of National Mission (ONM) provide guidance to congregations and schools in
40 implementing the above resolutions; and be it further

41

42 *Resolved*, That Lutheran schools be encouraged to pursue and maintain NLSA to assist in assessing not only
43 quality of education but also Lutheran ethos; and be it further

44

45 *Resolved*, That the district presidents and their representatives affirm, encourage, assist, and support
46 congregations, pastors, and teachers in maintaining the Lutheran ethos of their schools; and be it finally

47

48 *Resolved*, That the district presidents and the ONM report to the Synod in the next convention what they have
49 done to strengthen the Lutheran ethos of our schools, along with their evaluations and recommendations for further
50 strengthening the Lutheran ethos of our schools.

**To Support the Quality and Sustainability of Lutheran Schools
through Work of Blue Ribbon Committee on Lutheran Schools**

RESOLUTION 8-03A

Report R1.2 (CW, pp. 12–16); Overtures 8-02-03 (CW, pp. 377-378); Res. 3-04 (2016 *Proceedings*, p. 117)

WHEREAS, Lutheran schools provide a strong witness to their communities by proclaiming the pure Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ as taught in the Scriptures in addition to rigorous academics, competitive athletics, and a passion for the arts; and

WHEREAS, In Lutheran schools, families outside the church are often drawn to life together with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) families, thus facilitating a Gospel witness; and

WHEREAS, LCMS schools (early childhood, elementary, and high schools) are the second-largest parochial educational system in the United States, operating 1,173 early childhood centers and preschools, 804 elementary schools, 91 domestic and three international high schools (Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Hanoi) serving students and their families; and

WHEREAS, LCMS congregations have closed 458 schools since 2005, and enrollment has dropped by 99,113 students during the same period (290,453 in 2005 to 191,340 in 2015); and

WHEREAS, 61 percent of LCMS schools serve 100 or fewer children; and

WHEREAS, The 2013 LCMS national convention established a Blue Ribbon Committee with the following purpose: “to assist our congregations to embrace Lutheran schools as a critical ministry in congregational life and to support our schools as they serve in the 21st century” (Res. 3-04); and

WHEREAS, The Blue Ribbon Committee on Lutheran Schools will continue its work in the 2016-2019 triennium; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention direct the Office of National Mission to fund the continued work of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Lutheran Schools; and be it further

Resolved, That the work of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Lutheran Schools include but not be limited to the following:

1. Identify the reasons for the decline in the number of schools and in total student enrollment;
2. Assess the current compensation of pastors and teachers in congregations with Lutheran schools and its effect on Lutheran schools and workers;
3. Suggest pilot projects that may produce creative solutions related to the challenges currently faced by our Lutheran schools;
4. Explore and communicate creative options for enhancing the quality of our schools, such as classical education, online education, flexible scheduling, hybrid homeschooling, consolidated efforts among congregations with schools, and ministry among international students;
5. Identify alternative models for funding Lutheran schools with an emphasis on making schools affordable for all families;
6. Recommend strategies for our Lutheran schools to serve their immigrant neighbors;
7. Identify, celebrate, and share examples of Lutheran schools actively engaged in the mission of Christ in their respective communities;
8. Explore the role of Lutheran schools in planting new churches and revitalizing existing churches;
9. Address the significant need for a new generation of Lutheran educators;

and be it finally

To Change Bylaws re Certification and Verification of District Convention Delegates

RESOLUTION 11-04A

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 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. These credentials shall be signed by two of the congregation’s officers. These credential forms will be provided by the district secretary.

To Amend Constitution to Grant Lay Vote/Voice to Every Congregation

RESOLUTION 11-07A

Overtures 11-44–45 (CW, pp. 402–403)

Preamble

When Jesus directs those attempting to admonish an erring brother, He states that the final attempt of such admonition is to take the matter before the church (Matt. 18:17). To that assembly Jesus predicates the authority to exercise the Office of the Keys saying, “And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” (Matt. 18:17b–18).

This God-given authority is not limited by the size of a congregation; for Jesus goes on to add a clear promise to be with even the smallest assembly or congregation: “Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I among them” (Matt. 18:19-20).

The Lutheran Church in general and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in particular have always held

1 the autonomy of the congregation in high esteem. The Confessions of the Lutheran church testify to the authority
 2 given by Christ to the Church as recorded in the Scriptures. Particularly, the above mentioned verses of Matt.18 are
 3 cited in the *Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope* defending the Church’s right of calling ministers (Tr. 24,
 4 *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions*). Later it is made clear that this authority comes down to each congregation:
 5 “Therefore when the regular bishops become unwilling to administer ordination, the churches retain their own right
 6 [to ordain ministers]. Where the Church is, there is the authority to administer the Gospel” (Tr. 66–67).

7
 8 Historically The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has maintained a polity that multiple congregations served by
 9 one pastor should only have one lay vote, thus maintaining a balance between clergy and laity at district
 10 conventions.

11
 12 By disenfranchising certain congregations who hold membership in the Synod, we have acted inconsistently on a
 13 number of levels.

- 14 • Though we confess no divinely appointed form of church polity, denying some congregations the right to
- 15 the same representation that other congregations have in matters of the Synod is at best at a disconnect with
- 16 our theological understanding of a congregation’s embodiment of the catholicity of the Church.
- 17 • In some matters of the Synod that are dealt with on a congregational level, every congregation is allowed to
- 18 speak for herself. However, in other matters, multiple congregations served jointly by one or more pastors
- 19 are required to come together and speak with one voice, thereby reducing the value of each congregation’s
- 20 voice.
- 21
- 22
- 23

	Independent Voice	Shared Voice
Representation at District Conventions		X
Representation at Circuit Forums	X	
Election of circuit delegates to Synod Convention	X	
Vote on Amendments to Synod Constitution	X	
Nominate Synod Officers including Synod President	X	
Voting for Synod President		X
Establishing necessary number of congregations for electoral circuits	X	

34
 35
 36
 37
 38
 39
 40 WHEREAS, The Synod Constitution Art. V A deals with voting members of the Synod and states: “All organized
 41 congregations that have joined the Synod hold voting membership. At the meetings of the districts of the Synod
 42 every congregation or parish is entitled to two votes, one of which is to be cast by the pastor and the other by the lay
 43 delegate”; and

44
 45 WHEREAS, “Multiple congregations” are only allowed to send a single lay delegate to district conventions,
 46 which does not respect the equal dignity, gifts, and authority of all member congregations. Rather, it creates degrees
 47 of voting membership in the Synod because every congregation is allowed a vote/voice in some places but not in
 48 others (see chart in Preamble); and

49
 50 WHEREAS, The emphasis of our polity on the representation of congregations is intrinsically connected to the
 51 scriptural and confessional understanding of a congregation’s bearing all the characteristics of the Church; and

52
 53 WHEREAS, Every individual congregation is a member of the Synod; and

54
 55 WHEREAS, Few if any district conventions have had an equal number of lay and clergy delegates present and
 56 has never resulted in a domination of either lay or clergy; and

1
2 WHEREAS, All congregations are created equal. “Where two are three gathered in my name there am I among
3 them” (Matthew 18:20); therefore be it
4

- 5 *Resolved*, That the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod at its 2016 convention:
6 • give all organized congregations that hold membership in the Synod the opportunity to be represented by a
7 lay delegate and a pastoral delegate at district conventions (Bylaw 3.1.2.1 [c] allows such representation at
8 circuit forums and regional caucuses);
9 • retain a single vote for a pastor who represents more than one congregation; and
10 • amend Article V A of the Synod Constitution as follows:
11

12 PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING
13

14 **Article V Membership**

15
16 **A. Voting Members**

17
18 All organized congregations that have joined the Synod hold voting membership. At the meetings of the
19 districts of the Synod every congregation or parish is entitled to two votes, one of which is to be cast by the pastor
20 and the other by the lay delegate. In the case of a single pastor representing two or more congregations, no
21 individual shall cast more than one vote. At the meetings of the Synod a number of congregations shall form a group
22 which shall be represented by two voting delegates, one a pastor and one a lay delegate.
23
24
25
26

27 **Resolution Regarding District Administration and Electoral Circuit Requirements**

28 **RESOLUTION 11-08A**

29
30
31 Overture: 11-51 (CW, p. 405)

32
33 **A. To Strengthen Bylaw Requirements**
34 **for Submission of Statistical Information**
35

36 **Rationale**

37
38 With the active cooperation of the Council of Presidents, progress has been made by the Office of the Secretary and
39 the Department of Rosters, Statistics, and Research toward obtaining 100 percent response in congregations’
40 submission of annual statistical information. While this information has always been valuable, increased abilities to
41 use such information for the general good of the Synod and its agencies has increased interest in a unanimous
42 response.
43

44 The Commission on Handbook has approved the following bylaw changes proposed by the Secretary of the Synod
45 for submission to the 2016 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) convention.
46

47 **Proposed Action**

48
49 Therefore be it
50

51 *Resolved*, That Bylaws 1.3.4–1.3.4.1; 3.3.3.2; 4.4.7–4.4.8; and 5.2.3 be amended to strengthen requirements for
52 congregations’ submission of annual statistical information, as follows:
53

54 PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING
55

- 1 1.3.4 Congregations together establish the requirements of membership in the Synod (Constitution Art. VI). In
2 joining the Synod, congregations and other members obligate themselves to fulfill such requirements and
3 to diligently and earnestly promote the purposes of the Synod by word and deed. ~~Members of the Synod,~~
4 ~~compelled by love for each other, accept the responsibility to support financially the work of the Synod~~
5 ~~and provide annual statistical information to enable the Synod to plan current and future ministry efforts~~
6 ~~based upon an accurate picture of the results of current ministries within its churches, communities, and~~
7 ~~world.~~
8
- 9 1.3.4.1 Members agree to uphold the confessional position of the Synod (Constitution Art. II) and to assist in
10 carrying out the objectives of the Synod (Constitution Art. III), which are objectives of the members
11 themselves. ~~Thus, while congregations of the Synod are self-governing (Constitution Art. VII), they,~~
12 ~~and also individual members, commit themselves as members of the Synod to act in accordance with the~~
13 ~~Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod under which they have agreed to live and work together and which~~
14 ~~the congregations alone have the authority to adopt or amend through conventions.~~
15
- 16 1.3.4.2 Members of the Synod, compelled by love for one another, accept the responsibility to support
17 financially the work of the Synod.
18
- 19 1.3.4.3 Congregations of the Synod, to enable the Synod to plan current and future ministry efforts and to lend
20 accuracy and integrity to the Synod's delegate representation and voting processes, agree to provide
21 annual membership and statistical information to the Synod.
22
- 23 3.3.3.2 The Secretary shall perform such other work as pertains to his office or such other work as the Synod in
24 convention, the President, or the Board of Directors of the Synod may assign to him.
25 (a) He shall serve as a voting member and secretary of the Commission on Constitutional Matters.
26 (b) He shall administer the Synod's dispute resolution process.
27 (c) He shall serve as a voting member of the Board of Governors of Concordia Historical Institute.
28 (d) He shall supervise the maintenance of the official roster of member congregations and ordained and
29 commissioned ministers on the basis of information supplied by the district presidents.
30 (e) He shall supervise the process for obtaining annual statistical information from all member
31 congregations of the Synod.
32 (ef) He shall serve as editor of *The Lutheran Annual*.
33 (fg) He shall keep a file of all governing instruments of all agencies of the Synod.
34
- 35 4.4.7 The district president shall be responsible for maintaining the official rosters of his district.
36 (a) He shall add the names of those ordained or commissioned ministers initially placed in the district
37 and those accepting a call to or otherwise transferring to the district.
38 (b) He shall remove the names of those who have died or have resigned their membership or have had
39 their membership in the Synod duly terminated.
40 (c) An ordained or commissioned minister accepting a call to a congregation in a sister district or to an
41 institution which relates to such district shall immediately report such decision to his district president
42 and ask for a transfer of membership. The district president shall forward such transfer to the president of
43 the sister district.
44 (d) Upon receipt of the transfer and of a request for installation from the minister of religion, the district
45 president of the sister district shall install or authorize installation of such minister.
46 (e) He shall regularly forward roster reports to the Secretary of the Synod for publication in *The*
47 *Lutheran Annual*.
48
- 49 4.4.8 The district president shall ~~revise annually the official rosters of ordained ministers and of commissioned~~
50 ~~ministers for publication in *The Lutheran Annual*, with the assistance of his district's circuit visitors,~~
51 promote and pursue unanimous participation by congregations in the submission of annual statistical
52 reports as an expectation of membership in the Synod.
53
- 54 5.2.3 Each circuit visitor shall assist the district president within the circuit.
55 (a) He shall serve under the direction of and be accountable to the district president and shall serve as
56 his spokesman when so authorized and directed and shall assist him in doctrinal and spiritual supervision.

- (b) He shall serve in a servant role.
- (c) He shall seek to remind and encourage members of the circuit of their responsibilities as God’s people and the privilege they have in being about His mission.
- (d) He and any other officers of the circuit shall have the primary responsibility for maintaining liaison between the circuit and the Synod at the national and district levels.
- (e) He shall be conversant with and supportive of Synod-wide and district resolutions and programs.
- (f) He shall seek to strengthen the spirit of cooperation among pastors, commissioned ministers, and congregations.
- (g) He shall assist in the development and attainment of Synod-wide mission and ministry emphases.
- (h) He shall assist the district president, as requested, in promoting and obtaining unanimous participation by congregations in the submission of annual statistical reports.
- ~~(hi)~~ He may, when requested to do so by the district president, serve as a mediator to effect reconciliation of disputes within the circuit not under dispute resolution of the Synod as outlined in section 1.10 of these Bylaws.
- ~~(ij)~~ He shall regularly convene the pastors of his circuit for circuit conferences.
- ~~(jk)~~ He shall regularly report on his activities to the district president.
- ~~(kl)~~ The district president shall meet with the circuit visitors of the district at least once per year to discuss their work, to encourage them, and to conduct ongoing training for congregational and pastoral visits.
- ~~(lm)~~ The circuit visitor is authorized to draw on the district treasury for his expenses.

B. Submission of Circuit Visitor Nominee Names

Preamble

A bylaw provision requiring the submission of names of circuit visitor nominees prior to the day of the circuit forum to elect the circuit visitor was inadvertently omitted when the current process was adopted by the 2010 LCMS convention. Such a provision does currently exist in the circuit forum election process for national convention voting delegates.

The Commission on Handbook proposes restoring this day-prior requirement for submission of names of circuit visitor nominees, thereby mirroring the language of Bylaw 3.1.2.1 (e) by amending Bylaw paragraphs 5.2.2 (b) and (d).

Proposed Action

Therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 5.2.2 paragraphs (b) and (d) be amended to restore the day-prior requirement for submission of names of circuit visitor nominees, as follows:

PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

- 5.2.2 The circuit visitor shall hold his position by virtue of his selection by the circuit forum and ratification by the district convention.
 - (a) Circuit forums shall meet at the call of their circuit visitors to select their circuit visitors no later than the time established by the district. When in-person meetings are burdensome (e.g., geographically large circuits), a circuit may select another manner of meeting (e.g., e-meeting technologies) that is suitable and made available to all participants, taking into consideration the need to provide for an open and fair exchange of ideas and secure, private, and confidential voting.
 - (b) Prior to the day of the circuit forum, ~~N~~ominations for candidates for the office of circuit visitor may be submitted by a voting congregation of the circuit and suggested by the district president, in consultation with the praesidium of the district.
 - (c) Each circuit may adopt procedures and methods that will insure efficiency and accuracy, including

1 the use of mechanical, electronic, or other methods of casting, recording, or tabulating votes. The
2 privilege of voting shall be exercised by the representatives from each member congregation of the
3 circuit, who shall have been selected in the manner prescribed by the congregation (Bylaw 5.3.2).

4 (d) All nominated pastors serving congregations and emeriti pastors, whose names were nominated prior
5 to the day of the circuit forum, shall be eligible for election in accordance with section 4.3 of these
6 Bylaws.

7
8
9
10 **C. To Clarify Bylaws re Circuit Forums and**
11 **Electoral Circuit Forums**

12 **Rationale**

13
14 Current Bylaw section 5.3, which defines and details the responsibilities of visitation circuit forums, includes
15 information regarding electoral circuit meetings (as anticipated by Bylaw 3.1.2). Removing those references from
16 Bylaw section 5.3 and inserting them into Bylaw 3.1.2 will provide clarity for distinguishing between visitation
17 circuits and electoral circuits. The Commission on Handbook therefore proposes the following bylaw changes.
18

19 **Proposed Action**

20
21 Therefore be it

22
23 *Resolved*, That new wording be introduced into Bylaw 3.1.2 that retains and relocates the content of current
24 Bylaw 5.3.3 regarding electoral circuit meetings, as follows:

25
26 PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

27
28 *Electoral Circuits and Voting Delegates*

29
30 3.1.2 ~~Voting delegates shall consist of one pastor and one layman from each electoral circuit. Electoral circuits~~
31 shall meet as required by the Bylaws of the Synod to elect circuit voting delegates to the Synod's
32 national conventions.

33 (a) An electoral circuit shall consist either of one or two adjacent visitation circuits, as shall be
34 determined by the district board of directors on the basis of the following requirements: each pair of
35 delegates shall represent from 7 to 20 member congregations, involving an aggregate communicate
36 membership ranging from 1,500 to 10,000.

37 (b) Voting delegates shall consist of one pastor and one layperson from each electoral circuit. These
38 pastoral and lay delegates and their alternates shall be elected according to the regulations of the Synod
39 (Bylaw 3.1.2.1).

40 ~~(bc)~~ Exceptions to these requirements may be made only by the President of the Synod upon request of a
41 district board of directors.

42 (d) The lay delegate shall serve throughout the triennium following the convention as an advisory
43 member of the circuit forum.

44
45 and be it further

46
47 *Resolved*, That Bylaw 5.3.3 be amended to read as follows:

48
49 PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

50
51 5.3.3 The circuit forum ~~will~~shall meet at least once triennially to elect ~~circuit delegates to the national~~
52 ~~convention. It shall elect the pastoral and lay delegates and their alternates to the national convention of~~
53 ~~the Synod according to the regulations of the Synod. The lay delegate shall, upon election, serve through~~
54 ~~the triennium following the next convention as an advisory member of the circuit forum.~~ a circuit visitor
55 (Bylaw 5.2.2).
56

To Respectfully Decline Overtures

RESOLUTION 11-16A

Whereas, The floor committee has considered all overtures assigned to it and has concluded, for various reasons, that certain overtures should be declined; therefore be it

Resolved, That the following overtures be respectfully declined for the reasons given:

<u>Number</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Reason</u>
11-07	To Standardize and Clarify Procedures for Elections at Synod and District Conventions	Confusing, time consuming, not practical
11-08	To Standardize and Clarify Procedures for Elections at Circuit Forums	Confusing, time consuming, not practical
11-09	To Increase Number of Candidates for Present and Streamline Election Process	Confusing, time consuming, not practical
11-10	To Strengthen Committee on Elections and Form District Committees on Elections	Confusing, time consuming, not practical
11-11	To Allow Each Region to Elect Its Vice-President	To safeguard the integrity of the current process. Regional VP represent the entire Synod
11-13	To Create Term Limits for Synod Elected-Officers	Term limits restrict the choice(s) for delegates 3.2.4.1
11-15	To Alter Method of Electing Synod Regional Vice-Presidents	To safeguard the integrity of the current process. Regional VP represent the entire Synod
11-16	To Allow Each LCMS Region to Elect Its own-Vice-Presidents	To safeguard the integrity of the current process. Regional VP represent the entire Synod
11-20	To Seat Entire Committee for Convention Nominations at Convention	Not expedient nor necessary. There is current representation of the CCN at the convention 3.12.3.7
11-22	To Change Election of Regional Vice-Presents	To safeguard the integrity of the current process. Regional VP represent the entire Synod
11-23	To Change Nominations Process for Elected-District Officers	Districts are to follow Synod Bylaws 4.2.1 (a).Creates additional Unhelpful exceptions
11-30	To Declare CCM Opinion13-2696 re Doctrinal Resolutions Null and Void	Opinion consistent with Bylaws and Resolutions of Synod

1	11-32	To Overrule CCM Opinion 13-2694	Opinion consistent with Bylaws and Resolutions of Synod
2			
3			
4			
5	11-55	To Amend Bylaw Process for Election of Synod-Regional Vice-Presidents	To safeguard the integrity of the current process. Regional VP represent the entire Synod
6			
7			
8			
9	11-57	To Require LCMS Foundation to Use Biblical-Dispute Resolution to Settle Disputes with Donors	Outside the parameters of Bylaw 1.10.2. Has significant legal Implications.
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			

12. Ecclesiastical Supervision and Dispute Resolution

**To Restore Right of Accuser to Appeal
When a District President Fails to Act or Declines to Suspend**

RESOLUTION 12-01A

Report R65D (CW, p. 301); Overtures 12-01, 12-11–13, 12-15–21, 12-23–27, 12-39–40 (CW, pp. 415, 419–424, 430–431)

Rationale

Membership in the Synod is and always has been a privilege that is either granted or terminated by the Synod. In the earliest period of its history, the Synod retained the authority to make decisions regarding membership to itself, to be made by its conventions. Over time, the Synod adopted bylaw processes for making such decisions. In the matter of expulsions from the Synod, such processes were to be fair and impartial.

Initially, the President of the Synod as ecclesiastical supervisor was entrusted with the authority to suspend members prior to their expulsion. Not long after, district presidents as the President’s agents were given the authority to suspend, with final decisions regarding expulsion to be made by a convention of the Synod or district. In time, Synod bylaw changes provided opportunity for appeals of suspensions to commissions and boards of the Synod or districts prior to expulsion.

The 1992 convention of the Synod, which created the Synod’s dispute resolution process, retained district presidents’ authority to suspend but delegated the authority for final decisions regarding expulsion from membership to dispute resolution panels. When the 2004 convention created new processes solely for suspension and expulsion, panels of three district presidents were given responsibility for expulsion decisions. The 2010 convention replaced one of the three presidents on such panels with a lay reconciler.

As the removal from membership process evolved over nearly 170 years, of particular note, was the decision by the 1956 convention to empower the President of the Synod to act when a district president failed to act on an accusation brought against a member of the Synod. This presidential authorization to act was then given to the Praesidium of the Synod in 1989 (Bylaw 2.27ff) and retained as part of the overhaul of the suspension/expulsion processes in 1992.

The 2004 convention’s major overhaul of the process removed the right of an accuser to appeal to the Praesidium of the Synod when the district president failed to act within 60 days. In its place, the accuser could now request that the matter be presented to a Referral Panel of three circuit visitors if the district president failed to act, this panel then making the decision regarding the suspension, thereby reducing the opportunity for a full and objective hearing and placing an ecclesiastical supervisory decision in the hands of circuit visitors which constitutionally is entrusted to

1 the President of Synod and district presidents. 2004 Bylaws 2.14.5ff. also gave a district president the option to form
2 a Referral Panel to make a suspension decision (or not) in his stead.

3
4 The history of the suspension/expulsion process supports a return to past practice which existed from 1956 to 1989,
5 leaving the responsibility for suspension in the hands of those charged with ecclesiastical supervision. When a
6 district president fails or declines to act, this will allow an appeal by the accuser to the President of the Synod, who
7 will decide when an accusation warrants suspension and, if requested by the accused, a hearing before a panel.

8
9 Finally, in response to a question posed by the chairman of Floor Committee #12, the Commission on Constitutional
10 Matters concludes its opinion (16-2791) with these words:

11
12 Constitution Art. XIV provides that “[t]he Synod in convention may adopt bylaws that are consistent with and
13 do not contradict the Constitution of the Synod, which controls and supersedes such bylaws and all other rules
14 and regulations of the Synod.”

15
16 In the case of the former (1956–1989) provision, the case for constitutionality was explicitly made, not only
17 demonstrating that the adopted provision “[did] not contradict” the Constitution, but also that it was “consistent
18 with” the framework laid out clearly by the Constitution, that being that the President himself ultimately has the
19 responsibility, under Constitution Art. XI B 1–3, to “promote and maintain unity of doctrine and practice in all
20 the districts of the Synod.” The 1956 convention adopted this mechanism (of appeal in case of inaction of
21 district officials to the President of the Synod, for him to act) as an organic clarification in bylaw of a power the
22 Constitution already granted the President in essence.

23
24 In the case of the latter (1989–2004) provision, the record provides no positive constitutional rationale. Bylaws
25 already adopted by the Synod in convention deserve the presumption of constitutionality, as the convention is
26 the “principle legislative assembly” of the Synod (Bylaw 3.1.1) and adopts bylaws only after positive review by
27 the Commission on Constitutional Matters (Bylaw 7.1.1). Upon later review, could they be shown to conflict
28 with the Constitution, they would, of course, be invalid. The commission’s two narrowly-focused reviews of
29 this latter bylaw provision, as applied in an exceptional case, avoided finding it in conflict with Constitution
30 Art. XI B 1–3’s assignment of these responsibilities to the President of the Synod by grounding the provision
31 instead under Constitution Art. XIII 2.

32
33 While such narrow reviews avoided finding the latter bylaw provision in *conflict* with the Constitution, this
34 latter provision and, importantly, the Referral Panels subsequently adopted in its place [Bylaws 2.14.5–2.14.5.3,
35 etc.], are certainly less *consistent with* the Constitution’s overall design and framework than the former
36 (Constitution Art. XIV).

37
38 Moreover, this review finds the change of the Bylaws in 1989 and subsequently (namely, to remove the right of
39 appeal for action to the President, should district officials fail to act, and to replace it first with an appeal to the
40 Praesidium and then with an appeal to a Referral Panel) to *conflict* with the Constitution of the Synod. This
41 change unconstitutionally deprived the President of the Synod of procedures for exercising a power granted him
42 in Constitution Art. XI B 1–3. That this power to receive appeals for action, in case of the inaction of district
43 officials, is one of the means constitutionally “at [the President’s] command to promote and maintain unity of
44 doctrine and practice in all the districts of the Synod” (Constitution Art. XI B 3) was the opinion of the Synod in
45 convention in 1956. It expressed this opinion explicitly and with its unique and final interpretive power. It must
46 therefore be the opinion also of this commission.

47
48 therefore be it

49
50 *Resolved*, That the following changes be made to sections 2.14 and 2.15 & 2.17 of the bylaws.

51
52 **PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING**

53
54 **2.14 Expulsion of Congregations or Individuals from Membership in the Synod**

55
56 **Preamble**

1
2 2.14.1 Termination of membership in the Synod is a serious matter involving both the doctrine and life of those to
3 whom it has been granted.

4 ...
5 (b) The action to commence expulsion of a congregation or individual from membership in the Synod
6 is the sole responsibility of the district president who has the responsibility for the ecclesiastical
7 supervision of such member, or by the President of the Synod under Bylaw 2.14.5.2.

9 **Definition of Terms**

10
11 2.14.2 The definitions of terms used in this bylaw are as follows:

12 ...
13 ~~(s) **Referral Panel:** A panel that may be formed of three circuit visitors or district presidents, who shall~~
14 ~~be selected according to these bylaws to determine, according to the facts learned from the~~
15 ~~investigation, whether or not to proceed.~~

17 **Referral Panel**

18
19 ~~2.14.5 In the determination whether or not to initiate formal proceedings, the district president may form a~~
20 ~~Referral Panel consisting of three circuit visitors of the district.~~

21 ~~(a) If three circuit visitors from the district are not available to serve by reason of conflict of interest or~~
22 ~~otherwise, the district president may select a sufficient number from other districts to form the panel.~~

23 ~~(b) This panel shall be formed by blind draw and shall not include the circuit visitor of the accused or~~
24 ~~the accuser. The blind draw shall be administered by the district president and audited by witnesses.~~

25
26 ~~2.14.5.1 After reviewing the accusation and the results of the investigation, the Referral Panel shall make the~~
27 ~~determination whether or not to initiate formal proceedings.~~

28
29 ~~2.14.5.2 Whether made by the district president or the Referral Panel, if If the determination of the district~~
30 ~~president is not to initiate formal proceedings, the district president he shall in writing so inform the~~
31 ~~accuser, any other district president involved, and the involved member, which shall terminate the matter,~~
32 ~~unless the accuser presents the written complaint or accusation to the President of the Synod as provided~~
33 ~~below (Bylaw 2.14.4.3).~~

34
35 ~~2.14.5.3 If the district president fails to act within 60 days after receipt of the formal written complaint or~~
36 ~~accusation, the accuser may present a formal written request to the district president for the forming of a~~
37 ~~Referral Panel, which request the district president must grant. If the provisions of Bylaw 2.14.4 have not~~
38 ~~been carried out, the Referral Panel shall carry out these provisions in the process of making its~~
39 ~~determination whether or not to initiate formal proceedings. If the district president fails to act or~~
40 ~~declines to suspend the member within 90 days after receipt of the written complaint or accusation, the~~
41 ~~accuser may present the written complaint or accusation to the President of the Synod. If after~~
42 ~~investigation the President of the Synod determines that the facts are such that it could lead to expulsion~~
43 ~~of the member under Article XIII of the Constitution, the President of the Synod shall designate one of~~
44 ~~the vice-presidents of the Synod to proceed in the same fashion as is hereafter required of the district~~
45 ~~president. If the President of the Synod determines not to proceed, they shall in writing so inform the~~
46 ~~complainant and the involved member, which shall terminate the matter.~~

48 **Commencing Formal Proceedings**

49
50 2.14.65 If the district president ~~or the Referral Panel~~ concludes that the facts form a basis for expulsion of the
51 member under Article XIII of the Constitution, the district president in commencing formal proceedings
52 shall...

53
54 *(Additionally: the following are related changes unique to Bylaw section "2.15 Expulsion of a District President or*
55 *Officer from Membership in the Synod.")*

1 **Referral Panel**

2
3 2.15.5 ~~In the determination of whether or not to initiate formal proceedings, the President of the Synod may form a Referral Panel consisting of three district presidents.~~

4
5 (a) ~~This panel shall be formed by blind draw, shall not include the district president that is a party to the matter or the district president or an accused officer or the district president of the accuser.~~

6
7 (b) ~~The blind draw shall be administered by the chairman of the Council of Presidents audited by witnesses.~~

8
9
10 2.15.5.1 ~~After reviewing the accusation and the results of the investigation, the Referral Panel shall make the determination whether or not to initiate formal proceedings.~~

11
12
13 2.15.45.2 ~~Whether made by the President of the Synod or the Referral Panel, if~~ If the determination of the President of the Synod is not to initiate formal proceedings, he the President of the Synod shall in writing so inform the accuser, any other district president involved, and the accused officer of the Synod or district president involved member, which shall terminate the matter, unless the accuser presents the written complaint or accusation to the President of the Synod or the Chairman of the Council of Presidents as provided below (Bylaw 2.15.4.3).

14
15
16
17
18
19
20 2.15.45.3 If the President of the Synod declines to suspend the officer of the Synod or district president or fails to act within 90 days after receipt of the written complaint or accusation, to act within 60 days after receipt of the formal written complaint or accusation, the accuser may present a formal written request to the President of the Synod for the forming of a Referral Panel, which request the President of the Synod must grant. If the provisions set forth in Bylaw 2.15.4 have not been carried out, the Referral Panel shall carry out these provisions in the process of making the determination whether or not to initiate formal proceedings, the accuser may present the written complaint or accusation to the chairman of the Council of Presidents or next qualified officer of the Council of Presidents. If, after investigation and consultation with other district presidents as he sees fit, the chairman of the Council of Presidents determines that the facts are such as could lead to the expulsion of the member under Article XIII of the Constitution, the chairman of the Council of Presidents shall proceed in the same fashion as is hereafter required of the President of the Synod. If the chairman of the Council of Presidents determines not to proceed, he shall in writing so inform the complainant and the involved member, which shall terminate the matter.

21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34 **Commencing Formal Proceedings**

35
36 2.15.56 ~~If the President of the Synod or the chairman of the Council of Presidents or the Referral Panel concludes that the facts form a basis for expulsion of the member under Article XIII of the Constitution, the President of the Synod or the chairman of the Council of Presidents in commencing formal proceedings shall...~~

37
38
39
40 *(Additionally: the following are related changes unique to Bylaw section "2.17 Expulsion of Individuals from Membership in the Synod as a Result of Sexual Misconduct or Criminal Behavior.")*

41
42
43 **Referral Panel**

44
45 2.17.5 ~~In the determination whether or not to initiate formal proceedings, the district president may form a Referral Panel consisting of three circuit visitors of the district.~~

46
47 (a) ~~If three circuit visitors from the district are not available to serve by reasons of conflict of interest or otherwise, the district president may select a sufficient number from other districts in order to form the panel.~~

48
49 (b) ~~This panel shall be formed by blind draw and shall not include the circuit visitor of the accused or the accuser. The blind draw shall be administered by the district president audited by witnesses.~~

50
51
52
53 2.17.5.1 ~~In the event that the accused is a district president, an officer of the Synod, or the President of the Synod, the Referral Panel shall consist of three district presidents selected by a blind draw administered by the chairman of the Council of Presidents and audited by witnesses. Such panel, which shall exclude any involved district president, shall function as set forth hereafter.~~

1
2 ~~2.17.5.2 After reviewing the accusation and the results of the investigation, the Referral Panel shall make the~~
3 ~~determination whether or not to initiate formal proceedings.~~

4
5 ~~2.17.45.23 Whether made by the district president or the Referral Panel, if~~ If the determination of the district
6 president or the President of the Synod is not to initiate formal proceedings, he shall in writing so inform
7 the accuser, any other district president involved, and the involved member, which shall terminate the
8 matter, unless the accuser presents the written complaint or accusation to the President of the Synod or
9 Chairman of the Council of Presidents as provided below (Bylaw 2.17.4.3).

10
11 ~~2.17.45.34 If the district president (or the President of the Synod in the case of a district president or officer of the~~
12 Synod) declines to suspend the member or fails to act within 90~~60~~ days after receipt of the formal written
13 complaint or accusation, the accuser may present the a formal written request ~~complaint or accusation to~~
14 the President of the Synod (or in the case of a district president or officer of the Synod to chairman of the
15 Council of Presidents) to the district president for the forming of the Referral Panel, which request the
16 district president must grant. If the provisions of Bylaw 2.17.4 have not been carried out, the Referral Panel
17 shall carry out these provisions in the process of making its determination whether or not to initiate formal
18 proceedings.

19 (a) In the case of an individual member, if, after investigation, the President of the Synod determines
20 that the facts are such that it could lead to expulsion of the member under Article XIII of the
21 Constitution, the President of the Synod shall designate one of the vice-presidents of the Synod to
22 proceed in the same fashion as is hereafter required of the district president. If the President of the
23 Synod determines not to proceed, he shall in writing so inform the complainant and the involved
24 member, which shall terminate the matter.

25 (b) In the case of a district president or officer of the Synod, if, after investigation and consultation
26 with other members of the Council of Presidents, if deemed necessary, the Chairman of the Council of
27 Presidents determines that the facts are such that it could lead to expulsion of the member under
28 Article XIII of the Constitution, he shall proceed in the same fashion as is hereafter required of the
29 district president. If the Chairman of the Council of Presidents determines not to proceed, he shall in
30 writing so inform the complainant and the involved member, which shall terminate the matter.

31 32 **Commencing Formal Proceedings**

33
34 ~~2.17.56 If the appropriate district president or the President of the Synod or the chairman of the Council of~~
35 ~~Presidents or the Referral Panel, whichever the case may be, concludes that the facts form a basis for~~
36 ~~expulsion of the member under Article XIII of the Constitution, the appropriate ecclesiastical supervisor in~~
37 ~~commencing formal proceedings shall...~~

38
39
40 (Please see *Addendum* immediately following this Res. 12-01A for entire CCM Opinion 16-2791:
41 174. Constitutionality of Historical Appeal to President and Praesidium in Expulsion Cases.)

42 43 44 45 46 **To Encourage Calling Church Workers on Candidate Status**

47 48 **Resolution 12-02A**

49
50 Overtures 12-03-04, 12-06, 12-09 (CW, pp. 416–418)

51
52 WHEREAS, There are ordained and commissioned church workers on candidate status, that is, rostered church
53 workers without calls, but who are available for calls and service to the church; and

54
55 WHEREAS, The Synod wishes to be diligent in its care for these workers and their families; and
56

1 WHEREAS, The Synod desires to be a good steward of these gifts from God; and

2
3 WHEREAS, District presidents are charged with ecclesiastical supervision, which “includes visitation,
4 evangelical encouragement and support, care, protection, [and] counsel” (Bylaw 1.2.1[i]) of the rostered church
5 workers in their districts; and

6
7 WHEREAS, The congregation has the sole authority to call workers; therefore be it

8
9 *Resolved*, That district presidents continue to provide pastoral care for these workers and their families; and be
10 it further

11
12 *Resolved*, That district presidents regularly report to their vice presidents and circuit visitors their efforts to
13 provide such pastoral care; and be it further

14
15 *Resolved*, That district presidents publish annually in a district publication the names of these candidates; and be
16 it further

17
18 *Resolved*, That district presidents shall report annually to the Council of Presidents the names of all the ordained
19 ministers of religion on candidate status in each district and shall review with the full Council of Presidents his
20 efforts to help these men either to be prepared and available for call or understand the need to seek another vocation;
21 and be it further

22
23 *Resolved*, That as part of this review process district presidents shall report annually to the Council of Presidents
24 the names of candidates who are prepared and available for a call; and be it further

25
26 *Resolved*, That the Council of Presidents be directed at each its regular meetings to review in the above manner
27 at least 25% of the list of ordained ministers of religion on candidate status so that at minimum each man’s situation
28 is thoroughly reviewed by the Council annually; and be it further

29
30 *Resolved*, that district presidents or their representatives shall visit annually with each ordained worker on
31 candidate status to review his situation in a pastoral manner; and be it further

32
33 *Resolved*, That the Synod’s Chief Mission Officer and Executive Director of Pastoral Education explore with
34 the leadership of the seminaries and the Council of Presidents the possible development of programs at both
35 seminaries that would help willing candidates be better prepared to re-enter active ministry; and be it further

36
37 *Resolved*, that congregations that have requested, but not received, graduating seminarian candidates for
38 ordination, be encouraged to request from their district president names of ordained ministers of religion on
39 candidate status who are prepared and available for a call; and be it further

40
41 *Resolved*, that congregations be encouraged to consider calling pastors on candidate status for past-time service;
42 and be it finally; and be it finally

43
44 *Resolved*, that congregations and schools that have requested, but not received, commissioned ministers of
45 religion through the regular placement process following certification, be encouraged to request from their district
46 president names of commissioned ministers of religion on candidate status who are prepared and available for a call.

47
48
49
50

51 **To Expedite the Dispute Resolution and Suspension/Expulsion Processes**

52 **RESOLUTION 12-04A**

53
54 Report R65 (CW, pp. 297–298); Overture 12-42 (CW, pp. 432–435)

1
2 **Rationale**
3

4 Bylaw 1.10.1 speaks of disputes, disagreements, or offenses as “a grave concern for the whole church” that “should
5 be resolved promptly.” An oft-voiced concern regarding the current dispute resolution and suspension/ expulsion
6 processes is that they take overly long to complete.
7

8 In addition, current time frames vary between the bylaws governing dispute resolution and those governing
9 suspension/ expulsion processes, often for identical steps in the processes. The following changes to Bylaw sections
10 1.10 and 2.14 will conserve time and provide uniformity. The changes to Bylaw section 2.14 are also, upon adoption
11 by the 2016 convention, to be applied to the 2.15, 2.16, and 2.17 processes as shown in the addendum to this report.
12

13 Also proposed is an addition to Bylaws 1.10.4 and 2.14.2 to accommodate unforeseen circumstances that at times
14 make strict adherence to time frames impossible, also providing authority to the administrator of the process to grant
15 exceptions and to report intentional non-compliance to the President of the Synod.
16

17 Finally, an additional source of potentially lengthy delay has been the difficulty experienced by the Commission on
18 Theology and Church Relations in responding within the time frames established by bylaws to requests for opinions
19 regarding theological issues surfaced by the dispute resolution and expulsion processes. Included in the proposed
20 actions below is a bylaw solution that would authorize the executive committee of the commission to render these
21 opinions within the established time frames.
22

23 Therefore be it
24

25 *Resolved*, That the following changes be made to Bylaw sections 1.10 and 2.14 to expedite and provide
26 uniformity throughout the Synod dispute resolution and suspension/expulsion processes, it being understood that
27 changes to the Bylaw section 2.14 process will be applied to the Bylaw sections 2.15, 2.16, and 2.17 processes
28 during preparation of the 2016 *Handbook*.
29

30 **PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING**
31

32 **1.10 Dispute Resolution of the Synod**

32 **2.14 Expulsion of Congregations or Individuals from
33 Membership in the Synod**

34
35 1.10.5...(c) Within 45 days of the conclusion of the
36 consultation and receipt of any advice or opinions as
37 described above, the district president shall....
38

35 2.14.3...(f) ~~Only~~ Within 45 days after all the
36 requirements of the consultation provided in this
37 bylaw (Bylaw 2.14.3) have been followed may the accuser....
38

39 1.10.6.1 The administrator shall ~~promptly~~ within 15
40 days select the reconciler in the manner hereinafter
41 set forth and then notify the parties....
42

39 2.14.5.3 ...the Referral Panel shall carry out these
40 provisions in the process of making its determination
41 within 60 days whether or not to initiate formal proceedings.
42

43 1.10.7 If the parties to a dispute with the assistance
44 of the reconciler have been unable to achieve
45 reconciliation, the complainant shall notify the
46 Secretary of the Synod with ~~30~~15 days after
47 receiving....
48

43 2.14.6 ...the district president in commencing
44 formal proceedings shall...(c) provide to the
45 member a written notification that the member has
46 15 days from the date of receipt of the statement
47 of the matter....
48

49 1.10.7.2...Within ~~30~~15 days after the appointment
50 of the panel, the hearing facilitator shall confer
51 parties to the dispute and the Dispute Resolution
52 Panel for the purpose of choosing a location....
53

49 2.14.7.6 Within 15 days after the Hearing Panel
50 is constituted, the hearing facilitator shall, after
51 conferring with the panel, the accused, and the
52 district president who imposed the suspended
53 status, select a date....
54

55 1.10.7.3 The formal hearing before the Dispute
56 Resolution Panel, conducted by a hearing facilitator,

55 2.14.7.6 ...and location within 45 days after the
56 Hearing Panel was constituted for the panel to

1 shall take place within ~~60~~45 days after the ~~date of the~~ hear and consider the matter, unless there is
 2 ~~final~~ selection of the ~~hearing facilitator location and~~ unanimous consent by the panel members for a
 3 date of the formal hearing, unless there is unanimous short delay beyond such 45 days for reasons the
 4 consent by the panel members for a short delay panel deems appropriate.
 5 beyond such ~~60~~45 days for reasons the panel deems
 6 appropriate.

8 1.10.7.4...(b) Within ~~60~~30 days after the hearing, 2.14.7.9 Upon completion of the hearing, the
 9 the panel shall issue a written decision that shall Hearing Panel shall deliberate and then issue its
 10 state the facts determined by the panel... written decision within 30 days.

12 1.10.8 Within ~~30~~15 days after receiving the decision 2.14.8 The decision of the Hearing Panel may be
 13 of the Dispute Resolution Panel, any party to the appealed by the accused...with 15 days after
 14 dispute or the President of the Synod...may receiving the decision....
 15 appeal....

17 1.10.8.2 Within ~~30~~21 days after receipt, an Appeal 2.14.8...(a) Within ~~30~~21 days after receipt of an
 18 Panel shall be selected in the prescribed manner, and appeal from the accused or the President of the
 19 the Secretary of the Synod shall send the appeal.... Synod, an Appeal Panel shall be selected....

21 1.10.8.3 Within 30 days after its formation, the 2.14.8...(e) Within 30 days after its formation, the
 22 Appeal Panel shall issue its written decision in Appeal Panel shall issue its written decision in
 23 response to the request for reconsideration. response to the request for reconsideration. If the Appeal
 24 Panel....
 25

26 1.10.8.4 If an appeal is granted, the Secretary of the 2.14.9 Within ~~30~~21 days after the receipt of the
 27 Synod, or his representative, shall, within 21 days, decision of the Appeal Panel..., a Final Hearing
 28 select a Review Panel.... Panel shall be selected.

30 and be it further

32 *Resolved*, That, because unforeseen circumstances can make adherence to time allowances in the above
 33 processes impossible at times, the following paragraphs in the definitions bylaws governing the dispute resolution
 34 and suspension/expulsion processes be added to allow exceptions when necessary:

36 1.10.4...(p) Shall: Retains its compulsory meaning 2.14.2...(s) Shall: Retains its compulsory meaning
 37 in this bylaw section. Its use, however, in connection in this bylaw section. Its use, however, in connection
 38 with time frame expectations may require exceptions with time frame expectations may require exceptions
 39 at times upon good cause shown due allowed by the at times upon good cause shown to be
 40 administrator of the process. allowed by the administrator of the process.
 41 (pq) ... (st) ...
 42

43 and be it further

45 *Resolved*, That, to provide incentive for adhering to the time frames embedded in these bylaws, the following
 46 new definition paragraphs be added to Bylaws 1.10.4 and 2.14.2:

48 1.10.4...(r) Time Frame: Period of time allowed 2.14.2...(w) Time Frame: Period of time allowed
 49 for carrying out a bylaw requirement, to be for carrying out a bylaw requirement, to be monitored
 50 monitored by the administrator of the process, by the administrator of the process, incidents of
 51 incidents of purposeful non-compliance to purposeful non-compliance to be reported to the
 52 be reported to the President of the Synod. President of the Synod.
 53

54 and be it finally

56 *Resolved*, That Bylaw 1.5.3.2 be amended and a new Bylaw 3.9.5.2.3 be added to authorize the executive

1 committee of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) to function on behalf of the commission
2 and respond to dispute resolution and suspension/expulsion process requests for opinions:
3

4 1.5.3.2 All mission boards, commissions, and governing boards may make use of executive committees to act in
5 times of emergency between plenary meetings, and to act on delegated assignments, and to act as
6 specified elsewhere in these Bylaws.
7

8 3.9.5.2.3 The executive committee of the commission shall, within 30 days, provide opinions on theological matters
9 in response to questions presented by ecclesiastical supervisors or panels as described in the dispute
10 resolution and suspension/expulsion processes of the Synod (Bylaw sections 1.10 and 2.14–2.17).
11 Because these opinions are in response to a specific situation, they shall carry no precedential authority
12 beyond that particular matter.
13
14
15
16

17 To Clarify Definition of Dissent

18 RESOLUTION 12-07A

19 R65 (CW, pp. 306–307)
20
21

22 Rationale

23
24
25 “The Lutheran Church has always affirmed the right and responsibility of expressing dissent from teachings and
26 practices believed to be at odds with God’s Word” (Commission on Theology and Church Relations on p. 6 of its
27 2006 report, “CTCR Response to Expressions of Dissent [2004–2006]”). Accordingly, the Synod has established an
28 agreed-upon procedure for dissent which respects both the dissenter and the Synod.
29 When, then, a member of the Synod in such forums as “blogs, Facebook pages, and email pages publicly teaches
30 and advocates that a doctrinal position of the Synod as stated in a resolution of the Synod is in error and does not use
31 the Synod’s dissent procedures, he/she/it may no longer be honoring and upholding the Constitution, Bylaws, and
32 resolutions of the Synod and could thereby be subject to a charge of false doctrine” (CCM Opinion 13-2665).
33 Given the development and expanded use of such electronic media by members of the Synod, often to call into
34 question matters of doctrine and practice, at times attempting to excuse such conduct as conversation “within the
35 fellowship of peers” (Bylaw 1.8.2), the Synod will do well to expand its bylaw section on dissent with the following
36 changes developed upon consideration of the opinion by the Commission on Constitutional Matters in its August
37 2013 meeting (Opinion 13-2665).
38

39 Therefore be it

40
41 *Resolved*, That Bylaw section 1.8 “Dissent” be expanded to address current concerns by adding additional
42 wording:
43

44 PROPOSED WORDING

45 1.8 Dissent

46
47
48 1.8.1 While retaining the right of brotherly dissent, members of the Synod are expected as part of the life
49 together within the fellowship of the Synod to honor and uphold the resolutions of the Synod.
50

51 1.8.2 Dissent from the doctrinal position of the Synod as expressed in its resolutions and doctrinal statements is
52 to be expressed first within the fellowship of peers (that is, with those who are competent to evaluate the
53 issue critically) and then brought to the attention of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations
54 before finding expression as an overture to the Synod in convention calling for revision or rescision. The
55 discussion among the fellowship of peers is to be conducted privately and confidentially among those who
56 are competent rather than a public forum. While the conscience of the dissenter shall be respected, the

consciences of others, as well as the collective will of the Synod, shall also be respected.

1.8.3. This right of brotherly dissent does not allow a member of the Synod publicly to teach or practice contrary to the established doctrinal position of the Synod. Any such public teaching shall place in jeopardy membership in the Synod.

To Respectfully Decline Overtures

RESOLUTION 12-10A

WHEREAS, The floor committee has considered all overtures assigned to it and has concluded, for various reasons, that certain overtures should be declined; therefore be it

Resolved, That the following overtures be respectfully declined for the reasons given:

<u>Number</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Reason</u>
12-14	To Assist and Encourage Resolution of Disputes Where Facts are Unclear and Evidence is Possessed by Synod	Request unclear
12-28	To Create a Commission on Doctrinal Fidelity	Already have Commission on Theology and Church Relations
12-33	To Require District Presidents to Provide Church Worker Information When Requested	Redundant with current processes
12-34	To Improve Transparency of Council of Presidents Procedures and Meetings	Material Error
12-35	To Permit Access by Rostered Workers to Own Personnel Records	Redundant with current processes
12-36	To Prioritize District Presidents Work to Within Their Districts	Violates Bylaws

13. Routes to Ministry

To Extol and Equip the Blessed Partnership Between the Royal Priesthood and the Office of the Public Ministry

RESOLUTION 13-01A

Overtures 13-22, 13-28 (CW, pp. 452, 455)

WHEREAS, The apostle Peter affirms the royal priesthood, that all are called to “proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness” (1 Peter 2:9); and

WHEREAS, There exists a blessed partnership in the ministry of the Gospel between the royal priesthood and

1 those called to the Office of the Public Ministry; and

2
3 WHEREAS, The Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope quotes from the words of Jesus in Matt. 18:19–
4 20, where He says, “If two of you agree on earth,” to affirm that Jesus “grants the power of the keys principally and
5 without mediation to the church”; and

6
7 WHEREAS, Martin Luther wrote:

8
9 We have been born of this bridegroom and bride through holy baptism and thus have become true clerics in
10 Christendom in a hereditary manner, sanctified by his blood and consecrated by his Holy Spirit, as St. Peter
11 calls us in 1 Peter 2:9: “But you are... a royal priesthood” for offering spiritual sacrifices. St. Paul also
12 extols us as priests in the Epistle to the Romans, chapter 12:1, for he calls upon us “to present your bodies
13 as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God....” Now to make sacrifices to God is solely the office of
14 the priests, as the pope himself and all the world must admit. Moreover, we are not only his children, but
15 also his brothers, as he says in [Ps. 22:22], “I will tell of thy name to my brethren,” and in the Gospel of
16 Matthew: “Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother, and my sister, and my mother”
17 Matt. 12:50. So we are not only true clerics and priests according to our right as children but also according
18 to our right as brothers. This, our hereditary priesthood with which we are born, we do not want to have
19 taken away, impeded and obscured; rather, we want to have it brought out into the open, proclaimed and
20 extolled with all its honors in order that it should beam and shine like the precious sun and blind the eyes of
21 the devil and his hypocrisies and abominations,.... (AE 38:187–188).

22
23 and also

24
25 If they were forced to grant that all of us that have been baptized are equally priests, as indeed we are, and
26 that only the ministry was committed to them, yet with our common consent, they would then know that
27 they have no right to rule over us except insofar as we freely concede it. For thus it is written in 1 Peter 2:9,
28 “You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, and a priestly royalty.” Therefore we are all priests, as many of
29 us as are Christians. But the priests, as we call them, are ministers chosen from among us. All that they do
30 is done in our name; the priesthood is nothing but a ministry.” (AE 44:127)

31
32 and

33
34 WHEREAS, The holy ministry, or the pastoral office, is an office distinct from the priestly office, which belongs
35 to all believers; and

36
37 WHEREAS, God has blessed the Church with a talented laity, whom He has blessed with spiritual gifts; therefore
38 be it

39
40 *Resolved*, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod give thanks for district, university, and college based
41 lay training programs and the many willing lay servants who have sought to further their theological education and
42 desire to serve in the work and mission of the Lord’s Church; and be it further

43
44 *Resolved*, That such lay training programs continue their work and include a major emphasis on evangelism
45 and the task of outreach, as well as mercy, education, visitation, and so forth in our increasingly diverse and
46 challenging cultural context; and be it further

47
48 *Resolved*, That congregations and districts be encouraged to identify individuals for special training in and
49 attention to evangelism and outreach; and be it further

50
51 *Resolved*, That congregations and districts be encouraged to facilitate lay training on both local and district
52 levels and to establish new opportunities for lay people to make use of their gifts in evangelism and service to the
53 church; and be it further

54
55 *Resolved*, That districts be encouraged to provide assistance and support for lay training; and be it finally

1 *Resolved*, That the President of the Synod convene a task force including lay leaders, representatives from
 2 districts both with and without licensed lay deacons, and representatives from the Council of Presidents, both
 3 seminaries, and the Commission on Theology and Church Relations to consider how best to facilitate an ongoing
 4 conversation and communication among laity, districts, and the Synod in order to foster the blessed complementary
 5 relationship between the royal priesthood and the Office of the Public Ministry, and also to consider

- 6 (1) the royal priesthood and the office of the public ministry in the New Testament (in light of the many offices
 7 that are mentioned, e.g., deacon, elder, overseer);
- 8 (2) the challenges of an increasingly multicultural America and a country that has become the third largest
 9 mission field in the world; and
- 10 (3) the growing number of congregations and ministries that cannot provide financial support for a pastor.

11
 12 *[The estimated cost to implement this proposed resolution appears in the Report*
 13 *of the Finance Floor Committee – found in Sunday’s issue of Today’s Business.]*
 14

**To Regularize Status of Licensed Lay Deacons
 Involved in Word and Sacrament Ministry**

RESOLUTION 13-02A

25 Overtures 13-01–47, 49–50 (CW, pp. 437–464)

27 WHEREAS, The Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions teach that our Lord gave the keys of the kingdom to
 28 His whole church, the royal priesthood of believers (Matt. 16:15–19; Matt. 18:18–20; 1 Peter 2:9; Augsburg
 29 Confession [AC] Article XXVIII, paragraph 10; Smalcald Articles [SA], Section III, paragraph 7; Treatise [Tr]
 30 paragraph 11; see also Walther’s *Church and Ministry/Office*); and

32 WHEREAS, The Scriptures and Confessions also teach that Christ established an office that is distinct from the
 33 priesthood of believers (the office of the public ministry) for teaching and nurturing His royal priests by means of
 34 preaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments (1 Cor. 12:29; Rom. 10:15; James 3:1; AC XIV; see also
 35 Walther’s *Church and Ministry/Office*); and

37 WHEREAS, The royal priesthood and the office of the public ministry are to have a complementary and not a
 38 competitive or conflicted relationship; and

40 WHEREAS, In its history the Lutheran church has always maintained the divine requirement (*de jure divino*) of
 41 the office of public ministry, while it has in many and various ways prepared men for the Office of the Public
 42 Ministry, since the manner of preparation for the office is by human arrangement (*de jure humano*); and

44 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church has always ensured, on the basis of Scripture: (1) that men who are to serve in
 45 the office of public ministry be examined as to their doctrine and life; (2) that the congregations they serve willingly
 46 call them into service; and (3) that the wider church (other churches in fellowship with the congregation) also
 47 affirms them as fellow ministers of the Word and Sacraments (see Acts 1:15–26; Acts 14:23; 1 Tim. 3:1–7; Titus 1
 48 5; see also Tr 24, 26, 67–70); and

50 WHEREAS, The rite of ordination, although not a divine institution (*Church and Ministry*, Ministry Thesis VI), is
 51 the apostolic custom by which Lutherans have designated and publicly acknowledged a man as a minister of Word
 52 and Sacrament, that is, as one who is in the Office of the Public Ministry and recognized by the wider fellowship as
 53 a fellow minister (Ap XIII 11–13); and

55 WHEREAS, In faithfulness to the Word of God and to its confession requiring a regular call for those who preach

1 and administer the sacraments publicly in the church (AC XIV; Ap XIV), The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
2 has followed the practice of identifying those who are eligible to be called into the Office of the Public Ministry by
3 the certification of one of the seminary faculties or the Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry; and
4

5 WHEREAS, In a human institution such as the LCMS, such human arrangements are necessary in order to foster
6 harmony and prevent needless confusion and division; and
7

8 WHEREAS, The LCMS has long-recognized that challenging circumstances may make it difficult or impossible
9 to provide a pastor for congregations and ministries, for example: (1) financial challenges (numerous congregations
10 and missions are unable to support a pastor financially); (2) geographical challenges (small, isolated congregations
11 in remote areas often face financial challenges and may have no pastors in geographic proximity to them); (3)
12 demographic challenges (urban, minority, non-English-speaking, and ethnically diverse congregations and missions
13 may find no rostered candidates available to fill their pastoral needs); and
14

15 WHEREAS, The practice of licensing lay deacons for temporary service in certain difficult circumstances, like
16 the afore-mentioned examples, was approved by the LCMS in 1989 Res. 3-05B as a means to address the need for
17 regular preaching of the Word and administration of the Sacraments by utilizing trained and supervised laymen to
18 serve “temporarily” in Word and Sacrament ministry when “no pastor [is] available,” “in exceptional circumstances
19 or in emergencies” (1989 Res. 3-05B, Nomenclature, Guidelines 1 b); and
20

21 WHEREAS, There has been significant dissension in the LCMS over the Synod-approved practice of licensing
22 laymen to preach and administer the Sacraments while under the supervision of an ordained pastor, but the Synod
23 needs to move forward together with deep concern for fidelity to the word of Christ as we confess it together and for
24 faithfulness in the mission that Christ has given to His Church; and
25

26 WHEREAS, 1989 Res. 3-05B repeatedly references temporary service for deacons when no pastor is available in
27 emergencies and exceptional circumstances, but in some cases deacons have served for years regularly preaching
28 and administering the Sacraments; and
29

30 WHEREAS, The presence of continuing dissension about licensed lay deacons is an aspect of further
31 disagreement about elements of doctrine and practice, e.g., the understanding of the pastoral office, the relationship
32 between the Office of the Public Ministry and the royal priesthood, the understanding of call and ordination, and
33 faithful and effective ways to share the Gospel and plant churches in our post-Christian world; and
34

35 WHEREAS, The Specific Ministry Pastors (SMP) Program was established by the LCMS convention (2007 Res.
36 5-01B) in response to the need for effective theological education and practical training to prepare pastors to serve in
37 particularly challenging settings and situations that prevent them from enrolling in residential theological education;
38 and
39

40 WHEREAS, The Synod recognizes a need for flexibility in its approach to preparing men to serve in the Office of
41 the Public Ministry while upholding the biblical requirement that they be men who are “above reproach” and “able
42 to teach,” and so offers approved training programs to prepare pastors for urban and cross-cultural service, namely,
43 the Center for Hispanic Studies, the Cross-Cultural Ministry Center, the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology
44 (EIIT), all at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and the Spanish-speaking SMP track at Concordia Theological
45 Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW); and
46

47 WHEREAS, There is a need within the LCMS to regularize the status of licensed lay deacons who are engaged in
48 Word and Sacrament ministry; and
49

50 WHEREAS, The Synod directed the President to appoint a task force to address questions 2 about the practice of
51 licensing lay deacons, and the task force, as required, reported a recommended plan to address questions (see
52 *Convention Workbook*, pp.234–255) and the theological framework of the report has been affirmed by both
53 seminary faculties and the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR); and
54

55 WHEREAS, The Synod has budgeted \$40,000 for the remainder of the current fiscal year and is committed to
56 budgeting at least \$150,000 per year for the next two years to assist deacons entering the SMP and EIIT programs;

1 therefore be it

2
3 *Resolved*, That the LCMS recognize that “emergency knows no rule” and that no Synod action can or should
4 prevent a congregation from taking reasonable and scripturally faithful steps necessary to provide for the Word to be
5 proclaimed in time of emergency, while at the same time, every congregation of the Synod is required to address
6 matters involving the Office of the Public Ministry in a way that is consistent with its subscription to Scripture and
7 the Confessions, as well as its agreement to abide by the Synod’s Constitution; and be it further

8
9 *Resolved*, That the LCMS affirm and give thanks for the men who have recognized the needs of the church and
10 its mission, serving as licensed lay deacons, preaching and administering the Sacraments in keeping with 1989 Res.
11 3-05B, often without remuneration and at personal cost, lest congregations be deprived of the means of grace; and
12 be it further

13
14 *Resolved*, That the LCMS, while mindful of the need for continued conversation within the church, affirm the
15 theological framework of the “2013 Resolution 4-06A Task Force Report,” namely, that a right calling to the office
16 of public ministry requires that a man be properly prepared and examined regarding doctrine and life, be called by
17 the congregation (or ministry) where he is to serve, and publicly appointed in a way so that the entire church
18 fellowship recognizes the validity of his service (Acts 13:1–3; 14:21–23; 2 Tim. 2:24–26; Titus 1:5); and be it
19 further

20
21 *Resolved*, That the Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry establish and implement an expanded regional
22 colloquy program (with appropriate regional colloquy committees) to regularize the status of current licensed lay
23 deacons (LLDs) who are 50 years of age or older and who have been preaching the Gospel and/or administering the
24 Sacraments publicly on behalf of the church for the past 2 years (*de facto* pastors), so that these servants of Christ
25 can be called and ordained according to the order of the LCMS and be rostered as pastors with SMP status; and be it
26 further

27
28 *Resolved*, That exceptions to the SMP colloquy requirements with respect to age and years of service for LLDs
29 may be granted by the appropriate regional colloquy committee with the approval of the respective district president
30 and the plenary of the Council of Presidents; and be it further

31
32 *Resolved*, That nothing in this resolution shall be construed as impeding the training, recognition, credentialing
33 or service of deacons who do not publicly preach or administer the sacraments, namely, those who serve in
34 ministries of mercy, education, or visitation, and so forth, or in an outreach role, assisting in evangelism and church
35 planting (but not in public preaching and administration of the sacraments); and be it further

36
37 *Resolved*, That district presidents may continue to recruit, train, and credential new deacons for general varieties
38 of service in the church that do not include public preaching and administration of the sacraments; and be it further

39
40 *Resolved*, That until January 1, 2018, district presidents may train and annually license lay deacons to preach
41 publicly and to administer the Sacraments. Beyond that date in exceptional cases, as defined in (1) and (2) below,
42 the appropriate district president may annually grant licensure with the consent of the plenary of the Council of
43 Presidents and the Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry.

- 44
45 (1) the deacon serves under the direct supervision of an ordained pastor and is currently enrolled in or
46 preparing for one of the LCMS training tracks for the office of public ministry and participates in the
47 public ministry as an aspect of his training, e.g., in preparation for SMP, EIIT, etc.); or
48
49 (2) the deacon serves in distinctive aspects of the office of public ministry (that is, preaching or
50 administration of the sacraments) only during times of emergency or extraordinary need (when there is
51 no ordained pastor available or able to serve), only on a temporary or occasional basis, and under the
52 direct supervision of an ordained pastor; and be it further

53
54 *Resolved*, That those deacons currently licensed for and serving in Word and Sacrament Ministry (that is,
55 publicly preaching and administering the sacraments) shall have until July 1, 2018, to:

- 56 (1) apply to one of our seminaries for admission into an alternate route program,

- 1 (2) apply for entrance into an SMP program, or
2 (3) apply to the regional colloquy committee for admission to the SMP roster, unless granted a waiver by
3 his district president, the plenary of the Council of Presidents, and the appropriate regional colloquy
4 committee, and be it further
5

6 *Resolved*, That the district president, the plenary of the Council of Presidents and the regional colloquy
7 committees, in making decisions related to the three resolves above, shall do so in a fashion that no congregation or
8 current ministry will be forced to close or discontinue; and be it further
9

10 *Resolved*, That lay deacons licensed for Word and Sacrament Ministry who have applied for colloquy to the
11 SMP roster prior to July 1, 2018, shall continue to serve under their current district licensure until the colloquy
12 process is complete and certification is given by the Colloquy Committee; and be it further
13

14 *Resolved*, That upon the certification of the Colloquy Committee, the licensed lay deacons will be eligible to be
15 called by the congregations where they have been serving, ordained into the Office of the Public Ministry, and
16 placed on the roster of SMP pastors; and be it further
17

18 *Resolved*, That as recommended by the Res. 4-06A Task Force, the LCMS, in partnership with districts,
19 congregations, and individuals, provide funding to ensure that financial constraints will not prevent any eligible
20 licensed lay deacon from participating in an LCMS seminary ordination-track program; and be it further
21

22 *Resolved*, That the First Vice-President of the Synod and three members of the Council of Presidents appointed
23 by the Council be directed to draft by June 1, 2017, necessary policies and procedures for the implementation of this
24 resolution, such policies and procedures to be finalized and approved by the Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral
25 Ministry; and be it finally
26

27 *Resolved*, That the LCMS thank and commend the Res. 4-06A Task Force for its work on the question of
28 licensed lay deacons.
29

30 *[The estimated cost to implement this proposed resolution appears in the Report*
31 *of the Finance Floor Committee – found in Sunday’s issue of Today’s Business.]*
32

33
34
35
36 **To Clarify Colloquy Requirements**

37
38 **RESOLUTION 13-04A**

39
40 Report R64 (CW, pp. 268–289)

41
42 WHEREAS, The 2013 Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) adopted Resolution 5-
43 14A, which reads, simply:
44

45 WHEREAS, The Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Task Force Report notes that there are eight routes to ordained
46 ministry; and
47

48 WHEREAS, The SMP Task Force Report recommends for the sake of clarity and simplicity that a study of the
49 non-Master of Divinity routes to the Pastoral Office take place; therefore be it
50

51 *Resolved*, That the Synod President appoint a task force (chaired by the Executive Director for Pastoral
52 Education) to conduct a study of the non-Master of Divinity routes to the Pastoral Office, and that it report its
53 findings and the recommendations regarding the appropriateness of each route, the optimal number of such routes,
54 etc., to the Synod President by the end of 2015 for action at the 2016 Synod convention. and be it further
55

1 “Wherever there are heathen—or a country or a city—there the Gospel will penetrate and will convert some to the
2 kingdom of Christ. Regardless of whether all people believe it, still Christ rules wherever there are people; He
3 preserves His Word, His Baptism and Sacrament, despite all devils and men. For the Gospel must come to the whole
4 world...” (*American Edition* 14:12-13); and
5

6 WHEREAS, Three church bodies—The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran
7 Synod, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—collaborated with the help of funds from Thrivent
8 Financial to fund the production of a two-hour documentary on Luther for Public Broadcasting Service to be shown
9 the Fall 2017 and by distribution through DVDs; and
10

11 WHEREAS, The Luther documentary clearly confesses the “first and chief article...(that) ‘All have sinned,’ and
12 ‘they are now justified without merit by his grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...by his blood’
13 (Rom. 3[23-25]) (Smalcald Articles, II, par. 1); therefore be it
14

15 *Resolved*, That the congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Church take this unique opportunity to
16 publicize the ongoing significance of the Reformation by not only showing the Luther documentary for themselves
17 but to publicize to their communities so that many might hear the proclamation of salvation by grace through faith in
18 Jesus Christ alone for the consolation of consciences when and where it pleases God in those who hear the gospel.
19
20
21
22

23 **To Honor 500th Anniversary of the Reformation by Growing in the Word and Showing Christ to** 24 **the World**

25 **RESOLUTION 15-04A**

26
27
28 Report R1 (*CW*, pp. 5, 8-9); President’s Report, Part 2 (*TB*, pp. 21–31)
29

30 WHEREAS, In the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in 2017 we are celebrating the triumph of the Gospel,
31 not of Martin Luther or any other individual or church body, and that the Lutheran Reformation is “*still* all about
32 Jesus”; and
33

34 WHEREAS, The source of renewal and reformation is always in the Word, as the Lord Jesus says, “If you abide
35 in My word . . . you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:31-32); and
36

37 WHEREAS, Luther’s Gospel discovery was because of his personal immersion in the Word; and
38

39 WHEREAS, As we celebrate the blessings of the Reformation...not something that is ours alone, but is for others
40 as well, as Dr. Francis Pieper said in his address to the Synod in 1908: “We must not forget: God is present with His
41 grace only among the humble. He who would be something in the Church only apparently accomplishes something.
42 And finally God casts him aside. God’s power has the unique property that it is only powerful in the weak. Let us be
43 so minded by God’s grace that we are nothing, and that God’s grace and God’s Word are everything. God grant that
44 we never advocate for something that is ours, but only and always for God’s Word!”; and
45

46 WHEREAS, That witness could take such forms as witnessing in our various vocations and supporting ministries
47 of witness and mercy in our congregations, circuits, Districts, and Synod; therefore be it
48

49 *Resolved*, That the members of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) to commit to grow in faith
50 themselves, personally and corporately, by reading through the entire Scriptures in 2017; and be it further
51

52 *Resolved*, That as we grow in the Word ourselves we would entreat the Lord to make us humble and faithful
53 witnesses to the power of Christ’s forgiveness and mercy in a world that badly needs it.
54
55

1 **16. Family, Youths, and Young Adults**

2 **To Make Strengthening Lutheran Families a Mission Priority**

3 **RESOLUTION 16-02A**

4
5
6
7 Overture 16-01 (CW, p.476); President’s Report, Part 2 (TB, pp. 21–31)

8
9 WHEREAS, The foundation of every human society is the family as created and sustained by God (Gen. 1:26–28;
10 12:13; Matt. 19:1–9); and

11
12 WHEREAS, The family as created and sustained by God is under constant attack from the devil, the world, and
13 the flesh; and

14
15 WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther’s emphasis and teaching on the household estate and the family vocations of
16 husband and wife, father, mother, and child was a key insight of the Reformation; and

17
18 WHEREAS, The unmarried and widowed also constitute an essential and God-pleasing part of the family (1 Cor.
19 7:8); and

20
21 WHEREAS, Two demographic reports commissioned by the Stewardship Ministry of the Office of National
22 Mission indicate that the biblical pattern of marriage, family, and child-rearing is negatively impacted by the secular
23 culture of today; and

24
25 WHEREAS, These same reports indicate a decline of the Lutheran family over the past four decades in terms of
26 accepting and nurturing God’s gift of life with joy and thanksgiving; and

27
28 WHEREAS, The family home is to be the place of forming Christian disciples; and

29
30 WHEREAS, The witness of our children, disciplined at home and in the church, is key to reaching those outside the
31 faith; and

32
33 WHEREAS, Children are a blessing according to the Word of God, and serve as the future of the Church; and

34
35 WHEREAS, The Office of National Mission has begun a *Lutheran Family Initiative* among its various
36 programmatic ministries to begin looking at ways to strengthen the Lutheran family; and

37
38 WHEREAS, The LCMS currently has six mission priorities, to wit:

- 39 1. Plant, sustain, and revitalize distinctly Lutheran churches.
40 2. Support and expand theological education.
41 3. Perform human care in close proximity to Word and Sacrament ministry.
42 4. Collaborate with the Synod’s members and partners to enhance mission effectiveness.
43 5. Nurture pastors, missionaries, and professional church workers to promote spiritual, emotional, and
44 physical well-being.
45 6. Enhance early childhood, elementary, and secondary education and youth ministry.

46
47 therefore be it

48
49 *Resolved*, That the convention commend the work of the Office of National Mission’s *Lutheran Family*
50 *Initiative*; and be it further

51
52 *Resolved*, That the 2016 LCMS Convention amend the mission priorities to include “Strengthen and support the
53 Lutheran family in living out God’s design.”

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NEW RESOLUTIONS

1. National Witness

To Encourage and Support Hispanic Ministry Initiatives

RESOLUTION 1-07

WHEREAS, The Hispanic population in the United States has experienced an explosive increase in the last two decades growing to 50.4 million; and

WHEREAS, The largest growing sub-segments of the Hispanic community is 2nd and 3rd generation; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS Office of National Mission (ONM) has, in the last triennium, partnered with LCMS districts to plant new Hispanic outreach ministries; and

WHEREAS, Other programmatic, educational, and fellowship opportunities to promote and support Hispanic Ministry are being provided by the National Lutheran Hispanic Convention; and

WHEREAS, Concordia Publishing House has produced the Spanish-language version of *The Lutheran Study Bible (La Biblia de la Reforma)*, and a wide variety of additional, helpful Spanish-language resources; and

WHEREAS, The challenges of Hispanic ministry, whose souls constitute the largest ethnic population in North America, far outweighs people and financial resources; and

WHEREAS, A previous LCMS Convention received and supported the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Task Force for Hispanic Ministry which included providing leadership, assessment and resourcing for LCMS Hispanic Ministry; therefore be it

Resolved, That the 66th Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, joyously give all glory to God and resounding thanks for LCMS Hispanic Ministry, who with limited resources and budgets, work tirelessly to share the saving gospel of Jesus Christ with the growing number of Hispanics who now reside in the immediate neighborhoods and communities of our LCMS congregations; and be it further

Resolved, That ONM provide a renewed emphasis for ongoing and new Hispanic ministry work by resourcing ongoing efforts of LCMS districts and local congregations and providing appropriate financial resources to fund the effort; and be it finally

Resolved, That all LCMS districts and congregations continue to evaluate and make opportunity to reach out to Hispanic populations, whether in Spanish or in English.

11. Structure and Administration

**To Establish Representation at Synod Conventions
for the Boards for National and International Mission**

RESOLUTION 11-17

Overtures 11-25, 11-28 (CW, pp. 394, 396)

WHEREAS, Bylaw 3.1.4.1 (a) states, “Each board or commission shall be represented [at Synod conventions] by its chairman or another board or commission member and by its principal staff person”; and

1
2 WHEREAS, Bylaw 3.8.2.4 states, “In carrying out its mission responsibilities, the Office of National Mission
3 shall receive its primary focus from the mission and ministry emphases developed triennially by the national Synod
4 in convention and from the policies developed and determined by the Board for National Mission”; and
5

6 WHEREAS, Bylaw 3.8.3.4 states, “In carrying out its mission responsibilities, the Office of International Mission
7 shall receive its primary focus from the mission and ministry emphases developed triennially by the national Synod
8 in convention and from the policies developed and determined by the Board for International Mission”; and
9

10 WHEREAS, Bylaw 3.4.3.1 states, “The Chief Mission Officer (CMO) shall provide staff and other resource(s) to
11 the Board for National Mission and the Board for International Mission”; and
12

13 WHEREAS, Bylaw 3.8.2.3 states, “The Office of National Mission implements the policies of the Board for
14 National Mission under the supervision of the CMO and shall be responsible for domestic ministries that especially
15 serve congregations and schools through the districts of the Synod” and Bylaw 3.8.3.3 states, “The Office of
16 International Mission implements the policies of the Board for International Mission under the supervision of the
17 CMO and shall be responsible for the work of the Synod in foreign countries”; and
18

19 WHEREAS, The executive directors of the mission offices are directly accountable to the CMO and the President
20 for implementing Synod programs that align with the policies of the mission boards; and
21

22 WHEREAS, Both the President and the Boards for National and International Mission recognize the important
23 role played by both the CMO and the executive directors of the Offices of National and International Mission at the
24 Synod conventions and floor committee meetings and have recommended that the Bylaws be revised to enable the
25 executive directors of the Offices of National and International Mission to serve as advisory representative at Synod
26 conventions; and
27

28 WHEREAS, The Boards for National and International Mission have previously made use of Bylaw 3.1.4.1 (c)
29 (“Other exceptions must have the approval of the Board of Directors of the Synod prior to each convention”) to
30 request that the executive directors of the Offices of National and International Mission be designated as an advisory
31 representative of the Board for International Mission to the 2013 and 2016 Synod conventions; and
32

33 WHEREAS, The Board of Directors of the Synod has responded to the aforementioned requests and approved the
34 granting of exceptions allowing the Boards for National and International Mission to designate the executive
35 directors of the Offices of National and International Mission as an advisory representatives of the respective boards
36 at the 2013 and 2016 Synod conventions, in accordance with 2013 Bylaw 3.1.4.1 (c); therefore be it
37

38 PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING
39

40 *Resolved*, That the Synod in convention adopt the following changes to Bylaw 3.1.4.1
41

42 3.1.4.1 Each elected and appointed board and commission of the Synod shall be represented at conventions of the
43 Synod.

44 (a) Each board or commission shall be represented by its chairman or another board or commission
45 member and by its principal staff person. The boards for National and International Mission shall also be
46 represented by the executive director of the Office of National and International Mission, respectively.

47 (b) Standing exceptions shall be the Board of Directors, the Commission on Constitutional Matters, the
48 Commission on Handbook, and the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, who may be
49 represented by as many of their membership as they deem necessary.

50 (c) Other exceptions must have the approval of the Board of Directors of the Synod prior to each
51 convention.
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12. Ecclesiastical Supervision and Dispute Resolution

To Establish a Procedure Based of Article XI A 2 for Removal from Office of Officers of the Synod or a District (other than the Synod or a District President).

RESOLUTION 12-11

WHEREAS, In recent conventions the Synod has adopted procedures for the removal from office of members of boards and commissions, pursuant to Bylaw 1.5.7, and of Synod reconcilers; and

WHEREAS, For a variety of reasons an officer of the Synod or a district may be unable or unwilling to fulfill the duties of office; and

WHEREAS, There is no procedure in the current bylaws for removal from office of an officer of the Synod or a district; and

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the Synod Article XI A 2, states, “The Synod at all times has the right to call its officers to account and, if circumstances require it, to remove them from office in accordance with Christian procedure”; therefore be it

Resolved, That the following bylaw be adopted and placed into the *Handbook* of the Synod:

Removal of Officers of the Synod or District from Office

1.5.8 Officers of the Synod and a district shall discharge the duties of office in good faith. The following are considered cause for removal from office of an officer of the Synod or a district pursuant to this Bylaw, but not from membership in the Synod:

1. Incapacity
2. Breach of fiduciary responsibilities to the Synod or a district
3. Neglect or refusal to perform duties of office
4. Conviction of a felony

1.5.8.1 Unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws, the procedure for removal of an officer of the Synod or a district from office shall be as follows:

- (a) Action for removal of an officer of a district other than a district president shall require written notice to each member of that district’s board of directors at least 30 days prior to a special meeting of the board called for that purpose. A copy of such notice shall be sent to the President and the Secretary of the Synod and to the ecclesiastical supervisor, if applicable.
- (b) Other than in the prior subsection (a), action for removal of an officer of the Synod other than the President of the Synod shall require written notice to each member of the Synod’s Board of Directors at least 30 days prior to a special meeting of the Board called for that purpose. A copy of such notice shall be sent to the President and the Secretary of the Synod and to the ecclesiastical supervisor, if applicable.
- (c) The special meeting provided for herein shall be held no later than 60 days after the provision of the written notice, unless extended by the mutual agreement of the parties.
- (d) Removal from office of an officer of a district, other than a district president, shall be effected by a vote in favor of removal by at least three-fourths of all current members of the district board of directors (excluding the officer in question if a member of the board); and
- (e) Removal from office of an officer of the Synod, other than the Synod President shall be effected by a vote in favor of the recommendation of removal by at least three-fourths of all current members (excluding the officer in question if a member of the board) of the Board of Directors of the Synod.
- (f) Removal pursuant to this Bylaw may be appealed by the officer who has been removed from office through the use of the Synod’s dispute resolution process as provided in Bylaw section 1.10.

1
2 ****1.5.8.2** An individual removed as an officer pursuant hereto, who is not then automatically removed as a
3 director of the related board or commission, may be removed as such a director pursuant to Bylaw
4 1.5.7. Similarly, an individual removed as a director pursuant to Bylaw 1.5.7, who is not then
5 automatically removed as an officer of the Synod or the related district, may be removed as an officer
6 pursuant to this Bylaw 1.5.8.

7
8 ******[While suggested by legal counsel, this may *not* be necessary. Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) will
9 have final word.]

10
11 ****1.5.8.3** The procedures for removal of an officer pursuant to this Bylaw shall be followed to the extent
12 consistent with, and subject to, applicable law.

13
14 ******[If 1.5.8.2 is not necessary, then 1.5.8.3 will be renumbered to 1.5.8.2.]

15
16
17
18
19 **To Encourage Proper Pastoral Oversight in Administration of Lord’s Supper**
20 **Through Visitation of Ecclesiastical Supervisors**

21
22 **RESOLUTION 12-12**

23
24 CTCR Report (*CW*, pp. 178–180); Overture 12-37 (*CW*, pp. 429-430)

25
26 WHEREAS, The Synod has consistently encouraged its pastors and congregations to adhere to faithful
27 communion practices; and

28
29 WHEREAS, Pastors are called to be faithful in their stewardship of the mysteries of God (1 Cor. 4:1–2; 2 Tim.
30 4:3–4) and are in need of encouragement to carry out this important stewardship; and

31
32 WHEREAS, St. Paul admonishes the Corinthians against eating the Lord’s Supper with divisions among them (1
33 Cor. 11:17–18); and

34
35 WHEREAS, The Synod in convention has commended for study the 1999 report of the Commission on Theology
36 and Church Relations, “Admission to the Lord’s Supper”; and

37
38 WHEREAS, Concerns about communion practice still come before district and Synod conventions for resolution;
39 and

40
41 WHEREAS, The practice of inviting all baptized believers who merely affirm the real presence while neglecting
42 to address the necessity of unity of confession, is not consistent with the biblical and confessional position of the
43 synod; and

44
45 WHEREAS, The Synod *Handbook* directs the district president to “supervise the doctrine, the life, and the
46 official administration on the part of the ordained or commissioned ministers who are members of his district or are
47 subject to his ecclesiastical supervision” (Bylaw 4.4.5); and

48
49 WHEREAS, The Synod *Handbook* makes provision for official congregational visits by the respective district
50 president or his representative; and

51
52 WHEREAS, The Synod *Handbook* states that the district president is to “seek to bring about to the greatest
53 possible degree the achievement of the synod’s objectives as expressed in Article III of its Constitution” (Bylaw
54 4.4.4 [b]); and

55
56 WHEREAS, The Synod *Handbook* states that the district president “See to it that all resolutions of the Synod

1 which concern the districts are made known to the districts and are carried out by them.” (Article XII, 9 (a); along
2 with Bylaw 1.3.6); and
3

4 WHEREAS, The Synod *Handbook* states that “he shall conduct his official visits in an evangelical manner”
5 (Bylaw 4.4.4 [c]) and “come to the pastor and the congregation as a brotherly advisor” (Bylaw 4.4.4 [d]); therefore
6 be it
7

8 *Resolved*, That during this next triennium each district president (or his representative) be encouraged to address
9 the congregation’s administration of the Lord’s Supper in his official visitations, spending time in the Word of God,
10 discussing the Synod’s position on “close(d) communion”; and be it further
11

12 *Resolved*, That those practices which are not in harmony with the Scriptures and Lutheran Confessions be
13 addressed fraternally and evangelically with the goal of bringing about harmony and consistent practice especially as
14 that applies to the Lord’s Supper; and be it further
15

16 *Resolved*, That the President of the Synod be exhorted to see that the district presidents apply themselves
17 faithfully to this task in accord with his responsibility as detailed in the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS)
18 Constitution Article XI B, especially paragraphs 2, 3, and 4; and be it finally
19

20 *Resolved*, That in accord with LCMS Constitution XII 9 a and b, each district president shall report the progress
21 of this visitation regarding proper communion practices to the Synod President no less than 90 days before the 2019
22 LCMS Convention so that the Synod President can report regarding this visitation resolution at that convention.
23
24
25
26

27 **To Address Eighth Commandment Concerns via Dispute Resolution and** 28 **Suspension/Expulsion Processes**

29 **RESOLUTION 12-13**

30
31
32 Report R65 F (CW, p. 305–306)
33

34 **Rationale**

35
36 Martin Luther addresses the meaning of the Eighth Commandment very directly and clearly when he says
37 “We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his
38 reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.” This injunction is most
39 important in our time, when the Internet, emails, blogs, texting, Twitter, fast self-collating copy machines, faxes,
40 and otherwise helpful tools provide easy, readily available means for Eighth Commandment sin.

41 The church lives in this environment of Eighth Commandment sin, repentance, and reconciliation as she
42 carries out all of her work— even as she resolves disputes among members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri
43 Synod (LCMS). Because dispute resolution processes can be emotionally charged, and because members of the
44 Synod are sinners as well as saints, hurtful things are said and done. Whether by way of written or verbal statement,
45 or by photo, video, or other man-made image, communication reaches the point where people and reputations are
46 harmed and they suffer decreased respect and/or injury to their reputation and good name, clearly sinful defamation
47 has occurred. Defamation has absolutely no place among Christian people, the LCMS, or its dispute resolution
48 process. Even if statements might be true, if they do not build up God’s church and speak positively about others,
49 they are sinful.

50 When defamation arises among parties in dispute resolution, it begs admonition by ecclesiastical
51 supervisors, and if such admonition is futile, disciplinary action provided by the Synod’s bylaws. The responsibility
52 of ecclesiastical supervisors to undertake required action in cases of defamation is of paramount importance.

53 To bring the matter of defamation in the dispute resolution process to the attention of the Synod, and to
54 attempt to prevent it in the future, the Bylaws of the Synod must address it where appropriate. Hopefully these
55 proposed bylaw amendments will suggest a higher road for walking together in times of dispute and conflict.
56

1 Therefore be it

2
3 *Resolved*, That the following amendments to the Bylaw sections 1.10 dispute resolution and 2.14 expulsion
4 processes be adopted, the latter also to be applied to the section 2.15–2.17 processes as applicable.

5
6 PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

7
8 **1.10 Dispute Resolution of the Synod**

9
10 *Preamble*

11
12 1.10.1.4 Christian conflict resolution seeks to resolve dispute issues in a manner pleasing to God. Those in conflict
13 are urged to proceed prayerfully in good faith and trust. Disputes are more likely to be re- solved harmoniously if
14 those involved in the conflict recognize and treat one another as redeemed children of God, not defaming but
15 defending and speaking well of one another, seeking to explain and defend everything in the kindest way.

16
17 *Definition of Terms as Used in This Bylaw Section 1.10*

18
19 1.10.4 In order to communicate effectively and avoid misunderstanding regarding their use in this dispute
20 resolution process, it is critical that terms be fully defined:

21 (e) *Defame*: Telling lies about, betraying, or slandering another person, or sinfully harming that
22 person’s reputation, thereby causing decreased respect, loss of confidence in, and/or injuring his/her
23 good name.

24
25 *Informal Efforts toward Reconciliation; Consultation*

26
27 1.10.5 Before any matter is submitted to the formal reconciliation process, the parties involved in a dispute must
28 meet together, face- to-face, in a good-faith attempt to settle their dispute in the manner described in Matt 18:15 and
29 may involve the informal use of a reconciler In regard to this consultation:

30 (e) The reputation of all parties to a dispute is to be protected as commanded in the Eighth
31 Commandment. Failure to do so shall be regarded as a violation of the Synod’s standard for ethical
32 conduct that may be subject to this same dispute resolution process, a removal from office process, or
33 an expulsion process of the Synod (Bylaw section 1.10, Bylaws 1.5.7–1.5.8; Bylaw sections 2.14–
34 2.16). The goal throughout is always one of reconciliation, of repentance and forgiveness, even if the
35 following proceedings are carried out.

36
37 *Rules of Procedures*

38
39 1.10.18.1 The following rules of procedure shall be followed:

40 (i) Any member participating in this bylaw procedure or any other person knowledgeable of the
41 procedure and those involved in it who intentionally and materially violates any of the requirements in
42 this bylaw or is persistent in false accusations is subject to the disciplinary measures as set forth in the
43 appropriate Bylaw sections 2.14–2.17 or Bylaws 1.5.7–1.5.8. Any member of the Synod who has
44 personal factual knowledge of the violation shall inform the appropriate district president as the
45 ecclesiastical supervisor. Violations of the prohibitions against defamation of another person’s
46 character or reputation, or engaging in publicity while a matter is still undecided or while an appeal is
47 contemplated or pending (Bylaw 1.10.18.1 [d] above) by any person involved or knowledgeable of the
48 procedure are specifically included as a violation subject to the same disciplinary measures set forth in
49 the Bylaws.

50
51 **2.14 Expulsion of Congregations or Individuals from Membership in the Synod**

52
53 *Preamble*

54
55 2.14.1 Termination of membership in the Synod is a serious matter involving both the doctrine and life of those to
56 whom it has been granted. Such action should only be taken as a final step when it is clear that those who are being

1 terminated after previous futile admonition have acted contrary to the confession laid down in Constitution Art. II or
2 the conditions of membership laid down in Constitution Art. VI or have persisted in offensive conduct (Constitution
3 Art. XIII 1), including defamation of another person’s character or reputation....

4
5 **Definition of Terms**

6
7 2.14.2 The definitions of terms used in this bylaw are as follows:

8 (d) Defame: Telling lies about, betraying, or slandering another person, or sinfully harming that
9 person’s reputation, thereby causing decreased respect, loss of confidence in, and/or injuring his/her
10 good name.

11
12 **Consultation**

13
14 2.14.3 When a member congregation or individual member of the Synod is aware of information which could lead
15 to the expulsion of a member from the Synod under Article XIII of the Constitution, prior to any formal written
16 complaint or accusation, the member shall consult with his/her respective district president....

17 (c) If Bylaw section 2.14 applies, the district president shall ensure that the accuser has met face-to-
18 face with the accused in the manner described in Matthew 18:15. Even if the alleged violation of
19 Article XIII of the Constitution is considered to be “public,” this provision of Matt. 18:15 shall be
20 followed. The reputation of all parties is to be protected as commanded in the Eighth Commandment.
21 Failure to do so shall be subject to the Bylaw section 1.10 dispute resolution process, or the expulsion
22 processes of the Synod (Bylaw sections 2.14–2.16).

23
24 **General Regulations**

25
26 2.14.10.2 Any member participating in this bylaw procedure that violates any of the requirements or procedures in
27 this bylaw or is persistent in false accusations is subject to the same disciplinary measures as set forth in this bylaw.
28 Violations of the prohibitions against defamation of another person’s character or reputation, or engaging in
29 publicity while a matter is still undecided or while an appeal is contemplated or pending (Bylaw 2.14.7.8 [g]) by any
30 of the persons involved or knowledgeable of the procedure are specifically included as violations subject to the same
31 disciplinary measures set forth in this bylaw.

32
33
34
35 **15. Reformation**

36
37 **To Encourage Study of Augsburg Confession in Commemoration of 500th Anniversary of the**
38 **Reformation**

39
40 **RESOLUTION 15-06**

41
42 Overture 15-01 (*TB*, p. 186)

43
44 WHEREAS, October 31, 2017 will commemorate the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther posting the Ninety-Five
45 Theses on the castle church door in Wittenberg; and

46
47 WHEREAS, It was not Luther’s intent to create a new church but to debate questions that arose from the selling
48 of indulgences and the theology supporting it; and

49
50 WHEREAS, The posting of the theses set off debates within Western Christianity over many biblical doctrines,
51 such as justification, the sacraments, the church and her authority, among others; and

52
53 WHEREAS, The teachings of Luther were outlawed by the Holy Roman Empire in the May 1521 Edict of
54 Worms; and

1 WHEREAS, Repeated efforts to enforce the Edict of Worms in the following decade were suspended, allowing
2 early Lutherans to reform congregations, teach theology, publish their writings, and correct misconceptions about
3 their thought, while many came to embrace their teachings; and
4

5 WHEREAS, At the behest of the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, the Augsburg Confession was presented to
6 the emperor as a clear articulation of the teachings of the Wittenberg reformers, composed by Philipp Melancthon
7 and approved by Luther himself; and
8

9 WHEREAS, The Augsburg Confession unequivocally affirmed many doctrines that are fundamental to orthodox
10 Christianity and rejected others as contrary to the Scriptures; and
11

12 WHEREAS, In an age of religious pluralism and moral relativism, knowledge of Lutheran teachings as contained
13 in the Augsburg Confession and the biblical and historical basis for those teachings has waned or has been deemed
14 irrelevant to contemporary religious concern within the broader culture; and
15

16 WHEREAS, The issues addressed by the Augsburg Confession are as important today as they were then;
17 therefore be it
18

19 *Resolved*, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention recognize the 500th anniversary of the
20 Reformation by encouraging the study of the Augsburg Confession individually and corporately, formally and
21 informally, among clergy and laity alike; and be it further
22

23 *Resolved*, That these efforts take place especially during the next decade between the 500th anniversaries of the
24 posting of the Ninety-Five Theses (1517) and the presentation of the Augsburg Confession (1530).
25
26
27
28

16. Family, Youths, and Young Adults

**To Encourage CTCR and Scouting Task Force
to Move Quickly in Providing Guidance Concerning Scouting**

RESOLUTION 16-06

36 Overture 16-03, (*CW*, pp. 476–477); Overture L16-05 (*TB*, pp. 35–36)
37

38 WHEREAS, Many congregations of the LCMS desire to continue providing scout-like organizations for both
39 boys and girls; and
40

41 WHEREAS, A Scouting Task Force has been appointed under the Office of the President of the LCMS working
42 to provide guidance to congregations and families regarding involvement with such organizations; and
43

44 WHEREAS, The CTCR has been asked to evaluate the content of the statements of faith required by some
45 scouting organizations; and
46

47 WHEREAS, The Scouting Task Force cannot complete its assigned task until the CTCR has rendered its opinion;
48 therefore be it
49

50 *Resolved*, That the CTCR expedite their work in this matter; and be it further
51

52 *Resolved*, That the Scouting Task Force move quickly with their work to provide such needed guidance; and be
53 it finally
54

55 *Resolved*, That this guidance be made available within 12–18 months from the conclusion of this convention.

1 **PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION**

2
3 **TO OVERRULE CCM OPINION 14-2724**

4
5 **SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION 2-06**

6
7 Reports R56-57 (CW, pp. 133–137, 147-148); Overtures 2-01–12, 2-14 (CW, pp. 315–324) President’s Report, Part
8 2 (TB, p.21–31)

9
10 WHEREAS, the Word of God (Acts 13) clearly reveals that in the first century of the New Testament, a local
11 congregation of believers in the Lord Jesus, assembled in Antioch, after much prayer and under the guidance of the
12 Holy Spirit, freely consecrated and sent missionaries, notably Barnabas and Saul, into mission fields; and

13
14 WHEREAS, Article III. 2 of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) identifies an
15 objective of the Synod as to “Strengthen congregations and their members in giving bold witness by word and deed
16 to the love and work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness into all the world;”
17 and

18
19 WHEREAS, Article VII of the Constitution of The LCMS states, “In relation to its members, the Synod is not an
20 ecclesiastical government exercising legislative or coercive powers, and with respect to the individual
21 congregation’s right of self-government it is but an advisory body”; and

22
23 WHEREAS, Article XIV of the Constitution states, “The Synod in convention may adopt bylaws that are
24 consistent with and do not contradict the Constitution of the Synod, which controls and supersedes such bylaws and
25 all other rules and regulations of the Synod”; and

26
27 WHEREAS, 2010 Synod Convention Res. 8-32B encourages the Synod to study Article VII of the Constitution,
28 including study of “Congregations and Synod, Background Material on the Advisory Nature of the LCMS” along
29 with opinions of the Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) related to this topic (including CCM Opinion
30 09-2573 listed in a “Whereas” paragraph in Resolution 8-32B); and

31
32 WHEREAS, 1983 Synod Convention Res. 5-10A in a “Resolved” clause states that The LCMS reaffirms that
33 synod polity is essentially and principally congregational in nature; and

34
35 WHEREAS, CCM Opinion 09-2573 states in part that “. . . there is a common understanding that a congregation
36 exercises its self-government . . . in carrying out . . . its own ministry programs and financial affairs..”; and

37
38 WHEREAS, Synod Bylaw 3.8.3 deals only with who has authority to send ministers of religion and other workers
39 into Synod foreign mission fields on behalf of the Synod as a whole, and prior bylaws have been careful not to
40 restrict congregational activity specifically relating to whom congregations could send funds overseas, and nothing
41 in the current bylaws restrict or could restrict the right of member congregations to (a) fund ministries in foreign
42 countries, or (b) send/fund congregation members for service with organizations seeking to share the Gospel; and

43
44 WHEREAS, 1983 Synod Convention Res. 5-37 amending the bylaws only dealt with who on behalf of Synod as
45 a whole could send missionaries at the expense of the Synod, and where the restriction applied, it being a sending
46 bylaw only, clearly not applicable to congregations in any event; and

47
48 WHEREAS, CCM Opinion 14-2724 referring to 2013 Synod Convention Res. 1-08, “To Work Together in
49 Mission,” called for a two-fold response: First, “*Resolved*, That the Synod, by the next convention, develop and
50 provide a mission best-practices policy document for districts and congregations engaged in mission projects to
51 assist them to better carry out their mission and their life together”, indicating that districts and congregations have
52 and are recognized to have mission work and practices of their own, and because they have their own mission work
53 and practices, the Synod should assist and support those efforts by developing a best-practices policy; and second,
54 “that these best practices include encouragement to districts and congregations to communicate their international
55 mission activities to the Synod’s Director of Church Relations and Offices of National and International Mission for

1 the purposes of healthy coordination and stewardship” (underlined portions indicate emphasis added), indicating that
 2 districts and congregations can have their own mission activities and when they do they are encouraged to
 3 communicate these activities to the Synod for coordination and good stewardship; and
 4

5 WHEREAS, CCM Opinion 14-2724 states in part, “Congregations may not send funds to mission societies and
 6 non-Synod entities for work in foreign areas without taking into consideration policies developed and determined for
 7 this purpose by the Board of International Mission as the only sending agency;” and
 8

9 WHEREAS, CCM Opinion 14-2724 incorrectly restricts the mission outreach of congregations and others to give
 10 bold witness by word and deed to the love and work of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel
 11 witness into all the world; therefore be it
 12

13 *Resolved*, that the congregations of The LCMS be encouraged, with much prayer and under the guidance of the
 14 Holy Spirit, to send missionaries to foreign areas; and be it further
 15

16 *Resolved*, That the Synod affirms and encourages congregations, auxiliaries, recognized service organizations,
 17 districts, and individual members of the Synod, in their efforts to give bold witness by word and deed, to the love
 18 and work of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness to all the world; and be it further
 19

20 *Resolved*, that nothing in the bylaws of Synod should ever be interpreted to limit efforts by congregations,
 21 auxiliaries, recognized service organizations, districts, and individual members of the Synod, to give bold witness by
 22 word and deed to the love and work of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness to all
 23 the world, but only be interpreted as requesting information which might allow Synod to support (and to assist in
 24 connecting potential support for) congregations and individual members, to assist in connecting potential mission
 25 partners, and to provide best practices information which could assist the efforts; and be it finally
 26

27 *Resolved*, that the Synod in convention overrule CCM Opinion 14-2724, to be thereby declared null and void
 28 and of no effect.



The Sacrament is set for the Opening Divine Service of the 66th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod on Saturday, July 9, 2016, at the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee.

Notices

Note about each cover of *Today's Business* issues: The reference to pages on the bottom right side of the front page begins with pages from the First Issue of *Today's Business* (Proposed Resolutions) and continues with each daily issue ending with the current issue page numbers.

Please stop by the Concordia Plan Services booth to sign up for free lunch and learns, held Sunday – Tuesday.

Sunday, Room 102c

Weaving wellness and stewardship for healthier ministries

Sunday, Room 103c

Retirement readiness - tailoring your retirement

Monday, Room 102c

Weaving wellness and stewardship for healthier ministries

Monday, Room 103c

Retirement readiness - tailoring your retirement plans

Tuesday, Room 102c

Concordia Health Plan's Medicare benefits overview

Tuesday, Room 103c

Your Concordia Plans - benefits for today and tomorrow

A ticket for entry is required. Get your tickets at the Concordia Plan Services booth. Space is limited.

Welcome to Milwaukee LCMS convention participants!

Be sure and stop by the Concordia Seminary exhibit between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Sunday.

Special giveaway: green and gold T-shirts

Just share a picture on social media (or we will do it for you!) using #ConcordiaSem and #UponThisRock

Coming Monday: Cross flash drives

Coming Tuesday: Jolt chargers plus any extra items including Martin Luther flash drives, T-shirts and cross flash drives!

Be sure and sign up for our special giveaway basket that includes a faculty book, Concordia Blend coffee, two mugs and a Pils framed print of the Seminary. The winner will be announced in Wednesday's *Today's Business*.

We also have postcards you can fill out to send a note of encouragement to one of our seminarians.

Today's LCMS exhibit staff: Leaders in Mercy Ministries

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

- Rev. Joel Hempel, Specialized Pastoral Ministry
- Tracy Quaethem, Life and Health Ministries
- Deaconess Grace Rao, Deaconess Ministry

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

- Rev. Ross Johnson, Disaster Response
- Rev. Dr. Carlos Hernandez, Gospel Seeds, Soldiers and Veterans of the Cross

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

Hearing Difficulties? If you have a need for a hearing assistance device, please stop by the Lutheran Friends of the Deaf/Mill Neck exhibit booth (in Hall D, booth 525). They have about a dozen devices that will pick up the sound in the convention hall, amplify and transmit to earphones (think of the old Walkmans but smaller and lighter.) Simply stop by their booth to check out a device Sunday. They will collect your contact information and work with you to get the units back from at the conclusion of convention.



Thank you to the Lutheran Friends of the Deaf/Mill Neck for providing hearing assistance devices. We deeply appreciate the use of the hearing amplification devices and our partnership with you.

Transportation to Concordia Wisconsin Event

Are you heading to the Concordia Wisconsin Event on Monday evening? To board the shuttles, take the escalators to the street level; exit at 4th and Wells Street doors. Shuttle service begins at 6 pm.

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 finds 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.

Saturday Basket Drawing Winner Congratulations to Pastor Robert Weldon, Elyria Ohio! Stop by the Concordia Plan Services booth to pick up your prize.

Winner: Daily drawings for an iPad Mini are happening at the LCMS Booth in the exhibit hall. Saturday's winner is James Matthews of Lakewood, Wash. Congratulations!

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