

1 **CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS**

2
3 **Seventy-seventh Convention**

4
5 **of**

6
7 **The Minnesota South District**

8
9 **of**

10
11 **The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**

12
13 **Concordia University, St. Paul, Minnesota**

14 **June 18-20, 2015**

15
16 **“On our Way Rejoicing”**

17 **Acts 8:39**

18
19 **CONVENTION CHAIR:**

Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy, President
Minnesota South District

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23 **CONVENTION SECRETARY:**

Rev. William Otte, Secretary
Minnesota South District

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27 **SYNODICAL REPRESENTATIVES:**

Rev. Dr. Herbert Mueller, First Vice-President
Rev. Nabil Nour, Fifth Vice-President
Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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31
32 **CONVENTION CHAPLAIN:**

Rev. Randall Neal, Senior Pastor
Zion Lutheran Church, Hopkins, MN

1 **CONVENTION BIBLE STUDY LEADERS:**

2 Rev. Randall Neal, Senior Pastor
3 Zion Lutheran Church, Hopkins, MN

4
5 Rev. Dr. Peter Nafzger, Pastor
6 New Life Church Lutheran, Hugo, MN

7
8 Rev. Thomas Queck, Pastor
9 Zion Lutheran Church, Annandale, MN

10
11 Rev. Francis Stephanos, Pastor
12 Mekane Yesus Church Fellowship, St. Paul, MN

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15 **CONVENTION ESSAYIST:**

16 Rev. Dr. Will Schumacher, Associate Professor
17 Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO

18
19 **CONVENTION SERVICE HOST CONGREGATION:**

20 Zion Lutheran Church
21 Hopkins, MN

22
23
24 **CONVENTION PARLIAMENTARIAN:** Mrs. Darleen Harens

25
26
27 **CONVENTION COMMITTEES:**

28
29 Arrangements Committee.....Mr. Rick Marko, Chair
30 Ms. Julie Bigler
31 Ms. Debra Connolly
32 Mr. Billy Schultz

33
34 Registration and Credentials Committee.....Rev. Thomas Evans, Chair
35 Emmanuel, Inver Grove Heights
36 Rev. Dale Kohrs, Immanuel and St. John, Elgin and Hammond
37 Ms. Phyllis Kroehler, Peace, Arlington
38 Mr. Steve Packwood, Ascension, Burnsville
39 Mr. Wayne Ulk, Zion, Hardwick
40 Mr. Wayne Wenzel, St. John, Rushford
41 Ms. Julie Bigler (District Staff, Advisory)
42 Mr. Rick Marko (District Staff, Advisory)

43
44 Nominations Committee.....Rev. Joel Haak, Chair
45 Trinity, Rochester
46 Rev. Thomas Braun, River of Life, St. Peter

1 Mr. Randy Heuer, St. James, Howard Lake
2 Mr. Steve Krause, Redeemer, Wayzata
3 Mr. Howard Luehmann, Immanuel, Lewiston
4 Mr. Christian Preus, Glory of Christ, Plymouth
5 Rev. Pat Simmons, New Creation, Shakopee
6 Ms. Kathy Wessel, First English, Spring Valley
7 Rev. Steve Wheeler, Cross View, Edina
8 Mr. Rick Marko (District Staff, Advisory)
9

10 Elections Committee.....Rev. Daniel Ritter, Chair
11 Mt. Hope, Bloomington
12 Rev. Erland Asmus, St. Peter, Afton
13 Ms. Donna Bailey, St. John, Austin
14 Mr. Robert Chellew, Holy Emmanuel, Bloomington
15 Mr. Paul Gieseke, Immanuel, Courtland
16 Mr. Glen Hardel, St. John, Arlington
17 Mr. Jerry Prueser, Trinity, Farmington
18 Mr. Rick Marko (District Staff, Advisory)
19

20 Floor Committee No. 1: Missions.....Rev. Mark Rosenau, Chair
21 Good Shepherd, Owatonna
22 Rev. Dennis Heiden, Vice Chair, Hosanna, Mankato
23 Mr. Jerry Backlund, Woodbury, Woodbury
24 Rev. David Kind, University Lutheran Chapel, Minneapolis
25 Rev. Dr. Funchatou Lo, LINC—Twin Cities
26 Rev. George Ruwisch, Immanuel, Fairmont
27 Rev. Mark Shockey, St. Peter, Edina
28 Rev. Dr. William Utech (District Staff, Advisory)
29

30 Floor Committee No. 2: Theology and Church Relations Rev. Gerhard Bode, Chair
31 Peace, Hutchinson
32 Rev. Dr. Thomas Trapp, Vice Chair, Emmaus, St. Paul
33 Ms. Patricia Bauer, Mt. Moriah, Byron
34 Rev. Dr. Peter Nafzger, New Life, Hugo
35 Rev. Peter Preus, Trune God, Brooklyn Center
36 Rev. William Sabol, Our Savior and St. Peter, Winnebago and Easton
37 Rev. Dr. Gary Zieroth, St. John, Chaska
38 Rev. Fred Hinz (District Staff, Advisory)
39

40 Floor Committee No. 3: Congregational Services.....Rev. Dr. Robert Gehrke, Chair
41 South Shore Trinity, White Bear Lake
42 Rev. Henry Biar, Vice Chair, Family of Christ, Rochester
43 Rev. Timothy Berner, Concordia Academy, Roseville
44 Ms. Erica Beyreis, St. John, Corcoran
45 Ms. Rosemary Braun, Trinity, Arden Hills
46 Rev. Dr. Scott Fiege, Bethany and St. Peter, Lake City and Goodhue

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Mr. Scott Litzau, First, Glencoe
Rev. Jon Olson, Our Saviour and Trinity, Pipestone and Jackson
Mr. Paul Steinhaus, Martn Luther H.S.,Northrop
Dr. Phil Johnson (District Staff, Advisory)

Floor Committee No. 4: Administration and Finance.....Rev. Mark Tewes, Chair
Living Christ, Chanhassen
Rev. Steve Bielenberg, Vice Chair, King of Kings, Roseville
Rev. Grant Bode, Redeemer, New Ulm
Mr. Daniel Grimm, St. John, Norwood Young America
Rev. Paul Lauer, Our Savior, Mankato
Ms. Carol Olson, St. John, Woodbury
Mr. Brad Rixmann, St. Paul, Prior Lake
Mr. Rick Marko (District Staff, Advisory)
Rev. Dr. Mark Noren (District Staff, Advisory)

1 **THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2015**

2
3 9:00 a.m.

4 Convention Committee meetings, Floor Committee meetings, and Open Hearings were held as
5 needed.

6
7
8 1:00 p.m.

9 Registration, an LCEF Hospitality Reception, and display booths were opened.

10
11
12 3:00 p.m.

13 The first round of Interest Centers was held. Available topics were:

- 14 ▪ “District Convention Primer: How a District Convention Works,” led by Rev. Dr. Dean
- 15 Nadasdy
- 16 ▪ “Connecting Church to Community,” led by Dr. Phil Johnson
- 17 ▪ “Our District Missions at Work,” led by Rev. Dr. William Utech

18
19
20 4:00 p.m.

21 The second round of Interest Centers was held. Available topics were:

- 22 ▪ “Reaching Millennials,” led by Mr. Kurt Fuhr
- 23 ▪ “Which Way Lutheran Schools?” led by Mr. Sean Martens
- 24 ▪ “Public Policy Advocacy,” led by Rev. Fred Hinz

25
26
27 7:00 p.m.

28 **WELCOME TO THE CONVENTION & TO CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, ST. PAUL**

29
30 President Dean Nadasdy welcomed attendees at the convention, and thanked the worship
31 leaders for the work they had done in preparing the Opening Service.

32
33 President Nadasdy introduced Rev. Dr. Tom Ries, President of Concordia University St. Paul,
34 who also welcomed those attending the convention.

35
36
37 **MISSION VIDEO 1**

38 “Rejoicing in God’s Mission” video focuses on the work of River of Life Lutheran Church, St.
39 Peter, MN, the most recent mission congregation start in the Minnesota South District. The
40 offering at the opening Worship Service which followed was dedicated to support this mission
41 congregation.

1 **CONVENTION WORSHIP SERVICE AND COMMEMORATIONS**

- 2
- 3 **Host Congregation:** Zion Lutheran Church, Hopkins
- 4 **Preacher:** Rev. Dr. Herbert Mueller, First Vice President, LCMS
- 5 **Presiding Minister:** Rev. Randall Neal, Senior Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church, Hopkins
- 6 **Assisting Minister:** Rev. Daniel Schultz, Associate Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church, Hopkins
- 7 **Lectors:** Rev. Howard Krienke, Assistant Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church, Hopkins
- 8 Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy, President, Minnesota South District, LCMS
- 9 **Communion Assistants:** Pastors from Lake Minnetonka and South Carver County Circuits
- 10 **Music Director and Organist:** Mr. Brice Petersen, MSM, Zion Lutheran Church, Hopkins
- 11 **Vocal Choirs:** Zion Lutheran Church, Hopkins
- 12 Golden Valley Lutheran Church, Golden Valley
- 13 Cross View Lutheran Church, Edina
- 14 **Handbell Choirs:** Zion Lutheran Church, Hopkins, Brice Petersen, director
- 15 Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Plymouth, Mary Yerks, director
- 16 **Contemporary Praise Band:** Zion Lutheran Church, Hopkins
- 17
- 18

19 **COMMEMORATIONS**

20 **Ordained Ministers:**

- 21
- 22 ■ REV. PAUL BARTZ, Pastor, born May 1, 1948; died August 15, 2013
- 23 ■ REV. SIMON TER DUP, Pastor, born April 5, 1967; died December 19, 2014
- 24 ■ REV. EDGAR EIFERT, Pastor, born July 8, 1911; died April 19, 2013
- 25 ■ REV. MICHAEL HART, Pastor, born October 14; 1949, died April 20, 2014
- 26 ■ REV. CLARK JAEGER, Pastor, born January 20; 1936; died March 13, 2013
- 27 ■ REV. GLENN KORB, Pastor, born March 15, 1944; died October 27, 2013
- 28 ■ REV. MARTIN KRAUSE, Pastor, born June 1, 1930; died December 23, 2012
- 29 ■ REV. DR. EUGENE LINSE, Pastor and Professor, born January 29, 1923; died May 30,
- 30 2014
- 31 ■ REV. LOWELL LUBBEN, Pastor, born September 14, 1934; died May 11, 2015
- 32 ■ REV. TODD McMURRY, Pastor, born September 26, 1969; died February 11, 2015
- 33 ■ REV. DR. JAN PAVEL, Pastor and Professor, born August 15, 1925; died February 16,
- 34 2013
- 35 ■ REV. KLEMET PREUS, Pastor, born June 13, 1950; died July 9, 2014
- 36 ■ REV. VICTOR ROTH, Pastor, born May 15, 1922; died August 19, 2014
- 37 ■ REV. ROBERT RUPPRECHT, Pastor, born March 7, 1943, died December 25, 2013
- 38 ■ REV. NORMAN SCHRAMM, Pastor, born May 16, 1925; died October 17, 2013
- 39 ■ REV. DANIEL WEISE, Pastor, born August 26, 1946; died May 25, 2013
- 40 ■ REV. RAYMOND WIEBOLD, Pastor, orn June 26, 1943; died February 8, 2015
- 41 ■ REV. JAMES WILK, Pastor, born April 2, 1933; died October 28, 2012
- 42 ■ REV. DONALD ZUHN, Pastor, born August 23, 1940; died July 23, 2013
- 43

44 **Commissioned Ministers:**

- 45 ■ LILLIAN AHLMAN, Teacher; born September 26, 1946; died June 7, 2014

- 1 ▪ ROBERT E. BARNES, Teacher and Professor; born March 26, 1923; died March 17,
2 2013
- 3 ▪ MARVIN ERDMAN, Teacher and Principal; born December 25, 1935; died August 1,
4 2012
- 5 ▪ ELMER FRITZ, Teacher and Principal; born August 15, 1929; died May 1, 2013
- 6 ▪ ARTHUR FUCHS, Teacher and Principal; born June 16, 1927; died February 19, 2014
- 7 ▪ THEODORE HEINICKE, Teacher, Principal, and Professor; born October 28, 1926; died
8 January 29, 2014
- 9 ▪ EDMUND HINRICHS, Teacher and Principal; born December 7, 1926; died January 22,
10 2014
- 11 ▪ RACHEL JAHR, Teacher; born September 4, 1961; died March 9, 2012
- 12 ▪ EDWARD KRAUSE, Teacher; born December 24, 1918; died July 4, 2012
- 13 ▪ LLOYD LUEHMANN, Teacher and Principal; born May 29, 1942; died May 2, 2014
- 14 ▪ LOMA MEYER, Teacher and Professor; born January 1, 1928; died October 24, 2014
- 15 ▪ STACEY NELSON, Teacher; born July 27, 1973; died October 21, 2012
- 16 ▪ DAVID ROTH, Teacher, Principal, and MNS District Education Executive; born March
17 12, 1942; died July 18, 2012
- 18 ▪ ERLIN SCHROEDER, Teacher and Principal; born September 19, 1935; died February
19 1, 2013
- 20 ▪ MATTHEW STEFAN, Teacher; born August 25, 1972; died July 4, 2014.

21
22 Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy presented a token of appreciation to the families of the faithful
23 departed.

24
25 Concordia University St. Paul hosted a reception for delegates and guests following the service.

1 **FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2015**

2
3 **CONVENTION SESSION 1**

4
5
6 **MISSION VIDEO 2**

7
8 “Rejoicing in God’s Mission – Oromo Outreach”
9

10
11 **CALL TO ORDER**

12
13 The seventy-seventh convention of the Minnesota South District of The Lutheran Church
14 Missouri Synod was called to order at 8:01 a.m. by the President, Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy, in
15 the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
16

17 Dr. Nadasdy explained the theme of the convention, “On Our Way Rejoicing,” based on Acts
18 8:39. He welcomed the delegates and others to the convention.
19

20 Dr. Nadasdy introduced special guests and participants to the convention, including Rev. Dr.
21 Herbert Mueller, First Vice President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; Rev. Nabil
22 Nour, Fifth Vice President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; Rev. Dr. Will
23 Schumacher, convention essayist; members of the District staff; Rev. Randall Neal,
24 Convention Chaplain; Mr. Brice Peterson, Convention Musician; Rev. William Otte,
25 Convention Secretary, and Ms. Darleen Harens, Convention Parliamentarian.
26
27

28 **RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS AND CONGREGATIONS**

29
30 President Nadasdy introduced the ordained and commissioned ministers of The Lutheran
31 Church—Missouri Synod who have been added to the roster of the Minnesota South District
32 since the last convention. They are included in the section of the *Convention Workbook* (pp.
33 201-204 and pp. 211-213) titled “Accessions and Transfers into the District,” where they are
34 identified as “Candidates.”
35

36 **New congregations and schools are:**

- 37
- 38 ■ EMMAUS LUTHERAN CHURCH—OROMO MINISTRY, St. Paul, became a New
39 Church Start of the MNS District, effective October 10, 2012.
 - 40 ■ GENESIS LUTHERAN MISSION CHURCH, Minneapolis, became a New Church
41 Start of the MNS District, effective September 8, 2013.
 - 42 ■ RIVER OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH, St. Peter, became a New Church Start of
43 the MNS District, effective August 18, 2013.
 - 44 ■ SAMARITANS HILL LUTHERAN CHURCH, Rogers, became a Member
45 Congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, effective February 23,
46 2014.
 - TRINITY LITTLE LAMBS PRESCHOOL, Northfield, on September 16, 2013.

1 **REGISTRATION AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE**

2
3 Dr. Nadasdy called on Rev. Tom Evans, chairman of the Registration and Credentials
4 Committee, to give an initial report. At the 77th Convention of the Minnesota South District
5 there are a possible 365 voting delegates between lay and pastoral delegates. At this time 171
6 pastoral delegates and 179 lay delegates have registered for a total of 350 voting delegates.
7 According to the bylaws, one-third of the delegates are needed for a quorum. The
8 requirements have been met for a quorum.

9
10 A motion was made and seconded to approve the report. The motion was carried by voice
11 vote.

12
13
14 **DEVOTIONAL BIBLE STUDY 1**

15
16 Convention Chaplain Rev. Randall Neal led the convention in a liturgical opening devotion
17 and led the first Devotional Bible Study “On Our Way Rejoicing” based on Acts 8:26-40.
18 He talked about the “divine appointment” arranged for Philip the evangelist reported in Acts
19 8:26-27.

20
21
22 **ESSAY 1**

23
24 The Convention Essayist was Rev. Dr. Will Schumacher, Mission Associate Professor,
25 Historical Theology, and Director, Institute for Mission Studies, Concordia Seminary, St.
26 Louis. His theme was “The Joyful Way: Confessing and Witnessing the Good News of
27 Jesus.”

28
29
30 **READING OF THE CONVENTION RULES**

31
32 President Nadasdy introduced Ms. Darleen Harens, convention parliamentarian, who read the
33 proposed revised convention rules.

34
35 The original Convention Rules were included in the *Convention Workbook* (pp. 34-35). The
36 proposed revisions added point 14:

37 *In balloting for all elected positions (including that of President and Vice Presidents), the*
38 *convention will follow Synodical Handbook Bylaw 4.7.3, which reads:*

- 39 a) *Candidates receiving a majority on the first ballot shall be declared elected.*
40 b) *When a second or succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate receiving*
41 *the fewest votes and all candidates receiving less than 15 percent of the votes cast shall*
42 *be dropped from the ballot, unless fewer than two candidates receive the 15 percent or*
43 *more of the votes cast, in which case the three highest candidates shall constitute the*
44 *ballot.*
45 c) *In every election balloting shall continue until every position has been filled by*
46 *majority vote.*

1 The new point 16 was amended to add “*A member of the Floor Committee presenting the*
2 *original motion shall also be offered two minutes to speak to the substitute motion.*”
3

4 The new point 19 was changed to read:

5 These rules may be *amended or* suspended by a two-thirds (2/3) *majority* vote of the voting
6 A motion was made and seconded to adopt the convention rules as read. The motion was
7 adopted unanimously by voice vote.
8
9

10 **ADOPTION OF THE CONVENTION AGENDA**

11
12 The proposed revised agenda was presented to the delegates upon registration. A motion was
13 made and seconded to adopt the revised agenda. The motion was adopted by voice vote.
14
15

16 **REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

17
18 President Nadasdy introduced Mr. Daniel Utter, Secretary of the Committee, to give the report.

- 19 ▪ Other members of the committee during the triennium were Rev. Evan Schiller, Chair;
20 Mr. Harold Kenow; and Ms. Rosa Summers.
- 21 ▪ The Committee met nine times during the triennium. They reviewed sixty (60)
22 documents during the triennium, and 31 of these were recommended to the Board of
23 Directors for approval. A list of those approved is on pages 58-59 of the *Convention*
24 *Workbook*.
- 25 ▪ At this time there are four (4) documents on hand for review.

26
27 *(Note: The complete text of the report is included in the protocol copy of these minutes.)*
28
29

30 **LUTHER – REJOICING ON HIS WAY 1**

31
32 Pastor Andrew Herzberg of Trinity, Farmington, portrayed Dr. Martin Luther, reading material
33 written by Luther himself. The first reading was from a letter of Luther to his barber.
34
35

36 **FLOOR NOMINATIONS**

37
38 President Nadasdy introduced Rev. Joel Haak, Associate Pastor of Trinity, Rochester, and
39 Chair of the 2015 District Nominating Committee, to present the slate of nominees as prepared
40 by the committee. As each slate was presented, the delegates were given an opportunity to
41 nominate additional candidates. The final slates are as follows, with floor nominations
42 indicated as appropriate.
43

44 **2015 SLATES OF NOMINATIONS**

45 **Board of Directors-MNS District, Board of Regents-Concordia University, St. Paul,**
46 **Nominations Committees: 2016 Synodical and 2018 District**

- 1 **DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
2
3 **President (elect one)**
4 Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy
5 Rev. Harold Storm
6
7 **Vice President, Region I (elect one)**
8 Rev. Tom Evans
9 Rev. Dr. Robert Gehrke
10 Rev. Christopher Horton
11 Rev. Martin Schoenfeld
12
13 **Vice President, Region II (elect one)**
14 Rev. Mark Tewes
15 Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford
16
17 **Vice President, Region III (elect one)**
18 Rev. Dr. Larry Griffin
19 Rev. David Mumme
20 Rev. Dr. Michael Nirva
21 Rev. Mark Rosenau
22
23 **Vice President, Region IV (elect one)**
24 Rev. Gary Klatt
25 Rev. Russell Allan Reed
26 Rev. Harold Storm
27
28 **District Secretary (elect one)**
29 Rev. William Otte
30 Rev. Gary Zieroth
31
32 **Ordained Minister, Region I (elect one)**
33 Rev. Christopher Horton
34 Rev. John Otte
35 Rev. Martin Schoenfeld
36 Rev. Brian Scoles
37
38 **Ordained Minister, Region II (elect one)**
39 Rev. Mark Tewes
40 Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford
41 Rev. Dr. Gary Zieroth
42
43 **Ordained Minister, Region III (elect one)**
44 Rev. Armand Boehme
45 Rev. Robert Lentz
46 Rev. David Mumme

- 1 Rev. Dr. Michael Nirva
2 Rev. Jonathan Vollrath
3
4 **Ordained Minister, Region IV (elect one)**
5 Rev. Thomas Brown
6 Rev. Wade Daul
7 Rev. Gary Klatt
8 Rev. H. Doug Minton
9 Rev. Eric Nelson
10 Rev. Jon Olson
11 Rev. Russell Allan Reed
12 Rev. Harold Storm
13
14 **Commissioned Ministers (elect two)**
15 Mr. Randy Ash
16 Ms. Christine Eid
17 Mr. Leland Huebner
18 Mr. Joel Landskroener
19 Mr. Dan Maser
20 Mr. LaMar Miller
21 Mr. Cletus Pfeiffer
22
23 **Lay, East Metro North (elect one)**
24 Mr. Virgil Rose
25
26 **Lay, East Metro South (elect one)**
27 Mr. Wayne Gartland
28 Mr. Michael Hagen
29 Ms. Darleen Harens
30 Dr. Gary Elsesser (floor)
31
32 **Lay, East Metro East (elect one)**
33 Mr. Calvin Kuhlman
34 Ms. Rosa Summers
35 Mr. Glenn Thiel
36
37 **Lay, West Metro West (elect one)**
38 Mr. John R. Branstad
39
40 **Lay, Southeast Minnesota East (elect one)**
41 Ms. Kristine Murray
42 Ms. Sara Sorenson
43
44 **Lay, Southeast Minnesota West (elect one)**
45 Mr. Ronald R. Frauenshuh, Sr.
46 Mr. Davin Quiram

1 **Lay, Southwest Minnesota East (elect one)**

2 Mr. Lane Nordquist
3 Mr. Ben Hageman (floor)
4

5 **Lay, Southwest Minnesota West (elect one)**

6 Ms. Gayle Baumgard
7 Mr. Neal Breitbarth
8
9

10 **BOARD OF REGENTS—CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, ST. PAUL, MN**
11

12 **Ordained Minister (elect one)**

13 Rev. Dr. Larry Griffin
14 Rev. Dr. Fungchatou Lo
15 Rev. Dr. Michael Nirva
16 Rev. Paul Strawn
17 Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford
18

19 **Commissioned Minister (elect one)**

20 Mr. Jason Koosman
21 Dr. Carl Schoenbeck
22 Mr. Paul Steinhaus
23

24 **Lay Members (elect two)**

25 Ms. Joy Anderson
26 Ms. Colleen Braun
27 Ms. Kathy Meier
28 Ms. Jocelyn C. Benson (floor)
29
30

31 **2016 SYNODICAL NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**
32

33 **Professional Church Worker and Alternate (elect one each)**

34 Rev. Steven Briel
35 Rev. Dennis L. Heiden
36 Rev. Jesse Krusemark
37
38

39 **2018 DISTRICT NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**
40

41 **Ordained Minister (elect four)**

42 Rev. Jeremiah Johnson
43 Rev. Brent Klein
44 Rev. David Markworth
45 Rev. Eric Nelson
46 Rev. Dr. Brent Parrish

1 Rev. Martin Schoenfeld
2 Rev. Brian Scoles
3 Rev. Loel Wessel
4

5 **Commissioned Minister (elect one)**

6 Mr. Michael Harvey
7 Ms. Jaclyn Ohmann
8 Mr. Kurtis Smith
9 Ms. Sarah Wippich
10 Mr. David Zellar
11 Mr. Leland Huebner (floor)
12

13 **Lay Members (elect four)**

14 Mr. John Etchison
15 Mr. Benjamin Hageman
16 Mr. Dale Heinz
17 Ms. Nancy Kohrs
18 Ms. Kristine Murray
19 Mr. Hank Radintz
20 Mr. Tom Solberg
21 Mr. Robert Van Gundy
22 Mr. Neil Breitbarth (floor)
23 Mr. Glen Meints (floor)
24
25

26 **ORIENTATION TO THE ELECTRONIC RESPONSE SYSTEM**
27

28 President Nadasdy introduced Rev. Dan Ritter, Chairman of the Nominations and Election
29 Committee, who explained the use of the Electronic Response System to the delegates.
30

31
32 **NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEES, Rev. Dan Ritter, Chair**
33

34 Convention Chaplain Randall Neal led the delegates in prayer for the election process.
35

36 Rev. Joel Haak placed before the convention the slate of candidates for

37 **District President**

38 Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy **320 votes / 92%**

39 Rev. Harold Storm 28 votes / (8%)

40 Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy was elected on the first ballot.
41

42 Rev. Haak placed before the convention the slate of candidates for

43 **Region I Vice President**

Ballot 1

Ballot 2

44 Rev. Tom Evans 44 / 12.8%

45 Rev. Dr. Robert Gehrke 161 / 46.9%

212 / 61.4%

46 Rev. Christopher Horton 76 / 22.2%

91 / 26.4%

1 Rev. Martin Schoenfeld 62 / 18.1% 42 / 12.2%

2 Rev. Dr. Robert Gehrke was elected on the second ballot.

3

4 Rev. Haak placed before the convention the slate of candidates for

5 **Region II Vice President**

6 Rev. Mark Tewes 168 / 48.6%

7 Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford **178 / 51.4%**

8 Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford was elected on the first ballot.

9

10 Rev. Haak placed before the convention the slate of candidates for

11 **Region III Vice President** Ballot 1 Ballot 2 Ballot 3

12 Rev. Dr. Larry Griffin 67 / 19.5% 56 / 16.3 .3%

13 Rev. David Mumme 131 / 38.1% 159 / 46.2% **191 / 55.8%**

14 Rev. Dr. Michael Nirva 37 / 10.8%

15 Rev. Mark Rosenau 109 / 31.7% 129 / 37.5% 151 / 44.2%

16 Rev. David Mumme was elected on the third ballot.

17

18 Rev. Haak placed before the convention the slate of candidates for

19 **Region IV Vice President** Ballot 1 Ballot 2

20 Rev. Gary Klatt 124 / 36.8% 156 / 46.2%

21 Rev. Russell Allan Reed 92 / 27.3%

22 Rev. Harold Storm 121 / 35.9% **182 / 53.8%**

23 Rev. Harold Storm was elected on the second ballot

24

25 **Ranking of the Vice Presidents**

26 Ballot 1 Ballot 2 Ballot 3 Ballot 4

27 Rev. Robert Gehrke 158 / 46.6% **187 / 54.8%**

28 Rev. David Mumme 71 / 20.9 % 53 / 15.5% 124 / 37.2% **240 / 74.3%**

29 Rev. Harold Storm 30 / 8.8% 34 / 10.2 % 83 / 25.7%

30 Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford 80 / 23.6% 101 / 29.6% **175 / 52.6%**

31 Rev. Robert Gehrke was elected First Vice President on the second ballot; Rev. Dr. Lucas
32 Woodford was elected Second Vice President on the third ballot; Rev. David Mumme was
33 elected Third Vice President on the fourth ballot; Rev. Harold Storm was elected Fourth Vice
34 President on the fourth ballot.

35

36 Rev. Haak placed before the convention the slate of candidates for

37 **District Secretary**

38 Rev. William Otte **201 / 59.1%**

39 Rev. Gary Zieroth 139 / 40.9%

40 Rev. William Otte was elected on the first ballot.

41

42 Rev. Haak placed before the convention the slate of candidates for

43 **Ordained Minister– Region 1**

44 Ballot 1 Ballot 2 Ballot 3

45 Rev. Christopher Horton 118 / 35.9% 152 / 45.6% **177 / 53.2%**

46 Rev. John Otte 76 / 22.6% 80 / 24%

1 Rev. Martin Schoenfeld 81 / 24.1% 101 / 30.3% 156 / 46.8%
 2 Rev. Brian Scoles 61 / 18.2%
 3 Rev. Christopher Horton was elected on the third ballot.

4
 5 Rev. Haak placed before the convention the slate of candidates for
 6 **Ordained Minister – Region 2**

7 Rev. Mark Tewes **195 / 57.4%**
 8 Rev. Dr. Gary Zieroth 145 / 42.6%
 9 Rev. Mark Tewes was elected on the first ballot.

10
 11 Rev. Haak placed before the convention the slate of candidates for
 12 **Ordained Minister– Region 3**

| | Ballot 1 | Ballot 2 | Ballot 3 |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 13 Rev. Armand Boehme | 66 / 20.1% | | |
| 14 Rev. Robert Lentz | 81 / 24.6% | 122 / 36% | 151 / 44.7% |
| 15 Rev. Dr. Michael Nirva | 74 / 22.5% | 53 / 15.6% | |
| 16 Rev. Jonathan Vollrath | 108 / 32.8% | 164 / 48.5% | 187 / 55.3% |

17
 18 Rev. Jonathan Vollrath was elected on the third ballot.

19
 20 Rev. Haak placed before the convention the slate of candidates for
 21 **Ordained Minister– Region 4**

| | Ballot 1 | Ballot 2 |
|----------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 22 Rev. Thomas Braun | 122 / 36.1% | 175 / 51.8% |
| 23 Rev. Wade Daul | 26 / 7.7% | |
| 24 Rev. Gary Klatt | 31 / 9.2% | |
| 25 Rev. H. Doug Minton | 6 / 1.8% | |
| 26 Rev. Eric Nelson | 57 / 16.96% | |
| 27 Rev. Jon Olson | 49 / 14.5% | 163 / 48.2% |
| 28 Rev. Russell Allan Reed | 47 / 13.9% | |

29
 30 Rev. Thomas Braun was elected on the second ballot.

31
 32
 33 **PRESIDENT’S ADDRESS**

34
 35 As Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy addressed the convention, he announced that this will be his last
 36 term as District President. He sincerely hopes that the District may be as apolitical as possible.
 37 He thanked his wife Susie for her partnership and support during his time as District President.
 38 He talked about the preaching panel from Lucas Cranach’s altarpiece in the Stadtkirche in
 39 Wittenberg, Germany. He noted the LCMS 500th Reformation celebration theme coming in
 40 2017: “It’s Still All About Jesus.” In the scriptures we find that which binds us together and
 41 what we confess. Visitation is one thing that makes our church stronger. The “Preach the
 42 Word” initiative will receive much emphasis during the next triennium. Dr. Nadasdy wants to
 43 help shape a clear vision for Lutheran Education and schools in our district. He encouraged the
 44 convention to stand for the truth and boldly take the role of the servant. He will focus on
 45 church and school planting during the triennium. He outlined some of the issues coming
 46 before the convention and emphasized that we as a Church need to stand for Biblical truth with

1 the Gospel preeminent in the face of a culture that would go another direction.

2
3 He indicated these emphases during the new triennium: the “Koinonia Project;” the “Preach
4 the Word” project; visitation; and the celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

5
6
7 **GREETINGS**

8
9 The convention received warm greetings from Rev. Don Fondow, the president of the
10 Minnesota North District.

11
12 The convention also received greetings from the Rev. Dr. Tom Ries, President of Concordia
13 University St. Paul. He explained that the academic theme for the coming school year will be
14 “We Are God’s Workmanship.” He rejoiced that new faces are joining the department of
15 Theology and Ministry. The Hoffman Institute has a new director with a professor of
16 missiology, Rev. Mark Koschmann. He noted the blessings of the work of Rev. Tom
17 Gundermann as University Pastor. Enrollment went over 4,000 students this year. This is the
18 third year of the tuition reset. The University grew in enrollment enough to offset the lower
19 tuition rate. Tuition for next year is just over \$20,000. Without this tuition reset, the annual
20 tuition cost would have been \$30,000 or more. Special support is given to church work
21 students. The Minnesota North District, Minnesota South District, and Concordia University,
22 St. Paul will partner in a Reformation service on October 29, 2017, recognizing the 500th
23 anniversary of the Reformation.

24
25
26 **PRAAYER AND RECESS**

27
28 Chaplain Randall Neal led the convention in a before-meal prayer, and the convention was in
29 recess for lunch at 11:55 a.m.

1 **CONVENTION SESSION 2**

2
3 **DEVOTIONAL BIBLE STUDY 2**

4
5 Chaplain Randall Neal led the liturgical portion of the Devotional Bible Study 2, adapted from
6 Daily Prayer in LSB 296. Rev. Dr. Peter Nafzger led the Devotional Bible Study titled “The
7 Word” based on Acts 8:35.
8

9
10 **MISSION VIDEO 3**

11
12 “Rejoicing in God’s Mission – Hosanna Highland, Mankato”
13
14

15 **LCMS PRESIDENT’S REPORT 1**

16
17 Rev. Dr. Herbert Mueller, First Vice President of the LCMS, presented the first portion of the
18 LCMS President’s Report. The opening prayer and a Bible study on Matthew 16:13 -15 were
19 led by Vice President Mueller and Fifth Vice President Nabil Nour. The brief Bible study was
20 titled, “Who Do You Say That I Am?”
21

22 A video report from Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison was shown to the convention.
23
24

25 **NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEES**
26 **BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CONTINUED...**

27
28 Rev. Joel Haak placed before the convention the slate of candidates for

29 **Commissioned Ministers (elect two)**

| | Ballot 1 | Ballot 2 | Ballot 3 |
|----------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| 30 Randy Ash | 92 / 30.2% | 109 / 32.9% | 123 / 37.5% |
| 31 Christine Eid | 47 / 15.4% | 68 / 20.5% | 80 / 24.4% |
| 32 Leland Huebner | 67 / 22% | 99 / 29.9% | 125 / 38.1% |
| 33 Joel Landskroener | 47 / 15.4% | 55 / 16.6% | |
| 34 Dan Masser | 14 / 4.5% | | |
| 35 LaMar Miller | 18 / 5.9 | | |
| 36 Cletus Pfeiffer | 20 / 6.6 | | |

| | Ballot 4 | Ballot 5 | Ballot 6 |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 37 Randy Ash | 174 / 52.9% | | |
| 38 Christine Eid | | 115 / 34.6% | 161 / 48.8% |
| 39 Leland Huebner | 155 / 47.1% | 152 / 45.8% | 169 / 51.2% |
| 40 Joel Landskroener | | 34 / 10.2% | |
| 41 Dan Masser | | 10 / 3% | |
| 42 LaMar Miller | | 11 / 3.3% | |
| 43 Cletus Pfeiffer | | 10 / 3% | |

1 Mr. Randy Ash was elected on the fourth ballot, and Mr. Leland Huebner was elected on the
2 sixth ballot.

3
4
5 **FLOOR COMMITTEE 1: MISSIONS, Rev. Mark Rosenau, Chair**

6
7 **Resolution 1-01 (Overture 1-05; 1-06; 1-07) - To Strengthen and Expand Campus**
8 **Ministry**

9
10 Rev. David Kind, Pastor of University Lutheran Chapel, spoke to the issue of funding
11 University of Minnesota campus ministry. He spoke in support of this resolution.

12
13 Vote on 1-01: **Yes 298 / 92%** No 26 / 8% Resolution 1-01 was adopted.

14
15 **Resolution 1-02 - To Encourage Congregational Support for Planting New Churches**

16
17 A consensus amendment was made to the first line of the first “Whereas” to delete the words
18 “the most” and replace them with the word “an”.

19
20 Please consult the Mission Committee report (*Convention Workbook* page 76) for an
21 explanation of the New Church Incubator method.

22
23 Vote on 1-02: **Yes 248 / 77.5%** No 72 / 22.5% Resolution 1-02 was adopted.

24
25
26 **LUTHER - REJOICING ON HIS WAY 2**

27
28 Pastor Andrew Herzberg of Trinity, Farmington, presented another portion of the writings of
29 Dr. Martin Luther.

30
31
32 **FLOOR COMMITTEE 2: THEOLOGY AND CHURCH RELATIONS, Rev. Gerhard**
33 **Bode, Chair**

34
35 **Resolution 2-01A To Encourage Intentional Leadership in Matters of Public Policy**

36
37 Vote on 2-01A: **Yes 267 / 87%** No 40 / 13% Resolution 2-01A was adopted.

38
39 **Resolution 2-02 (Overture 2-01) To Urge Church Members and Elected Officials to**
40 **Value, Exercise, and Protect Our Religious Freedom**

41
42 A consensus amendment was made to strike the word “our” in the first resolved.
43 A consensus amendment was made to strike the word “our” in the title of the Resolution.

44
45 Vote on 2-02: **Yes 298 / 94.6%** No 17 / 5.4% Resolution 2-02 was adopted.

1 **Resolution 2-03A (Overture 2-02) - To Encourage the State of Minnesota to Establish**
2 **Parental Choice Equality in Education Funding**

3
4 A motion was made and seconded to amend the resolution by adding to the third “Resolved”
5 after the word “choice;” “*through tuition tax credits, tuition tax deductions, or similar*
6 *methods...*”

7 Vote on amendment: Yes 123 / 40.3% No **182 / 59.7%** The amendment was declined.

8
9 Consensus amendment in the second resolved, first line, to change the word “it” to “State of
10 Minnesota” and to add an “s” to “distribute.”

11
12 Due to the Orders of the Day, the convention moved on to elections. Consideration of 2-03A
13 will continue at a later time.

14
15
16 **NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEES**
17 **BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CONTINUED...**

18
19 Rev. Joel Haak presented the slate of candidates for

20 **Lay, East Metro North**

21 Virgil Rose **283 / 100%**

22 Mr. Rose was elected unanimously on the first ballot.

23
24 **Lay, East Metro South**

Ballot 1

Ballot 2

25 Wayne Gartland

33 / 10.5%

26 Michael Hegen

72 / 22.9%

81 / 25.6%

27 Darleen Harens

69 / 21.9%

70 / 22.1%

28 Dr. Gary Elsesser

141 / 44.8%

166 / 52.4%

29 Dr. Gary Elsesser was elected on the second ballot.

30
31 **Lay, West Metro East**

32 Calvin Kuhlman 70 / 22.2%

33 Rosa Summers **165 / 52.2%**

34 Glenn Thiel 81 / 25.6%

35 Ms. Rosa Summers was elected on the first ballot.

36
37 **Lay, West Metro West**

38 John R. Branstad 266 / 100%

39 Mr. John Branstad was elected unanimously on the first ballot.

40
41 **Lay, Southeast Minnesota East**

42 Kristine Murray 116 / 37.5%

43 Sara Sorenson **193 / 62.5%**

44 Ms. Sara Sorenson was elected on the first ballot.

1 **Lay, Southeast Minnesota West**

2 Ronald R. Frauenshuh, Sr. 124 / 40%
3 Davin Quiram **186 / 60%**

4 Mr. Davin Quiram was elected on the first ballot.

5
6 **Lay, Southwest Minnesota East**

7 Lane Nordquist 152 / 48.9%
8 Benjamin Hagemann **159 / 51.1%**

9 Mr. Benjamin Hagemann was elected on the first ballot.

10
11 **Lay, Southwest Minnesota West**

12 Gayle Baumgard 149 / 46.9%
13 Neal Breitbarth **169 / 53.1%**

14 Mr. Neal Breitbarth was elected on the first ballot.

15
16
17 **BOARD OF REGENTS—CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY ST. PAUL**

18
19 **Ordained Minister**

| | Ballot 1 | Ballot 2 | Ballot 3 | Ballot 4 |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 20 Larry Griffin | 77 / 23.7% | 71 / 21.8% | 64 / 19.6% | |
| 21 Funghatou Lo | 102 / 31.4% | 121 / 37.1% | 142 / 43.6% | 172 / 53.3% |
| 22 Michael Nirva | 69 / 21.2% | 82 / 25.2% | 120 / 26.8% | 149 / 46.4% |
| 23 Paul Strawn | 68 / 20.9% | 52 / 16% | | |
| 24 Lucas Woodford | 9 / 2.8% | | | |

25
26 Rev. Dr. Funghatou Lo was elected on the fourth ballot.

27
28
29 **FLOOR COMMITTEE 3: CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES, Rev. Dr. Robert Gehrke,**
30 **Chair**

31
32 **Resolution 3-01 (Overture 3-08, 3-09, 3-10) - To Increase the Number of Assistants to the**
33 **President to Include an Assistant to the President for Education and Commissioned**
34 **Ministers**

35
36 A motion was made and seconded to substitute Overture 3-10 (*Convention Workbook* pp. 111
37 112) To Retain Four Assistants to the President for Resolution 3-01. The motion is non
38 debatable.

39
40 Vote to consider the substitute motion: Yes 110 / 34.8% **No 206 / 65.2%**

41
42 The motion to consider a substitute motion was declined. The original motion came before the
43 floor.

44
45 A motion was made and seconded to end debate.

46 Vote to end debate: **Yes 283 / 87.9%** No 39 / 12.1% Debate was ended.

1 Vote on 3-01: **Yes 197 / 62.3%** No 119 / 37.7% Resolution 3-01 was adopted.

2
3 **Resolution 3-02 (Overture 3-03) - To Continue and Expand the Koinonia Project**
4 **in the Minnesota South District**

5
6 A consensus amendment was approved to substitute “its report” for “overtures...for adoption”
7 in the final “Resolved.”

8
9 A motion was made and seconded to end debate: **Yes 288 / 96%** No 12 / 4%
10 The motion to end debate was adopted.

11
12 Vote on 3-02: **Yes 256 / 82.1%** No 56 / 17.9% Resolution 3-02 was adopted.

13
14
15 **FLOOR COMMITTEE 4: ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**, Rev. Mark Tewes,
16 Chair

17
18 **Resolution 4-01 (Overture 4-01) To Amend Selected Bylaws of the MNS District-LCMS**

19
20 A motion was made and seconded to vote on each “Resolved” section separately.

21
22 Vote: **Yes 273 / 92.5%** No 22 / 7.5% The question will be divided.

23
24 Bylaw 4.3.5 (*Convention Workbook* p. 126) referenced in the first “Resolved” includes term
25 limit changes for President and Circuit Visitor. This first “Resolved” came before the
26 convention.

27
28 A motion was made and seconded to end debate.

29 Vote to end debate: **Yes 288 / 82.1%** No 20 / 6.5% Debate was ended.

30
31 Vote on the term limit “Resolved:” **Yes 230 / 73.2%** No 84 / 26.8%
32 The “Resolved” dealing with term limits was adopted.

33
34
35 **LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND**

36
37 Mr. Richard Robertson, President and CEO of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF)
38 and Kurt Fuhr, MNS Vice President of LCEF, gave a report on the LCEF activities. LCEF is
39 starting a Credit Union. Mr. Fuhr awarded some door prizes.

40
41
42 **ANNOUNCEMENT**

43
44 The offering at the opening service was \$10,958.99, designated for River of Life Mission in St.
45 Peter.

46
47 Chaplain Randall Neal closed the session with prayer.

1 **CONVENTION SESSION 3**

2
3 **LUTHER – REJOICING ON HIS WAY 3**

4
5 Pastor Andrew Herzberg of Trinity, Farmington, presented another portion of the writings
6 of Dr. Martin Luther.

7
8
9 **LCMS PRESIDENT’S REPORT 2 WITH Q AND A**

10
11 Dr. Herbert Mueller, First Vice President of the LCMS, and Rev. Nabil Nour, Fifth Vice
12 President of the LCMS, continued with Part 2 of the LCMS President’s Report. The time was
13 taken up by a Question and Answer session.

14
15 Some informational items that were shared included:

16
17 **MISSION PRIORITIES OF THE LCMS**

- 18 ▪ To plant, sustain, and revitalize Lutheran congregations
19 ▪ To support and expand theological education
20 ▪ To work with congregations
21 ▪ To collaborate with partners
22 ▪ To nurture and care for church workers
23 ▪ To enhance Christian education at all levels.

24
25 The Board of Directors of the LCMS recently passed an \$81 million balanced budget. At this
26 time Synod has used no funds which were borrowed from itself. A few years ago it had \$16
27 million in borrowed funds.

28
29
30 **NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

31
32 **BOARD OF REGENTS—CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY ST. PAUL**

33
34 Rev. Joel Haak presented before the convention the slate of candidates for

35 **Commissioned Minister**

36

| | Ballot 1 | Ballot 2 |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 37 Jason Koosman | 69 / 24.7% | |
| 38 Carl Schoenbeck | 92 / 33 % | 121 / 43.2% |
| 39 Paul Steinhaus | 118 / 42.3% | 159 / 56.8% |

40 Mr. Paul Steinhaus was elected on the second ballot.

41
42 **Lay Member (elect two)**

43

| | Ballot 1 | Ballot 2 |
|------------------|------------|-------------|
| 44 Joy Anderson | 50 / 18.1% | |
| 45 Colleen Braun | 69 / 24.9% | 123 / 43.9% |
| 46 Kathy Meier | 50 / 18.1% | |

1 Jocelyn C. Benson 108 / 39% **157 / 56.1%**

2 Ms. Jocelyn C. Benson was elected on the second ballot.

3 Ballot 3 Ballot 4

4 Colleen Braun 135 / 49.8% **165 / 59.6%**

5 Joy Anderson 85 / 31.4% 112 / 40.4%

6 Kathy Meier 51 / 18.8%

7 Ms. Colleen Braun was elected on the fourth ballot.

8
9

10 **2016 SYNODICAL NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

11
12 **Professional Church Worker (elect one)**

13 Ballot 1 Ballot 2

14 Steven Briel **99 / 34.9%** 138 / 48.3%

15 Dennis L. Heiden 114 / 40.1% **148 / 51.7%**

16 Jesse Krusemark 71 / 25%

17 Rev. Dennis Heiden was elected as delegate on the second ballot

18

19 **Alternate Professional Church Worker (elect one)**

20 Steven Briel 189 / 68.5%

21 Jesse Krusemark 87 / 31.5%

22 Rev. Steven Briel was elected as the alternate delegate on the first ballot

23
24

25 **2018 DISTRICT NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

26

27 **Ordained Minister (elect 4)**

28 Ballot 1 Ballot 2 Ballot 3

29 Jeremiah Johnson 65 / 23% 130 / 45.9% **172 / 61.2%**

30 Brent Klein 20 / 7.1%

31 David Markworth 26 / 9.2%

32 Eric Nelson 31 / 11%

33 Brent Parrish 46 / 16.3% 101 / 35.7% 109 / 38.8%

34 Martin Schoenfeld 29 / 10.2%

35 Brian Scoles 22 / 7.8%

36 Loel Wessel 44 / 15.5% 52 / 18.4%

37 Rev. Jeremiah Johnson was elected on the third ballot.

38

39 Ballot 4 Ballot 5

40 Brent Klein 14 / 5%

41 David Markworth 32 / 11.5%

42 Eric Nelson 25 / 9%

43 Brent Parrish 108 / 38.7% **172 / 60.4%**

44 Martin Schoenfeld 19 / 6.8%

45 Brian Scoles 1 / 3.9%

46 Loel Wessel 70 / 25.1% 113 / 39.6%

1 Rev. Dr. Brent Parrish was elected on the fifth ballot

| | | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 2 | | | | |
| 3 | | Ballot 6 | Ballot 7 | Ballot 8 |
| 4 | Brent Klein | 15 / 5.3% | | 25 / 8.9% |
| 5 | David Markworth | 40 / 15.2% | | 54 / 19.1% |
| 6 | Eric Nelson | 43 / 15.2% | 98 / 34.9% | 144 / 51.1% |
| 7 | Martin Schoenfeld | 33 / 11.7% | | 37 / 13.1% |
| 8 | Brian Scoles | 16 / 5.7% | | 22 / 7.8% |
| 9 | Loel Wessel | 135 / 47.9% | 183 / 65.1% | |

10 Rev. Loel Wessel was elected on the seventh ballot. Rev. Eric Nelson was elected on the
11 eighth ballot.

12
13 **Commissioned Minister**

| | | | |
|----|----------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 14 | | Ballot 1 | Ballot 2 |
| 15 | Michael Harvey | 35 / 12.4% | |
| 16 | Jaclyn Ohmann | 26 / 9.2% | |
| 17 | Kurtis Smith | 34 / 12% | |
| 18 | Sarah Wippich | 49 / 17.3% | 110 / 38.9% |
| 19 | David Zellar | 26 / 9.2% | |
| 20 | Leland Huebner | 113 / 39.9% | 173 / 61.1% |

21 Mr. Leland Huebner was elected on the second ballot.

22
23 **Lay Members (elect 4)**

| | | | | |
|----|-------------------|------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 24 | | Ballot 1 | Ballot 2 | Ballot 3 |
| 25 | John Etchison | 29 / 10.5% | | 23 / 8.2% |
| 26 | Benjamin Hagemann | 18 / 6.5% | | 25 / 9% |
| 27 | Dale Heinz | 12 / 4.3% | | 7 / 2.5% |
| 28 | Nancy Kohrs | 39 / 14.1% | 92 / 32.9% | 110 / 39.4% |
| 29 | Kristine Murray | 22 / 7.9% | | 10 / 3.6% |
| 30 | Hank Radintz | 6 / 2.2% | | 1 / 0.4% |
| 31 | Tom Solberg | 16 / 5.8% | | 8 / 2.9% |
| 32 | Robert Van Gundy | 32 / 11.6 | 39 / 13.9% | 79 / 28.3% |
| 33 | Neal Breitbarth | 78 / 28.2% | 149 / 53.2% | |
| 34 | Glen Meints | 25 / 9% | | 16 / 5.7% |

35 Mr. Neal Breitbarth was elected on the second ballot.

| | | | | |
|----|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------|
| 36 | | | | |
| 37 | | Ballot 4 | Ballot 5 | Ballot 6 |
| 38 | John Etchison | | 31 / 11.2% | 66 / 23.5% |
| 39 | Benjamin Hagemann | | 22 / 7.9% | 69 / 24.6% |
| 40 | Dale Heinz | | 12 / 4.3% | 10 / 3.6% |
| 41 | Nancy Kohrs | 164 / 57.7% | | |
| 42 | Kristine Murray | | 31 / 11.2% | 78 / 27.8% |
| 43 | Hank Radintz | | 2 / 0.7% | 9 / 3.2% |
| 44 | Tom Solberg | | 13 / 4.7% | 9 / 3.2% |
| 45 | Robert Van Gundy | 120 / 42.3% | 155 / 55.8% | |
| 46 | Glen Meints | | 12 / 4.3% | 40 / 14.2% |

1 Ms. Nancy Kohrs was elected on the fourth ballot. Mr. Robert Van Gundy was elected on the
2 fifth ballot.

| | Ballot 7 | Ballot 8 |
|---------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 4 Kristine Murray | 121 / 42.8% | 147 / 52.7% |
| 5 Benjamin Hagemann | 110 / 38.9% | 132 / 47.3% |
| 6 John Etchison | 52 / 18.4% | |

7 Ms. Kristine Murray was elected on the eighth ballot.
8
9

10
11 **FLOOR COMMITTEE 4: ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**, Rev. Mark Tewes,
12 Chair

13
14 **Resolution 4-01 – Bylaw Changes (2nd “Resolved”)**

15 Dr. Mark Noren began a review of the second *Resolved* portion of Resolution 4.01, other
16 proposed bylaw changes. Time expired before this could be finished.
17
18

19 **DEVOTIONAL BIBLE STUDY 3**
20

21 Chaplain Randall Neal led the liturgy adapted from Daily Prayer. The theme of the service
22 was baptism. Rev. Thomas Queck, Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church, Annandale, MN led the
23 devotional Bible study, “Baptism.”
24

25 The session was adjourned at 9:26 p.m. An ice cream social followed, hosted by the
26 Minnesota South District and LCEF.
27

1 **SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2015**

2
3 **CONVENTION SESSION 4**

4
5 **MISSION VIDEO 4**

6
7 “Rejoicing in God’s Mission – Hmong Outreach”
8
9

10 **DEVOTIONAL BIBLE STUDY 4**

11
12 Chaplain Randall Neal led the liturgical portion of Devotional Bible Study 4 “On Our Way
13 Rejoicing” (Acts 8:39). The Devotional Bible Study was led by Pastor Francis Stephanos,
14 Mekane Yesus Church Fellowship, St. Paul.
15
16

17 **CONVENTION ESSAY 2**

18
19 Part two of the convention essay: “On Our Way Rejoicing in Confession and Mission” was
20 presented by Rev. Dr. Will Schumacher, Mission Associate Professor, Historical Theology,
21 and Director, Institute for Mission Studies, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.
22
23

24 **GREETINGS**

25
26 Greetings to the convention were received from the following:

- 27 ▪ LWML District President, Margaret Hesemann (Video)
 - 28 ▪ LLL District President, Kevin Bonine (Video)
 - 29 ▪ Minnesota South District Archivist, Joyce Swedean (Printed)
 - 30 ▪ Camp Omega – Rev. Jon Niebuhr and Randy Ash, camp Board members, reported that
31 \$916,000 has been contributed to the campaign to date.
 - 32 ▪ Lutheran World Relief Representative, Jon Buuck
- 33
34

35 **RATIFICATIONS**

36
37 Ratification of Elected Circuit Visitors (*Convention Workbook* p. 200)

38
39 A motion was made and seconded to ratify the list of elected Circuit Visitors

40 Vote: **Yes 245 / 96.8%** No 8 / 3.2% The list was ratified.
41

42 Ratification of Advisory Ordained Minister Delegates to the 2016 Synodical Convention.

43 Advisory delegates were selected by a caucus of Advisory Ordained Ministers held following
44 Session 2 of the convention.
45
46

1 Delegates:
2 Rev. Steven Andrews
3 Rev. Robert Krueger
4 Rev. Paul Graff

5 Alternates:
6 Rev. Dr. Richard Carter
7 Rev. Dr. William Utech
8

9 Ratification of Advisory Commissioned Minister Delegates to the 2016 Synodical Convention.
10 Delegates were elected at a caucus of Commissioned Ministers.

11 Dr. Jeffrey Burkart
12 Mr. Gary Loongtjier
13 Mr. Sean Martens
14 Mr. Cletus Pfeiffer
15

16 Motion made and seconded to ratify the Advisory Delegates.
17 Vote: **Yes 250 / 97.3%** No 7 / 2.7% The delegates were ratified.
18

19
20 **FLOOR COMMITTEE 4: ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**, Rev. Mark Tewes,
21 Chair
22

23 Discussion continued on **Resolution 4-01**, which was interrupted near the end of
24 Session 2.
25

26 The proposed bylaw changes which were not presented in Session 3 were reviewed by Rev. Dr.
27 Mark Noren. Many of the changes made by the floor committee were in response to public
28 comments during Open Hearings.
29

30 Bylaw 4.5.18.2.7 (*Convention Workbook* p. 135)
31

32 A motion was made and seconded to amend the bylaw by striking the words “and it shall
33 follow call process guidelines set forth by the district president.”
34

35 Vote to amend: **Yes 201 / 75.3%** No 66 / 24.7% The amendment was adopted.
36

37 Bylaw 4.2.15.6f (*Convention Workbook* p. 125)
38

39 A motion was made and seconded to strike out the words “and any regional offices.”
40

41 Vote to strike “and any regional offices”: **Yes 210 / 82%** No 46 / 18%
42 The striking of “and any regional offices” was approved.¹
43

44
45
46 ¹The Convention’s action on Bylaw 4.2.15.6f may be addressed by the LCMS Commission on
47 Constitutional Matters (CCM).

1 Bylaw 1.12 (*Convention Workbook* p. 116)

2
3 A consensus amendment was made that the reference to “synod” should be changed to
4 “LCMS.”

5
6 A motion was made and seconded to stop debate.

7
8 Vote to stop debate: **Yes 242 / 91.7%** No 22 / 8.3%

9 The motion was carried, and debate was ended.

10
11 Vote on the amended resolution: **Yes 256 / 95.2%** No 13 / 4.8%

12 The second “Resolved” of Resolution 4-01 was adopted.

13
14
15 **FLOOR COMMITTEE 3: CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES**, Rev. Dr. Robert Gehrke,
16 chair

17
18 **Resolution 3-03 (Overture 3-07) - To Approve a Feasibility Study for a Special Funding**
19 **Appeal to Support MNS District Education Initiatives**

20
21 Vote on 3-03: **Yes 243 / 92.7%** No 19 / 7.3% Resolution 3-03 was adopted.

22
23 **Resolution 3-04A (Overture 3-01) - To Encourage the Congregations and Individuals of**
24 **the MNS District toward Joyful Formation of and Participation in New Mission Ventures**

25
26 A consensus amendment was approved to add to the second “Resolved” the words “that every
27 congregation of the District be encouraged to....”

28
29 Vote on 3-04A: **Yes 239 / 89.5%** No 28 / 10.5% Resolution 3-04A was adopted.

30
31 **Resolution 3-07 (Overture 3-05) - To Affirm and Actively Engage the Ministry of**
32 **Directors of Christian Education (DCE)**

33
34 A consensus amendment was approved to add to the first “Resolved” “be encouraged to...”

35
36 Vote on 3-07: **Yes 214 / 81.4%** No 49 / 18.6% The amended Resolution 3-07 was adopted.

37
38 **Resolution 3-09 -To Provide District Representative to Assist Lutheran Home School**
39 **Families and Classical Lutheran Schools in finding Resources, Support, and Fellowship**
40 **Opportunities**

41
42 A motion was made and seconded to consider Resolution 3-06A before considering Resolution
43 3-09.

44 Vote on motion: Yes 49 / 19.4% **No 204 / 80.6%** The motion was defeated.

45
46 Vote on 3-09: **Yes 240 / 92.3%** No 20 / 7.7% The resolution was adopted.

1 A motion was made and seconded to adopt (unread) the following Resolutions:

2
3 **Resolution 3-05 (Overture 3-02) - To Thank and Encourage the Board for National**
4 **Mission (BNM)**

5
6 **Resolution 3-06A - To Memorialize the Synod to Continue to Urge the Office of National**
7 **Mission to Provide Education and Resources to Assist Districts in Helping Congregations**
8 **to Engage in Vibrant and Active Youth Ministry**

9
10 **Resolution 3-08 (Overture 3-04) - To Commend the Synod and District Visitation**
11 **Emphasis**

12
13 Vote to adopt 3-05, 3-06A, 3-08: **Yes 204 / 77%** No 61 / 23%
14 These resolutions were adopted.

15
16
17 **FLOOR COMMITTEE 2: THEOLOGY AND CHURCH RELATIONS, Rev. Gerhard**
18 **Bode, Chair**

19
20 **Resolution 2-03A (Overture 2-02) - To Encourage the State of Minnesota to Establish**
21 **Parental Choice Equality in Education Funding**

22
23 Discussion on this resolution was resumed after being suspended at the end of Convention
24 Session 2 due to the Orders of the Day.

25
26 A motion was made and seconded to cease debate.

27 Vote to cease debate: **Yes 229 / 89.8%** No 26 / 10.2% Debate was ended.

28
29 Vote on 2-03A: **Yes 231 / 89.5%** No 27 / 10.5% Resolution 2-03A was adopted.

30
31 **Resolution 2-04 (Overture 2-04) - To Expand the Process for New Pastor Orientation in**
32 **the MNS District to Include the Post-Seminary Applied Learning and Support Program**
33 **(PALS)**

34
35 Vote on 2-04: **Yes 223 / 85.5%** No 37 / 14.2% Resolution 2-04 was adopted.

36
37 **Resolution 2-05 (Overture 2-06) - To Request Guidance and Support in Matters of**
38 **Marriage and Sexuality**

39
40 A motion was made and seconded to cease debate.

41 Vote on 2-05: **Yes 248 / 96.5%** No 9 / 3.5% Debate was ended.

42
43 Vote on 2-05: **Yes 234 / 90.3%** No 25 / 9.7% Resolution 2-05 was adopted.

44
45 Unfinished resolutions will be considered by the Minnesota South District Board of Directors
46 to see if they should be forwarded to Synod for consideration.

1 **RECOGNITIONS**

2
3 Dr. Nadasdy recognized and introduced (where possible) the following:

- 4 ▪ Milestone Church Anniversaries (*Convention Workbook* pp. 52-53) He read the lists of
- 5 those congregations celebrating 100 or more year anniversaries;
- 6 ▪ Missionaries and Chaplains in the District were introduced. (*Convention Workbook* p.
- 7 53);
- 8 ▪ Former District staff: Rev. Dr. Lane Seitz, Ms. Lu Clemmensen; Rev. Dr. Peter Meier;
- 9 Mr. Mike Zimmer;
- 10 ▪ Recipients of the Outstanding Lutheran Educator Awards: Mr. Al Dutcher (2012) and
- 11 Ms. Julie Steinborn (2014);
- 12 ▪ Recipients of the Eugene Bunkowske Missio Dei Award: Rev. Dr. Gene Bunkowske
- 13 (2013) and Dr. Peter Meier (2014);
- 14 ▪ Outgoing First Vice President Rev. Gerhard Bode, after serving three terms;
- 15 ▪ Outgoing Board of Directors Members;
- 16 ▪ Outgoing Circuit Visitors;
- 17 ▪ Rev. Evan Schiller, outgoing Chair, Constitution and Membership Committee
- 18 ▪ Convention personnel

19
20
21 **REGISTRATION AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE FINAL REPORT**, Rev. Tom
22 Evans, Chair

| | | |
|----|--|------------|
| 23 | | |
| 24 | ▪ Ordained Minister Delegates: | 181 |
| 25 | ▪ Lay Delegates: | 188 |
| 26 | ▪ Total Voting Delegates: | 369 |
| 27 | ▪ Advisory Delegates: | |
| 28 | Assistant or Associate Pastors | 20 |
| 29 | Emeriti Pastors | 20 |
| 30 | Vicars | 3 |
| 31 | DCE, DCO, Deaconesses | 4 |
| 32 | Concordia University St. Paul | 7 |
| 33 | Teachers | 3 |
| 34 | Emeriti Teachers | 10 |
| 35 | District Board of Directors | 4 |
| 36 | District Staff | 8 |
| 37 | Synodical Representatives | 2 |
| 38 | Guests | <u>35</u> |
| 39 | Total attending the convention: | 485 |
| 40 | | |

41
42 **LUTHER - REJOICING ON HIS WAY (4)**

43 Pastor Andrew Herzberg of Trinity, Farmington, presented another portion of the writings of
44 Dr. Martin Luther.

1 **CLOSING WORSHIP AND INSTALLATION**

2
3 Convention Chaplain Rev. Randall Neal led the convention in a brief closing worship.

4
5 Rev. Dr. Herbert Mueller, First Vice-President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod,
6 installed Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy to serve as President of the Minnesota South District for the
7 2015-2018 triennium.

8
9 Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy installed the following to serve the Minnesota South District during
10 the 2015-2018 triennium:

- 11 ▪ Vice Presidents
- 12 ▪ Circuit Visitors
- 13 ▪ Secretary and Members of the Board of Directors
- 14 ▪ Members of Boards and Committees

15
16
17 **ADJOURNMENT**
18 **OF THE 77TH CONVENTION OF THE MINNESOTA SOUTH DISTRICT - LCMS**

19
20 Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy adjourned the convention in the name of the Father and of the Son and
21 of the Holy Spirit at 11:55 a.m.

22

1 **RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED**
2 **BY THE 2015 MINNESOTA SOUTH DISTRICT CONVENTION**

3
4 **RESOLUTION 1-01 (OVERTURE 1-05; 1-06; 1-07)**

5
6 **To Strengthen and Expand Campus Ministry**

7
8 WHEREAS, over 65 post-secondary schools are located within the communities of the MNS
9 District (including Minnesota State Colleges and Universities—MNSCU colleges,
10 private four-year colleges and universities, private two-year colleges, professional
11 and graduate schools, and University of Minnesota campuses, and
12

13 WHEREAS, currently three campus ministries have been continuously active within the MNS
14 District (Concordia University, St. Paul; University of Minnesota, Twin Cities;
15 and MN State University, Mankato), while other congregations may also be
16 intentionally reaching out to students from nearby post-secondary institutions, and
17

18 WHEREAS, the Scriptures urge the people of God to give intentional witness to the hope they
19 have (Matthew 28:18-20, John 20:21, Acts 1:8, 1 Peter 3:15, etc.) so that others
20 might be brought into the holy Christian Church; and
21

22 WHEREAS, reaching those in the millennial generation presents both a difficult challenge and
23 an immense opportunity for extending the kingdom of God; and
24

25 WHEREAS, University Lutheran Chapel (ULC) lacks worship space on or near the campus it
26 serves; and
27

28 WHEREAS, over \$1.8 million, proceeds from the sale of campus ministry properties in 2012,
29 had been designated for the expansion of campus ministry in the MNS District;
30 and
31

32 WHEREAS, a comprehensive strategy for district-sponsored campus ministries has yet to be
33 implemented; therefore be it
34

35 *Resolved,* that the MNS District gathered in convention direct the District Missions
36 Committee to develop and begin to implement a comprehensive campus ministry
37 strategy for the District in the first year of the next triennium (2015-2018); and be
38 it further
39

40 *Resolved,* MNS District Mission Committee approve a Campus Ministry Plan which seeks
41 to accomplish the following:
42

- 43 1. Provide Word and Sacrament ministry to the campus community;
44 2. Provide financial support for adequate worship space on or near the campus
45 being served;

3. See and reach the mission field that God seeks and desires to be reached, including those in the campus communities who are not-yet saved as well as those who are members of another congregation;
4. Prepare students to be spiritually equipped for service in another congregation when they leave their campus community;
5. Provide spiritual nourishment/enrichment for the campus community;
6. Provide an extended spiritual growth ministry to students away from their home parishes.

and be it further

Resolved, that the strategy especially emphasize the three primary continuous campus ministries in our district, Concordia University, St. Paul; University of Minnesota, Twin Cities (ULC); and MN State University, Mankato, but also include ministries (existing or potential) on other campuses; and be it further

Resolved, that the comprehensive strategy emphasize the training of lay evangelists, who will bear Christ in their vocations on their campuses; and be it further

Resolved, that the MNS District sponsor a summit for equipping congregations located near colleges and universities for campus ministry, offering tools and resources for engaging these neighboring schools; and be it further

Resolved, that the comprehensive strategy include an intentional financial plan, drawing from the above-mentioned funds; and be it further

Resolved, that this comprehensive strategy be implemented in consultation with LCMS campus ministry; and be it finally

Resolved, that before implementation of the plan, the Board of Directors approves all strategies and anticipated costs.

Vote: **Yes 298 / 92%** No 26 / 8% Resolution 1-01 was adopted during Convention Session 2.

RESOLUTION 1-02

To Encourage Congregational Support for Planting New Churches

WHEREAS, Research shows that an effective means for reaching new believers in Jesus Christ is planting new churches; and

WHEREAS, the New Church Incubator is the District’s mechanism and methodology for matching the right church planter with the right church planting plan in the right church planting place and giving that newly planted congregation the greatest

1 possible chance for becoming, in four years, a self-sustaining congregation of the
2 District; and

3
4 WHEREAS, the New Church Incubator brings together an assessed and qualified new church
5 planter with a committed calling (mother) congregation and provides them both
6 with the necessary training, coaching, direction, and resources they need in order
7 to plant a healthy new church; therefore, be it

8
9 *Resolved,* that MNS pastors and congregations be encouraged to participate in and support
10 the New Church Incubator.

11
12 Vote: **Yes 248 / 77.5%** No 72 / 22.5% Resolution 1-02 was adopted during Convention
13 Session 2.

1 **RESOLUTION 2-01A (OVERTURE 2-03)**

2
3 **To Encourage Intentional Leadership in Matters of Public Policy**

4
5 Preamble

6
7 As Lutheran Christians, we have always followed Scripture’s lead in recognizing
8 government as a good and God-ordained part of God’s created order (Rom 13: 1-
9 7). We have followed Paul’s apostolic advice in offering prayers and other
10 support for “our leaders and all in authority” so that living in a peaceful and well-
11 ordered society the Gospel might be freely shared. We have understood this
12 ordering to be “pleasing to God, who wants all men to be saved and come to the
13 knowledge of the truth” (I Tim 2:2). Indeed, historically we have been very
14 deferential to the authority of our elected and appointed governmental officials
15 acting in their proper sphere of influence (the “kingdom of the left”) even as they
16 have been deferential to the church in its proper sphere (the “kingdom of the
17 right”). In the American context in particular, we have rarely felt it necessary or
18 helpful to invest much denominational energy in trying to overtly influence
19 government decisions. Even in those rare instances where we have felt such
20 efforts to be necessary, we have preferred to do so almost exclusively through the
21 independent political activity of our individual members as they exercise their
22 citizenship. Indeed, this remains our preferred mode of influence.

23
24 In recent years, however, it has become clear that something fundamental has
25 changed in the relationship of church and state so that a relationship of mutual
26 respect no longer exists. Which is to say, from the perspective of the church, it’s
27 clear that an increasingly secular state now views the church with great suspicion
28 and with increasing frequency is making decisions which encroach on the sphere
29 of the church and other mediating institutions of society, especially the family. In
30 response to this changed circumstance we offer the following resolution:

31
32 WHEREAS, it has become obvious that the relationship of the church and the culture in which
33 it carries out its ministry is increasingly marked by tension and conflict; and

34
35 WHEREAS, this conflict is making it increasingly difficult for the church to give a clear and
36 unfettered witness to the words of Law and Gospel that she is called to proclaim;
37 and

38
39 WHEREAS, the church is finding it increasingly difficult to carry out the acts of love and
40 mercy which are also her calling; and

41
42 WHEREAS, this conflict and these restrictions are now more frequently expressed not just in
43 generalized cultural trends but in specific actions of our own government
44 (legislative, judicial, and executive) leaving the church marginalized and falsely
45 labeled as “divisive and bigoted”; therefore be it

1 *Resolved,* that the MNS District in convention encourage its pastors, teachers and other
2 called workers to be more intentional in sharing the counsel of Scripture with our
3 congregational members as they relate to the social and public policy issues of the
4 day so that our lay members can, in turn, be more confident and effective in
5 witnessing to the love of God and the truths of the Bible both to their neighbors in
6 the course of everyday life and to the authorities that shape our public policy; and
7 be it further
8

9 *Resolved,* that the MNS District president's office provide the called workers with the
10 appropriate background materials and training opportunities needed to speak
11 knowledgeably to those areas of public policy where the Church finds it necessary
12 and appropriate to speak. These areas include the life issues, marriage and family
13 issues, religious freedom issues, and matters related to parental choice in
14 education; and be it further
15

16 *Resolved,* that the members of the MNS District (both congregations and called church
17 workers) work cooperatively with other church bodies, organizations and
18 individuals who share our goals with respect to these matters of public policy, so
19 that together we might share the love of Christ by contributing to the common
20 temporal good, by fostering the spread of a biblical worldview within our
21 common culture, and by removing any obstacles that might prevent the full and
22 free proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ within the public square; and be it
23 finally
24

25 *Resolved,* that the MNS District in convention memorialize the 2016 LCMS convention to
26 encourage these and similar efforts in every district of the LCMS.
27

28 Vote: Yes **267 / 87%** No 40 / 13% Resolution 2-01A was adopted during Convention
29 Session 2.
30

31
32 **RESOLUTION 2-02 (OVERTURE 2-01)**
33

34 **To Urge Church Members and Elected Officials**
35 **to Value, Exercise, and Protect Religious Freedom**
36

37 WHEREAS, our freedom of religion is arguably our greatest freedom and the freedom upon
38 which all the others depend; and
39

40 WHEREAS, one of the primary motives our forebears in the LCMS had for leaving their
41 homeland and coming to the United States was the promise of greater religious
42 freedom offered not just in the abstract, but also in practice, thus allowing them to
43 live out the implications of their Christian faith in daily life; and
44

45 WHEREAS, in recent years we have witnessed numerous examples of government speech and
46 action which have ignored or depreciated this fundamental right, or sought to

1 limit its scope, for example, by consistently referring to it in more restrictive
2 terms, as our “freedom of worship”; and
3

4 WHEREAS, many powerful interests within our culture (media, education, entertainment, and
5 law) frequently portray the Christian faith as irrational and declare as illegitimate
6 any attempt to allow that faith to inform a person’s words or actions in the public
7 square; therefore be it
8

9 *Resolved,* that the MNS District in convention express its great concern at the severe erosion
10 of religious freedom; and be it further
11

12 *Resolved,* that we encourage our state lawmakers to have a heightened awareness of this
13 threat and to oppose any legislation or other action which would have the effect of
14 continuing to diminish this right; and be it further
15

16 *Resolved,* that we encourage our state legislature to enact new legislation, similar to the
17 federal “Religious Freedom Restoration Act,” that would further define and
18 protect a robust understanding of what is meant by the concept of religious
19 freedom; and be it further
20

21 *Resolved,* that pastors and congregations of the MNS District be encouraged to frequently
22 discuss the meaning and importance of religious freedom; that they be encouraged
23 to exercise their religious freedoms regularly and not be hesitant to speak out
24 publicly on those select issues on which the church has historically spoken; and
25 that they be encouraged to regularly include petitions in their public prayers
26 calling on God to safeguard our religious liberty; and be it finally
27

28 *Resolved,* that the MNS District in convention memorialize the 2016 LCMS Convention to
29 encourage these and similar efforts in every district.
30

31 **Vote: Yes 298 / 94.6% No 17 / 5.4%** Resolution 2-02 was adopted during Convention
32 Session 2.
33
34

35 **RESOLUTION 2-03A (OVERTURE 2-02)**
36

37 **To Encourage the State of Minnesota**
38 **to Establish Parental Choice Equality in Education Funding**
39

40 WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota has been charged with the responsibility of taxing the
41 populace for the purpose of providing monetary resources to educate all children
42 residing in our state; and
43

44 WHEREAS, these monies are ultimately intended to benefit the children of the state, not the
45 educational institutions they may choose to attend; and
46

1 WHEREAS, the actual establishment and operation of schools are not functions of state
2 government, *per se*, but rather of various local actors residing in local
3 communities, including governmental bodies (i.e. independent school districts),
4 various communities of faith, as well as other groups and individuals; a
5 circumstance which has given rise to a wide spectrum of school types from which
6 parents can choose, including government-run secular schools, private non-
7 religious schools, church-affiliated religious schools, and home schools; and
8

9 WHEREAS, with the entrance of charter schools into the education marketplace, a precedent
10 has now been clearly established allowing tax monies to “follow the child” to the
11 school of their parents’ choosing; and
12

13 WHEREAS, many charter schools have chosen to organize their educational programs around
14 a wide variety of different emphases (i.e. language immersion, agriculture, the
15 arts, the sciences, a particular cultural heritage, etc.) every one of which is
16 acceptable to the state, except one—a religious emphasis; and
17

18 WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota is constitutionally bound to remain neutral in matters of
19 religion, that is, it may not use its powers either to favor one religion over another
20 OR to favor non-religion over religion or vice versa, for to do so would be to
21 infringe on the religious freedom of its citizens; therefore be it
22

23 *Resolved*, that the MNS District of the LCMS in convention actively encourage the
24 legislature in the State of Minnesota to recognize that in declining to support
25 parents who choose a religiously informed education for their children, as it
26 currently does, it is favoring non-religion and improperly burdening the religious
27 freedom of its citizens; and be it further
28

29 *Resolved*, that we call on our state legislature to change the manner in which the State of
30 Minnesota distributes the funds it has collected for educational purposes so as to
31 remove the financial inequality it currently imposes on parents who choose a
32 religiously informed education for their children; and be it further
33

34 *Resolved*, that they correct this inequality by emphasizing parental choice over direct school
35 funding so as not to introduce any unnecessary government intrusion or
36 entanglement in the operation of religiously affiliated schools; and be it finally
37

38 *Resolved*, that the state legislature be called on to acknowledge that, while it is appropriate
39 for the state to seek assurances that all schools are meeting certain minimum
40 scholastic outcomes, the process of seeking those assurances must never be
41 allowed to pressure schools into altering their religious content or character as
42 determined by each school itself.
43

44 **Vote: Yes 231 / 89.5% No 27 / 10.5%** Resolution 2-03A was adopted during Convention
45 Session 4.
46

1 **RESOLUTION 2-04 (OVERTURE 2-04)**

2
3 **To Expand the Process for New Pastor Orientation in the MNS District**
4 **to Include the Post-Seminary Applied Learning and Support Program (PALS)**

5
6 WHEREAS, the pastors of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are encouraged to participate
7 in continuing education; and

8
9 WHEREAS, the pastors of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are asked on the Self-
10 evaluation Tool (SET) form what areas of ministry need improvement, what the
11 pastors are doing to improve those areas, and in what type of continuing education
12 they are participating; and

13
14 WHEREAS, the pastors of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are asked about their
15 training, certification, and experience with various ministry topics on the Pastor's
16 Information Form (PIF); and

17 WHEREAS, the members of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have in convention (2013,
18 5-02a) recommended the continuing education of pastors, specifically within the
19 first three years through the use of the PALS program; and

20
21 WHEREAS, upon completion of each year of the PALS program a certificate of completion of
22 up to six Continuing Education Units (CEUs) is awarded; and

23
24 WHEREAS, the topics that have been designed for the PALS program are doctrinally approved
25 and cover a wide range of pastoral experiences that would prove valuable to new
26 pastors and their wives; and

27
28 WHEREAS, the MNS District staff already has a new pastor orientation process in place;
29 therefore, be it

30
31 *Resolved,* that the MNS District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod incorporate the
32 PALS program for seminary graduates into its new pastor orientation process; and
33 be it

34
35 *Resolved,* that pastors in their early years of ministry be encouraged by the district to
36 participate in this process; and be it finally

37
38 *Resolved,* that the MNS District encourage all pastors and professional church workers to
39 pursue continuing education opportunities throughout their ministry.

40
41 Vote: Yes **223 / 85.5%** No 37 / 14.2% Resolution 2-04 was adopted during Convention
42 Session 4.

1 **RESOLUTION 2-05 (OVERTURE 2-06)**

2
3 **To Request Guidance and Support in Matters of Marriage and Sexuality**

4
5 WHEREAS, there is a great deal of confusion in society regarding God’s good design for
6 marriage, family, and human sexuality; and

7
8 WHEREAS, this seems to be a part of a larger ongoing decay in Christian values and mindset
9 in American society, as evidenced also in the official positions of other church
10 bodies; and

11
12 WHEREAS, we are all sinners who constantly need forgiveness and correction; and

13
14 WHEREAS, young people are especially subject to confusion and are poorly equipped to
15 respond to these challenges, even in their own minds and personal conduct; and

16
17 WHEREAS, there is need for support and guidance to be offered to those who struggle with
18 various sexual temptations and sins, and yet want to live a faithful life in
19 accordance with God’s Word; and

20
21 WHEREAS, there is also a great need to reach out in love and compassion to those who are not
22 troubled in their conscience about living and thinking in ways that are unfaithful
23 to the Scriptures with regard to human sexuality; *and*

24 WHEREAS, there is a synodical task force already working on this; *therefore, be it*

25
26 *Resolved,* that the MNS District encourage the Synod, its seminaries, and its universities to
27 put a high priority on providing leadership in this area; and be it further

28
29 *Resolved,* that pastors and congregations be implored to provide responsible pastoral care in
30 this area through their preaching, teaching and counseling; and be it finally

31
32 *Resolved,* that the MNS District memorialize the Synod to establish a fulltime position to
33 provide leadership in matters of marriage, family, and human sexuality.

34
35 Vote: **Yes 234 / 90.3%** No 25 / 9.7% Resolution 2-05 was adopted during Convention
36 Session 4.

1 **RESOLUTION 3-01 (OVERTURE 3-08, 3-09, 3-10)**

2
3 **Assistant to the President for Education and Commissioned Ministers**

4
5 ***Purpose***

6
7 Full-Time Called Position for the following purpose: To provide support for Ministers of
8 Religion Commissioned (teachers, DCEs, DCOs, deaconesses) and all education entities of the
9 district (early childhood centers, elementary schools, and high schools) so that workers and
10 agencies are intentionally engaged in the mission of God.

11
12 ***Responsibilities***

- 13
14 1. Encourage and equip Ministers of Religion-Commissioned to think, plan and act in
15 alignment with God’s calling in the Great Commission.
- 16 2. Provide leadership in the development of education entities of the District as mission
17 outposts where budget, staffing, policies, and priorities are intentionally determined in
18 light of the role of the church to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ to their community.
- 19 3. Encourage and pray for all commissioned and other workers.
- 20 4. Provide Christ-centered, Biblical resources for ministry teams in conflict or transition.
- 21 5. Ensure accurate record-keeping of all Ministers of Religion-Commissioned, schools, and
22 educational agencies in the District.
- 23 6. Serve as the custodian of the roster of Ministers of Religion-Commissioned on behalf of
24 the District President.
- 25 7. Advise and assist congregations, schools, and other agencies in the calling of Ministers of
26 Religion-Commissioned.
- 27 8. Serve as resource person to the Schools/Commissioned Ministers Committee, Early
28 Childhood Consultants Committee, DCE Executive Board, and the Continuing Education
29 Committee
- 30 9. Provide resources and encouragement for school and early childhood center
31 administrators and staff.
- 32 10. Assist schools and early childhood centers with the formation of mission, vision, goals,
33 and strategies
- 34 11. Facilitate the orientation and assimilation of newly-called commissioned workers.
- 35 12. Communicate relevant mission-focused information from Synod, District, schools, and
36 other agencies to the congregations, schools, and Ministers of Religion-Commissioned.
- 37 13. Secure and disseminate information from national and state agencies impacting early
38 childhood centers and schools.
- 39 14. Serve as a planning consultant, administrative staff person, and program resource person
40 to the official conference of Ministers of Religion-Commissioned.
- 41 15. Encourage and facilitate processes for networking and collaboration among the education
42 entities of the District to maximize the Gospel impact in their communities.
- 43 16. Encourage and facilitate processes enhancing the quality of schools and teachers of the
44 District.

- 1 17. Recommend, encourage and facilitate procedures for National Lutheran School
2 Accreditation (NLSA) and serve as administrative staff person to the District
3 Accreditation Commission.
4 18. Serve in areas other than those outlined above at the discretion of the District President
5 who may assign other duties as needs arise.
6

7 ***Accountability***
8

9 The Assistant to the President for Education and Commissioned Ministers reports directly to the
10 District President and provides quarterly reports to the Schools/Commissioned Ministers
11 Committee.
12

13 Therefore, be it
14

15 *Resolved,* that the number of Assistants to the President be increased to five to include an
16 Assistant to the President whose title shall be Assistant to the President for
17 Education and Commissioned Ministers; and be it further
18

19 *Resolved,* that the position of Assistant to the President for Education and Commissioned
20 Ministers be filled as soon as possible, and be it finally
21

22 *Resolved,* that the MNS District in convention give thanks for the resources God has
23 provided to make this support ministry possible.
24

25 Vote: **Yes 197 / 62.3%** No 119 / 37.7% Resolution 3-01 was adopted during Convention
26 Session 2
27
28

29 **RESOLUTION 3-02 (OVERTURE 3-03)**
30

31 **To Continue and Expand the Koinonia Project in the Minnesota South District**
32

33 WHEREAS, “the ‘Koinonia Project’ is an initiative by the office of the president of the Synod
34 designed to foster that theological discussion under the Word of God which we
35 pray will strengthen our joint witness to the saving doctrine and bring greater
36 unity to our practice of the same for the sake of God’s people” (Koinonia Concept
37 Paper, June 2013, page 1); and
38

39 WHEREAS, “the goal of this project is to help our people, by God’s grace and Spirit in His
40 Word, perceive more clearly our unity in Christ and to express with greater
41 unanimity the concord (the oneness in doctrine and practice) Christ desires for us
42 under the Word of God for the sake of our witness before the world” (Koinonia
43 Concept Paper, June 2013, page 6); and
44

45 WHEREAS, “it is absolutely essential that our theological issues are addressed by a thorough
46 process under the Word of God where we come to clear agreement on 1) the

1 points at issue, 2) what we confess together, 3) what we reject and 4) what we will
2 therefore do together, on the basis of Scripture and our Confessions” (Koinonia
3 Concept Paper, June 2013, page 8); therefore, be it
4

5 *Resolved,* that the Minnesota South District in convention commend our District President
6 and Presidium for implementing the Koinonia Project in our District; and be it
7 further
8

9 *Resolved,* that the Minnesota South District in convention direct our District President and
10 Presidium to submit a written statement to the 2018 Minnesota South District
11 convention clearly identifying the points of doctrine and practice at issue in our
12 District; and be it finally
13

14 *Resolved,* that the Minnesota South District in convention direct our District President and
15 Presidium to submit its report to the 2018 Minnesota South District convention
16 clearly identifying 1) what we affirm together, 2) what we reject together, 3)
17 where concord could be improved, and 4) what we will therefore do together
18 concerning the specific points at issue which have been studied and discussed in
19 the previous triennium.
20

21 **Vote: Yes 256 / 82.1% No 56 / 17.9%** Resolution 3-02 was adopted during Session 2.
22

23
24 **RESOLUTION 3-03 (OVERTURE 3-07)**
25

26 **To Approve a Feasibility Study for a Special Funding Appeal**
27 **to Support MNS District Education Initiatives**
28

29 WHEREAS, our Lord has commissioned us to “make disciples of all nations, teaching
30 them...,” and
31

32 WHEREAS, our schools and early childhood centers are gifts of God treasured by our
33 congregations and their communities for their life-long impact on children and
34 their families, and
35

36 WHEREAS, the MNS District in the past has conducted special funding appeals focused on
37 new church plants and ministries; and
38

39 WHEREAS, the need to strengthen our existing schools and early childhood centers and to
40 establish new schools, early childhood centers, and educational ministries goes
41 beyond the capacity of our annual operating budget; and

42 WHEREAS, any special funding appeal must have the widespread support of the congregations
43 and workers of the District; and
44

45 WHEREAS, it is unknown at this time the degree to which the District will support such a
46 special fund drive; therefore, be it

1 *Resolved,* that the MNS District meeting in convention authorize the District Board of
2 Directors to commission a feasibility study in order to determine the level of
3 support in the District for a special funding appeal focusing on education; and be
4 it further

5
6 *Resolved,* that this proposed appeal target the following:
7
8 1. Increasing the quality of our existing schools and early childhood centers;
9 2. Planting new schools and early childhood centers;
10 3. Increasing our efforts in support of parental choice in education.
11 4. Expanding our educational ministries among the children, youth, and adults in
12 our various immigrant populations;
13 5. Developing and supporting online efforts in Christian education;
14 6. Strengthening educational leadership throughout the District; and
15 7. Funding and resources for a campaign marketing our Lutheran schools and
16 early childhood centers;

17
18 and be it finally

19
20 *Resolved,* that should the feasibility study reveal widespread support for a special funding
21 appeal for Christian education ministries, the Board of Directors be empowered
22 by the convention to authorize such a funding campaign to commence in the
23 2015-2018 triennium.

24
25 Vote: Yes **243 / 92.7%** No 19 / 7.3% The resolution was adopted during Convention
26 Session 4.

27
28

29 **RESOLUTION 3-04A (OVERTURE 3-01)**

30
31 **To Encourage the Congregations and Individuals of the MNS District**
32 **toward Joyful Formation of and Participation in New Mission Ventures**

33
34 WHEREAS, all Scripture, reveals to us a loving God who fervently desires to restore his fallen
35 creation to Himself; and

36
37 WHEREAS, the number of unreached people in all regions of the Minnesota South District
38 continues to increase precipitously; and

39
40 WHEREAS, the 1991 CTCR document entitled “A Theological Statement of Mission” states
41 that “all mission begins in the heart of God . . . is centered in Jesus Christ . . .
42 [and] is empowered by the Holy Spirit”; and declared that “God’s mission is to
43 and for everyone”; and

44
45 WHEREAS, the 2014 CTCR document entitled “A Theological Statement for Mission in the
46 21st Century” reminds us that “There is no Church without mission, and no

1 mission without the Church” and that “Church and mission go together; you do
2 not have the one without the other;” and

3
4 WHEREAS, the founders of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod understood that “The true
5 mission society that has been instituted by God is nothing else than the Christian
6 church itself, that is the totality of all those who from the heart believe in Jesus
7 Christ;” and

8
9 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, meeting in convention in 2013, passed
10 resolution 1-03A “that all members of the Synod be encouraged to develop a
11 clearer understanding of their involvement in God’s mission and be moved to
12 participate in it with greater joy and fervor;” therefore, be it

13
14 *Resolved,* that members of the District be called to humble repentance where we have failed
15 to joyfully and fervently participate in God’s mission; and be it further

16
17 *Resolved,* that every congregation of the District, in keeping with Synod resolution 1-03A ,
18 be encouraged to commit to an in-depth study of the mission of Christ’s church;
19 and be it further,

20
21 *Resolved,* that congregations and their pastors, circuits, and other ministries be encouraged
22 to seek new opportunities reflecting the Synodical themes of Witness, Mercy, and
23 Life Together; and be it finally

24
25 *Resolved,* that this Convention direct district Mission Formation efforts to aggressively
26 increase awareness of services and resources available to congregations,
27 institutions, schools, and professional church workers to facilitate thinking,
28 planning, and action that reflects joyful participation through these joint ventures
29 in the mission of God.

30
31 **Vote: Yes 239 / 89.5% No 28 / 10.5%** Resolution 3-04A was adopted during convention
32 session 4.

33
34
35 **RESOLUTION 3-05 (OVERTURE 3-02)**

36
37 **To Thank and Encourage the Board for National Mission (BNM)**

38
39 WHEREAS, work by the Board for National Mission (BNM) has been done to revitalize
40 congregations, schools, and church workers; and

41
42 WHEREAS, key staff positions are being filled in the areas of: Black Ministry, Urban and
43 Inner-City Mission, Witness and Outreach, and Campus Ministry; and

44
45 WHEREAS, conferences are being held on Worship, Rural and Small Town Mission, Life
46 Ministries, and Black Family Convocation; and

1 WHEREAS, the BNM has drawn up the governing documents for its board, has had these
2 approved as compatible with the LCMS constitution and bylaws, and has
3 implemented these approved structures in carrying out its work; therefore be it
4

5 *Resolved,* that the BNM be thanked for its work to further the mission endeavors of our
6 Synod nationally; and be it finally
7

8 *Resolved,* that the executives and staff associated with the BNM be thanked for their work in
9 implementing the plans and policies of the BNM.
10

11 Vote on 3-05, 3-06A, and 3-08: Yes **204 / 77%** No 61 / 23% These resolutions were
12 adopted during Convention Session 4.
13
14

15 **RESOLUTION 3-06A**
16

17 **To Memorialize the Synod to Continue to Urge the Office of National Mission**
18 **to Provide Education and Resources to Assist Districts in Helping Congregations**
19 **to Engage in Vibrant and Active Youth Ministry**
20

21 WHEREAS, through the Gospel, Christians have been called into fellowship as members of the
22 body of Christ; and
23

24 WHEREAS, the members of the early Church dedicated themselves to the Apostles' teaching,
25 the fellowship, the breaking of the bread and to the prayers, and examined the
26 Scriptures daily strengthening their understanding and faith in Christ Jesus; and
27

28 WHEREAS, many in society today hold a skeptical view of the church and are not seeking
29 support from the church for helping grow in faith, nor for developing emotional
30 maturity and there is a need for dealing constructively with extended adolescence;
31 and
32

33 WHEREAS, the Board for National Mission writes policies that direct the Office of National
34 Mission to advocate for youth ministry and to provide resources for districts to aid
35 their congregations in nurturing young people to grow in the faith and in their
36 daily vocations as the baptized, therefore be it
37

38 *Resolved,* that the Board for National Mission be thanked for its attention to youth ministry
39 needs and for the policies it has written that aid the districts in Synod to help
40 congregations develop vibrant, Christ-centered youth ministries; and be it further
41

42 *Resolved,* that the Board for National Mission be encouraged to continue to write policy
43 which enables the Office of National Mission to assist districts and congregations
44 to address the spiritual needs of youth and young adults in today's challenging
45 culture; and be it finally
46

1 *Resolved,* that the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in Convention encourage the Office of
2 National Mission to carry out the proposed policies of the Board for National
3 Mission to aid and encourage the districts in Synod as they help congregations
4 develop vibrant and active ministries to youth and young adults to the glory of
5 God and to the spiritual development of the young people whom God has placed
6 in their care.
7

8 Vote on 3-05, 3-06A, and 3-08: Yes **204 / 77%** No 61 / 23% These resolutions were
9 adopted during Convention Session 4.
10

11
12 **RESOLUTION 3-07 (OVERTURE 3-05)**
13

14 **To Affirm and Actively Engage the Ministry of Directors of Christian Education**
15 **(DCE)**
16

17 WHEREAS, Christian education is both commanded by God and emphasized in the Lutheran
18 Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS); and
19

20 WHEREAS, Directors of Christian Education (DCEs) have been instrumental in providing a
21 level of intentionality and effectiveness in Christian education efforts in the
22 LCMS; and
23

24 WHEREAS, DCEs were approved by the Synod in 1949 and were given “Minister of Religion-
25 Commissioned” status by the LCMS in 1983 per Synod convention actions to
26 serve the Synod and its congregations; and
27

28 WHEREAS, DCEs both lead and equip others to follow the Matthew 28 command to “make
29 disciples, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you;” and
30

31 WHEREAS, the LCMS is a church body that sees an attrition rate of young people in our
32 congregations of approximately 75% from the time a child is baptized up to age
33 twenty one, thus those same approximate 75% no longer engage in the life of a
34 congregation; and
35

36 WHEREAS, DCEs serve at the very critical point of influence and engagement in faith
37 development and commitment in our young people as they progress through
38 confirmation instruction and youth group experiences; and
39

40 WHEREAS, DCEs are engaged and impassioned team players in a variety of congregational
41 and staff settings, always looking toward the goals of winning more souls and
42 nurturing the faith in families, children, youth, and adults; and
43

44 WHEREAS, DCEs are Synod-trained human resources in the vital work of Christian education,
45 growing and nurturing the faith development in people of all ages in a
46 congregation; therefore, be it

1 *Resolved,* that each congregation be encouraged to evaluate its staffing structure to see if
2 there is a need and financial provision to consider the calling of a DCE for future
3 staffing needs; and be it further
4

5 *Resolved,* that we acknowledge the value and contributions of DCEs to the service of the
6 Synod, to Christian education of all age groups, to the ministry of our
7 congregations, and to their presence as engaged team players; and be it finally
8

9 *Resolved,* that as DCEs enhance an individual parishioner's faith development and also add
10 to the quality of life in families, we sincerely thank them for their integral service
11 by rising and singing the common doxology.
12

13 **Vote: Yes 214 / 81.4% No 49 / 18.6%** The amended resolution 3-07 was adopted during
14 Convention Session 4.
15

16

17 **RESOLUTION 3-08 (OVERTURE 3-04)**

18

19 **To Commend the Synod and District Visitation Emphasis**

20

21 **WHEREAS,** the visitation by President Harrison, together with Synod Vice Presidents, has
22 been very helpful to understanding the districts in their unique contexts,
23 challenges and opportunities; and
24

25 **WHEREAS,** the visits by President Nadasdy to circuits and congregations have also been
26 helpful to see the challenges and opportunities within the circuits and the
27 congregations within each circuit; and
28

29 **WHEREAS,** the visits that each Circuit Visitor has been asked to make on the congregations in
30 his circuit have been helpful to those who have experienced them to this point;
31 therefore, be it
32

33 *Resolved,* that we commend the Synod President, the synodical Vice Presidents, our District
34 President and staff, and the Circuit Visitors for making these visits; and be it
35 further
36

37 *Resolved,* that we encourage the continuation of these visits in the future.
38

39 **Vote on 3-05, 3-06A, and 3-08: Yes 204 / 77% No 61 / 23%** These resolutions were
40 adopted during Convention Session 4.
41

42

43

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47

1 **RESOLUTION 3-09**

2
3 **To Provide District Representative to Assist Lutheran Home School Families and Classical**
4 **Lutheran Schools in finding Resources, Support, and Fellowship**
5 **Opportunities.**
6

7 WHEREAS, Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such
8 belongs the kingdom of heaven” (Mt. 19:14) and, “Go therefore and make
9 disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son
10 and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you:
11 (Mt 28:19-20), and
12

13 WHEREAS, the MNS Board of Directors first prioritized initiative in the adopted “Initiatives
14 for 2012-2015” is “providing administrative services for schools (early childhood,
15 elementary, secondary)...”, and
16

17 WHEREAS, Pr. Dean Nadasdy, President MN South District—LCMS President’s Report
18 recognizes the importance of “giving our education ministries, schools, and
19 commissioned workers the support they need”, and
20

21 WHEREAS, home schooling has also become a more common and in some instances even
22 more necessary option chosen by parents to teach their children, and
23

24 WHEREAS, Lutheran home school families often live in geographical isolation from other
25 Lutheran home school families as well as sometimes lack community support, and
26

27 WHEREAS, a return to the “classical model” of teaching and learning is happening across
28 denominational lines and has been adopted by many Lutheran families and
29 schools throughout the United States, and
30

31 WHEREAS, Wittenberg Academy, a Recognized Service Organization serves as an example
32 within the District, offering families and schools online courses, curriculum, and
33 family retreats based on the classical model of teaching and learning; therefore be
34 it
35

36 *Resolved,* that the MNS District provide a contact person or committee for resources and
37 networking assistance for the homeschool families in the District, and be it finally
38

39 *Resolved,* that the MNS District encourage the Synod, its seminaries, and its universities to
40 put a high priority on providing resources for home school families and provide
41 training for classical education.
42

43 **Vote: Yes 240 / 92.3% No 20 / 7.7%** Resolution 3-09 was adopted during Convention
44 Session 4.
45
46

1 **RESOLUTION 4-01 (OVERTURE 4-01)**

2
3 **To Amend Selected Bylaws of the MNS District-LCMS**

4
5 WHEREAS, the MNS District Board of Directors has reviewed and approved changes to the
6 MNS District Bylaws; and

7
8 WHEREAS, the LCMS Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) has reviewed and
9 approved bylaw changes as required in Minnesota South District Bylaw 7.2; and

10
11 WHEREAS, Bylaw 4.3.5 in the proposed bylaw changes calls for a term limit for District
12 President and Circuit Visitors which may significantly impact the future
13 administration of the District; and

14
15 WHEREAS, all bylaw changes require a favorable simple majority vote of delegates at a
16 regular or special meeting of the District; therefore, be it

17
18 *Resolved,* that the proposed change in Bylaw 4.3.5 regarding term limits be discussed and
19 approved, and be it further,

20
21 *Resolved,* that other proposed bylaw changes to the MNS District Handbook be approved by
22 majority vote of delegates at this convention.

23
24
25 **Bylaw Changes as Approved by Convention and Sent to the LCMS CCM for Approval:**

| 2012 Handbook | 2015 Proposed Revisions |
|---|--|
| <p data-bbox="435 1325 540 1352" style="text-align: center;">BYLAWS</p> <p data-bbox="188 1392 795 1455"><u>Chapter 1: Relationships within and through the Synod</u></p> <p data-bbox="188 1497 771 1560">1.12 Precedence of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod</p> <p data-bbox="188 1602 795 1843">No bylaw provision of the Minnesota South District (herein the “District”) can be interpreted to conflict with the Constitution and bylaws of THE LUTHERAN CHURCH— MISSOURI SYNOD (herein the “Synod”). If a bylaw of the District conflicts with current Constitution and bylaws of the Synod, the Constitution and bylaws of the Synod govern.</p> | <p data-bbox="873 1220 1385 1346" style="text-align: center;">BYLAWS OF THE MINNESOTA SOUTH DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH— MISSOURI SYNOD</p> <p data-bbox="824 1392 1401 1455"><u>Chapter 1: Relationships within and through the Synod</u></p> <p data-bbox="824 1518 1409 1581">1.12 Precedence of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod</p> <p data-bbox="824 1623 1433 1843">No bylaw provision of the Minnesota South District (herein the “district”) can be interpreted to conflict with the constitution and bylaws of THE LUTHERAN CHURCH— MISSOURI SYNOD (herein the “LCMS”). If a bylaw of the district conflicts with current constitution and bylaws of the LCMS, the constitution and bylaws of the</p> |

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| <p><u>Chapter 2: Membership</u></p> <p>2.20.1 Minnesota South District Membership</p> <p>The members of the Minnesota South District of THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD shall be all those members of THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD (congregations, ordained and commissioned ministers) who have been received into the district at the time of joining the Synod, who have been transferred from another district, or who have been assigned to the district by the Synod.</p> <p>2.20.2 Application and Reception</p> <p>Each application for membership in the Synod by a congregation shall be submitted to the District President and acted upon by the Board of Directors of the District at any regular meeting.</p> <p>2.20.3 Signing the Constitution</p> <p>a) Members (congregations, ordained ministers and commissioned ministers) shall sign the constitution according to procedures defined in the bylaws of the Synod. Members will be invited to acknowledge their signing at the first District convention after they sign.</p> <p>b) The District Secretary shall note the year in which the member signs the constitution and is received into membership or relinquishes membership or is transferred to another District of the Synod. The District President shall keep the Secretary of the District informed of transfers into and out of the District so that entries can be made in the records of the District.</p> | <p>LCMS govern.</p> <p><u>Chapter 2: Membership</u></p> <p>2.20.1 Minnesota South District Membership</p> <p>The members of the Minnesota South District shall be those set forth in the constitution of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.</p> <p>2.20.2 Application and Reception</p> <p>Each application for membership in the district by a congregation shall be submitted to the district president along with the applicant congregation's constitution and bylaws. The district president shall in turn submit it to the district constitution committee to determine whether any changes will be required before the application is submitted by the district president to the board of directors of the district for its approval.</p> <p>2.20.3 Signing the Constitution</p> <p>a) If an application for membership of a congregation is approved, the president and one other officer of the newly admitted congregation shall, as representatives of the congregation, sign all those documents deemed necessary by the district in order to memorialize the congregation's membership. In recognition of the importance of this event, the district president shall encourage the newly admitted member congregation to conduct a special worship service in which the signing takes place.</p> <p>b) A copy of the signed documents shall be forwarded to the secretary of the district. Acceptance by the board of directors of the district shall, among other things, be reported to the other members of the district at the next regular meeting of the district. The signatures to those documents contemplated by this section of the bylaws on behalf of the congregation shall be preserved by the district president, and the year in which the congregation is formally received into membership shall be duly noted.</p> |
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| <p>2.20.4 Voting Members</p> <p>All organized congregations that have joined the Synod hold voting membership. At the meetings of the District every congregation or parish (two or more congregations served by one pastor on a permanent basis) is entitled to two votes, one of which is to be cast by the pastor and the other by the lay delegate.</p> <p>2.20.5 Advisory Members</p> <p>Advisory members are defined in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.</p> <p>2.20.6 Duties of Members</p> <p>Every member of the District shall, in accordance with his vocation, his ability, and the means at his command, diligently and earnestly promote the purposes of the District and organizations of the Synod by word, deed, and adequate financial support.</p> <p>2.20.7 Duties of Advisory Members</p> <p>Advisory members of the District shall attend the District conventions. They shall not be elected by any congregation of Synod as a lay delegate, nor shall they be accredited as such.</p> <p>2.20.8 Reviewing Continued Eligibility of Members</p> <p>An individual member of the Synod may be placed on restricted status by the District President, following the procedures and provisions set forth in the Bylaws of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (Bylaw 2.13.2 - 2.13.4) as subject to applicable laws.</p> <p><u>Chapter 3: National Organization and Responsibilities</u></p> <p>3.1 National Conventions</p> <p>3.1.2.5 Voting Delegates to the Convention of the Synod</p> <p>Each Electoral Circuit shall be entitled to, and shall elect, one pastor and one lay delegate from</p> | <p>2.20.4 Voting Members</p> <p>All organized congregations that have joined the LCMS hold voting membership. At the meetings of the district every congregation or parish (two or more congregations served by one pastor on a permanent basis) is entitled to two votes, one of which is to be cast by the pastor and the other by the lay delegate.</p> <p>2.20.5 Advisory Members</p> <p>Advisory members of the district are as defined in the governing documents of the LCMS.</p> <p>2.20.6 Duties of Members</p> <p>Every congregation and individual member of the district shall, in accordance with vocation, ability, and means, diligently and earnestly promote the purposes of the district and ministries of the LCMS by word, deed, and financial support.</p> <p>2.20.7 Duties of Advisory Members</p> <p>Advisory members of the district shall attend regular meetings of the district. They shall not be elected by any congregation of the LCMS as a lay delegate, nor shall they be accredited as such.</p> <p>2.20.8 Reviewing Continued Eligibility of Members</p> <p>An individual member of the district may be placed on restricted status by the district president, following the applicable procedures and provisions set forth in the governing documents of the LCMS.</p> <p><u>Chapter 3: National Organization and Responsibilities</u></p> <p>3.1 National Conventions</p> <p>3.1.2.5 Voting Delegates to the Convention of the LCMS</p> <p>Each electoral circuit shall be entitled to, and shall elect, one pastor and one lay delegate from member</p> |
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member congregations to the national convention of Synod. The election procedure outlined in the Synod Handbook shall be followed. The convention expenses of these delegates shall be paid by the Circuit.

3.1.2.6 Nonvoting Advisory Delegates to the Convention of the Synod

During an official conference or a caucus (convened by the District Secretary) at the convention, advisory delegates shall elect their delegates to the national convention of the Synod in accordance with the Handbook of the Synod, "Each district shall select one advisory delegate for every 60 advisory ordained ministers and specific ministry pastors and one advisory delegate for every 60 commissioned ministers on the roster of the Synod. Fractional groupings shall be disregarded except that each district shall be entitled to at least one advisory delegate in each category." The names of delegates so elected shall be announced at the District Convention. The District Secretary shall forward the list to the Secretary of Synod. The District Treasury shall pay the convention expenses of these advisory delegates.

congregations to the national convention of the LCMS. The election procedure outlined in the LCMS handbook shall be followed. The convention expenses of these delegates shall be paid by the circuit.

3.1.2.6 Nonvoting Advisory Delegates to the Convention of the LCMS

In accordance with the governing documents of the LCMS, "Each district shall select one advisory delegate for every 60 advisory ordained ministers and specific ministry pastors and one advisory delegate for every 60 commissioned ministers on the roster of the LCMS. Fractional groupings shall be disregarded except that each district shall be entitled to at least one advisory delegate in each category."

- a) Selection of district advisory delegates to the convention of the LCMS shall be made by the respective groups meeting at the call of the district secretary either during the regular meeting of the district or at official district conferences of ordained and/or commissioned ministers.
- b) Such selections must be completed at least nine months prior to the opening day of the convention of the LCMS to which they are to attend.
- c) Individuals who are eligible for selection in any category under LCMS bylaw 3.1.4 shall not be counted in determining the number of advisory delegates from a district, shall not be eligible to be selected as delegates from the groups defined by such bylaw, and shall not participate in the election process.
- d) All voting and nonvoting advisory delegates and representatives of the district and their alternates shall be certified before attending a convention of the LCMS.

The names and addresses of all voting and nonvoting advisory delegates and representatives and their alternates shall be forwarded by the secretary of the district before the announced registration deadline to the secretary of the LCMS

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| <p><u>Chapter 4: District Organization</u></p> <p>4.2 District Conventions</p> <p>4.2.11 Time of Convention The District shall convene in the year prior to the convention of Synod. The time and place of the convention shall be determined by the preceding District Convention. In the event of emergency or if the convention does not act, the Board of Directors shall determine the time and place.</p> <p>4.2.12 Convention Appointments to be Made by the President</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Committee on Registration, Credentials, and Attendance b) Convention Arrangements Committee c) Committee on Elections d) Floor Committees <p>4.2.12.1 Committee on Registration, Credentials and Attendance</p> <p>The Committee on Registration, Credentials, and Attendance shall make all necessary arrangements for proper registration of the convention delegates, and examine their credentials. At the beginning of the first business session it shall report to the President whether or not a quorum is in attendance. Full-time and part-time absences shall be reported to this committee. A full report of this committee shall be filed with the District Secretary.</p> | <p>on the registration forms provided by the secretary of the LCMS. The foregoing procedure shall constitute certification for purposes of these bylaws.</p> <p><u>Chapter 4: District Organization</u></p> <p>4.2 Regular Meeting - District Conventions</p> <p>4.2.11 Time of Regular Meeting/Convention, and Special Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Regular meetings of the district shall be held as set forth in the constitution and bylaws of the LCMS. b) Special meetings of the district may be called by the district president, he having previously obtained consent of at least a majority of the voting members of the district after having informed them and the president of the LCMS the purpose of the intended special session. <p>4.2.12 Convention Appointments to be Made by the President</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Committee on Registration, Credentials, and Attendance b) Convention Arrangements Committee c) Committee on Elections, and d) Floor Committees <p>4.2.12.1 Committee on Registration, Credentials and Attendance</p> <p>The committee on registration, credentials, and attendance shall make all necessary arrangements for proper registration of the meeting/convention delegates, and examine their credentials. At the beginning of the first business session it shall report to the district president whether or not a quorum is in attendance. Full-time and part-time absences shall be reported to this committee. A full report of this committee shall be filed with the secretary of the district at or promptly following the meeting for which such a report is required.</p> |
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4.2.12.2 Convention Arrangements Committee

The Convention Arrangements Committee shall provide comfortable housing facilities (including meals) for the delegates and guests. It shall also prepare the assembly hall with all necessary facilities, supplies, and services. It shall make available a sufficient number of committee rooms and provide all things necessary for the smooth and efficient conduct of the convention. This committee shall collect the convention fees as fixed by the Praesidium and approved by the Board of Directors.

4.2.12.3 Committee on Elections

The Committee on Elections shall make all necessary arrangements for elections, and shall conduct and supervise them. The list of candidates and the number of votes each candidate or slate of candidates received shall be reported to the Convention and then filed with the Secretary of the District.

4.2.12.4 Floor Committees

All floor committee meetings, except executive sessions, shall be open to all members of the District. Any member of the District may appear and present his/her views concerning the matter under consideration. The chairman of the committee shall make public announcements of the time and place of the meetings.

4.2.13 Agenda

- a) The agenda for the District Convention shall be prepared and arranged by the Praesidium in consultation with the Board of Directors.
- b) All District matters which warrant more thorough study before action by the convention is taken shall, without debate, be referred by the President to a floor committee for consideration and recommendation.

4.2.12.2 Convention Arrangements Committee

The convention arrangements committee shall provide housing facilities (including meals) for the delegates and guests. It shall also prepare the assembly hall with all necessary facilities, supplies, and services. It shall make available a sufficient number of committee rooms and provide all things necessary for the smooth and efficient conduct of the meeting. This committee shall collect the convention fees as fixed by the presidium and approved by the board of directors.

4.2.12.3 Committee on Elections

The committee on elections shall make all necessary arrangements for elections of officers and directors at the meeting and shall conduct and supervise these elections. The list of candidates and the number of votes each candidate or slate of candidates received shall be reported to the members and then filed with the secretary of the district.

4.2.12.4 Floor Committees

All floor committee meetings, except executive sessions, shall be open to all LCMS rostered pastors, commissioned workers, and members of district congregations. These may appear and present their views concerning the matter under consideration. The chairman of the committee shall make public announcements of the time and place of the meetings.

4.2.13 Agenda

- a) The agenda for the district convention shall be prepared and arranged by the presidium in consultation with the board of directors.
- b) All district matters which warrant more thorough study before action by the convention delegates is taken shall, without debate, be referred by the district president to a floor committee for consideration and its formal recommendation.

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| <p>4.2.13.1 Memorials and Overtures All memorials or overtures to the District Convention which, at the discretion of the Praesidium, are to appear in print, shall be submitted in triplicate to the District President at least 90 days prior to the opening day of the Convention.</p> <p>4.2.13.2 Reports</p> <p>a) The Board of Directors shall report on the activities of the various committees of the District's work and submit its recommendations.</p> <p>b) All reports and recommendations shall be submitted to floor committees of the District appointed by the President.</p> <p>4.2.13.3 Membership and Representation</p> <p>a) In the first business session of the Convention, the Committee on Constitutions and Membership shall submit its report so that the delegates and congregations admitted may be seated.</p> <p>b) A multiple-congregation parish that consists of two or more congregations shall be entitled to one lay vote.</p> <p>c) A parish temporarily vacant in the Pastoral Office shall be entitled to one lay vote.</p> <p>4.2.14 Quorum At least one-third of the accredited delegates of the District shall constitute a quorum.</p> <p>4.2.15 Elections</p> <p>A majority of all votes cast shall be required to elect.</p> | <p>4.2.13.1 Memorials and Overtures All memorials or other like overtures to the district convention which, at the discretion of the presidium are to appear in print, shall be submitted in triplicate to the district president at least 90 days prior to the opening day of the district convention.</p> <p>4.2.13.2 Reports</p> <p>a) The board of directors shall report on the activities of the various committees/sub-committees of the district's work and submit its recommendations as set forth herein.</p> <p>b) All reports and recommendations shall be submitted to floor committees of the district appointed by the district president.</p> <p>4.2.13.3 Membership and Representation</p> <p>a) In the first business session of the district convention, the committee on constitutions and membership shall submit its report so that the delegates and congregations admitted may be seated.</p> <p>b) A multiple congregation parish shall be entitled to one lay vote.</p> <p>c) A parish temporarily vacant in the pastoral office shall be entitled to one lay vote.</p> <p>4.2.14 Quorum The presence of at least one-third of the voting members (i.e. congregations) by at least one of their respective representatives (pastor or lay delegate)</p> <p>4.2.15 Elections</p> <p>A majority of all votes cast shall be required to elect to the offices of the district.</p> |
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| <p>4.2.15.1 Officers and Committees to be Elected</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) President b) Regional Vice-presidents c) Secretary d) Board of Directors e) Circuit Counselors f) Committee for District Convention Nominations g) Members of the Board of Regents, Concordia University, St. Paul, MN, as specified in the Handbook of the Synod h) A member (and an alternate) of the Committee of the Synod for the Convention Nominations when required by the Synod. | <p>4.2.15.1 Officers and Committees to be Elected</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) President b) Regional Vice-presidents c) Secretary d) Board of Directors e) Circuit Visitors f) Committee for District Convention Nominations g) Members of the Board of Regents, Concordia University, St. Paul, MN, as specified in the handbook of the LCMS. h) A member (and an alternate) of the Committee for Convention Nominations of the LCMS when required by the LCMS. |
| <p>4.2.15.2 Nominations for President and Vice-presidents</p> <p>Nominations for the office of President and Vice-presidents of the District shall be made in the following manner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Each voting congregation shall be entitled to nominate one clergyman from the clergy roster of the Synod as a candidate for President and one clergyman from its region as a Vice-president. If elected, nominees shall be members of member congregations of the district upon assuming office and during the course of their tenure. b) Between nine and eight months before an election, the Secretary of the District shall mail to each voting congregation of the District forms for nominating these candidates. c) Each nominating form shall be signed by the president and the secretary of the voting congregation (or the equivalent positions) | <p>4.2.15.2 Nominations for President and Vice-presidents</p> <p>Nominations for the office of president and vice-presidents of the district shall be made in the following manner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Each voting congregation shall be entitled to nominate one clergyman from the clergy roster of the LCMS as a candidate for president and one clergyman from its region as a vice-president. If elected, nominees shall be members of member congregations of the district or region upon assuming office and during the entire course of their tenures. b) Between nine and eight months before an election, the secretary of the district shall mail to each voting congregation of the district forms for nominating these candidates. c) Each nominating form shall be signed by the president and the secretary of the voting congregation (or the equivalent positions) and shall be sent to the secretary of the district not later than four months and ten days prior to the |

and shall be sent to the Secretary of the District not later than four months and ten days prior to the opening date of the convention.

- d) The Secretary of the District together with the chairman of the Nominations Committee shall tabulate the nominations and shall report to the convention by means of the convention manual the names of all clergymen who have received at least five nominating votes for the office of President or Vice-president.
- e) Candidates for the office of President and Vice-president shall be in each instance the three clergymen receiving the highest number of votes in the nominating forms of the congregations.
- f) The convention may nominate from the floor additional candidates for the offices of President and Vice-presidents.
- g) The three candidates receiving the highest number of nominating forms for each position shall be listed alphabetically. All names shall be listed without any distinctive mark, except where regional representation is a requirement of these bylaws. Nominations from the floor shall be listed on the ballot thereafter in the order nominated.

4.2.15.3 Ranking of Vice-presidents

After the Vice-presidents have been selected from each region, a ballot shall be cast by the district convention to rank the Vice-presidents, which action shall also constitute election.

4.2.15.4 Board of Directors

- a) Between nine and eight months before an election, the Secretary of the District shall send nominating forms to all voting congregations of the District requesting them to nominate up to two ordained ministers from their region, up to two lay persons from

opening date of the district convention.

- d) The secretary of the district together with the chairman of the nominations committee shall tabulate the nominations and shall report to the convention by means of the convention manual the names of all clergymen who have received at least five nominating votes for the office of president or vice-president.
- e) Candidates for the office of president and vice-president shall be in each instance the three clergymen receiving the highest number of votes in the nominating forms of the congregations.
- f) The convention may nominate from the floor additional candidates for the offices of president and vice-presidents.
- g) The three candidates receiving the highest number of nominating forms for each position shall be listed alphabetically. All names shall be listed without any distinctive mark, except where regional representation is a requirement of these bylaws. Nominations from the floor shall be listed on the ballot thereafter in the order nominated.

4.2.15.3 Ranking of Vice-presidents

After the vice-presidents have been elected from each region, ballots shall be cast by the convention to rank the vice-presidents, which actions by majority vote shall also constitute the election thereof.

4.2.15.4 Board of Directors

- a) Between nine and eight months before an election, the secretary of the district shall send nominating forms to all voting congregations of the district requesting them to nominate up to two ordained ministers from their region, up to two lay persons from their conference, and

their conference, and up to two commissioned ministers from their region as candidates for the Board of Directors. The nominating forms shall be signed by the President and Secretary (or the equivalent positions) of the voting congregation and shall be sent to the Secretary of the District not later than four months and ten days prior to the Convention for tabulation. Such tabulation and the nominating forms shall be delivered by the Secretary to the Committee on Nominations which may place the name(s) of one or more candidates for each position on the ballot. The candidates for each position shall be listed alphabetically. Nominations from the floor shall be listed on the ballot thereafter in the order nominated.

b) All nominees shall provide, at the request of the nominating committee:

- 1) A statement of personal commitment to the Word of God as set forth in the Lutheran Confessions;
- 2) A biography and resume of performance in the church, special interests, training and ongoing education;
- 3) A statement of willingness to serve if elected and of the contribution the nominee expects to make to District and Synod if elected.

4.2.15.5 Circuit Counselors

The nomination and election of Circuit Counselors shall be conducted in accordance with The Handbook of THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD.

4.2.15.6 Committee on Nominations

- a) Nine persons – four ordained ministers serving as parish pastors, four lay persons and one commissioned minister, shall be elected

up to two commissioned ministers from their region as candidates for the board of directors. The nominating forms shall be signed by the president and secretary (or the equivalent positions) of the voting congregation and shall be sent to the secretary of the district not later than four months and ten days prior to the district convention for tabulation. Such tabulation and the nominating forms shall be delivered by the secretary to the elections committee which must place the names of at least two candidates for each position on the ballot. The candidates for each position shall be listed alphabetically. Nominations from the floor shall be listed on the ballot thereafter in the order nominated.

b) All nominees shall provide, at the request of the nominating committee:

- 1) A statement of personal commitment to the Word of God as set forth in the Lutheran Confessions;
- 2) A biography and resume of performance in the church, special interests, training and ongoing education;
- 3) A statement of willingness to serve if elected and of the contribution the nominee expects to make to the district and the LCMS if elected.

4.2.15.5 Circuit Visitors

The nomination and election of circuit visitors shall be conducted in accordance with the governing documents of the LCMS.

4.2.15.6 Committee on Nominations

- a) Nine persons – four ordained ministers serving as pastors of a congregation, four lay persons and a commissioned minister, shall be elected

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| <p>at each convention of the District to serve as members of the Committee for Convention Nominations for the next convention. They are to be chosen from a list of candidates submitted by the current Committee for Convention Nominations and augmented by additional candidates, if any, nominated from the floor of the convention.</p> <p>b) Effort shall be made at all times to nominate qualified persons from all regions of the District, recognizing also the major membership centers within the District.</p> <p>c) Members of the Committee for Convention Nominations are not eligible to serve successive terms of office; however, the chairman of the committee shall serve as an advisor to the succeeding committee and assist the President of the District in the orientation of the new committee.</p> <p>d) The first meeting of the Committee on Nominations shall be at the call of the President of the District no later than nine months prior to the next District Convention, at which meeting the committee shall name its chairperson and secretary. The committee shall organize its work in whatever way it deems necessary.</p> <p>e) The committee shall solicit - by whatever means it deems appropriate - from member congregations names of potential nominees for the office of Secretary, Committee for Convention Nominations, and Board of Regents of Concordia University, St. Paul. The committee will begin this solicitation process at its first meeting and shall set deadlines for submission of such names.</p> <p>f) The committee shall nominate candidates for all elective offices except for the office of President and the office of Vice-president.</p> | <p>at each district convention to serve as members of the committee for convention nominations for the next district convention. They are to be chosen from a list of candidates submitted by the current committee for convention nominations and augmented by additional candidates, if any, nominated from the floor of the district convention.</p> <p>b) Effort shall be made at all times to nominate qualified persons from all regions of the district, recognizing also the major membership centers within the district.</p> <p>c) Members of the committee for convention nominations are not eligible to serve successive terms of office; however, the chairman of the committee shall serve as an advisor to the succeeding committee and assist the district president in the orientation of the newly constituted committee.</p> <p>d) The first meeting of the committee on nominations shall be at the call of the district president no later than nine months prior to the next district convention, at which meeting the committee shall name its chairperson and secretary. This committee shall organize its work in whatever way it deems necessary.</p> <p>e) This committee shall solicit - by whatever means it deems appropriate - from member congregations of the district the names of potential nominees for the offices of district secretary, committee for district convention nominations, LCMS Committee For Convention Nominations, and Board of Regents of Concordia University, St. Paul. This committee will begin this solicitation process at its first meeting and shall set deadlines for submission of such names. Persons elected or appointed to the board of regents shall meet qualifications as spelled out in LCMS Bylaws 3.10.5.2, paragraph 7 and 3.12.3.7 (c).</p> <p>f) This committee shall nominate candidates for all elective offices except for the office of president, the office of vice-president.</p> |
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- g) At least three months prior to the convention the committee shall determine its complete list of candidates and alternates, obtain the consent of the persons it proposes to nominate, and transmit its final report to the Secretary of the District in ample time to provide for its publication in the pre-convention issue of the official District publication and also in the official convention book of reports and overtures (Convention Manual). This report shall contain pertinent information concerning each candidate, such as age, occupation or profession, congregational affiliation, residence, and specific experience and qualifications for the office in question.
- h) The committee shall publish a complete and full list with pertinent information of each person suggested to the committee for consideration. The published information shall include the full name, address, and name and location of the congregation where the person is a member. This list shall be distributed along with the completed list of those nominated by the committee and published by the Secretary of the District in the pre-convention issue of the official District publication and also in the official convention book of reports and overtures (Convention Workbook).
- i) The Committee for Convention Nominations is to be regarded as an ad hoc convention committee, to which limitations on holding multiple offices do not apply.

4.2.16 Official Proceedings of District Convention

The Official Proceedings of the District Convention shall be prepared and edited by the Convention Secretary and approved, prior to printing, by the Praesidium.

- g) At least three months prior to the district convention the committee shall determine its complete list of candidates and alternates, obtain the consent of the persons it proposes to nominate, and transmit its final report to the secretary of the district in ample time to provide for its publication in the pre-convention issue of the official district publication and also in the official book of reports and overtures to be submitted to the district convention delegates (Convention Workbook). This report shall contain pertinent information concerning each candidate, such as age, occupation or profession, congregational affiliation, residence, and specific experience and qualifications for the office in question.
- h) This committee shall publish a complete and full list with pertinent information of each person suggested to this committee for consideration. The published information shall include the full name, address, and name and location of the congregation where the person is a member. This list shall be distributed along with the completed list of those nominated by this committee and published by the secretary of the district in the pre-convention issue of the official district publication and also in the official convention book of reports and overtures (Convention Workbook).
- i) The Committee for Convention Nominations is to be regarded as an ad hoc committee, to which limitations on holding multiple offices do not apply.

4.2.16 Official Proceedings of District Convention

The official proceedings of the district convention shall be prepared and edited by the district secretary and approved, prior to printing, by the presidium.

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| <p>4.2.17 Execution of District Resolutions Any District resolution not carried out by the District or the officers responsible for its execution shall be reported to the next convention of the District for re-affirmation or rescission.</p> <p>4.3 District Officers</p> <p>4.3.5 Term of Office and Successive Terms</p> <p>a) The offices of District President and Circuit Counselor shall be without limitation as to reelection.</p> <p>b) All other officers and boards, elected or appointed, shall be limited to three complete successive terms.</p> <p>c) One-half or more of a term served shall be regarded as a complete term.</p> <p>4.4 District President</p> <p>4.4.10 Minnesota South District President</p> <p>a) The District President, in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of Synod, shall supervise the doctrine, the life, and the official administration on the part of the ordained and commissioned ministers of the District, and shall inquire into the prevailing religious conditions of the congregations of the District. Therefore, as often as possible, he shall attend the conferences of ordained and commissioned ministers held in the District, advise the congregations of the District as to the calling of ordained and commissioned ministers, give counsel when requested, and reply to inquiries. He may call upon the Vice-presidents and Circuit Counselors to assist him.</p> <p>b) He shall see to it that the purposes of the Synod and District are promoted and the resolutions of the Synod and District are</p> | <p>4.2.17 Execution of District Resolutions Any district resolution not carried out by the district or the officers responsible for its execution shall be reported to the next district convention for re-affirmation or rescission.</p> <p>4.3 District Officers</p> <p>4.3.5 Term of Office and Successive Terms</p> <p>a) The offices of district president and circuit visitor shall be limited to four complete successive 3-year terms.</p> <p>b) All other officers and board members, elected or appointed, shall be limited to three complete successive terms, with the exception of the treasurer who, following initial election by the board of directors, shall serve at the discretion of the board of directors.</p> <p>c) One-half or more of a term served shall be regarded as a complete term.</p> <p>4.4 District President</p> <p>4.4.10 Minnesota South District President</p> <p>a) The district president, in accordance with the governing documents of the LCMS and in addition to the duties set forth in the articles of incorporation, shall supervise the doctrine, the life, and the official administration on the part of the ordained and commissioned ministers of the district, and shall inquire into the prevailing religious conditions of the congregations of the district. Therefore, as often as possible, he shall attend the conferences of ordained and commissioned ministers held in the district, advise the congregations of the district as to the calling of ordained and commissioned ministers, give counsel when requested, and reply to inquiries. He may call upon the vice-presidents and circuit visitors to assist him.</p> <p>b) The district president shall see to it that the purposes of the LCMS and the district are promoted and that the resolutions of the</p> |
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| <p>carried out.</p> <p>c) In case of a vacancy in the office of the President, the Vice-presidents in the order of their rank of office advance to the President's office, with full power to act until the next regular election.</p> <p>d) He is the Chairman of the Board of Directors.</p> <p>e) He shall meet regularly with his staff.</p> <p>f) He shall set the agenda for the meetings of the Board of Directors.</p> <p>4.4.11 Vice-presidents</p> <p>a) Vice-presidents shall be elected one for each of the Regions of the District:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Region I: East Metro – North and South Conferences. 2) Region II: West Metro – East and West Conferences. 3) Region III: Southeast Minnesota – East and West Conferences. 4) Region IV: Southwest Minnesota – East and West Conferences. <p>b) Each Vice-president shall, upon the request of the President, represent him in all his functions.</p> <p>c) A vacancy in the first or second or third vice-presidency shall be filled by advancing the lower ranking vice-president. A vacancy in the fourth vice-presidency shall be filled by the pastoral member of the Board of Directors from the same region. The resulting vacancy on the Board of Directors shall be filled as provided in Bylaw 4.5.6.</p> <p>4.4.12 Praesidium</p> <p>The Praesidium consists of the President and the four Vice Presidents.</p> | <p>LCMS and the district are carried out.</p> <p>c) In case of a vacancy in the office of the district president, the vice-presidents in the order of their rank of office shall advance to the district president's office, with full power to act until the next regular meeting of the district.</p> <p>d) The district president shall serve as the chairman of the board of directors.</p> <p>e) The district president shall set the agenda for the meetings of the board of directors.</p> <p>4.4.11 Vice-presidents</p> <p>a) Vice-presidents shall be elected one for each of the regions of the district:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Region I: East Metro – North and South Conferences. 2) Region II: West Metro – East and West Conferences. 3) Region III: Southeast Minnesota – East and West Conferences. 4) Region IV: Southwest Minnesota – East and West Conferences. <p>b) A vacancy in the first, second, or third vice-presidency shall be filled by advancing the lower ranking vice-president. A vacancy in the fourth vice-presidency shall be filled by the pastoral member of the board of directors from the same region. The resulting vacancy on the board of directors shall be filled as provided in these bylaws.</p> <p>4.4.12 Presidium</p> <p>The presidium consists of the district president and the four vice- presidents.</p> |
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| <p>4.5 The Board of Directors</p> <p>4.5.5 Personnel</p> <p>The Board of Directors shall consist of the District Officers (President, Vice-presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer), one ordained minister from each of the four Regions, one lay person from each of the eight Conferences, and two commissioned ministers elected at large.</p> <p>4.5.6 Vacancies</p> <p>In case of any vacancy on the Board of Directors, unless otherwise provided for in these Bylaws, the remaining directors by a majority vote shall elect a successor to hold office for the unexpired portion of the term.</p> <p>4.5.7 Organization</p> <p>a) The President of the District shall call the first meeting of the newly-elected members of the Board of Directors for the purpose of effecting their organization.</p> <p>b) The Board of Directors shall select from its midst one member to be chairman of each standing committee. Membership on the standing committees shall be filled by appointees made by the District President and ratified by the Board of Directors. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be members of no standing committee. They may serve as advisory members.</p> <p>c) Such standing committees will be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Missions Committee 2) Finance Committee 3) Schools/Commissioned Ministers Committee 4) Ministerial Health/Professional Growth Committee | <p>4.5 The Board of Directors</p> <p>4.5.5 Personnel</p> <p>The board of directors shall consist of the district officers (president, vice-presidents, secretary, and treasurer), one ordained minister from each of the four regions, one lay person from each of the eight conferences, and two commissioned ministers of congregations or parishes in the district elected at large.</p> <p>4.5.6 Vacancies</p> <p>In case of any vacancy on the board of directors, unless otherwise provided for in these bylaws, the remaining directors by a majority vote shall elect a successor to hold office for the unexpired portion of the term.</p> <p>4.5.7 Organization</p> <p>a) Following the district convention, the district president shall call a meeting of the board of directors for the purpose of conducting such business as appropriate for the board of directors, including, if necessary, matters effecting their organization. Further, at such meeting,</p> <p>b) The district president shall select from the board of directors one member to be chairman of each standing committee. Membership on the standing committees shall be filled by appointees made by the district president. The board of directors shall ratify these appointments/selections. The district secretary and district treasurer shall be members of no standing committee. They may serve as advisory members of such committees.</p> <p>c) Such standing committees will be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Missions Committee 2) Finance Committee 3) Schools/Commissioned Ministers Committee 4) Congregational Mission Formation <p>The district president with ratification by the board of directors shall have the authority to appoint sub-committees as necessary.</p> |
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| <p>5) Sub-committees</p> <p>The Board of Directors shall have the authority to appoint sub-committees as necessary, one of which shall be the Congregational Services Committee.</p> <p>d) The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, the Secretary of the District, the Treasurer and two lay persons appointed by the President and ratified by the Board of Directors.</p> <p>The Executive Committee shall act in matters referred to it by the Board of Directors and otherwise only when in the opinion of the President and/or three members of the Board outside of the Executive Committee an emergency exists. All actions of this Committee shall be reported at the next meeting of the Board of Directors for review and ratification.</p> <p>4.5.8 Power and Authority</p> <p>The Board of Directors represents the constituency of the Minnesota South District, and shall have power to conduct and transact all business necessary to carry out the purposes of the Minnesota South District. The Board defines the general sphere of duties for each department or committee. The authority to carry out the purposes of the District is vested in this Board as limited by the Constitution of Synod, the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws and resolutions of the Minnesota South District.</p> <p>4.5.9 Meetings</p> <p>The meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at least four times each year, and whenever the District President or three members of the Board deem it necessary.</p> <p>4.5.10 Quorum</p> <p>A majority of the voting members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the</p> | <p>The district president with ratification by the board of directors shall appoint a committee, board, or individual responsible for stewardship in keeping with the LCMS handbook 4.6.1.</p> <p>d) The executive committee shall consist of the district president, the secretary of the district, the district treasurer and two lay persons appointed by the president and ratified by the board of directors.</p> <p>The executive committee shall act in matters referred to it by the board of directors. All actions of this committee shall be reported at the next meeting of the board of directors for review and ratification if ratification is deemed necessary.</p> <p>4.5.8 Power and Authority</p> <p>The board of directors has the power set forth in the articles of incorporation and the constitution and bylaws of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.</p> <p>4.5.9 Meetings</p> <p>The meetings of the board of directors shall be held at least four times each calendar year, and whenever the district president or three members of the board deem it necessary.</p> <p>4.5.10 Quorum</p> <p>A majority of the voting members of the board of directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at a meeting.</p> |
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transaction of business at a meeting.

4.5.11 Duties and Functions of the Board of Directors

- a) The Board of Directors shall develop ways and means of gathering the funds necessary to carry out and promote the purposes of the District and Synod.
- b) The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the preparation of the annual budget for the District. The Board of Directors shall prepare annual budgets in a manner that makes the best possible use of District resources in carrying out the mission and ministry of the District and that is in accordance with Board policy on budget planning.
- c) The Board of Directors shall balance the budget as nearly as possible and shall be authorized to utilize any legitimate means to accomplish this end.
- d) The Board of Directors shall designate a depository for the funds of the District. Surpluses may be invested in easily converted securities.
- e) In cases of emergency the Board of Directors shall have the power to borrow money for the purpose of paying subsidies and salaries of workers employed by the District according to the current budget.
- f) The Board of Directors shall approve every contemplated District-wide collection of monies before the individual congregations are approached. This does not apply, however, to collections approved by Synod and the District, except for coordination.
- g) The Board of Directors shall cause regular audits to be made of the books of the Treasurer.
- h) The Board of Directors shall determine the amount of the bond to be furnished by the Treasurer of the District. The premium shall

4.5.11 Duties and Functions of the Board of Directors.

(In addition to duties and functions set forth in the articles of incorporation, and the constitution and bylaws of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.)

- a) The board of directors shall develop ways and means of gathering the funds necessary to carry out and promote the purposes of the district and the LCMS.
- b) The board of directors shall be responsible for the preparation of the annual budget for the district. The board of directors shall prepare annual budgets in a manner that makes the best possible use of district resources in carrying out the mission and ministry of the district and that is in accordance with Board policy on budget planning.
- c) The board of directors shall designate a depository for the funds of the district.
- d) In situations and under circumstances when deemed necessary by the board of directors, the board of directors shall have the power to borrow money.
- e) The board of directors shall approve every contemplated district-wide collection of monies before the individual congregations are approached. This does not apply, however, to collections approved by and/or mandated by the LCMS.
- f) The board of directors shall cause regular audits to be made of the books of the district treasurer.
- g) The board of directors shall determine the amount of the bond to be furnished by the treasurer of the district. The premium shall be paid by the district.
- h) The board of directors shall hold and manage all of the district's real and personal property in accordance with the instructions and resolutions of the district, and shall maintain an inventory of the district's property.

be paid by the District.

- i) The Board of Directors as the Trustee and Custodian of Property shall hold and manage all of the District's real and personal property in accordance with the instructions and resolutions of the District, and shall maintain an inventory of the District's property.
- j) The Board of Directors shall report annually and as often as it may deem it necessary on its work and the needs of the District in the official organ of the District. It shall attend the conventions of the District and shall submit a detailed report.
- k) The Board of Directors shall nominate a Vice-president for the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod (LCEF) and shall elect members to represent the District at annual meetings of LCEF. The number of such members will be determined by a formula as detailed in the Bylaws of LCEF.

4.5.12 Minutes

In the interest of integration and coordination of the various committees, each member of the Board of Directors shall receive a copy of the minutes and recommendations of the committees of the Board of Directors no later than one week before the next Board meeting so that all members may be informed of all phases of District work.

4.5.13 Expenses of Officers, Members, and Committees

The Board of Directors, its members, and committees shall be authorized to draw on the District treasury for clerical or other help, equipment and travel expense for the competent and efficient administration of the business of the District. Also the standing committees of the District shall be authorized to draw on the District Treasury for necessary expenses incurred. Committees for which an appropriation has been allowed in the budget of the District shall operate

- i) The board of directors shall report annually and as often as it may deem it necessary on its work and the needs of the district in the official periodical of the district.
- j) The board of directors shall ratify the selection of a vice president for the Lutheran Church Extension Fund- LCEF.

4.5.12 Minutes

In the interest of integration and coordination of the various committees, each member of the board of directors shall receive a copy of the minutes and recommendations of the committees of the board of directors in sufficient time before the next board meeting so that all members of the board may be informed of all phases of district work.

4.5.13 Expenses of Officers, Members, and Committees

The board of directors, its members, and committees shall be authorized to draw on the district treasury for clerical or other help, equipment and travel expense for the competent and efficient administration of the business of the district. Also, and subject to approval of the board of directors, the standing committees and sub-committees of the district shall be authorized to draw on the district treasury for necessary expenses incurred in furtherance of their duties and responsibilities on such committees and/or sub-

within the limits of their appropriation. The Board of Directors shall cause such expenses to be examined and allowed.

4.5.14 Commitments

If any officer of the District, Board member, or Assistant to the President shall make any commitments, establish or define policies, or render decisions without authorization, such action shall in no way be binding upon the District or its Board of Directors.

4.5.15 Salaries

- a) The Missions Committee shall from time to time, fix the scale of salaries, equipment, allowances and mileage payments of ordained and commissioned ministers in subsidized parishes. The Board of Directors shall set the policy for the establishment of such salaries and allowances.
- b) The Board of Directors shall fix the scale of salaries, benefits, mileage, car, and housing allowance for all full-time District personnel.

committees. The board of directors shall see to it that committees for which an appropriation has been allowed in the budget of the district shall operate within the limits of their appropriation.

4.5.14 Commitments

If any officer or director of the district, or if any assistant to the president of the district shall: (a) make a commitment whereby the district is obligated to provide services or pay fees to a third party, or (b) establish or change district policies, or (c) make formal recommendations of decisions for or on behalf of the district, in each instance without the advanced authorization regarding the same of the board of directors, then such action or actions by any officer, director or assistant to the president shall not be binding upon the district or its board of directors.

Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this section of these bylaws, no officer or director shall be liable, responsible or accountable in damages or otherwise to the district for any act or omission performed or omitted by said officer or committee member in good faith on behalf of the district and in a manner reasonably believed by them to be within the scope of the authority granted to them under the articles of incorporation, these bylaws, or by law. The district (but not any member) shall indemnify and hold harmless each officer, director, or employee of the district to the fullest extent authorized by law.

4.5.15 Salaries

- a) To assist congregations in their mission, the board of directors shall set recommended salary guidelines for ordained and commissioned church workers.
- b) The board of directors shall fix the scale of salaries, benefits, mileage, car, and housing allowance for all full-time district personnel.

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| <p>4.5.16 Removal from Office</p> <p>All officers of the District, full-time Assistants to the President, chaplains, missionaries, and others under the immediate direction of the Board of Directors may be suspended and removed from office by the Praesidium in conjunction with the Board of Directors upon any of the following grounds: Persistent adherence to false doctrine and practice, un-Christian life, willful neglect of duties, and incompetence in office. Appeals from the decision of the Board of Directors may be made in accordance with regulations of the Synod as defined in the Handbook of the Synod.</p> <p>4.5.17 Hearings</p> <p>Anyone having a matter of importance and concern to the District may submit such matter in writing to the Board of Directors, and shall subsequently be granted a hearing.</p> <p>4.5.18 Appointments to be Made by the Board of Directors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Committees required by these bylaws b) Archivist c) Standing Committee on the District Handbook d) Other Committees as it may deem necessary <p>4.5.18.1 Committee on Constitutions and Membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Board of Directors shall appoint a Committee on Constitutions and Membership composed of no fewer than three members: one ordained minister, one commissioned minister, and one lay person. If the Board decides to appoint more members, it shall attempt to balance membership between | <p>4.5.16 Removal from Office</p> <p>All officers of the district, full-time assistants to the district president, chaplains, and others under the immediate direction of the board of directors may be suspended and removed from office by the presidium in conjunction with the board of directors upon any of the following grounds: persistent adherence to false doctrine and practice, un-Christian life, willful neglect of duties, and incompetence in office. Termination of LCMS rostered workers must be in accordance with LCMS guidelines regarding calls. Non-rostered workers are considered at will employees in accordance with the laws of the State of Minnesota. Appeals from the decision of the board of directors may be made in accordance with regulations of the LCMS as defined in the governing documents of the LCMS.</p> <p>4.5.17 Hearings</p> <p>Anyone having a matter of importance and concern to the district may submit such matter in writing to the board of directors, and if deemed warranted by the board of directors the petitioner shall subsequently be granted a hearing at a meeting of the board of directors or of the executive committee.</p> <p>4.5.18 Appointments to be Made by the District President and Ratified by the Board of Directors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Committees required by these bylaws b) Archivist c) Other committees as it may deem necessary <p>4.5.18.1 Committee on Constitutions and Membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The district president shall appoint with ratification of the board of directors a committee on constitutions and membership composed of no fewer than three members: one ordained minister, one commissioned minister, and one lay person. If the district president decides to appoint more members, he shall attempt to balance membership between ordained and commissioned ministers |
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ordained and commissioned ministers and lay persons. It shall attempt to facilitate the formation of working groups whose members reside in the same geographic area.

- b) This committee shall examine the constitutions and bylaws of all congregations applying for membership in Synod in accordance with the Handbook of the Synod. It shall recommend for membership those congregations whose constitutions and bylaws are in agreement with the Word of God, the Confessions of the Lutheran Church, and the teachings and practices of the Synod. It shall receive for examination new, revised, or translated constitutions and bylaws of congregations which are already members of Synod and if desirable, recommend changes.
- c) The District Office shall make available to those congregations which so request, a model constitution for a Lutheran congregation, and also Articles of Incorporation embodying the legal requirements and forms.

4.5.18.2 Missions Committee

4.5.18.2.1 Purpose

In keeping with the purpose of the District to carry on an aggressive and sustained mission program within its borders, the Board of Directors through its Missions Committee shall continually study mission opportunities within the District and seek to develop such opportunities through the establishment of new ministries.

4.5.18.2.2 Defining the Term "Subsidized Congregation"

Every congregation or parish receiving financial aid from the District for all, or for any part, of its parish program, be that for salary of ordained or commissioned ministers, Church Extension Fund Repayments, utilities, or whatever, shall be considered a subsidized congregation or parish.

and lay persons. An attempt shall be made to facilitate the formation of working groups whose members reside in the same geographic area.

- b) This committee shall examine the constitutions and bylaws of all congregations applying for membership in the LCMS in accordance with the governing documents of the LCMS. It shall recommend for membership those congregations whose constitutions and bylaws are in agreement with the Word of God, the Confessions of the Lutheran Church, and the teachings and practices of the LCMS. It shall receive for examination new, revised, or translated constitutions and bylaws of congregations which are already members of the LCMS and if desirable, recommend changes.

This committee shall make available to those congregations which so request, a model constitution for an LCMS congregation.

4.5.18.2 Missions Committee

4.5.18.2.1 Purpose

In keeping with the purpose of the district, the missions committee shall work to facilitate the establishment of new ministries and new congregations generally within the territorial limits of the district and to facilitate the development of mission-focused leaders and congregations generally within the territorial limits of the district. The board of directors through its missions committee shall continually study mission opportunities within the district and seek to develop such opportunities through the establishment of new ministries.

4.5.18.2.2 Defining the Term "Subsidized Congregation"

Every congregation or parish receiving financial aid from the district for all, or for any part, of its programs shall be considered a subsidized congregation or parish.

4.5.18.2.3 Defining the Term "Missionary"

Every pastor of a subsidized congregation or parish or station shall be considered a "missionary."

4.5.18.2.4 Requests for Subsidy

- a) All applications for subsidy for all, or for any part, of the parish program shall be made in writing and by congregational resolution and on forms provided by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors, through the Assistant to the President for Missions, shall make investigation, and no loan or subsidy for the entire, or for any part, of the parish program shall be granted unless a congregation or parish has first made every effort to raise the necessary funds.
- b) In submitting their requests for subsidy, congregations or parishes shall include a complete and detailed budget of their needs.
- c) Subsidized congregations or parishes shall comply with the salary scale and other benefits for ordained and commissioned ministers as these have been, or may yet be, established by the District.
- d) All subsidy requests for all, or any part, of the parish program shall be reviewed by the Missions Committee of the Board of Directors. In matters concerning the Christian Day School, the Schools/Commissioned Ministers Committee shall be consulted. The Missions Committee in turn shall make the necessary recommendations to the Board of Directors.

4.5.18.2.5 Part-Time Work of Missionaries and Full-Time Workers

If missionaries and full-time workers of the District are to make full proof of their ministry, it shall not be permissible for them to engage in part-time secular work while serving a subsidized congregation or parish of the District, nor are they to be engaged in part-time religious work not

4.5.18.2.4 Requests for Subsidy

- a) All applications for subsidy for all, or for any part, of a program shall be made in writing and by congregational resolution and on forms provided by the board of directors. The board of directors, through the assistant to the president for missions, shall make investigation, and no loan or subsidy for the entire, or for any part, of the program shall be granted unless a congregation or parish has first made every effort to raise the necessary funds to the satisfaction of the board of directors.
- b) In submitting their requests for subsidy, congregations or parishes shall include a complete and detailed budget of their financial needs.
- c) Subsidized congregations or parishes shall comply with the salary scale and other benefits for ordained and commissioned ministers as established by the district.
- d) All subsidy requests for all, or any part, of a program shall be reviewed by the missions committee of the board of directors. In matters concerning a Christian day school, the schools/commissioned ministers committee shall be consulted. The missions committee in turn shall make recommendations to the board of directors as it deems appropriate.

stipulated in their call, without the consent of the Board of Directors.

4.5.18.2.6 Property Transfers

Subsidized congregations shall seek the advice of the Board of Directors before acquiring or disposing of buildings and lands.

4.5.18.2.7 Consideration of Calls

Missionaries and commissioned ministers of subsidized congregations shall request the counsel of the District President when considering the disposition of calls which have been received. Subsidized congregations shall consult the President when a vacancy has occurred and shall apply to him for a list of candidates. In all matters pertaining to the calling of missionaries, the President shall consult with the Missions Committee of the Board of Directors.

4.5.18.2.8 Concordia Plans

All congregations and missionaries are urged to join Synod's Worker Benefit Plans. Premiums may be included in the congregation's budgets, and the District shall assist subsidized congregations in paying their share of the premiums.

4.5.18.2.9 Missionaries' Conferences

The Board of Directors, through its Missions Committee, may arrange for annual Missionaries', Institutional Workers', and Student Workers' Conferences. Expenses in connection with these conferences shall be defrayed from District funds.

4.5.18.2.10 Reports

Ordained and commissioned ministers of subsidized congregations shall make regular activity reports to the Board of Directors through the Missions Committee. Such reports shall be made at intervals and in such manner as shall be determined from time to time by the Missions Committee.

4.5.18.2.6 Property Transfers

Subsidized congregations shall seek the advice of the board of directors before acquiring or disposing of buildings and lands.

4.5.18.2.7 Consideration of Calls

Pastors and commissioned ministers of subsidized congregations shall request the advice of the district president when considering the disposition of calls which have been received. Subsidized congregations shall consult the district president when a vacancy has occurred. In matters pertaining to the calling of workers in subsidized ministries, the district president shall consult with the missions committee of the board of directors.

4.5.18.2.8 Concordia Plans

All congregations and eligible workers are urged to join the LCMS' worker benefit plans. Premiums may be included in the congregation's budgets, and the district shall assist subsidized congregations in paying the subsidized congregation's share of the premiums.

4.5.18.2.10 Reports

Ordained and commissioned ministers of subsidized congregations shall make regular activity reports to the board of directors through the missions committee. Such reports shall be made at intervals and in such manner as shall be determined from time to time by the missions committee.

4.5.18.2.11 Mission Education

In order to fund the mission, the Missions Committee shall promote a year-round program of mission education and information, keeping constantly before our congregations and their members the mission work they are carrying on through the District and Synod.

4.5.18.3 Finance Committee

With the assistance of the District Treasurer, the Finance Committee shall supervise the receipts and disbursements of the District budget. With the assistance of the District Vice President of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund, the committee shall review applications and make appropriate recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding any requests for loans from the Lutheran Church Extension Fund. The committee shall also undertake any other financial responsibilities that the Board of Directors may assign to it.

4.5.18.3.1 Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF)

- a) Applications for loans from LCEF shall be made in writing and by congregational resolution on forms provided by the District office. Such application forms shall be mailed to the District office to the attention of the Area Vice President of LCEF.
- b) The Finance Committee will process all LCEF loan requests and make recommendations to the District Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may authorize the Finance Committee to approve certain loans within limits as determined by the Board.
- c) After loans have been approved by the District the application will be mailed to the LCEF

4.5.18.2.11 Mission Education

The missions committee shall promote programs of mission education and information, keeping constantly before congregations and their members the mission work they are carrying on through the district and the LCMS.

4.5.18.3 Finance Committee

With the assistance of the district treasurer, the finance committee shall supervise the receipts and disbursements of the district budget and shall also undertake any other financial responsibilities that the board of directors may assign to it.

The finance committee shall review and approve all loan requests of \$1,000,000 or more. A loan committee subset of the finance committee shall review and approve all loan requests under \$1,000,000. Loan requests are recommended for approval in a credit analysis narrative prepared by the LCEF vice president in accordance with LCEF underwriting standards and policies. Once approved, all loans are forwarded to the LCEF national office for the loan closing process. The board of directors will ratify all loan approvals of the finance committee completed between meetings of the board at its regular meetings.

4.5.18.3.1 LCEF

The finance committee and the board of directors shall assist in the active promotion of investments, loans, and services of the LCEF.

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| <p>office for preparation of all loan documents.</p> <p>d) Interest rates, terms, and conditions of the loan will be at the current LCEF policy as of the approval date of the loan.</p> <p>e) Under no circumstances shall materials be delivered onto the site, construction, or any improvements commence prior to the loan closing documents being signed and LCEF mortgage being put on record.</p> <p>f) Where a loan is to be used for the purchase of a site, or for construction of facilities on such site, the Board of Directors must first be given an opportunity to inspect and approve the proposed site.</p> <p>g) A loan granted, but not called for or used for the purpose specified within twelve months from the date allowed, shall automatically expire, unless an extension of time is requested by the congregation and approved by the Board of Directors.</p> <p>h) The Board of Directors shall not be bound to grant a loan due to verbal commitments that may be made by District officers or staff, or by the fact that contracts have been signed or that building construction has begun.</p> <p>i) The Board of Directors may grant loans to member congregations, societies, or school associations, to assist them in acquiring equipment, erecting, improving or enlarging church offices, housing for Ministers of Religion, parish houses or school buildings.</p> <p>4.5.18.3.2 Church Extension Promotion</p> <p>The Finance Committee shall promote in every manner possible the needs of the Church Extension Fund.</p> <p>4.5.18.3.3 Student Aid</p> <p>The Finance Committee shall be responsible for disbursing student aid funds as they are available.</p> <p>4.5.18.4 Schools/Commissioned Ministers Committee</p> <p>The Board of Directors through the</p> | <p></p> <p>4.5.18.3.3 Student Aid</p> <p>The finance committee shall be responsible for disbursing student aid funds.</p> <p>4.5.18.4 Schools/Commissioned Ministers Committee</p> <p>The board of directors through the schools/commissioned ministers committee shall</p> |
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| <p>schools/Commissioned Ministers Committee shall help in any possible manner in formulating and carrying out a comprehensive program of Lutheran education for early childhood, elementary, and secondary students within the Minnesota South District. The Schools/Commissioned Ministers Committee shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Assist and counsel principals, pastors, teachers, other commissioned ministers, and congregations regarding the whole area of Christian education. b) Assist in the promotion, maintenance, and expansion of Lutheran early childhood, elementary, and high schools in the District. c) Provide assistance to the conferences of principals, teachers, and other commissioned ministers. d) Challenge schools and congregational leaders to grow in their leadership responsibilities. e) Help facilitate the networking of congregations/schools in the area of educational resources, programs, and activities. | <p>help in formulating and carrying out a comprehensive program of Lutheran education for early childhood, elementary, and secondary students within the Minnesota South District. The schools/commissioned ministers committee shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Assist and counsel principals, pastors, teachers, other commissioned ministers, and congregations regarding the area of Christian education. b) Assist in the promotion, maintenance, and expansion of Lutheran early childhood, elementary, and high schools in the district. c) Provide assistance to the conferences of principals, teachers, and other commissioned ministers. d) Challenge schools and congregational leaders to grow in their leadership responsibilities. e) Help facilitate the networking of congregations/schools in the area of educational resources, programs, and activities. |
| <p>4.5.18.5 Ministerial Health/Professional Growth Committee</p> <p>The Board of Directors through the Ministerial Health/Professional Growth Committee shall provide opportunities to improve and maintain the well-being of professional church workers. Through a program of educational opportunities, it shall seek to heighten awareness and foster skills in the areas of ministry development required by professional church workers and to assist professional church workers and their families in maintaining and improving their spiritual, mental, and emotional wellness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Develop resources to assist professional church workers and their families in dealing with mental, emotional, spiritual, and career problems. b) Provide for continuing educational | <p>4.5.18.5 Congregational Mission Formation.</p> <p>The board of directors through the congregational mission formation committee shall encourage and assist district congregations and schools in a mission formation process to enhance an intentional focus on God’s mission.</p> |

opportunities for professional church workers.

4.5.18.6 Congregational Services Committee

The Congregational Services Committee shall be a subcommittee of the Minnesota South District Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall assign to it the following tasks:

- a) Review all requests for programming and activity needs in the area of congregational ministries, including, but not limited to, stewardship, evangelism, youth, worship, human care, parish education, and recruitment of professional church workers.
- b) Where there is a demonstrated need, empower a task force to meet that need.
- c) Establish parameters for such an event/program/activity.
- d) The Congregational Services Committee will be responsible for carrying out the duties of the district committee for Stewardship required by bylaw of the Synod.

4.5.18.7 Communications Committee

The Communications Committee shall be responsible for the publication of The Minnesota South Lutheran, the official periodical of the Minnesota South District. It shall recommend to the Board of Directors persons to fill the position of editor. The Committee shall also be responsible for coordinating other communications and public relations matters which may be referred to it by the Board of Directors.

4.5.18.8 Archives

4.5.18.8.1 Preservation of Historical Records

The District shall gather and preserve the records of the District. Members of the District are invited to cooperate by collecting and depositing historical records of the District in the District Archives. The District shall maintain these archives at a convenient place. The Archivist shall

4.5.18.8 Archives

4.5.18.8.1 Preservation of Historical Records

The district president shall gather and preserve the records of the district. Members of the district are invited to cooperate by collecting and depositing historical records of the district in the district archives. A district archivist shall be appointed by the district president and ratified by the board of directors.

be appointed by the Board of Directors.

4.5.18.8.2 Archivist's Report

The Archivist shall make a report to each District Convention, and annually to the Board of Directors.

4.5.18.8.3 Funding

The Archivist shall receive an annual appropriation in the budget of the District.

4.11 Other District Officers (Secretary and Treasurer)

4.11.1 Secretary

- a) The Secretary shall perform the duties ordinarily appertaining to that office.
- b) He shall keep a full and complete record of the business transacted by the Corporation and the Board of Directors.
- c) He shall keep a complete record of the member congregations of the District.
- d) In case of a vacancy, the Board of Directors shall be empowered to appoint a Secretary to fill the unexpired term.

4.11.2 Treasurer

- a) The Treasurer shall be a lay person elected by the Board of Directors.
- b) The Treasurer shall administer the office in accordance with the rules and regulations adopted by the District and as directed by the District Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall receive and disburse the District's monies and keep an accurate account of the finances and property and business of the said Corporation.
- c) The Treasurer shall be authorized to borrow money in the name of the District, provided the Board of Directors, in accordance with the resolutions of the District has first determined

4.5.18.8.2 Archivist's Report

The archivist shall make an annual report to the board of directors.

4.5.18.8.3 Funding

The archivist shall receive an annual appropriation in the budget of the district.

4.11 Other District Officers (Secretary and treasurer)

4.11.1 District Secretary

- a) The district secretary shall perform the duties prescribed by the articles of incorporation, and the constitution and bylaws of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.
- b) In case of a vacancy, the board of directors shall be empowered to appoint a Secretary to fill the unexpired term.

4.11.2 District Treasurer

The district treasurer shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- a) The treasurer shall be a lay person elected by the board of directors. The treasurer shall perform the duties prescribed by the articles of incorporation.
- b) The treasurer shall be authorized to borrow monies in the name of the district, provided the board of directors, in accordance with the resolutions of the district, has first determined the amounts and the conditions under which such monies shall be borrowed.
- c) The treasurer shall keep on file an up-to-date list of all properties held in the name of the district.

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| <p>the amounts and the conditions under which such monies shall be borrowed.</p> <p>d) The Treasurer shall keep on file an up-to-date list of all properties held in the name of the District.</p> <p>e) The Treasurer shall make to the Board of Directors and at the regular convention of the District, and more often, if required by the Board, a full and accurate statement of the finances and property and business of the District.</p> <p>f) The Treasurer shall at regular intervals publish in the Minnesota South Lutheran the accumulated amounts received from the congregations of the District during the current fiscal year.</p> <p>g) The Treasurer shall store the District's books and records, deeds, mortgages and titles, and other valuable papers in fireproof vaults or files provided by the District.</p> <p>h) The Treasurer's books shall be audited annually or more often as the Board of Directors may deem advisable.</p> <p>i) The Treasurer shall be bonded in an amount determined by the Board of Directors. The premium shall be paid by the District.</p> <p>j) The Treasurer shall perform such additional duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors.</p> <p>k) The Treasurer shall be a nonvoting member of the Board of Directors.</p> | <p>d) The treasurer shall at regular intervals publish in the Minnesota South District Lutheran Witness the accumulated amounts received from the congregations of the district during the current fiscal year.</p> <p>e) The treasurer shall store the district's books and records, deeds, mortgages and titles, and other valuable papers in secure facilities provided by the district.</p> <p>f) The treasurer's books shall be audited annually or more often as the board of directors may deem advisable.</p> <p>g) The treasurer shall be bonded in an amount determined by the board of directors. The premium shall be paid by the district.</p> <p>h) The treasurer shall perform such additional duties as may be prescribed by the board of directors.</p> <p>i) The treasurer shall be a nonvoting member of the board of directors.</p> |
| <p>4.11.3 Full Time Positions of the District</p> <p>The District may create or abolish other full-time salaried positions. The number of such full-time positions shall be determined by the District according to prevailing needs.</p> | <p>4.11.3 Positions of the District</p> <p>The board of directors may create or abolish salaried positions of the district. The number of such positions shall be determined from time to time by the district president, and ratified by the board of directors according to prevailing needs.</p> |

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| <p>4.11.3.1 Assistants to the President</p> <p>The President shall appoint Assistants to the President (the number of which shall be determined by District Convention), write job descriptions for the Assistants and reassign duties to the Assistants as the need indicates - all subject to ratification by the Board of Directors. The term of office shall continue until the office or term of office is terminated by the District President which shall be subject to ratification by the Board of Directors.</p> <p>4.11.3.2 Duties of the Assistants to the President</p> <p>The Assistants to the President shall be responsible to the President of the District. They shall perform such duties and work in such areas as are assigned to them and for which they have been appointed by the District President.</p> <p><u>Chapter 5: Circuit Organization</u></p> <p>5.5 Minnesota South Circuits</p> <p>5.5.1 Circuit Counselors</p> <p>Circuit Counselors shall assist the District President in their respective Circuits. Within the scope of their office as defined by Synod, they shall cooperate with the District Board of Directors to promote the purposes of the District and the Synod.</p> <p>The Circuit Counselors are authorized to draw upon the District treasury for their expenses incurred in the interest of the District.</p> <p>Expenses incurred in the service of a congregation shall normally be paid by such congregation.</p> | <p>4.11.3.1 Assistants to the President</p> <p>The president shall appoint assistants to the president (the number of which shall be determined by the district convention), write job descriptions for the assistants and reassign duties to the assistants as the need indicates - all subject to ratification by the board of directors. Called workers shall be called by the board of directors, on behalf of the district, in accordance with the standards of the LCMS. The term of office shall continue until the office or term of office is terminated by the district president, which shall be subject to ratification by the board of directors. Termination of called workers must be in accordance with LCMS guidelines regarding the calling of church workers.</p> <p>4.11.3.2 Duties of the Assistants to the President</p> <p>The assistants to the president shall be responsible to the president of the district. They shall perform such duties and work in such areas as are assigned to them and for which they have been appointed by the district president.</p> <p><u>Chapter 5: Circuit Organization</u></p> <p>5.5 Minnesota South District Circuits</p> <p>5.5.1 Circuit Visitors</p> <p>Circuit visitors shall assist the district president in their respective circuits. Within the scope of their office as defined by the LCMS, they shall cooperate with the board of directors to promote the purposes of the district and the LCMS.</p> <p>The circuit visitors are authorized to draw upon the district treasury for out of pocket expenses they incur in furthering the interests of the district.</p> <p>Expenses incurred in the service of a congregation shall normally be paid by such congregation.</p> |
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| <p>5.5.2 Circuit Forums</p> <p>The Circuit Forum in each Circuit shall conform to the provisions of the Handbook of the Synod.</p> <p>5.5.3 Circuit Convocations</p> <p>Circuits may arrange for Circuit Convocations as described in the bylaws of the Synod.</p> <p><u>Chapter 6: Auxiliary and Recognized Service Organizations</u></p> <p>6.3 Minnesota South Relationships with Auxiliaries</p> <p>The District shall foster auxiliary organizations of men, women, and young people within the congregations for the furtherance of the Gospel. The Board of Directors shall assist congregations in planning and promoting adult Christian education and shall help pastors and congregations to keep the youth with the Church. It shall endeavor to attain the fullest possible cooperation and integration of the objectives with national organizations working within the framework of Synod.</p> <p><u>Chapter 7: Amendments to Bylaws</u></p> <p>7.2 Minnesota South District Bylaws</p> <p>Changes in, and additions to, the Bylaws of the Minnesota South District may be made, provided they: (1) are not contrary to the Articles of Incorporation of the District; (2) are presented in writing to the District; (3) are separately considered and acted upon by the Standing District Handbook Committee; (4) are approved by the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod in advance of the convention and (5) are passed by a majority vote of the Convention, and (6) amendments made subsequent to approval by the Commission on Constitutional Matters may go into effect only after approval by the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod.</p> | <p>5.5.2 Circuit Forums</p> <p>The circuit forum in each circuit shall conform to the provisions of the governing documents of the LCMS.</p> <p>5.5.3 Circuit Convocations</p> <p>Circuits may arrange for circuit convocations as described in the governing documents of the LCMS.</p> <p><u>Chapter 6: Organizations</u></p> <p>6.3 Organizations within the Minnesota South District.</p> <p>The district shall foster organizations of men, women, and young people within the congregations for the furtherance of the gospel. It shall endeavor to attain the fullest possible cooperation and integration of the objectives with national organizations working within the framework of the LCMS.</p> <p><u>Chapter 7: Amendments to Bylaws</u></p> <p>7.2 Minnesota South District Bylaws</p> <p>Changes in, and additions to, the bylaws of this corporation may be made, provided they: (1) are presented in writing to the district president; (2) are separately considered and acted upon by the district handbook committee; (3) are approved by the commission on constitutional matters of the the LCMS in advance of the district convention and (5) are passed by a majority vote of the district convention, and (6) amendments made subsequent to approval by the commission on constitutional matters may go into effect only after approval by the commission on constitutional matters of the LCMS.</p> |
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| Revised by action of the 76 th Convention of the Minnesota South District June 14-16, 2012 | Revised by action of the 77 th Convention of the Minnesota South District June 18-20, 2015 |
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During Convention Session 2:

A motion was made and seconded to vote on each “Resolved” section separately.

Vote: **Yes 273 / 92.5%** No 22 / 7.5% The question will be divided.

Vote on the term limit “Resolved” **Yes 230 / 73.2%** No 84 / 26.8% The “Resolved” dealing with term limits was adopted.

During Convention Session 4

Vote on the amended 4.01: **Yes 256 / 95.2%** No 13 / 4.8% The second “Resolved” of Resolution 4-01¹ was adopted.

¹The Convention’s action on Bylaw 4.2.15.6f (see pages 29 and 63) may be addressed by the LCMS Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM).