



**ONE**

People

*Forgiven*

**Today's Business**

**(Proposed Resolutions)**

**2010**

*64th Regular Convention*  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
Houston, TX • July 10–17, 2010



THE  
**LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Missouri Synod

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**64TH REGULAR CONVENTION**

LOCATION:  
July 10-17, 2010  
George R. Brown Convention Center  
Houston, Texas

CORRESPONDENCE:  
LCMS International Center  
1333 S. Kirkwood Road  
St. Louis, MO 63122-7295

TELEPHONE:  
314-965-9000

INTERNET:  
[www.lcms.org/convention](http://www.lcms.org/convention)

May 25, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

As the 64<sup>th</sup> Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod approaches, it is my prayer that you will continue to be nourished, comforted, fed and fortified with the wonderful gifts of forgiveness, grace, mercy, peace and assurance of eternal life from our Lord through His precious Word and Sacraments!

The greeting above is one I have shared with delegates to previous conventions of the Synod. It is a reminder that all we do as the ONE People of God is because of His mercy and grace poured into our lives by the Holy Spirit through the means of grace. What blessed people we are that we should be called the children of God, ONE People—*Forgiven*.

At the convention in Houston, July 10-17, it is imperative that the forgiveness we have received through Christ Jesus permeate every ounce of our being and every moment of our gathering as God's people. Without His forgiveness flowing into our lives, we would be a people without hope, without peace, without joy. Without His forgiveness flowing through us to others, we would be a people, as is described in Eph. 4:31, filled with "bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander," all marks of ungodliness.

But we are the forgiven people of God, whose changed lives are marked by being "kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you" (Eph. 4:32). I look forward to these God-given attributes marking and defining our relationships as a Christian community in Houston. We will be strengthened for such living through Word and Sacrament on Saturday during our opening worship and daily through the Word during our week together.

We have many important decisions ahead of us that will impact the work of the kingdom of God through our beloved Synod. As we work through every resolve, we do so with the knowledge and confidence that our Almighty God will guide us with His truth and wisdom. We look forward to a future blessed by His loving hand, praying that He will propel us into that future as ONE People "standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel" (Phil. 1:27).

Dear friends in Christ, be filled with the Holy Spirit. Receive the grace and gifts of God through the faithful reception of Word and Sacrament. Pray for one another. Love one another. Forgive one another, "as God in Christ forgave you." We are God's people! We are ONE People—*Forgiven*!

Sincerely in Christian love,

Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick, President  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

**FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER,**

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**AS GOD IN CHRIST FORGAVE YOU. Ephesians 4:32**

## TODAY'S BUSINESS

This is the first of eight issues of *Today's Business* that will be published to facilitate the business of the 2010 convention of our Synod. It is being mailed in advance to all congregations of the Synod and all registered delegates and representatives to the convention because it contains essential convention information, including the convention schedule, additional overtures, Part II of the President's Report, special standing rules, and official announcements. Most importantly, it contains proposed resolutions to be considered by the convention. These resolutions, prepared by floor committees during their May 21–24 meeting in St. Louis, respond to the reports and overtures printed in the 2010 *Convention Workbook*.

This pre-convention issue of *Today's Business* has been prepared and mailed as soon after the floor committees' meetings as possible to allow ample opportunity for study and discussion prior to the convention. It is also available on the Synod's Web site at [www.lcms.org/convention](http://www.lcms.org/convention). Additional printed copies may be purchased from the Office of the Secretary of the Synod for \$7.50 per copy.

Upon receipt of this mailing, delegates are encouraged to arrange and/or attend meetings of the groups they will represent at the convention to provide opportunity for discussion and input regarding the business to come before the convention. Suggestions or concerns may be submitted in advance of the convention by writing to the chairman of the appropriate floor committee(s) at least one week prior to the convention (names and contact information are included in this issue of *Today's Business*).

A convention issue of *Today's Business* will be distributed each morning of the convention. It will contain the schedule for the day, substitute or revised resolutions, the minutes of the prior day's session(s), authorized announcements, wording for proposed amendments, and other official information. Copies will be provided to all official delegates, with additional copies available for visitors to the convention while supplies last.

Because *Today's Business* contains the resolutions that will be considered by the convention, as well as other important convention information, delegates are reminded to bring this and all subsequent issues with them to all sessions of the convention. Delegates must also bring with them:

- A copy of the 2010 *Convention Workbook* containing all reports and overtures and other important convention information. At times during the course of the convention, delegates will be referred to a particular overture or report.
- A copy of *The Final Report of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance* for reference during discussions of the task force recommendations.
- A copy of the 2010 *Biographical Synopses & Statements of Nominees* booklet containing the report of the Committee for Convention Nominations to refer to when voting.
- A copy of the 2007 *Handbook of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod* containing the current Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, and Bylaws of the Synod. Copies will be available at the convention registration desk if needed.

Conventions of the Synod are wonderful opportunities for worship, inspiration, fellowship, and sharing of important information. They are also the principal legislative assemblies of our Synod and provide opportunity to take actions, offer direction, and address issues and concerns. All of this happens best when this convention's theme is at the heart of all that takes place and in the hearts of all who attend: "ONE People—*Forgiven*."

Raymond L. Hartwig, Editor  
Pamela L. Weeke, Managing Editor  
Ann Schmidt, Managing Editor

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents .....	3
Tentative Schedule .....	4
Official Notices .....	7
Form for Floor Nominations .....	8
Consent Form for Floor Nominations .....	9
Floor Committee Open Hearings and Other Key Locations .....	10
Floor Committee Chairmen .....	11
Special Standing Rules .....	12
History of LCMS Conventions .....	16
Report of the President–Part II.....	17
Additional Overtures.....	24
Late Overtures.....	29
Omnibus Resolutions .....	47
Resolution A.....	47
Resolution B.....	48
Resolution D.....	49
Proposed Resolutions.....	50
1. Missions .....	50
2. District and Congregational Services .....	57
3. Theology and Church Relations .....	62
4. Finance and Administration .....	71
5. Seminary and University Education.....	93
6. Human Care.....	110
7. Ecclesial Matters .....	117
8. Synod Structure and Governance .....	130
<i>CONSTITUTION (2007 Handbook Convention Version)</i> .....	158
<i>BYLAWS (2007 Handbook Convention Version)</i> .....	169

## Tentative Schedule

### The 64th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod July 10-17, 2010 \* George R. Brown Convention Center \* Houston, Texas

Note: Floor committee meetings will be held July 9-10. The schedule is called tentative because Bylaw 3.1.9.i.2 provides that the President “shall, at the first session and during the course of succeeding sessions of the convention, announce the order of business for the day and following days.”

#### Friday, July 9, 2010

1:30–9:00 Floor Committee closed meetings  
1:30–5:50 Open Hearing for Synod Structure and Governance Floor Committee (#8) *(in General Assembly Theater on Level 3 of GRB Convention Center)*  
7:05 Baseball: Cardinals vs. Astros *(Individuals Purchase Tickets)*

#### Saturday, July 10, 2010

9:00 Floor Committees 1-7 open hearings *(in Grand Ballroom Meeting Rooms of Hilton Americas-Houston Hotel)*  
Floor Committee 8 open hearing *(in General Assembly Theater on Level 3 of GRB Convention Center)*  
12:00 Lunch  
1:00 Floor Committee closed meetings (if necessary)  
1:30 ALL Delegate Orientation  
-3:00 *(in General Assembly Theater on Level 3 of GRB Convention Center)*  
4:00 Opening Convention Divine Worship with Holy Communion  
-5:30 *(in Halls C&D of GRB Convention Center)*  
Host Congregation: Trinity Lutheran Church, Spring, Texas  
6:30 ALL Convention Delegate Meal *(in Grand Ballroom of Hilton Americas-Houston Hotel)*

#### Sunday, July 11, 2010

8:00 Service of Prayer  
9:00 Preparation for opening business session  
9:10 Registration and Credentials Report  
9:13 Convention Opening and Presentation of Gavel  
9:16 Standing Rules  
9:30 Convention Schedule  
9:40 Bible Study Essay 1– Mr. Ted Kober  
Focus: ONE People—*Forgiven* ... through Christ  
10:10 President’s Report (Part III)  
10:40 Electronic Response System

—Getting Acquainted  
11:00 Welcome and Greeting from Local Representative  
11:10 Welcome and Greeting from Texas District  
11:15 Synod Structure and Governance (#8) *Presentation*  
12:30 Recess  
1:55 Call to Gather – Music  
2:00 Devotion – Dr. William Diekelman  
Theme: “My Grace is Sufficient”  
2:20 Synod Structure and Governance (#8) *Presentation with Q&A*  
5:50 Prayer  
6:00 Recess

#### Monday, July 12, 2010

7:55 Call to Gather – Music  
8:00 Devotion – Rev. Quentin Poulson  
Theme: “Overcoming Unforgiveness”  
8:20 Synod Structure and Governance (#8) *(Convention Action or Q&A)*  
10:00 Bible Study Essay 2 – Mr. Ted Kober  
Focus: ONE People—*Forgiven* to Forgive  
10:30 Synod Structure and Governance (#8) *(Convention Action or Q&A)*  
12:20 Honor Retired Missionaries  
12:30 Recess  
1:55 Call to Gather – Music  
2:00 Devotion – Rev. Terry Tieman  
Theme: “Three Simple Steps on How to Walk on Water”  
2:20 Special Presentation  
2:25 Minutes  
2:35 Synod Structure and Governance (#8) *(Convention Action or Q&A)*  
3:30 LCMS: One People in Mission  
3:40 Synod Structure and Governance (#8) *(Convention Action or Q&A)*  
5:45 Greetings: CPH  
Dr. Bruce Kintz  
5:50 Prayer

6:00 Recess  
6:00 Exhibitor Reception for Delegates  
-8:00 (in Hall E of GRB Convention Center)

### **Tuesday, July 13, 2010**

7:55 Call to Gather - Music  
8:00 Devotion – Rev. David Andrus  
Theme: “A Cancelled Debt”  
8:20 Greetings: LWML  
Mrs. Jan Wendorf  
8:25 Synod Structure and Governance (#8)  
(*Convention Action*)  
10:00 Bible Study Essay 3 – Mr. Ted Kober  
Focus: ONE People—*Forgiven* in the Family  
10:30 Synod Structure and Governance (#8)  
12:00 Administration and Finance (#4)  
12:30 Recess  
1:55 Call to Gather - Music  
2:00 Devotion – Dr. Ken Klaus  
Theme: “Forgiven in the Family”  
2:20 Minutes  
2:30 Adoption of Slate for President  
2:40 Balloting for President  
2:50 Response from newly elected President  
3:00 Adoption of Slate for First Vice-President  
3:10 Balloting for First Vice-President  
3:20 Adoption of Slate for Second through  
Fifth Vice-Presidents  
3:30 LCMS: One People in Mission  
3:40 Balloting for Second through  
Fifth Vice-Presidents (1<sup>st</sup> Ballot)  
3:55 Omnibus Resolutions  
4:15 Balloting for Second through  
Fifth Vice-Presidents (2<sup>nd</sup> Ballot)  
4:25 Special Report – What A Way  
4:30 Balloting for Second through  
Fifth Vice-Presidents (3<sup>rd</sup> Ballot)  
4:35 Special Report – For The Sake of the  
Church  
4:40 Balloting for Second through  
Fifth Vice-Presidents (Complete Balloting)  
4:45 Nominations (#10)  
(for Secretary, *Vice President-  
Finance—Treasurer*, and Board of  
Directors)  
5:00 Theology and Church Relations (#3)  
5:50 Prayer  
6:00 Recess

*Evening: Alumni Gatherings, Special Dinners, etc.*

### **Wednesday, July 14, 2010**

7:55 Call to Gather – Music  
8:00 Devotion – Rev. Wayne Knollhoff  
Theme: “The Mark of the Christian  
Steward is Love”  
8:20 Video Greeting: ILLL  
Mr. Michael Onnen  
8:25 Theology and Church Relations (#3)  
9:30 Synod Structure and Governance (#8)  
10:00 Bible Study Essay 4 – Mr. Ted Kober  
Focus: ONE People—*Forgiven* in the Church  
10:30 Seminary and University Education (#5)  
11:30 Ecclesial Matters (#7)  
12:30 Recess  
1:55 Call to Gather – Music  
2:00 Devotion – Dr. Yohannes Mengsteab  
Theme: “They will know ... Do you?”  
2:20 Special Presentation  
2:25 Minutes  
2:35 Registration, Credentials, and Elections (#9)  
(Balloting for Secretary, *Vice President  
Finance—Treasurer*, and Board of  
Directors)  
3:00 Nominations (#10)  
(All other boards and commissions)  
3:40 Memorial Service  
Proclaimer: Dr. Glen Thomas  
4:00 Administration and Finance (#4)  
(or Nominations #10, if required)  
4:20 Administration and Finance (#4)  
(or Nominations #10, if required)  
4:40 Administration and Finance (#4)  
(or Nominations #10, if required)  
5:10 *Fan into Flame* Report  
5:25 Special Presentation  
5:30 Missions (#1)  
5:50 Prayer  
6:00 Recess

*Evening: Chaplain’s Banquet; Fan into Flame  
Dinner*

### **Thursday, July 15, 2010**

7:55 Call to Gather – Music  
8:00 Devotion – Dr. Shang Ik Moon  
Theme: “Our Heritage and Our Hope”  
8:20 Recognize Former LCMS Officers; Partners;  
Guests; and U.S. Lutheran church leaders

- 8:25 Greetings: Thrivent  
Mr. Brad Hewitt
- 8:30 District and Congregational Services (#2)
- 9:30 Human Care (#6)
- 10:00 Bible Study Essay 5 –  
Dr. Dien Ashley Taylor  
Focus: ONE People—*Forgiven* in the  
Community
- 10:30 Theology and Church Relations (#3)
- 11:30 Ecclesial Matters (#7)
- 12:30 Recess
- 1:55 Call to Gather – Music
- 2:00 Devotion – Dr. David Birner and  
Rev. John Mehl  
Theme: “Working Together with the Global  
Lutheran Missionary Community”
- 2:20 Minutes
- 2:30 Registration, Credentials, and Elections (#9)  
(Balloting for other Boards and  
Commissions, Boards of Regents, Entities)
- 3:30 LCMS: One People in Mission
- 3:40 Human Care (#6)
- 3:50 Registration, Credentials, and Elections (#9)  
(Balloting for other Boards and  
Commissions, Boards of Regents, Entities)
- 4:20 Seminary and University Education (#5)
- 5:20 Administration and Finance (#4)
- 5:50 Prayer
- 6:00 Recess
- Evening: President’s Reception*
- Friday, July 16, 2010**
- 7:55 Call to Gather – Music
- 8:00 Devotion – Dr. Mark Schreiber  
Theme: “He’s Coming Home”
- 8:20 Registration, Credentials, and Elections (#9)  
(Balloting for other Boards and  
Commissions, Boards of Regents, Entities)
- 9:20 Missions (#1)
- 10:00 Bible Study Essay 6 – Mr. Ted Kober  
Focus: ONE People—*Forgiven* –  
The Kiss of Peace
- 10:30 Seminary and University Education (#5)
- 12:00 Synod Structure and Governance (#8)
- 12:30 Recess
- 1:55 Call to Gather – Music
- 2:00 Devotion – Dr. Leo Sanchez  
Theme: “Living by the Spirit”
- 2:20 Minutes
- 2:30 Registration, Credentials, and Elections (#9)  
(Balloting for other Boards and  
Commissions, Boards of Regents, Entities)
- 3:00 LCMS: One People in Mission
- 3:10 Ecclesial Matters (#7)
- 3:40 Administration and Finance (#4)
- 4:30 Human Care (#6)
- 5:00 Synod Structure and Governance (#8)
- 5:20 Service of Reconciliation  
Proclaimer: Rev. Jotham Johann Jhang
- 6:00 Recess
- Saturday, July 17, 2010**
- 7:55 Call to Gather – Music
- 8:00 Devotion
- 8:20 Synod Structure and Governance (#8)
- 9:00 Theology and Church Relations (#3)
- 9:30 Ecclesial Matters (#7)
- 10:00 District and Congregational Services (#2)
- 10:15 Unfinished Business
- 10:45 Minutes
- 10:55 Registration and Credentials Report
- 11:00 Service of Sending
- 11:20 Adjournment

**NOTES REGARDING CONVENTION SCHEDULE DETAILS OR CHANGES:**

## OFFICIAL NOTICES

**GENERAL INFORMATION:** Voting and advisory delegates and representatives are reminded that the 64<sup>th</sup> Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) will be held in the George R. Brown Convention Center in downtown Houston, July 10–17, 2010. The Opening Convention Worship Celebration with Holy Communion will begin at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 10, at the convention center. Following a Service of Prayer on Sunday morning at 8:00 a.m., the first official business session of the convention will begin at 9:00 a.m. Sunday.

**HOUSING:** All registered delegates and representatives should have received housing and travel information by this time. *If this is not the case, the district office should be notified.* If a delegate is unable to serve, the District Secretary should be informed immediately so that he can properly register the alternate delegate with the Secretary of the Synod.

**ON-SITE REGISTRATION:** Delegates and representatives should register on-site for the convention as soon as possible after checking into their hotels. Registration desks on the second floor of the convention center will be open at the following times:

Friday, July 9	10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, July 10	8:00 a.m. to 6:15 p.m.
Sunday, July 11	7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Monday, July 12	8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Tues.-Fri., July 13–16	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, July 17	8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Visitors to the convention are not required to register. Members of the working press are asked to register in the News and Information Room, Room 360A.

**PRAYER AT THE CONVENTION:** Delegates and guests are invited to pray for the convention proceedings. A prayer chapel, located in Room 214 on the second floor of the convention center, will open for use beginning Friday afternoon, July 9. A prayer tent will be located on the convention floor. LCMS congregation members will be staffing the prayer tent daily during convention proceedings to receive special prayer requests and to be in prayer for the convention. A box will be located at the prayer tent for collecting requests for individual and corporate prayers at the convention.

**CONVENTION NATIONAL OFFERING:** At this convention the offering will be received at only one service, the opening service at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 10. Please be sure that all gifts for the convention national offering are given at that time.

**POLICY RE DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS:** Only materials requiring convention action (for example, resolutions, ballots, etc.) shall be distributed within the convention hall proper. Public material distribution areas will be established on the second floor of the convention center and in the lobby of the Hyatt Regency hotel where other materials may be placed. The public material distribution areas will be available to members of the LCMS who daily register for use of these sites. (*NOTE: Materials will be cleared nightly from these areas.*) There shall be no person-to-person distribution of such materials within the buildings or on the sidewalks of the convention center or the hotels, except for the exhibits planned or approved by the convention committee. The President's Office shall see that these provisions are carried out and that the standards of Christian decency and constraint are maintained.

**ON-SITE SUBMISSIONS FOR TODAY'S BUSINESS:** Any materials submitted at the convention for inclusion in *Today's Business* should be submitted by 3:30 p.m. on the day before the item could appear in print. All work must receive final approval by the submitter before it is printed. The daily deadline for such approval will be 6:30 p.m. Office hours for *Today's Business* will be as follows: Friday, July 9: 10:00 a.m. – 6:45 p.m.; Saturday, July 10 through Friday, July 16: 7:30 a.m. – 6:45 p.m.; and Saturday, July 17: 7:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (*NOTE: Personal notices are not published in Today's Business.*)

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Additional convention information is available at [www.lcms.org/convention](http://www.lcms.org/convention), [www.facebook.com/lcmsconvention](http://www.facebook.com/lcmsconvention), and [www.twitter.com/lcmsconvention](http://www.twitter.com/lcmsconvention).

## FORM FOR FLOOR NOMINATIONS

### LCMS 64th Regular Convention

Bylaw 3.12.3.7 (2007 *Handbook*, p. 184) provides opportunity for nominations from the floor prior to the elections of the Synod. Such nominations will take place early in the convention after the chairman of the Committee for Convention Nominations has provided his report to the convention. Unless the convention decides to do otherwise by majority vote, only names submitted prior to the published deadline for submission of names (October 10, 2009) will be eligible for nomination from the floor. If there is question whether a particular name is in this “pool,” you may contact the Office of the Secretary of the Synod for that information.

This form is provided to facilitate the floor nominations process and is available on the LCMS Web site at <http://www.lcms.org/2010floornominations>. When completed, it must include the signature of the person being nominated to indicate willingness to serve if elected and the required information regarding the nominee as detailed in Bylaw 3.12.3.6 (c) on pages 183–184 of the 2007 *Handbook*. Persons making nominations from the floor must be prepared to submit this information at the time that the nominations are made. The Committee on Convention Nominations will check all floor nominations for validity and will report names and accompanying information in *Today’s Business* prior to elections.

### Please Provide All Requested Information Regarding the Person Nominated

1. **Name of Position** (Office, Board, or Commission): \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Name of Person Nominated:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Location of Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of District: \_\_\_\_\_ Years LCMS member: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Synod Positions Held** (past and present, listing most recent first) Years

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. **District Positions Held** (past and present, listing most recent first) Years

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. **Congregation Positions Held** (past and present, listing most recent first) Years

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. **Other Positions Held** (past and present, listing most recent first) Years

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Delegate Making Nomination:** \_\_\_\_\_

# CONSENT FORM FOR FLOOR NOMINATIONS

## LCMS 64th Regular Convention

### Statement of Willingness to Serve

In addition to the commitment of the necessary time and energy required for service, officers and members of boards and commissions agree to serve in accordance with the Constitution, Bylaws, doctrinal statements, and resolutions of the Synod.

When pastors, teachers, and laypersons are requested to serve as board members or in similar part-time capacities, the Synod will assume the expense of travel, lodging, meals, and other incidentals connected with such service. The Synod will not pay for the casual service rendered in a non-salaried position, nor pay for any substitutes engaged while away on duty. If financial outlay is required to perform the duties of the position involved, it is expected that congregations will assume this responsibility as needed.

Position to Which You Have Been Nominated: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature Indicating Willingness to Serve: \_\_\_\_\_

### Brief Personal Statement

The report on final nominees for Synod offices is to contain pertinent information concerning each candidate, such as occupation or profession, district affiliation, residence, specific experience, number of years as a member of an LCMS congregation, present position, offices previously held in a congregation, district, or the Synod, qualifications for the office in question, and, "if the candidate so desires, also a brief personal statement" (Bylaw 3.12.3.6 [c]).

As a nominee you may make such a statement in the space provided below. You may wish to say something about your vision for the future of the Synod or about your interest in service in the position to which you have been nominated. Your statement should not exceed 100 words.

With your consent this statement will be published in a convention issue of *Today's Business* and made available to the voting delegates of the convention:

**Release Approval:** I agree to the release of this information for publication. \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

This form is provided to facilitate the floor nominations process and is available on the LCMS Web site at <http://www.lcms.org/2010floornominations>.

# FLOOR COMMITTEE OPEN HEARINGS AND OTHER KEY LOCATIONS

## Hilton Americas–Houston Hotel

**Grand Ballroom Level 4:**

1. Missions - <i>Floor Committee</i> .....	B
2. District and Congregational Services – <i>Floor Committee</i> .....	J
3. Theology and Church Relations – <i>Floor Committee</i> .....	A
4. Administration and Finance – <i>Floor Committee</i> .....	D
5. Seminary and University Education – <i>Floor Committee</i> .....	G
6. Human Care – <i>Floor Committee</i> .....	K
7. Planning and Administration – <i>Floor Committee</i> .....	C
8. Synod Structure and Governance – <i>Floor Committee</i> .....	<i>See Below</i>

## George R. Brown Convention Center (GRB)

**Level 1:**

General Session/Worship.....	Halls C and D
Exhibit Hall .....	Hall E

**Level 2:**

Registration.....	Registration D Area
Chapel.....	214
Convention Office .....	216

**Level 3:**

Today’s Business.....	370A
8. Synod Structure and Governance – <i>Floor Committee</i> .....	General Assembly Theater
9. Registration, Credentials and Elections – <i>Floor Committee</i> .....	360F
10.Nominations – <i>Floor Committee</i> .....	360C

## FLOOR COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

<u>Number and Name</u>	<u>Chairman</u>
1. Missions	Rev. Kenneth M. Hennings, President Texas District 7900 East Highway 290 Austin, TX 78724-2499
2. District & Congregational Services	Rev. Keith E. Kohlmeier, President Kansas District 1000 SW Tenth Avenue Topeka, KS 66604-1104
3. Theology & Church Relations	Dr. Jon T. Diefenthaler, President Southeastern District 6315 Grovedale Drive Alexandria, VA 22310-2501
4. Administration & Finance	Rev. Donald J. Fondow, President Minnesota North District P. O. Box 604 Brainerd, MN 56401-0604
5. Seminary & University Education	Rev. Kurtis D. Schultz, President Southern District 68446 Tammany Trace Drive, Suite 5 Mandeville, LA 70471-7793
6. Human Care	Dr. David H. Benke, President Atlantic District 171 White Plains Road Bronxville, NY 10708-1998
7. Ecclesial Matters	Dr. Lane R. Seitz, President Minnesota South District 14301 Grand Avenue South Burnsville, MN 55306-5790
8. Synod Structure & Governance	Dr. Larry A. Stoterau, President Pacific Southwest District 1540 Concordia Drive East Irvine, CA 92612-3203
9. Registration, Credentials, & Elections	Rev. Russell L. Sommerfeld, President Nebraska District P. O. Box 407 Seward, NE 68434-0407
10. Nominations	Dr. Warren Schumacher Northwest District 2254 NE 13 <sup>th</sup> Street Hillsboro, OR 97124

## SPECIAL STANDING RULES

1. The Chair shall see that the agenda is followed as closely as possible.
2. During the last two days of the convention, the President shall have the privilege of calling up for action those resolutions that in his judgment must be acted upon before adjournment.
3. No motion to reconsider or rescind shall be made or called up during the last day of the convention.
4. If any resolution is not acted upon by the convention before adjournment, it dies and the subject matter may be reintroduced for possible consideration by an overture to the next convention
5. Minutes shall be distributed every next morning in *Today's Business*. The first item of business of the afternoon session shall be the formal approval of these minutes, with the exception of the final day's minutes, which shall be approved by the Board of Directors at its first meeting following the convention. Only corrections to the minutes involving convention actions shall be offered from the floor for consideration. Editorial corrections addressing misspellings of names or faulty references or titles should be provided in writing to the Secretary for incorporation into the minutes.
6. Resolutions shall be prioritized by floor committees and normally shall be presented to the convention in numerical sequence. However, resolutions that impact nominations or elections may be given earlier consideration at the discretion of the Chair, in consultation with the floor committee chairman and the chairmen of the floor committees on nominations and elections.
7. The convention chairman, in consultation with floor committee chairmen, may identify resolutions to which up to 1½ hours of continuous consideration should be allotted, as follows:

15 minutes (if needed)	Floor committee presentation
30 minutes (if needed)	Debate on the main motion
45 minutes (if needed)	Presentation of and debate on amendments, substitute motions, main motion, or main motion as amended

No motion to amend, to lay on the table, or to call the previous question (close debate) may be made during the first two segments of floor committee presentation and debate on the main motion. Alternate pro and con speaking will be followed during debate. Time not used in any one segment of the above schedule may be added to the next succeeding segment.

The Chair shall have the right to inquire of the assembly at any point its readiness to vote. If not concluded earlier, debate shall cease at the end of ninety (90) minutes and all motions shall be put to a vote.

8. The preface, preamble, rationale, and whereas sections shall be regarded as integral parts of resolutions and therefore subject to the same consideration and adoption as the main motion.
9. Except in unusual circumstances where the reading of the whereas sections of a resolution is necessary due to their technical nature, the whereas sections of resolutions from floor committees that are printed in *Today's Business* will not be read by the chairman or presenting member of the floor committee. In addition, the chair of the convention is not required to read each resolution as he states the questions and then as he calls for the vote.

10. Delegates wishing to address the convention, when recognized by the chair, shall state their name and the name of the district or other entity of the Synod that they represent. Delegates shall normally address the convention from their assigned microphones.
11. No delegate may speak in debate for longer than two (2) minutes per speech. No delegate may speak more than twice on the same motion on the same day and may not speak a second time until all delegates desiring to speak the first time have had opportunity. The chair shall have discretion to make exceptions to this rule. When a floor committee is called on to answer a question or to give information, this rule shall not apply.
12. A delegate who speaks on an issue may not move to call the question at the close of his or her speech.
13. Debate shall follow a “pro-con” format. The order of speaking by delegates during debate shall normally be determined using the electronic queuing system, implemented as follows: After recognition by the chair the speaker shall declare whether he or she is expressing a “pro” or “con” view. After the initial speaker, the chair shall ask each successive speaker in the queued order whether he or she desires to express a “pro” or “con” view until the next speaker with an opposite view is identified. In this manner the next speaker shall be recognized. After that speaker expresses his or her view, that speaker’s name shall be removed from the queue and the order for debate shall return to the top of the queue, whereupon the same process will be repeated.
14. An electronic response system shall ordinarily be used to register votes. If the system is not available, the chair shall take votes by voice, by show of hands, or by a rising vote. The chair may order a count if any voice, show of hands, or rising vote seems inconclusive. When possible, vote tallies shall be recorded in the minutes.
15. Whenever possible, substitute resolutions and amendments to proposed resolutions shall be submitted to *Today’s Business* for publication prior to convention consideration of the resolutions to which they pertain. When this is not possible, as in the course of a discussion, a written copy of the proposed amendment shall be provided to the Secretary immediately after it is offered from the floor.
16. If a substitute motion is offered and seconded, the presenter shall be offered two (2) minutes to provide the rationale for offering it and a member of the floor committee shall be offered two (2) minutes to present rationale for not considering the proposed substitute, after which the convention shall decide by majority vote without further debate whether or not to consider the substitute. If the decision is in the affirmative and if the substitute motion is subsequently adopted, the original motion fails. If the substitute motion does not receive favorable action either to consider or to adopt, the original motion is again considered. (This is an adaptation of the so-called “Behnken Rule” for addressing substitute motions.)
17. While any voting delegate may move to close debate (call the question) at any time, a vote on closing debate (two-thirds vote required) on the pending motion shall be put by the chair after every twenty (20) minutes of debate (except those to which Standing Rule 7 pertains). The chair may also call for a vote on closing debate (two-thirds vote required) when in his judgment the assembly has heard sufficient speaking from both sides of the issue.
18. In order to promote an orderly and non-distracting convention atmosphere, the following guidance shall apply to the use, and area of use, of electronic equipment, including wired and wireless communication devices, laptops, cell phones, smart phones, pagers, PDAs, or other similar devices. In all cases where use is permitted, the sound-producing capabilities of such devices shall not be used.

Except as approved by convention staff, personal extension cords shall not be allowed on the convention floor.

Area of Convention Hall	Type of Usage Permitted in Designated Area			
	Voice	Text Messages	Other Electronic Communications, including laptops	Laptop Computers (no communication, e.g. e-mail or Internet)
Voting and Advisory Delegates	No	No	No	Yes
COP, BOD, CCM, COS, Press, Special Guests	No	Yes, convention business only	Yes	---
Visitors, Front Half Seating Area	No	Yes	Yes	---
Visitors, Back Half Standing Area	Yes	Yes	Yes	---
Convention Staff, All Areas	Yes	Yes	Yes	---

19. To conserve convention time, questions of privilege shall be addressed in writing to the chair.
20. Whenever an amendment is offered from the floor that seeks to make editorial or other helpful suggestions to a pending resolution coming from a floor committee, the chair of the floor committee shall have the option of accepting such an amendment. If it is accepted, then the amendment is made without further debate or formal vote of the assembly.
21. A motion to close debate (“call the question”) shall apply only to the immediately pending question.
22. Amendments of non-contiguous words may be made to a pending question so long as the consequence of such non-contiguous amendment does not constitute in effect a substitute motion.
23. The privilege of granting delegates the right to record their votes in the minutes with respect to a particular resolution shall be granted by the assembly by a majority vote without debate. If such privilege is granted, the votes of record shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Synod within 15 minutes after the close of the day’s business on which such privilege was granted.
24. The point of information (to ask a substantive question) will not have any special preference in recognition. Any delegate desiring to make such request shall be allowed to do so only if called upon by the chair in regular order and shall not have any priority over other delegates in being recognized by the chair. The request for a point of information shall be granted by the chair only if the request is made prior to any motion to close debate on the question being considered.
25. Procedure for Floor Nominations
  - a. Floor nominations for the officers of the Synod, as these are identified and ordered in Bylaw 3.12.4.2(a) – namely, the President, the First Vice-President, and the other vice-presidents in that order, and the election by ballot of the Secretary, the Vice-President–Finance–Treasurer, and the elective members of the Board of Directors of the Synod – shall be accepted prior to the election of those offices according to the standing rules of this convention, in accord with Bylaw 3.12.3.7,\* which states, “*floor nominations shall be brought individually before the convention for approval before being added to the ballot,*” and as interpreted, “*In other words, each floor nomination is to be acted upon separately by a convention vote. When the convention approves the receipt of each nomination, one-by-one, by an affirmative vote of the assembly according to accepted parliamentary rules, this constitutes an amendment of the slate.*” (CCM Opinion 05-2456)

- b. After the election of the officers of the Synod, as those are identified and ordered in Bylaw 3.12.4.2(a) and noted above, floor nominations for all other elective positions of boards and commissions shall be opened for a period of forty (40) minutes in accord with Bylaw 3.12.3.7,\* as detailed above. Unless ceased earlier by a two-thirds vote of the assembly, at the end of forty (40) minutes a vote to cease nominations shall be called by the convention chairman. If a two-thirds vote to cease nominations is not received, the period for floor nominations shall be extended by twenty (20) minutes. At the end of twenty (20) minutes, a vote to cease nominations shall again be called by the convention chairman. If a two-thirds vote to cease nominations is not received, the period for floor nominations shall be extended an additional twenty (20) minutes. This cycle shall continue in twenty (20) minute intervals until a two-thirds vote for nominations to cease is received from the assembly.

26. Unless covered by these Special Standing Rules, parliamentary procedure shall be governed by the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*.

\* Bylaw 3.12.3.7

(a) *The convention may amend the slate by nominations from the floor.*

(b) *Floor nominations shall be brought individually before the convention for approval before being added to the ballot. No floor nominations shall be accepted which would preclude, by virtue of election limitations of such office, election of any pending nominee already on the slate of candidates received from the Committee for Convention Nominations without disclosing such potential effect immediately to the convention.*

(c) *Such floor nominations may only be made from the list of names which have previously been offered to the Committee for Convention Nominations prior to the final deadline established and published by the committee, unless the convention shall otherwise order by a simple majority vote.*

# HISTORY OF LCMS CONVENTIONS

## Delegate Representation

The 2010 convention of the Synod will be its 64<sup>th</sup> Regular Convention and its 49<sup>th</sup> Delegate Convention. Of the 63 prior conventions, the 15 earliest involved direct representation (one pastor and one lay delegate) from all congregations of the Synod.

Direct representation continued from 1847 to 1872, when the size of the convention brought about the change to delegate representation. Beginning with the 1874 convention, two or three neighboring congregations formed delegate circuits and sent one pair of “delegates.” By 1923 the Constitution required that “a number of congregations shall form a group, which shall be represented by two voting delegates, one a pastor and one a lay delegate.” By 1947: “Large congregations shall form small circuits, and small congregations shall form large circuits.”

Since 1967, electoral circuits have ordinarily been identified with the regular visitation circuits and have comprised from 7 to 20 member congregations with an aggregate communicant membership of 1,500 to 10,000 communicant members. Exceptions to this rule may be granted by the President of the Synod upon require of district boards of directors.

## Structure of the Synod

When the Synod was organized in 1847 it was not subdivided into districts since the number of congregations was small and the geographical area still limited. Seven years later, in 1854, the Synod inaugurated its present district system by creating four districts. Districts convened during years when the delegate convention did not meet, although at first they also met at the same time as the national convention was meeting.

Since the creation of four districts in 1854 until the present time, the Synod has made clear that it is not a federation of districts. The Synod at its own determination divides, subdivides or combines districts according to need. Delegates attending the national convention take into consideration not only the interests of their own districts, which are the Synod in that place, but also the welfare of the entire Synod.

## Pattern of Conventions

The Synod met annually during its first eight years (1847–1954). Since that time it has usually convened every three years, except from 1965 to 1983 when it met every two years.

Changes in the regular pattern of conventions occurred during the period of the Civil War. The 11<sup>th</sup> convention was held in 1863; the 12<sup>th</sup> in 1864; and the 13<sup>th</sup> in 1866. A special convention was also held in 1864 to consider reorganization proposals addressing the President’s office and delegate arrangements.

Another exception occurred in 1874. The 1872 convention had resolved to hold the next (16<sup>th</sup>) convention in 1875. In the interim through a vote of the districts it was resolved that the next convention be held in 1874 due to pressing business. The following convention was not held until 1878, four years after.

From 1878 to 1965 the conventions were held regularly every three years. After 1965, through a constitutional change, conventions were held every two years, until 1981 when the Synod returned to a three-year pattern to begin in 1983.

## Convention Locations

Host cities and frequency of hosting national conventions of the Synod are as follows:

St. Louis (20)  
Fort Wayne (13)  
Milwaukee (7)  
Chicago (4)  
Cleveland (3)  
Detroit (3)  
Houston (3)  
Saginaw (1)  
St. Paul (1)  
San Francisco (1)  
New York (1)  
Denver (1)  
New Orleans (1)  
Anaheim (1)  
Dallas (1)  
Indianapolis (1)  
Wichita (1)  
Pittsburgh (1)

1 **R1-8**

## 2 **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT—PART II**

### 3 4 5 **Convention Floor Committee Meeting Weekend – May 21-24, 2010**

6  
7 Grace and peace be with you, from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

#### 8 9 **Welcome and Introduction**

10  
11 Welcome to this Floor Committee Meeting Weekend in preparation for the 64<sup>th</sup> Regular Convention of The  
12 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, beginning seven weeks from tomorrow. Many in the Synod are looking forward  
13 with great anticipation to this convention and I pray that is true of each of you, as well.

14  
15 In my travels around the Synod, I am greatly encouraged by the assurance that many people and many congregations  
16 are holding our national convention in their private and public prayers. I certainly encourage such activity, including  
17 the 24/7 Prayer Vigil in which congregations and individuals in our Synod are invited to participate. Information  
18 about this vigil is on our Synod’s Web site: [www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org).

19  
20 The words of the apostle James are a good reminder: “The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective”  
21 (James 5:16).

#### 22 23 **A Word of Prayer**

24  
25 With that introduction I invite you to join me in a word of prayer:

26  
27 Heavenly Father, we praise and magnify your Holy Name. We thank you for the gift of the life, perfect  
28 obedience, suffering, death, and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Pour out upon us the gifts  
29 of your Holy Spirit, by whose working through Word and Sacrament we have become and remain your  
30 children. Fill our hearts and our minds, our lips and our lives with the truth and the power that you alone  
31 can provide. May every word we speak and every deed we perform bring honor and glory to your Name,  
32 edification to your people, and expansion to your Kingdom, in the Name of Jesus Christ, your Son, our  
33 Lord. Amen.

#### 34 35 **Convention Theme and Biblical Basis**

36  
37 In the Report of the President – Part I, printed in your *Convention Workbook*, I spent some time unpacking the  
38 theme of our convention, **ONE People—Forgiven**. This theme follows and fits nicely with the themes of the  
39 previous two conventions, “ONE Mission—*Ablaze!*” and “ONE Message—Christ!”

40  
41 Together, these three themes comprise our Synod’s vision endorsed by the 2004 convention—ONE Mission! ONE  
42 Message! ONE People! The 2010 theme reminds us that as ONE People we are blessed by God through His Word  
43 and Sacraments to carry out the ONE Mission He has given to proclaim throughout the world the ONE Message of  
44 forgiveness and eternal life in Jesus Christ. By the grace of God, that is happening throughout The Lutheran  
45 Church—Missouri Synod.

46  
47 The theme comes from Paul’s letter to the Christians in Ephesus: “Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor  
48 and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one  
49 another, as God in Christ forgave you” (Eph. 4:31-32).

50  
51 The apostle Paul sounds a similar theme also in Col. 3:12-13, “Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved,  
52 compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a  
53 complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.”

54  
55 May God continue richly to bless us as ONE People—*Forgiven*.

1 **Floor Committee Selection Process and Assignment**  
2

3 Before delving into specific areas of this Report of the President of the Synod, Part II, I believe it is important to say  
4 a few words about how and why each one of you has been selected to serve our God and our Synod as a member of  
5 a convention floor committee. The Bylaws of our Synod address this important matter stating, in part:  
6

7 “All reports and overtures accepted by the President ... shall be referred by him to convention committees appointed  
8 by him in the name of the convention ... Appointments will be made from among the voting delegates, advisory  
9 delegates, and advisory representatives [and] ... Ordained ministers, commissioned ministers, and laypersons shall  
10 be represented on all committees” (ref. Bylaw 3.1.7).  
11

12 Those words describe in general how you got here. More specifically, before appointing each of you, I asked for and  
13 received assistance from your district president in identifying the gifts and experiences of the delegates from your  
14 district as part of a process that was followed in the selection of floor committee members.  
15

16 Basically that process implemented a formula resulting in district representation on the committees in general  
17 proportion to the size of the voting delegation from each of the 35 districts of the Synod. In addition to its president,  
18 each district has at least one and no more than five floor committee members. Following long-standing tradition, all  
19 floor committee chairmen and vice chairmen are members of the Council of Presidents and every district president  
20 has been appointed to a floor committee.  
21

22 The process of floor committee appointments was bathed in prayer and purposeful reflection. While others may have  
23 been chosen for the position you now hold, the fact remains that, in the words written by the apostles and elders in  
24 Acts 15, “it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us” that each of you be appointed.  
25

26 **Suggestions for Floor Committee Consideration**  
27

28 Following the custom of Synod presidents in the past, I now offer general recommendations for floor committee  
29 consideration. I follow this precedent with the assurance of my absolute trust and complete confidence in you, the  
30 leaders and members of the floor committees entrusted with the responsibility of forming and fashioning the  
31 resolutions to be presented to the convention of our Synod in the weeks ahead.  
32

33 Here are a few general comments and recommendations for your consideration as you undertake this significant  
34 responsibility.  
35

36 **Floor Committee 1 – Missions**  
37

38 The clearly stated mission of the LCMS, “vigorously to make known the love of Christ,” is the heartbeat of our  
39 existence and gives direction for our life as a church body. The formidable fiscal, spiritual, and human resources of  
40 our Synod must be focused intentionally and strategically on accomplishing God’s mission in our country and world  
41 that we “might win some” for Christ.  
42

43 My counsel for Floor Committee 1 is to consider resolutions that would:  
44

- 45 • Continue to affirm the priority of mission involvement, expanding our worldwide mission impact in  
46 coordination with LCMS World Mission and our partner church leaders.
- 47 • Continue to encourage mission planting in the United States by “covenant congregations” in collaboration  
48 with district mission leaders.
- 49 • Commit to the successful completion of the *Fan into Flame* campaign, in support of the mission goals we  
50 have established as a Synod.  
51 Continue to focus on opportunities for outreach to and with people of all ethnicities, including immigrants  
52 to the United States.
- 53 • Encourage ministries on behalf of the men and women who serve in the Armed Forces of our country,  
54 supported by scriptural and confessional principles.
- 55 • Continue to encourage, support, and develop biblical resources and methodologies for congregational  
56 revitalization with the goal of helping each congregation become a “mission outpost.”

- Commend and support the Wittenberg Project as an opportunity for making known the love of Christ in this unique community from which our Lutheran roots can be traced.

#### **Floor Committee 2 – District and Congregational Services**

A primary focus of Committee 2 will be provision of proper and adequate resources to congregations and professional church workers of the LCMS by the national Synod and its districts. Close and careful coordination of work currently accomplished at the district and national Synod level is necessary for faithful stewardship of the precious resources entrusted to our care.

My counsel is for Floor Committee 2 to consider resolutions that would:

- Encourage careful attention to and sensitive concern for professional church workers and their families whose positions during these difficult financial times are being reduced or eliminated by congregations and other LCMS agencies, institutions, or entities.
- Encourage proper compensation for professional church workers.
- Encourage creative cooperation between lay leaders and professional church workers in congregational life, mission, and ministry.
- Provide for a study of the impact of congregational size, generations, and life-stages on effective congregational ministries.
- Encourage responsible and faithful worship practices among our congregations, commending to the Synod as a guide for this purpose the “Theses on Worship” adopted by the Council of Presidents.
- Encourage the continuation of children’s, family, youth, school, and stewardship ministries within the governance and structural framework of the Synod.
- Support the study of Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions for the purpose of affirming our beliefs, engaging in apologetics, and applying these timeless truths within our current cultural setting.
- Encourage continuation of planning for and celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation in 2017.

#### **Floor Committee 3 – Theology and Church Relations**

Our first constitutional objective is, “The Synod, under Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, shall—

1. Conserve and promote the unity of the true faith (Eph. 4:3–6; 1 Cor. 1:10), work through its official structure toward fellowship with other Christian church bodies, and provide a united defense against schism, sectarianism (Rom. 16:17), and heresy;” (LCMS Constitution Article III).

This is no small task in a pluralistic, postmodern society. But the enormity of the task makes it even more imperative that we address it, seeking our God’s leading, guiding, and directing in this vital area of our life together in the Synod.

My counsel is for Floor Committee 3 to consider resolutions that would:

- Continue to explore faithful ways and means for the LCMS to “work through its official structure toward fellowship with other Christian church bodies . . .” (LCMS Constitution Article III) and faithful ways and means of relating to such church bodies with which altar and pulpit fellowship has not yet been established.
- Encourage continuation and expansion of vigorous and doctrinally sound LCMS theological leadership around the world.
- Provide an appropriate response to decisions adopted at the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly regarding same-gender unions and ordination of pastors living in homosexual relationships, especially in areas related to cooperative ministries between the LCMS and the ELCA. Particular attention should be given to the document, “Theological Implications of the 2009 ELCA Decisions.”
- Provide scripturally based guidance for the LCMS as a Confessional leader in national and global church relations in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, with special attention to recognizing the existence of doctrinal agreement necessary for declaration of altar and pulpit fellowship.

- Commend to the Synod for study and guidance the CTCR document dealing with the topic of man-woman relationships.
- Address matters of concern regarding participation in civic events.
- Address matters of concern regarding the role of women in the church and in society, including their involvement in military service.
- Encourage the ongoing study of theses from *Church and Ministry*.
- In consultation with Floor Committee 8, address or refer for clarification the distinction between doctrinal resolutions and doctrinal statements of the LCMS.

#### **Floor Committee 4 – Program and Finance**

Concern exists in many circles for adequate funding of the mission of the Synod at all levels. We must continue to address the questions of in what ways, to what extent, and with what resources we will continue to ask the national Synod to be involved in leadership in mission and ministry.

My counsel is for Floor Committee 4 to consider resolutions that would:

- Recognize current financial support for our seminaries provided by the Joint Seminary Fund, give thanks for the generous designated support for our seminaries, colleges, and universities from individuals, congregations, districts, foundations, and bequests, and encourage that such support be continued and increased.
- Present for adoption the various structure and bylaw considerations proposed by the Commission on Structure, as these are especially necessary for conformity with agency practices, auxiliary terminologies, and Synod structure uniformity.
- Provide for a fair and orderly election process for the Board of Directors of the Synod to eliminate deficiencies in the current process.
- Provide for a floor committee appointment process that includes a bylaw provision incorporating the current Synod president’s practice of requesting and considering input and involvement of the Synod’s district presidents.
- Address the financial trends and current financial challenges facing the Synod, with encouragement for Biblical stewardship.
- Review, affirm, and encourage implementation of recommendations from the report of the 2004 convention-mandated Blue Ribbon Task Force on Funding the Mission.
- Continue to emphasize the importance of stewardship education at all levels in the Synod and urge our congregations, districts, colleges, and seminaries collaboratively to promote and lead a “stewardship renaissance” in the LCMS.
- Encourage continuation of greater communication and collaboration between districts and national Synod to consider ways and means of maintaining or increasing current levels of financial support and continued cooperative sharing of existing fiscal and human resources.
- Encourage continual evaluation and prudent stewardship of assets of districts and national Synod.

#### **Floor Committee 5 – Seminary and University Education**

Concern about and support for the recruitment and training of our Synod’s professional church workers remains one of our highest priorities. The fields are ripe for the harvest! Workers must be identified and equipped for mission and ministry in a culture largely indifferent or even hostile to Christianity. In every way possible, professional and lay leaders must be prepared for the task of future church leadership.

My counsel is for Floor Committee 5 to consider resolutions that would:

- In consultation with Floor Committee 3, carefully consider implementation of recommendations proposed in the report from the 5-02 Task Force (2010 R5-04) regarding licensed lay deacons, giving close attention to overtures from districts in which such deacons are used extensively.
- Encourage all individuals and groups of the Synod to be involved in church worker recruitment and retention, including provisions for supplementing and implementing these efforts.

- Encourage careful consideration and adoption of various bylaw amendments proposed by the Board for University Education and supported by the Concordia University System, seeking counsel from Floor Committee 3 and the Commission on Constitutional Matters where theological or constitutional matters are involved.
- Encourage increased support for and enhanced impact of the vicarage program.
- Provide encouragement for seminaries to include disabilities awareness training as a part of seminary curriculum.
- Celebrate and support “For the Sake of the Church.”

**Floor Committee 6 – Human Care**

The expression of Christ’s love through human care and relief from suffering, especially in times of national or world catastrophe, remains an important objective of our Synod. We are called faithfully and generously to share the love of Christ with those in need, particularly in ways that clearly demonstrate the source of such faithfulness and generosity. “The love of Christ constrains us” (2 Corinthians 5:14). “We love because He first loved us” (1 John 4:19).

My counsel is for Floor Committee 6 to consider resolutions that would:

- Affirm and approve the Board of Directors’ recommendation for support and involvement of the LCMS in the Lutheran Malaria Initiative.
- Support efforts to end the sinful scourge of human trafficking and slavery.
- Provide for the development of scriptural and confessional resources and strategies for issues related to gender identity.
- Uphold our Synod’s position on the sanctity of human life and encourage those of like mind to support this vital cause.
- Encourage appropriate involvement of Christians in the political process of our country to support and preserve our Christian freedoms.
- Amend the bylaws, providing for the extending of divine calls to institutional chaplains and counselors.
- Continue to provide assistance to congregations in response to opportunities for ministry to undocumented immigrants.

**Floor Committee 7 – Ecclesial Matters**

This floor committee is called upon to address general matters of planning and administration, which should enhance and not inhibit the mission of the church. Proper and diligent concern for Biblical principles, checks and balances, reduction of bureaucracy, and facilitation of mission and ministry are vital for responsible and accountable functioning of the church.

My counsel is for Floor Committee 7 to consider resolutions that would:

- Encourage continuation of work begun on 2007 Convention Res. 4-01A by the task force on Synod harmony, summarized in its progress report.
- Clarify and affirm the expectations of Synod membership as proposed by the Commission on Structure with respect to financial support and basic statistical reporting.
- Amend the bylaws to include provision for calling a pastor from a church with which the LCMS has declared altar and pulpit fellowship.
- Provide for the review of a possible placement process for church workers on candidate status.
- Present for convention consideration the recommendations of the Res. 8-06 Task Force Report (R7-07) that addresses the potential involvement of laity on hearing panels of the Synod.
- Recommend appropriate action on matters related to CCM opinions regarding ecclesiastical supervision, clarifying the misunderstanding and removing the confusion that exists, giving careful consideration to district convention resolutions and recent CCM input on this topic.

- Provide for the removal of individual board or commission members, “if circumstances require it ... in accordance with Christian procedure” (LCMS Constitution Article XI A) as presented in the overture submitted by the Commission on Structure.
- Implement recommendations of the Commission on Structure regarding various bylaw amendments.

### **Floor Committee 8 – Synod Structure and Governance**

Change is never easy. Those resistant to change express their concerns in many ways. Fear is a factor in those expressions. Many are reluctant to enter the unknown. Others are concerned about concentration of power. As one who has been called to provide leadership for our Synod these past nine years, I understand these concerns. I also understand and agree with the BRTFSSG consultant who said, “Many opinion leaders, pastors, and others in the LCMS are of the belief that the Synod needs to do nothing in terms of changes in structure and governance. The motivation underlying the desire to leave things as they are is typically rooted in a desire to maintain the LCMS’ core theological beliefs, the fear of change, or discomfort with the alternatives that change might bring. *In our opinion, doing nothing is not a realistic alternative.*”

We all share the concern about maintaining the LCMS’ core theological beliefs, which in no way are diluted by task force recommendations. I pray we also share the concern regarding how best to accomplish the mission and ministry of the LCMS in a way that demonstrates the best possible stewardship of the decreasing number of dollars entrusted to our Synod’s care.

With all this in mind, my counsel is for Floor Committee 8 to present resolutions that would implement the proposals recommended by the Blue Ribbon Task Force that are deemed by the floor committee most critical for achievement of the objectives mentioned above. Through the consensus building process employed by the task force and the leadership of the convention floor committee, these recommendations have received the favor of the church as a whole as indicated by the numerous surveys and feedback mechanisms employed to ascertain the will of our delegates and other Synod leaders. Matters of particular importance in this regard include especially, but are not limited to:

- The manner in which the national Synod supports and accomplishes mission and ministry on behalf of the Synod’s congregations and districts, as directed over the years by the Synod in convention. This includes restructuring, consolidating, and realigning of boards, commissions, and staff at the LCMS International Center, giving careful attention to the critical matter of ensuring proper accountability and adequate checks and balances.
- The implementation of a four-year convention cycle with its associated emphasis on theological study at the congregational, circuit, and district levels.
- The restoration of circuits to their primary purpose of fraternal visitation and evangelical support in mission and ministry.
- The recommendations regarding the number and allocation of national convention delegates and the involvement of congregations in the selection of these representatives, in the setting of national priorities, and in the selection of national leaders.
- The recommendations for the continued study of pastoral certification/continuing education and future district configuration.

My detailed response to the report of the BRTFSSG is included in the *Convention Workbook* and outlines my specific thoughts on these and other recommendations proposed by the task force. It is not necessary to reiterate those responses in this report.

### **Overtures Not Approved for Inclusion in Convention Workbook**

A word is in order regarding overtures submitted to the Synod that do not appear in the *Convention Workbook*. Part of the responsibility of the Synod President in the process of overture review is dictated in the Bylaws of the Synod which read, in part:

1 The President of the Synod shall determine if any overture contains information which is materially in error  
2 or contains any apparent misrepresentation of truth or of character. He shall not approve inclusion of any  
3 such overture in the *Convention Workbook* and shall refer any such overture to the district president who  
4 has ecclesiastical supervision over the entity submitting the overture for action. (Bylaw 3.1.6.2(c); ref. 2001  
5 Res. 7-04A)  
6

7 Some overtures submitted for convention consideration contained such information. Therefore, these overtures were  
8 not included in the *Convention Workbook* and were referred to the respective district president, communicating to  
9 him the specific objectionable feature(s) of the overture. I did not suggest any specific action on the part of the  
10 district president.

11 While unable to print such overtures, I honor the genuine concern of the congregation or other entity submitting  
12 them. Accordingly, I followed my previous practice of forwarding these unprinted overtures to the appropriate floor  
13 committee, for whatever action they might determine. Similarly, late overture submissions not approved for  
14 inclusion in *Today's Business* will be forwarded to the appropriate floor committee.  
15

### 16 **In Conclusion**

17  
18  
19 Notwithstanding the matters of concern that must be addressed at the 64<sup>th</sup> Regular Convention of our beloved Synod  
20 through delegate decisions in response to the resolutions you will present, I do not hesitate whatsoever in saying to  
21 you that I am highly encouraged and hugely excited about the future of our Synod!  
22

- 23 • We have much for which to be thankful throughout the 163 years of our existence!
- 24 • We have been and continue to remain faithful to Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions all those  
25 years!
- 26 • We have been aggressive and progressive in mission endeavors for more than 100 of those years!
- 27 • We have the growing respect of many church bodies throughout the world, both Lutheran and non-  
28 Lutheran!
- 29 • Our counsel, resources, and support are frequently and regularly sought by Christians across the face of the  
30 globe, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran!
- 31 • Our most productive years of mission and ministry are just ahead!

32  
33 These are obviously optimistic observations and positive projections that will not automatically, instantly or easily  
34 be achieved. Most respectfully and quite sincerely, I invite and encourage each and every one of you to join me in a  
35 godly crusade to enable these exciting dreams to become reality.  
36

37 As individually and together we “... *vigorously make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our*  
38 *churches, communities and the world,*” we will, by the grace of God, continue to experience His blessings as **ONE**  
39 **People—Forgiven!** May God grant it to be so, in the Name of Jesus!  
40

## ADDITIONAL OVERTURES

The following overtures were received before the deadline for receipt of reports and overtures but were inadvertently not printed in the 2010 *Convention Workbook*.

### 1-12

#### To Promote Lutheran Identity in the Mission Field

WHEREAS, The 2004 LCMS convention established the *Ablaze!* mission outreach movement to encourage, among other things, the laudable goal of planting and establishing 2,000 new congregations in the United States by 2017 (Res.1-05A, 2004 *Convention Proceedings*, p. 121); and

WHEREAS, The people of God should at all times and in every way “be prepared to give an answer to anyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have” (1 Pet. 3:15 NIV); and

WHEREAS, This hope is revealed to us in the gracious truth of God’s Word (cf. Col. 1:3–6); and

WHEREAS, We accept “[a]ll the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as a true and unadulterated statement and exposition of the Word of God” (Constitution, Art. II); and

WHEREAS, We are instructed by God’s Holy Word to declare His truth openly, without cunning or underhanded tactics: “But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God’s word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in the sight of God” (2 Cor. 4:2b ESV); and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) opined on Nov. 29, 1995, that “the Constitution of the Synod contains no specific article or bylaw that can be used to defend congregations or recognized service organizations that choose not to use LUTHERAN in their legal name. It could, in fact, be asked, if the congregation does not confess, does it have a confession, cf. Article VI” (CCM Opinion Ag. 1999); and

WHEREAS, The CCM also opined (Ag. 1999) that “the very intent of the Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, to which the congregation has voluntarily subscribed, make it implicitly clear that member congregations are expected to use the name LUTHERAN in designating their denominational identification”; and

WHEREAS, The 1995 LCMS convention concurred with the CCM, setting forth that “all congregations and mission stations in our Synod boldly profess in their official title and/or name that they are ‘Lutheran’” and that “all congregations and mission stations of our Synod state in their materials (bulletins, newsletters, etc.) that they belong to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod” (Res. 3-13A, 1995 *Convention Proceedings*, p. 125); and

WHEREAS, The limited availability of resources requires the LCMS to make decisions and discernments regarding where best to utilize those resources; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Central Illinois District memorialize the next regular convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to encourage the following:

1. That the goal of all member congregations of the LCMS should be to reach out to the lost and erring with the true and unadulterated, saving message of the Gospel;
2. That 1995 Res. 3-13A be commended to the member congregations of the LCMS for their guidance on what constitutes moral and ethical outreach;

- 1 3. That all member congregations of the LCMS confess the name “Lutheran” and their membership in the  
2 LCMS in their working name and regular communications (e.g., “Grace Lutheran Church” rather than  
3 just “Grace Church,” etc.); and  
4  
5 4. That the Treasurer of the Synod and all Synod entities and corporations be prohibited from making any  
6 payments (either cash or in kind) to any congregation that fails to comport itself according to the  
7 ethical guidelines and confessional standard set forth by the Synod in convention through its  
8 resolutions, Bylaws, and Constitution. These payments include, but are not limited to, grants and  
9 subsidies.

10  
11 Central Illinois District  
12  
13

14 **4-24**

15  
16 **To Encourage Development of Biblically Based Stewardship Education**  
17 **in District and Synod**  
18

19 WHEREAS, Martin Luther has written that offerings come as a result of hearing God's Word (*Luther Works*,  
20 vol. 1, Genesis Lectures, Cain and Abel); and

21  
22 WHEREAS, Through the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ we as God's people are  
23 freed to serve with time, talents, witness, and money (Rom. 5, 6; Eph. 2:1–10); and  
24

25 WHEREAS, There are many stewardship programs in the Christian community which stress "social gospel"  
26 giving, "need" giving, "guilt" giving, or "crisis" giving; and  
27

28 WHEREAS, Such programs do not address the heart of giving joyously and freely at the cross of our Lord  
29 Jesus Christ; therefore be it  
30

31 *Resolved*, That the congregations of the Central Illinois District be encouraged to search the Scriptures for  
32 all stewardship examples; and be it further  
33

34 *Resolved*, That the congregations of Central Illinois District study biblically based stewardship principles;  
35 and be it finally  
36

37 *Resolved*, That LCMS be memorialized via its 2010 convention to continue to develop and use the  
38 Lutheran understanding of biblically based stewardship principles in all resources.  
39

40 Central Illinois District  
41  
42

43 **5-37**

44  
45 **To Require Uniformity of Practice**  
46 **in the Conduct of Word and Sacrament Ministry**  
47

48 WHEREAS, St. Paul distinguished between overseers or bishops (1 Tim. 3:1–7) and deacons (1 Tim. 3:8–  
49 13); and  
50

51 WHEREAS, The “overseers” of the Bible have usually been called “pastors” in the Lutheran Church, based  
52 on Acts 20:28; and  
53

54 WHEREAS, St. Paul also warned, “Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, nor take part in the sins of  
55 others; keep yourself pure” (1 Tim. 5:22) and “an overseer must be ... not a novice” (1 Tim. 3:6); and

1 WHEREAS, In certain situations today the Synod approves of preaching and the administration of the  
2 Sacraments by men who have not been publicly called to, and placed in, the office of the ministry (this position is  
3 expressed, e.g., in 1989 Res. 3-05B: “. . . when no pastor is available, and in the absence of any specific scriptural  
4 directives to the contrary, congregations may arrange for the performance of these distinctive functions [preaching  
5 and administering the sacraments] by qualified individuals...”); and  
6

7 WHEREAS, Article XIV of the Augsburg Confession reads, “Concerning church government it is taught that  
8 no one should publicly teach, preach, or administer the sacraments without a proper [public] call” (Kolb-Wengert, p.  
9 46); and  
10

11 WHEREAS, The systematic theology faculties of both seminaries, acting jointly, have published a detailed  
12 statement on “The Office of the Holy Ministry” (*Concordia Journal* 33.3 [July 2007]: 242–255) which states in part,  
13

14 The Confessions never use the truth that the whole church possesses the power of the keys to make the  
15 office of the holy ministry unnecessary or merely useful. On the contrary, this truth serves as the basis for  
16 the church's right to call, choose, and ordain ministers. . . . [T]he Treatise [on the Power and Primacy of the  
17 Pope] does not imagine churches without ordained ministers of some kind, even in emergency situations or  
18 when no one else will call and ordain men for the office. As confessors of the same doctrine, neither should  
19 we.

20 “[C]all and ordination” are essential for conduct of the ministry. . . . What is the sign of authority for  
21 ministers today? It is their call and ordination, which assure that they act by divine right and on the  
22 authority of Christ. This truth makes such ideas as “lay ministers” invitations for difficulties and troubles to  
23 ministers whose authority is doubtful and to laypersons whose assurance of God's grace may be  
24 questioned” (pp. 253–254, 255); and  
25

26 WHEREAS, The Board for Pastoral Education and the two seminaries are now implementing the Specific  
27 Ministry Pastor (SMP) program mandated by the 2007 Synod convention; and  
28

29 WHEREAS, The Board for Pastoral Education and the Council of Presidents are due to report to the 2010  
30 Synod convention concerning “situations currently served by licensed lay deacons” (2007 Res. 5-02); therefore be it  
31

32 *Resolved*, That the Central Illinois District in convention express its regret at the current situation in the  
33 Synod at large concerning men who are conducting Word and Sacrament ministry without being publicly called to,  
34 and placed in, the office of the ministry; and be it further  
35

36 *Resolved*, That the Central Illinois District in convention memorialize the Synod in convention to direct the  
37 Board for Pastoral Education and the Council of Presidents to develop a plan and lay out procedures:  
38

- 39 A) So that all men who are currently engaged in Word and Sacrament ministry without being publicly  
40 called to, and placed in, the office of the ministry may either be enrolled in the SMP program or cease  
41 from all forms of Word and Sacrament ministry by the end of 2016; and  
42
- 43 B) So that all current Synod and district tracks, programs, licensing procedures etc. which train men for  
44 Word and Sacrament ministry without benefit of being publicly called to, and placed in, the office of  
45 the ministry can be phased out in favor of the SMP program by the end of 2016; and  
46
- 47 C) So that the Board for Pastoral Education can report on this plan to the 2013 Synod convention for  
48 approval, emendation, and adoption;  
49

50 and be it finally  
51

52 *Resolved*, That the Central Illinois District in convention memorialize the Synod to make necessary  
53 changes in the SMP program in order to assure that the men enrolled in the SMP program be called “deacons” rather  
54 than pastors, and that they not be ordained or called as pastors until they complete the full SMP program.  
55

56 Central Illinois District

1 **7-22**

2  
3 **To Require Consideration of CCM-Related Business**

4  
5 WHEREAS, “The Commission on Constitutional Matters [CCM] exists to interpret the Constitution, Bylaws,  
6 and resolutions of the Synod and ensure that the governing instruments of the Synod and its agencies are in accord  
7 with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod” (Bylaw 3.9.2); and

8  
9 WHEREAS, “An opinion rendered by the commission shall be binding on the question decided unless and  
10 until it is overruled by a convention of the Synod” (Bylaw 3.9.2.2 [c]); and

11  
12 WHEREAS, A CCM opinion remains binding if a convention does not address it; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, There is currently no requirement that overtures or resolutions submitted regarding CCM  
15 opinions be given time for consideration by a convention of Synod, thus allowing an opinion to remain binding  
16 without any consideration by a convention of Synod; and

17  
18 WHEREAS, Amendments to the Bylaws are the responsibility of ONLY the conventions of the Synod  
19 (Bylaws 7.1.1 and 7.1.2); therefore be it

20  
21 *Resolved*, That we, the congregations of the Central Illinois District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri  
22 Synod, memorialize the 2010 convention of the Synod that any overtures or resolutions submitted to a convention of  
23 Synod regarding opinions rendered by the Commission on Constitutional Matters must be given time for  
24 consideration by the Synod in convention and may not be removed from the docket or included in any omnibus  
25 resolutions to decline overtures when such overtures are submitted by a circuit forum, an official district conference  
26 of ordained and/or commissioned ministers, the Board of Directors of the Synod, a district board of directors, or a  
27 district convention; and be it further

28  
29 *Resolved*, That failure to vote on any overture or resolution regarding a CCM opinion submitted by a circuit  
30 forum, an official district conference of ordained and/or commissioned ministers, the Board of Directors of the  
31 Synod, a district board of directors, or a district convention shall render that CCM opinion null and void upon the  
32 adjournment of that convention of Synod.

33  
34 Central Illinois District

35  
36  
37 **8-82**

38  
39 **To Exercise Appropriate Care in Considering Structure Changes**

40  
41 WHEREAS, In 2005 LCMS President Gerald Kieschnick appointed a Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod  
42 Structure and Governance; and

43  
44 WHEREAS, The task force’s preliminary proposals of August 2008 were far-reaching in scope and  
45 significant in import; and

46  
47 WHEREAS, Experience teaches that maximum attention must be given to detail and wording in making  
48 adjustments or changes that impinge on structure; and

49  
50 WHEREAS, The Synod would do well to proceed with prayerful and appropriate care in considering any  
51 changes; therefore be it

52  
53 *Resolved*, That the Central Illinois District urge the task force to submit the precise language it proposes for  
54 any and all Constitution and Bylaw changes, as well as the complete text of any enabling resolutions to the Synod in  
55 time for inclusion in the 2010 *Convention Workbook*; and be it further



## LATE OVERTURES

The following overtures were received after the deadline for receipt of reports and overtures but have been accepted for convention consideration.

### L1-13

#### To Include Mission-Focused Training in Seminary Curricula

WHEREAS, The mission and ministry of congregations, schools, and institutions of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod require well-prepared professional church workers; and

WHEREAS, The need for such workers to reach diverse peoples and cultures with the eternal truth of the Gospel calls us to continually evaluate our methods of preparing workers for the church today; and

WHEREAS, The Synod has entrusted this preparation of professional church workers to our Concordia University System and seminaries; and

WHEREAS, It is in the interest of the Gospel, and therefore the Synod, to prepare professional church workers with a fundamental understanding of mission in the unchurched culture of the United States; and

WHEREAS, When congregations look to pastors for leadership in the area of evangelism, they expect their seminary training to include the skills in leadership and team ministry in the church today; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Synod affirm the twelve “LCMS Themes for Pastoral Education” identified by the Board for Pastoral Education as guiding themes for the preparation of pastors to serve in the congregations of the LCMS; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Synod in convention, desiring to expand the skills of pastors in the LCMS, require the curricula of the seminaries of the LCMS to include required courses in two mission-focused areas including:

- 1) Evangelism, including but not limited to
  - outreach strategies
  - a practicum requiring students to practice evangelism in the field
  - an understanding of post-church culture
  - an understanding of multi-ethnic ministry and urban ministry
- 2) Leadership Development, including but not limited to
  - theory of leadership development,
  - strategies of developing leaders in the congregation setting
  - understanding and developing team ministry
  - a practicum requiring students to work on a project as a team

and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Synod in convention require that the seminaries of the LCMS develop and promote a United States mission track as a major course of study available to students desiring certification in such a course of study; and be it finally

*Resolved*, That a report outlining the compliance with this resolution be presented by the seminaries at the next LCMS convention.

Board of Directors  
Southeastern District

1 **L1-14**

2  
3 **To Affirm and Encourage our Military Chaplains**

4  
5 WHEREAS, Our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod military chaplains are serving our nation and our  
6 church in this difficult time of war accompanied by major social and economic changes that impact the soldiers,  
7 sailors, airmen, marines, and coast guardsmen whom they serve; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, Our chaplains minister in a time when traditional biblical views of marriage, family, and human  
10 sexuality itself are also being challenged, including potential moves in our nation which may allow homosexuals to  
11 serve openly in our armed forces; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, Our chaplains are consistently called upon by commanders and senior leaders to provide sound  
14 and godly advice and counsel on these difficult issues that affect the morals, morale, and the welfare of military  
15 members and their families; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, Our Synod has already spoken clearly in convention affirming the sanctity of marriage and the  
18 rejection of same-sex unions (1998 Res. 3-21); therefore be it

19  
20 *Resolved*, That the Synod affirm and encourage our chaplains to continue faithfully to preach and teach the  
21 truth of God’s Word “in season and out of season” and faithfully carry out their pastoral functions in service to the  
22 men and women of the military in all areas of life, including complex issues of human sexuality as well as marriage  
23 and family living; and be it further

24  
25 *Resolved*, That the Synod give thanks and praise to God for sending godly and dedicated pastors to serve as  
26 chaplains, asking God to bless them in this challenging and often dangerous ministry of strengthening and  
27 comforting the faithful and calling the lost into the loving arms of God.

28  
29 Board for Mission Services  
30

31  
32 **L1-15**

33  
34 **To Regulate the Establishment of New Church Starts, Satellite Worship Sites, and Specialized**  
35 **Ministries Across Geographic District Lines**

36  
37 WHEREAS, 1 Cor. 14:40 states that “everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way”; and

38  
39 WHEREAS, In response to this word of encouragement, the Council of Presidents, the Department of  
40 Rosters and Statistics, LCMS World Mission, and the Secretary of the Synod have agreed upon definitions for “new  
41 church starts<sup>1</sup>,” “satellite worship sites<sup>2</sup>,” and “specialized ministries<sup>3</sup>”; and

42  
43 WHEREAS, Congregations today continue to expand the Kingdom of God through the  
44 establishment of new church starts, satellite worship sites, and specialized ministries; and

45  

---

1 New Church Start: 1) an intentionally organized gathering which 2) comes together on a regular basis for worship and/or Bible study and 3) is intended to grow into a member LCMS congregation.

2 Satellite Worship Site: Locations other than a congregation’s main campus/church building, where they regularly hold/host worship services, and which are not intended to grow into member LCMS congregations.

3 Specialized Ministries: Specific types of ministries (i.e. Ethnic – Hispanic, Bosnian; Special Needs – Deaf, Blind, etc.) offered at either a new church start or an LCMS member congregation or its satellite worship site.

1 WHEREAS, Congregations on occasion have established such avenues for outreach across district lines  
2 without consulting with the geographical district or the local congregations where they have begun the new work;  
3 and  
4

5 WHEREAS, Failure to do so can cause strained relations and impact work that is being planned for that area  
6 by local congregations or the geographical district; and  
7

8 WHEREAS, The Synod places a high regard on geographical district boundaries, evidenced by Constitution  
9 Art. XII 1, 6, 7, & 12 and Bylaw 4.1.1.4; therefore be it  
10

11 *Resolved*, That congregations interested in expanding their Gospel outreach into an area that crosses district  
12 lines shall first discuss their intent with the appropriate district officials and the local congregations impacted by  
13 such work; and be it further  
14

15 *Resolved*, That any such expansion of Gospel outreach across district lines shall require the concurrence of  
16 both the president of the receiving geographical district and the board or committee responsible for mission in that  
17 district; and be it further  
18

19 *Resolved*, That a new church start, satellite worship site, or specialized ministry established by a  
20 congregation in another district shall be under the ecclesiastical supervision of the president of the district in which  
21 the outreach effort is taking place; and be it finally  
22

23 *Resolved*, That a new church start established by a congregation in another geographic district shall  
24 become a member of the Synod in the geographical district in which it is located except when the new congregation  
25 applies for membership in a non-geographic district.  
26

Board for Mission Services  
27  
28

29 **L1-16**  
30

31 **To Provide Guidance for Future Direction of *Ablaze!***  
32

33 WHEREAS, The Scriptures make clear that God “desires all people to be saved and to come to the  
34 knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,  
35 who gave himself as a ransom for all” (1 Tim. 2:4–6); and  
36

37 WHEREAS, Jesus commanded his followers to carry the Gospel to the ends of the earth, baptizing and  
38 teaching, and has promised to accompany them on that mission (Matt. 28:19–20); and  
39

40 WHEREAS, In response to God’s love for the world and our Lord’s command, the 2004 LCMS convention  
41 established the *Ablaze!* mission movement with the goal of strengthening congregations and their members in  
42 bearing witness to Jesus as the Savior of the world and celebrating, as a part of the observance of the 500th  
43 anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, the growth that God has given to the Lutheran Church; and  
44

45 WHEREAS, The *Ablaze!* mission movement now stands at the midpoint between its inception in 2004 and  
46 the celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, and *Fan into Flame*, the major fundraising effort  
47 in support of this mission movement plans to celebrate the formal completion of the campaign on Reformation Day,  
48 2011; and  
49

50 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod recognizes that because God cares for people, it is  
51 important that our zeal not flag to accomplish the goals that the Synod committed to as a part of the *Ablaze!* mission  
52 movement, namely, proclaiming the Gospel of the kingdom throughout the world, reaching 100 million people  
53 worldwide, and establishing 2,000 new congregations in the United States (2004 Res. 1-05A); and  
54



1 WHEREAS, Current procedures for establishing altar and pulpit fellowship are designed to address the  
2 circumstance of an established church body seeking altar and pulpit fellowship with the Synod (e.g., ecclesial  
3 autonomy and “institutional viability” are required and eleven procedural steps are outlined; see “Policy for The  
4 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Declaring Altar and Pulpit Fellowship with Another Church Body” in Appendix  
5 II, 2010 *Convention Workbook*, pp. 299–300); and  
6

7 WHEREAS, The CTCR has prepared the document, *Church Relations in the 21st Century* (see Appendix II,  
8 2010 *Convention Workbook*, pp. 301–3), for the President’s consideration and use in his responsibility as chief  
9 ecumenical officer of the Synod (Bylaw 3.3.1.2.2), particularly with reference to smaller, formative, emerging  
10 churches; and  
11

12 WHEREAS, *Church Relations in the 21st Century* seeks to address such new circumstances as requests from  
13 small, emerging confessional Lutheran church bodies that seek a closer ecclesial relationship with the LCMS,  
14 including altar and pulpit fellowship, but do not necessarily have the established structures (e.g., theological  
15 commissions, seminaries) that the Synod has previously related to in the process of establishing church fellowship;  
16 and  
17

18 WHEREAS, Current procedures require a time-consuming, costly, and often unwieldy process before altar  
19 and pulpit fellowship with such small, formative, or emerging confessional churches could be considered by the  
20 Synod in convention; therefore be it  
21

22 Resolved, That *Church Relations in the 21st Century* be commended by the Synod for use by the President  
23 in determining the possibility of establishing altar and pulpit fellowship with small, formative, or emerging  
24 confessional churches where theological discussions have provided convincing evidence that the LCMS is in  
25 doctrinal agreement with the church in question; and be it further  
26

27 Resolved, That the President, following consultation with the Praesidium and approval by the CTCR, be  
28 enabled to declare recognition of altar and pulpit fellowship with such formative confessional churches, subject to  
29 the endorsement of the subsequent Synod convention; and be it finally  
30

31 Resolved, That Bylaw 3.9.6.2.2 be amended to read as follows:  
32

33 ~~PRESENT/PROPOSED~~ WORDING  
34

35 3.9.6.2.2 The Commission on Theology and Church Relations shall assist the President of the Synod at his  
36 request in discharging his constitutional responsibilities for maintaining doctrinal integrity as he  
37 relates to other church bodies.

38 (a) It shall address itself to and evaluate existing fellowship relations for the purpose of mutual  
39 admonition and encouragement.

40 (b) When a church body applies for formal recognition of altar and pulpit fellowship with the  
41 Synod, such recognition shall be proposed at a convention of the Synod only after the approval of  
42 the commission.

43 (c) When a small, formative, or emerging church body requests recognition of altar and pulpit  
44 fellowship with the Synod, such recognition may be declared by the President of the Synod only  
45 after consultation with the Praesidium and approval by the commission, subject to the  
46 endorsement of the subsequent Synod convention.

47 (d) When a mission of the Synod applies for formal recognition as a self-governing partner church,  
48 such recognition shall be proposed at convention of the Synod by the Board for Mission Services  
49 with the approval of the commission.  
50

51 Commission on Theology and Church Relations  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56

2  
3 **To Amend Bylaws re Convention Preparations**

4  
5 WHEREAS, Changes in requirements for the preparation of pre-convention materials and changes in the  
6 conditions under which such materials are gathered have made existing bylaw deadlines difficult to meet; and  
7

8 WHEREAS, Reduced mail service performance has resulted in delays in the delivery of convention  
9 materials; and  
10

11 WHEREAS, Accommodating such reduced mail service performance has resulted in an increased cost of at  
12 least \$70,000 for the 2010 convention; and  
13

14 WHEREAS, Timely receipt of pre-convention materials is essential for proper preparation for conventions of  
15 the Synod; and  
16

17 WHEREAS, In the interest of transparency, widespread provision of information regarding convention  
18 business is desirable; and  
19

20 WHEREAS, Existing bylaws predate the availability of electronic communication tools that allow for timely  
21 and economical distribution of materials; therefore be it  
22

23 *Resolved*, That the bylaws governing the submission of convention business and the distribution of pre-  
24 convention publications be amended as follows:  
25

26 **PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING**

27  
28 ***Reports and Overtures***

29  
30 3.1.6 The principal business of a convention of the Synod shall be the consideration of reports and  
31 overtures. Reports and overtures ~~shall~~ ~~must~~ be submitted ~~in triplicate~~ to the President of the Synod  
32 not later than ~~20~~ ~~18~~ weeks prior to the opening date of the convention.

33 (a) No report or overture received subsequent to that date shall be accepted for convention  
34 consideration unless a committee consisting of the President, the First Vice-President, and the  
35 Secretary adjudge it to be a matter of overriding importance and urgency which is not adequately  
36 covered by documents already before the convention.

37 (b) Overtures and recommendations involving capital outlay or current expenditures shall be  
38 accompanied, to the extent feasible, by cost projections and the basis thereof.

39 ***Reports***

40 3.1.6.1 Reports to a convention of the Synod may be submitted only by the President, a vice-president, the  
41 Secretary, the Vice-President–Finance—Treasurer, the Board of Directors of the Synod, a board or  
42 commission of the Synod as listed in Bylaws 3.2.2, 3.2.2.1, 3.2.3, and 3.2.3.1, and other individuals  
43 or duly constituted groups who may be required or permitted to do so by the Bylaws, by action of a  
44 prior convention of the Synod, or by the President.

45 (a) Reports are statements of work performed or contemplated by those who are charged with  
46 conducting the business of the Synod between conventions, communications to a convention with  
47 respect to studies that may have been made for the Synod in order to further its work, or other types  
48 of communications to the Synod.

49 (b) A report shall not include an overture unless the report is submitted by someone authorized to  
50 submit overtures.

51 ***Overtures***

52 3.1.6.2 Overtures to a convention of the Synod may be submitted only by a member congregation of the  
53 Synod, a convention or board of directors of a district, an official district conference of ordained  
54 and/or commissioned ministers, the faculty of an educational institution of the Synod, the Board of

1 Directors of the Synod, a board or commission of the Synod listed in Bylaws 3.2.2, 3.2.2.1, 3.2.3,  
2 and 3.2.3.1, a committee established by a prior convention, or a forum of a circuit.

3 (a) Overtures are recommendations in the form of proposed resolutions requesting action on the part  
4 of the convention.

5 (b) Overtures with reference to a case in which a member has been suspended and which is at  
6 present in the process of dispute resolution, as well as overtures which, upon advice of legal counsel,  
7 may subject the Synod or the corporate officers of the Synod to civil action for libel or slander or  
8 which contain libel and slander, shall not be accepted for convention consideration.

9 (c) The President of the Synod shall determine if any overture contains information which is  
10 materially in error, or contains any apparent misrepresentation of truth or of character. He shall not  
11 approve inclusion of any such overture in the *Convention Workbook* and shall refer any such  
12 overture to the district president who has ecclesiastical supervision over the entity submitting the  
13 overture for action. If any published overture or resolution is found to be materially in error or  
14 contains a misrepresentation of truth or of character, it shall be withdrawn from convention  
15 consideration and referred by the President of the Synod to the appropriate district president for  
16 action.

### 17 **Convention Committees**

18 3.1.7 All reports and overtures accepted by the President in accordance with the foregoing paragraphs  
19 shall be referred by him to convention floor committees appointed by him in the name of the  
20 convention.

21 (a) Appointments will be made from among the voting delegates (Bylaw 3.1.2ff), advisory delegates  
22 (Bylaw 3.1.3ff), and advisory representatives (Bylaw 3.1.4ff).

23 (b) Ordained ministers, commissioned ministers, and laypersons shall be represented on all  
24 committees.

25 (c) The President shall notify floor committee members of their appointment and of the time and  
26 place of their first meeting no later than 16 ~~42~~ weeks before the start of the convention.

27 (d) The committee rosters shall be published in an official periodical at least 10 weeks before the  
28 convention.

29 (e) If the President deems it advisable, he may convene ~~any~~ floor committees prior to the opening of  
30 the convention.

31 (f) After due consideration of the matters referred to it, each floor committee will report its findings  
32 and recommendations to the convention.

33 (g) Each proposed resolution involving expenditures, prior to its consideration on the floor of the  
34 convention, shall be presented to the floor committee on financial matters, which in consultation  
35 with the accounting department shall attach to the recommended resolution accompanying  
36 information on estimated cost on an annual or project basis.

### 37 **Pre-Convention Publications**

38 3.1.8 A *Convention Workbook* containing a convention manual, reports and overtures, the names and  
39 mailing addresses of all voting delegates, and other information shall be published under the  
40 editorship of the Secretary subject to approval of the President.

41 (a) The President shall also decide which of the matters accepted for presentation to and  
42 consideration by the convention shall be published in the *Convention Workbook*.

43 (b) ~~The content~~ ~~A copy~~ of the *Convention Workbook* shall be posted on the Synod's Web site ~~sent~~  
44 not later than 12 ~~40~~ weeks prior to the opening date of the convention, with printed copies mailed to  
45 ~~each ordained and commissioned minister on the official rosters of the Synod, to each lay delegate~~  
46 ~~and alternate, all officers of the Synod, and to each lay members of boards, and commissions, and~~  
47 ~~councils of the Synod, and to all such lay teachers and lay ministers as are designated by their~~  
48 ~~district presidents.~~

49 (c) Any member of the Synod (congregation, ordained minister, commissioned minister) and any lay  
50 delegate to the convention wishing to express comments on reports and overtures appearing in the  
51 *Convention Workbook* may submit them ~~in triplicate~~ at least nine ~~seven~~ weeks prior to the  
52

1 convention to the Secretary of the Synod, who shall transmit them to the appropriate convention  
2 floor committee for consideration.

3  
4 3.1.8.1 The content of the first issue of *Today's Business* containing the proposed resolutions of the  
5 convention floor committees and other convention business shall be posted on the Synod's Web site,  
6 with printed copies mailed ~~sent~~ to all registered delegates of the convention and all officers of the  
7 Synod and members of boards, commissions, and councils ~~and to each congregation of the Synod.~~

8 (a) Responses to the proposed ~~tentative~~ resolutions contained in the first issue of *Today's Business*  
9 shall be submitted to the chairman of the appropriate floor committee at least one week prior to the  
10 convention.

11 (b) All floor committees shall meet at the convention site ~~at a time~~ prior to the opening of the  
12 convention to review such responses and reconsider their proposed resolutions accordingly.

13  
14 and be it further

15  
16 *Resolved*, That the bylaws governing the work of the Committee for Convention Nominations be amended  
17 as follows:

18  
19 ***Committee for Convention Nominations***

20  
21 3.12.3 The Committee for Convention Nominations is to be regarded as an *ad hoc* convention committee,  
22 to which limitations on holding multiple offices do not apply.

23  
24 3.12.3.1 In preparation for a convention of the Synod, one-half of the districts shall elect through their regular  
25 election procedures at the district convention one member to the Committee for Convention  
26 Nominations and an alternate:

27 Atlantic	Nebraska
28 California-Nevada-Hawaii	North Wisconsin
29 Central Illinois	Northern Illinois
30 Florida-Georgia	Northwest
31 Indiana	Oklahoma
32 Iowa West	SELC
33 Minnesota South	South Dakota
34 Missouri	Southern
35	Wyoming

36  
37 3.12.3.2 In preparation for the following convention, the remaining districts shall elect in the same manner:

38 Eastern	New Jersey
39 English	North Dakota
40 Iowa East	Ohio
41 Kansas	Rocky Mountain
42 Michigan	South Wisconsin
43 Mid-South	Southeastern
44 Minnesota North	Pacific Southwest
45 Montana	Southern Illinois
46 New England	Texas

47  
48 3.12.3.3 One-half of the electing districts shall be designated by the Secretary of the Synod to elect a  
49 professional church worker and the other half a layperson, with roles reversed every six years.

50  
51 3.12.3.4 The Secretary of the Synod shall handle the preliminary work for the Committee for ~~on~~ Convention  
52 Nominations.

53 (a) He shall begin to solicit names of potential nominees from officers, boards, commissions, and  
54 agencies of the Synod and its districts at least 24 months prior to the convention.

1 (b) Approximately 24 months before a regular meeting of the Synod in convention, he shall solicit  
2 from the program boards and the synodwide corporate entity boards descriptions of criteria for  
3 qualified candidates to serve on those boards.

4 (c) With such criteria in view, the Secretary shall issue the first call for nominations through a  
5 publication of the Synod and on the Synod Web site 18 months before the convention, soliciting  
6 names from program boards and synodwide corporate entity boards, as well as congregations,  
7 district presidents, district boards of directors, circuit counselors, and other likely sources.

8 (d) All incumbents eligible for reelection shall be considered for nominations.

9 (e) Qualifications of each nominee shall ~~candidate suggested are to~~ be submitted together with the  
10 names on forms made available on the Synod's Web site.

11 (f) All suggested names and information for consideration by the Committee for Convention  
12 Nominations shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Synod ~~committee~~ no later than nine months  
13 prior to the convention of the Synod.

14 (g) The Secretary shall present the names and information gathered to the Committee for Convention  
15 Nominations at its first meeting.

16  
17 3.12.3.5 The first meeting of the Committee for Convention Nominations shall be at the call of the Secretary  
18 of the Synod at least six ~~within nine~~ months prior to the convention of the Synod.

19 (a) The Secretary shall not serve as a member of the committee, but he shall convene the initial  
20 meeting of the committee and be available, upon call, for consultation.

21 (b) The committee shall elect its own chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary and shall organize its  
22 work in whatever way it deems necessary.

23 (c) The committee shall inform itself as to the duties and requirements of each position to be filled  
24 and thereby be guided in its selection of nominees.

25 (d) In the case of the boards of regents of educational institutions of the Synod, the committee shall  
26 consult with the Board for Pastoral Education and Board for University Education and receive their  
27 nominations for the various boards of regents for the committee's consideration.

28  
29 3.12.3.6 The Committee ~~for~~ ~~on~~ Convention Nominations shall nominate candidates for all elective offices,  
30 boards, and commissions except President, vice-presidents, and Vice-President—Finance—Treasurer.

31 (a) When possible, at ~~At~~ least two candidates shall be nominated for each position.

32 (b) ~~At least five months prior to the convention, the~~ The committee shall determine its complete list  
33 of candidates and alternates, obtain the consent of the persons it proposes to nominate, and transmit  
34 its final report at least five months prior to the convention to the Secretary of the Synod who shall  
35 post the list on the Synod's Web site and ~~in ample time to~~ provide for its publication in a pre-  
36 convention issue of an official periodical of the Synod and ~~also~~ in the *Convention Workbook*.

37 (c) The committee's report shall list the qualifications of various positions used in the solicitation of  
38 candidates and contain pertinent information concerning each candidate, such as occupation or  
39 profession, district affiliation, residence, specific experience, number of years as a member of an  
40 LCMS congregation, present position, offices previously held in a congregation, district or the  
41 Synod, and qualifications for the office in question, and, if the candidate so desires, also a brief  
42 personal statement.

43  
44 3.12.3.7 The chairman of the Committee for Convention Nominations shall submit the committee's report in  
45 person to the convention at one of its earliest sessions.

46 (a) The convention may amend the slate by nominations from the floor.

47 (b) Floor nominations shall be brought individually before the convention for approval before being  
48 added to the ballot. No floor nominations shall be accepted which would preclude, by virtue of  
49 election limitations of such office, election of any pending nominee already on the slate of  
50 candidates received from the Committee for Convention Nominations without disclosing such  
51 potential effect immediately to the convention.

52 (c) Such floor nominations may only be made from the list of names which have previously been  
53 offered to the Committee for Convention Nominations prior to the final deadline for the submission  
54 of nominations ~~established and published by the committee~~, unless the convention shall otherwise  
55 order by a simple majority vote.

1 (d) If the convention approves the receipt of such additional nominations, any delegate making such  
2 a nomination shall have secured prior written consent of the candidate being nominated and shall  
3 immediately submit it to the chairman of the Committee for Convention Nominations along with  
4 required pertinent information concerning the nominee as detailed in Bylaw 3.12.3.6 (c).

5 (e) ~~The~~ Whenever possible, the chairman of the Committee for Convention Nominations shall have  
6 on hand at the convention a reserve list of nominees, approved by the committee, for use if required.

7 (f) Whenever possible, the Committee for Convention Nominations should be informed in advance if  
8 any new board or commission is likely to be established at a convention of the Synod, so that it may  
9 have a slate of candidates in readiness.

10  
11 3.12.3.8 The Committee for Convention Nominations, in consultation with officials of the Synod, shall  
12 maintain a description of the desirable expertise required for each elected ~~position~~ board and shall  
13 transmit this information together with suggestions for improvement of procedures to the next  
14 committee through the Secretary of the Synod.

15 and be it finally

16  
17 *Resolved*, That the bylaws governing the nominations and elections of President and vice-presidents be  
18 amended as follows:

19  
20 ***President and Vice-Presidents***

21  
22 3.12.1 Nominations for the offices of President, First Vice-President, and other vice-presidents in line of  
23 succession shall be made by the member congregations of the Synod.

24 (a) Each member congregation shall be entitled to nominate from the clergy roster of the Synod two  
25 ordained ministers as candidates for ~~President~~ president and two ordained ministers as candidates for  
26 First Vice-President, and four ordained ministers as candidates for other vice-presidents in line of  
27 succession.

28 (b) The Secretary of the Synod shall provide a secure and verifiable method that will offer  
29 opportunity to every ~~mail to each~~ congregation of the Synod to submit nominations ~~ballots for~~  
30 ~~nominating these candidates~~.

31 (c) ~~The~~ Each nominating process ~~ballot~~ shall be completed ~~signed by the president and secretary of~~  
32 ~~the member congregations~~ not later than five ~~four~~ months prior to the opening date of the  
33 convention.

34 (d) The Secretary of the Synod, with the approval of the Board of Directors of The Lutheran  
35 Church—Missouri Synod, may engage an external auditing firm to tabulate the nominations and  
36 shall report to the convention by means of the *Convention Workbook* the names and tallies of all  
37 ordained ministers who have received nominating votes for the offices of President, First Vice-  
38 President, and other vice-presidents in line of succession.

39 (e) Groups and individuals within and without the Synod are urged to refrain from circularizing the  
40 Synod or areas thereof relative to favoritism in nominations for President, First Vice-President, and  
41 other vice-presidents in line of succession.

42 3.12.1.1 Candidates for the offices of President and First Vice-President shall be in each instance the three  
43 ~~five~~ ordained ministers receiving the highest number of votes in the nominating ballots of the  
44 congregations, and the candidates for the offices of vice-presidents two through five shall be the ten  
45 ~~twenty~~ ordained ministers receiving the highest number of votes in nominating ballots of the  
46 congregations for other vice-presidents in line of succession.

47 (a) The Secretary of the Synod shall notify each candidate and shall secure his approval in writing  
48 for inclusion of his name on the convention ballot. Each candidate shall reply within 10 days as to  
49 his willingness to serve if elected.

50 (b) In the event of the death, declination, or unavailability of any candidate, the nominee having the  
51 next highest number of votes shall become a candidate.

52 (c) In the event of a tie for the final candidate position, all names involved in the tie shall be listed as  
53 candidates.

54 3.12.1.2 The Secretary of the Synod shall post on the Synod's Web site and publish in the *Convention*  
55 *Workbook* brief biographies of the three ~~five~~ candidates for President, the three ~~five~~ candidates for  
56 First Vice-President, and the ten ~~twenty~~ candidates for vice-presidents two through five. This report

1 shall contain such pertinent information as age, residence, number of years in the Synod, present  
2 position, offices previously held in a district or the Synod, year of ordination, former pastorates,  
3 involvement in community, government, or interchurch affairs, and any other specific experience  
4 and qualification for the office, ~~and if the candidate so desires, also~~ Opportunity to provide a brief  
5 personal statement shall be offered to each candidate for publication in an official periodical, this  
6 statement also to be posted on the Synod's Web site.

7 3.12.1.3 The convention shall have the right to alter each slate at the proper time by amendment.

8 (a) The amendment procedure shall include merely a motion, a second, and a vote on the  
9 amendment, deliberately excluding verbal characterizations and discussion of the motion (except for  
10 the chair to ascertain that the requirements have been met as to eligibility, consent, and the filing of  
11 the biographical form).

12 (b) Delegates making nominations from the floor shall have secured prior written consent of the  
13 candidates they wish to nominate.

14 (c) Such delegates shall immediately submit to the Secretary of the Synod this document and written  
15 pertinent information concerning their nominee(s) as detailed in Bylaw 3.12.1.2.

16 (d) After all such amendments have been voted on, the convention shall ratify the slate of candidates  
17 prior to each election.

18 3.12.1.4 Each voting delegate shall be entitled to vote for one of the candidates for President. ~~The candidate~~  
19 ~~receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected.~~

20 (a) If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the ~~two~~ four candidates receiving the highest  
21 number of votes shall be retained on the ballot, and another vote shall be taken.

22 (b) ~~Thereafter the~~ The candidate receiving a majority ~~the smallest number of the votes cast shall be~~  
23 ~~declared elected~~ eliminated on each subsequent ballot until one candidate receives a majority of the  
24 votes cast.

25 3.12.1.5 After the results of the election of the President have been announced, the convention shall then elect  
26 the First Vice-President according to the procedures outlined for the election of President in Bylaws  
27 3.12.1.3 and 3.12.1.4.

28 3.12.1.6 After the results of the election of the First Vice-President have been announced, the convention  
29 shall then elect vice-presidents two through five as outlined in Bylaw 3.12.1.3. The rank of vice-  
30 presidents shall be determined by the order of their election or, if more than one is elected in the  
31 same voting, by the number of votes received by each.

32 (a) Should one or more of the candidates be elected to the office of President or First Vice-President,  
33 their names shall be removed from the ballot without requiring the addition of other names to the  
34 ballot.

35 (b) In the election, each voting delegate shall be entitled to vote for as many candidates as there are  
36 offices to be filled. A candidate whose total vote equals or exceeds a majority of the number of  
37 delegates voting shall be declared elected.

38 (c) If more candidates receive a majority than there are offices to be filled, those receiving the  
39 greatest number of votes shall be declared elected.

40 (d) If not all offices are filled in such voting, the candidate or candidates receiving the least number  
41 of votes shall be eliminated so that two candidates remain for each office to be filled and another  
42 vote shall then be taken.

43 (e) This procedure shall be followed until all the offices have been filled.

44  
45 Commission on Structure

46  
47  
48 **L4-26**

49  
50 **To Change Procedure for Establishing Synod Convention Times and Locations**

51  
52 WHEREAS, For practical reasons, the date and location of a convention site must be determined and  
53 contracted several years in advance of a Synod convention and prior to the most previous convention; and

54  
55 WHEREAS, The current bylaws regarding convention date and location do not allow for efficiency and  
56 expediency in this regard; and

1 WHEREAS, The Board of Directors is responsible for the financial affairs of the Synod, including approving  
2 the budget for the Synod convention; and  
3

4 WHEREAS, The President of the Synod, in consultation with the convention manager, has traditionally been  
5 establishing the date of the convention based on convention venue availability, as is currently allowed in the existing  
6 bylaws of the Synod; and  
7

8 WHEREAS, A change in the procedure for establishing the date and location of the convention would enable  
9 the Synod to capitalize on opportunities in regard to cost-effective planning and booking of convention facilities;  
10 and  
11

12 WHEREAS, The potential change in the convention cycle of the Synod requires a plan and flexibility for  
13 booking and arranging convention facilities, including lodging and meeting space, which cannot realistically be  
14 determined by a convention; therefore be it  
15

16 *Resolved*, That the President of the Synod, in consultation with the convention manager, establish the dates  
17 of Synod conventions; and be it further  
18

19 *Resolved*, That the Board of Directors of the Synod, in consultation with the convention manager, establish  
20 the sites of Synod conventions; and be it finally  
21

22 *Resolved*, That Bylaw 3.1.9 (j) be revised to incorporate these procedural changes, as follows:  
23

24 (j) ~~Before adjournment the convention shall decide upon the time of the next convention. The date~~  
25 ~~and site of Synod conventions shall be established in the following manner.~~

26 (1) ~~If the convention fails to do so, the President, in consultation with the convention manager,~~  
27 ~~shall decide upon the dates of Synod conventions, shall do so. In case of necessity, he may~~  
28 ~~change the appointed time.~~

29 (2) ~~The Board of Directors of the Synod, in consultation with the convention manager, shall~~  
30 ~~establish the sites of Synod conventions, giving preference to St. Louis when logistically and~~  
31 ~~economically feasible. Conventions shall be conducted in the St. Louis area, with the~~  
32 ~~understanding that consideration may be given by a previous convention to other areas upon~~  
33 ~~special request.~~

34 (3) ~~A district may submit Prior to submitting an invitation, to host the convention. In such case,~~  
35 ~~a host group shall determine the minimum requirements from the convention manager, agree to~~  
36 ~~provide any needed local support, and then shall submit a proposal to the Board of Directors of~~  
37 ~~the Synod for evaluation and consideration, and recommendation to a convention.~~

38 (4) The President may also ~~submit propose~~ a site to the Board of Directors of the Synod. Prior to  
39 submission, the district president for the area in which the site is located shall be made aware of  
40 the ~~submission proposal~~ and agree to provide any needed local support.  
41

42 Commission on Structure  
43  
44

#### 45 **L4-27**

### 47 **To Encourage Continued Support for Synod's Seminaries and CUS Schools**

48 WHEREAS, The cost of higher education at our LCMS seminaries and Concordia University System (CUS)  
49 schools continues to increase to the extent that undesignated resources directed to the national Synod from  
50 congregations and districts have become insufficient to cover these costs and are providing an increasingly smaller  
51 portion of the total cost of higher education in our Synod; and  
52  
53

54 WHEREAS, The continuing trend of designated giving in our Synod has enabled our institutions of higher  
55 education, even in difficult economic times, to continue to provide quality education in the process of preparation of  
56 professional church workers and lay leaders for our Synod; and

1  
2 WHEREAS, Individuals, organizations, and congregations throughout The Lutheran Church—Missouri  
3 Synod (LCMS) have demonstrated commendable generosity in financial resources given directly to and designated  
4 for the benefit of our LCMS seminaries and CUS schools; and  
5

6 WHEREAS, In addition to gifts given directly to our LCMS seminaries, during fiscal year 2009 these  
7 institutions received \$1,485,470 in direct cash gifts and matured managed/deferred gifts developed and gathered by  
8 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Joint Seminary Fund, fundraising expenses for which were paid through the  
9 LCMS budget; and  
10

11 WHEREAS, During fiscal year 2009, our LCMS seminaries also received \$4,264,831 in direct cash gifts and  
12 matured managed/deferred gifts that were designated for one or both of the seminaries but given through the Joint  
13 Seminary Fund, with fundraising expenses paid by the LCMS Foundation; and  
14

15 WHEREAS, In that same fiscal year, the LCMS Board of Directors designated subsidy of \$653,764 from the  
16 Synod’s unrestricted budget to our two seminaries; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, In fiscal year 2009, the LCMS Board of Directors designated \$3,756,888 from the Synod’s  
19 unrestricted budget to the CUS schools in property debt support; and  
20

21 WHEREAS, The *For the Sake of the Church* initiative received \$340,000 in support of endowments for CUS  
22 schools in fiscal year 2009, with fundraising expenses paid by CUS; therefore be it  
23

24 *Resolved*, That thanks be given to the Lord of the Church for the gifts offered by individuals, groups, and  
25 congregations throughout the LCMS in support of the Synod’s seminaries and Concordia University System  
26 schools; and be it further  
27

28 *Resolved*, That individuals, groups, and congregations throughout the LCMS be encouraged to continue  
29 their support of the Synod’s seminaries and Concordia University System schools through gifts offered directly to  
30 these institutions, gifts offered through the Joint Seminary Fund, response to the *For the Sake of the Church*  
31 initiative, and support of the Synod’s unrestricted budget.  
32

33 Board of Directors  
34  
35

36 **L4-28**

37  
38 **To Commit to a 53<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Offering in 2012 to Support Church Missions**  
39

40 WHEREAS, The mission statement of The Lutheran Church —Missouri Synod is “vigorously to make  
41 known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches, communities, and world”; and  
42

43 WHEREAS, The LCMS has, since its inception, devoted significant time and resources to accomplishing this  
44 mission; and  
45

46 WHEREAS, In the year 2012 a special and rare occurrence transpires with an extra, or 53rd, Sunday; and  
47

48 WHEREAS, This additional Sunday provides the opportunity for the church to commit to and celebrate a  
49 thank offering for the work of church mission; and  
50

51 WHEREAS, In 1 Corinthians 16:2 Paul writes, “On the first day of every week, each of you is to put  
52 something aside”; therefore be it  
53

54 *Resolved*, That The Lutheran Church —Missouri Synod commit to a special offering in 2012 for the work  
55 of church mission; and be it further  
56



1           However, the church may recognize certain distinctions within that one Office of the Holy Ministry and  
2 establish degrees of supervision without undermining the unity of the office.”  
3

4           In 2007 Res. 5-02, the Synod asked the Board for Pastoral Education and the Council of Presidents to study  
5 the situations currently served by licensed lay deacons to determine whether there continues to be a genuine need for  
6 the licensed deacon program within the Synod and to present a report with recommendations to the 2010  
7 Convention.  
8

9           Since the Synod adopted 1989 Res. 3-05B, there remains a fundamental unresolved issue within the Synod  
10 regarding conflicting positions as to whether a *licensed deacon*, requested by a congregation or district to serve in  
11 the public ministry of the Gospel with the approval of the district president, meets the requirements of AC XIV.  
12

13           The 2009 Rocky Mountain District convention authorized “the district, through an overture prepared by its  
14 Committee on Licensed Deacons and approved by its Board of Directors, to recommend to the Synod’s 2010  
15 convention the continuation of district licensed deacon programs and the amendment of the Synod’s Bylaws to  
16 clarify the terminology, call and ordination of eligible licensed deacons into the pastoral office in accordance with  
17 Augsburg Confession Article XIV, rostering them as ordained ministers, and amending the Bylaws accordingly.”  
18

### 19   **Rationale**

20  
21           God Himself instituted the Office of Holy Ministry, which is the Gospel purely proclaimed and the  
22 Sacraments rightly administered (AC V), so that sheep would be made and fed. The Lord desires that His sheep  
23 should have a shepherd. Therefore, the Lord of the harvest calls shepherds through the voice of the congregation to  
24 tend his sheep. Such shepherds include *licensed deacons*. When a *licensed deacon*, at the request of a congregation,  
25 circuit, or district and with the approval of the district president, serves in the public ministry of the Gospel, he is  
26 serving as a shepherd trained, examined, and certified through an alternate route to ministry, and he should receive a  
27 “divine call” and be ordained.  
28

29           The call and ordination of the *licensed deacon* brings both comfort and assurance to the people of the  
30 congregation and to the individual himself that God wants to use him effectively to preach the Gospel and  
31 administer the Sacraments. Through these means, the Lord will continue to make and feed His sheep. Since a  
32 *licensed deacon*, ministering under the supervision of an ordained general ministry pastor, serves a congregation in  
33 the public ministry of the Gospel, including the proclamation of the Word, the administration of the Sacraments and  
34 the administration of the Office of the Keys, a better title for him would be *assisting pastor*.  
35

36           An *assisting pastor (licensed deacon)* is a man who has been called by a congregation to provide it, under  
37 the guidance of a supervising pastor, regular preaching or preaching and sacrament ministry. According to the  
38 Scriptures and AC XIV of the Lutheran Confessions, the preaching of the Word and the administration of the  
39 Sacraments require a man with a proper public call (Jer.23:21; Rom. 10:15; Heb. 5:4; AC XIV). A regular call  
40 requires training and examination in the sense of 1 Tim. 3:1–7 and Titus 1:5–9. In addition, St. Paul cautions against  
41 placing anyone in this office hastily (1 Tim. 5:22). No specific direction is given in the Scripture for where or how  
42 training is accomplished. A district-level *assisting pastor (licensed deacon)* training program may be considered an  
43 alternate to on-site seminary training, especially when it is coordinated with the seminaries. To assure proper  
44 training, district *assisting pastor (licensed deacon)* programs should provide the necessary courses to equip men for  
45 the public ministry of the Gospel. It is desirable that such courses have syllabi and exams comparable to the syllabi  
46 and exams for the equivalent courses taught at the seminaries. They could be taught by LCMS pastors who have  
47 been approved by the Synod’s Board for Pastoral Education upon recommendation of the district president, using  
48 district fee structures. The Synod’s Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry, in consultation with the Board for  
49 Pastoral Education and the seminaries, might develop the syllabi and national exams for the courses, which would  
50 be administered by each district. (This would follow the example of certain other professions such as the Uniform  
51 CPA Exam which is administered by each state.) A portion of the district fees could be designated for the costs of  
52 the involvement of the seminaries, the Board for Pastoral Education, and the Synod’s Colloquy Committee for the  
53 Pastoral Ministry in the district programs. Successful completion of certain district courses should provide  
54 competency for entry into the Synod’s SMP program and satisfy the needs of its portfolio courses. Successful  
55 completion of all of the district courses would be required for a student to be considered for call and ordination as an  
56 *assisting pastor (licensed deacon)*. Unlike the requirements of the seminary training programs, including the SMP

1 program, mandatory continuing education would be required for continued service as an *assisting pastor (licensed*  
2 *deacon)*.

3  
4 Upon successful completion of the district's *assisting pastor (licensed deacon)* training program, a male  
5 graduate could be considered for call and ordination as an *assisting pastor (licensed deacon)*. The congregation or  
6 the district to be served would, with the approval of the graduate and, if applicable, the circuit counselor, request the  
7 district president to submit the graduate's name to Synod's Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry for  
8 certification to be an *assisting pastor (licensed deacon)*. A district interview committee, to include the district  
9 president, a general ministry pastor from the district, and a representative of the Synod's Colloquy Committee for  
10 the Pastoral Ministry, would interview and examine the candidate. Upon completion of the interview and  
11 examination, the representative of the Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry and the district president would  
12 provide a report and recommendation to the Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry, which would consider  
13 the recommendation in accordance with its policies and procedures. The committee, at its discretion, could require a  
14 second colloquy interview. Upon satisfactory completion of its process, the Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral  
15 Ministry would certify the candidate for placement by the Council of Presidents acting as the Board of Assignments,  
16 in accordance with the council's policies and procedures. After placement by the Council of Presidents, the  
17 congregation would extend the candidate a Divine Call to serve as an *assisting pastor (licensed deacon)* in a specific  
18 ministry or ministries. The candidate upon acceptance of the call would be ordained and installed as an *assisting*  
19 *pastor (licensed deacon)* by the district president or his designated representative. The *assisting pastor (licensed*  
20 *deacon)* would be supervised throughout his ministry by a general ministry pastor assigned by the district president,  
21 who will annually, in consultation with the congregation and circuit counselor, review his continued service.  
22

23 The Rocky Mountain District believes there is a continuing need throughout Synod for district *assisting*  
24 *pastor (licensed deacon)* programs. Projections show that with the upcoming retirement of pastors and present  
25 seminary enrollments, the numbers of seminary graduates will not meet the needs of congregations. It is  
26 questionable whether graduates of the SMP program will completely meet the needs of congregations and districts.  
27 The *SMP Program Data—2008–2009 Academic Report* prepared for the Synod's Board for Pastoral Education  
28 shows that of the 54 students enrolled in the SMP program at the end of the first year, 28 wished to serve as staff  
29 pastors, 16 wished to serve in a variety of ministries, and ten did not answer the question. Entrance to the SMP  
30 program may be limited because potential candidates for a variety of reasons, including age, financial  
31 considerations, and family or business situations, will not be able to enter the SMP program. Yet their congregations  
32 or their districts have the need to use them in specific ministry situations.  
33

34 The initiative for entry into the SMP program is primarily through congregations, circuits and districts who  
35 identify needs for mission and ministry and who define, sponsor, and financially support men from within  
36 congregations for training for specific ministries. Thus the SMP program may train men to be additional staff  
37 pastors, assisting the pastors of large congregations. In addition, circuits and districts may identify SMP candidates  
38 to serve pastoral vacancies, church plants, or specialized ministry positions (e.g. institutional chaplaincy, campus  
39 pastor, special culturally specific and/or linguistic setting.)  
40

41 In contrast, the initiative for entering district lay training programs, which might lead to enrollment in the  
42 SMP program or becoming an *assisting pastor (licensed deacon)*, is taken primarily by men who have been led to  
43 serve their Lord in mission and ministry and who have asked their districts to train them for potential service in their  
44 congregations, circuits, or districts. These district programs have three purposes:  
45

- 46 1. The primary purpose of the district programs is to equip laity with a deeper understanding of the Lord's  
47 Word, using courses comparable to those offered by the seminaries, so that they can grow and be enriched  
48 to provide greater service in the mission and ministry of the church. As a result of such training, experience  
49 has shown that some men will proceed in preparing to enter the Synod's SMP program, or train to become  
50 *assisting pastors (licensed deacons)* or go on to enroll in the seminaries as resident students. Laymen would  
51 ask their congregations, circuits, or districts to nominate them for admission to the district's program and  
52 the district would provide in its policies and procedures a comprehensive screening process.  
53
- 54 2. The second purpose of district programs is to prepare men to demonstrate entry-level competence for  
55 taking the entrance exams for the Synod's SMP program and satisfaction for the needs of the SMP portfolio  
56 courses.

- 1  
2 3. The third purpose of district programs is to train men to become *assisting pastors (licensed deacons)* to  
3 serve in exceptional circumstances where training through the Synod’s SMP program is not feasible. (This  
4 will be the tool to address the exceptional circumstances recommended by the Synod’s 5-02 Task Force.)  
5 These programs, which should be compatible with the Synod’s SMP program, are primarily operated by the  
6 districts to prepare men to be assigned by the districts as “worker priests” to share the Gospel with vacant  
7 congregations temporarily without a pastor, preaching stations with the potential to become congregations,  
8 and special ministries such as certain ethnic ministries and prison ministries. Many of these men, who  
9 desire to serve their congregations, circuits, or districts for a variety of reasons, including age, financial  
10 considerations, and family or business situations, are not able to enter the SMP program. Also, the  
11 ministries they serve often cannot afford to cover the estimated \$1,500 cost for each of the 16 courses taken  
12 by a student in the SMP program. Students in the district programs often cover their own costs of  
13 approximately \$150 for each of the courses offered by the district, generally taken over a four-year period.  
14 An *assisting pastor (licensed deacon)* who serves or is to serve a congregation in Word and Sacrament  
15 ministry for a long term should, wherever possible, enroll in the Synod’s SMP program.  
16

17 The district programs might have two levels of courses – the first level to be for entrance into the Synod’s  
18 SMP program and the second level to be additional courses for preparation for other service or for preparation  
19 toward becoming an *assisting pastor (licensed deacon)* in the exceptional circumstances where training through the  
20 SMP program is not feasible. The seminaries are encouraged to provide for testing the level of accomplishment to  
21 determine the extent to which graduates of the district programs have already reached the goals of SMP course work  
22 and to grant them credit for such courses.  
23

24 In view of the passage of 2007 Res. 5-01B creating the SMP program, men serving as *licensed deacons* are  
25 uncertain about their futures in conducting the public ministry of the Gospel under the 1989 Res. 3-05B. Since these  
26 men have been trained and should be called under approved district programs, they should, upon examination of a  
27 district committee, with the approval of the district president, and with a public ordination under district policies,  
28 now be “grandfathered,” when eligible, into the rostered status of *assisting pastors (licensed deacons)*.  
29

### 30 **Recommended Action**

31  
32 In accordance with the above background information and rationale, therefore be it

33  
34 *Resolved*, That eligible *licensed deacons (assisting pastors)* be called and ordained under AC XIV and  
35 included on the pastor roster of the Synod when they serve as shepherds, providing public ministry of the Gospel  
36 under the supervision of ordained general ministry pastors; and be it further  
37

38 *Resolved*, That the title *licensed deacon* be renamed *assisting pastor*; and be it further  
39

40 *Resolved*, That the Synod encourage its districts to provide programs to equip laity with a deeper  
41 understanding of the Lord’s Word, using courses comparable to those offered by the seminaries so that:

- 42 a. they can grow and be enriched to provide greater service in the mission and ministry of the church;  
43 b. some students will be moved by the Holy Spirit to enter the Synod’s SMP program and will have been  
44 adequately prepared for such entrance; and  
45 c. some students will be trained to become *assisting pastors* to serve in exceptional circumstances where  
46 training through the Synod’s SMP program is not feasible;

47 and be it further  
48

49 *Resolved*, That the Synod acknowledge the Report of the 5-02 Task Force to the convention which states  
50 that there may remain exceptional circumstances that cannot be addressed by participants in the Synod’s SMP  
51 program; and be it further  
52

53 *Resolved*, That, in view of the continuing need for *assisting pastors (licensed deacons)* to serve in  
54 exceptional circumstances, the Synod replace the *licensed deacon* programs created by districts under the 1989 Res.  
55 3-05B with district-administered *assisting pastor* programs as described in the rationale section above; and be it  
56 further

1  
2           *Resolved*, That district *assisting pastor* training programs continue to train as *assisting pastors* those men  
3 moved to serve their congregations, circuits, or districts in exceptional circumstances and who for a variety of  
4 reasons, including age, financial considerations, and family or business situations are not able to enter the SMP  
5 program; and be it further  
6

7           *Resolved*, That district *assisting pastor* training programs continue to prepare men for taking the entrance  
8 exams for the Synod's SMP program and to satisfy the needs of the SMP portfolio courses; and be it further  
9

10           *Resolved*, That, for the sake of uniformity in its programs and practices, the Synod authorize the training of  
11 *assisting pastors* by instructors from the districts, teaching the same courses in each district, such courses to be  
12 taught by LCMS pastors who have been approved by the Synod's Board for Pastoral Education upon  
13 recommendation of the district president; and be it further  
14

15           *Resolved*, That, for the sake of uniformity in its programs and practices, the Synod's Colloquy Committee  
16 for the Pastoral Ministry, in consultation with the Board for Pastoral Education and the seminaries, develop syllabi  
17 and national exams for the courses taught by districts, such exams to be administered by the districts; and be it  
18 further  
19

20           *Resolved*, That a portion of the district fees for courses be designated for the costs of the involvement of the  
21 seminaries, the Board for Pastoral Education and the Synod's Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry in the  
22 district programs, such costs to be determined by the Synod's Board for Pastoral Education; and be it further  
23

24           *Resolved*, That upon successful completion of all of the courses to become an *assisting pastor* and upon the  
25 request of the graduate and the congregation, circuit, or district to be served, the district president submit the  
26 graduate's name to the Synod's Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry for certification to be an *assisting*  
27 *pastor*, such request to be accompanied by a report and recommendation on the interview and examination of the  
28 candidate by a district interview committee which is to include the district president, a general ministry pastor from  
29 the district, and a representative of the Synod's Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry; and be it further  
30

31           *Resolved*, That the Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry, upon successful completion of its  
32 process, certify the *assisting pastor* candidate for his first placement by the Council of Presidents serving as the  
33 Synod's Board of Assignments into an exceptional circumstance specific ministry; and be it further  
34

35           *Resolved*, That, after the Council of Presidents affirms the call of the congregation, circuit, or district and  
36 upon acceptance of the call, the candidate be ordained and installed by the district president or his designated  
37 representative as an *assisting pastor* for the exceptional circumstance specific ministry to which he was called; and  
38 be it further  
39

40           *Resolved*, That the Synod authorize its Commission on Constitutional Matters, in consultation with the  
41 Synod's Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry and Board for Pastoral Education, to amend the Synod's  
42 Bylaws to reflect these actions; and be it further  
43

44           *Resolved*, That the Synod request its Council of Presidents to include in its policy manual common policies  
45 and procedures for use by districts in administering and teaching district *assisting pastor* programs, overseeing  
46 *assisting pastors*, providing them continuing education, and providing for their involvement in district activities;  
47 and be it finally  
48

49           *Resolved*, That the Synod request its Council of Presidents and Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral  
50 Ministry to develop the necessary policies and procedures to, with the approval of the district president and with a  
51 public ordination under district policies, "grandfather" the present eligible *licensed deacons* into the rostered status  
52 of *assisting pastors*.  
53

54  
55  
Rocky Mountain District Board of Directors

# OMNIBUS RESOLUTIONS

## RESOLUTION A

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

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

<u>Number</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Board, Commission, Individual</u>
Ov. 1-06	Provide Exclusively Lutheran Theological Training for Missionaries	Board for Mission Services
Ov. 1-07	Set Aside Reformation Day 2010 for Fasting, Prayer, Confession, and Repentance	Board of Directors
Ov. 1-08	Encourage Visitation by District Presidents of Other Districts' Institutional Ministries	Council of Presidents
Ov. 1-11	Ask CTCR and Seminaries to Evaluate Transforming Churches Network	Board for Mission Services
Ov. 2-05	Celebrate and Encourage the Practice of Two Kingdom Theology	CPH
Ov. 3-03	End Joint Campus Ministry with ELCA	Praesidium
Ov. 3-04	End All ELCA/LCMS Cooperative Ministry Efforts	Ministry to Armed Forces
Ov. 3-13	Pursue Official Theological Talks with WELS	President of Synod and CTCR
Ov. 3-15	Encourage Participation in Interfaith Dialogues	CTCR
Ov. 3-17	Declare Fellowship with the Siberia Evangelical Lutheran Church	President of Synod and CTCR
Ov. 3-21	Encourage Use of the Words of Institution	Council of Presidents
Ov. 3-25	Request Study on Certain Theses from Walther's <i>Church and Ministry</i>	CTCR
Ov. 3-26	Restudy Guidelines for Participation in Civic Events	CTCR
Ov. 3-27	Unambiguously Renounce Syncretism and Unionism	CTCR
Ov. 3-29	Offer Biblical Rationale for Opposing Combat Roles for Women	CTCR
Ov. 3-32	Prepare Study on Practice of Cremation	CTCR
Ov. 4-06	Establish KFUE Endowment Funds for Seminary Tuition	Board of Directors
Ov. 4-07	Affirm Integral Value of KFUE and Seminaries	Board of Directors
Ov. L4-28	Commit to 53 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Offering in 2012 to Support Church Missions	Board of Directors
Ov. 6-05	Report Promptly the Deaths of Faithfully Departed Soldiers of the Cross	Board for Communication Services, Council of Presidents
Ov. 6-08	Denounce "Hate Crimes Legislation" and Advocate Christian Freedom	CTCR
Ov. 7-06	Create Means for Placement of Church Workers On Candidate Status	Council of Presidents
Ov. 8-80	Amend Bylaws 7.1.1 and 7.1.2 re Amendments To Bylaws	Commission on Structure

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## RESOLUTION B

WHEREAS, A number of issues have been presented through overtures to which the Synod in convention has previously spoken; and

WHEREAS, After careful consideration of these matters, there appears to be no valid reason to change or alter the stated position of the Synod; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That petitioners offering the following overtures be referred to previous convention action as indicated.

<u>Number</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Previous Action</u>
Ov. 1-03	Implement 2007 Res. 2-04A re Position Of Director for Strategic Development of Hispanic Ministries	2007 Res. 2-04A
Ov. 1-09	Encourage New Mission Starts to Use “Lutheran” and “LCMS”	1995 Res. 3-13A
Ov. 1-10	Support Church Transformation	2007 Res. 1-01A
Ov. 1-12	Promote Lutheran Identity in the Mission Field	1995 Res. 3-13A
Ov. 2-01	Tell the World that Christ is the Only Way to Heaven	LCMS Constitution, Art. II
Ov. 2-02	Reaffirm Justification by Faith Alone	1947 “Brief Statement” of the Doctrinal Position of Missouri Synod
Ov. 2-03	Authority of Scripture	1977 Res. 3-11, 1973 Res. 3-09
Ov. 3-20	Encourage Frequent Observance of The Lord’s Supper	1995 Res. 2-08A
Ov. 3-22	Expect Practice to Agree with Doctrine of Closed Communion	1998 Res. 3-05, 2007 Res. 3-09
Ov. 3-23	Affirm Biblical Practice of Admission to the Lord’s Table	1998 Res. 3-05, 2007 Res. 3-09
Ov. 3-24	Advocate Consistent Practice of Closed Communion	1998 Res. 3-05, 2007 Res. 3-09
Ov. 3-30	Agree Female Readers in Public Worship Are Divisive and Offensive	1989 Res. 3-14
Ov. 6-07	Provide Strategies and Resources re Gender Identity	2001 Res. 2-08A
Ov. 7-09	Clarify Which CCM Opinions Are Binding (2004 Res.)	2007 Res. 8-01 Amended Bylaw 3.9.2.2 (c).
Ov. 7-10	Proposed 2004 Res. 7-17 – No Action by Require Consideration of Certain Requests for Review of CCM Opinions	Convention. Put into Practice by CCM. 2007 Res. 8-01 Amended Bylaw 3.9.2.2 (c)
Ov. 7-22	Require Consideration of CCM-Related Business	2007 Res. 8-01 Amended Bylaw 3.9.2.2 (c)

1 **RESOLUTION D**

2  
3 WHEREAS, Some of the following overtures suggest to the convention acceptable approaches in dealing  
4 with matters mentioned; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, Others among the following overtures thank and commend laudable individuals and efforts;  
7 therefore be it

8  
9 *Resolved*, That the following overtures be received as expressions of encouragement or gratitude:

10

11 <u>Number</u>	12 <u>Subject</u>	13 <u>Encouragement/Thanks</u>
14 R 1-8	Lutheran Church Korea	Thanks
15 R 1-8	Anglican Church in North America	Thanks
16 R 2-05	CHI Museum Development in 2009	Thanks
17 R 3-01	Membership in Certain Fraternal Organizations	Thank CTCR for Document
18 R 3-01	Thank Dr. Samuel Nafzger and Dr. Jerald Joersz	Thanks
19 R 4-03	Give Thanks to God for Faithful and Dedicated Service of Dr. Thomas Kuchta	Thanks and Appreciation
20		
21 Ov. 2-05	Celebrate and Encourage the Practice of Two Kingdom Theology	Thanks and Encourage
22 Ov. 2-14	Recognize Higher Things as an Asset to Youth Ministry	Commend
23 Ov. 2-21-25	Departments in District and Congregational Services: Children’s Ministry, Family Ministry School Ministry, Singles Ministry, Stewardship Ministry and Youth Ministry	Commend
24		
25 Ov. 2-26	Concordia Historical Museum Development in 2009	Thanks
26		
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1 **PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS**

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3 **1. MISSIONS**

4  
5 **To Celebrate *Fan into Flame* Blessings**  
6 **and Commit to Its Completion**

7  
8 **RESOLUTION 1-01**

9  
10 Overture 1-01 (CW, p. 149)

11  
12 WHEREAS, The 2004 LCMS convention adopted Res. 1-04, which called for the Synod to commit itself to  
13 supporting the major fund-raising effort approved by the Board of Directors of the Synod and administered by the  
14 Mission Support Unit, with a goal of raising \$100 million above the regular LCMS World Mission budget in time  
15 for a celebration of God’s blessing by the 2010 Synod convention; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, This effort, named the Fan into Flame campaign, was begun in earnest in 2005; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, The Mission Support Unit was tasked with the engagement of each district in a local and  
20 national effort in order to raise support for mission activity in local congregations, districts, throughout the United  
21 States, and around the world, using a case model that incorporated Jesus’ charge to His disciples in the Book of Acts  
22 1:8 (“... in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth”); and

23  
24 WHEREAS, Three-quarters of LCMS districts have completed their district efforts to date; and

25  
26 WHEREAS, One-quarter of the districts may require additional time to complete their efforts; and

27  
28 WHEREAS, Approximately \$40 million in major gift requests are pending; and

29  
30 WHEREAS, \$57 million has been raised, 8,000 new donors have been added to the ranks of mission  
31 supporters, 19,000 gifts have been generated, and 1,100 congregations have participated; and

32  
33 WHEREAS, A number of Ablaze! projects and initiatives of the Synod and her districts and congregations  
34 have been undertaken as a result of the Fan into Flame campaign; therefore be it

35  
36 *Resolved*, That the Synod in convention celebrate God’s blessings through the Fan Into Flame campaign,  
37 which has raised over \$57 million as of May, 2010 for mission work in local communities, across the country, and  
38 around the world; and be it further

39  
40 *Resolved*, That the congregations of the Synod celebrate the formal completion of the campaign on  
41 Reformation Day of 2011; and be it further

42  
43 *Resolved*, That Fan into Flame campaign support mechanisms remain in place until the remaining districts  
44 and congregations of our Synod complete their campaign efforts and all pending gift requests have been closed; and  
45 be it finally

46  
47 *Resolved*, That a final report of the Fan into Flame campaign be provided to the next Synod convention.  
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55

1 **To Provide Guidance for Future Direction of *Ablaze!***

2  
3 **RESOLUTION 1-02**

4  
5 Overture L1-16 (*TB*, pp. 31–32)

6  
7 WHEREAS, The Scriptures make clear that God “desires all people to be saved and to come to the  
8 knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,  
9 who gave himself as a ransom for all” (1 Tim. 2:4–6); and

10  
11 WHEREAS, Jesus commanded his followers to carry the Gospel to the ends of the earth, baptizing and  
12 teaching, and has promised to accompany them on that mission (Matt. 28:19–20); and

13  
14 WHEREAS, Satan does not lie idle in attacking the advancement of the kingdom of God, seeking to hinder  
15 and destroy every effort of the church (1 Peter 5:8); and

16  
17 WHEREAS, In response to God’s love for the world and our Lord’s command, the 2004 LCMS convention  
18 established the *Ablaze!* mission movement with the goals of strengthening congregations and their members in  
19 bearing witness to Jesus as the Savior of the world and planting new congregations as a part of celebrating the  
20 observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, growth that God has given to the Lutheran Church;  
21 and

22  
23 WHEREAS, The *Ablaze!* mission movement now stands at the midpoint between its inception in 2004 and  
24 the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017 and it is now prudent to reassess the *Ablaze!*  
25 mission movement’s goals and refocus our attention on the triune God’s mission to reach the lost; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, The Board for Mission Services is entrusted with the task to “formulate, recommend, review,  
28 and supervise the mission policies of the Synod and provide for an aggressive and united mission effort” (Bylaw  
29 3.8.8.2); therefore be it

30  
31 *Resolved*, That the Synod give thanks to the Lord of the harvest for the bold witness of the Good News of  
32 Jesus Christ by His church and for the gifts of new congregations given by Him; and be it further

33  
34 *Resolved*, That the Synod encourage its congregations and their members to pray that the Spirit of God will  
35 renew a right spirit within us, restore to us the joy of His salvation, extinguish not the Spirit’s fire, and teach  
36 transgressors His ways (based on 1 Thess. 5:19; Ps. 51:10–13); and be it further

37  
38 *Resolved*, That the Synod commends the Board for Mission Services for its loving efforts to lead the church  
39 in God’s mission and the *Ablaze!* mission movement; and be it further

40  
41 *Resolved*, That the Board for Mission Services, as it evaluates the *Ablaze!* mission movement and plans its  
42 future, be guided by the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions; and be it finally

43  
44 *Resolved*, That the Synod in convention encourage every baptized child of God to be a bold witness and a  
45 faithful confessor of the faith in these challenging times.

46  
47  
48  
49 **To Increase Outreach to Immigrants at Congregation Level**

50  
51 **RESOLUTION 1-03**

52  
53 Overture 1-02 (*CW*, p. 149)

54  
55 WHEREAS, Already in the nineteenth century, Dr. C. F. W. Walther, the first President of the LCMS and  
56 himself an immigrant, recognized the needs of new immigrants to our country and the responsibility of the Missouri

1 Synod to reach out to these new Americans as he spoke to the Synod in 1874, “In the course of time millions  
2 immigrated to our new fatherland overflowing with all of God’s wonderfully rich blessings. Many are still landing  
3 on our coasts here to establish a life for themselves ... But not only has God gathered His church out of the mass of  
4 lost and condemned humanity but He also, as always, has cast His church into the midst of this lifeless and decaying  
5 mass as the only purifying salt of the earth” (“Glorious Challenge—Difficult Task”); and  
6

7 WHEREAS, The most recent LCMS statistical report (2008) contains the information that 219 congregations  
8 (less than three percent) have reported that they have “specialized worship services” to address the needs of minority  
9 language and other immigrant communities; and  
10

11 WHEREAS, More than one million people were naturalized as U.S. citizens in 2008 alone; and  
12

13 WHEREAS, Many of these people have come to our country without faith in Jesus; and  
14

15 WHEREAS, LCMS congregations, schools, and their members can play an important role in the  
16 incorporation of these people into the kingdom of God; therefore be it  
17

18 *Resolved*, That the 2010 LCMS convention thank God for those congregations that have stepped out in  
19 faith to meet the needs of the immigrants in our midst; and be it further  
20

21 *Resolved*, That the convention urge the districts and the National Ministry Office of LCMS World Mission  
22 to work together to find ways to strengthen their commitment to and increase the effectiveness of the work of LCMS  
23 congregations, schools and their members among the new immigrants in our midst; and be it further  
24

25 *Resolved*, That the convention encourage our Concordia universities to recruit, train, and send immigrants  
26 as indigenous leaders and church workers to our immigrant communities; and be it finally  
27

28 *Resolved*, That the convention urge Concordia Seminary and Concordia Theological Seminary to continue  
29 the expansion and development of the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT), the Center for Hispanic  
30 Studies (CHS), and other such programs that provide education for ministry to immigrants and ethnic groups via  
31 distance education.  
32  
33  
34

## 35 **To Respond to Opportunities for Outreach to Muslims**

### 36 **RESOLUTION 1-04**

37  
38  
39 Overture 1-04 (CW, p. 150)  
40

41 WHEREAS, The Scriptures teach that there is salvation in no one other than Jesus, “for there is no other  
42 name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12 ESV); and  
43

44 WHEREAS, Islam is a significant world religion in opposition to Jesus as the only Savior because it denies  
45 Jesus’ divinity, His redemptive work on the cross, and His resurrection; and  
46

47 WHEREAS, Islam is one of the fastest growing religions in the world; and  
48

49 WHEREAS, The Pew Research Center has estimated (2009) that there are 2.5 million followers of Islam in  
50 the U.S., with the number of Islamic immigrants continuing to grow; and  
51

52 WHEREAS, Already in the sixteenth century, Martin Luther encouraged the translation and publication of  
53 the Qur’an and wrote a preface to the translation, arguing that publication was necessary so that Christian people  
54 would “be able to heal some” of the followers of Islam and powerfully defend the Christian faith; and  
55

1           WHEREAS, Most Christians in America, including Lutheran Christians, are woefully ignorant of the Islamic  
2 religion; and  
3

4           WHEREAS, In the U.S., Lutheran laypeople who know what they believe and why they believe it—so that  
5 they can answer questions as loving neighbors, co-workers, and friends—are likely to be those most effective in  
6 communicating the Christian faith to those outside the Christian faith; therefore be it  
7

8           *Resolved*, That the 2010 LCMS convention recognize a response to the challenge of Islam as a very high-  
9 priority mission task that requires action from the whole church and its institutions; and be it further  
10

11           *Resolved*, That the convention urge LCMS congregations and members to respond to opportunities to share  
12 the Good News of Jesus by word and deed with those who are seeking answers to questions of faith and life in both  
13 the U.S. and around the world; and be it further  
14

15           *Resolved*, That the convention commend Concordia Publishing House for the publication of books such as  
16 *Muslim Friends*, *The Truth about Islam*, and *How to Respond—Muslims*, and encourage the use of these resources  
17 and the publication of further resources to equip Lutheran people to respond to questions raised by Islamic people;  
18 and be it further  
19

20           *Resolved*, That People of the Book Lutheran Outreach (POBLO) be commended for its concerted efforts to  
21 highlight this ministry to Muslims, co-sponsoring the first ever “Friendship of Jesus and Muslims” conference in  
22 2008, and working to prepare Christians to share the love of Jesus with their Muslim friends and neighbors; and be it  
23 finally  
24

25           *Resolved*, That the convention give thanks to God for those in our midst who already have stepped out in  
26 faith to share the Gospel in the world of Islam, including missionaries of LCMS World Mission past and present,  
27 workers of other Lutheran organizations dedicated to work among Muslims, and many Lutheran congregations and  
28 their members.  
29  
30  
31

## 32   **To Affirm and Encourage our Military Chaplains**

### 33   **RESOLUTION 1-05**

34           Overture L1-14 (*TB*, p. 30)  
35

36           WHEREAS, Our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod military chaplains are serving soldiers, sailors, airmen,  
37 marines, coast guardsmen, and their families in this difficult time of war accompanied by major social and economic  
38 changes; and  
39

40           WHEREAS, Our chaplains minister in a time when traditional biblical views of marriage, family, and human  
41 sexuality itself are also being challenged, including potential moves which may allow homosexuals to serve openly  
42 in our armed forces; and  
43

44           WHEREAS, Our chaplains are consistently called upon by commanders and senior leaders to provide sound  
45 and godly advice and counsel on these difficult issues that affect the morals, morale, and the welfare of military  
46 members and their families; and  
47

48           WHEREAS, Our Synod has already spoken clearly in convention affirming the sanctity of marriage and the  
49 rejection of same-sex unions (1998 Res. 3-21); therefore be it  
50

51           *Resolved*, That the Synod affirm and encourage our chaplains to continue faithfully to preach and teach the  
52 truth of God’s Word “in season and out of season” and faithfully carry out their pastoral functions in service to the  
53 men and women of the military in all areas of life, including complex issues of human sexuality as well as marriage  
54 and family living; and be it further  
55  
56



1                   **To Encourage Inter-District Dialogue in the Establishment of New Church Starts,**  
2                   **Satellite Worship Sites, and Specialized Ministries Across Geographic District Lines**

3  
4                   **RESOLUTION 1-07**

5  
6 Overture L1-15 (*TB*, pp. 30–31)

7  
8                   WHEREAS, Ps. 133:1 states, “How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity”; and

9  
10                  WHEREAS, In response to this word of encouragement, the Council of Presidents, the Department of  
11 Rosters and Statistics, LCMS World Mission, and the Secretary of the Synod have agreed upon definitions for “new  
12 church starts,” “satellite worship sites,” and “specialized ministries”; and

13  
14                  WHEREAS, Congregations today continue to expand the kingdom of God through the establishment of new  
15 church starts, satellite worship sites, and specialized ministries; and

16  
17                  WHEREAS, Congregations on occasion have established such avenues for outreach across district lines  
18 without consulting with the geographical district or the local congregations where they have begun the new work;  
19 and

20  
21                  WHEREAS, Failure to do so can cause strained relations and impact work that is being planned for that area  
22 by local congregations or the geographical district; and

23  
24                  WHEREAS, The Synod places a high regard on geographical district boundaries, evidenced by Constitution  
25 Art. XII 1, 6, 7, and 12 and Bylaw 4.1.1.4; therefore be it

26  
27                  *Resolved*, That congregations interested in expanding their Gospel outreach into an area that crosses district  
28 lines shall first discuss their intent with their own district officials followed by the appropriate district officials and  
29 the local congregations impacted by such work; and be it further

30  
31                  *Resolved*, That any such expansion of Gospel outreach across district lines shall require the concurrence of  
32 both the president of the receiving geographical district and the board or committee responsible for mission in that  
33 district; and be it finally

34  
35                  *Resolved*, That the ecclesiastical supervision of a new church start, satellite worship site, or specialized  
36 ministry established by a congregation in another district shall be decided by the affected district presidents.

37  
38  
39  
40                   **To Encourage the “Wittenberg Project” as a Gospel Witness Opportunity**

41                   **RESOLUTION 1-08**

42  
43  
44 Report 1-8 (*CW*, p. 6)

45  
46                  WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther, through the study of Holy Scripture and guided by the Holy Spirit,  
47 rediscovered the Gospel of Jesus Christ and proclaimed it with clarity; and

48  
49                  WHEREAS, In 2006 representatives of the Board for Mission Services, the Board for Human Care  
50 Ministries, and Concordia Publishing House (CPH), with The Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church in  
51 Germany (SELK), acquired an historic building known as the *altes Gymnasium* (“old gymnasium,” or high school)  
52 in Wittenberg, Germany, with a gift from the Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund; and

53  
54                  WHEREAS, Subsequently, the LCMS, CPH, and the SELK established a not-for-profit German corporation  
55 called the International Lutheran Society of Wittenberg (ILSW) to oversee the “Wittenberg Project”; and

1 WHEREAS, This project has potential to be developed into an interactive multimedia museum and visitor  
2 center in the *altes Gymnasium*, for which a feasibility study is currently underway; and  
3

4 WHEREAS, Hundreds of thousands of visitors from around the world annually tour the Luther sites in  
5 Wittenberg, and the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation in 2017 is anticipated to create a surge of visitors to  
6 Wittenberg, Germany, the birthplace of the Reformation; therefore be it  
7

8 *Resolved*, That the 2010 LCMS convention thank its leaders for initiating those steps toward a potential  
9 visitor center and interactive museum to proclaim the Gospel, which is a critical part of the Wittenberg Project; and  
10 be it further  
11

12 *Resolved*, That the ILSW be commended for initiating the vision for such an interactive museum and visitor  
13 center and be encouraged to pursue this opportunity to promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ as it was clearly  
14 articulated by the sixteenth century reformer of the church, Dr. Martin Luther; and be it finally  
15

16 *Resolved*, That the LCMS members on the ILSW Board, the President of the Synod, the LCMS Board of  
17 Directors, and the Council of Presidents inform the Synod of the Wittenberg Project's progress and opportunities for  
18 participation in and support of this project.  
19  
20  
21

## 22 **To Respectfully Decline Overtures**

### 23 **RESOLUTION 1-09**

24  
25  
26 WHEREAS, The floor committee has considered all overtures assigned to it and has concluded, for various  
27 reasons, that certain overtures should be declined; therefore be it  
28

29 *Resolved*, That the following overtures be respectfully declined for the reasons given:  
30

31 <u>Number</u>	32 <u>Subject</u>	33 <u>Reason</u>
34 Ov. 1-06	35 Provide Exclusively Lutheran Theological 36 Training for Missionaries	37 Board for Mission Services
38 Ov. 1-07	39 Set Aside Reformation Day 2010 for Fasting, 40 Prayer, Confession, and Repentance	41 Board of Directors
42 Ov. 1-08	43 Encourage Visitation by District Presidents of 44 Other Districts' Institutional Ministries	Council of Presidents
Ov. 1-11	Ask CTCR and Seminaries to Evaluate Transforming Churches Network	Board for Mission Services



1 **To Appoint Commission to Study Congregational Size, Generations, and Life-Stage Ministries**

2  
3 **RESOLUTION 2-03**

4  
5 Overtures 2-12–13 (CW, pp. 157–159)

6  
7 WHEREAS, Scripture encourages an intra-generational and inter-generational concern for God’s people,  
8 especially as they cluster in Christian communities sometimes also known as congregations; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, This concern is the same no matter where these clusters develop or whatever their generational  
11 makeup is at the moment; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, Such concern is reflective of the mind of Christ and is integral to His mission mandate to reach  
14 out to all; and

15  
16 WHEREAS, Our society is in a time of generational flux and institutional crisis on a broad range; and

17  
18 WHEREAS, Our church body has a sizeable potential within the ranks of its laity and professional workers for  
19 addressing a legitimate concern for both congregations and generations; therefore be it

20  
21 *Resolved*, That the President of the Synod appoint a commission to research, study, and make  
22 recommendations relating to our changing world and to the twenty-first century ministry of churches of differing  
23 size; and be it further

24  
25 *Resolved*, That this commission study especially the scriptural scope of and directives concerning intra-  
26 generational and inter-generational ministry; and be it further

27  
28 *Resolved*, That this commission consider the implications of its study as they apply to congregations of  
29 different size in different political/social/economic locales and to congregations of different cultural makeup; and be  
30 it further

31  
32 *Resolved*, That this commission share its findings with congregations as soon as they are appropriate for  
33 congregational consideration and application; and be it further

34  
35 *Resolved*, That this commission prepare recommendations to strengthen our church’s ministry in these two  
36 areas of concern; and be it finally

37  
38 *Resolved*, That, as it does its work, this commission regularly report through the Synod’s President to the  
39 Board of Directors and the Council of Presidents as it prepares its findings and recommendations for the next LCMS  
40 convention.

41  
42  
43 **To Encourage Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families**

44  
45 **RESOLUTION 2-04**

46  
47 Overtures 2-07–08 (CW, p. 155)

48  
49 WHEREAS, Holy Scripture encourages the reading and study of God’s word as individuals and families  
50 (Deut. 6:4–9; Ps. 78:1–7); and

51  
52  
53 WHEREAS, Many families struggle to teach the faith in the home intentionally; and

54  
55 WHEREAS, Concordia Publishing House has provided numerous resources in a variety of media formats to  
56 assist individuals and families in their devotional life, such as

- 1 • *The Lutheran Study Bible*
- 2 • *Treasury of Daily Prayer*
- 3 • Martin Luther’s Small Catechism
- 4 • *Lutheran Service Book*
- 5 • *Portals of Prayer* and other devotional resources in all media formats including:
  - 6 ○ Publications on Amazon Kindle and other eBook formats
  - 7 ○ Music now available via Apple’s iTunes store
  - 8 ○ Social media including Facebook and Twitter
- 9 • Multi-ethnic resources

10  
11 therefore be it

12  
13 *Resolved*, That the 2010 LCMS convention commend Concordia Publishing House for its development of  
14 relevant and accessible resources for households of faith; and be it further

15  
16 *Resolved*, That the Synod encourage individuals and families of LCMS congregations to engage in daily  
17 devotions and the study of God’s Word.

18  
19  
20  
21 **To Commend *Theses on Worship* and Model Theological Conference on the Theology of Worship**

22  
23 **RESOLUTION 2-05**

24  
25 Overtures 2-15–16 (CW, p. 160)

26  
27 WHEREAS, The clear witness of God’s Word states: “Now I exhort you brothers, by the name of our Lord  
28 Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there be no divisions among you, so that you be made  
29 complete in the same mind and in the same judgment” (1 Cor. 1:10); and

30  
31 WHEREAS, The LCMS Constitution states that among its objectives the Synod is to “[e]ncourage  
32 congregations to strive for uniformity in church practice, but also to develop an appreciation of a variety of  
33 responsible practices and customs which are in harmony with our common profession of faith” (Art. III 7); and

34  
35 WHEREAS, The Council of Presidents has produced the *Theses on Worship* for guidance for congregations  
36 of the Synod; and

37  
38 WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations and the Commission on Worship have  
39 conducted the Model Theological Conference on the Theology of Worship that has generated dialogue and  
40 conversation about worship practices in the Synod; therefore be it

41  
42 *Resolved*, That the 2010 convention commend the Council of Presidents for its leadership in striving to  
43 bring greater unity to the Synod in regard to worship practices for the sake of a common witness; and be it further

44  
45 *Resolved*, That the convention encourage districts, circuits, congregations, seminaries, and universities to  
46 engage in ongoing dialog using the *Theses on Worship* and following the example and using the resources from the  
47 Model Theological Conference on the Theology of Worship.

1 **To Encourage Study of the Lutheran Confessions**  
2 **During Reformation Celebration**

3  
4 **RESOLUTION 2-06**

5  
6 Overture 2-04 (CW, p. 154)

7  
8 WHEREAS, All LCMS congregations subscribe to the “Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran  
9 Church” (Constitution Art. II 2) as contained in the Book of Concord; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, The 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther will  
12 be observed in 2017; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, It is most appropriate for the members of a Lutheran church to join in the celebration of that  
15 anniversary; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, Concordia Publishing House has published resources to assist in the study of the Lutheran  
18 Confessions, including *Concordia: A Reader’s Edition of the Book of Concord*; therefore be it

19  
20 *Resolved*, That the Synod encourage every congregation and educational institution to hold regular ongoing  
21 studies of the Book of Concord of 1580 (*i.e.*, the Lutheran Confessions).

22  
23  
24  
25 **Compensation for Professional Church Workers**

26  
27 **RESOLUTION 2-07**

28  
29 President’s Report II (TB, pp. 17–23)

30  
31 WHEREAS, A professional church worker is worthy of adequate compensation; therefore be it

32  
33 *Resolved*, That congregations and LCMS agencies, institutions, and entities be encouraged to follow district  
34 salary guidelines for professional church workers as a minimum guide to provide proper compensation.

35  
36  
37  
38 **To Respectfully Decline Overtures**

39  
40 **RESOLUTION 2-08**

41  
42 WHEREAS, The floor committee has considered all overtures assigned to it and has concluded, for various  
43 reasons, that certain overtures should be declined; therefore be it

44  
45 *Resolved*, That the following overtures be respectfully declined for the reasons given:

46

<u>Number</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Reason</u>
47 Ov. 2-09	To Direct Concordia Publishing House to Release 48 the Six Chief Parts of 1986 Translation of Small 49 Catechism	Copyright Concerns
50 Ov. 2-10	To Publish Orthodox Christian Translation of 51 Bible	Previous Convention Action (2004 52 Res. 2-03A)

53  
54  
55

1	Ov. 2-11	To Instruct CPH to Stop Using ESV	Previous Convention Action (2004 Res. 2-03A)
2			
3			
4	Ov. 2-17	To Give thanks for the Dedication of <i>Issues, Etc.</i>	BCS in its April 2008 meeting Commended <i>Issues, Etc.</i> for its work
5			
6			
7			
8	Ov. 2-18	To Encourage Support for <i>Issues, Etc.</i>	<i>Issues, Etc.</i> is not an RSO
9			
10	Ov. 2-19	To Commend <i>Issues, Etc.</i>	<i>Issues, Etc.</i> is not an RSO
11			
12	Ov. 2-10	To Support the Ministry of <i>Issues, Etc.</i>	<i>Issues, Etc.</i> is not an RSO
13			

1  
2 **3. THEOLOGY AND CHURCH RELATIONS**

3  
4 **To Commend ILC and Task Force Statements as Responses**  
5 **to the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Actions**

6  
7 **RESOLUTION 3-01**

8  
9 Overtures 3-11–12 (CW, p. 168)

10  
11 WHEREAS, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) at its August 2009 Churchwide  
12 Assembly in Minneapolis resolved to recognize “publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender  
13 relationships” as morally acceptable and to authorize the ordination into pastoral ministry of individuals who are  
14 living in such relationships; and

15  
16 WHEREAS, The Bible plainly forbids all same-gender genital sexual activity as contrary to the will of God  
17 and contrary to nature (e.g., Lev. 18:22; Rom. 1:26–27; 1 Cor. 6:9–10); and

18  
19 WHEREAS, The Scriptures teach that God created man and woman for one another and that, according to  
20 His blessing and design, they may be united in marriage and become one flesh in the sexual union which also may  
21 result in the procreation of children (Gen. 1:26–28; Gen. 2:18–25); and

22  
23 WHEREAS, Our Lord warns us about the danger of false teaching (e.g., Matt. 7:15–17); and

24  
25 WHEREAS, The ELCA actions have received wide publicity in our nation’s press, and many may think that  
26 all “Lutherans” share these beliefs; and

27  
28 WHEREAS, Many Lutherans and other Christians throughout the world have expressed dismay over and  
29 disagreement with the ELCA resolutions and the fact that they depart from Holy Scripture and 2000 years of  
30 Christian tradition; and

31  
32 WHEREAS, The International Lutheran Council (ILC), comprising 34 member churches, unanimously  
33 adopted the statement “Same-Gender Relationships and the Church” in opposition to the claims of various Lutheran  
34 church bodies “that sexually active, same-gender relationships are an acceptable way of life for Christians” (2010  
35 *Convention Workbook* [CW], p. 66); and

36  
37 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has been asked by individuals, organizations, congrega-  
38 tions, national church bodies, and others to declare its understanding of these issues; and

39  
40 WHEREAS, President Gerald B. Kieschnick has on several occasions spoken publicly in opposition to the  
41 decisions regarding homosexuality by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly (e.g., 2010 CW, pp. 12–13) and also formed  
42 the Task Force on Theological Implications of the 2009 ELCA Decisions; and

43  
44 WHEREAS, The task force unanimously adopted a statement, which the President endorsed and published,  
45 responding to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly actions (March 15, 2010—see 2010 CW, pp.14–18); and

46  
47 WHEREAS, It would be unloving and uncaring for the LCMS to take no action with respect to the heterodox  
48 actions of the ELCA; and

49  
50 WHEREAS, Holy Scripture calls us to speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15; see also 2 Thess. 2:10; 1 Peter  
51 1:22; 2 John 1:1) and such love involves heart-felt concern, tenderness, and humility (1 Peter 3:8; see also Eph. 4:2;  
52 Col. 3:12); and

53  
54 WHEREAS, LCMS leaders have discussed the task force document with ELCA leaders; and  
55

1           WHEREAS, This issue “impacts the Gospel itself. A church body’s acceptance of homosexual activity  
2 promotes a false security about behavior and conduct which God has forbidden and from which He longs to redeem  
3 us. As such, it leads to a false gospel: to self-justification rather than that justification for repentant sinners which  
4 God has promised to all who trust in His forgiving mercy through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ  
5 our Lord” (“Theological Implications,” 2010 CW, p. 17); therefore be it  
6

7           *Resolved*, That the LCMS acknowledge our responsibility to love our neighbor as ourselves, whether that  
8 neighbor is heterosexual or homosexual in inclination, and to affirm that sexual orientation is no excuse for bigotry,  
9 hatred, animosity, or violence; and be it further  
10

11           *Resolved*, That the LCMS recognize with sorrow and repentance that homosexual persons have been and  
12 frequently are the subject of loveless and hateful thoughts, words, and deeds, not only by unbelievers, but also by  
13 Christians; and be it further  
14

15           *Resolved*, That the LCMS affirm that love for the neighbor includes not only that we treat our neighbor  
16 with acceptance and welcome our neighbor as someone for whom Christ has died and risen, but also that we speak  
17 the truth of God’s Word to our neighbor; and be it further  
18

19           *Resolved*, That the 2010 LCMS convention commend the statement of the ILC, “Same-Gender Relation-  
20 ships and the Church,” for study and reference; and be it further  
21

22           *Resolved*, That the 2010 LCMS convention commend the President’s task force statement, “Theological  
23 Implications of the 2009 ELCA Decisions,” for study and reference; and be it finally  
24

25           *Resolved*, That the 2010 LCMS convention affirm that  
26

- 27           • “[W]here the Bible speaks clearly regarding matters of human values, conduct, or behavior, such  
28 teachings may not be denied or qualified, but must have continuing relevance in every era of the  
29 Church” (“Theological Implications,” 2010 CW, p. 15);
- 30           • “[T]he LCMS believes and teaches that same-gender genital sexual activity—in every situation—  
31 violates the will of our Creator and must be recognized as sin” (“Theological Implications,” 2010  
32 CW, p. 15);
- 33           • “Though we affirm the demands of God’s Law without reservation, we Christians confess that the  
34 sins of the world have been forgiven through Christ’s suffering and death on the cross” (“Same-  
35 Gender Relationships,” 2010 CW, p. 66);
- 36           • “Loving, compassionate recognition of the deep pain and personal struggles that same-sex  
37 inclinations produce in many individuals, families, and congregations may not be neglected in the  
38 name of moral purity” (“Theological Implications,” 2010 CW, p. 15); and
- 39           • “The healing voice of Jesus—Sacred Scripture—seeks to lead us into the richness of the life God  
40 intends for us. Prohibitions against adultery, homosexuality, and promiscuity of any sort are kind  
41 words, warning us against behavior that would diminish or destroy human wholeness”  
42 (“Theological Implications,” 2010 CW, p. 15).  
43  
44  
45

## 46           **To Support Confessional Lutheranism at Home and Abroad**

### 47           **RESOLUTION 3-02**

48  
49  
50           Overture 3-14 (CW, p. 169)  
51

52           WHEREAS, The decisions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) at its August 2009  
53 Churchwide Assembly in Minneapolis regarding homosexual relationships are contrary to Scripture and 2000 years  
54 of Christian teaching, and to confessional Lutheranism in particular; and  
55

1           WHEREAS, Many congregations and individuals have withdrawn from or are considering withdrawal from  
2 affiliation with or membership in the ELCA and consider their decision necessitated by conscience, Holy Scripture,  
3 and right reason; and  
4

5           WHEREAS, For the sake of good order and in furtherance of the clear proclamation of the Gospel of Christ,  
6 many of these same congregations and individuals have organized themselves into groups such as Word Alone,  
7 Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC), Lutheran CORE, etc.; and  
8

9           WHEREAS, Individual and congregational contacts from the ELCA with LCMS congregations and officials  
10 have increased significantly since August 2009; and  
11

12           WHEREAS, This decision by the ELCA has also grieved Lutherans and upset inter-church relations among  
13 confessional Lutheran church bodies outside the United States; and  
14

15           WHEREAS, While this state of disruption and uncertainty among confessional Lutherans threatens to hinder  
16 the proclamation of the Gospel, it also calls us to confess our faith anew; and  
17

18           WHEREAS, The LCMS, while not encouraging discord in the ELCA, nevertheless cannot turn away from  
19 those who dissent from the ELCA, lest we deny our own convictions; and  
20

21           WHEREAS, The LCMS has been encouraged to provide leadership and support to emerging and formative  
22 Lutheran church bodies; therefore be it  
23

24           *Resolved*, That the LCMS earnestly pray for her brothers and sisters in the ELCA, including those who  
25 have departed from this biblical and Christian understanding, asking that the ELCA would reconsider—even now—  
26 its actions; and be it further  
27

28           *Resolved*, That the LCMS provide encouragement to other Lutheran church bodies as they strive to remain  
29 faithful to confessional Lutheranism; and be it further  
30

31           *Resolved*, That the LCMS commend groups such as Word Alone, Lutheran Congregations in Mission for  
32 Christ (LCMC), Lutheran CORE, and others for their courage and faithfulness in maintaining their confessional  
33 identity by opposing the ELCA's recent decision; and be it further  
34

35           *Resolved*, That the LCMS commend efforts such as the Commission on Theology and Church Relations  
36 (CTCR)-sponsored Confessional Leadership Conference (June 2010) which gathered Lutheran leaders from around  
37 the world for the purpose of promoting confessional Lutheranism; and be it further  
38

39           *Resolved*, That the CTCR be requested to continue to develop plans for confessional leadership (cf. 2007  
40 Res. 3-03) by sponsoring an international model theological conference on confessional leadership in the 21st  
41 century; and be it finally  
42

43           *Resolved*, That the LCMS through the Office of the President and the CTCR continue exploring ways  
44 together with the ILC to bring together Lutherans for the purpose of promoting confessional Lutheranism throughout  
45 the world.  
46  
47  
48  
49  
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51  
52  
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56

1 **Cooperation in Externals with Theological Integrity**

2  
3 **RESOLUTION 3-03**

4  
5 Overtures 3-01–02, 3-05–08 (CW, pp. 165–167)

6  
7 WHEREAS, The 2001, 2004, and 2007 conventions of the Synod asked that various aspects of cooperative  
8 working arrangements with the ELCA be evaluated by the Praesidium with results and recommendations reported to  
9 the subsequent conventions; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, In 2010 President Kieschnick formed a task force to address the theological implications of the  
12 decisions of the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly regarding homosexuality; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, The task force produced a document titled “Theological Implications of the 2009 ELCA  
15 Decisions” (2010 *Convention Workbook* [CW], pp. 14–18); and

16  
17 WHEREAS, “Theological Implications” refers to the Synod’s longstanding position: “Our Synod should  
18 clearly recognize that, in cases of necessary work on the local, national, or international level, where the faith and  
19 confession of the church are not compromised, and where it appears essential that the churches of various  
20 denominations should cooperate or at least not work at cross purposes, our churches ought to cooperate willingly to  
21 the extent that the Word of God and conscience will allow” (1965 Commission on Theology and Church Relations  
22 (CTCR) Report, *Theology of Fellowship* [ p. 43], officially adopted by the Synod in 1967 [Res. 2-13]); and

23  
24 WHEREAS, The Synod’s position stated above clearly sets forth two fundamental principles:

- 25  
26 1. “the church cannot compromise its faith and confession;” and  
27 2. “there are circumstances in which churches ‘ought to cooperate’ to the extent that the Word of  
28 God and conscience will allow;”

29 and

30  
31 WHEREAS, The task force statement goes on to offer the following analysis and guidance:

32  
33 In light of these two principles, it has been the longstanding practice of confessional Lutheran  
34 churches to distinguish between joint participation by churches and church workers in Word and  
35 Sacrament ministry (“altar and pulpit fellowship” or *communio in sacris*) and cooperation between  
36 churches in matters of physical need (*cooperatio in externis*). To maintain such a distinction  
37 carefully and conscientiously prevents both compromise of the teachings of the Christian faith and  
38 disregard of human needs which can be addressed more effectively by groups working together  
39 than by individuals or churches working on their own.

40  
41 Because of doctrinal differences, the LCMS is not now nor has it ever been able to be in a  
42 relationship of altar and pulpit fellowship with the ELCA. Nevertheless, we have engaged in many  
43 cooperative activities with the ELCA, nationally and locally, in order to meet physical needs.  
44 These cooperative activities, however, are threatened by the sexuality decisions of the ELCA,  
45 because, in some cases, the ELCA’s new affirmation of same-gender relationships may contradict  
46 understandings or goals that have enabled cooperative activities in the past. As one example, the  
47 CTCR already in 2006 addressed the decision of an adoption agency to treat same-gender  
48 relationships as equal to marriage for adoptive purposes. The opinion states: “On the basis of the  
49 clear teaching of Scripture regarding homosexual behavior and about God’s will and design for  
50 marriage and the family as foundational units for society as a whole, it is the express opinion of  
51 the CTCR that a policy of placing adopted or foster children into homosexual contexts would  
52 stand in opposition to the official doctrinal position of the LCMS.”

53  
54 In areas where we currently have working arrangements with ELCA congregations and entities,  
55 the status of those working relationships is dependent on policies and actions taken by the various  
entities from national to local levels. We do not believe the ELCA’s recent sexuality decisions

1 should necessarily or summarily end our work together in these agencies. However, we hope and  
2 expect that the leadership of such entities will respect the theological position of the Synod  
3 (including its position on same-gender sexual activity) and avoid any policies or decisions which  
4 would require us to cease our support and involvement in their activities.  
5

6 We cannot dictate the exact direction(s) various cooperative relationships will take in the future,  
7 primarily because the nature of agreements between ELCA and LCMS congregations and entities  
8 varies on a case-by-case basis. Frank and serious discussion on this issue needs to continue on  
9 various levels so that convictions and beliefs are not compromised and that worthy projects,  
10 activities, and relationships between our church and others may continue wherever possible. We  
11 urge LCMS participants in such cases to make decisions about whether to continue involvement  
12 on the basis of the principles we have discussed. We also suggest the following questions for  
13 consideration in making these decisions:  
14

- 15 1. Is the purpose of the joint work fully consistent with the positions, policies, and  
16 objectives of the Synod?
- 17 2. Do cooperative efforts imply doctrinal unity with the ELCA or endorsement of ELCA  
18 positions on same-sex relationships or other matters of disagreement with the LCMS?
- 19 3. Does the joint agency or organization distinguish itself as an entity from the churches that  
20 support it?
- 21 4. Are all the policies and programs of the organization consonant with the doctrinal  
22 position of the LCMS?
- 23 5. Do the individuals who lead the organization openly support and encourage efforts,  
24 positions, or policies which compromise the theological stance of the Synod?  
25

26 We urge LCMS participants to answer such questions as these and to make decisions about  
27 whether to continue involvement on the basis of the principles we have discussed [2010 CW, p.  
28 16];  
29

30 therefore be it

31  
32 *Resolved*, That the task force be thanked and commended for its work on identifying practical implications  
33 of the 2009 ELCA decisions on human sexuality; and be it further  
34

35 *Resolved*, That, in keeping with the basic principles set forth in the task force statement, cooperation in  
36 externals with other Lutheran churches, including the ELCA, continue with theological integrity; and be it further  
37

38 *Resolved*, That we give thanks to God for the opportunity to give witness to God's care for all people  
39 through such cooperative work; and be it further  
40

41 *Resolved*, That the CTCR, in consultation with the Praesidium and other entities and individuals as needed,  
42 develop more in-depth theological criteria for assessing cooperative endeavors, determining what would necessitate  
43 termination of such cooperative efforts; and be it finally  
44

45 *Resolved*, That the Praesidium, in consultation with the CTCR, provide an assessment of the current state  
46 of cooperation in externals and a full report of criteria for on-going assessment of the same by the next convention.  
47

1 **To Amend Bylaw 3.9.6.2.2 re Altar and Pulpit Fellowship**  
2 **with Small, Formative, or Emerging Confessional Churches**  
3

4 **RESOLUTION 3-04**  
5

6 Overture L3-34 (*TB*, pp. 32–33)  
7

8 WHEREAS, The Synod gives to the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) the  
9 responsibility to “assist the President of the Synod at his request in discharging his constitutional responsibilities for  
10 maintaining doctrinal integrity as he relates to other church bodies” (Bylaw 3.9.6.2.2); and  
11

12 WHEREAS, This responsibility includes CTCR approval before a church body may apply “for formal  
13 recognition of altar and pulpit fellowship with the Synod” at a Synod convention (Bylaw 3.9.6.2.2 [b]); and  
14

15 WHEREAS, Current procedures for establishing altar and pulpit fellowship are designed to address the  
16 circumstance of an established church body seeking altar and pulpit fellowship with the Synod (e.g., ecclesial  
17 autonomy and “institutional viability” are required and eleven procedural steps are outlined; see “Policy for The  
18 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Declaring Altar and Pulpit Fellowship with Another Church Body” in Appendix  
19 II, 2010 *Convention Workbook (CW)*, pp. 299–300); and  
20

21 WHEREAS, The CTCR has prepared the document, *Church Relations in the 21st Century* (Appendix II,  
22 2010 *CW*, pp. 301–303), for the President’s consideration and use in his responsibility as chief ecumenical officer of  
23 the Synod (Bylaw 3.3.1.1.2), particularly with reference to smaller, formative, emerging churches; and  
24

25 WHEREAS, *Church Relations in the 21st Century* seeks to address such new circumstances as requests from  
26 small, emerging confessional Lutheran church bodies that seek a closer ecclesial relationship with the LCMS,  
27 including altar and pulpit fellowship, but do not necessarily have the established structures (e.g., theological  
28 commissions, seminaries) that the Synod has previously related to in the process of establishing church fellowship;  
29 and  
30

31 WHEREAS, Current procedures require a time-consuming, costly, and often unwieldy process before altar  
32 and pulpit fellowship with such small, formative, or emerging confessional churches could be considered by the  
33 Synod in convention; and  
34

35 WHEREAS, Closer ecclesial relationships with small, formative or emerging confessional churches provide  
36 a valuable avenue for the LCMS to encourage and be encouraged by these churches; therefore be it  
37

38 *Resolved*, That *Church Relations in the 21st Century* be commended by the Synod for use by the President  
39 in determining the possibility of establishing altar and pulpit fellowship with small, formative, or emerging  
40 confessional churches where theological discussions have provided convincing evidence that the LCMS is in  
41 doctrinal agreement with the church in question; and be it further  
42

43 *Resolved*, That the President, following consultation with the Praesidium and approval by the CTCR, be  
44 enabled to declare recognition of altar and pulpit fellowship with such formative confessional churches, subject to  
45 the endorsement of the subsequent Synod convention; and be it finally  
46

47 *Resolved*, That Bylaw 3.9.6.2.2 be amended to read as follows:  
48

49 **PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING**  
50

51 3.9.6.2.2 The Commission on Theology and Church Relations shall assist the President of the Synod at  
52 his request in discharging his constitutional responsibilities for maintaining doctrinal integrity  
53 as he relates to other church bodies.

54 (a) It shall address itself to and evaluate existing fellowship relations for the purpose of mutual  
55 admonition and encouragement.

1 (b) When a church body applies for formal recognition of altar and pulpit fellowship with the  
2 Synod, such recognition shall be proposed at a convention of the Synod only after the approval  
3 of the commission.

4 (c) When a small, formative, or emerging church body requests recognition of altar and pulpit  
5 fellowship with the Synod, and after consultation with the Praesidium and approval by the  
6 commission, such recognition may be declared by the President of the Synod subject to the  
7 endorsement of the subsequent Synod convention.

8 (d) When a mission of the Synod applies for formal recognition as a self-governing partner  
9 church, such recognition shall be proposed at convention of the Synod by the Board for  
10 Mission Services with the approval of the commission.

11  
12  
13  
14 **To Request a Thorough Response to the**  
15 **ELCA Social Statement *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust***

16  
17 **RESOLUTION 3-05**

18  
19 Overtures 03-11–12 (CW, p. 168)

20  
21 WHEREAS, The August 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly adopted the social statement *Human Sexuality:*  
22 *Gift and Trust*; and

23  
24 WHEREAS, *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* suggests a concept, namely the “bound conscience,” as a  
25 “distinctly Lutheran” principle of theology; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, The concept of “bound conscience” was central to the rationale of the 2009 ELCA Assembly  
28 actions recognizing “publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships” as morally acceptable  
29 and authorizing the ordination into pastoral ministry of individuals who are living in such relationships; and

30  
31 WHEREAS, Concerns have been expressed that the ELCA’s concept of “bound conscience” encourages  
32 erosion of Christian moral teaching and guidance; therefore be it

33  
34 *Resolved*, That the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, in consultation with the faculties of our  
35 seminaries, develop a thorough, biblical, and confessional analysis of and response to *Human Sexuality: Gift and*  
36 *Trust* with particular attention to the concept of “bound conscience.”

37  
38  
39  
40 **To Commend *The Creator's Tapestry***

41  
42 **RESOLUTION 3-06**

43  
44 Report 3-01 (CW, p.55); Appendix II (CW, pp. 304–324); Overture 3-28 (CW, pp. 176–177)

45  
46 WHEREAS, The Synod in convention has spoken frequently to issues related to the service of men and  
47 women in the church and has adopted various resolutions and commended for reference and guidance various  
48 reports on this subject; and

49  
50 WHEREAS, Congregations continue to wrestle with questions about the service and relationship of men and  
51 women in the church and society; and

52  
53 WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) has recently released *The*  
54 *Creator's Tapestry: Scriptural Perspectives on Man–Woman Relationships in Marriage and the Church*; and



1 **To Decline Overture 3-16**

2  
3 **RESOLUTION 3-09**

4  
5 Overture 3-16 (CW, p. 170)

6  
7 WHEREAS, The International Lutheran Council (ILC), at its 2007 conference in Accra, Ghana, adopted the  
8 following resolution:

9  
10 “To Encourage Faithful Practice of Member Churches in Matters of Church Fellowship”

11  
12 *Whereas there is agreement amongst all ILC members that unity of doctrine and practice is the only*  
13 *basis for Church Fellowship; and*

14 *Whereas there are differences in detailed applications of Church Fellowship in pastoral situations and*  
15 *in different historical and cultural contexts; and*

16 *Whereas some churches of the ILC while holding broadly to a common understanding of the basis for*  
17 *church fellowship, namely agreement in doctrine and practice, participate in the LWF for reasons that are*  
18 *unique to their situations and in such a way as not to deny the basis for confessional fellowship; therefore*  
19 *be it*

20 *Resolved that in respecting the autonomy of churches, the ILC holds it to be the responsibility of each*  
21 *member church to act in matters of Church Fellowship according to its conscience on the basis of the*  
22 *revealed word of God and our confessions; and be it finally*

23 *Resolved that the ILC and all its members encourage one another in the faithful expressions of unity of*  
24 *doctrine and practice and to accept such fraternal encouragement from one another.*

25  
26 and

27  
28 WHEREAS, The protocol document signed by the heads of all churches with which the LCMS has declared  
29 Altar and Pulpit Fellowship since 1989 contains the following article of agreement:

30  
31 *We deeply respect the fellowship and partnership we have with each other in Christ. We, therefore, agree*  
32 *that we will consult with each other before entering into church fellowship or partnership with another*  
33 *church body or church federation. We also agree, however, that each of us is finally responsible to the*  
34 *Lord of the church for decisions taken in this matter.*

35  
36 therefore be it

37  
38 *Resolved, That Overture 3-16 be declined.*

39  
40 **To Respectfully Decline Overtures**

41  
42 **RESOLUTION 3-10**

43  
44 WHEREAS, The floor committee has considered all overtures assigned to it and has concluded, for various  
45 reasons, that certain overtures should be declined; therefore be it

46  
47 *Resolved, That the following overtures be respectfully declined for the reasons given:*

<u>Number</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Reason</u>
3-09	To End All Official Theological Talks with ELCA	2 Tim. 2:25
3-10	To Request Synod President Not to Attend ELCA Churchwide Assemblies	2 Tim. 2:25
3-31	To Return to Scriptural Position on Birth Control	The Synod has never had an official position on birth control

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## 4. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

### To Lead Districts and Synod in a Stewardship Renaissance

#### RESOLUTION 4-01

Overtures 4-08, 4-24 (CW, p.181; TB, p. 25)

WHEREAS, Martin Luther has written that offerings come as a result of hearing God's Word (*Luther's Works*, vol. 1, Genesis Lectures: Cain and Abel); and

WHEREAS, Through the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ we as God's people are freed to serve with time, talents, witness, and money (Rom. 5 and 6; Eph. 2:1-10); and

WHEREAS, There are many stewardship programs in the Christian community which stress "social gospel" giving, "need" giving, "guilt" giving, or "crisis" giving; and

WHEREAS, Such programs do not address the heart, giving joyously and freely at the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, 2007 Res. 4-02 mandated the coordination of national and district leaders and other assisting entities in the development of resources, training, and strategic components for an expanding stewardship renewal in the life of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, God is the giver of all gifts (Gen.1:1); therefore be it

*Resolved*, That LCMS congregations be encouraged to search the Scriptures for all stewardship examples; and be it further

*Resolved*, That LCMS congregations study biblically based stewardship principles; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Synod and its districts promote the Lutheran understanding of biblically based stewardship principles with emphasis on (1) gratitude for God's gifts, (2) the need of my neighbor, and (3) trust that "I will never be without"; and be it finally

*Resolved*, That each district president lead his district in a stewardship renaissance using the resources that are available to him within the Synod.

### To Address Corporate Synod's Financial Crisis

#### RESOLUTION 4-02

Reports 4-03-04 (CW, pp. 72-74)

WHEREAS, Corporate Synod faces mounting financial challenges; and

WHEREAS, The Synod's Board of Directors has reported a decline of Synod's unrestricted dollars throughout the last triennium (R4-04); and

WHEREAS, The July 2006 *Report of the Blue Ribbon Task Force for Funding the Mission* states, "Synod has reached a crisis as a result of individual, congregational and direct giving" (*Report*, p. 2); and

1           WHEREAS, The Vice-President–Finance—Treasurer of the Synod has reported a decline in unrestricted  
2 income at the rate of approximately five percent per year and has indicated that corporate Synod is approaching a  
3 financial crisis; and  
4

5           WHEREAS, Much of the report of the 2006 Blue Ribbon Task Force for Funding the Mission was not acted  
6 upon before the adjournment of the 2007 Synod convention; and  
7

8           WHEREAS, The Vice-President–Finance—Treasurer recommends revisiting the report of the Blue Ribbon  
9 Task Force for Funding the Mission (R4-03); therefore be it  
10

11           *Resolved*, That each recommendation in the task force report for increasing unrestricted revenues be placed  
12 on the agenda of the Synod’s Board of Directors for disposition by the next LCMS convention; and be it further  
13

14           *Resolved*, That the Board of Directors evaluate all assets, taking action to ensure that they are being used  
15 effectively to carry out the Synod’s mission and ministry or to make recommendations to the next convention for  
16 their appropriate use.  
17  
18  
19

20                           **To Broadly Communicate the Statement of Financial Position of LCMS**

21   **RESOLUTION 4-03**

22  
23  
24 Report 4-03 (CW, pp. 72–73)  
25

26           WHEREAS, It is helpful to understand the Synod’s financial position and communicate it to the members of  
27 the congregations of Synod; therefore be it  
28

29           *Resolved*, That each November, the Vice-President–Finance—Treasurer of the Synod use widely available  
30 means, (i.e. *The Lutheran Witness, Reporter*, the LCMS Web site) to state the financial position of the Synod in a  
31 format easily understood by persons unfamiliar with financial terminology.  
32  
33  
34

35                           **To Study Higher Education System and Bring an Action Plan to the 2013 LCMS Convention**

36   **RESOLUTION 4-04**

37  
38  
39 Overtures 4-01–05 (CW, pp. 179–180), L4-27 (TB, pp. 40–41)  
40

41           WHEREAS, The cost of higher education at LCMS seminaries and Concordia University System (CUS)  
42 schools continues to increase to the extent that undesignated resources directed to the national Synod from  
43 congregations and districts have become insufficient to cover these costs and are providing an increasingly smaller  
44 portion of the total cost of higher education in our Synod; and  
45

46           WHEREAS, The continuing trend of designated giving in our Synod has enabled our institutions of higher  
47 education, even in difficult economic times, to continue to provide quality education as they prepare professional  
48 church workers and lay leaders for our Synod; and  
49

50           WHEREAS, Both LCMS seminaries have taken significant and responsible steps to reduce staff and  
51 operating expenses in light of the challenges presented by the recent economic downturn; and  
52

53           WHEREAS, 74 percent (the average between the two seminaries) of the pastoral ministry students who  
54 graduated from the LCMS seminaries in May 2009 and 75 percent of the Concordia University System students  
55 who graduated in May 2009, did so with educational debt; and  
56

1 WHEREAS, Carrying large amounts of educational debt while receiving a modest salary results in stress for  
2 the church worker, which negatively impacts his/her family, health, and service; therefore be it  
3

4 *Resolved*, That individuals, groups, and congregations in the LCMS be encouraged to increase their support  
5 for our Synod’s colleges, universities, and seminaries with prayers, referrals of prospective students, and financial  
6 gifts; and be it further  
7

8 *Resolved*, That Concordia University System schools and the seminaries require all students enrolled in  
9 church work programs to receive instruction in biblical stewardship designed to increase their ability to manage their  
10 personal finances wisely; and be it finally  
11

12 *Resolved*, That the Synod in convention charge the Board of Directors of the Synod to appoint a 13-  
13 member committee comprised of four laymen from a variety of backgrounds, three ministers of religion—ordained  
14 (active or retired parish pastors), one district president, one faculty member from each seminary, two Concordia  
15 University System faculty, and one minister of religion—commissioned to study the LCMS higher education system  
16 and bring to the 2013 convention an action plan for implementation.  
17  
18  
19

## 20 **To Revise Convention Election Process**

### 21 **RESOLUTION 4-05**

22  
23  
24 Overture 4-22 (CW, pp. 186–187)  
25

#### 26 **Rationale**

27  
28 During recent conventions of the Synod, two related issues have surfaced during the election of members of  
29 the Board of Directors, both issues resulting from the provision in Bylaw 3.3.5.1 that “13 members are elected by  
30 the Synod in convention and serve a maximum of two six-year terms: four ordained ministers, one commissioned  
31 minister, and eight laypersons. No more than one of these may be elected from one district.”  
32

33 When in past conventions elections for ordained, commissioned, and lay positions on the board were  
34 conducted simultaneously (as in 2001), the filling of some positions on early ballots disqualified candidates for other  
35 positions due to the only-one-member-per-district bylaw requirement, favoring candidates for those categories with  
36 fewer candidates (who were more likely to receive a majority of votes on an early ballot). When elections were  
37 conducted and positions filled one category at a time, this also disqualified candidates in other categories due to the  
38 only-one-member-per-district requirement, which favored candidates for positions that were filled early.  
39

40 The following bylaw changes are advocated to help to alleviate adverse effects of the only-one-member-  
41 per-district requirement and to distribute more evenly among the three categories of candidates any remaining  
42 adverse effects.  
43

44 *Resolved*, That the first paragraph of Bylaw 3.3.5.1 be amended to read:  
45

#### 46 **PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING**

47  
48 3.3.5.1 The Board of Directors shall consist of 15 voting members.  
49

- 50 1. 13 members are elected by the Synod in convention and serve a maximum of two six-year terms:  
51 four ordained ministers, one commissioned minister, and eight laypersons. No more than one ~~of these~~  
52 member from each category and no more than two members total may be elected from any one district.
- 53 2. The President and Secretary shall be voting members of the board.
- 54 3. The First Vice-President and the Vice-President–Finance—Treasurer of the Synod shall be  
55 nonvoting members.  
56

1 and be it further  
2

3 *Resolved*, That Bylaw 3.12.4.2 be amended to read:  
4

5 3.12.4.2 The President shall determine and announce a period of time during the convention for the election of the  
6 members of all elective boards and commissions.  
7

8 (a) After the election of the President, the First Vice-President, and the other vice-presidents in that order,  
9 ~~and the election by ballot of the Secretary, and the Vice-President–Finance—Treasurer shall next be~~  
10 ~~conducted, and the elective members of the Board of Directors of the Synod, the members of all elective~~  
11 ~~boards and commissions shall be elected.~~  
12

13 (b) The election by ballot of the members of the Board of Directors shall next follow. Each category  
14 (ordained, commissioned, and lay) shall be elected separately, the order of the elections to be rotated to  
15 allow each category to be the first elected at every third convention, as monitored by the Secretary of the  
16 Synod.  
17

18 (c) The election by ballot of the members of all elective boards and commissions shall next follow.  
19

20 ~~(b)~~ A majority of all votes cast shall be required for election to all elective offices and elective board  
21 positions. Candidates receiving a majority on the first ballot shall be declared elected.  
22

23 ~~(e)~~ Except in the elections of president and vice-presidents, when a second or succeeding ballot is  
24 required for a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes and all candidates receiving less than 15  
25 percent of the votes cast shall be dropped from the ballot, unless fewer than two candidates receive 15  
26 percent or more of the votes cast, in which case the three highest candidates shall constitute the ballot.  
27

28 ~~(f)~~ The tally of the votes cast for each candidate shall be announced after each ballot in all elections.  
29  
30  
31

## 32 **To Amend and Restate the Articles of Incorporation**

### 33 **RESOLUTION 4-06**

34 Overture 4-11 (CW, pp. 182–184)  
35

36 WHEREAS, Changes to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod advocated by the Blue Ribbon Task Force  
37 on Synod Structure and Governance, if adopted, will require certain changes to the Synod’s Articles of Incorpor-  
38 ation; and  
39

40 WHEREAS, This provides occasion to update the entire document to describe more accurately the  
41 objectives, purposes, governance, and activities of the Synod; therefore be it  
42

43 *Resolved*, That the Synod in convention amend and restate the Articles of Incorporation as herewith  
44 proposed by the Commission on Structure:  
45

46 ~~PRESENT~~/PROPOSED WORDING  
47

48 Amended and Restated  
49 **Articles of Incorporation**  
50 of  
51 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
52  
53

#### 54 **Article I Name, Duration, Registered Office, and Agent**

55

56 a. The name of this corporation shall be “The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.”

- 1 b. The period of duration of ~~the~~this corporation is perpetual.
- 2
- 3 c. The address of the registered office of ~~the~~this corporation is 1333 S. Kirkwood Road, St. Louis,
- 4 Missouri.
- 5
- 6 d. The name of the registered agent of ~~the~~this corporation is CT Corporation System.
- 7

## 8 **Article II Objectives and Purposes**

9

10 The objectives and purposes of this corporation ~~shall be~~are:

11

- 12 a. To unite in a corporate body ~~the congregations of the~~Evangelical Lutheran ~~Church~~congregations that
- 13 acknowledge and remain true to the *Book of Concord* of the year of our Lord 1580 as a true exhibition of
- 14 sound Christian doctrine.
- 15
- 16 b. To ~~train ministers and teachers for service in the~~assist in the establishment of Evangelical
- 17 Lutheran~~Church~~ congregations and preaching stations.
- 18
- 19 c. To assist, ~~and advise, and protect member~~ congregations, ~~pastors, and teachers affiliated with and~~
- 20 ministers of religion—ordained and ministers of religion—commissioned of The Lutheran Church—
- 21 Missouri Synod, and to exercise supervision over such pastors and teachers as to provide for their
- 22 ecclesiastical supervision in matters of doctrine, and practice, and their performance~~administration of~~
- 23 their official duties, and to acknow-ledge and assert the protections granted by the First Amendment to the
- 24 Constitution of the United States.
- 25
- 26 d. To ~~establish, build, conduct, and maintain~~ support the establishment and maintenance of theological
- 27 seminaries, colleges, ~~academies, schools, universities,~~ and other institutions of learning to train ministers of
- 28 religion—ordained, ministers of religion—commissioned, and laity for service in the Evangelical Lutheran
- 29 Church.
- 30
- 31 e. ~~To assist in the establishment of Lutheran congregations and preaching stations.~~
- 32
- 33 ~~f.~~ To spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ by means of radio and television broadcasting, visual education,
- 34 and all other forms of missionary endeavor throughout the world by every means possible.
- 35
- 36 ~~g.~~ To ~~print, publish, purchase, sell, and otherwise disseminate Bibles, books, periodicals, literature, music,~~
- 37 ~~and other supplies for~~provide assistance and resources to the congregations, schools, Sunday schools,
- 38 preaching stations, and ~~institutions~~ and agencies of the Synod for the dissemination of the Christian Gospel.
- 39
- 40 ~~h.~~ To establish and conduct all such enterprises and endeavors and to exercise such further power as may
- 41 be necessary or expedient to carry out the objectives stated in the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—
- 42 Missouri Synod.
- 43

## 44 **Article III Membership**

45

46 Membership in ~~the~~this corporation is held and may be acquired by congregations, ministers of religion—

47 ordained, and ministers of religion—commissioned, as defined by the Constitution and Bylaws of this corporation,

48 who confess and accept ~~the confessional basis of~~Article II of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri

49 Synod. The member congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod shall be the voting members of ~~the~~

50 this corporation. Congregations shall exercise their voting power through ~~clergy and lay~~delegates ~~distributed among~~

51 representing the member congregations in such number as may be determined from time to time by~~in~~ accord with

52 the Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

53

54

55

56

1 **Article IV Meetings**

2  
3 This corporation shall have general meetings, called ~~synodical~~conventions, at least once every three years, or as  
4 often as may be determined by resolution of the ~~corporation~~Synod in convention. Special meetings may be called in  
5 such manner as may be provided by the Constitution or Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. All  
6 officers,~~the Board of Directors of corporate Synod, and all corporations, boards, and other subordinate bodies and~~  
7 agencies of the Synod, defined in such Constitution or Bylaws, shall be responsible to the ~~synodical~~Synod  
8 convention, which is the ultimate authority of ~~the~~ this corporation.  
9

10 **Article V Officers**

11  
12 ~~The~~This corporation shall have a board of directors of such number and qualifications and who shall be elected  
13 in such manner and for such terms of office as shall be set forth in the Constitution or Bylaws of The Lutheran  
14 Church—Missouri Synod. In addition, ~~the~~ this corporation shall have other officers having such qualifications and  
15 who shall be elected or appointed in such manner and for such terms of office as provided for in the Constitution or  
16 Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.  
17

18 The management authority and duties of the Board of Directors of ~~the Synod~~ this corporation shall be limited to  
19 the extent such authority and duties are delegated by the Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—  
20 Missouri Synod to other officers and agencies of the Synod. The management authority and duties of the Board of  
21 Directors and such other officers and agencies shall be defined in the Constitution and Bylaws, and each of them  
22 shall be responsible to ~~the~~The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for the proper and prudent fulfillment of the  
23 authority and duties so designated to them. In the case of any conflict or uncertainty in determining the authority  
24 and duties of the ~~Board of Directors and such other~~ officers and agencies, the opinions of the Commission on  
25 Constitutional Matters of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod interpreting the Constitution and Bylaws of The  
26 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod shall be binding, unless and until overruled by a convention of the Synod. In  
27 case of any conflict or uncertainty relative to the applicability of the laws of the State of Missouri, such issues shall  
28 be resolved in accord with the provisions in the Constitution and Bylaws of ~~the~~The Lutheran Church—Missouri  
29 Synod.  
30

31 **Article VI Property**

32  
33 This corporation shall have power to acquire by gift, grant, demise, devise, bequest, purchase, or otherwise,  
34 property of every kind and description, real, personal, or mixed; to hold and use such property and deal with, or  
35 dispose of, any or all such property by sale, exchange, or gift, when necessary or expedient to carry out the objects  
36 and purposes of ~~the~~this corporation; to receive, maintain, and administer endowments, legacies, pension funds,  
37 retirement funds, and such other general or trust funds as may be necessary for the operation of ~~the~~this corporation  
38 or for the accomplishment of its purposes; provided that all such property shall be acquired, dealt with, or disposed  
39 of in a manner not in conflict with the laws of the State of Missouri or of the laws of any State in which said  
40 property is located.  
41

42 **Article VII Constitution and Bylaws**

43  
44 This corporation shall have ~~and make~~ such bylaws constitution and bylaws as may be necessary to accomplish  
45 its purposes and shall have power to create such corporations, boards, offices, and other subordinate bodies as may  
46 be necessary to accomplish its general and special objectives and in such bylaws assign responsibilities to those  
47 bodies.  
48

49 **Article VIII Amendments**

50  
51 Amendments to these Articles of Incorporation may be made at any time at a ~~regular~~ called general or special  
52 meeting of this corporation by the affirmative vote of a two-thirds majority of the delegates present and voting or by  
53 a simple majority of all delegates, whichever is less, provided such amendments are not inconsistent with the  
54 Constitution or Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod or the Constitution and laws of the United States  
55 or the State of Missouri.  
56



1 **Article IV Meetings**  
2

3 This corporation shall have general meetings, called conventions, at least once every three years, or as often as  
4 may be determined by resolution of the Synod in convention. Special meetings may be called in such manner as  
5 may be provided by the Constitution or Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. All officers and agencies  
6 of the Synod, defined in such Constitution or Bylaws shall be responsible to the Synod, convention which is the  
7 ultimate authority of this corporation.  
8

9 **Article V Officers**  
10

11 This corporation shall have a board of directors of such number and qualifications and who shall be elected in  
12 such manner and for such terms of office as shall be set forth in the Constitution or Bylaws of The Lutheran  
13 Church—Missouri Synod. In addition, this corporation shall have other officers having such qualifications and who  
14 shall be elected or appointed in such manner and for such terms of office as provided for in the Constitution or  
15 Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.  
16

17 The management authority and duties of the Board of Directors of this corporation shall be limited to the extent  
18 such authority and duties are delegated by the Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to  
19 other officers and agencies of the Synod. The management authority and duties of the Board of Directors and such  
20 other officers and agencies shall be defined in the Constitution and Bylaws, and each of them shall be responsible to  
21 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for the proper and prudent fulfillment of the authority and duties so  
22 designated to them. In the case of any conflict or uncertainty in determining the authority and duties of the officers  
23 and agencies, the opinions of the Commission on Constitutional Matters of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
24 interpreting the Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod shall be binding, unless and  
25 until overruled by a convention of the Synod. In case of any conflict or uncertainty relative to the applicability of  
26 the laws of the State of Missouri, such issues shall be resolved in accord with the provisions in the Constitution and  
27 Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.  
28

29 **Article VI Property**  
30

31 This corporation shall have power to acquire by gift, grant, demise, devise, bequest, purchase, or otherwise,  
32 property of every kind and description, real, personal, or mixed; to hold and use such property and deal with, or  
33 dispose of, any or all such property by sale, exchange, or gift, when necessary or expedient to carry out the objects  
34 and purposes of this corporation; to receive, maintain, and administer endowments, legacies, pension funds,  
35 retirement funds, and such other general or trust funds as may be necessary for the operation of this corporation or  
36 for the accomplishment of its purposes; provided that all such property shall be acquired, dealt with, or disposed of  
37 in a manner not in conflict with the laws of the State of Missouri or of the laws of any State in which said property is  
38 located.  
39

40 **Article VII Constitution and Bylaws**  
41

42 This corporation shall have such constitution and bylaws as may be necessary to accomplish its purposes and  
43 shall have power to create such corporations, boards, offices, and other subordinate bodies as may be necessary to  
44 accomplish its general and special objectives and in such bylaws assign responsibilities to those bodies.  
45

46 **Article VIII Amendments**  
47

48 Amendments to these Articles of Incorporation may be made at any time at a general or special meeting of this  
49 corporation by the affirmative vote of a two-thirds majority of the delegates present and voting or by a simple  
50 majority of all delegates, whichever is less, provided such amendments are not inconsistent with the Constitution or  
51 Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod or the Constitution and laws of the United States or the State of  
52 Missouri.  
53  
54  
55  
56

1 **To Amend Bylaws re Convention Preparations**

2  
3 **RESOLUTION 4-07**

4  
5 Overture L4-25 (*TB*, pp. 34–39)

6  
7 WHEREAS, Changes in requirements for the preparation of pre-convention materials and changes in the  
8 conditions under which such materials are gathered have made existing bylaw deadlines difficult to meet; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, Reduced mail service performance has resulted in delays in the delivery of convention  
11 materials; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, Accommodating such reduced mail service performance has resulted in an increased cost of at  
14 least \$70,000 for the 2010 convention; and

15  
16 WHEREAS, Timely receipt of pre-convention materials is essential for proper preparation for conventions of  
17 the Synod; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, In the interest of transparency, widespread provision of information regarding convention  
20 business is desirable; and

21  
22 WHEREAS, Existing bylaws predate the availability of electronic communication tools that allow for timely  
23 and economical distribution of materials; therefore be it

24  
25 *Resolved*, That the bylaws governing the submission of convention business and the distribution of pre-  
26 convention publications be amended as follows:

27  
28 **PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING**

29  
30 ***Reports and Overtures***

31  
32 3.1.6 The principal business of a convention of the Synod shall be the consideration of reports and overtures.  
33 Reports and overtures ~~shall~~ ~~must~~ be submitted ~~in triplicate~~ to the President of the Synod not later than 20  
34 ~~18~~ weeks prior to the opening date of the convention.

35  
36 (a) No report or overture received subsequent to that date shall be accepted for convention consideration  
37 unless a committee consisting of the President, the First Vice-President, and the Secretary adjudge it to  
38 be a matter of overriding importance and urgency which is not adequately covered by documents already  
39 before the convention.

40  
41 (b) Overtures and recommendations involving capital outlay or current expenditures shall be  
42 accompanied, to the extent feasible, by cost projections and the basis thereof.

43  
44 ***Reports***

45  
46 3.1.6.1 Reports to a convention of the Synod may be submitted only by the President, a vice-president, the  
47 Secretary, the Vice-President–Finance–Treasurer, the Board of Directors of the Synod, a board or  
48 commission of the Synod as listed in Bylaws 3.2.2, 3.2.2.1, 3.2.3, and 3.2.3.1, and other individuals or  
49 duly constituted groups who may be required or permitted to do so by the Bylaws, by action of a prior  
50 convention of the Synod, or by the President.

51  
52 (a) Reports are statements of work performed or contemplated by those who are charged with conducting  
53 the business of the Synod between conventions, communications to a convention with respect to studies  
54 that may have been made for the Synod in order to further its work, or other types of communications to  
55 the Synod.

1 (b) A report shall not include an overture unless the report is submitted by someone authorized to submit  
2 overtures.

3  
4 *Overtures*

5  
6 3.1.6.2 Overtures to a convention of the Synod may be submitted only by a member congregation of the Synod,  
7 a convention or board of directors of a district, an official district conference of ordained and/or  
8 commissioned ministers, the faculty of an educational institution of the Synod, the Board of Directors of  
9 the Synod, a board or commission of the Synod listed in Bylaws 3.2.2, 3.2.2.1, 3.2.3, and 3.2.3.1, a  
10 committee established by a prior convention, or a forum of a circuit.

11  
12 (a) Overtures are recommendations in the form of proposed resolutions requesting action on the part of  
13 the convention.

14  
15 (b) Overtures with reference to a case in which a member has been suspended and which is at present in  
16 the process of dispute resolution, as well as overtures which, upon advice of legal counsel, may subject  
17 the Synod or the corporate officers of the Synod to civil action for libel or slander or which contain libel  
18 and slander, shall not be accepted for convention consideration.

19  
20 (c) The President of the Synod shall determine if any overture contains information which is materially in  
21 error, or contains any apparent misrepresentation of truth or of character. He shall not approve inclusion  
22 of any such overture in the *Convention Workbook* and shall refer any such overture to the district  
23 president who has ecclesiastical supervision over the entity submitting the overture for action. If any  
24 published overture or resolution is found to be materially in error or contains a misrepresentation of truth  
25 or of character, it shall be withdrawn from convention consideration and referred by the President of the  
26 Synod to the appropriate district president for action.

27  
28 *Convention Committees*

29  
30 3.1.7 All reports and overtures accepted by the President in accordance with the foregoing paragraphs shall be  
31 referred by him to convention floor committees appointed by him in the name of the convention.

32  
33 (a) Appointments will be made from among the voting delegates (Bylaw 3.1.2ff), advisory delegates  
34 (Bylaw 3.1.3ff), and advisory representatives (Bylaw 3.1.4ff).

35  
36 (b) Ordained ministers, commissioned ministers, and laypersons shall be represented on all committees.

37  
38 (c) The President shall notify floor committee members of their appointment and of the time and place of  
39 their first meeting no later than 16 +2 weeks before the start of the convention.

40  
41 (d) The committee rosters shall be published in an official periodical at least 10 weeks before the  
42 convention.

43  
44 (e) If the President deems it advisable, he may convene ~~any~~ floor committees prior to the opening of the  
45 convention.

46  
47 (f) After due consideration of the matters referred to it, each floor committee will report its findings and  
48 recommendations to the convention.

49  
50 (g) Each proposed resolution involving expenditures, prior to its consideration on the floor of the  
51 convention, shall be presented to the floor committee on financial matters, which in consultation with the  
52 accounting department shall attach to the recommended resolution accompanying information on  
53 estimated cost on an annual or project basis.

1 **Pre-Convention Publications**

2  
3 3.1.8 A *Convention Workbook* containing a convention manual, reports and overtures, the names and mailing  
4 addresses of all voting delegates, and other information shall be published under the editorship of the  
5 Secretary subject to approval of the President.

6  
7 (a) The President shall also decide which of the matters accepted for presentation to and consideration by  
8 the convention shall be published in the *Convention Workbook*.

9  
10 (b) ~~The content~~ A copy of the *Convention Workbook* shall be posted on the Synod's Web site ~~sent~~ not  
11 later than 12 ~~10~~ weeks prior to the opening date of the convention, with printed copies mailed ~~to each~~  
12 ~~ordained and commissioned minister on the official rosters of the Synod,~~ to each lay delegate and  
13 alternate, all officers of the Synod, and to each lay members of boards, and commissions, and councils of  
14 ~~the Synod, and to all such lay teachers and lay ministers as are designated by their district presidents.~~

15  
16 (c) Any member of the Synod (congregation, ordained minister, commissioned minister) and any lay  
17 delegate to the convention wishing to express comments on reports and overtures ~~appearing~~ in the  
18 *Convention Workbook* may submit them ~~in triplicate~~ at least nine ~~seven~~ weeks prior to the convention to  
19 the Secretary of the Synod, who shall transmit them to the appropriate convention floor committee for  
20 consideration.

21  
22 3.1.8.1 The content of the first issue of *Today's Business* containing the proposed resolutions of the convention  
23 floor committees and other convention business shall be posted on the Synod's Web site, with printed  
24 copies mailed ~~sent~~ to all registered delegates of the convention and all officers of the Synod and members  
25 of boards, commissions, and councils ~~and to each congregation of the Synod.~~

26  
27 (a) Responses to the proposed ~~tentative~~ resolutions contained in the first issue of *Today's Business* shall  
28 be submitted to the chairman of the appropriate floor committee at least one week prior to the  
29 convention.

30  
31 (b) All floor committees shall meet at the convention site ~~at a time~~ prior to the opening of the convention  
32 to review such responses and reconsider their proposed resolutions accordingly.

33  
34 and be it further

35  
36 *Resolved*, That the bylaws governing the work of the Committee for Convention Nominations be amended  
37 as follows:

38  
39 **Committee for Convention Nominations**

40  
41 3.12.3 The Committee for Convention Nominations is to be regarded as an *ad hoc* convention committee, to  
42 which limitations on holding multiple offices do not apply.

43  
44 3.12.3.1 In preparation for a convention of the Synod, one-half of the districts shall elect through their regular  
45 election procedures at the district convention one member to the Committee for Convention Nominations  
46 and an alternate:

- |                             |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 47 Atlantic                 | Nebraska          |
| 48 California-Nevada-Hawaii | North Wisconsin   |
| 49 Central Illinois         | Northern Illinois |
| 50 Florida-Georgia          | Northwest         |
| 51 Indiana                  | Oklahoma          |
| 52 Iowa West                | SELC              |
| 53 Minnesota South          | South Dakota      |
| 54 Missouri                 | Southern          |
|                             | Wyoming           |

1 3.12.3.2 In preparation for the following convention, the remaining districts shall elect in the same manner:  
2

3 Eastern	New Jersey
4 English	North Dakota
5 Iowa East	Ohio
6 Kansas	Rocky Mountain
7 Michigan	South Wisconsin
8 Mid-South	Southeastern
9 Minnesota North	Pacific Southwest
10 Montana	Southern Illinois
11 New England	Texas

12  
13 3.12.3.3 One-half of the electing districts shall be designated by the Secretary of the Synod to elect a professional  
14 church worker and the other half a layperson, with roles reversed every six years.  
15

16 3.12.3.4 The Secretary of the Synod shall handle the preliminary work for the Committee ~~for~~ ~~on~~ Convention  
17 Nominations.  
18

19 (a) He shall begin to solicit names of potential nominees from officers, boards, commissions, and  
20 agencies of the Synod and its districts at least 24 months prior to the convention.  
21

22 (b) Approximately 24 months before a regular meeting of the Synod in convention, he shall solicit from  
23 the program boards and the synodwide corporate entity boards descriptions of criteria for qualified  
24 candidates to serve on those boards.  
25

26 (c) With such criteria in view, the Secretary shall issue the first call for nominations through a  
27 publication of the Synod and on the Synod Web site 18 months before the convention, soliciting names  
28 from program boards and synodwide corporate entity boards, as well as congregations, district  
29 presidents, district boards of directors, circuit counselors, and other likely sources.  
30

31 (d) All incumbents eligible for reelection shall be considered for nominations.  
32

33 (e) Qualifications of each nominee shall ~~candidate suggested are to~~ be submitted together with the names  
34 on forms made available on the Synod's Web site.  
35

36 (f) All suggested names and information for consideration by the Committee for Convention  
37 Nominations shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Synod ~~committee~~ no later than nine months prior  
38 to the convention of the Synod.  
39

40 (g) The Secretary shall present the names and information gathered to the Committee for Convention  
41 Nominations at its first meeting.  
42

43 3.12.3.5 The first meeting of the Committee for Convention Nominations shall be at the call of the Secretary of  
44 the Synod at least six ~~within nine~~ months prior to the convention of the Synod.  
45

46 (a) The Secretary shall not serve as a member of the committee, but he shall convene the initial meeting  
47 of the committee and be available, upon call, for consultation.  
48

49 (b) The committee shall elect its own chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary and shall organize its work  
50 in whatever way it deems necessary.  
51

52 (c) The committee shall inform itself as to the duties and requirements of each position to be filled and  
53 thereby be guided in its selection of nominees.  
54

1 (d) In the case of the boards of regents of educational institutions of the Synod, the committee shall  
2 consult with the Board for Pastoral Education and Board for University Education and receive their  
3 nominations for the various boards of regents for the committee's consideration.  
4

5 3.12.3.6 The Committee ~~for on~~ Convention Nominations shall nominate candidates for all elective offices, boards,  
6 and commissions except President, vice-presidents, and Vice-President–Finance—Treasurer.  
7

8 (a) When possible, at ~~At~~ least two candidates shall be nominated for each position.  
9

10 (b) ~~At least five months prior to the convention, the~~ The committee shall determine its complete list of  
11 candidates and alternates, obtain the consent of the persons it proposes to nominate, and transmit its final  
12 report at least five months prior to the convention to the Secretary of the Synod who shall post the list on  
13 the Synod's Web site and in ample time to provide for its publication in a pre-convention issue of an  
14 official periodical of the Synod and ~~also~~ in the *Convention Workbook*.  
15

16 (c) The committee's report shall list the qualifications of various positions used in the solicitation of  
17 candidates and contain pertinent information concerning each candidate, such as occupation or  
18 profession, district affiliation, residence, specific experience, number of years as a member of an LCMS  
19 congregation, present position, offices previously held in a congregation, district or the Synod, and  
20 qualifications for the office in question, and, if the candidate so desires, also a brief personal statement.  
21

22 3.12.3.7 The chairman of the Committee for Convention Nominations shall submit the committee's report in  
23 person to the convention at one of its earliest sessions.  
24

25 (a) The convention may amend the slate by nominations from the floor.  
26

27 (b) Floor nominations shall be brought individually before the convention for approval before being  
28 added to the ballot. No floor nominations shall be accepted which would preclude, by virtue of election  
29 limitations of such office, election of any pending nominee already on the slate of candidates received  
30 from the Committee for Convention Nominations without disclosing such potential effect immediately to  
31 the convention.  
32

33 (c) Such floor nominations may only be made from the list of names which have previously been offered  
34 to the Committee for Convention Nominations prior to the final deadline for the submission of  
35 nominations established and published by the committee, unless the convention shall otherwise order by  
36 a simple majority vote.  
37

38 (d) If the convention approves the receipt of such additional nominations, any delegate making such a  
39 nomination shall have secured prior written consent of the candidate being nominated and shall  
40 immediately submit it to the chairman of the Committee for Convention Nominations along with  
41 required pertinent information concerning the nominee as detailed in Bylaw 3.12.3.6 (c).  
42

43 (e) ~~The~~ Whenever possible, the chairman of the Committee for Convention Nominations shall have on  
44 hand at the convention a reserve list of nominees, approved by the committee, for use if required.  
45

46 (f) Whenever possible, the Committee for Convention Nominations should be informed in advance if any  
47 new board or commission is likely to be established at a convention of the Synod, so that it may have a  
48 slate of candidates in readiness.  
49

50 3.12.3.8 The Committee for Convention Nominations, in consultation with officials of the Synod, shall maintain a  
51 description of the desirable expertise required for each elected position ~~board~~ and shall transmit this  
52 information together with suggestions for improvement of procedures to the next committee through the  
53 Secretary of the Synod.  
54

55 and be it finally  
56

1            *Resolved*, That the bylaws governing the nominations and elections of the President and vice-presidents be  
2 amended as follows:

3  
4            ***President and Vice-Presidents***

5  
6            3.12.1 Nominations for the offices of President, First Vice-President, and other vice-presidents in line of  
7 succession shall be made by the member congregations of the Synod.

8  
9            (a) Each member congregation shall be entitled to nominate from the clergy roster of the Synod two  
10 ordained ministers as candidates for ~~P~~resident and two ordained ministers as candidates for First Vice-  
11 President, and four ordained ministers as candidates for other vice-presidents in line of succession.

12  
13            (b) The Secretary of the Synod shall provide a secure and verifiable method that will offer opportunity to  
14 every mail to each congregation of the Synod to submit nominations ~~ballots for nominating these~~  
15 ~~candidates~~.

16  
17            (c) ~~The Each~~ nominating process ~~ballot~~ shall be completed ~~signed by the president and secretary of the~~  
18 ~~member congregations~~ not later than five ~~four~~ months prior to the opening date of the convention.

19            (d) The Secretary of the Synod, with the approval of the Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—  
20 Missouri Synod, may engage an external auditing firm to tabulate the nominations and shall report to the  
21 convention by means of the *Convention Workbook* the names and tallies of all ordained ministers who  
22 have received nominating votes for the offices of President, First Vice-President, and other vice-  
23 presidents in line of succession.

24  
25            (e) Groups and individuals within and without the Synod are urged to refrain from circularizing the  
26 Synod or areas thereof relative to favoritism in nominations for President, First Vice-President, and other  
27 vice-presidents in line of succession.

28  
29            3.12.1.1 Candidates for the offices of President and First Vice-President shall be in each instance the three ~~five~~  
30 ordained ministers receiving the highest number of votes in the nominating ballots of the congregations,  
31 and the candidates for the offices of vice-presidents two through five shall be the ten ~~twenty~~ ordained  
32 ministers receiving the highest number of votes in nominating ballots of the congregations for other vice-  
33 presidents in line of succession.

34  
35            (a) The Secretary of the Synod shall notify each candidate and shall secure his approval in writing for  
36 inclusion of his name on the convention ballot. Each candidate shall reply within 10 days as to his  
37 willingness to serve if elected.

38  
39            (b) In the event of the death, declination, or unavailability of any candidate, the nominee having the next  
40 highest number of votes shall become a candidate.

41  
42            (c) In the event of a tie for the final candidate position, all names involved in the tie shall be listed as  
43 candidates.

44  
45            3.12.1.2 The Secretary of the Synod shall post on the Synod's Web site and publish in the *Convention Workbook*  
46 brief biographies of the three ~~five~~ candidates for President, the three ~~five~~ candidates for First Vice-  
47 President, and the ten ~~twenty~~ candidates for vice-presidents two through five. This report shall contain  
48 such pertinent information as age, residence, number of years in the Synod, present position, offices  
49 previously held in a district or the Synod, year of ordination, former pastorates, involvement in  
50 community, government, or interchurch affairs, and any other specific experience and qualification for  
51 the office, ~~and if the candidate so desires, also~~ Opportunity to provide a brief personal statement shall be  
52 offered to each candidate for publication in an official periodical, this statement also to be posted on the  
53 Synod's Web site.

54  
55            3.12.1.3 The convention shall have the right to alter each slate at the proper time by amendment.  
56

1 (a) The amendment procedure shall include merely a motion, a second, and a vote on the amendment,  
2 deliberately excluding verbal characterizations and discussion of the motion (except for the chair to  
3 ascertain that the requirements have been met as to eligibility, consent, and the filing of the biographical  
4 form).

5  
6 (b) Delegates making nominations from the floor shall have secured prior written consent of the  
7 candidates they wish to nominate.

8  
9 (c) Such delegates shall immediately submit to the Secretary of the Synod this document and written  
10 pertinent information concerning their nominee(s) as detailed in Bylaw 3.12.1.2.

11  
12 (d) After all such amendments have been voted on, the convention shall ratify the slate of candidates  
13 prior to each election.

14  
15 3.12.1.4 Each voting delegate shall be entitled to vote for one of the candidates for President. ~~The candidate~~  
16 ~~receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected.~~

17  
18 (a) If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the two ~~four~~ candidates receiving the highest  
19 number of votes shall be retained on the ballot, and another vote shall be taken.

20  
21 (b) ~~Thereafter the~~ The candidate receiving a majority ~~the smallest number~~ of the votes cast shall be  
22 declared elected ~~eliminated on each subsequent ballot until one candidate receives a majority of the votes~~  
23 ~~east.~~

24  
25 3.12.1.5 After the results of the election of the President have been announced, the convention shall then elect the  
26 First Vice-President according to the procedures outlined for the election of President in Bylaws 3.12.1.3  
27 and 3.12.1.4.

28  
29 3.12.1.6 After the results of the election of the First Vice-President have been announced, the convention shall  
30 then elect vice-presidents two through five as outlined in Bylaw 3.12.1.3. The rank of vice-presidents  
31 shall be determined by the order of their election or, if more than one is elected in the same voting, by the  
32 number of votes received by each.

33  
34 (a) Should one or more of the candidates be elected to the office of President or First Vice-President,  
35 their names shall be removed from the ballot without requiring the addition of other names to the ballot.

36  
37 (b) In the election, each voting delegate shall be entitled to vote for as many candidates as there are  
38 offices to be filled. A candidate whose total vote equals or exceeds a majority of the number of delegates  
39 voting shall be declared elected.

40  
41 (c) If more candidates receive a majority than there are offices to be filled, those receiving the greatest  
42 number of votes shall be declared elected.

43  
44 (d) If not all offices are filled in such voting, the candidate or candidates receiving the least number of  
45 votes shall be eliminated so that two candidates remain for each office to be filled and another vote shall  
46 then be taken.

47  
48 (e) This procedure shall be followed until all the offices have been filled.  
49  
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56

1 **To Improve Procedure for Establishing Synod Convention Times and Locations**

2  
3 **RESOLUTION 4-08**

4  
5 Overture L4-26 (TB, pp. 39-40)

6  
7 WHEREAS, For practical reasons, the date and location of a convention site must be determined and  
8 contracted several years in advance of a Synod convention and prior to the most previous convention; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, ~~The~~ Current bylaws regarding convention date and location do not allow for efficiency and  
11 expediency in this regard; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, The Board of Directors is responsible for the financial affairs of the Synod, including approving  
14 the budget for the Synod convention; and

15  
16 WHEREAS, The President of the Synod, in consultation with the convention manager, has traditionally been  
17 establishing the date of the convention based on convention venue availability, as is currently allowed in the existing  
18 bylaws of the Synod; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, Improvement in the procedure for establishing the date and location of the convention would  
21 enable the Synod to capitalize on opportunities in regard to cost-effective planning and booking of convention  
22 facilities; and

23  
24 WHEREAS, The convention cycle of the Synod requires a plan and flexibility for booking and arranging  
25 convention facilities, including lodging and meeting space, which cannot realistically be determined by a  
26 convention; therefore be it

27  
28 *Resolved*, That the President of the Synod, in consultation with the convention manager, establish the dates  
29 of Synod conventions; and be it further

30  
31 *Resolved*, That the Board of Directors of the Synod, in consultation with the convention manager, establish  
32 the sites of Synod conventions; and be it finally

33  
34 *Resolved*, That Bylaw 3.1.9 (j) be revised to incorporate these procedural changes, as follows:

35  
36 **PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING**

37  
38 3.1.9 The President shall be responsible for the overall organization and operations of the conventions of the  
39 Synod....

40  
41 (j) ~~Before adjournment the convention shall decide upon the time of the next convention. The date and~~  
42 ~~site of Synod conventions shall be established in the following manner.~~

43  
44 (1) ~~If the convention fails to do so, (The President, in consultation with the convention manager,~~  
45 ~~shall decide upon the dates of Synod conventions. shall do so. In case of necessity, he may change~~  
46 ~~the appointed time.~~

47  
48 (2) ~~The Board of Directors of the Synod, in consultation with the convention manager, shall~~  
49 ~~establish the sites of Synod conventions, giving preference to St. Louis when logistically and~~  
50 ~~economically feasible. Conventions shall be conducted in the St. Louis area, with the understanding~~  
51 ~~that consideration may be given by a previous convention to other areas upon special request.~~

52  
53 (3) ~~A district may submit Prior to submitting an invitation, to host the convention. In such case, a~~  
54 ~~host group shall determine the minimum requirements from the convention manager, agree to~~  
55 ~~provide any needed local support, and then shall submit a proposal to the Board of Directors of the~~  
56 ~~Synod for evaluation and consideration, and recommendation to a convention.~~

1  
2 (4) The President may also ~~submit~~ propose a site to the Board of Directors of the Synod. Prior to  
3 submission, the district president for the area in which the site is located shall be made aware of the  
4 ~~submission~~ proposal and agree to provide any needed local support.  
5

6  
7 **To Amend Bylaw 3.1.7 re Convention Committees**

8  
9 **RESOLUTION 4-09**

10  
11 Overture 4-18–20 (CW, p. 186)

12  
13 WHEREAS, Bylaw 3.1.7 of the Constitution of the Synod gives responsibility for appointing floor  
14 committees to the President of the Synod; and

15  
16 WHEREAS, The decisions of the various floor committees influence the business conducted at a Synod  
17 convention; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, The appointment of faithful and capable floor committee members is especially important; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, It is helpful to the President to gather pertinent information about the delegates; therefore be it

22  
23 *Resolved*, That Bylaw 3.1.7 be amended as follows:  
24

25 **PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING**

26  
27 3.1.7 All reports and overtures accepted by the President in accordance with the foregoing paragraphs shall be  
28 referred by him to convention committees ~~appointed by him in the name of the convention~~. Such  
29 committees shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the Council of Presidents and the  
30 Praesidium.  
31  
32  
33

34 **To Return LCEF Bylaw 3.6.4.4 to Pre-2004 Wording**

35  
36 **RESOLUTION 4-10**

37  
38 Overture 4-12 (CW, p. 184)

39  
40 **Rationale**

41  
42 The Board for Church Extension, comprised of the members of the board of directors of the Lutheran  
43 Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod, exists to provide assistance to the seven districts that continue to operate  
44 their own church extension funds. Prior to the revision of the *Handbook* of the Synod by the 2004 convention, the  
45 duties of the Board for Church Extension were delineated by Bylaws 3.509 and 3.511. Following the revision, they  
46 are now delineated in Bylaw 3.6.4.4 (2007 *Handbook*, pp. 116–17).  
47

48  
49 After discussion with the seven church extension funds that still operate independently, the Board for  
50 Church Extension and the seven district fund boards have noted that, contrary to the intention by the 2004  
51 convention not to make substantial change during the *Handbook* revision process, a substantial change was made.  
52 The revised version of the *Handbook* places responsibility for compliance with Lutheran Church Extension Fund—  
53 Missouri Synod policies on the national Board for Church Extension rather than the district church extension fund  
54 boards and committees.

1 The Board for Church Extension and the seven district church extension fund entities therefore have  
2 requested that current wording be replaced with the pre-2004 wording to restore the pre-2004 intent of the bylaws in  
3 question, as follows.

4  
5 Therefore be it

6  
7 *Resolved*, That 2007 Bylaw 3.6.4.4 (d) describing one of the responsibilities of the Board for Church  
8 Extension be deleted as follows:

9  
10 **PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING**

11  
12 ~~“(d) The board shall ensure that district church extension boards or committees administer the districts’~~  
13 ~~church extension programs in conformity with policies established by the Synod’s Board for Church~~  
14 ~~Extension and in accordance with district regulations”;~~

15  
16 and be it further

17  
18 *Resolved*, That the language of pre-2004 Bylaw 3.511 be inserted immediately following 2007 Bylaw  
19 3.6.4.4 as a new Bylaw 3.6.4.5 as follows:

20  
21 **PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING**

22  
23 3.6.4.5 District church extension boards or committees shall administer the district’s church extension programs  
24 in conformity with policies established by the Synod’s Board for Church Extension and in accordance  
25 with district regulations.

26  
27 and be it finally

28  
29 *Resolved*, That the remaining paragraphs of Bylaw 3.6.4.4 and the bylaws following new Bylaw 3.6.4.5 be  
30 re-lettered and re-numbered as appropriate.

31  
32  
33  
34 **To Provide Definition for Term “Operating Board”**

35  
36 **RESOLUTION 4-11**

37  
38 Overture 4-14 (CW, p. 184)

39  
40 **Preamble**

41  
42 In a March 28, 2008 memorandum, the Commission on Structure requested an opinion from the  
43 Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) on the use and application of the term “operating board” in paragraph  
44 (c) of Bylaw 6.2.1. After study of the use of the term in earlier handbooks of the Synod (1995–present) the CCM  
45 concluded in its Opinion 08-2515:

46  
47 The term “operating board” is to be understood to apply to the Board of Directors and the boards of the  
48 synodwide corporate entities (including Concordia Plans Services) and to the program boards.

49  
50 In keeping with the response of the CCM and in order to provide an official definition for the Synod’s  
51 current and future use, the Commission on Structure advocates the inclusion of the following definition as a new  
52 paragraph (m) under Bylaw 1.2.1.

53  
54 Therefore be it



1  
2 (i) **Governing Board:** A board that directs ~~an~~ a separately incorporated agency of the Synod, ~~and to~~  
3 ~~which the staff of that agency is responsible.~~ Governing boards are such as a board of directors, a board  
4 of trustees, a board of regents, a board of managers, or a board of governors.  
5  
6

## 7 **To Change Auxiliary Terminology**

### 8 **RESOLUTION 4-13**

9  
10  
11 Overture 4-17 (CW, p. 185)

#### 12 **Rationale**

13  
14  
15 The International Lutheran Laymen’s League (ILLL), in considering changes to its governance and  
16 structure, is giving consideration to changing the title of its chief elected officer. Currently that officer is titled  
17 “president” in the Bylaws of the Synod (Bylaw 6.1.3 [a] and [b]). After consulting with the Lutheran Women’s  
18 Missionary League, the ILLL has requested that the bylaw paragraphs in question be amended to provide more  
19 flexibility to the auxiliaries in referring to their chief elected officers.  
20

21 Therefore be it

22  
23 *Resolved*, That the word “president” in paragraphs (a) and (b) of Bylaw 6.1.3 be replaced with the words  
24 “chief elected officer,” to read as follows:  
25

#### 26 PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

27  
28 6.1.3 An auxiliary assumes the following responsibilities:

29  
30 (a) It reports annually, through its ~~president~~ chief elected officer, to the President of the Synod and, upon  
31 his request, to conventions of the Synod.

32  
33 (b) It provides the Synod, through its ~~president~~ chief elected officer, with an annual program report for  
34 sharing with appropriate boards.  
35  
36  
37

## 38 **To Amend Bylaw 1.5.3 re Agency Meeting**

### 39 **RESOLUTION 4-14**

40  
41  
42 Overture 4-13 (CW, p. 184)

43  
44 WHEREAS, Bylaw 1.5.3 requires every agency of the Synod to meet, but does not specify the manner of  
45 meeting; and  
46

47 WHEREAS, Some bylaws require face-to-face meetings in certain situations, others imply face-to-face  
48 meetings, and still others are silent as to the manner of meetings; and  
49

50 WHEREAS, At times a mission can be achieved effectively, efficiently, and economically without a face-to-  
51 face meeting; and  
52

53 WHEREAS, Agencies should have the freedom to meet in a manner that best balances several goals;  
54 therefore be it  
55

56 *Resolved*, That current Bylaw 1.5.3 be amended to read as follows:

1  
2 PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING  
3

4 1.5.3 Every agency of the Synod shall meet at least quarterly unless otherwise stipulated in the Bylaws.  
5 Exceptions require the approval at least annually of the President of the Synod. All agencies shall  
6 announce their upcoming meetings. Unless otherwise specified in the Bylaws, each agency is free to  
7 select a manner of meeting, consistent with Board of Directors policy, that best enhances its ability to  
8 accomplish its mission, taking into consideration fostering the open exchange of ideas, availability of  
9 technology to all members, stewardship of resources, perception of fairness, controversial nature of  
10 agenda items, and whether secret ballots might be used.  
11  
12  
13

14 **To Change Composition of Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support**

15 **RESOLUTION 4-15**

16  
17  
18 Overture 4-16 (CW, p. 185)  
19

20 WHEREAS, The Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support (CMGS) exists to provide opportunity for  
21 the continuing education and vocational growth of the church's workers, to advocate and facilitate care and counsel  
22 for the church's workers to support them in the performance of their official duties, and to advocate and facilitate  
23 support for the personal well-being of the church's workers and their family members; and  
24

25 WHEREAS, The CMGS provides practical assistance for transitions in ministry to workers and their families  
26 (PALS, etc.), initiatives for developing and maintaining worker wellness and assisting retired workers to find fresh  
27 opportunities to serve (Next Steps); and  
28

29 WHEREAS, The CMGS is investing significant resources and energy in nurturing relational vitality so that  
30 as Christ's disciples in today's culture, church workers live in trust, respect, and love for one another; and  
31

32 WHEREAS, In accordance with the LCMS 2007 *Handbook*, the current CMGS consists of 13 members  
33 appointed by the President of the Synod; and  
34

35 WHEREAS, The CMGS wishes to be fiscally responsible in its stewardship of resources; therefore be it

36  
37 *Resolved*, That the *Handbook* be amended to read as follows:  
38

39 PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING  
40

41 3.9.4.1 The Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support shall consist of ~~13~~ 7 members appointed by the  
42 President of the Synod:  
43

- 44 1. ~~Three~~ One minister of religion—ordained
- 45 2. ~~Three~~ One minister of religion—commissioned
- 46 3. ~~Three~~ Two laypersons
- 47 4. One district president
- 48 5. ~~Two~~ One seminary faculty members
- 49 6. One Concordia University System faculty member  
50

51 **3.9.4.1.1 The Commission on Ministerial Growth shall be appointed as follows:**  
52

53 (a) The ~~three~~ minister of religion—ordained shall be a parish pastors.  
54

55 (b) The ~~three~~ minister of religion—commissioned shall be ~~two teachers and one other than a~~  
56 ~~teacher~~ in a parish setting.

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(c) One of the laypersons shall be a parish pastor's wife.

~~(d) One seminary faculty member shall be from each seminary.~~

**To Respectfully Decline Overtures**

**RESOLUTION 4-16**

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

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

<u>Number</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Ov. 4-09	Compile Report of Designated Gifts	Excessive Administrative Costs and Time
Ov. 4-10	Curb Synod's Finances	Provides no Rationale or Steps for Implementation
Ov. 4-21	Limit Convention Time of Incumbent Prior to Presidential Election	Bylaws 3.1.9 (i) and 3.12.1 (e)
Ov. 4-23	Allocate Investment Earnings Back to Human Care	Negative Impact on Other Ministries

1 **5. SEMINARY AND UNIVERSITY EDUCATION**

2 **To Recruit and Retain Full-Time Church Workers**

3 **RESOLUTION 5-01**

4  
5  
6  
7 Overtures 5-17, 5-19 (CW, pp. 194, 195)

8  
9 WHEREAS, When our Lord said, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the  
10 harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field” (Matt. 9:37–38), He indicated that His disciples were,  
11 and are now, to be active in supporting the recruitment and preparation of pastors and other full-time church  
12 workers; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, One of the objectives of the LCMS is to “Recruit and train pastors, teachers, and other  
15 professional church workers and provide opportunity for their continuing growth” (Constitution, Art. III 3); and

16  
17 WHEREAS, Three subsequent objectives of the Synod (Constitution, Art. III 8–10) are:

- 18  
19 8. Provide evangelical supervision, counsel, and care for pastors, teachers, and other professional church  
20 workers of the Synod in the performance of their official duties;  
21 9. Provide protection for congregations, pastors, teachers, and other church workers in the performance of  
22 their official duties and the maintenance of their rights;  
23 10. Aid in providing for the welfare of pastors, teachers, and other church workers, and their families in  
24 the event of illness, disability, retirement, special need, or death.

25  
26 and

27  
28 WHEREAS, The Concordia University System schools; Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; and Concordia  
29 Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne have programs that provide guidance and programs for church worker  
30 preparation and scholarships for church work students in the Synod; and

31  
32 WHEREAS, The “What a Way” initiative of the Synod provides a positive and joyful approach both to  
33 rebuild active recruitment and retention of church workers as an integrated part of the LCMS culture and lifestyle at  
34 the local congregation level and to assist local congregations by providing and developing resources to facilitate  
35 deliberate activity, dialogue, and support of church workers (explore vocational guidance and resources at  
36 [www.WhataWay.org](http://www.WhataWay.org)); therefore be it

37  
38 *Resolved*, That the LCMS in convention thank the Lord of the Church for having answered the prayers of  
39 His people, and petition Him to continue to bestow the gifts of full-time church workers on His Church; and be it  
40 further

41  
42 *Resolved*, That each congregation and district in general and each pastor and church worker in particular  
43 seek to identify, to encourage, and to recruit people within the church to be full-time workers in the Lord’s harvest  
44 field; and be it further

45  
46 *Resolved*, That congregations, districts, and individuals be encouraged to support and provide adequately  
47 for pastors, teachers, and other church workers—and their families; and be it further

48  
49 *Resolved*, That congregations, districts, and individuals be urged to increase support for church work  
50 students by sending offerings to college, university, and seminary endowments that support the training and  
51 education of church workers and by participating in the “For the Sake of the Church” and Joint Seminary Fund  
52 efforts and in the adopt-a-student programs through our Synod’s schools; and be it finally

53  
54 *Resolved*, That the LCMS in convention affirm, encourage, and support the “What a Way” initiative to  
55 foster active recruitment and retention of church workers.

1 **To Celebrate and Support “For the Sake of the Church”**

2  
3 **RESOLUTION 5-02**

4  
5 Overture 5-18 (CW, pp. 194-95)

6  
7 WHEREAS, The “Objectives” article of the LCMS Constitution includes these: “Recruit and train pastors,  
8 teachers, and other professional church workers and provide opportunity for their continuing growth” (Art. III 3) and  
9 “Aid congregations to develop processes of thorough Christian education and nurture and to establish agencies of  
10 Christian education such as elementary and secondary schools and to support synodical colleges, universities, and  
11 seminaries” (Art. III 5); and

12  
13 WHEREAS, The Synod is in need of well-educated pastors, teachers, other professional church workers, and  
14 laypersons to serve the church and community; and

15  
16 WHEREAS, The Concordia colleges and universities are committed to providing a quality Lutheran  
17 Christian education as they prepare leaders for our congregations, schools, communities, and the world; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, Significant endowments are needed to maintain the fiscal strength of the Concordia colleges and  
20 universities and to provide income to reduce the educational costs of Lutheran students; and

21  
22 WHEREAS, The objectives of the “For the Sake of the Church” initiative include increasing the number of  
23 Lutheran students at our Concordias and developing an endowment of \$400 million for the support of student  
24 scholarships; and

25  
26 WHEREAS, Many Lutheran students attending a Concordia college or university are in need of financial  
27 assistance to reduce the cost of their education; and

28  
29 WHEREAS, The Lord of the Church has blessed the “For the Sake of the Church” initiative through the  
30 generous response of His people; and

31  
32 WHEREAS, The “For the Sake of the Church” initiative has helped to increase the number of Lutheran  
33 students at our Concordias and has provided over \$200 million in endowment gifts and pledges over the past ten  
34 years; therefore be it

35  
36 *Resolved*, That the Synod give special thanks to the Lord of the Church for blessing these efforts to recruit  
37 Lutheran students for service to the church and society and for the stewardship gifts of His people to assist Lutheran  
38 students financially; and be it further

39  
40 *Resolved*, That the Synod encourage congregations and church leaders to assist in the recruitment of  
41 students to prepare themselves in a Lutheran Christian environment for a lifetime of service; and be it finally

42  
43 *Resolved*, That the Synod celebrate the efforts of the “For the Sake of the Church” initiative, offering  
44 special encouragement to congregations and individuals to continue their support of this ministry program.

45  
46  
47  
48 **To Address Lay Deacons**

49 **RESOLUTION 5-03**

50  
51  
52 Overtures 5-01–15, 5-37, L5-38 (CW, pp. 189–194; TB, pp. 25–26, 42–46)

53  
54 WHEREAS, 2007 Res. 5-02 (“To Address Lay Deacons”) stipulated that “the Board for Pastoral Education  
55 and the Council of Presidents be requested to study the situations currently served by licensed lay deacons to

1 determine whether there continues to be a genuine need for this program within the Synod and to present a report  
2 with recommendations to the 2010 convention of the Synod”; and  
3

4 WHEREAS, The Board for Pastoral Education (BPE) and Council of Presidents (COP) fulfilled this  
5 resolution through the formation and operation of a Res. 5-02 Task Force; and  
6

7 WHEREAS, The “Report of the Res. 5-02 Task Force” (TFR) recommends that district deacon instructional  
8 programs be retained (2010 *Convention Workbook*, pp. 98–102); and  
9

10 WHEREAS, The TFR contains eight descriptions of service offered by lay deacons and suggests that anyone  
11 preaching and administering the sacraments be “called and ordained”;<sup>1</sup> and  
12

13 WHEREAS, The TFR provides a plan through which deacons may preach and administer the sacraments in  
14 certain cases, while engendering trust across district lines; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, The TFR provides a reasonable way through which deacons who are preaching and admin-  
17 istering the sacraments might be examined, called, and ordained within three years of beginning their service;  
18 therefore be it  
19

20 *Resolved*, That district deacon instructional programs be retained in the LCMS; and be it further  
21

22 *Resolved*, That implementation of the following recommendations take place no sooner than six months  
23 after the close of the next LCMS convention (recognizing the limited track record of the SMP program, providing  
24 time for additional assessment and refinement of the program and providing a buffer of time so that district  
25 presidents can work evangelically and intentionally with situations where preaching and/or administration of the  
26 sacraments is/are being done by a licensed deacon):  
27

- 28 (1) District deacon programs should be retained for:
  - 29 (a) Equipping laity who wish to grow and be enriched for Christian life and service;
  - 30 (b) Preparation for men to demonstrate entry-level competence prior to SMP enrollment;
  - 31 (c) Forming individuals to serve in ministries that do not involve preaching and/or the administration  
32 of the sacraments; and
  - 33 (d) Preparation of men for preaching and/or the administration of the sacraments in cases deemed to  
34 be exceptional by a committee formed by the COP from its members.
- 35 (2) Apart from those cases deemed to be exceptional, district presidents should encourage men who are  
36 preparing to preach and/or administer the sacraments to enroll in one of the pastoral formation  
37 programs offered by the LCMS seminaries.
- 38 (3) In exceptional cases, where a district president concludes that enrolling in a pastoral formation  
39 program offered by the LCMS seminaries is not a feasible means to form a candidate for preaching  
40 and/or the administration of the sacraments:
  - 41 (a) The district president will request confirmation of this assessment by the aforementioned  
42 committee of the COP to authorize a graduate of a district program to preach and/or administer the  
43 sacraments as a deacon.
  - 44 (b) Within three years, a deacon preaching and/or administering the sacraments shall apply for  
45 certification through the Synod’s colloquy process. Following successful completion, he shall be  
46 certified as eligible to receive a call to serve as an *assisting pastor* (*see following resolve*).
- 47 (4) Those deacons already preaching and/or administering the sacraments shall be “examined” by the  
48 Synod’s Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry (expanded to include district representatives for  
49 these interviews only, and done regionally, if needed) and, upon successful completion of the exam-  
50 ination, be certified as eligible to receive a call to serve as an assisting pastor and be ordained as such.
- 51 (5) Eligibility to continue preaching and/or administering the sacraments is contingent upon successful  
52 completion of this process.  
53

54 and be it further,  
55



1           WHEREAS, The church both needs and desires a unified vision for pastoral formation and education that  
2 encompasses the aspects of pre-seminary education, seminary education, and post-seminary continuing education  
3 for pastors; and  
4

5           WHEREAS, The LCMS “Themes for Pastoral Education” (developed by the Board for Pastoral Education)  
6 provide a planning and guiding focus for preparation of pastors for the LCMS; and  
7

8           WHEREAS, The church regularly identifies areas of necessary growth in pastoral formation (pre-seminary,  
9 seminary, post-seminary) such as biblical languages, mission training, leadership development, disability awareness,  
10 relationship and equipping skills, etc. (CMGS Report, Progress Report of the Task Force on Synodical Harmony,  
11 BPE Report, BRTFSSG Report); therefore be it  
12

13           *Resolved*, That the Synod in convention affirm the following LCMS “Themes for Pastoral Education”:

- 14           • Academic Readiness  
15           The church needs pastors who are grounded in the Holy Scriptures, rooted in the Lutheran  
16 Confessions, formed by the history of the church, and able to apply the Word of God to the lives  
17 of people for their salvation and for his own, to the glory of God.
- 18           • Pastoral Practice  
19           The church needs pastors who are competent leaders in pastoral ministry.
- 20           • Spiritual Formation  
21           The church seeks men whose faith in Jesus Christ is nourished regularly by the Word and  
22 sacraments in public worship and by a disciplined devotional life.
- 23           • Mission Outreach  
24           The church needs pastors who are prepared to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.
- 25           • Understanding Church within Culture and Context  
26           The church looks to its pastors to know the Holy Scriptures well, to be confidently Lutheran, and  
27 to apply the Word of God to contemporary contexts and culture.
- 28           • Community of Faith  
29           The church wants pastoral education undertaken in an environment of prayer and care, with  
30 worship at the center, and with the proper integration of biblical theology and pastoral practice.
- 31           • Service of the Baptized  
32           The church wants pastors who are prepared to motivate and stimulate, prepare and engage the  
33 baptized in their lives of service and vocation.
- 34           • Church Administration  
35           The church needs pastors to lead and manage the congregation to accomplish its mission and  
36 purpose.
- 37           • Faithful Faculty with Pastoral Experience  
38           The church needs faculty who are committed to the mission of the church, maintain academic  
39 excellence, testify to their faith, relate theology to pastoral practice, make alive the Lutheran  
40 heritage, and show appreciation for the practice of pastoral ministry.
- 41           • Scholarship for the Church and to the World  
42           The church needs pastors, congregations, universities/colleges, and seminaries to transmit  
43 Lutheran theology to the next generations.
- 44           • Flexibility in Approach and Delivery of Pastoral Education  
45           The church needs pastoral education brought to candidates as diverse as its membership and  
46 mission—young and old, single and married, no debt and heavy debt, no college and advanced  
47 degrees, novice Christians and Lutherans their entire life, confined to one place and highly mobile,  
48 dominant culture and ethnic community, rich and poor.
- 49           • International/Global Component  
50           The church needs to recognize that pastoral education is an international endeavor.

51  
52 and be it further  
53



1 (3) The search committee shall develop written criteria that will be utilized by the committee to  
2 screen the candidates and will be utilized by the board of regents to guide the presidential election.

3  
4 (4) A person designated by the board of regents shall act as its agent to issue a request for the  
5 nomination of candidates for the presidency of the institution. The request for nominations shall be  
6 submitted to the parties who are authorized to nominate. Candidates may be nominated by  
7 congregations of the Synod, the Board for University Education, the board of regents, and the faculty  
8 of the institution. The request for nominations shall state when the nominating period closes.

9  
10 (5) After the nomination period has closed, the agent of the board of regents shall distribute an  
11 announcement to the congregations of the Synod that lists the names of nominees who have  
12 consented to nomination. The announcement shall contain contact information to submit  
13 correspondence regarding the nominees, and provide a reasonable deadline for receiving  
14 correspondence. The board of regents shall establish a procedure for processing correspondence  
15 regarding nominees.

16  
17 (c) The board of regents shall utilize the work of the search committee to establish a short list of  
18 candidates.

19  
20 (1) The search committee will provide a report to the board of regents regarding the qualifications of  
21 the candidates with its observations and recommendations.

22  
23 (2) The board of regents shall prepare a list of no less than five candidates and submit that short list  
24 to the executive director of the Board for University Education.

25  
26 (d) The short list of candidates shall receive prior approval before the election.

27  
28 (1) The executive director of the Board for University Education shall convene a prior approval  
29 panel consisting of the President of the Synod, the district president serving on the institution's board  
30 of regents, and the chair of the Board for University Education.

31  
32 (2) The prior approval panel shall meet to consider the short list submitted by the board of regents.  
33 The panel may choose to remove names from the list, but only with a two-thirds majority vote.

34  
35 (3) After the prior approval panel has completed its work, the executive director of the Board for  
36 University Education shall transmit the finalized list back to the agent of the board of regents. If the  
37 amended list contains less than two names, the election process is terminated. The board of regents  
38 shall determine whether it will utilize the original list of nominees or generate additional  
39 nominations as it resumes the election process.

40  
41 (e) The board of regents shall elect the president of the college or university using the slate that received  
42 prior approval as described above. The board of regents may require the president-elect to accept or  
43 decline within fifteen days.

44  
45 (f) If the president-elect declines the position, the board of regents is responsible for resuming the effort  
46 to fill the vacancy.

47  
48  
49  
50 **To Revise Bylaw 3.8.3.7 re College/University**  
51 **President Responsibilities**

52 **RESOLUTION 5-07**

53  
54  
55 Overtures 5-32–33 (CW, pp. 204–205); CCM Opinion 10-2576 (CW, pp. 284–285)

1 **Rationale**  
2

3 The LCMS bylaw outlining the responsibilities of presidents at our LCMS colleges and universities reflects  
4 an era when an LCMS college president administered a small number of programs for a few hundred students, with  
5 a budget of a few hundred thousand dollars. Today several of our universities have thousands of students with  
6 dozens of programs and large faculties, and most of the institutions have budgets larger than the Synod's  
7 unrestricted budget. The bylaw needs to reflect these new realities.  
8

9 The size of the institutions and the complexity of their operations make it necessary for the president to rely  
10 on officers who have responsibility for leadership in the areas of finance, academics, student and spiritual life,  
11 recruitment, and fundraising. Although the president *may* personally evaluate individual faculty members, lead  
12 faculty meetings, counsel with every student, and direct the campus' spiritual life programs, it is unrealistic for the  
13 Bylaws to state or imply that the president *must personally* perform these tasks.  
14

15 The current bylaw implies that the presidents of our colleges and universities must be male. However, the  
16 CTCR rendered the following opinion: "There is no theological reason why a woman may not serve as the president  
17 of an LCMS college or university if the 'job description' for this office does not involve direct responsibility for  
18 carrying out the official functions of the pastoral office. . . . [I]f the 'job description' for this office at a particular  
19 institution requires carrying out the official functions of the pastoral office, then a woman is not eligible to serve in  
20 this office" (Adopted February 12, 2010—CW, p. 64).  
21

22 The CCM has rendered an opinion that "[o]utside of Bylaw 3.8.3.7, there are no current bylaws that  
23 specifically prohibit women from serving as president of an LCMS college or university" (CCM opinion 10-2576—  
24 CW, p. 284).  
25

26 Therefore be it

27  
28 *Resolved*, That Bylaw 3.8.3.7 be amended as follows:  
29

30 **PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING**  
31

32 3.8.3.7 The president shall be a member of an LCMS congregation and shall serve as the executive officer of the  
33 board of regents to operate the institution in an effective manner.

34 (a) The president implements the mission of the institution in accordance with the decisions of the board  
35 of regents, utilizing faculty and staff to execute day-to-day activities.

36 (b) The president ensures the development of resources for the institution and serves as the chief  
37 representative of the institution to external individuals and groups.

38 (c) The president administers the institution's business and organizational activities through appropriate  
39 officers, staff, and committees.

40 (d) The president promotes and facilitates academic excellence in the faculty and the instructional  
41 activities of the institution.

42 (e) The president ensures that spiritual care is provided to the campus community.  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48

49 ~~3.8.3.7 The president of the institution shall be the executive officer of the board of regents. He shall serve as~~  
50 ~~the spiritual, academic, and administrative head of the institution.~~

51 ~~(a) He shall represent the institution in its relations to the Synod and its officers and boards.~~

52 ~~(b) He shall supervise, direct, and administer the affairs of the institution and all its departments,~~  
53 ~~pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Synod and its boards and agencies and the policies of the~~  
54 ~~board of regents.~~

55 ~~(c) He shall bring to the attention of the board of regents matters that require consideration or decision~~  
56 ~~and make pertinent recommendations.~~

1 ~~(d) He shall be the academic head of the faculty, preside at its meetings, and be an ex officio member~~  
2 ~~of all standing committees of the faculty and its departments with the exception of the standing~~  
3 ~~hearings committee or of another standing committee to which the functions of such a committee have~~  
4 ~~been assigned.~~

5 ~~(e) He shall periodically visit or cause to be visited the classes of professors and instructors, and in~~  
6 ~~general secure conformity in teaching efficiency and subject matter to the standards and policies~~  
7 ~~prescribed by the board of regents and by the Synod through the Board for University Education.~~

8 ~~(f) He shall advise and admonish in a fraternal spirit any member of the faculty found dilatory,~~  
9 ~~neglectful, or exhibiting problems in his teaching. Should this action prove ineffective, he shall request~~  
10 ~~selected members of the faculty privately to engage their colleague in further fraternal discussion. If~~  
11 ~~this results in failure to correct or improve the situation, the president shall report the matter to the~~  
12 ~~board of regents with his recommendation for action.~~

13 ~~(g) He shall delegate or reassign one or more of his functions to a member of the faculty or staff,~~  
14 ~~although standing administrative assignments shall be made by the board of regents upon his~~  
15 ~~recommendation.~~

16 ~~(h) He shall be responsible for the provision of spiritual care and nurture for every student.~~

17 ~~(i) He shall carefully watch over the spiritual welfare, personal life, conduct, educational progress,~~  
18 ~~and physical condition of the students and in general exercise such Christian discipline, instruction,~~  
19 ~~and supervision as may be expected at a Christian educational institution.~~

20 ~~(j) He shall be responsible for the employment, direction, and supervision of all employees of the~~  
21 ~~institution.~~

22 ~~(k) He shall be responsible for the business management of the school and for the proper operation~~  
23 ~~and maintenance of grounds, buildings, and equipment.~~

24 ~~(l) He shall make periodic and special financial reports to the board of regents.~~

25  
26  
27  
28 **To Revise Bylaw 3.8.3.5**  
29 **Colloquy Committee for Commissioned Ministry**

30  
31 **RESOLUTION 5-08**

32  
33 Overtures 5-24-28 (CW, pp. 197-202)

34  
35 **Rationale**

36  
37 It is proposed that the bylaw on commissioned minister colloquy be revised to achieve the following  
38 purposes:

- 39  
40 1. The policies and procedures of colloquy for commissioned ministers would be more effectively maintained  
41 by the Synod's Colloquy Committee for Commissioned Ministry that administers the program and delivers  
42 the instruction.
- 43 2. The addition of one representative from CUEnet, which has responsibility for providing the educational  
44 content for commissioned ministry colloquy, and two Concordia University System faculty representing  
45 those who are examining the candidates for certification. These additions will provide input on the effec-  
46 tiveness of the candidates' preparation.

47  
48 **PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING**

49  
50 3.8.3.5 ~~Colloquy~~ Commissioned ministry colloquy programs prepare men and women who are currently serving  
51 in ministry roles for membership in the Synod.

52  
53 (a) Colloquy programs ensure that those who seek to join the Synod have been educated in theology,  
54 have become oriented to service to the Synod, and have demonstrated the professional and spiritual  
55 attributes that the Synod expects of its members.

1 (b) Qualified applicants are those who are competent workers in the field for which they seek  
2 colloquy; ~~therefore, colloquy does not provide basic preparation for the field of service. For example,~~  
3 ~~colloquy does not provide courses in lesson preparation; rather, it provides a theological education to~~  
4 ~~professionally-qualified teachers.~~

5  
6 *Colloquy Committee for Commissioned Ministry*

7  
8 3.8.3.5.1 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Colloquy Committee for Commissioned Ministry shall consist of  
9 ~~a vice president the First Vice-President of the Synod as chair, the executive director of the Board for~~  
10 ~~University Education a representative of Concordia University System, and two college/university~~  
11 ~~presidents- appointed by the~~ The President of the Synod, two Concordia University System faculty  
12 involved in colloquy appointed by the president of Concordia University System, and one representative  
13 from CUEnet. ~~shall appoint the vice president of the Synod and the two college/university presidents~~  
14 ~~serving on the committee. The vice president appointed by the President shall be the chairman of the~~  
15 ~~committee.~~

16  
17 (a) ~~The committee shall direct the Synod activity in matters of colloquies for commissioned ministers.~~  
18 For each minister of religion—commissioned category, the colloquy committee shall oversee the  
19 prerequisites for applications, required courses of study, and internship expectations.

20  
21 (b) The committee shall also establish and monitor academic and theological standards for each of the  
22 colloquy programs. The committee shall consult the directors of the programs at the Synod's colleges  
23 and universities when establishing or reviewing the standards.

24  
25 (c) The committee shall render a report on the commissioned-minister colloquy activities to each  
26 convention of the Synod.

27  
28 *Application and Certification*

29  
30 ~~3.8.3.5.2 Each individual college or university shall be responsible for acting upon applications and for~~  
31 ~~establishing a prescribed program of study (including the requisite courses in theology) for each person~~  
32 ~~admitted.~~

33  
34 (a) ~~Each of the Synod's colleges and universities shall have a colloquy-examining committee.~~

35  
36 (b) ~~The institution's president shall appoint the committee, and it shall include the directors of the~~  
37 ~~commissioned ministry programs.~~

38  
39 3.8.3.5.2.1 ~~Persons seeking membership in the Synod through a colloquy program for commissioned ministry shall~~  
40 ~~submit an application to one of the Concordia campuses offering the desired colloquy program or to~~  
41 ~~Concordia University Education Network (CUEnet) when applicable. Determination of the applicant's~~  
42 ~~eligibility to begin a course of study shall rest with each institution and/or with CUEnet. The student~~  
43 ~~shall also be notified regarding the remaining procedures outlined in this section.~~

44  
45 (a) ~~After the student's application has been reviewed and accepted and a course of study has been~~  
46 ~~prescribed, the student may begin taking courses.~~

47  
48 (b) ~~As the student begins taking the courses prescribed, the endorsement of the district president (and~~  
49 ~~others, depending upon program) shall be sought by the student.~~

50  
51 3.8.3.5.2.2 ~~After the prescribed course of study has been completed and all endorsements have been finalized, the~~  
52 ~~student shall be examined by a faculty colloquy-examining committee.~~

53  
54 (a) ~~If the faculty colloquy-examining committee finds the student satisfactorily prepared for ministry, the~~  
55 ~~committee shall recommend the student to the full faculty for certification.~~

1 ~~(b)After the student has been certified, the chairman of the colloquy examining committee for~~  
2 ~~commissioned ministry shall cause the name of the student to be published in an official periodical of the~~  
3 ~~Synod.~~

4  
5 ~~(c)The chairman of the Colloquy Committee for Commissioned Ministry shall notify the Colloquy~~  
6 ~~Committee for Commissioned Ministry of any objections received from the church.~~

7  
8 ~~3.8.3.5.2.3 The Colloquy Committee for Commissioned Ministry, in its sole discretion, shall decide whether an~~  
9 ~~objection is valid.~~

10  
11 ~~(a)The decision of the committee cannot be appealed.~~

12  
13 ~~(b)If no valid objection is submitted to the chairman of the Colloquy Committee for Commissioned~~  
14 ~~Ministry within a period of four weeks following publication of notice, the student shall be declared~~  
15 ~~eligible for placement.~~

16  
17 *Placement*

18  
19 ~~3.8.3.5.3 When all requirements have been met, including a final oral examination, the faculty of the respective~~  
20 ~~educational institution shall declare that the student is a candidate for placement as a minister of religion~~  
21 ~~commissioned.~~

22  
23 ~~(a)Such action shall be reported to the chairman of the Colloquy Committee for Commissioned Ministry~~  
24 ~~and the appropriate district president.~~

25  
26 ~~(b)Notice of the action shall be published in an official periodical of the Synod.~~

27  
28 ~~3.8.3.5.3.1 The Council of Presidents, acting as the Board of Assignments, shall assign a call to the candidate.~~  
29 ~~Teacher Colloquy Admission and Curriculum~~

30  
31 ~~3.8.3.5.4 Before submitting an application to the teacher colloquy program, each prospective applicant shall have~~  
32 ~~been a communicant member in good standing of a congregation of the Synod for at least the past two~~  
33 ~~years and shall possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution. He or she shall have completed~~  
34 ~~student teaching under the supervision of a Synod institution offering a bachelor's degree in teacher~~  
35 ~~education or one year of successful teaching in a school recognized by the Synod.~~

36  
37 ~~3.8.3.5.4.1 Students shall complete eight courses in biblical interpretation, church history, the Lutheran Confessions,~~  
38 ~~doctrine, the beliefs of other religious bodies, and the ministry of the Lutheran teacher.~~

39  
40 ~~(a)The courses shall be taken in a traditional classroom setting from a Synod college/university, with~~  
41 ~~faculty of a Synod college/university teaching via CUEnet, or in another setting with the prior approval~~  
42 ~~of the Board for University Education.~~

43  
44 ~~(b)Students shall complete an internship under the supervision of a Synod institution offering a~~  
45 ~~bachelor's degree leading to Lutheran teacher certification or one year of successful teaching in a school~~  
46 ~~recognized by the Synod.~~

47  
48 *Director of Christian Education Colloquy Admission and Curriculum*

49  
50 ~~3.8.3.5.5 Before submitting an application to the director of Christian education colloquy program, each~~  
51 ~~prospective applicant shall have been a communicant member in good standing of a congregation of the~~  
52 ~~Synod for at least the past two years and shall possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.~~  
53 ~~Additional admission requirements may be established by the Board for University Education in~~  
54 ~~consultation with the (Synod) Colloquy Committee for Commissioned Ministry and campus program~~  
55 ~~directors.~~

56

1 ~~3.8.3.5.5.1 Students shall complete eight courses in biblical interpretation, church history, the Lutheran Confessions,~~  
2 ~~doctrine, the beliefs of other religious bodies, and the ministry of the director of Christian education.~~

3  
4 ~~(a)The courses shall be taken in a traditional classroom setting from a Synod college/university, with~~  
5 ~~faculty of a Synod college/university teaching via CUEnet, or in another setting with the prior approval~~  
6 ~~of the Board for University Education.~~

7  
8 ~~(b)Students shall complete an internship under the supervision of a Synod institution offering a~~  
9 ~~bachelor's degree leading to director of Christian education certification or one year of successful~~  
10 ~~Christian education ministry in an LCMS congregation.~~

11  
12 *Director of Christian Outreach Colloquy Admission and Curriculum*

13  
14 ~~3.8.3.5.6 Before submitting an application to the director of Christian outreach colloquy program, each prospective~~  
15 ~~applicant shall have been a communicant member in good standing of a congregation of the Synod for at~~  
16 ~~least the past two years and shall possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution. Additional~~  
17 ~~admission requirements may be established by the Board for University Education in consultation with~~  
18 ~~the (Synod) Colloquy Committee for Commissioned Ministry and campus program directors.~~

19  
20 ~~3.8.3.5.6.1 Students shall complete eight courses in biblical interpretation, church history, the Lutheran Confessions,~~  
21 ~~doctrine, the beliefs of other religious bodies, and the ministry of the director of Christian outreach.~~

22  
23 ~~(a)The courses shall be taken in a traditional classroom setting from a Synod college/university, with~~  
24 ~~faculty of a Synod college/university teaching via CUEnet, or in another setting with the prior approval~~  
25 ~~of the Board for University Education.~~

26  
27 ~~(b)Students shall complete an internship under the supervision of a Synod institution offering a~~  
28 ~~bachelor's degree leading to director of Christian outreach certification or one year of successful~~  
29 ~~Christian outreach ministry in an LCMS congregation.~~

30  
31 *Deaconess Colloquy Admission and Curriculum*

32  
33 ~~3.8.3.5.7 Before submitting an application to the deaconess colloquy program, each prospective applicant shall~~  
34 ~~have been a communicant member in good standing of a congregation of the Synod for at least the past~~  
35 ~~two years and shall possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.~~

36  
37 ~~(a)Each applicant shall have already received training to do the work of a deaconess and shall have~~  
38 ~~served at least three years in a recognized ministry of their previous church body.~~

39  
40 ~~(b)Applicants who do not meet these requirements are to be directed to a Synod institution that offers a~~  
41 ~~deaconess program for enrollment in an undergraduate or alternate route program.~~

42  
43 ~~(c)Additional admission requirements may be established by the Board for University Education in~~  
44 ~~consultation with the (Synod) Colloquy Committee for Commissioned Ministry and campus program~~  
45 ~~directors.~~

46  
47 ~~3.8.3.5.7.1 Students shall complete eight courses in biblical interpretation, church history, the Lutheran Confessions,~~  
48 ~~doctrine, the beliefs of other religious bodies, and the ministry of the deaconess.~~

49  
50 ~~(a)The courses shall be taken in a traditional classroom setting from a Synod college/university, with~~  
51 ~~faculty of a Synod college/university teaching via CUEnet, or in another setting with the prior approval~~  
52 ~~of the Board for University Education.~~

53  
54 ~~(b)Students shall complete an internship under the supervision of a Synod institution offering a~~  
55 ~~bachelor's degree leading to deaconess certification or one year of successful deaconess ministry in an~~  
56 ~~LCMS congregation or an agency recognized by the Synod.~~

1  
2 *Lay Ministry Colloquy Admission and Curriculum*  
3

4 ~~3.8.3.5.8 Before submitting an application to the lay ministry colloquy program, each prospective applicant shall~~  
5 ~~have been a communicant member in good standing of a congregation of the Synod for at least the past~~  
6 ~~two years and shall possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution. Additional admission~~  
7 ~~requirements may be established by the Board for University Education in consultation with the (Synod)~~  
8 ~~Colloquy Committee for Commissioned Ministry and campus program directors.~~  
9

10 ~~3.8.3.5.8.1 Students shall complete eight courses in biblical interpretation, church history, the Lutheran Confessions,~~  
11 ~~doctrine, the beliefs of other religious bodies, and the ministry of the lay minister.~~  
12

13 ~~(a)The courses shall be taken in a traditional classroom setting from a Synod college/university, with~~  
14 ~~faculty of a Synod college/university teaching via CUEnet, or in another setting with the prior approval~~  
15 ~~of the Board for University Education.~~  
16

17 ~~(b)Students shall complete an internship under the supervision of a Synod institution offering a~~  
18 ~~bachelor's degree leading to lay ministry certification or one year of successful lay ministry in an LCMS~~  
19 ~~congregation.~~  
20

21 *Director of Parish Music Colloquy Admission and Curriculum*  
22

23 ~~3.8.3.5.9 Before submitting an application to the director of parish music colloquy program, each prospective~~  
24 ~~applicant shall have been a communicant member in good standing of a congregation of the Synod for at~~  
25 ~~least the past two years and shall possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution. Additional~~  
26 ~~admission requirements may be established by the Board for University Education in consultation with~~  
27 ~~the (Synod) Colloquy Committee for Commissioned Ministry and campus program directors.~~  
28

29 ~~3.8.3.5.9.1 Students shall complete eight courses in biblical interpretation, church history, the Lutheran Confessions,~~  
30 ~~doctrine, the beliefs of other religious bodies, and the ministry of the director of parish music.~~  
31

32 ~~(a)The courses shall be taken in a traditional classroom setting from a Synod college/university, with~~  
33 ~~faculty of a Synod college/university teaching via CUEnet, or in another setting with the prior approval~~  
34 ~~of the Board for University Education.~~  
35

36 ~~(b)Students shall complete an internship under the supervision of a Synod institution offering a~~  
37 ~~bachelor's degree leading to director of parish music certification or one year of successful parish music~~  
38 ~~ministry in an LCMS congregation.~~  
39

40 *Director of Family Life Ministry Colloquy Admission and Curriculum*  
41

42 ~~3.8.3.5.10 Before submitting an application to the director of family life ministry colloquy program, each~~  
43 ~~prospective applicant shall have been a communicant member in good standing of a congregation of the~~  
44 ~~Synod for at least the past two years and shall possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.~~  
45 ~~Additional admission requirements may be established by the Board for University Education in~~  
46 ~~consultation with the (Synod) Colloquy Committee for Commissioned Ministry and campus program~~  
47 ~~directors.~~  
48

49 ~~3.8.3.5.10.1 Students shall complete eight courses in biblical interpretation, church history, the Lutheran~~  
50 ~~Confessions, doctrine, the beliefs of other religious bodies, and the ministry of the director of family life~~  
51 ~~education.~~  
52

53 ~~(a)The courses shall be taken in a traditional classroom setting from a Synod college/university, with~~  
54 ~~faculty of a Synod college/university teaching via CUEnet, or in another setting with the prior approval~~  
55 ~~of the Board for University Education.~~  
56

1 ~~(b)Students shall complete an internship under the supervision of a Synod institution offering a~~  
2 ~~bachelor's degree leading to family life ministry certification or one year of successful family life~~  
3 ~~ministry in an LCMS congregation.~~  
4  
5  
6

7 **To Revise Bylaw 3.8.3.6.2 re Board of Regents Qualifications**

8  
9 **RESOLUTION 5-09**

10  
11 Overture 5-29 (CW, pp. 202–203)

12  
13 **Rationale**

14  
15 Because of the increasing complexity of oversight and governance of higher education programs and  
16 facilities, individuals who serve as board members should be expected to possess appropriate specialized  
17 qualifications (in addition to the Bylaw 3.8.3.6.2 requirement that board members be members of member  
18 congregations of the Synod). These qualifications grow out of the many technical matters that must be understood  
19 and decided as a regent.

- 20  
21 1. The Synod's colleges and universities typically have hundreds of employees and thousands of  
22 students. Personnel, legal, and administrative issues are inherent in a complex organization.  
23 2. The colleges and universities offer hundreds of majors and programs, including several at the  
24 doctoral level.  
25 3. Seven of the colleges and universities manage operational budgets exceeding \$20 million, with  
26 two institutional budgets exceeding \$50 million. Fiscal management requires strategic decision-  
27 making to maintain fiscal viability.  
28 4. Colleges and universities of the LCMS insure facilities with a replacement value exceeding \$1.5  
29 billion, some of which is financed through state and local bond issues. Managing, maintaining,  
30 and financing multiple facilities to minimize capital debt is essential.  
31 5. Each board of regents has the fiduciary responsibility to set strategic directions for the institution  
32 and to govern the areas of academics, finance, student life, enrollment, and fund development.  
33

34 Therefore, be it

35  
36 *Resolved*, That Bylaw 3.8.3.6.2 be amended as follows:

37  
38 **PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING**

39  
40 3.8.3.6.2 The board of regents of each college and university shall consist of no more than 17 voting members...

41  
42 ...7. Persons elected or appointed to a board of regents should possess several of the following  
43 qualifications: be knowledgeable regarding the region in which the institution is located, possess an  
44 advanced academic degree, have experience in higher education administration, administration of  
45 complex organizations, finance, law, investments, technology, human resources, facilities  
46 management, or fund development.  
47  
48  
49

50 **To Clarify Bylaw 3.8.3.8.2 re Promotion of Faculty**

51  
52 **RESOLUTION 5-10**

53  
54 Overture 5-34 (CW, pp. 205–206)

55  
56 **Rationale**

1 This bylaw regarding faculty candidates for advancement to “continuing status” needs to be revised in two  
2 ways.

- 3
- 4 1. The requirement that the names of candidates be published in an official periodical serves no useful  
5 role in the process—in fact, it delays the process unnecessarily. The relevant data is collected from the  
6 candidate’s publications, teaching record, student evaluations, etc. Therefore the requirement that the  
7 names be published needs to be deleted.
- 8 2. The reference to “electors” in point (e) (4) is undefined and vague, and should be deleted. Because  
9 no one knows who those electors are, the current practice is to assign this responsibility to the board  
10 of regents as stated in point (e) (5); therefore be it

11 *Resolved*, That Bylaw 3.8.3.8.2 (e) be revised to read:

12  
13 **PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING**

14  
15  
16 3.8.3.8.2 Each educational institution shall have established policies and procedures related to appointments....

17  
18 ... (e) Steps in moving a faculty member from an initial-level appointment to a continuing-level appoint-  
19 ment shall be the following:

20  
21 (1) If the board of regents, on recommendation of the president of the institution, determines that a  
22 faculty member meets the above requirements and is still at the initial-level appointment, it shall  
23 either carry forward the procedure for promotion to a continuing-level appointment or inform the  
24 faculty member of its decision not to do so, in which case the individual either may continue at the  
25 initial-level appointment or be terminated. Any continuation of employment at the initial-level  
26 appointment shall be on a year-to-year basis. Faculty employment during the initial-level  
27 appointment period may be terminated without disclosure of cause. In cases in which the decision is  
28 made to terminate the individual’s contract, the contract shall be extended for at least six months  
29 beyond the time at which notice is given. If the board of regents does not take up the question of  
30 promotion to a continuing-level appointment at least nine months prior to the end of the sixth year of  
31 service, the faculty member may petition the board of regents to do so.

32  
33 ~~(2) Notice of intent to promote to a continuing level appointment status shall be announced in an~~  
34 ~~official periodical of the Synod.~~

35  
36 ~~(3) The faculty member shall be given the opportunity to respond to any comments or concerns that~~  
37 ~~may have been raised relative to promotion to a continuing level appointment.~~

38  
39 ~~(4) At least six weeks after the notice is published, consent of the electors of the institution shall be~~  
40 ~~given.~~

41  
42 ~~(5)~~(2) ~~If the above steps have all been met, after~~ After final review the board of regents may promote  
43 to a continuing-level appointment status.

44  
45  
46  
47 **To Clarify Bylaw 3.8.2.7.2 (e) re Promotion of Faculty**

48  
49 **RESOLUTION 5-11**

50  
51 Overture 5-34 (CW, pp. 205–206)

52  
53 **Rationale**

54  
55 This bylaw regarding faculty candidates for advancement to “continuing status” needs to be revised in two  
56 ways.

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9
1. The requirement that the names of candidates be published in an official periodical serves no useful role in the process—in fact, it delays the process unnecessarily. The relevant data is collected from the candidate’s publications, teaching record, student evaluations, etc. Therefore the requirement that the names be published needs to be deleted.
  2. The reference to “electors” in point (e) (4) is undefined and vague, and should be deleted. Because no one knows who those electors are, the current practice is to assign this responsibility to the board of regents as stated in point (e) (5); therefore be it

10 *Resolved*, That Bylaw 3.8.2.7.2 (e) be revised to read:

11  
12 PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

13  
14 3.8.2.7.2 Each theological seminary shall have established policies and procedures related to appointments....

15  
16  
17 ... (e) Steps in moving a faculty member from an initial-level appointment to a continuing-level appoint-  
18 ment shall be the following:

19  
20 (1) If the board of regents, on recommendation of the president of the seminary, determines that a  
21 faculty member meets the above requirements and is still at the initial-level appointment, it shall  
22 either carry forward the procedure for promotion to a continuing-level appointment or inform the  
23 faculty member of its decision not to do so, in which case the individual either may continue at the  
24 initial-level appointment or be terminated. Any continuation of employment at the initial-level  
25 appointment shall be on a year-to-year basis. Faculty employment during the initial-level  
26 appointment period may be terminated without disclosure of cause. In cases in which the decision is  
27 made to terminate the individual’s contract, the contract shall be extended for at least six months  
28 beyond the time at which notice is given. If the board of regents does not take up the question of  
29 promotion to a continuing-level appointment at least nine months prior to the end of the sixth year of  
30 service, the faculty member may petition the board of regents to do so.

31  
32 ~~(2) Notice of intent to promote to a continuing level appointment status shall be announced in an~~  
33 ~~official periodical of the Synod.~~

34  
35 ~~(3) The faculty member shall be given the opportunity to respond to any comments or concerns that~~  
36 ~~may have been raised relative to promotion to a continuing level appointment.~~

37  
38 ~~(4) At least six weeks after the notice is published, consent of the electors of the institution shall be~~  
39 ~~given.~~

40  
41 ~~(5) (2) If the above steps have all been met, after~~ After final review the board of regents may  
42 promote to a continuing-level appointment status.

43  
44  
45  
46 **To Revise Bylaw 3.8.3.8.3 (b) re Faculty Appointments**

47  
48 **RESOLUTION 5-12**

49  
50 Overtures 5-35–36 (CW, p. 206)

51  
52 **Rationale**

- 53  
54 1. Bylaw 3.8.3.8.3 (appointment of members to faculties of the Synod’s institutions) was altered by the 1998  
55 convention of the Synod. This action changed the former wording: “When, in exceptional cases, laypersons  
56 are involved, they should be persons who are solemnly pledged to the Holy Scriptures as the inspired Word

1 of God and to the Lutheran Confessions” to currently read (3.8.3.8.3 [b]): “When laypersons are employed  
2 in full-time teaching positions, they shall pledge to perform their duties in harmony with the Holy  
3 Scriptures as the inspired Word of God, the Lutheran Confessions, the Synod’s doctrinal statements, and  
4 the policies of the Synod.”

- 5 2. The expression “and the policies of the Synod” is imprecise and ambiguous since there are no centrally  
6 defined “policies of the Synod” to which anyone else is pledged.
- 7 3. All faculty members of Synod institutions are already pledged to “the Holy Scriptures as the inspired Word  
8 of God, the Lutheran Confessions, [and] the Synod’s doctrinal statements.”
- 9 4. In addition, it is proposed that the convention delete the statement that “ordinarily” full-time faculty are  
10 rostered members of the Synod. In fact, in many disciplines of study the most qualified faculty members  
11 are not rostered members of the Synod

12  
13 Therefore be it

14  
15 *Resolved*, That the first sentence and the later phrase “and the policies of the Synod” be removed from  
16 Bylaw 3.8.3.8.3 (b) so that the bylaw will read:

17  
18 **PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING**

19  
20 3.8.3.8.3 The board of regents on recommendation of the president of the institution shall appoint full-time  
21 members of the faculty....

22  
23 ~~...(b) Ordinarily candidates for full-time teaching positions shall be rostered members of the Synod.~~  
24 When laypersons are employed in full-time teaching positions, they shall pledge to perform their duties  
25 in harmony with the Holy Scriptures as the inspired Word of God, the Lutheran Confessions, and the  
26 Synod’s doctrinal statements, ~~and the policies of the Synod.~~

27  
28  
29  
30 **To Respectfully Decline Overtures**

31  
32 **RESOLUTION 5-13**

33  
34 WHEREAS, The floor committee has considered all overtures assigned to it and has concluded, for various  
35 reasons, that certain overtures should be declined; therefore be it

36  
37 *Resolved*, That the following overtures be respectfully declined for the reasons given:

38 <u>Number</u>	39 <u>Subject</u>	40 <u>Reason</u>
41 Ov. 5-16	42 Provide to Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) 43 Students the Same Pre-Ordination Core 44 Curriculum as Residential Seminary Students	Necessary data not available to warrant curriculum change
45 Ov. 5-22	46 Direct President to Clarify Teaching of Six-Day 47 Creation in Synod Schools	48 Boards of Regents and District 49 Presidents are primarily responsible for theological content and for doctrinal positions
50 Ov. 5-23	51 Oppose evolution and commend Creation 52 Research Society and creation museum	53 Endorsement of theologically- 54 oriented organizations should be 55 handled by the CTCR. Seminary and CUS 56 faculty members are bound to honor the 57 Academic Freedom limitation statement of 2002. The LCMS has consistently made its position clear regarding a six day creation.

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## 6. HUMAN CARE

### To Commend LCMS Disaster Relief Work, Particularly in Haiti

#### RESOLUTION 6-01

Report 6-01 (CW, pp. 102-112)

WHEREAS, The past triennium has seen creation being subject to futility and groaning (Rom. 8:20–23) in the wake of severe natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, These disasters brought loss of life, the displacement of families, and horrific damage and devastation, along with the disruption of domestic life and employment; and

WHEREAS, The nation of Haiti suffered one of the most devastating earthquakes in recent memory, with over 200,000 dead, a generation of amputees, and the loss of livelihood and property; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS, through its World Mission staff in the Dominican Republic and through LCMS World Relief and Human Care, had the capacity to respond to people in need in Haiti and to assist the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti and the Lutheran Church of Haiti within ten days of the earthquake, both in their needs and in their outreach to their neighbors; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS responded to the earthquake in Chile and many other disasters during the past triennium; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS, through its World Relief and Human Care department, awarded 210 domestic and 53 international disaster grants during the past triennium; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS, through its World Relief and Human Care partnerships with recognized service organizations, has assisted millions of people; and

WHEREAS, LCMS World Relief and Human Care has developed significant capacity both internally and among its partners throughout the world; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the people of the LCMS give thanks to the Lord for the good work He has done among us through untold numbers of people and organizations, in particular LCMS World Relief and Human Care, LCMS World Mission, Orphan Grain Train, the districts of the LCMS and their congregations, the Haitian mission societies, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti, and the Lutheran Church of Haiti; and be it further

*Resolved*, That in thankfulness to the Lord for His blessings upon His church, the Synod seek to preserve and maintain the disaster response and human care capacity that has been developed, so that it will be prepared to respond in Christ's love to our brothers and sisters in need when the next disaster strikes; and be it finally

*Resolved*, That enlivened by the gifts of Christ, the LCMS continue to make a bold witness to the world through works of mercy. *Soli Deo Gloria*.

1 **To Be a Light for Life**

2  
3 **RESOLUTION 6-02**

4  
5 Overtures 6-02–03 (CW, p. 207)

6  
7 WHEREAS, The Bible clearly states that the child in a mother’s womb is a living human being (Jer. 1:5; Ps.  
8 139:16; Is. 49:1, 5; Luke 1:41, 44); and

9  
10 WHEREAS, The Fifth Commandment, “You shall not murder,” along with the Small Catechism’s  
11 explanation “not to hurt nor harm our neighbor, but help and support him in every physical need” celebrate God’s  
12 gift of life; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, Christians are called “to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves” (Prov. 31:8–9);  
15 and

16  
17 WHEREAS, The “Mexico City Policy” has been rescinded by executive order, allowing for the use of federal  
18 tax dollars to fund abortions outside the United States; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, Recent national health care legislation (“Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act”—March  
21 30, 2010) has raised a number of concerns regarding the use of federal funds for abortions; therefore be it

22  
23 *Resolved*, That with one voice the LCMS in convention denounce any legislation or action that supports or  
24 funds abortions; and be it further

25  
26 *Resolved*, That all LCMS congregations be encouraged to work at the grass roots level with local crisis  
27 pregnancy centers; and be it further

28  
29 *Resolved*, That the LCMS commend the work of Lutherans for Life and encourage the Synod’s  
30 congregations, pastors, and congregational members to affirm the sanctity of life; and be it further

31  
32 *Resolved*, That Synod maintain the LCMS sanctity of life ministry regardless of the outcome of Synod  
33 restructuring; and be it finally

34  
35 *Resolved*, That a conference be convened by the sanctity of life ministry that will provide encouragement  
36 to all LCMS members currently involved in elective and legislative processes and help them to be more vocal about  
37 prolife issues, and that will equip and encourage more LCMS members to become involved in the governmental  
38 process of our country.

39  
40  
41 **To Amend Bylaws to Allow the Extension of Calls to Institutional Chaplains and Counselors**

42  
43 **RESOLUTION 6-03**

44  
45 Overture 6-04 (CW, pp. 207–208)

46  
47  
48 WHEREAS, The LCMS currently calls ordained pastors to serve as military chaplains, Veterans  
49 Administration (VA) chaplains, and Federal Bureau of Prison chaplains through the Board for Mission Services; and

50  
51 WHEREAS, The LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations has recognized the validity of the  
52 divine call in specialized fields of service such as chaplains: “The call to proclaim Law and Gospel does not take  
53 place in a vacuum. It occurs within specific contexts and situations. According to the second principle [recognition  
54 of the congregation’s needs] we may conclude that, in addition to regular Word and sacrament ministry within  
55 congregations, the church’s need for particular gifts or specialized skills at times is best met by something less than  
56 an open-ended call. We may proceed in this way [and have already done so] as long as we do not undermine the

1 divine institution of the office or hinder in any way the proclamation of the whole counsel of God. Such has been the  
2 case within The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for much of its history with regard to theological professors,  
3 district and Synod officials, military chaplains, campus pastors, missionaries, church planters, etc. Several examples  
4 can illustrate such situations” (*The Divine Call*, Feb. 2003, p. 39); and  
5

6 WHEREAS, LCMS institutional chaplains, pastoral counselors, and teachers of chaplaincy and pastoral  
7 counseling do not serve outside of the church’s healing ministry of Christ, but rather are an integral part of a long  
8 tradition in the LCMS of providing specially trained ministers to carry out the mission and ministry of the church in  
9 very challenging and demanding settings in life; and  
10

11 WHEREAS, The LCMS currently does not call ordained or commissioned ministers to serve as institutional  
12 chaplains, pastoral counselors, and teachers of chaplaincy and pastoral counseling, which has resulted in ordained  
13 and commissioned ministers currently serving in ministries of chaplaincy, pastoral counseling, and clinical  
14 education without a divine call for ministry; therefore be it  
15

16 *Resolved*, That Bylaw 3.8.7.2 be amended by the addition of the following two subparagraphs after  
17 paragraph (a) [also renumbering current paragraphs (b) through (h) to become (d) through (j)] as follows:  
18

19 **PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING**

20  
21 (b) The board will function as the liaison and ecclesiastical endorsement agency with the various  
22 professional pastoral care organizations, chaplaincy settings, pastoral counseling centers, and training  
23 centers, and as a liaison between these units and the Synod’s chaplains, pastoral counselors, and teachers of  
24 chaplaincy and pastoral counseling.

25 (c) The board will provide through call a ministry to institutions, agencies, and districts that request  
26 chaplaincy, pastoral counseling, or teachers of chaplaincy and pastoral counseling, always in consultation  
27 with the local district president.  
28

29 and be it finally  
30

31 *Resolved*, That Bylaw 2.12.1.4, which provides for district membership and ecclesiastical supervision, be  
32 amended to read:  
33

34 **PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING**

35  
36 2.12.1.4 A missionary or chaplain serving under a call by the Synod through the Board for Mission Services, or  
37 an institutional chaplain, pastoral counselor, or teacher of chaplaincy and pastoral counseling serving  
38 under a call by the Synod through the Board for Human Care Ministries shall hold membership in the  
39 Synod through the district designated by the missionary or chaplain if approved by the president of that  
40 district after consultation with the ~~Board for Mission Services~~ respective calling board and the  
41 president of the district through which membership is currently held.  
42  
43  
44

45 **To Combat Malaria**

46 **RESOLUTION 6-04**

47  
48  
49 Overture 6-01 (CW, p. 207)

50  
51 WHEREAS, Nearly one-half of the world’s population is at risk of contracting malaria; and  
52

53 WHEREAS, Malaria affects 500 million people a year and kills one million of them; and  
54

55 WHEREAS, This death rate translates into 2,880 deaths a day, 120 deaths an hour, or one death every 30  
56 seconds; and

1           WHEREAS, The vast majority of those affected by malaria are children in Africa; and  
2           WHEREAS, Malaria is a largely preventable and treatable disease worsened by poverty; and

3  
4           WHEREAS, Many of the world’s wealthiest nations, including the United States, are largely unaware of the  
5 crisis of malaria; and

6  
7           WHEREAS, The Lutheran Malaria Initiative (LMI) is an unprecedented collaborative effort to mobilize the  
8 nearly eight million Lutherans in the United States to join in the battle against malaria; and

9  
10          WHEREAS, U.S. Lutherans have been called by Christ to look after the needs of the “least of these” (Matt.  
11 25:31–46) through “cooperation in externals”; and

12  
13          WHEREAS, The preventable deaths of one million people a year call out for a compassionate response; and

14  
15          WHEREAS, Lutheran World Relief (LWR), the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and The  
16 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), with financial support from the United Nations Foundation (UNF),  
17 have been invited to participate in the initiative; and

18  
19          WHEREAS, LMI’s goal is to combat malaria through intensified and comprehensive efforts in education,  
20 prevention, advocacy, and mobilization of resources; and

21  
22          WHEREAS, The LCMS Board of Directors has endorsed a LCMS/LWR joint proposal to the UNF,  
23 including a grant request of \$4 million to be made by these two entities to the foundation; and

24  
25          WHEREAS, The Synod and Lutheran World Relief are developing a collaborative and coordinative  
26 memorandum of understanding regarding appropriate policies for working in concert to raise \$45 million to combat  
27 malaria and to build support among their respective constituencies for the initiative; and

28  
29          WHEREAS, Funds raised by the LCMS for LMI will be channeled through existing partner churches and  
30 organizations in African countries where malaria is most prevalent, as the Synod cooperates with and helps to  
31 empower, engage, uplift, and support its partners in the battle to prevent and treat malaria; and

32  
33          WHEREAS, The LCMS Michigan District schools devoted their February “Hearts for Jesus” campaign to  
34 educating children about malaria and committed their chapel offerings to LMI; and

35  
36          WHEREAS, Concordia Publishing House has expressed an interest in creating Vacation Bible School study  
37 materials around LMI; and

38  
39          WHEREAS, The LMI initiative affords the LCMS a unique opportunity to increase the capacity of its partner  
40 churches to save lives and share the Gospel; therefore be it

41  
42          *Resolved*, That the LCMS be prayerfully committed to the LMI goals of education, advocacy, and fund-  
43 raising to prevent and contain malaria; and be it further

44  
45          *Resolved*, That the LCMS through its agencies, congregations, schools, universities, and seminaries support  
46 LMI; and be it finally

47  
48          *Resolved*, That the LCMS join LMI in this life-saving effort for five years, beginning in 2010.  
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1  
2 **To Encourage Continued Emphasis**  
3 **On Prison and Jail Ministry**

4  
5 **RESOLUTION 6-05**

6  
7 Report 6-01 (CW, pp. 102–112)

8  
9 WHEREAS, The importance of ministering to those who are in prison has been stressed by our Lord Jesus in  
10 Matthew 25:36 (“I was in prison and you visited me”) and by the example of the early church as reflected in  
11 Hebrews 10:34 (“For you had compassion for those who were in prison”); and

12  
13 WHEREAS, The 1998 LCMS convention resolved that the Synod in the year 2000, prior to its next  
14 convention, sponsor a prison and jail ministry training and equipping retreat for clergy and lay volunteers; and

15  
16 WHEREAS, In response to that resolution, the first Synod-wide prison and jail training retreat, “Catch the  
17 Vision,” was held in 2005, a two-day event in which at least 25 of the Synod’s 35 districts participated; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, Those attending this event commented how refreshing it was to see so many others in the Synod  
20 committed to bring the compassion of Christ and the Gospel to those incarcerated and their families; and

21  
22 WHEREAS, During this two-day event a brainstorming session enthusiastically supported having these types  
23 of conferences in years to come and forming an online support network in the Synod; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, This two-day event was organized by LCMS World Relief and Human Care and the LCMS  
26 Southern Illinois District and was partially funded by the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML); and

27  
28 WHEREAS, The LWML at its 33rd biennial convention voted to fund \$50,000 for LCMS prison ministry in  
29 order to provide 5,000 copies of Lutheran devotional materials to U.S. prison inmates; and

30  
31 WHEREAS, Each district of the Synod has within its region some large prison institutions and many jail  
32 settings; and

33  
34 WHEREAS, Prison and jail ministry addresses with God’s Word not only prisoners, but also ex-prisoners,  
35 families, prison staff, and victims of crime, directly affecting more and more of the Synod’s congregations and  
36 church members; and

37  
38 WHEREAS, Prison and jail ministry also offers many opportunities to share the Gospel with persons who do  
39 not yet know Jesus Christ; and

40  
41 WHEREAS, The Bible states that Jesus said, “As you did it to the least of these, you did it to Me” (Matt.  
42 25:40); and

43  
44 WHEREAS, For the past 100 years, many LCMS districts have sought to be faithful to our Lord’s mandate to  
45 visit those in prison by their support of prison ministry; and

46  
47 WHEREAS, Crime has touched virtually every congregation of the Synod as members, relatives, or friends  
48 have experienced the crisis of imprisonment; and

49  
50 WHEREAS, The Synod has a goal of reaching 100 million unreached and uncommitted people with the  
51 Gospel by 2017, the 500th anniversary of the Reformation; therefore be it

52  
53 *Resolved*, That the Synod’s Board for Human Care Ministries be charged with the task of developing  
54 resources to recruit, train, and equip clergy and lay volunteers for prison and jail ministry; and be it further  
55





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## 7. ECCLESIAL MATTERS

### To Encourage Task Force on Synodical Harmony

#### RESOLUTION 7-01

Report 4-04-01 (CW, pp. 74–76)

WHEREAS, The 2007 LCMS convention, by adoption of Res. 4-01A, directed action to initiate a specific plan to restore harmony in our Synod for the sake of the whole church; and

WHEREAS, In response to Res. 4-01A, the Council of Presidents and Board of Directors chartered a group of twelve leaders in the Synod with the task of recommending “a strategy for harmony”; and

WHEREAS, The “Progress Report of the Task Force on Synodical Harmony” has been published as a report to this convention (2010 CW, pp. 74–76); therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the aforesaid report be made available to members of Synod by publication on its Web site; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the task force be encouraged in its continuing work of developing specific strategies to move us toward greater harmony in the LCMS; and be it finally

*Resolved*, That the Synod at large be encouraged to continue its efforts to be in harmony with one another.

### To Affirm Ecclesiastical Supervision

#### RESOLUTION 7-02

Overtures 7-12–16 (CW, pp. 214–217)

#### Report to the Convention—Floor Committee 7 (as required by Bylaw 3.9.2.2 [c])

The following documents will be referenced in the following report, which satisfies the requirement of Bylaw 3.9.2.2 (c) regarding overtures considered by the floor committee that “seek to overrule” opinions of the Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM):

CCM Opinions 02-2296; 02-2309; 02-2320; 03-2338; 03-2338A; 03-2338C

Board of Directors Response to CCM Opinions

2004 Res. 7-02A

2007 Res. 8-10

CCM Opinion 09-2570

Commission on Theology and Church Relations Response to 2007 Res. 8-10

2010 Report of the President, Part II

#### Introduction

Overtures 7-12 through 7-16 request that the convention overrule CCM Opinion 02-2309 and other related opinions dealing with ecclesiastical supervision and expulsion of a member who, when performing his or her official duties, follows the advice and counsel of the ecclesiastical supervisor designated by the Synod. Pursuant to Bylaw 3.9.2.2 (c), the floor committee has considered these overtures and provides this report with recommendations for appropriate action.

1 **History**  
2

3 In January 20–21, 2003, the CCM adopted Opinions 02-2296, 02-2309, and 02-2320 (*CW*, pp. 249–251).  
4 Thereafter the CCM also addressed the issue of ecclesiastical supervision in Opinion 03-2338 03-2338A, 03-2338C  
5 and Opinion 03-2338B (*CW*, pp. 251-252). At its November 20–22, 2003 meeting, the Synod’s Board of Directors  
6 (BOD) challenged opinions 02-2296, 02-2309, and 02-2320, adopting a resolution<sup>1</sup> declaring them to be of no effect.  
7 This action resulted in multiple overtures and resolutions to the 2004 convention, including the same above request  
8 to overrule the opinions.  
9

10 After extensive discussion and debate, the 2004 convention adopted Res. 7-02A,<sup>2</sup> which overruled the BOD  
11 action and declared the board’s resolution to be of no effect. Therefore, the CCM opinions remained binding and in  
12 effect.  
13

14 In 2007 there were again multiple challenges to the same opinions (2007 Overtures 8-47–57). After  
15 carefully reviewing these overtures, Floor Committee 8 submitted Res. 8-10,<sup>3</sup> which was adopted by the convention  
16 by a vote of 603 to 191. The resolution referred the CCM opinions in question to the Commission on Theology and  
17 Church Relations (CTCR) for consideration and a report back to the 2010 convention.  
18

19 On November 5, 2009, the President of the Synod requested that the CCM “prepare a succinct yet  
20 comprehensive review and summary of the topics addressed by CCM Opinion 02-2309 and any subsequent  
21 opinions, reports, resolutions, or other documents that pertain thereto.” The CCM issued Opinion 09-2570 (*CW*, pp.  
22 278–279) at its January 23–24, 2010 meeting, in which it reaffirmed its consistent interpretation of the Synod’s  
23 Constitution regarding ecclesiastical supervision.  
24

25 On February 12, 2010, the CTCR adopted its response to 2007 Res. 8-10 (*CW*, pp. 61–63). After  
26 consultation with the Council of Presidents (COP) and Commission on Structure (COS), the CTCR found the  
27 theological criticisms of the opinions of the CCM to be without merit.  
28

29 **Impunity and Immunity**  
30

31 The Preamble to the provisions for dispute resolution for the Synod states:  
32

33 Christians involved in conflict must always stand ready to ask for or extend forgiveness in accordance with  
34 Scripture. As the church endeavors to help bring about peace, truth, justice, and reconciliation, it always  
35 seeks to do so with a proper distinction between Law and Gospel, that is, in the context of God’s judgment  
36 and mercy. We are ever to be mindful that it is God who judges the hearts of sinful men and grants His  
37 gracious word of forgiveness to us all. [Bylaw 1.10.1.5; see also Bylaw 2.14.1]  
38

39 Both dispute resolution and ecclesiastical supervision in the Synod are designed to encourage and provide  
40 for unity in the Synod and truth in the teaching of doctrine. They are not designed to seek recompense and  
41 punishment but are designed to lead to reconciliation, restoring the erring member in the spirit of gentleness and  
42 avoiding the adversarial system practiced in society:  
43

44 When there is repentance and reconciliation, the body of Christ rejoices in its oneness with Christ and with  
45 one another. [Bylaw 1.10.1.6]  
46 [The district president] may apart from the investigation also appoint a small committee to assist in  
47 reconciliation efforts. [Bylaw 2.14.4 (c)].  
48

49 Although a number of the overtures submitted to the 2010 convention concerning CCM opinions have  
50 suggested that those in question allow for members of the Synod under certain circumstances to act “with impunity  
51 and immunity,” this is simply not so. In its report to the convention (*CW*, pp. 61 – 63), the CTCR makes clear that  
52 though a member may act on the basis of advice solicited and received in good faith, if that advice and direction is  
53 later determined to be in error, such member is required to acknowledge his/her error and correct his/her behavior  
54 accordingly. Failure to do so subjects such a member to admonishment and, in the case of his/her failure to correct  
55 the action in question, expulsion from membership in the Synod. This is true if the member is an ordained or  
56 commissioned minister, a district president, or even the President of the Synod.

1 This report is in all essentials supported and confirmed by the opinions of the CCM:  
2

3 The protections of the Synod as expressed in Opinion 02-2309 are protections of one's membership in the  
4 Synod and not a protection from the duty and responsibility to constantly consider the appropriateness of  
5 one's actions in view of the Word of God. No one is immune from responsible, God-pleasing conduct and  
6 behavior or personal accountability before God. [Opinion 03-2338, 03-2338A, 03-2338C (CW, p. 252)]  
7

8 And further:  
9

10 If an act is in fact contrary to Article XIII of the Constitution, the member who acted cannot be charged  
11 since he or she acted according to the advice of his or her ecclesiastical supervisor. It should be noted,  
12 however, that when an ecclesiastical supervisor discovers error in his counsel, it is incumbent upon that  
13 supervisor to correct or amend it. The member should then be held to consider the corrected counsel.  
14 Failure to consider such amended admonition could form the basis for disciplinary action as provided in  
15 Article XIII. [Opinion 02-2309 (CW, p. 250)]  
16

17 And finally:  
18

19 Neither the Synod itself nor its chosen ecclesiastical supervisor may grant anyone the right to violate the  
20 Scriptures with impunity. The Synod through its ecclesiastical supervisors provides counsel and advice—  
21 not immunity, approval, or permission, much less license. To the extent that an ecclesiastical supervisor's  
22 counsel and advice is contrary to Holy Scripture, such supervisor must himself be held accountable. And to  
23 the extent that the Synod becomes aware that one of its chose and delegated ecclesiastical supervisors has  
24 given erroneous advice which has been relied upon by a member, the Synod must provide that member  
25 with corrected advice and give the member the opportunity to take corrective steps before expelling such  
26 member. [Opinion 09-2570 (CW, p. 278)]  
27

## 28 **Conclusion and Recommendation** 29

30 CCM Opinions 02-2296, -2-2309, and 02-2320, issued over seven years ago, have been reviewed by two  
31 subsequent conventions of the Synod, but they continue to attract attention and misunderstanding as evidenced by  
32 the overtures to this convention. Based upon the extensive review of these and related CCM opinions by previous  
33 conventions, as well as the CTCR, COP, and COS, Floor Committee 7 recommends the adoption of Res. 7-02.  
34

35  
36  
37 <sup>1</sup> November 20–22, 2003 resolution of the Board of Directors:

38 WHEREAS, The Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) has precisely defined service functions described in  
39 Bylaw 3.905 of the *Handbook*, including the interpretation of the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod upon  
40 written request (paragraph d); and

41 WHEREAS, CCM Opinions 02-2296, 02-2309, and 02-2320 exceed the service function of the CCM provided in Bylaw  
42 3.905 d; and

43 WHEREAS, Article XIII of the Constitution states that members shall be expelled from the Synod if they act contrary to  
44 the confession laid down in Article II or persist in an offensive conduct; and

45 WHEREAS, CCM Opinions 02-2296, 02-2309, and 02-2320 conclude that the Synod is precluded from taking any action  
46 to terminate membership of a member who has in fact acted contrary to Article XIII when the conduct is done with the  
47 advice and counsel of the member's ecclesiastical supervisor; and

48 WHEREAS, Neither Article XIII nor any other provision in the Constitution or Bylaws creates an exception for  
49 expulsion from the Synod simply because a member's false confession or offensive conduct is done with the advice and  
50 counsel of his ecclesiastical supervisor, and CCM Opinions 02-2296, 02-2309, and 02-2320 are selective in their quotations  
51 from the Constitution and Bylaws when concluding otherwise; and

52 WHEREAS, CCM Opinions 02-2296, 02-2309, and 02-2320 as written apply to actions of members that involve both  
53 "confession" and "offensive conduct," both of which are grounds for expulsion from Synod under Article XIII; and

54 WHEREAS, While actions of members that involve matters of "confession" are protected in any civil action by the First  
55 Amendment to the United States Constitution, acts of "offensive conduct" may not be and could create legal liability  
56 problems; and

57 WHEREAS, One consequence of these opinions would be to allow a member of the Synod to commit gross, grievous  
58 crimes or other wrongdoing, but be exempt from expulsion from the Synod if his or her conduct was allegedly done with the

1 advice or counsel of his ecclesiastical supervisor, which could create significant legal liability to the Synod or its agencies  
2 and others if these opinions were allowed to remain applicable as to matters of “offensive conduct”; and

3 WHEREAS, This is of great concern to the Board of Directors, this concern having been expressed to the CCM twice,  
4 once with representatives of the Board of Directors meeting with representatives of the CCM and a second time when the  
5 entire Board of Directors met with the entire CCM, and despite being informed of the concerns of the Board of Directors,  
6 the CCM has not withdrawn or modified these opinions; and

7 WHEREAS, Silence by the Board of Directors could suggest that the Board acquiesces to these opinions, which could  
8 have very harmful legal and financial consequences to the Synod; therefore be it

9 *Resolved*, That the Board of Directors, for the sake of the Synod and its best interests, present and future, and in  
10 carrying out its fiduciary obligation to protect the Synod from legal liability and other risks, because of its obligation to  
11 ensure that others within the Synod comply with the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod, cannot agree with  
12 or accept CCM Opinions 02-2296, 02-2309, and 02-2320; and be it further

13 *Resolved*, That CCM Opinions 02-2296, 02-2309, and 02-2320 are of no effect to the extent that they purport to prevent  
14 a member who has persisted in offensive conduct (such as criminal conduct or immoral lifestyle) from being expelled from  
15 the Synod; and be it finally

16 *Resolved*, That this resolution of the Board of Directors does not apply to these opinions as they relate to matters of  
17 “confession” (doctrine), because such are purely ecclesiastical in nature and more appropriately the subject of action by the  
18 Synod in convention.  
19

20 <sup>2</sup> 2004 Res. 7-02A “To Amend Synodical Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws Regarding Officer and Board Responsibilities”  
21 (2004 *Convention Proceedings*, pp. 152–153), proposed amending pertinent paragraphs in the Constitution and Bylaws of the  
22 Synod. The resolution, which was adopted, included the following whereas and resolve paragraphs;

23 WHEREAS, The Board of Directors and the Synod’s legal counsel recognize that the Articles of Incorporation,  
24 Constitution, and Bylaws of the Synod require amendments to clarify the roles of the officers, including the Board of  
25 Directors, and other boards and to reflect other changes since they were last amended in 1998; and

26 WHEREAS, President Kieschnick in his *Special Report to the Convention* (LR 1-8, *TB*, pp. 21–27) reported, “In accord  
27 with the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod it is my duty as President to report to the Synod that the  
28 Board of Directors of the LCMS (BOD/Board) has taken actions that ‘may be in violation of the Constitution, Bylaws, and  
29 resolutions of the Synod’ (Bylaw 3.101 B 5)”; and

30 WHEREAS, The Board of Directors has repeatedly indicated its desire to restore peace and harmony in the Synod; and

31 WHEREAS, If some of the following changes to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws had been in place, the impasse  
32 between the Board of the Directors and the bylaws that refer to the binding nature of the opinions of the Commission on  
33 Constitutional Matters [Bylaws 3.905 d and 3.183 D 2] would not have occurred; therefore be it...

34 *Resolved*, That the convention consider this action as resolving the current difficulty but directs the President and Board  
35 of Directors jointly to appoint a committee to address the matter and report to the 2007 convention; and be it further

36 *Resolved*, That the convention overrules the resolutions of the Board of Directors referenced in Appendix A of the  
37 President’s special report found on pages 24–26 of *Today’s Business* and declares that they are of no effect; and be it finally

38 *Resolved*, That the convention pray for peace and harmony in the Synod as it moves forward in mission and ministry.  
39

40 <sup>3</sup> 2007 Res. 8-10 “To Refer for Theological Study CCM Opinions 02-2296, 02-2309, and 02-2320”

41 WHEREAS, The above-referenced overtures have variously expressed scriptural concerns regarding Opinions 02-2296,  
42 02-2309, and 02-2320 of the Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM); and

43 WHEREAS, None of the said overtures has expressed a substantive rationale arising from the Constitution, Bylaws, or  
44 resolutions of the Synod whereby said CCM Opinions 02-2296, 02-2309, and 02-2320 may be in error as concerns their  
45 interpretation of said Constitution, Bylaws, or resolutions of the Synod; and

46 WHEREAS, The responsibility of the CCM is sole to “interpret the Synod’s Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions”  
47 (Bylaw 3.9.2.2) and not to determine theological issues pertaining thereto; and

48 WHEREAS, The means, methods, and manner of dispute resolution and ecclesiastical supervision (Bylaws 1.10, 2.12,  
49 and 2.13) were significantly revised at the 2004 62nd Regular Convention of the Synod, and policies adopted by the Council  
50 of Presidents for implementation of such changes have also occurred, including consideration of pertinent scriptural  
51 requirements as they may impact the same; and

52 WHEREAS, CCM Opinions 02-2296, 02-2309, and 02-2320 were rendered prior to these substantive changes; and

53 WHEREAS, A primary concern of these overtures may have already been addressed by the changes indicated; therefore  
54 be it

55 *Resolved*, That the Synod in convention refer these above referenced overtures to the Commission on Theology and  
56 Church Relations for consideration, and in consultation with the Council of Presidents and Commission on Structure report  
57 back to the 2010 64th Regular Convention as to how the theological issues are addressed under the most recent changes to  
58 the Bylaws, namely dispute resolution and ecclesiastical supervision, and the policies implemented by the COP.  
59

1 **Resolution 7-02**

2  
3 WHEREAS, The convention has received the report of Floor Committee 7 (Bylaw 3.9.2.2 [c]) related to  
4 challenges to CCM Opinion 02-2309 and related opinions; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, CCM Opinion 02-2309 and other related opinions, as well as the report of the CTCR (2007 Res.  
7 8-10), explain the covenants of membership and the process of ecclesiastical supervision in the Synod’s Constitution  
8 and Bylaws; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, The convention honors the genuine concern expressed by individuals, congregations, circuits  
11 and districts of the Synod regarding the CCM opinions in question and desires to resolve this matter in a responsible  
12 and God-pleasing fashion; therefore be it

13  
14 *Resolved*, That the Synod affirm its commitment to provide to each of its members at all times appropriate  
15 ecclesiastical supervision and counsel in accordance with Holy Scripture and the Constitution and Bylaws of the  
16 Synod; and be it further

17  
18 *Resolved*, That the Synod affirm its responsibility to supervise and hold accountable the ecclesiastical  
19 supervisors which it puts in place by exercising ecclesiastical discipline where necessary, for the protection of the  
20 members of the Synod and also for the protection of the Synod itself; and be it finally

21  
22 *Resolved*, That the Synod affirm that CCM Opinion 02-2309 and related opinions should not have been and  
23 shall never be misunderstood to grant immunity to any member of the Synod, or to allow such member to act with  
24 impunity, or to give permission to act contrary to the Holy Scriptures, the Lutheran Confessions, the Constitution, or  
25 the Bylaws of our beloved Synod.

26  
27  
28  
29 **To Provide for Removal of Individual Board**  
30 **or Commission Members**

31  
32 **RESOLUTION 7-03**

33  
34 Overture 7-21 (CW, p. 219)

35  
36 WHEREAS, The purposes of the Synod are ecclesiastical and not secular, and the secular functions of the  
37 church exist only to serve those ecclesiastical purposes; and

38  
39 WHEREAS, The Synod considers the process of selection and removal of all officers of the Synod and all  
40 members of its boards and commissions to be an ecclesiastical function; and

41  
42 WHEREAS, Bylaw 1.5.2 (b) states that, in serving the Synod as board or commission member, director, or  
43 officer, “[r]esponsibilities shall be carried out in a manner reflecting the highest degree of integrity and honesty”;  
44 and

45  
46 WHEREAS, The Commission on Constitutional Matters, noting that proposals to add a section in the  
47 *Handbook* for the removal of board and commission members have not been acted upon by past conventions,  
48 requested that the Commission on Structure develop and propose such a process for inclusion in the Bylaws of the  
49 Synod; and

50  
51 WHEREAS, There is an interest in bringing peace and order among the individual members and  
52 congregations of the Synod who hold various opinions regarding this issue; therefore be it

53  
54 *Resolved*, That the following bylaws be added to the Bylaws of the Synod:  
55  
56

1 PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

2  
3 **Removal of Individual Members from Board or Commission Membership**

4  
5 1.5.7 Individual members of the Synod's commissions and the boards of its agencies, as well as the individual  
6 members of its Board of Directors, shall discharge the duties of their offices in good faith. The following  
7 are considered cause for removal pursuant to this bylaw:

- 8
- 9 1. Incapacity
- 10 2. Breach of fiduciary responsibilities to the Synod or agency
- 11 3. Neglect or refusal to perform duties of office
- 12 4. No longer satisfying any of the qualifications for directors set forth in the articles of incorporation  
13 or bylaws of the entity as in effect at the beginning of the member's term
- 14 5. Conviction of a felony
- 15 6. Failure to disclose conflicts of interest to the Synod or agency
- 16 7. Conduct evidencing a scandalous life
- 17 8. Advocacy of false doctrine (Constitution Art. II)
- 18 9. Failure to honor and uphold the doctrinal position of the Synod as defined in Bylaw 1.6.2
- 19 10. Accumulation of three unexcused absences within any term of office.

20  
21 1.5.7.1 The procedure for removal of a member of a commission, agency board, or the LCMS Board of  
22 Directors, except for those persons subject to Bylaws 2.15 and 2.16, shall be as follows:

23  
24 (a) Action for removal shall require written notice to each member of the relevant commission, agency  
25 board, or LCMS Board of Directors at least thirty (30) days prior to a special meeting of the commission,  
26 agency board, or LCMS Board of Directors called for that purpose. A copy of such notice shall be sent  
27 to the President and the Secretary of the Synod and to the ecclesiastical supervisor, if applicable.

28  
29 (b) The special meeting shall be held no later than sixty (60) days after the provision of the written  
30 notice, unless extended by the mutual agreement of the parties.

31  
32 (c) Removal shall be effected by

- 33
- 34 (1) recommendation of such to the Synod's Board of Directors by a vote in favor of removal by at  
35 least three-fourths of all current members (excluding the person whose membership is in question) of  
36 the applicable commission, agency board, or LCMS Board of Directors; and
- 37 (2) by a vote in favor of the recommendation of removal by at least three-fourths of all current  
38 members (excluding the person whose membership is in question) of the Board of Directors of the  
39 Synod.

40  
41 (d) Removal may be appealed by a member who has been removed from a commission, agency board, or  
42 the LCMS Board of Directors through the use of the Synod's dispute resolution process as provided in  
43 Bylaw section 1.10.

44  
45 (e) From the time that written notice is given until the commission, agency board, or the LCMS Board of  
46 Directors takes action with respect to the removal, the member(s) subject to removal may not vote on  
47 matters before the agency or LCMS Board of Directors.

48  
49 1.5.7.2 To the extent that the application of this bylaw is limited by applicable law with respect to the removal of  
50 members of a commission, agency board, or the LCMS Board of Directors, the commission, agency  
51 board, or LCMS Board of Directors on which the member serves may recommend the removal and  
52 attempt to cause the appropriate procedures under applicable law, these Bylaws and the governing  
53 documents of the affected entity to be followed to permit the removal of such agency or LCMS Board of  
54 Directors member.

1  
2 **To Approve Changes to the Process of**  
3 **Bylaws 2.14, 2.15, and 2.17**

4  
5 **RESOLUTION 7-04**

6  
7 Report 7-07 (CW, pp. 144–147)

8  
9 WHEREAS, The 2004 convention adopted Res. 8-01A which established new procedures for ecclesiastical  
10 supervision, dispute resolution, and expulsion from membership in the Synod; and

11  
12 WHEREAS, The 2007 convention adopted Res. 8-06 calling for a special task force to study further the  
13 composition of Hearing Panels under Bylaw sections 2.14, 2.15, and 2.17; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, 2010 Floor Committee 7 has reviewed the report of the Resolution 8-06 Task Force (CW, pp.  
16 144–147); and

17  
18 WHEREAS, The floor committee agrees with the recommendation in the report that it is wise to modify the  
19 composition of hearing panels to include a layperson chosen from the Synod’s roster of reconcilers; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, The floor committee further agrees with the recommendation in the report that it is wise to  
22 appoint a hearing facilitator to Hearing Panels and Final Hearing Panels; and

23  
24 WHEREAS, The floor committee believes that it would be wise to designate the Secretary of the Synod as  
25 the administrator for the process provided by Bylaw sections 2.14, 2.15, and 2.17; therefore be it

26  
27 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Synod be designated as the administrator for the process provided by  
28 Bylaw sections 2.14, 2.15, and 2.17; and be it further

29  
30 *Resolved*, That the Commission on Structure make the necessary changes to the Bylaws designating the  
31 Secretary of the Synod as the administrator for the process provided in Bylaw sections 2.14, 2.15, and 2.17; and be it  
32 finally

33  
34 *Resolved*, That the following changes be made to the Bylaws of the Synod.

35  
36 **PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING**

37  
38 ***Definition of Terms***

39  
40 2.14.2 The definitions of terms used in this bylaw are as follows: ...

41  
42 (j) Hearing facilitator: One selected by blind draw by the Secretary of the Synod as described in Bylaw  
43 1.10.13.2, trained to serve as a facilitator for hearings before panels.

44 (k) [and following paragraphs re-lettered accordingly]

45  
46 2.14.7.2 A Hearing Panel consisting of ~~three~~ two district presidents and one reconciler who is a layperson selected  
47 as follows but excluding the involved district presidents shall conduct the hearing:

48  
49 (a) One district president selected by the accused.

50  
51 (b) One district president selected by the district president who imposed the suspended status (a district  
52 president may not choose himself).

53  
54 (c) ~~A third district president selected by the other two Hearing Panel members. If the two Hearing Panel~~  
55 ~~members cannot agree on the third Hearing Panel member, then~~ One reconciler who is a layperson. Such  
56 ~~third~~ This member shall be chosen by blind draw from the Synod’s roster of reconcilers among the

1 remaining district presidents, excluding any involved district president, with the blind draw administered  
2 by the chairman of the Council of Presidents Secretary of the Synod and audited by witnesses.

3  
4 (d) Each Hearing Panel shall have a non-voting hearing facilitator who will serve as chairman of the  
5 panel.

6  
7 (e) The hearing facilitator shall conduct the hearing, shall serve as chairman of the panel, and may draw  
8 upon persons and resources that he deems necessary for conducting a hearing in a fair and equitable  
9 manner.

10  
11 (f) The hearing facilitator shall serve as an advisor to the panel on the form but not the substance of the  
12 decision.

13  
14 2.14.7.3 Upon receipt of a request for hearing, the chairman of the Council of Presidents shall promptly notify the  
15 accused and the district president who imposed the suspended status of their respective right to choose  
16 one Hearing Panel member and direct that the identity of their selection be transmitted to the chairman of  
17 the Council of Presidents within 15 days from the date of such notice. If either party declines to make a  
18 selection within 15 days, the chairman of the Council of Presidents shall then make such selection within  
19 five days.  
20

21 2.14.7.4 The chairman of the Council of Presidents shall also promptly notify the Secretary of the Synod of the  
22 need for a hearing facilitator.

23  
24 2.14.7.45 *[and following numbers]* When ~~two~~ the Hearing Panel members have so been chosen, ~~the chairman of~~  
25 ~~the Council of Presidents~~ they shall promptly be notified ~~notify them~~ of their selection to the Hearing  
26 Panel ~~and direct that they select the third member of the Hearing Panel within 10 days and notify the~~  
27 ~~chairman of the Council of Presidents of their selection.~~

28  
29 2.14.8.1 Within 30 days after receipt of the request, a Final Hearing Panel shall be selected.

30  
31 (a) The panel shall be constituted in the same prescribed manner as described in Bylaws 2.14.7.2–  
32 2.14.7.5, except that the ~~three~~ two district presidents, reconciler, and facilitator that constituted the  
33 Hearing Panel and the involved district presidents are omitted from consideration for the Final Hearing  
34 Panel.  
35

36 (b) The procedures for the final hearing shall be the same as prescribed in Bylaws 2.14.7.5–2.14.7.7.

37  
38 (c) The chairman of the Hearing Panel shall provide the Final Hearing Panel with a written statement of  
39 the matter and the Hearing Panel’s report, minutes, records, and proceedings.  
40

41 2.15.7.2 A Hearing Panel consisting of ~~three~~ two district presidents (excluding the involved district presidents)  
42 and one reconciler who is a layperson selected as follows shall conduct the hearing:  
43

44 (a) One district president selected by the accused (a district president, if he is the accused, may not  
45 choose himself).  
46

47 (b) One district president selected by the President of the Synod.  
48

49 ~~(c) A third district president selected by the other two Hearing Panel members. If the two Hearing Panel~~  
50 ~~members cannot agree on the third Hearing Panel member, then~~ One reconciler who is a layperson. Such  
51 ~~third~~ This member shall be chosen by blind draw from among the Synod’s roster of reconcilers  
52 ~~remaining district presidents, excluding any involved district president, with the blind draw administered~~  
53 ~~by the chairman of the Council of Presidents Secretary of the Synod and audited by witnesses.~~  
54

55 (d) Each Hearing Panel shall have a nonvoting hearing facilitator who will serve as chairman of the  
56 panel.

1  
2 (e) The hearing facilitator shall conduct the hearing, shall serve as chairman of the panel, and may draw  
3 upon persons and resources that he deems necessary for conducting a hearing in a fair and equitable  
4 manner.

5  
6 (f) The hearing facilitator shall serve as an advisor to the panel on the form but not the substance of the  
7 decision.

8  
9 (g) If a Referral Panel was formed, the three district presidents that served in that capacity are not eligible  
10 to serve on a Hearing Panel.

11  
12 2.15.7.3 Upon receipt of a request for hearing, the chairman of the Council of Presidents shall promptly notify the  
13 accused and the President of the Synod of their respective right to choose one Hearing Panel member and  
14 direct that the identity of their selection be transmitted to the chairman of the Council of Presidents  
15 within 15 days from the date of such notice. If either party declines to make a selection within 15 days,  
16 the chairman of the Council of Presidents shall then make such selection within 5 days.

17  
18 2.15.7.4 The chairman of the Council of Presidents shall also promptly notify the Secretary of the Synod of the  
19 need for hearing facilitator.

20  
21 2.15.7.45 *[and following numbers]* When ~~two~~ the Hearing Panel members have so been chosen, ~~the chairman of~~  
22 ~~the Council of Presidents~~ they shall be promptly notified ~~notify them~~ of their selection to the Hearing  
23 Panel ~~and direct that they select the third member of the Hearing Panel within 10 days and notify the~~  
24 ~~chairman of the Council of Presidents of their selection.~~

25  
26 2.15.8.1 Within 30 days after receipt of the request, a Final Hearing Panel shall be selected.

27  
28 (a) The panel shall be constituted in the same prescribed manner as described in Bylaws 2.15.7.2–  
29 2.15.7.5, except that the ~~three~~ district presidents, reconciler, and facilitator that constituted the Hearing  
30 Panel and the three district presidents that constituted a Referral Panel and any other involved district  
31 presidents are omitted from consideration for the Final Hearing Panel.

32  
33 (b) The procedures for the final hearing shall be the same as prescribed in Bylaws 2.15.7.5–2.15.7.7.

34  
35 (c) The chairman of the Hearing Panel shall provide the Final Hearing Panel with a written statement of  
36 the matter and the Hearing Panel’s report, minutes, records, and proceedings.

37  
38 2.17.7.2 A Hearing Panel consisting of ~~three~~ two district presidents (excluding the involved district presidents)  
39 and one reconciler who is a layperson selected as follows, shall conduct the hearing:

40  
41 (a) One district president selected by the accused.

42  
43 (b) One district president selected by the ecclesiastical supervisor who imposed the suspended status (a  
44 district president may not choose himself).

45  
46 (c) ~~A third district president selected by the other two Hearing Panel members. If the two Hearing Panel~~  
47 ~~members cannot agree on the third Hearing Panel member, then~~ One reconciler who is a layperson. Such  
48 ~~third~~ This member shall be chosen by blind draw from ~~among the Synod’s roster of reconcilers~~  
49 ~~remaining district presidents, excluding any involved district president,~~ with the blind draw administered  
50 by the ~~chairman of the Council of Presidents~~ Secretary of the Synod and audited by witnesses.

51  
52 (d) Each Hearing Panel shall have a nonvoting hearing facilitator who will serve as chairman of the  
53 panel.

54  
55 (e) The hearing facilitator shall conduct the hearing, shall serve as chairman of the panel, and may draw  
56 upon persons and resources that he deems necessary for conducting a hearing in a fair and equitable

1 manner.

2 (f) The hearing facilitator shall serve as an advisor to the panel on the form but not the substance of the  
3 decision.

4  
5 2.17.7.3 Upon receipt of a request for hearing, the chairman of the Council of Presidents shall promptly notify the  
6 accused and the involved ecclesiastical supervisor of their respective right to choose one Hearing Panel  
7 member and direct that the identity of their selection be transmitted to the chairman of the Council of  
8 Presidents within 15 days from the date of such notice. If either party declines to make a selection within  
9 such 15-day period, the chairman of the Council of Presidents shall then make such selection within five  
10 days.

11  
12 2.17.7.4 The chairman of the Council of the Presidents shall also promptly notify the Secretary of the Synod of the  
13 need for a hearing facilitator.

14  
15 2.17.7.45 [and following numbers] When ~~two~~ the Hearing Panel members have so been chosen, ~~the chairman of~~  
16 ~~the Council of Presidents~~ they shall be promptly notified ~~notify them~~ of their selection to the Hearing  
17 Panel ~~and direct that they select the third member of the Hearing Panel within 10 days and notify the~~  
18 ~~chairman of the Council of Presidents of their selection.~~

19  
20 2.17.8.1 Within 30 days after receipt of the request, a Final Hearing Panel shall be selected.

21  
22 (a) The panel shall be selected in the same manner as described in Bylaws 2.17.7–2.17.7.5, except that  
23 the district presidents that constituted the Referral Panel and the district presidents, reconciler, and  
24 facilitator that constituted the Hearing Panel or any other involved district presidents are omitted from  
25 consideration for the Final Hearing Panel.

26  
27 b) The procedures for the final hearing shall be the same as prescribed in Bylaws 2.17.7.5–2.17.7.7.

28  
29 (c) The chairman of the Hearing Panel shall provide the Final Hearing Panel with a written statement of  
30 the matter and the Hearing Panel’s report, minutes, records, and proceedings.

31  
32  
33  
34 **To Clarify Bylaw re Specific Ministry Pastor Limitations**

35  
36 **RESOLUTION 7-05**

37  
38 Overture 7-07 (CW, p. 213)

39  
40 WHEREAS, According to 2007 Res. 5-01B, specific ministry pastors (SMPs) are eligible to receive and  
41 accept calls and serve as SMPs in different geographic venues (2007 *Convention Proceedings*, p. 135); and

42  
43 WHEREAS, The intent of Bylaw 2.13.1 is to describe the limitations of SMPs as a result of their status as  
44 SMPs; and

45  
46 WHEREAS, The word “location” is commonly understood to designate a specific geographic venue; and

47  
48 WHEREAS, The use of that word in current Bylaw 2.13.1 (a) may be misunderstood to imply that SMPs are  
49 not eligible to receive and accept calls; and

50  
51 WHEREAS, The word “context” is used throughout Bylaw 2.13 pertaining to the status of SMPs; therefore  
52 be it

53  
54 *Resolved*, that Bylaw 2.13.1 (a) be clarified as follows:  
55  
56

1 PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

2  
3 *Specific Ministry Pastor Status and Limitations*

4  
5 2.13.1 A “specific ministry pastor” is a minister of religion—ordained who has completed the requirements for  
6 service as a specific ministry pastor and has been examined by one of the Synod’s seminaries, has  
7 received a regular call, and has been placed by the Council of Presidents into a specific Word and  
8 Sacrament ministry context. He is eligible to serve only in that specific ministry context for which he has  
9 been trained and may not be offered or accept a call for ministry for which he has not been certified as  
10 determined by his district president. He shall serve under the supervision of his district president and  
11 another pastor who is not a specific ministry pastor.

12  
13 (a) Because he is under supervision of another pastor and because a specific ministry pastor’s theo-  
14 logical education has been formed in part by and for a specific ministry context, he may not be placed or  
15 called into ecclesiastical roles that exercise pastoral oversight outside the ~~location~~ context of his call.

16  
17  
18  
19 **To Amend Bylaw 2.5.2 re Congregations Calling Pastors**

20  
21 **RESOLUTION 7-06**

22  
23 Overture 7-05 (CW, p. 212)

24  
25 WHEREAS, Current Bylaw 2.5.2 requires congregations to “call and be served only by ordained ministers  
26 who have been admitted to their respective ministries in accordance with the rules and regulations set forth in these  
27 Bylaws and have thereby become members of the Synod”; and

28  
29 WHEREAS, Taken literally, this bylaw requires congregations to call only pastors rostered by the Synod,  
30 thereby prohibiting the calling of pastors rostered by any other church bodies; and

31  
32 WHEREAS, Agreements are in place with certain partner churches (*i.e.*, The Lutheran Church—Canada  
33 [LCC] and The American Association of Lutheran Churches [AALC]) that permit LCMS congregations to call  
34 rostered pastors of these church bodies according to established agreements; therefore be it

35  
36 *Resolved*, That Bylaw 2.5.2 be amended to accommodate the calling of pastors rostered by partner churches  
37 and candidates of LCMS seminaries by LCMS congregations as follows:

38  
39 PROPOSED WORDING

40  
41 2.5.2 Congregations that are members of the Synod shall call and be served only by (1) ordained minister who  
42 have been admitted to their respective ministries in accordance with the rules and regulations set forth in  
43 these Bylaws and have thereby become members of the Synod; (2) candidates for the pastoral ministry who  
44 have satisfied the qualifications and requirements for assignment of first calls by the Council of Presidents  
45 acting as the Board of Assignments; or (3) ordained ministers who are members in good standing of church  
46 bodies that have been formally recognized to be in altar and pulpit fellowship with the Synod, when  
47 agreements for such calls are in place.

48  
49  
50  
51 **To Add Wording to Bylaws re Expectations**  
52 **of Synod Membership**

53  
54 **RESOLUTION 7-07**

55  
56 Overture 7-01 (CW, p. 211)

1  
2 **Rationale**  
3

4 Following the example of the apostolic church (Acts 15:1–31), the Synod was formed so that under the blessing of  
5 God, the diversities of gifts might be used for the common profit (1 Cor. 12:4–31). Membership in the Synod brings  
6 with it great blessings which include:  
7

- 8 • Confessional unity in the true faith
- 9 • Worldwide outreach opportunities
- 10 • Resources for mission and ministry
- 11 • Opportunities to show human care
- 12 • Theological training
- 13 • Certified church workers
- 14 • Mutual support
- 15 • Evangelical counsel and care
- 16 • Protection and aid
- 17

18 In thankfulness to God for these blessings and to enable the Synod to give bold witness by word and deed to the love  
19 and work of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and to extend our Gospel witness into all the world, members  
20 freely pledge to  
21

- 22 • Uphold the confessional position of the Synod (Constitution, Art. II)
- 23 • Support the objectives of the Synod (Constitution, Art. III)
- 24 • Promote the purposes of the Synod by word and deed (Bylaw 1.3.4)
- 25 • Act in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod (Bylaw 1.3.4)
- 26 • Support the work of the Synod by means of their prayers, service, and financial support
- 27 • Assist in planning the work of the Synod by providing accurate statistical information
- 28

29 Therefore be it

30 *Resolved*, That Bylaw 1.3.4 be amended to read:  
31  
32

33 **PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING**  
34

35 1.3.4 Congregations together establish the requirements of membership in the Synod (Constitution, Art. VI). In  
36 joining the Synod, congregations and other members obligate themselves to fulfill such requirements and  
37 to diligently and earnestly promote the purposes of the Synod by word and deed, including financial  
38 support to the work of the Synod and the provision of annual statistical information to enable the Synod  
39 to plan current and future ministry efforts based upon an accurate picture of the results of current  
40 ministries “within our churches, communities, and world” (quotation from LCMS Mission Statement).  
41

42 1.3.4.1 Members agree to uphold the confessional position of the Synod (Art. II) and to assist in carrying out the  
43 objectives of the Synod (Art. III), which are the objectives of the members themselves. Thus, while  
44 congregations of the Synod are self-governing (Art. VII), they, and also individual members, commit  
45 themselves as members of the Synod to act in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod  
46 under which they have agreed to live and work together and which the congregations alone have the  
47 authority to adopt or amend through conventions.  
48  
49

50 **To Study Time Limitations for Initiating**  
51 **Dispute Resolution Process**  
52

53 **RESOLUTION 7-08**  
54

55 Overture 7-17 (CW, p. 217)

1  
2 WHEREAS, The Synod has established a process to resolve disputes, disagreements, or offenses which arise  
3 among members of the body of Christ (Bylaw 1.10) in a God-pleasing manner (Matt. 5:23–24); and

4 WHEREAS, The process developed by the Synod admonishes that disputes, disagreements, or offenses  
5 “should be resolved promptly” (Bylaw 1.10.1); and  
6

7 WHEREAS, The present process does not require either side in a dispute to initiate the formal process of  
8 dispute resolution within a specific time frame, thus possibly placing the potential respondent in a position of never  
9 knowing if the dispute has been resolved or if action may be taken at some undetermined date in the future; and  
10

11 WHEREAS, Delays in resolving disputes can inflict harm upon individuals and organizations; therefore be it  
12

13 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Synod be directed to study this issue in consultation with the Council of  
14 Presidents and report to the next convention of the Synod, making any recommendations which would address this  
15 situation and improve the dispute resolution process.  
16

## 17 18 19 **To Respectfully Decline Overtures**

### 20 21 **RESOLUTION 7-09**

22  
23 WHEREAS, The floor committee has considered all overtures assigned to it and has concluded, for various  
24 reasons, that certain overtures should be declined; therefore be it  
25

26 *Resolved*, That the following overtures be respectfully declined for the reasons given:  
27

28 <u>Number</u>	29 <u>Subject</u>	30 <u>Reason</u>
31 Ov. 7-04	32 Rightly understand advisory nature of Synod	33 CCM Opinion 09-2573 rendered on 34 February 26-28, 2010 addresses the 35 substance of this overture
36 Ov. 7-08	37 Revise selection of CCM members	38 Sufficient checks and balances already 39 exist in the selection of members of the 40 CCM
41 Ov. 7-11	42 Require consideration of CCM-related 43 overtures and resolutions re theological matters	44 CCM does not render theological opinions. 45 2007 Res. 8-01 amended Bylaw 3.9.2.2 (c) 46 which outlines the process to challenge a 47 CCM opinion
48 Ov. 7-18	49 Post <i>Standard Operating Procedures Manuals</i> 50 on Synod Web site	51 SOPMs will be posted on Synod Web site
52 Ov. 7-19	53 Require use of Investigation Committee, 54 Reconciliation Committee, and Referral Panel 55 in expulsion process	56 Current bylaws allow for full due process by 57 the worker who is suspended. (Bylaws 58 2.14.7–2.14.9.3)
59 Ov. 7-20	60 Rescind 2004 Res. 8-01A and develop new 61 adjudication process	62 No demonstrated need. Dealt with by 63 previous conventions.

## 8. SYNOD STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

### Foreword

#### It's About Congregations Floor Committee 8: Structure and Governance

In 1847 a small group of faithful Lutheran people from Germany formed what we today know as The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. With a strong desire to be a faithful, confessional, and missional church, they organized around two powerful biblical pictures.

The first was Acts 15. When the early church was faced with a major theological dilemma over the evangelization of the Gentiles, the apostles and others came together in Jerusalem, seeking common theological agreement. The desire was to be faithful theologically and to be missional so that they might reach the Gentiles with the Gospel. But an important question remained: Is it necessary for the Gentiles to be circumcised before they can become Christians?

The second picture was 1 Corinthians 12. In this scriptural passage, the Apostle Paul describes the church as the body of Christ, with a variety of parts united together with Christ as the head. The founders of the Synod understood that a number of congregations united together can do much more than each congregation can do alone, and that the variety of gifts present in those congregations could and should be used for the common good.

Since 1847, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has grown from 14 congregations to nearly 6,200 congregations in the United States and Southern Canada. Together with more than 30 partner churches it now reaches around the world with the Good News of Jesus. The Synod joins with the first century church in fulfilling the words of Jesus to “go and make disciples of all nations...”

In June 2005, recognizing that the structure that may have worked well when the LCMS was a small cluster of congregations had become cumbersome, inefficient, and at times ineffective, President Kieschnick appointed a Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance (BRTFSSG). His letter of instruction to the task force can be found in the introduction to the task force report (pp. 5-8).

Since June 2005, hundreds of interviews have been conducted and thousands of responses have been received from the people of the LCMS. The BRTFSSG sought to fulfill President Kieschnick's desire for the building of consensus within the Synod before significant changes would be recommended. In addition to listening to current and former leaders within the Synod, the task force also gathered information from the delegates at the 2007 Synod convention, all district boards of directors (twice), all participants at the 2009 district conventions, and the voting delegates to the 2010 convention along with others who participated in nine regional gatherings this past December, January, and February.

A summary of what the task force heard included:

- Today's world is far different from when C.F.W. Walther led the writing of Synod's first Constitution in 1846 (the document would be adopted in 1847).
- A structure established when the Synod was composed of 14 congregations now struggles to serve nearly 6,200.
- As the church has grown, congregations and church workers have lost some degree of connectedness to one another.
- Too few of the Synod's 600 circuits are functioning as the heart of the connectedness between congregations and church workers.
- Many view the national Synod office as large, complex, bureaucratic, and distant.
- Districts vary greatly in size and often are unable to provide congregations with the support they need.
- There is unequal representation at legislative gatherings.
- The issues surrounding the existence of “exceptional delegates” at national conventions need to be resolved.
- The principles of stewardship dictate that duplication and overlap of services be eliminated.

- 1 • There is a lack of consistency in terms of office or in the limitation of terms for officers and boards.
- 2 • When a conflict arises between the Synod’s Constitution and Bylaws, the Constitution must take
- 3 precedence.
- 4 • For the sake of harmony, significant doctrinal resolutions should require something larger than a simple
- 5 majority to be adopted.
- 6 • Despite their historic symbolism, the words “Missouri” and “Synod” in our church’s name cause much
- 7 confusion.
- 8 • There are unclear lines of accountability at the national level among the various boards, commissions,
- 9 executives, and officers. This problem also extends to the districts.
- 10 • District staffs have grown rapidly while the flow of unrestricted income to the national office has shrunk
- 11 steadily.

12  
 13 Early in its work, the task force realized that to do this work effectively, the support and guidance of an  
 14 outside consultant was mandatory. Outside, objective eyes were necessary to draw on the expertise of those who  
 15 have observed what was happening in the larger Christian church. In 2007, the task force employed Bredholt & Co.  
 16 and Epley Research & Consulting to help guide the work and do the objective interviewing of both professional and  
 17 lay leaders within the LCMS. Interviews also were done with previous leaders in the Synod.

18  
 19 The following information from the Bredholt report is summarized in the final report of BRTFSSG, pages  
 20 18-19. The study indicated a strong need to improve support of LCMS pastors and congregations in mission.  
 21 Toward this end, doing nothing with structure and governance was not an option.

22  
 23 Denominations are not dying...but they are without doubt changing generationally, relationally,  
 24 operationally, and for some—fortunately, not the LCMS—theologically. These changes are happening not through  
 25 formal processes but by unilateral decisions made within congregations—often influenced by the “success” of  
 26 others.

27  
 28 An increasing number of churches are not waiting for denominational leadership and structure to change.  
 29 They are moving ahead on their own—adapting to a new environment for ministry. This is one reason why a  
 30 number of national church offices across the United States are rethinking how they function and what role they  
 31 should play in the future.

32  
 33 For the LCMS, a four-part approach is recommended:

34  
 35 **1. Focus on congregational mission**

36  
 37 The LCMS mission is primarily, but not exclusively, fulfilled in and through congregations.

- 38 • [Support pastors in their leadership responsibilities.] This is a pastor-led Synod. No other change in the
- 39 LCMS would have as great an impact as increasing the number of pastors capable of leading
- 40 congregations in mission and outreach.
- 41 • Bring seminaries closer to congregations—exposing the theological institutions more fully and
- 42 completely to the societal and leadership issues with which pastors are dealing. Encourage the schools
- 43 to offer courses or advanced education that would be of value to seminary students and called pastors
- 44 alike.
- 45 • Connect pastors to other congregations that have successfully dealt with problems or circumstances
- 46 similar to their own.

47  
 48  
 49 **2. Develop Synod leadership**

- 50 • Re-think people, behavior, functions, processes, and accountability within the national Synod, districts,
- 51 and seminaries, e.g., through mentoring, education, and training.
- 52 • Shift the current understanding of many district presidents from a self-identified “CEO” to that of an
- 53 area “mission strategist” with administrative responsibility. More time spent encouraging congre-
- 54

gations in mission and outreach to their communities and facilitating the creation of new churches would likely be a more fulfilling role for LCMS district presidents.

- Expand seminary models of education to include pastoral leadership sooner and to a greater extent in the curriculum.
- Look at the national Synod to make sure the right things are being done and abandon those areas of programming that have run their course.

### 3. Create a flexible International Center

Restructure the LCMS International Center to focus on a smaller number of priorities, increased collaboration, greater mutual accountability, and more effectiveness in allocating scarce resources.

### 4. Affirm congregations as the principal stakeholders in the Synod

Put in place a system of governance that aims for a wider congregational voice within the functioning of the Synod. Give congregations a more direct say in the affairs of the church. This includes voting on Synod leadership and key policy issues.

This holistic approach provides a way to clarify roles and relationships among pastors, congregations, districts, national Synod, and seminaries. How people work and relate to one another will be a major factor in the success of any changes—more so than a revision of the organizational chart. While focusing on congregational mission, it is “interdependence”—walking together—that is the source of health and strength for an effective system of mission.

It is noteworthy that items 1 and 4 in the summary of the Bredholt Report emphasize the primary role of the congregation in anything that is done to restructure the Synod. Task force members regularly reminded each other, “**It’s about congregations.**”

The Bredholt Report also informed the task force that there are many in the congregations of the Synod who do not understand how the Synod is currently structured and see no need for restructuring; however, “doing nothing with structure and governance is not an option.”

The BRTFSSG and the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Funding the Mission (the latter reporting to the 2007 convention) also met with Dr. David A. Roozen, director of the Hartford Institute for Religion Research and the author of several books and articles including *Denominational Structures in Unsettled Times*.

Based on his national research and applying that research to the LCMS, Dr. Roozen provided the following recommendations:

- Build the word “grace” into all major initiatives and communications (capitalize on the word’s strong identity within the LCMS).
- Build an explicit recognition of local and personal predispositions into major initiatives.
- Deepen clergy’s capacity to connect LCMS history, identity, and ministry to local ministries.
- Strengthen personal relationships of national staff to regional and local people—church workers, laity, etc.
- Explore discernment approaches to national decision-making.
- Give priority to clergy-training support and supervision.
- Determine whether the LCMS parochial school or the Concordia University System is more important for sustaining a strong LCMS identity.
- Hire “story-tellers” who can engagingly and narratively connect LCMS history and identity to the real-life experiences of members. Make the sharing of such stories a priority concern of LCMS national communication efforts—personal, electronic, and print. [Task Force Report, pp. 16–17]

The final report of the BRTFSSG was presented to President Kieschnick in October 2009 and, following his review, was published for the church. All voting delegates received a copy of the report prior to the regional gatherings, and a copy of the report was distributed with the *Convention Workbook*. What follows are the resolutions

1 prepared by Floor Committee 8 based on a study of the report and a review of all overtures relevant to structure and  
2 governance submitted to this convention.  
3

4 After attending one of the regional gatherings, the members of Floor Committee 8 have spent seven days  
5 over two weekends attempting to present to the delegates resolutions that are understandable and that accomplish  
6 what is recommended in the task force report. Included in the first edition of *Today's Business* is the "2007  
7 Handbook Convention Version," which identifies for delegates the changes in the Constitution and Bylaws of the  
8 Synod which would result if the resolutions proposed by Committee 8 are adopted. Time and careful effort will be  
9 provided to the delegates at the convention for clarification of the issues and the resolutions.  
10

11 **It really is about congregations.** From its inception in 1847, a national organization called The Lutheran  
12 Church—Missouri Synod has worked to support the congregations who have voluntarily chosen to walk together as  
13 confessional Lutherans in mission. Every one of the resolutions from Floor Committee 8 begins with  
14 "Congregations Walking Together in Mission" to highlight what it means to be a Synod. That is what the word  
15 "Synod" means—"walking together." This lofty concept is not about revisions to our structure as an academic  
16 exercise; rather, it is about enabling us to walk together more effectively as good stewards of the resources God has  
17 given us.  
18

19 As "ONE People—*Forgiven*" and reconciled by the blood of Christ, we walk together in the mission field  
20 God has given us.  
21  
22

---

23  
24  
25 **Congregations Walking Together in Mission By Affirming Proper Roles**  
26 **To Amend Article V of the Constitution**

27  
28 **RESOLUTION 8-01**  
29

30 TF Report (*CW TFR*, p. 23); TF Report (*CW TFR A*, pp. 1.4–.5, 1.12); Overtures 8-28–44 (*CW*, pp. 231–236)  
31

32 WHEREAS, The task force report identified the need to clarify and affirm proper roles by underscoring the  
33 essentially congregational character of the Synod, the role of the ordained and commissioned ministers, and the  
34 participation of the laity in the life and the work of the Synod; and  
35

36 WHEREAS, The provision for advisory members in the Synod would be eliminated since they are repre-  
37 sented by the eligible voting delegates selected by their congregations; and  
38

39 WHEREAS, The role of the laity is defined by their sense of belonging to the life and the work of Synod  
40 through their congregational membership; therefore be it  
41

42 *Resolved*, That Article V be amended as shown ("2007 Handbook Convention Version," *TB*, pp. 160–161)  
43  
44  
45

46 **Congregations Walking Together in Mission Through Circuit Networks**  
47 **To Restore Circuits to Their Primary Purpose**

48  
49 **RESOLUTION 8-02**  
50

51 TF Report (*CW TFR*, p. 24); Overtures 8-17, 8-20, 8-57 (*CW*, pp. 227, 228, 241)  
52

53 WHEREAS, The congregation is the basic unit of Synod polity; and  
54

55 WHEREAS, A circuit is a network of congregations structured "for congregations to review decisions of the

1 Synod, to motivate one another to action, and to shape and suggest new directions” (Bylaw 1.3.6); and

2  
3 WHEREAS, A primary purpose of circuits is to walk together to conserve and promote both the unity of faith  
4 and to carry out their mission and ministry (Bylaw 1.3.3); and

5  
6 WHEREAS, districts, authorized to create this component part of the Synod (Bylaw 1.3.2), are not restricted  
7 by geography when doing so; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, The circuit network of congregations is that forum where the voice of each congregation of the  
10 Synod may most clearly impact the work of congregation, circuit, district, and Synod; and

11  
12 WHEREAS, Representation at the circuit forum should be two representatives from each congregation of the  
13 circuit, one an individual member of the Synod and one a lay person; therefore be it

14  
15 *Resolved*, That the circuit network of congregations gather in forum at least once during the quadrennium  
16 to celebrate their common confession and give voice to opportunities to share in mission and ministry; and be it  
17 further

18  
19 *Resolved*, That congregations be encouraged to send convention overtures to the circuit for study,  
20 discussion, and possible amendment; and be it further

21  
22 *Resolved*, That while all overtures sent to district and national conventions are received, those overtures  
23 which have been a part of the circuit’s work “to review decisions of the Synod, to motivate one another to action,  
24 and to shape and suggest new directions” (Bylaw 1.3.6) are to be given a higher priority of consideration; and be it  
25 further

26  
27 *Resolved*, That the language of “commissioned ministers” and “pastors” be changed throughout the  
28 *Handbook* of the Synod to read correctly “ministers of religion–commissioned” and “ministers of religion–  
29 ordained”; and be it finally

30  
31 *Resolved*, That the proposed amendments to Bylaw sections 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, and 5.4 relating to circuits as  
32 shown (“2007 Handbook Convention Version,” *TB*, pp. 318–322, *et al.*) and all changes to “ministers of religion–  
33 ordained” and “ministers of religion–commissioned” terminology throughout the *Handbook* be adopted.

34  
35  
36  
37 **Congregations Walking Together in Mission Through Circuit Networks**  
38 **To Elect Circuit Counselors**

39  
40 **RESOLUTION 8-03**

41  
42 TF Report (*CW TFR*, p. 24); Overtures 8-21, 8-57, 8-59 (*CW*, pp. 228–229, 241–242)

43  
44 WHEREAS, The Circuit counselor is the principal officer of the circuit, whose duties are assigned in the  
45 Bylaws of the Synod; and

46  
47 WHEREAS, circuit counselors serve as circuit network coordinators; and

48  
49 WHEREAS, It is also important for the district president to have the opportunity to provide input into the  
50 nomination process of one who serves as an ecclesial extension of the district president’s office; therefore be it

51  
52 *Resolved*, That the process of nominating circuit counselors begin with the congregation; and be it further

53  
54 *Resolved*, That the district president be provided opportunity to nominate eligible candidates from within  
55 the circuit; and be it further

56  
57 *Resolved*, That these elections take place at the circuit forum and be ratified by the district convention; be

1 and be it finally  
2

3 *Resolved*, That the amendments re circuit counselor elections and responsibilities proposed for Bylaws  
4 5.2.2 and 5.2.3 as shown (“2007 Handbook Convention Version,” *TB*, pp. 318–320) be adopted.  
5  
6  
7

8 **Congregations Walking Together in Mission Through District Representation**  
9 **To Enhance District Convention Representation**

10  
11 **RESOLUTION 8-04**

12  
13 TF Report (*CW TFR*, pp. 25–29); (*CW TFR A*, p. 1.69); Overtures 7-02, 8-29–43 (*CW*, pp. 211, 231–236)  
14

15 **Rationale**

16  
17 One of the treasures of the Synod’s present structure and governance model is the wonderful way all  
18 congregations of the Synod gather together in celebration, study, and legislative sessions at district conventions. At  
19 district conventions, the voice of every congregation is heard, strategic planning is conducted, mission challenges  
20 are shared, and worship and fellowship strengthen the bonds that help congregations walk together. The “voice” of  
21 congregations has been recognized through their representative votes. That representation is played out through the  
22 choosing of delegates to the district conventions—one lay delegate and one ordained delegate for each congregation.  
23 This mix of lay and clergy voices in the franchise has served the Synod well throughout its history.  
24

25 However, over the years, one of the challenges in representation has been the exclusion of commissioned  
26 ministers of religion from serving as congregational delegates. Commissioned ministers have special gifts and  
27 training that are not being utilized in the “congregational voice.”  
28

29 In a study of conventions of the Synod between 1847 and 1959, there was not one convention at which the  
30 50/50 balance of clergy/lay actually occurred. Clergy always outnumbered the laity. The concept of one pastor and  
31 one layperson representing each congregation or parish regardless of size has been a part of the tradition of the  
32 Synod for 163 years. This arrangement was intended to maintain a balance between the numbers of pastoral and lay  
33 delegates and treat all congregations the same in terms of voting representation (in addition to their obvious identical  
34 spiritual value before God). The question today, however, is whether this approach makes maximum use of the  
35 spiritual gifts and authority God has given to all His people for the sake of His mission, and whether it truly and  
36 fairly represents the entire priesthood of believers gathered in Synod congregations (1 Peter 2).  
37

38 Because the practice of representation by one pastor and one layperson is not mandated by the Word of  
39 God and is not essential to underlying theological principles, the Synod may in Christian liberty employ a different  
40 approach in achieving its representation at district conventions if it believes another approach to be more equitable,  
41 representative, and cost effective.  
42

43 There are three other areas of inequitable representation at district conventions that the task force  
44 addressed, with the objective of providing additional congregational voice. Currently, congregations with a pastoral  
45 vacancy receive only one vote (the lay vote), multiple-congregation parishes must share their lay vote among all the  
46 congregations involved in the partnership, and large congregations have no more numerically representative voice  
47 than small congregations despite having a significantly larger number of members.  
48

49 Vacancy or interim pastors are formally requested by congregations to provide pastoral ministry. They  
50 should be allowed to represent the congregations they serve as delegates to district conventions.  
51

52 Representation at conventions and all decision-making should reflect such theological considerations as the  
53 general priesthood of all believers, God’s gift of spiritual power to the whole church, the functioning of the body of  
54 Christ, and the spiritual gifts of all individual Christians for the edification and common good of the whole church  
55 (cf. the passage cited in the Preamble of the Constitution, “Reason for the Forming of a Synodical Union”).  
56

WHEREAS, Congregations are the voting members of the Synod; and

1  
2 WHEREAS, Congregations of the Synod have the responsibility to send their delegates to vote on behalf of  
3 the congregation at district conventions; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, The voice of nonvoting ordained ministers and commissioned ministers provides a compre-  
6 hensive voice of the church's called servants; and  
7

8 WHEREAS, The Synod has endeavored to have a balance of ministerial and lay representation in its voting,  
9 yet has not achieved this goal; and  
10

11 WHEREAS, Advisory delegates (nonvoting ordained and commissioned ministers) have been entitled to  
12 voice and vote on floor committees of conventions; and  
13

14 WHEREAS, The proposed amendment to the Constitution would still allow a nonvoting individual member  
15 (ordained or commissioned) to attend a district convention with full rights to voice but not vote; and  
16

17 WHEREAS, Circumstances that arise in the life of a congregation do not always allow it to send its pastor to  
18 cast a vote on behalf of the congregation; and  
19

20 WHEREAS, A congregation may find it unsuitable to be deprived of its ministerial voice and vote due to  
21 such circumstances, or may desire to send two ministerial representatives instead of one ministerial and one lay; and  
22

23 WHEREAS, Multi-congregation and large parishes have also experienced an inequity in their congregations'  
24 representation; and  
25

26 WHEREAS, The Constitution and Bylaws are to be consistent; therefore be it  
27

28 *Resolved*, That the amendments re enhancing district convention representation proposed for Bylaws 4.2.3-  
29 4.2.3.3 as shown ("2007 Handbook Convention Version," *TB*, p. 312) be adopted.  
30  
31  
32

33 **Congregations Walking Together in Mission Through National Representation**  
34 **To Elect Delegates to the Synod Convention**

35 **RESOLUTION 8-05**

36 Overtures 8-22, 8-28, 8-43-44, 8-51-53, 8-56 (*CW*, pp. 229-231, 236, 238-241)  
37

38 WHEREAS, Voting membership in the Synod is held by all organized congregations of the Synod and  
39 exercised through their elected representatives; and  
40

41 WHEREAS, It is fundamental to our understanding that congregations have equal voice through two  
42 representatives, a lay member and an individual member of the Synod, thus preserving the balance of lay-clergy  
43 vote; and  
44

45 WHEREAS, The district convention is that place where member congregations gather for "worship, nurture,  
46 inspiration, fellowship, and the communication of vital information" (Bylaw 4.2.1); and  
47

48 WHEREAS, The district convention is the principal legislative assembly of this component part of the  
49 Synod, where each member (congregation) is present; and  
50

51 WHEREAS, It is important that delegates understand in advance of the district convention that an orderly  
52 process for electing Synod convention delegates will be followed, one that includes an apportioning of congre-  
53 gations in light of the district's prescribed number of delegates, a selection of delegates in a manner that takes into  
54 consideration reasonable and equitable representation, and a process for caucusing for elections; therefore be it  
55  
56



1 support, advice, ecclesiastical encouragement, service, coordination, and counsel that will foster the congregation's  
2 greater participation in God's mission. Present district boundaries were determined by the national Synod with the  
3 intention of providing the most efficient and effective support and ecclesiastical encouragement and counsel to local  
4 congregations. Districts (all congregations together) also serve as grassroots mission councils and as leadership  
5 avenues for in-depth study, influence, and persuasion by the Word of God, thereby serving as channels to persuade  
6 and influence the national Synod through overtures and expanded leadership (assisting in setting the agenda for the  
7 national convention).  
8

9 According to the data received from all 35 districts in 2008, the districts are vastly different in size—  
10 ranging from 53 to 372 congregations and from 11,000 to 166,000 communicants. Staffing in the districts ranges  
11 from 1.5 full-time-equivalent (FTE) workers to 28 FTE workers. (A total of 386 FTEs work for the 35 districts).  
12 District budgets vary from \$570,000 to more than \$7,000,000. Annual unrestricted remittances from districts to the  
13 national Synod vary from \$60,000 to nearly \$3,000,000.  
14

15 Is the current make up districts with its disparity in sizes the most effective and efficient means to support  
16 the congregations of Synod? What is the purpose and function of the districts and how do they help the local  
17 congregation carry out its ministry? This is a topic that deserves careful and thoughtful study so that we can be  
18 about our Lord's work. This study needs to be done with great care and sensitivity to the tradition and history of the  
19 current 35 districts of Synod. The Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance recognized the  
20 importance and immensity of this part of our structure and recommended that a special task force be convened by  
21 the President of the Synod to work in consultation with Synod's Board of Directors and the Council of Presidents.  
22

23 WHEREAS, Many expectations are put upon the districts to provide support and resources to advance God's  
24 kingdom through healthy congregations. In an effort to bring the Synod closer to the congregations, districts may  
25 become the primary leaders in providing services (youth, stewardship, education, and outreach), coordinating North  
26 American mission efforts, leading North American human care ministries, providing ministerial growth and support  
27 services, and giving worship guidance and leadership; and  
28

29 WHEREAS, "The Synod decides when and whether a district shall be formed, divided, realigned, or merged  
30 with another or other districts, or dissolved; determines the boundaries of a district; and approves the name of a  
31 district" (Bylaw 4.1.1.3); and  
32

33 WHEREAS, Any proposal for reconfiguration of districts initiated by the national convention of the Synod  
34 shall "include a substantiated description of the nonviable aspects of the current district(s) on the basis of general  
35 principles of viability adopted from time to time by conventions of the Synod, and shall specify the problems or  
36 factors which make the adoption of the proposal advisable or necessary" (Bylaw 4.1.1.3 [b] [3]); and  
37

38 WHEREAS, General principles of viability have never been adopted by conventions of the Synod; and  
39

40 WHEREAS, A proposal for reconfiguration of districts is to "provide a specific and realistic development  
41 plan for the proposed district(s), including detailed proposals for staff personnel and financial operations" (Bylaw  
42 4.1.1.3 [b] [5]); and  
43

44 WHEREAS, There is a need for careful, thoughtful, and unbiased study of the function, size, and  
45 configuration of the districts of the Synod; and  
46

47 WHEREAS, The Atlantic, Eastern, New England, and New Jersey districts have indicated their willingness  
48 to participate as pilot districts for recommendations coming from a special task force on district configuration, size,  
49 and function; therefore be it  
50

51 *Resolved*, That the 2010 LCMS convention direct the President of the Synod to convene a special task force  
52 to work in consultation with the Council of Presidents and the Synod's Board of Directors to submit to the next  
53 Synod convention a recommendation that includes, but is not limited to, the following:  
54

- 55 • General principles of viability for a district as called for in Bylaw 4.1.1.3 (b) (3)
- 56 • The purpose and function of a district

- Based upon the principles of viability, purpose, and function of a district, a recommendation for the number and configuration of districts
- An implementation plan for any recommended changes that will address staff personnel and financial operations, as called for in Bylaw 4.1.1.3 (b) (5)

and be it further

*Resolved*, That after the task force has completed its study and determined the principles of viability, purpose, and function of a district, it be encouraged to work closely with the Atlantic, Eastern, New England, and New Jersey districts in a pilot program for implementing its recommendations for district configuration; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the work of the task force be done with great care and sensitivity to the history and tradition of current districts, working cooperatively and collegially with each district; and be it finally

*Resolved*, That the task force consist of 15 members:

- Appointed by the President of the Synod in consultation with the Board of Directors and the Council of Presidents:
  - + Two representatives (one lay and one individual member of Synod) from each of the five geographical regions under the current district groupings of the Council of Presidents
  - + One district executive
  - + One member of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance
- One member of the Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) selected by the CCM
- One district president chosen by the Council of Presidents
- The Chief Mission Officer of the Synod

**Congregations Walking Together in Mission and Served by a Flexible National Office  
To Realign the National Synod Ministries Around Two Mission Boards**

**RESOLUTION 8-08**

TF Report (*CW TFR*, pp. 39–44); Overtures 8-67–73, 8-81 (*CW*, pp. 243–246, 248)

**Preamble**

The Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance (BRTFSSG) in its early work during 2005-06 asked church leaders what in the current Synod structure is “broken”. Among the many answers (some of which are enumerated in the “Final Report” on page 2) were concerns that the structure of the national Synod has evolved over the years into a complex and inefficient system that is perceived as unresponsive to the needs of the congregations.

Certain mission and ministry emphases, programs and services provided by the national office (often required by the Synod’s Bylaws) are redundant in light of programs and services offered by others at the national and/or district levels, or by a variety of the Synod’s recognized service organizations (RSOs), parachurch organizations, and others. Other programs and services may be completely unnecessary. In either case, the result is poor stewardship of human and fiscal resources. Congregational involvement in national office goals is not always direct or clear. The current program board and commission structure lacks accountability and is expensive to fund. At the 2007 national convention, the Synod’s Treasurer warned that the national structure could no longer be fiscally supported. In this past triennium the national office staff has been significantly reduced, salary increases have been set aside, a voluntary retirement incentive was put in place, and still the financial reserves of the Synod have been depleted.

Seven program boards and six commissions—most with staff—carry out independent responsibilities as

1 dictated by the Synod's Bylaws. Over the years, conventions have modified board and commission responsibilities.  
2 This has helped to make boards and commissions accountable to the national convention but not to one another.  
3 The effect today is that the national office operates to some extent as a series of "silos." Though the boards and  
4 commissions and their staffs have worked hard to coordinate their work, particularly in recent years, the current  
5 framework of structure and governance lacks accountability to the express current dictates and needs of the Synod's  
6 congregations. Finally, the "siloed" setup of the boards and commissions creates complications in business  
7 oversight and legal compliance. The current operational structure of the Synod's boards and commissions and the  
8 relationship of staff coordination and accountability begs for improvement.  
9

10 The BRTFSSG has studied and reviewed the structure of the Synod and sought to develop principles and  
11 structures that enhance the ability of the Synod to carry out mission and ministry tasks that Christ has given to His  
12 church. "Mission" is the work Christ has given His church, and "Ministry" is how His church does that mission.  
13 Thus, BRTFSSG recommendation #18 seeks to sharpen the Synod's focus on mission and ministry in ways that help  
14 us remember who we are and what we are as we walk forward together in response to Christ's call. So that we most  
15 effectively serve that mission, the following resolution advocating the realignment of the national office and its  
16 relationship to congregations is offered.  
17

18 WHEREAS, During the Synod's 163-year history, it has on many occasions evaluated and adjusted its  
19 national operations and their relationship to districts, circuits, and congregations; and  
20

21 WHEREAS, As the Synod grew, it was necessary to implement additional systems of operations,  
22 accountability, and organization; and  
23

24 WHEREAS, Occasionally the Synod in convention implemented changes to its national operations structure  
25 in order to address specific issues; however, it did so without realizing the effect on the whole; and  
26

27 WHEREAS, With significantly diminishing unrestricted funds at the national level, there is a need to "right-  
28 size" national operations in a way similar to what many districts, congregations, schools, and family households  
29 have done to adjust the size of operations to fiscal realities; and  
30

31 WHEREAS, At the 2009 district conventions, more than 7,000 survey respondents (approximately 70  
32 percent) agreed that there is a need to realign national office operations, and during the regional gatherings of  
33 delegates survey respondents also agreed (50 to 75 percent), only raising caution with the concept of creating  
34 "advisory commissions"; and  
35

36 WHEREAS, After years of study, now is the time to realign the national operations of the Synod for the sake  
37 both of its MISSION effectiveness and faithful STEWARDSHIP of the gifts of God to His church; therefore be it  
38

39 *Resolved*, That current bylaw responsibilities for the Commission on Theology and Church Relations  
40 (CTCR) and for the Commission on Doctrinal Review be retained. The Commission on Constitutional Matters  
41 (CCM) will continue to be responsible for interpreting the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod, while  
42 the Commission on Handbook (COH) (presently called the Commission on Structure) will be responsible for the  
43 ongoing maintenance and management of the *Handbook* and for making recommendations to the convention for  
44 modification of the same, the process of appointing the COH following the process used to appoint the CCM; and be  
45 it further  
46

47 *Resolved*, That the national office operations be realigned so that  
48

- 49 (a) the existing program boards and some staffed commissions are eliminated;
- 50 (b) all staff performing functions ultimately assigned to the national office are accountable to an officer of  
51 the organization, with the exception of the CTCR; and
- 52 (c) functions currently performed by the program boards and staffed commissions, with the exception of  
53 the CTCR, be realigned into a new two-office ministry structure or assigned to the Office of the  
54 President, the LCMS Board of Directors, districts, or other LCMS agencies;

55  
56 and be it further

1  
2           *Resolved*, That the title “Vice-President–Finance—Treasurer” used in current governing documents be  
3 replaced with the title “Chief Financial Officer,” this position now to be appointed by the Board of Directors of the  
4 Synod after consultation with and with the concurrence of the President of the Synod. The Chief Financial Officer  
5 (CFO) will serve a four-year renewable term of office at the direction of the Board of Directors; and be it further  
6

7           *Resolved*, That a Chief Mission Officer (CMO) position reporting to the Synod President be created by  
8 bylaw, to be responsible for supervising the day-to-day activities of the ministry functions of the national office.  
9 This position will be appointed by the President of the Synod with the mutual concurrence of the Board of Directors.  
10 The CMO will serve a four-year renewable term of office at the direction of the President of the Synod. The CMO,  
11 the CFO, and the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) will be expected to work closely together in carrying out the  
12 programmatic, administrative, and financial functions of the national office in response to the Synod emphases  
13 selected by the national convention; and be it further  
14

15           *Resolved*, That an Office of National Mission be responsible for coordinating national office ministry that  
16 is directed toward or serving domestic ministries and especially congregations and schools through their districts.  
17 Such ministries may include but not be limited to Lutheran school ministries and accreditation, human care and  
18 domestic mercy efforts, stewardship, evangelism, church planting and revitalization, and youth ministry; and be it  
19 further  
20

21           *Resolved*, That an Office of International Mission be established to oversee the work of the LCMS in other  
22 countries. This office, among other functions, would place and support foreign missionaries, establish and maintain  
23 international schools, coordinate international relief efforts, and support and encourage the work of the Synod’s  
24 international partner churches in conjunction with the Office of the President; and be it further  
25

26           *Resolved*, That these offices each have staff reporting to the CMO, who is accountable to the President of  
27 the Synod; and be it further  
28

29           *Resolved*, That each of these two offices and their staff function under policies developed by two new  
30 mission boards: (1) Board for National Mission; and (2) Board for International Mission. These policies will  
31 establish boundaries, parameters, and principles that guide the respective mission office in determining present and  
32 future activities and programs. The mission boards will have oversight of the implementation of these policies, while  
33 the President of the Synod will be responsible for supervising the implementation of mission board policies in  
34 accordance with his responsibilities under Constitution Art. XI and Bylaws 3.3.1.1.1–3.3.1.3; and be it further  
35

36           *Resolved*, That the President’s Office (through the CMO) coordinate communication and public relations  
37 functions as well as fundraising activities; and be it further  
38

39           *Resolved*, That the President’s Office (through the CMO) and the seminary boards of regents provide  
40 leadership and coordination of seminary pastoral formation; and be it further  
41

42           *Resolved*, That the President’s Office (through the CMO) provide leadership and coordination for pre-  
43 seminary and post-seminary pastoral formation; and be it further  
44

45           *Resolved*, That the functions of the former Board for University Education (BUE) be distributed to the  
46 Concordia University System (to be retained as a Synod-wide corporate entity), the various university boards of  
47 regents, and the LCMS Board of Directors; and be it further  
48

49           *Resolved*, That due to the significant impact of these decisions and with the understanding that for “decency  
50 and order,” care be taken that the implementation of these actions not bring undue hardship on ministry and  
51 personnel charged with these national operations. A “transition team” will immediately be put together by the  
52 President of the Synod in consultation with the Board of Directors and the Council of Presidents; and be it finally  
53

54           *Resolved*, That to accomplish this realignment, the pertinent bylaws be amended as shown (“2007  
55 Handbook Conventions Version”) as follows:  
56

1	Bylaw	Subject	Today's Business Page(s)
2	1.2.1	Definitions	169–171
3	1.4.4	Relationships of Boards	173
4	1.4.6	Relation and Role of Staff	174
5	3.2.1–3.2.2.1	The Governing Boards of Synod	236
6	3.2.3–3.2.3.1	The Commissions of the Synod	236–237
7	3.3.1–3.3.1.3	Administrative Duties of the President	238–241
8	3.4.1–3.4.1.4	The Chief Financial Officer	245–246
9	3.4.2–3.4.2.3	The Chief Administrative Officer	246–247
10	3.4.3–3.4.3.8	The Chief Mission Officer	247
11	3.5.1–3.5.2.1	National Office Teams	248
12	3.6.6–3.6.6.6	Concordia University System	255–257
13	3.8.1–3.8.3.2; 3.8.3–3.8.3.4	Mission Boards	259–260, 261
14	3.8.2.3–3.8.2.7; 3.8.3.3–3.8.3.6	Mission Offices	260–261, 262
15	3.8.2–3.8.8.2.3	Deletion of Existing Boards	262–266
16	3.9.1–3.9.7.2	Commissions	266–274
17	3.10.2–3.8.3.5.10.1	Colloquy	275–280
18	3.10.4–3.10.4.7.10	Seminaries	280–291
19	3.10.5–3.10.5.6.10	CUS Boards of Regents	291–302
20	6.2.1–6.2.3	Recognized Service Organizations	323–324

21  
22  
23  
24 **Congregations Walking Together in Mission Establishing Synod Priorities**  
25 **To Develop Process for Developing Quadrennial Mission and Ministry Emphases**

26  
27 **RESOLUTION 8-09**

28  
29 TF Report (*CW TFR*, pp. 36–37)

30  
31 WHEREAS, The Synod was divided into districts in 1854 and into circuits in 1866, both actions taken in  
32 order to create greater administrative effectiveness and increased participation by both pastors and congregations;  
33 and

34  
35 WHEREAS, Congregations are the members of the Synod and thus carry out the mission and ministry  
36 emphases of the Synod; and

37  
38 WHEREAS, The more engaged congregations, circuits, and districts are in setting the mission and ministry  
39 goals of the national church body, the better the Synod walks together; therefore be it

40  
41 *Resolved*, That the Synod adopt a process for identifying Synod-wide mission and ministry emphases on a  
42 cycle consistent with the national convention schedule; and be it further

43  
44 *Resolved*, That the congregations, schools, and agencies of the Synod be encouraged to embrace the  
45 mission and ministry emphases between conventions by developing individual ministry goals that can be carried out  
46 by each entity, thus providing a common focus for the entire LCMS as it engages in ministry together; and be it  
47 finally

48  
49 *Resolved*, That Bylaws 3.3.1.1.1, 3.5.1, 3.5.2, 4.2.1 (d), and 4.4.2 (a) be amended to facilitate the regular  
50 development of mission and ministry emphases as shown (“2007 Handbook Convention Version,” *TB*, pp. 239, 248,  
51 311, 313).

1                   **Congregations Walking Together in Mission and Served by a Flexible National Office**  
2                   **To Amend Constitution Articles X and XI**

3  
4                   **RESOLUTION 8-10**

5  
6 TF Report (*CW TFR*, pp. 39–44)

7  
8           WHEREAS, Resolution 8-08 realigned the national office for more effective ministry; and

9  
10           WHEREAS, The Vice-President–Finance—Treasurer will be appointed by the Board of Directors and given  
11 the title Chief Financial Officer; therefore be it

12  
13           *Resolved*, That Articles X and XI be amended as shown (“2007 Handbook Convention Version,” *TB*, pp.  
14 163–165).

15  
16  
17                   **Congregations Walking Together in Mission Moving Toward a New Name for the Synod**  
18                   **To Adopt Process Leading to Consideration of New Name for Synod**

19  
20                   **RESOLUTION 8-11**

21  
22 TF Report (*CW TFR*, pp. 44–48); Overtures 8-74–78 (*CW*, pp. 246–247)

23  
24 **Preamble**

25  
26           The name The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has served the church body well since it was adopted in  
27 convention in 1947, just as the two previous names did during the Synod’s first 100 years of existence. But the  
28 passage of time can, in some cases, result in a call and need for a new name.

29  
30           A church body may periodically see the need for a name change to reflect more effectively its character,  
31 breadth and mission; to arouse interest and curiosity among non-members; and to provide an accurate sense of  
32 meaning as to why it exists.

33  
34           Widespread (but not unanimous) interest was communicated to members of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on  
35 Synod Structure and Governance in regard to the need for a name change, including 1,488 suggested names.  
36 Considering the fact that the Synod has been studying this topic for the past 15 years, task force members included a  
37 recommendation that calls for the adoption of a process that would lead to the renaming of The Lutheran Church—  
38 Missouri Synod.

39  
40           WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has had two other names—*Die Evangelisch-*  
41 *Lutherische Synode von Missouri, Ohio, und andern Staaten* and the “Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri,  
42 Ohio and Other States”—earlier in its history as a church body; and

43  
44           WHEREAS, There is concern that “The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod” name creates confusion among  
45 many, particularly because of the reference to a single state and the unfamiliar word “synod”; and

46  
47           WHEREAS, Such confusion can and has posed a hindrance to accomplishing the church’s mission; and

48  
49           WHEREAS, Several alternative names have been suggested that might ease such confusion while also still  
50 representing the Synod’s great history and strong confessional stance; therefore be it

51  
52           *Resolved*, That the Synod’s Council of Presidents and Board of Directors evaluate and give prayerful  
53 consideration to the alternative names suggested as part of the work of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod  
54 Structure and Governance; and be it further



1 by the President-elect; and be it finally

2  
3 *Resolved*, That Bylaw 3.12.1–3.12.2.5 be amended accordingly, as shown (“2007 Handbook Convention  
4 Version,” *TB*, pp. 303–306).

5  
6  
7  
8 **Congregations Walking Together in Mission as We Nominate and Elect**  
9 **To Elect Five Vice-Presidents by Geographic Region**

10  
11 **RESOLUTION 8-14**

12  
13 TF Report (*CW TFR*, pp. 30–31); Overtures 8-11, 8-62 (*CW*, pp. 224–225; 242)

14  
15 WHEREAS, The Synod desires congregations to walk better together in mission; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, The Synod exists to support and strengthen congregations in their mission and ministry; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, The establishment of five geographic regions will serve to establish stronger connecting links  
20 between the congregations, districts and the Synod; and

21  
22 WHEREAS, The five geographic regions would be created primarily for representational purposes to  
23 improve communications and coordination of functions between the congregations and the national Synod; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, The Synod would benefit by improved representation from all areas of the nation; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, The Synod vice-presidents two through six would serve as the geographic representatives of the  
28 church to improve the communications and coordination of functions between the congregations within the  
29 geographical regions and the national Synod; and

30  
31 WHEREAS, It is necessary to avoid conflict of interest or its appearance when an employee of the Synod or  
32 its agencies and auxiliaries serves as a vice-president of the Synod; therefore be it

33  
34 *Resolved*, That the Synod create five geographic regions within the Synod; and be it further

35  
36 *Resolved*, That the Board of Directors, with coordination through the Council of Presidents, designate the  
37 boundaries of the five regions at least 24 months in advance of each Synod convention, appropriately considering  
38 geographical and confirmed membership information; and be it further

39  
40 *Resolved*, That the congregations of each of the five geographic regions within the Synod nominate from  
41 their regions candidates for the position of Synod vice-president and, from these nominations, the Synod in  
42 convention elect a vice-president from each geographical region; and be it further

43  
44 *Resolved*, That an employee of the Synod or its agencies and auxiliaries not be eligible to serve as a  
45 regional vice-president; and be it finally

46  
47 *Resolved*, That Bylaws 1.2.1 (r), 1.3.2, 3.2.1, 3.2.4(a), 3.2.4.1, 3.3.2.3, 3.3.2.4, 3.3.5.1, 3.10.1, 3.10.2,  
48 3.12.1, and 3.12.1.6 be amended accordingly, as shown (“2007 Handbook Convention Version,” *TB*, pp. 171, 172,  
49 236, 237, 238, 241, 242–243, 274–275, 303–305).

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**Congregations Walking Together in Mission  
To Enable Regional Elections at 2010 Convention**

**RESOLUTION 8-15**

TF Report (*CW TFR*, p. 35); Overtures 8-11, 8-63 (*CW*, pp. 224–225; 242–243)

WHEREAS, Res. 8-08 requires regional representation on the Board for National Mission and the Board for International Mission, and Res. 8-16 requires regional representation on the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, It is possible and advisable to implement such elections at the 2010 convention; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That only for the 2010 elections of the Board of Directors, the Board for National Mission, and the Board for International Mission, the 24-month advance notification of regional make-up be waived; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Board of Directors and the Council of Presidents present to the convention a regional makeup for the 2010 convention prior to the elections.

**Congregations Walking Together in Mission as We Nominate and Elect  
To Ensure Regional Representation on the Board of Directors**

**RESOLUTION 8-16**

TF Report (*CW TFR*, p. 35); Overtures 8-11, 8-63–64 (*CW*, pp. 224–225; 242–243)

WHEREAS, The Synod desires congregations to walk better together in mission; and

WHEREAS, The Synod exists to support and strengthen congregations in their mission and ministry; and

WHEREAS, The establishment of five geographic regions will serve to establish stronger connecting links between congregations, districts, and the Synod's Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, Five geographic regions would be created primarily for representational purposes, to improve communications and coordination of functions between congregations and the Synod's Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, The Synod's Board of Directors would benefit by improved representation from all areas of the nation; and

WHEREAS, The Synod's Board of Directors, currently composed of 15 voting members with no specific geographical representation, should become more representative of the Synod's varied geographical regions; and

WHEREAS, The members of the Synod's Board of Directors are responsible for making vital legal, business, and finance decisions on behalf of Synod; and

WHEREAS, The Synod would benefit by allowing a more representative group of individuals participate in the governance of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary for board members to possess various skill sets to better enable them to make informed and educated decisions; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Synod's Board of Directors be composed of no more than 14 voting members, as follows:

- five laypersons, one elected from each of the five designated geographical regions



1  
2 When dealing with the issue of frequency of district and national conventions of The Lutheran Church—  
3 Missouri Synod, members of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance have proposed a  
4 change that aims to accomplish three important objectives:

- 5  
6 1. Provide a structure that creates a convention culture in the church that uses the Word of God as an  
7 instrument of the Holy Spirit and His power in conversation, discussion, and convincing, rather than  
8 simply serving as a culture of voting power or legislation.  
9 2. Provide economic savings.  
10 3. Provide adequate time for church representatives to implement the work of the church at each level of  
11 governance.  
12

13 That is the impetus behind the task force’s recommendation to amend the cycle of district and national  
14 conventions from three years to four years.  
15

16 WHEREAS, A four-year cycle that begins with the grassroots of the Synod will create a convention culture  
17 characterized by an intentional focus on the church’s common mission and confession, on contemporary issues  
18 faced by the church, and on theology, nurture, edification, inspiration, and worship; and  
19

20 WHEREAS, A change to a four-year cycle allows for the central role of congregations in all four years; and  
21

22 WHEREAS, It is desirable to be the best stewards of both the time and the money of the members of the  
23 congregations of Synod; and  
24

25 WHEREAS, Significant economic savings will be realized by the congregations of Synod being assessed for  
26 a district and a national convention every four years rather than every three years; and  
27

28 WHEREAS, The importance of matters coming from a congregation, a circuit forum, or a district convention  
29 to a convention of the national Synod is well served by a four-year cycle; and  
30

31 WHEREAS, The terminology of Constitution Art. VIII A and B needs to be updated; therefore be it  
32

33 *Resolved*, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod adopt a four-year cycle for district and national  
34 conventions; and be it further  
35

36 *Resolved*, That in the four-year cycle, circuits may hold theological convocations in year one; districts shall  
37 hold theological convocations in year two; district conventions shall be held in year three; and the national Synod  
38 convention shall be held in year four; and be it finally  
39

40 *Resolved*, That Constitution Art. VIII A and B be amended accordingly, as shown (“2007 Handbook  
41 Convention Version,” *TB*, p. 162).  
42  
43  
44

45 **Congregations Walking Together in Mission Through Conventions**  
46 **To Amend Bylaws 4.9.1, 4.9.1.1–4.9.1.4 to Create Four-Year Convention Cycle**  
47

48 **RESOLUTION 8-19**  
49

50 TF Report (*CW TFR*, p. 31)  
51

52 WHEREAS, Res. 8-18 amended Article VIII, A and B, to provide for a four-year cycle for national and  
53 district conventions; therefore be it  
54

55 *Resolved*, That Bylaws 4.9.1, 4.9.1.1 through 4.9.1.4 also be amended accordingly, as shown (“2007  
56 Handbook Convention Version,” *TB*, pp. 317–318).

1                                   **Congregations Walking Together in Mission Through Conventions**  
2                                   **To Implement Four-Year Cycle**

3  
4                                   **RESOLUTION 8-20**

5  
6 TF Report (*CW TFR*, p. 31)

7  
8 **Rationale**

9  
10                   Because a constitutional amendment is involved, convention Res. 8-18 will require congregations to ratify  
11 the constitutional changes before they become effective.

12  
13                   Because of the time involved in the ratification process, and because convention Res. 8-18 focuses on the  
14 frequency of district and national conventions of the Synod, it naturally raises the question of when such a change  
15 in frequency might be implemented.

16  
17                   WHEREAS, An immediate adoption of the change in convention frequency to a four-year cycle would result  
18 in economic savings; and

19  
20                   WHEREAS, An immediate adoption of the change in frequency would place the next district conventions in  
21 2013 and Synod convention in 2014; therefore be it

22  
23                   *Resolved*, That following congregational ratification, Article VIII A and B (Res. 8-18) amendments shall be  
24 effective immediately; and be it further

25  
26                   *Resolved*, That, following congregational ratification of Article VIII A and B (Res. 8-18), all elected or  
27 appointed to positions in districts or the Synod shall serve an additional year.

28  
29  
30  
31                                   **Congregations Walking Together in Mission with Consistent Terms of Office**  
32                                   **To Establish Consistency in Terms of Office**

33  
34                                   **RESOLUTION 8-21**

35  
36 TF Report (*CW TFR*, p. 34)

37  
38                   WHEREAS, The Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance has recommended that the  
39 frequency of district and national conventions be held according to a four-year cycle; and

40  
41                   WHEREAS, The amendment of Constitution Art. VIII must be ratified by the congregations of the Synod;  
42 and

43  
44                   WHEREAS, The current terms of office of district and national officers, boards, and commissions are either  
45 three or six years; and

46  
47                   WHEREAS, A four-year term of office does not obligate one to extremely extended years of service, as does  
48 the current six-year commitment of some offices or as would a potential eight-year term of office; and

49  
50                   WHEREAS, A four-year term of office allows sufficient time to bring to fruition effective work begun during  
51 a term of office, at the end of which time both the church and the individual servant can evaluate whether his or her  
52 gifts are being utilized in the best manner for the good of the church; therefore be it

53  
54                   *Resolved*, That all circuit, district, and national officers, as well as all board and commission members,  
55 shall be elected or appointed to four-year terms of office; and be it further



1 Synod, especially in controverted matters; and be it further

2  
3 *Resolved*, That the pathway for adoption of doctrinal statements continue to follow the process set forth in  
4 Bylaw 1.6.2 (proposed 1.6.4), including involvement of the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations,  
5 study by the church, and the congregational ratification process; and be it further

6  
7 *Resolved*, That members of Synod convention floor committees be charged with the responsibility for  
8 determining which proposed convention resolutions are to be considered doctrinal resolutions of special  
9 significance; and be it further

10  
11 *Resolved*, That the decisions of the floor committees be guided by determining whether the resolution  
12 initiates, modifies, or repeals specific doctrinal positions or practices of the Synod; and be it further

13  
14 *Resolved*, That overruling the decisions of convention floor committees in regard to resolutions of special  
15 significance require a two-thirds vote of Synod convention delegates; and be it further

16  
17 *Resolved*, That delegates to any Synod convention retain the option of, by a simple majority vote, referring  
18 any proposed doctrinal resolution of special significance to the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church  
19 Relations for evaluation, refinement, development, or recommendation to the next convention of the Synod; and be  
20 it finally

21  
22 *Resolved*, That Article VIII C be amended accordingly, as shown (“2007Handbook Convention Version,”  
23 *TB*, pp. 162–163).

24  
25  
26  
27 **Congregations Walking Together in Mission Through Conventions**  
28 **To Amend 1.6.1–1.7.2, 3.1.1 re Doctrinal Resolutions and Statements**

29  
30 **RESOLUTION 8-23**

31  
32 TF Report (*CW TFR*, p. 38); Overtures 8-49 –50 (*CW*, pp. 237–238)

33  
34 WHEREAS, Resolution 8-22 amended Constitution Art. VIII C to clarify doctrinal resolutions and doctrinal  
35 statements; therefore be it

36  
37 *Resolved*, That Bylaws 1.6.1–1.6.4 and 3.1.1 be amended accordingly, as shown (“2007 Handbook  
38 Convention Version,” *TB*, pp. 178–180, 227).

39  
40  
41 **Congregations Walking Together in Mission As We Affirm our Proper Roles**  
42 **To Amend Article IX of the Synod’s Constitution**

43  
44 **RESOLUTION 8-24**

45  
46  
47 TF Report (*CW TFR*, p. 23); TF Report (*CW TFR A*, p. 1.8); Overtures 8-18–22, 8-27–29, 8-31–32, 8-35–45 (*CW*,  
48 pp. 228–230; 231; 233–236)

49  
50 WHEREAS, Article IX of the Synod’s Constitution identifies the composition of representatives and  
51 delegates to conventions of the Synod; and

52  
53 WHEREAS, Article V has defined individual membership in the Synod, consistency with that revision  
54 underscores the need to amend Article IX; therefore, be it

1           *Resolved*, That Article IX be amended consistent with Article V, as shown (“2007 Handbook Convention  
2 Version,” *TB*, p. 163).  
3  
4  
5

6                                   **Congregations Walking Together in Mission as We Affirm Our Proper Roles**  
7                                   **To Amend Article XII of the Constitution**

8  
9                                   **RESOLUTION 8-25**

10  
11 TF Report (*CW TF*, pp. 23–24); TF Report (*CW TFR A*, pp. 1.10–.11); Overtures 8-13, 8-32, 8-51 (*CW*, pp. 225,  
12 232, 238–239)  
13

14           WHEREAS, Article V of the Synod’s Constitution underscores the essentially congregational character of  
15 the Synod; and  
16

17           WHEREAS, The districts of the Synod are created by the Synod and are the Synod in that place where they  
18 have been established; and  
19

20           WHEREAS, The Constitution of the Synod is also the Constitution of the Synod’s districts (Article XII 2  
21 [2007 *Handbook*, p. 17]); and  
22

23           WHEREAS, Since Article V has defined individual membership in the Synod, consistency with that revision  
24 underscores the need to amend Article XII; therefore be it  
25

26           *Resolved*, That Article XII be amended consistent with the amendment to Article V, as shown (“2007  
27 Handbook Convention Version,” *TB*, pp. 165–167).  
28  
29  
30

31                                   **Congregations Walking Together in Mission Through National Representation**  
32                                   **To Determine the Number of Delegates at National Conventions**

33  
34                                   **RESOLUTION 8-26**

35  
36 Overtures 8-28–29, 8-31–32, 8-35–45, 8-60 (*CW*, pp. 231–236, 242)  
37

38           WHEREAS, The Synod convention is the “principal legislative assembly, which amends the Constitution and  
39 Bylaws, considers and takes action on reports and overtures, and handles appropriate appeals and establishes general  
40 positions and policies of the Synod, provides overall program direction and priorities, and evaluates all such  
41 positions, programs, policies, directions, and priorities in order to provide responsible service for and on behalf of its  
42 members” (Bylaw 3.1.1); and  
43

44           WHEREAS, Circuits no longer exist for the election of delegates; therefore the size of the national  
45 convention is undetermined, and  
46

47           WHEREAS, Removal of the electoral circuits eliminates the need for exceptional circuit delegates; and  
48

49           WHEREAS, Reducing the number of delegates  
50

- 51           • enables greater engagement of the delegates in the discussion and the proceedings of mission and  
52           business;
- 53           • ensures equality in the number of delegates each district is apportioned; and
- 54           • allows for a greater stewardship of the gifts of God’s people for the work of mission and ministry  
55           by opening up less expensive venues;

1  
2 therefore be it  
3

4 *Resolved*, That the number of delegates to the Synod convention be fixed based on ten percent of the  
5 number of congregations in the Synod six months prior to the first district convention; and be it further  
6

7 *Resolved*, That Bylaw 3.1.2 be amended accordingly, as shown (“2007 Handbook Convention Version,”  
8 *TB*, p. 228).  
9

10  
11  
12 **Congregations Walking Together in Mission by Clarifying the Priority of the Constitution**  
13 **To Add A New Article XIV**  
14

15 **RESOLUTION 8-27**  
16

17 TF Report (*CW TFR*, p. 44)  
18

19 WHEREAS, There are no Articles in the Constitution that clarify that if a bylaw adopted by simple majority  
20 vote serves to confuse or contradict the Constitution of the Synod, the Constitution will “trump” the bylaw; and  
21

22 WHEREAS, There is a need to clarify the relationship between the Bylaws and the Constitution of the  
23 Synod; therefore be it  
24

25 *Resolved*, A new Article XIV to the Constitution be adopted to satisfy this need, as shown (“2007  
26 Handbook Convention Version,” *TB*, p. 167).  
27  
28  
29

30 **Congregations Walking Together in Mission**  
31 **To Clarify the Preamble of the Constitution**  
32

33 **RESOLUTION 8-28**  
34

35 TF Report (*CW TFR*, p. 21)  
36

37 **Rationale**  
38

39 Aligned with, flowing from, and guided by the Synod’s theological principles to advance Christ’s mission,  
40 this recommendation is to amplify, affirm, and clarify that the reasons for the Synod’s existence under Acts 15 and 1  
41 Corinthians 12 are for congregations to walk together in God’s mission and to serve one another for His purpose of  
42 saving all people through Jesus Christ. With God’s mission as the very ground of the Synod’s being, this  
43 recommendation affirms and clarifies that Christ—His person and justifying work—is the center of the Synod’s  
44 common confession.  
45

46 The suggested word changes not only eliminate cumbersome and unnecessary wording but use language  
47 that updates constitutional language without making substantive change. Both the Scriptures and the Lutheran  
48 Confessions put Christ in the center of Lutheran theology. There hasn’t been any place in the Synod’s governing  
49 documents through the years that reminds the Synod and proclaims to the world the only way in which people are  
50 saved. A clear statement that the Synod’s “confession of faith” is to be found in Holy Scripture and the Lutheran  
51 Confessions but the object of that saving faith is Jesus Christ our Lord is a strong addition to the Synod’s  
52 constitutional foundation (LCMS Constitution, Art. II).  
53

54 After consideration of the task force report and all related overtures, the following amendment to the  
55 Constitution is recommended.  
56



1 **Congregations Walking Together in Mission**  
2 **To Amend Article III of the Constitution**

3  
4 **RESOLUTION 8-31**

5  
6 TF Report (*CW TFR*, pp. 21–22); (*CW TFR A*, 1.2–.4); Overtures 8-14–16, 8-46–47 (*CW*, pp. 225–227, 237)

7  
8 **Preamble**  
9

10 Since its inception, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has kept a clear focus on the confessional  
11 mission of the church. Throughout its 163 years this has been the central and guiding principle for its existence. This  
12 focus finds its expression in the Scriptures’ description of the body of Christ and the multiplicity of gifts given to the  
13 church. The suggested changes to the constitution maintain this connection with the historic expression of the  
14 mission of the Synod and seek to articulate it in our cultural context.

15  
16 WHEREAS, Our Lord has called His church to announce the Gospel to the world in word and deed; and

17  
18 WHEREAS, Our Lord has entrusted to us His message of reconciliation as His ambassadors to the world;  
19 and

20  
21 WHEREAS, This calling expresses itself as we intentionally reach out to the people around us in loving and  
22 active service that testifies to the Gospel; and

23  
24 WHEREAS, The Synod was organized to provide encouragement and resources to congregations and  
25 individual Christians in the carrying out of this ministry of reconciliation and to prepare men and women for their  
26 respective vocational tasks; and

27  
28 WHEREAS, The Synod was organized to maintain doctrinal integrity and promote the unity of true faith;  
29 therefore be it

30  
31 *Resolved*, This calling be lifted up and articulated in the governing document of our church; and be it  
32 further

33  
34 *Resolved*, That the Synod in convention approve the proposed amendments to Article III of the Constitution  
35 and Bylaws 1.2.1 (d), 1.3.4, 1.3.5, 2.1.1, 3.6.1.5 (f), 3.9.5, 4.1.1, and 4.4.4, as shown (“2007 Handbook Convention  
36 Version,” *TB*, pp. 159–160, 169–170, 172, 193, 249, 271, 309, 314).

37  
38  
39  
40 **Congregations Walking Together in Mission with Covenants of Love**  
41 **To Amend Article VII**

42  
43 **RESOLUTION 8-32**

44  
45 TF Report (*CW TF*, p. 21); Overtures 7-03, 8-01, 8-17–20, 8-24–26 (*CW*, p. 211, 221, 227, 230–231)

46  
47 WHEREAS, Article VII of the Synod’s Constitution states clearly that the Synod “is not an ecclesiastical  
48 government exercising legislative or coercive powers. . . .”; and

49  
50 WHEREAS, Article VII also states that “with respect to the individual congregation’s right of self-  
51 government, it is but an advisory body”; and

52  
53 WHEREAS, The proposed amendment to Article VII of the Synod’s Constitution reflects the historically  
54 recognized responsibility of the members of Synod to the Synod as stated in current Bylaws 1.3.4, 1.3.5, 1.6.1, 1.6.2,  
55 1.7, and 1.8 (cf. 1971 Synod convention Res. 2-21, 5-24); and

1 WHEREAS, The relationship between and among the Synod and its members has been created to provide  
2 mutual encouragement and edification as they work and walk together responding to God’s call and direction;  
3 therefore be it  
4

5 *Resolved*, That we give thanks to almighty God for the privilege and opportunity He gives us to work and  
6 walk together in this Synod as His ambassadors in and to the worlds in which we live; and be it further  
7

8 *Resolved*, That Article VII be amended as shown (“2007 Handbook Convention Version,” *TB*, p. 162).  
9

10  
11  
12 **Congregations Walking Together in Mission as We Affirm Our Proper Roles**  
13 **To Amend Bylaws 2.1.1, 2.13.1, 2.13.4.2, 2.13.4.3, 2.14.3, 2.14.4, 2.18.2, and 2.18.1**  
14

15 **RESOLUTION 8-33**  
16

17 TF Report (*CW TFR*, pp. 23–24); Overtures 8-33, 8-36–42 (*CW*, p. 232, 233–236)  
18

19 *Resolved*, That all related BRTFSSG recommendations for amendment of the Synod’s Bylaws 2.1.1ff. ,  
20 2.13.1, 2.13.4.2, 2.13.4.3, *et. al.* be adopted as shown (“2007 Handbook Convention Version,” *TB*, pp. 193ff., 201,  
21 204, 206, 207, *et.al.*).  
22  
23  
24

25 **OMNIBUS RESOLUTION C**  
26 **To Respectfully Decline Overtures**  
27

28 **RESOLUTION 8-34**  
29

30 Whereas, The floor committee has considered all overtures assigned to it and has concluded, for various  
31 reasons, that certain overtures should be declined; therefore be it  
32

33 *Resolved*, That the following overtures be respectfully declined for the reasons given:  
34

<u>Number</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Ov. 8-02	Allow Time for Reasonable Conversation and Consideration of Changes to Structure	2007 Res. 8-07S, Synod President’s Subsequent Decision, Delegate Gatherings, All Materials Posted on Internet
Ov. 8-03	Foster Greater Unanimity in Decisions re Structure	2007 Res. 8-07S, Synod President’s Subsequent Decision, Delegate Gatherings, All Materials Posted on Internet
Ov. 8-04	Postpone Consideration and Implementation of Task Force Report	2007 Res. 8-07S, Synod President’s Subsequent Decision, Delegate Gatherings, All Materials Posted on Internet
Ov. 8-05	Exercise Care and Delay Implementation of Structure Changes	2007 Res. 8-07S, Synod President’s Subsequent Decision, Delegate Gatherings, All Materials Posted on Internet
Ov. 8-06	Allow Time to Study Task Force Recommendations	2007 Res. 8-07S, Synod President’s Subsequent Decision, Delegate Gatherings, All Materials Posted on Internet

1	Ov. 8-07	Submit BRTFSSG Report to All Congregations	2007 Res. 8-07S, Synod President's
2		For Study and Defer Action Until Following	Subsequent Decision, Delegate Gatherings,
3		Convention	All Materials Posted on Internet
4			
5	Ov. 8-08	Proceed with Task Force Proposals Only If Full	2007 Res. 8-07S, Synod President's
6		And Timely Disclosure of Proposed Revisions	Subsequent Decision, Delegate Gatherings,
7		Is Provided	All Materials Posted on Internet
8			
9	Ov. 8-09	Reject Blue Ribbon Task Force Recommendations	2010 Convention Delegates Will Decide
10			
11	Ov. 8-10	Defer Proposed Restructure/Reorginazation to	2007 Res. 8-07S, Synod President's
12		2013 Convention	Subsequent Decision, Delegate Gatherings,
13			All Materials Posted on Internet
14			
15	Ov. 8-12	Consider Recommendations of BRTFSSG as	Constitution Art. XIV 2; Various
16		Separate Items to be Voted on Separately	Recommendations Interrelate Directly with
17			Others
18			
19	Ov. 8-65	Operate with Board of Directors Serving as	Conflicts with Constitution Art. XI
20		National Consistory	
21			
22	Ov. 8-66	Establish Position of Chief Executive Officer	Considered But Not Recommended by
23			Task Force
24			
25	Ov. 8-82	Exercise Appropriate Care in Considering	2007 Res. 8-07S, Synod President's
26		Structure Changes	Subsequent Decision, Delegate Gatherings,
27			All Materials Posted on Internet
28			

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# **CONSTITUTION OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH— MISSOURI SYNOD**

PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

## *Preamble*

### **Reasons for the Existence ~~Forming~~ of a Synodical Union**

1. To work together in God’s mission of saving all people through Jesus Christ Acts 15:11; 1 Tim. 2:4; John 20:21; 2 Cor. 5:17–20.
2. ~~The example~~ To walk together in proclaiming the Gospel message, in encouraging the Gospel mission, and in preserving doctrinal unity under the Gospel in the spirit of the apostolic church (Acts 15:1–31).
3. ~~Our Lord’s will that the diversities of~~ To worship and serve together as a royal priesthood, making effective use of the different gifts in the body of Christ for the purpose of serving one another in God’s mission should be for the common good of all profit (1 Cor. 12:4–31; Rom. 12:1–8; 1 Peter 2:9).

## *Article I Name*

The name of the synod organized under this constitution shall be: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

## *Article II Confession*

The Synod, and every member of the Synod, accepts, teaches and confesses without reservation:

### A. Confession of Faith:

The central doctrine of the Scriptures that Jesus Christ, the second person of the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, alone is the Savior of the world, and that only “out of grace for Christ’s sake through faith” (Augsburg Confession, IV) in Him is there forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and salvation (John 3:16–18; 1 John 2:2; Acts 4:12).

### B. Confessional Basis:

1. The Scriptures of the Old and the New Testament as are the inspired and inerrant ~~written~~ Word of God and “the only judge, rule, and ~~norm~~ guiding principle” (Formula of Concord, Epitome, 7) of faith and of practice;

2. ~~All the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as a true and unadulterated statement and exposition of the Word of God, to wit; The confessional documents in the *Book of Concord*— the three Ecumenical Creeds (the Apostles’ Creed, the Nicene Creed, the Athanasian Creed), and the writings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles, the Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope, the Large Catechism of Luther, and the Small Catechisms of Luther, and the Formula of Concord—) are true and correct statements and expositions of the Word of God.~~

1 *Article III Objectives Mission and Purpose*

2  
3 A. Mission and Purpose

4  
5 *In grateful response to God's grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacraments, the*  
6 *mission of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is vigorously to make known the love of Christ by word*  
7 *and deed within our churches, communities, and world (LCMS Mission Statement, adopted 1998).*  
8

9 The Synod, under Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, ~~shall~~ acts together in support of and on  
10 behalf of its member congregations—

- 11
- 12 1. ~~2. Strengthen congregations and their members in giving~~ To give bold witness by word and deed to the  
13 love and work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness into all the  
14 world (Matt. 4:19–20; 28:18–20; Luke 24:45–49; Acts 1:8; 2:42; 2 Cor. 5:11–21) so that all people  
15 come to a saving faith relationship with Jesus Christ, grow in an ever deeper relationship with Christ  
16 and with one another, serve Him and one another in the community of the church and the world, and  
17 communicate the Gospel of Christ into all the world to save the lost;
  - 18 2. To conserve, promote, nurture, and manifest the unity of the true faith in Jesus Christ (Eph. 4: 3–6;  
19 John 17:6–23);
  - 20 3. ~~1. Conserve~~ To conserve, and promote, nurture, and manifest the confessional unity of the true faith  
21 within the Synod (1 Cor. 1:10);
  - 22 4. To work through its official structure toward church fellowship with other Christian church bodies;  
23 and
  - 24 5. To provide a united defense against schism, sectarianism (Rom. 16:17), and heresy.
- 25

26 B. Carrying Out the Mission and Purpose

27  
28 The Synod, motivated by God's love for the world, committed to its common confession of faith and the  
29 mission of God centered in Jesus Christ, and persuaded and directed by the power of God's Word,  
30 accomplishes and fulfills its mission and purpose together by—

- 31
- 32 1. ~~3. Recruiting and train~~ pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers educating ministers of  
33 religion—ordained and ministers of religion—commissioned and providing opportunity for their  
34 continuing growth;
  - 35 2. Preparing and equipping the laity to carry out their Christian vocation and providing opportunity for  
36 their continuing growth;
  - 37 3. ~~and to support synodical~~ Supporting the colleges, universities, and seminaries of the Synod;
  - 38 4. Equipping and sending missionaries to various cultures and people, and establishing new  
39 congregations, missions, and ministries;
  - 40 5. ~~4. Provide~~ Providing opportunities through which ~~its members~~ congregations may express their  
41 Christian concern, love, and compassion in meeting human needs;
  - 42 6. ~~5. Aid~~ Providing resources for congregations to develop processes and agencies of thorough Christian  
43 education and nurture, ~~and to establish agencies of Christian education~~ such as preschools and  
44 elementary and secondary schools;
  - 45 7. ~~6. Aid congregations by providing~~ Providing a variety of resources and opportunities ~~for recognizing,~~  
46 ~~promoting, expressing, conserving, and defending~~ in order that congregations may recognize, promote,  
47 express, conserve, and defend their confessional unity in the true faith;
  - 48 8. ~~7. Encourage~~ Encouraging congregations to strive for uniformity in church practice, ~~but also to develop an a~~  
49 common understanding and appreciation of a variety of responsible practices and customs which are  
50 in harmony with our common ~~profession~~ confession of faith;

- 1 ~~9. 8. Provide~~ Providing evangelical supervision, counsel, protection and care for ~~pastors, teachers, and~~  
2 ~~other church workers~~ congregations, ministers of religion—ordained, and ministers of religion—  
3 commissioned in the performance of their official duties ~~9. Provide protection for congregations, pastors,~~  
4 ~~teachers, and other church workers in the performance of their official duties and the maintenance of their~~  
5 ~~rights; and~~  
6 10. ~~And~~ Assisting in providing for the welfare of ~~pastors, teachers, and other church workers and their~~  
7 ~~families in the event of illness, disability, retirement, special need, or death.~~

#### 10 *IV Powers*

11 The Synod shall have legal powers:

- 12  
13  
14 1. To purchase, hold, administer, and sell property of every description in the interest of the Synod;  
15 2. To accept, hold, administer, and, if deemed advisable, dispose of legacies, donations, commercial  
16 papers, and legal documents of every description in the interest of its work.

#### 17 *Article V Membership*

18  
19  
20 Membership in the Synod is held and may be acquired by congregations, ministers of religion—  
21 ordained and ministers of religion—commissioned, ~~such as teachers, directors of Christian education, directors~~  
22 ~~of Christian outreach, directors of family life ministry, directors of parish music, deaconesses, parish assistants,~~  
23 ~~certified lay ministers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church~~ who confess and accept the confessional basis of  
24 Article II.

##### 25 A. Voting ~~Members~~ Membership

26  
27  
28 ~~All organized congregations that have joined the Synod hold voting~~ Voting membership. ~~At the~~  
29 ~~meetings of the districts of in the Synod every congregation or parish is entitled to two votes, one of which is to be~~  
30 ~~cast by the pastor and the other by the lay delegate. At the meetings of the Synod a number of congregations shall~~  
31 ~~form a group which shall be represented by two voting delegates, one a pastor and one a lay delegate~~ is held by all  
32 organized congregations that have joined the Synod and subscribe to its Constitution. At conventions of  
33 the Synod, congregations are represented by individual members (cf. Art. V B) and laity of the Synod's  
34 member congregations (cf. Art. V C) according to the criteria provided in the Bylaws of the Synod.

##### 35 B. Advisory ~~Members~~ Individual Membership

36  
37  
38 ~~Advisory members only are the following:~~

- 39 1. ~~Pastors whose congregations do not hold membership in the Synod~~  
40 2. ~~Assistant pastors~~  
41 3. ~~Ministers not in charge of congregations~~  
42 4. ~~Professors at the Synod's educational institutions~~  
43 5. ~~Teachers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church~~  
44 6. ~~Directors of Christian education~~  
45 7. ~~Directors of Christian outreach~~  
46 8. ~~Directors of family life ministry~~  
47 9. ~~Directors of parish music~~  
48 10. ~~Deaconesses~~  
49 11. ~~Parish assistants~~  
50 12. ~~Certified lay ministers~~

1 ~~13. Candidates for the office of the ministry, for that of a teacher of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, for~~  
2 ~~director of Christian education, for director of Christian outreach, for director of family life ministry, for~~  
3 ~~director of parish music, for deaconess, for certified lay minister, or for parish assistant.~~

4 Individual membership in the Synod is held by ministers of religion—ordained and ministers of  
5 religion—commissioned who have joined the Synod and subscribe to its Constitution. Individual members  
6 are identified and described in the Bylaws of the Synod and are eligible to be elected as delegates to the  
7 conventions of the Synod and to serve as elected or appointed members of the boards and commissions of  
8 the Synod and its agencies except as otherwise noted in the Bylaws.

9  
10 C. Laity

11  
12 The laity of the Synod’s member congregations, while not members of the Synod itself, are  
13 participants in the Synod through congregational membership. Such laity are eligible to be elected as  
14 delegates to the conventions of the Synod and to serve as elected or appointed members of the boards and  
15 commissions of the Synod and its agencies.

16  
17 ***Article VI Conditions Requirements of Membership***

18  
19 A. Requirements Conditions for acquiring and holding membership in the Synod are the following:

- 20  
21 1. Subscription to Acceptance of the confessional basis of the Synod (Article II) and to its Constitution.  
22 2. ~~5. A congregation shall be received into membership only after the Synod has convinced itself that the~~  
23 ~~constitution of the congregation, which must be submitted for~~ In the case of congregations, examination;  
24 and approval of constitutions and bylaws by the district receiving such applications contains nothing  
25 ~~contrary to the Scriptures or the Confessions.~~  
26 3. In the case of ministers of religion—ordained and ministers of religion—commissioned, certification by  
27 a competent authority and acceptance of a regular Regular call after placement by the Board of  
28 Assignments of the Synod of pastors, teachers, directors of Christian education, directors of Christian  
29 outreach, directors of family life ministry, directors of parish music, deaconesses, certified lay ministers, and  
30 parish assistants and regular election of lay delegates by the congregation, as also the blamelessness of the life  
31 of such. 6. Pastors, teachers, directors of Christian education, directors of Christian outreach, directors of  
32 family life ministry, directors of parish music, deaconesses, certified lay ministers, or candidates for these  
33 offices not coming from recognized orthodox church bodies must submit to a colloquium before being  
34 received 7. Congregations and individuals shall be received into membership at such time and manner, and  
35 according to such procedures, as shall be set forth in the bylaws to the Constitution.

36  
37 B. Requirements for retaining membership in the Synod are the following:

- 38  
39 1. Continued subscription to the confessional basis of the Synod and to its Constitution;  
40 ~~2. 4. Exclusive use of doctrinally pure agenda, hymnbooks, and catechisms in church and school. Use of~~  
41 ~~worship and catechetical resources that are in harmony with the confessional basis of the Synod; and~~  
42 ~~3. 2. Renunciation of unionism and syncretism of every description, as~~ Non-participation in activities which  
43 compromise a member’s subscription to the confessional basis of the Synod, such as:  
44 (a) Serving Practicing altar and pulpit fellowship with congregations or clergy holding a different  
45 of mixed confession, as such, by ministers of the church from that of the Synod (unionism,  
46 syncretism); or  
47 (b) Supporting organizations or causes that promote a position contrary to the confessional basis  
48 of the Synod (unionism, syncretism). Taking part in the services and sacramental rites of heterodox  
49 congregations or of congregations of mixed confession; (c) Participating in heterodox tract and missionary  
50 activities.

1 *Article VII Relation of the Synod to And Its Members*

2  
3 A. Relation of the Synod to its Members

- 4  
5 1. In its relation to its members the Synod is not an ecclesiastical government exercising legislative or  
6 coercive powers, and with respect to the individual congregation's right of self-government it is but  
7 an advisory body. Accordingly, no resolution of the Synod imposing anything upon the individual  
8 congregation is of binding force if it is not in accordance with the Word of God or if it appears to be  
9 ~~inexpedient~~ unsuitable as far as the condition of a congregation is concerned.  
10 2. Membership of a congregation in the Synod gives the Synod no equity in the property of the  
11 congregation.

12  
13 B. Relation of the Members to the Synod

14  
15 In their relation to the Synod, all members of the Synod, by voluntarily subscribing to the  
16 Confession (Article II) and the Constitution of the Synod, make a confession of faith, a joint  
17 commitment to God's mission, and a mutual covenant of love. In so doing, they

- 18  
19 1. Bind themselves to the confessional basis of the Synod (Article II);  
20 2. Agree to abide by, honor, and uphold the collective will of the Synod as expressed in its  
21 Constitution, Bylaws, and convention resolutions;  
22 3. Pledge their active involvement and support of the Synod's efforts to carry out its mission and pur-  
23 pose; and  
24 4. Promise that, if they find themselves to be in disagreement with the Synod's actions or positions,  
25 they will so advise the Synod in a loving and evangelical manner, and if necessary follow the Synod's  
26 authorized procedures for expressing dissent.

27  
28 *Article VIII ~~Synodical Meetings~~ Conventions of the National Synod*

29  
30 A. Time and Legality of Meetings

- 31  
32 1. The Synod convenes every ~~three~~ four years for its regular ~~meeting~~ convention.  
33 2. For a legal convention a constitutional ~~convocation~~ calling of the ~~meeting~~ convention and the presence  
34 of at least one-fourth of the constitutionally elected voting ~~representatives~~ delegates are necessary.

35  
36 B. Special ~~Sessions~~ Conventions of the Synod

- 37  
38 1. The Synod may ~~under circumstances~~ call a special ~~session~~ convention if two-thirds of the voting  
39 ~~representatives~~ delegates present so decide.  
40 2. In cases of urgent necessity, a special ~~session~~ convention may be called by the President with the  
41 consent of two-thirds of the district presidents or by three-fourths of the district presidents without  
42 the consent of the President; however, all congregations and other members of the Synod must be  
43 notified 30 days in advance and told for what purpose this extra ~~meeting~~ convention is being  
44 convened.

45  
46 C. Resolutions at ~~Synodical Meetings~~ Conventions of the Synod

47  
48 1. General Resolutions

49  
50 All ~~matters of doctrine and conscience~~ convention resolutions and elections shall be decided only by the

51 Word of God. All other matters shall be decided by majority vote unless otherwise specified in the

1 Constitution or Bylaws of the Synod or in parliamentary law. In case of a tie vote the President may  
2 cast the deciding vote.

3  
4 2. Doctrinal Resolutions and Doctrinal Statements

5  
6 (a) Because all ~~All~~ matters of doctrine and conscience shall be decided only by the Word of God  
7 (cf. SA II, ii, 15; FC SD Binding Summary, 9; Ap XV, 17), the Scriptures of the Old and New  
8 Testaments are the final standard for determining right teaching in the Synod on all matters of  
9 doctrine and conscience. When there is disagreement in the Synod about what it is that the  
10 Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions teach, and in order to clarify its witness, the Synod may  
11 adopt doctrinal resolutions and doctrinal statements in order to determine and to declare its  
12 collective understanding of what it is that the Scriptures teach.

13 (b) A two-thirds vote is required to adopt all doctrinal statements; certain doctrinal resolutions of  
14 special significance; resolutions officially establishing or discontinuing altar and pulpit fellowship  
15 with another church body; and resolutions establishing or discontinuing membership of the Synod  
16 in an association, council, or federation of church bodies.

17  
18 *Article IX Representation*

19  
20 ~~The synodical meetings~~ Conventions of the Synod are composed of regularly elected ~~and delegated~~  
21 ~~representatives~~ delegates and of ~~certain individual persons;~~ invited representatives and guests as specified in  
22 the Bylaws, ~~to wit~~ as follows:

- 23  
24 1. ~~Representatives~~ Delegates of congregations, entitled to vote  
25 2. ~~Advisory representatives~~ Representatives of the advisory members certain agencies of the Synod, entitled  
26 to speak but not vote; and  
27 3. ~~Advisory representatives of boards, commissions, and educational institutions and such as by virtue of their~~  
28 ~~office are required to attend the Synod~~ Participating guests by special invitation, eligible to speak upon  
29 request of the President of the Synod but not vote.

30  
31 *Article X Officers*

32  
33 —A—

34  
35 The officers of the Synod are:

- 36  
37 1. A President  
38 2. Vice-presidents, in line of succession, as prescribed by the Bylaws  
39 3. A Secretary  
40 ~~4. Vice President Finance Treasurer not in line of succession~~  
41 ~~5.~~ 4.A Board of Directors  
42 ~~6-5.~~ Other officers, as specified in the Bylaws

43  
44 —B—

- 45  
46 1. The President, the vice-presidents ~~in line of succession~~, and the Secretary must be ministers of  
47 religion—ordained ministers—of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and, like the Vice—  
48 President Finance Treasurer like other officers, and the members of the Board of Directors,  
49 members of voting congregations.  
50 2. The time of service of all officers, boards, and commissions shall be fixed by the Bylaws of the  
51 Constitution of the Synod.

3. Any officer or any member of any board or commission ceases to be an officer of the Synod or a member of any board or commission as soon as he ceases to be a member of a congregation affiliated with-the Synod.

## *Article XI Rights and Duties of Officers*

### A. In General

1. The officers of the Synod must assume only such rights as have been expressly conferred upon them by the Synod, and in everything pertaining to their rights and the performance of their duties they are responsible to the Synod.
2. The Synod at all times has the right to call its officers to account and, if circumstances require it, to remove them from office in accordance with Christian procedure.
3. The Synod reserves the right to abolish any office it has established.
4. Conventions of the Synod and of the districts have the right, in extraordinary cases, to elect a chairman other than the regular presiding officer.

### B. Duties of the President

1. The President has the supervision regarding the doctrine and the administration of
  - a. All officers of the Synod;
  - b. All such as are employed by the Synod;
  - c. The individual districts of the Synod;
  - d. All district presidents.
2. It is the President's duty to see to it that all the aforementioned act in accordance with the Synod's Constitution, to admonish all who in any way depart from it, and, if such admonition is not heeded, to report such cases to the Synod.
3. The President has and always shall have the power to advise, admonish, and reprove. He shall conscientiously use all means at his command to promote and maintain unity of doctrine and practice in all the districts of the Synod.
4. The President shall see to it that the resolutions of the Synod are carried out.
5. When the Synod meets in convention the President shall give a report of his administration. He shall conduct the sessions of the convention so that all things are done in a Christian manner and in accord with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.
6. It is the duty of the President, or an officer of the Synod appointed by the President, to be present at the meetings of the districts, to advise them, and to report at the next session of the Synod.
7. The President shall perform all additional duties assigned to him by the Bylaws or by special resolution of the Synod in convention.
8. When matters arise between meetings of the Synod in convention which are of such a nature that action thereon cannot be delayed until the next convention, the President is authorized to submit them to a written vote of the member congregations of the Synod only after full and complete information regarding the matter has been sent to member congregations by presidential letter and has been published in an official periodical of the Synod. If such matters are related to the business affairs of the Synod, such a vote shall be conducted only after the President has consulted with the synodical Board of Directors. In all cases at least one-fourth of the member congregations must register their vote.

### C. Duties of the Vice-Presidents

1. The vice-presidents shall upon request of the President represent him in all his functions.

- 1 2. In case of the disability, the deposition from office, or the death of the President, the vice-presidents,  
2 in the order of their rank of office, advance to the President's place, with full power, until the  
3 expiration of his term of office.  
4

5 D. Duties of the Secretary

6  
7 The Secretary shall

- 8 1. Record the proceedings when the Synod meets in convention;  
9 2. Perform such other work as the Synod may assign to him through the Bylaws or special resolutions of  
10 the Synod.  
11

12 ~~E. Duties of the Vice President Finance Treasurer~~

13 ~~The Vice President Finance Treasurer is the custodian of all moneys and records normally related to the Office of~~  
14 ~~Treasurer of the Synod and shall~~

- 15 ~~1. Keep an exact record of all moneys received and expended by the Synod;~~  
16 ~~2. Administer the Synod's financial affairs according to its instruction;~~  
17 ~~3. At any time submit to an examination of his books and accounts by an auditing committee when so ordered by~~  
18 ~~the Synod or its officers.~~  
19

20 ~~F. E. Composition and Duties of the Board of Directors~~

- 21  
22 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of not fewer than seven voting members, ~~to wit: one of which~~  
23 ~~shall be the President, the The Secretary and, one pastor, and four laymen. The the First Vice-President,~~  
24 ~~and the Vice President Finance Treasurer shall be nonvoting members.~~  
25 2. The Board of Directors is the legal representative of the Synod. It is the custodian of all the property  
26 of the Synod, directly or by its delegation of such authority to an agency of the Synod. It shall  
27 exercise supervision over all the property and business affairs of the Synod except in those areas  
28 where it has delegated such authority to an agency of the Synod or where the voting members of the  
29 Synod through the adoption of bylaws or by other convention action have assigned specific areas of  
30 responsibility to separate corporate or trust entities, and as to those the Board of Directors shall have  
31 general oversight responsibility as set forth in the Bylaws.  
32

33 *Article XII Districts of the Synod and Their Regulation*

- 34  
35 1. The Synod is divided into districts, the geographical boundaries of which are determined by the Synod  
36 and are altered by it according to circumstances.  
37 2. This Constitution is also the constitution of each district of the Synod; however, each district is at  
38 liberty to adopt such bylaws and pass such resolutions as it deems expedient for its conditions,  
39 provided that such bylaws and resolutions do not conflict with the Constitution and the Bylaws of the  
40 Synod.  
41 3. The officers of the districts are:  
42 a. A district president  
43 b. District vice-presidents as the Bylaws prescribe  
44 c. As many circuit counselors as each district may determine upon  
45 d. A district secretary  
46 e. A district treasurer, who may be elected by the district convention or appointed in such manner as  
47 the district may prescribe  
48 4. Additional officers, boards, and commissions are elected by the districts as they are required for the  
49 execution of the business of the districts.  
50 5. The election and time of service of the district officers shall be determined by the Bylaws of the  
51 Constitution of the Synod.

- 1 6. All officers of the districts have the same rights and duties as those outlined in this Constitution for the
- 2 officers of the Synod but only insofar as these apply to the district and only within the boundaries of
- 3 their districts.
- 4 7. The district presidents shall, moreover, especially exercise supervision over the doctrine, life, and
- 5 administration of office of the ministers of religion—ordained and ministers of religion—commissioned
- 6 ~~ministers~~ of their district and acquaint themselves with the religious conditions of the congregations
- 7 of their district. To this end they shall visit and, according as they deem it necessary, hold
- 8 investigations in the congregations. Their assistants in this work are the circuit counselors, who
- 9 therefore shall regularly make their reports to the district president.
- 10 8. District presidents are empowered to suspend from membership ministers of religion—ordained and
- 11 ministers of religion—commissioned ~~ministers~~ for persistently adhering to false doctrine or for having
- 12 given offense by an ungodly life, in accordance with such procedure as shall be set forth in the
- 13 Bylaws of the Synod.
- 14 9. Furthermore, the district presidents shall
- 15 a. See to it that all resolutions of the Synod which concern the districts are made known to the
- 16 districts and are carried out by them;
- 17 b. Upon request, ~~S~~submit an annual report of their administration to the President of the Synod and, in
- 18 general, permit him to obtain all necessary insight into their official activities as district presidents;
- 19 c. Perform, either in person or by proxy, the ecclesiastical ordination or commissioning of the
- 20 candidates for the ordained and commissioned ministry assigned to their districts and the
- 21 installation of such, as well as the installation of ~~the candidates for the office of schoolteacher and of all~~
- 22 ~~ministers and teachers~~ ministers of religion—ordained and ministers of religion—commissioned called
- 23 by the congregations in their districts; and
- 24 d. Sign all examination papers and certificates of ordination and commissioning and, in general, all
- 25 official papers and documents of their districts.
- 26
- 27 10. The ~~meetings~~ conventions of the districts of the Synod are composed of the following:
- 28
- 29 A. Voting Representatives Delegates
- 30
- 31 ~~The pastors of such~~ Duly elected individual members of the Synod who hold membership in district
- 32 congregations as that hold voting membership in the Synod and the lay delegates duly elected laity of
- 33 and deputed by these congregations shall be voting representatives delegates.
- 34
- 35 B. Advisory Members Representatives
- 36
- 37 Advisory members are:
- 38 a. ~~Pastors whose congregations do not hold membership in the Synod~~
- 39 b. ~~Assistant pastors~~
- 40 c. ~~Ministers not in charge of congregations~~
- 41 d. ~~Professors at the Synod's educational institutions~~
- 42 e. ~~Teachers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church~~
- 43 f. ~~Directors of Christian education~~
- 44 g. ~~Directors of Christian outreach~~
- 45 h. ~~Directors of family life ministry~~
- 46 i. ~~Directors of parish music~~
- 47 j. ~~Deaconesses~~
- 48 k. ~~Parish assistants~~
- 49 l. ~~Certified lay ministers~~
- 50 m. ~~Candidates for the office of the ministry, for that of a teacher of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, for~~
- 51 ~~director of Christian education, for director of Christian outreach, for director of family life ministry,~~
- 52 ~~for director of parish music, for deaconess, for certified lay minister, or for parish assistant.~~

1 Elected and appointed officers of the district, including representatives of its boards and commissions,  
2 may serve as representatives to conventions of the district upon invitation of the district president,  
3 having voice but not vote.

4  
5 C. Guests

6  
7 All other individual members may participate in conventions with voice but not vote. Guests may  
8 participate in the convention by special invitation and are eligible to speak upon request of the  
9 president of the district.

- 10  
11 11. The districts, when legally incorporated, are represented before the State by a board of directors  
12 composed of the president, the secretary, and the treasurer of the district, which board, however, may  
13 be constituted otherwise.
- 14 12. The districts are independent in the administration of affairs which concern their district only, it being  
15 understood, however, that such administration shall always serve the interests of the Synod.
- 16 13. The regular ~~sessions~~conventions of the districts are held in the year immediately preceding the general  
17 convention of the Synod. Only the Synod has the right to make an exception to this rule.
- 18 14. For ~~at the legal convention, holding of the sessions of the districts a constitutional convocation of such~~  
19 ~~sessions~~ calling of the convention and the presence of at least one-third of the member congregations  
20 of the district are necessary ~~voting members represented by at least one of their respective representatives~~  
21 ~~(pastor or lay delegate) are required.~~
- 22 15. In cases of urgent necessity the district president is empowered to convene special  
23 ~~sessions~~conventions of his district; he must, however, previously have obtained consent of at least a  
24 majority of the ~~voting members~~ member congregations of the district after having informed them and  
25 the President of the Synod of the purpose of the intended special ~~session~~convention.

26  
27 ***Article XIII Expulsion from the Synod***

- 28  
29 1. Members who act contrary to the confession laid down in Article II and to the conditions of  
30 membership laid down in Article VI or persist in an offensive conduct, shall, after previous futile  
31 admonition, be expelled from the Synod.
- 32 2. Expulsion shall be executed only after following such procedure as shall be set forth in the Bylaws of  
33 the Synod.
- 34 3. If the member expelled is a pastor or teacher in a congregation of the Synod, such congregation,  
35 unless it has already done so, is held to depose him from office and to deal with him in accordance  
36 with the Word of God, notwithstanding an appeal. If it persistently refuses to do so, the respective  
37 district is to deal with it. If all negotiations and admonitions fail of their purpose, such congregation  
38 forfeits its membership in the Synod.
- 39 4. Because of their expulsion those so expelled forfeit their membership and all share in the property of  
40 the Synod. The latter holds good also with respect to those who for any reason themselves sever their  
41 connection with the Synod.

42  
43 ***Article XIV Bylaws***

44  
45 The Synod in convention may adopt bylaws that are consistent with and do not contradict the Constitution  
46 of the Synod, which controls and supersedes such bylaws and all other rules and regulations of the Synod.  
47 Bylaws, which may be adopted, revised, or eliminated by a simple majority vote of a national convention,  
48 are binding regulations for the Synod and its conduct and governance.

*Article ~~XIV~~ XV Changes in, and Amendments to,  
the Constitution*

1. Changes in the Constitution and amendments thereto may be made provided they do not conflict with the provisions laid down in Article II and in Article VI.
2. All proposed changes and amendments must be submitted in writing to the Synod assembled in convention, and each proposed change shall be voted on separately. A two-thirds majority of all votes cast shall be necessary for adoption.
3. After adoption by the convention such amendments shall be submitted to the congregations of the Synod by means of three announcements in the official periodical within three months after the close of the convention.
4. Amendments to the Constitution of the Synod shall be submitted directly to each voting congregation of the Synod on an official ballot, and the congregations shall by official action express their affirmative or negative vote and indicate the same to the Secretary of the Synod on this official ballot. The proposed amendment shall become effective at the expiration of six months from the date on which the amendment is submitted for vote, provided a two-thirds majority of the votes cast within that period shall have favored the amendment. At the end of the six-month period the Secretary of the Synod shall announce the outcome of the voting by districts in the official periodical of the Synod.

1 **BYLAWS**

2  
3 ***I. RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN AND THROUGH THE SYNOD***

4  
5 ***1.1 Purpose of the Synod***

6  
7 1.1.1 Committed to a common confession and mission, congregations of The Lutheran Church—  
8 Missouri Synod join with one another in the Synod to support one another and to work together  
9 in carrying out their commonly adopted objectives. The Synod is organized to work in support  
10 of and on behalf of congregations to assist them in carrying out their ministries as they seek to  
11 serve our Lord Jesus Christ, the members of His body, and the world which stands in need of  
12 the Word and the impact of His redeeming love.

13  
14 (a) The Synod functions in support of its member congregations by providing assistance as  
15 congregations conduct their ministries locally, as well as their ministries at large.

16 (b) The Synod on behalf of its member congregations administers those ministries that can be  
17 accomplished more effectively in association with other member congregations through the  
18 Synod. In this way member congregations utilize the Synod to assist them in carrying out their  
19 functions of worship, witness, teaching and nurture, service, and support.  
20

21 ***1.2 Definition of Terms***

22  
23 1.2.1 The following definitions apply to the entire Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri  
24 Synod:

25  
26 (a) *Agency*: An instrumentality other than a congregation or corporate Synod, whether or not  
27 separately incorporated, which the Synod in convention or its Board of Directors has caused or  
28 authorized to be formed to further the Synod's ~~objectives~~ mission and purpose.

29 (1) Agencies include each board, commission, council, seminary, university, college,  
30 district, Concordia Plan Services, and each synodwide corporate entity.

31 (2) The term "agency of the Synod" does not describe or imply the existence of principal  
32 and agency arrangements as defined under civil law.

33 (b) *Chief Executive*: The top staff administrator of an agency of the Synod, who may be  
34 referred to as president, other than a program board or commission.

35 (c) *Commission*: A group of persons, elected or appointed as prescribed in the Bylaws,  
36 rendering a precisely defined service function of the Synod and responsible, as the case may be,  
37 to the Synod in convention, to the President of the Synod, or to the Board of Directors of the  
38 Synod. The commissions of the Synod are:

39 (1) Commission on Constitutional Matters

40 (2) Commission on Doctrinal Review

41 (3) ~~Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support~~ (4) Commission on Structure Handbook

42 ~~(5)~~ (4) Commission on Theology and Church Relations

43 ~~(6) Commission on Worship~~

44 (d) *Corporate Synod*: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the Missouri nonprofit  
45 corporation, including the departments operating under the supervision of the Board of  
46 Directors of the Synod and the ~~program~~ boards and commissions of the Synod.

47 (1) "Corporate Synod" is not an agency of the Synod.

48 (2) Concordia Plan Services is a controlled entity of The Lutheran Church—Missouri  
49 Synod created to manage the Concordia Plans.

1 (3) The Concordia Plans, while operating under the supervision of the Synod Board of  
2 Directors, are trust agencies whose assets are not the property of corporate Synod.

3 (4) The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, in referencing the laws of the State of Missouri  
4 in these Bylaws and in the Synod’s Articles of Incorporation, intends to acknowledge its  
5 responsibility to be subject to civil authority. In all such references, however, the Synod  
6 intends to retain all authority and autonomy allowed a church under the laws and  
7 Constitution of the United States and the State of Missouri.

8 (e) *Council*: An officially established group elected or appointed as an advisory body. The  
9 council of the Synod is:

10 (1) Council of Presidents

11 (f) *District*: A division of the Synod as determined by a national convention of the Synod.

12 (g) *Ecclesiastical supervision*: The responsibility, primarily of the President of the Synod and  
13 district presidents, to supervise on behalf of the Synod the doctrine, life, and administration of  
14 its members, officers, and agencies. Such supervision, subject to the provisions of the Synod’s  
15 Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions, includes visitation, evangelical encouragement and  
16 support, care, protection, counsel, advice, admonition, and, when necessary, appropriate  
17 disciplinary measures to assure that the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod are  
18 followed and implemented. Thus, ecclesiastical supervision is also the presenting, interpreting,  
19 and applying of the collective will of the Synod’s congregations. Ecclesiastical supervision  
20 does not include the responsibility to observe, monitor, control, or direct the day-to-day  
21 activities of individual members of the Synod, whether in the conduct of their work or in their  
22 private lives (cf. Bylaw 2.13.2). Further, those constitutional articles and bylaws pertaining to  
23 ecclesiastical supervision shall determine the full definition of ecclesiastical supervision.

24 (h) *Executive Director*: The top staff administrator of a ~~program~~ mission board or commission  
25 of corporate Synod.

26 (i) *Governing Board*: A board that directs an separately incorporated agency of the Synod, ~~and~~  
27 ~~to which the staff of that agency is responsible~~. Governing boards are such as a board of  
28 directors, a board of trustees, a board of regents, a board of managers, or a board of governors.

29 (j) *Individual Member*: A rostered minister of religion—ordained or minister of religion—  
30 commissioned (see Art. V of Constitution).

31 (k) *May*: Permissive, expressing ability, liberty, or the possibility to act.

32 (l) *Member of the Synod*: ~~See Article V of the Constitution.~~ Members of the Synod are of two  
33 classes: corporate members (congregations ~~who~~ that have joined the Synod~~are voting members~~)  
34 and individual members (minister of religion—ordained and minister of religion—commissioned  
35 ~~ministers on the roster of the Synod~~) (See Art. V of Constitution).

36 (m) *Mission Board*: An officially established group of persons elected and appointed as  
37 prescribed in the Bylaws, charged with developing and determining policies for an operating  
38 function of the synod as prescribed in the Bylaws. These policies shall establish boundaries,  
39 parameters, and principles that guide the respective mission office in determining present and  
40 future activities and programs. The mission board shall have oversight of the implementation of  
41 these policies. The President of the Synod shall be responsible for supervising the  
42 implementation of mission board policies in accordance with his responsibilities under Article  
43 XI and Bylaws 3.3.1.1–3.3.1.3. The mission boards of the Synod are:

44 (1) Board for National Mission

45 (2) Board for International Mission

46 (n) *Officer*: Those positions identified in Constitution Art. X A or Art. XII 3 or Bylaw sections  
47 3.3 and 3.4 unless qualified by a modifier.

48 (o) *Oversight*: For the purpose of these Bylaws, to monitor; to make inquiry and receive a  
49 response thereto; to make suggestions; to bring concerns to the attention of a higher authority.

50 (p) *Praesidium*: The President and the vice-presidents in line of succession of the Synod.

1 ~~(o) *Program Board*: An officially established group of persons elected or appointed as prescribed in the~~  
2 ~~Bylaws, charged with developing policies and programs for an operating function of the Synod and~~  
3 ~~supervising their implementation. The program boards of the Synod are:~~

- 4 (1) ~~Board for Pastoral Education~~  
5 (2) ~~Board for University Education~~  
6 (3) ~~Board for Black Ministry Services~~  
7 (4) ~~Board for Communication Services~~  
8 (5) ~~Board for District and Congregational Services~~  
9 (6) ~~Board for Human Care Ministries~~  
10 (7) ~~Board for Mission Services~~

11 (q) *Property of the Synod*: All assets, real or personal, tangible or intangible, whether situated in  
12 the United States or elsewhere, titled or held in the name of the Synod, its nominee, or an  
13 agency of the Synod. “Property of the Synod” does not include any assets held by the Lutheran  
14 Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod or by an agency of the Synod in a fiduciary capacity  
15 (including, for purposes of example, the funds managed for the Concordia Plans by Concordia  
16 Plan Services and certain funds held by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation).

17 (r) *Region*: A division of the Synod for the purpose of regional elections.

18 (s) *Shall*: A word of command that must always be given an imperative or compulsory  
19 meaning.

20 (t) *Subcommittee*: Persons who are voting or advisory members of a board or commission who  
21 perform a specific function and are in a reporting relationship to the parent group.  
22 Subcommittees may be standing or *ad hoc*.

23 (u) *Supervision*: For the purpose of these Bylaws (other than those pertaining to ecclesiastical  
24 supervision) to have authority over, to direct actions, to control activities.

25 (v) *Synod*: Refers collectively to the association of self-governing Lutheran congregations and  
26 all its agencies on the national and district levels. ~~(1) The Synod was incorporated on July 3, 1894,~~  
27 ~~and is presently named The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. It includes all agencies of the Synod as~~  
28 ~~defined above in paragraph (a) of this bylaw. (2) The Synod, as defined herein, is not a civil law~~  
29 ~~entity.~~

30 (w) *Synodwide Corporate Entity*: A separate corporation established by the Synod for business  
31 and legal reasons. For the purposes of these Bylaws, the “synodwide corporate entities” of the  
32 Synod are the following corporations:

- 33 (1) Concordia Historical Institute  
34 (2) Concordia Publishing House  
35 (3) Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod  
36 (4) Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation  
37 (5) Concordia University System

38 The term “synodwide corporate entity” is not used in these Bylaws to include foreign  
39 corporations created by the Synod in order to undertake foreign missions.

40 (x) *Task Force*: An appointed group that has an *ad hoc* assignment to accomplish a specific task  
41 and whose duties have a definite expiration date.

42 (y) *Voting Member*: A member congregation of the Synod (See Article V A of the  
43 Constitution).

### 44 **1.3 Synod Relationships: Congregation, National, District, Circuit**

47 1.3.1 Individual Christians are joined together in a worshiping and serving community, the  
48 congregation. Congregations, the basic units of the Synod, have joined together to form the  
49 Synod and relate to one another through it.

51 1.3.2 The Synod divides itself into districts and authorizes its districts to create circuits. The criteria  
52 for the creation of districts and circuits are determined by the Synod in convention. Districts

1 and circuits are included among the component parts of the Synod. The Synod also divides  
2 itself into regions to accommodate elections that require regional representation.  
3

4 1.3.3 The Synod, including its component parts, is regarded as an extension of the congregations to  
5 the extent and for the purposes determined by the congregations acting through conventions.  
6 The Synod and its component parts are designed to assist congregations and their members in  
7 conserving and promoting the unity of the faith and in carrying out their mission and ministry.  
8 The Synod, including its component parts, also serves as the structure through which  
9 congregations carry out certain functions that can be performed more effectively and efficiently  
10 together with other member congregations.  
11

12 1.3.4 Congregations together establish the requirements of membership in the Synod (Art. VI). In  
13 joining the Synod, congregations and other members obligate themselves to fulfill such  
14 requirements and to diligently and earnestly promote the purposes of the Synod by word and  
15 deed. Members agree to uphold the confessional position of the Synod (Art. II) and to assist in  
16 carrying out the ~~objectives~~ mission and purpose of the Synod (Art. III), which are ~~objectives~~ the  
17 mission and purpose of the members themselves. Thus, while congregations of the Synod are  
18 self-governing (Art. VII), they, and also individual members, commit themselves as members  
19 of the Synod to act in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod under which  
20 they have agreed to live and work together and which the congregations alone have the  
21 authority to adopt or amend through conventions.  
22

23 1.3.5 Membership is held in the Synod itself. However, in accordance with the ~~objectives~~ mission and  
24 purpose of the Synod, each member enjoys certain privileges and accepts certain  
25 responsibilities also in and through the respective district and circuit.  
26

27 1.3.6 Districts and circuits as component parts of the Synod are obligated to carry out resolutions of  
28 the Synod and are structures for congregations to review decisions of the Synod, to motivate  
29 one another to action, and to shape and suggest new directions.  
30

31 1.3.7 The formation of any corporation by the Synod itself or any agency of the Synod involving any  
32 other church body requires the approval of the Board of Directors and the President of the  
33 Synod.  
34

35 1.3.8 The Synod in convention or through the Board of Directors of the Synod may authorize holding  
36 membership in national inter-Lutheran entities. Representatives of the Synod to various  
37 national inter-Lutheran entities (a) shall be named by the President of the Synod on  
38 recommendation of the executive directors of boards and commissions of the Synod; (b) shall  
39 participate in the activities of the respective inter-Lutheran entities according to the  
40 constitutions and bylaws of those entities and in keeping with the theological and constitutional  
41 principles of the Synod; and (c) shall submit formal reports to the President.  
42

#### 43 ***1.4 Synod Relationships: Conventions, Officers, Boards, Commissions, Staff***

44

45 1.4.1 The delegate convention of the Synod is the legislative assembly that ultimately legislates  
46 policy, program, and financial direction to carry on the Synod's work on behalf of and in  
47 support of the member congregations. It reserves to itself the right to give direction to all  
48 officers and agencies of the Synod. Consequently, all officers and agencies, unless otherwise  
49 specified in the Bylaws, shall be accountable to the Synod for all their actions, and any  
50 concerns regarding the decisions of such officers or agencies may be brought to the attention of  
51 the Synod in convention for appropriate action. This provision does not apply to specific

1 member appeals to the Concordia Plans Services, which has its own appeal process for such  
2 cases.

3  
4 1.4.2 The delegate convention of each district of the Synod receives reports and counsel from the  
5 national Synod, makes recommendations thereto, assists in implementing decisions of the  
6 Synod in convention, and adopts or authorizes programs to meet the unique needs of the  
7 district.

8  
9 1.4.3 ~~Elected officers~~ Officers of the Synod and its agencies serve in accordance with duties assigned  
10 to them or otherwise authorized by the Constitution and appropriate bylaws. Primary  
11 responsibility is given to each officer, to the extent of his jurisdiction, for implementing specific  
12 decisions of the appropriate conventions, boards, and commissions and for supervising and  
13 coordinating the day-to-day activities of the respective staffs. Elected officers are to report their  
14 activities and recommendations to the respective convention and, as appropriate, to the  
15 respective president and board.

16  
17 1.4.4 The Board of Directors serves the Synod as its legal representative and as custodian of all  
18 property of the Synod, and upon it is incumbent the general management and supervision of the  
19 business affairs of the Synod, except to the extent that management authority and duties have  
20 been delegated by the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, Bylaws, or resolutions of a  
21 convention of the Synod to other officers and agencies of the Synod or to separate corporate or  
22 trust entities. Each other ~~board of directors, governing board, board of regents, and board of trustees~~  
23 also serves the Synod with respect to the property of the Synod, to the extent of its jurisdiction,  
24 as provided or authorized in these Bylaws. Upon each such governing board of the Synod is  
25 incumbent the general management and supervision of the business affairs of the Synod to the  
26 extent of its jurisdiction. Any issues relative to the applicability of the laws of the State of  
27 Missouri shall be resolved in accord with the provisions in the Constitution and Bylaws of the  
28 Synod.

29  
30 (a) Each governing ~~board of directors, board of regents, and board of trustees~~ shall, to the extent of  
31 its jurisdiction, between conventions and subject to the advice or direction from any other  
32 appropriate board that has been given authority by these Bylaws or by convention resolution,

- 33 (1) determine general operating policies and maintain a policy manual;  
34 (2) approve program budgets;  
35 (3) allocate resources for such programs;  
36 (4) monitor program performance; and  
37 (5) coordinate the administration of convention resolutions.

38 (b) Unless otherwise specified, each governing ~~board of directors~~ shall also be empowered to  
39 settle disputes within that corporate entity.

40 (c) Each board shall report its activities and recommendations to the respective convention.

41  
42 1.4.5 All agencies that serve the Synod at the national or district level in a specific area of  
43 ~~program or ministry shall administer in accordance with the Synod's Constitution and~~  
44 ~~applicable bylaws; adopt programs in their assigned areas of responsibility; administer~~  
45 ~~the programs and resources as provided or authorized by the Constitution and applicable~~  
46 ~~Bylaws or as assigned by the respective convention or agency; and may propose~~  
47 ~~modifications thereto.~~

48 ~~(a) Each also provides program policies, as well as directions, for its staff, and shall establish, together~~  
49 ~~with staff, evaluation criteria for its programs.~~

50 ~~(b) Each shall report its activities to the respective convention, president, and responsible agency.~~

1 ~~(c) National agencies obtain counsel from districts in developing programs, and districts maintain~~  
2 ~~communication with and provide for utilization of national programs, as well as design programs to meet~~  
3 ~~their own unique needs.~~

4  
5 1.4.6 Each staff develops procedures, recommends and reviews programs and ministries, manages  
6 programs, and recommends policy and program modifications. ~~It~~ Staff implements decisions in  
7 accordance with approved policy.  
8

9 (a) ~~It~~ Staff is responsible to the Synod at the national or district level in accordance with the  
10 Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod at the national or district level, resolutions of the  
11 respective convention, and the policies of a district or any other agency to which it is  
12 responsible.

13 (b) Staffs ordinarily serve as the liaison between the national and district levels. Staffs at the  
14 national and district levels consult with one another in developing program proposals ~~to present~~  
15 ~~to their respective boards.~~

16 (c) ~~A staff at the national level through its chief executive or executive director shall~~

17 ~~(1) implement decisions of its board or commission in accordance with its policies and~~  
18 ~~those of its board of directors;~~

19 ~~(2) prepare, for the chairman's approval, meeting dockets and mail them in advance of the~~  
20 ~~meetings;~~

21 ~~(3) prepare program and policy recommendations for action by the board or commission;~~

22 ~~(4) maintain procedures manuals to implement board policies and programs;~~

23 ~~(5) make day to day operating decisions in the administration of adopted programs in~~  
24 ~~accordance with approved policies;~~

25 ~~(6) provide for reports to the board or commission and the President of the Synod on staff~~  
26 ~~activities and implementation of assignments;~~

27 ~~(7) solicit information and counsel from districts, colleges, universities, and seminaries, as~~  
28 ~~appropriate, to learn their needs and expectations;~~

29 ~~(8) design, in cooperation with districts, for board approval program resources for districts~~  
30 ~~and congregations, and survey districts and congregations regarding the use of program~~  
31 ~~resources;~~

32 ~~(9) provide counsel and advice to districts and, at their request, to congregations in program~~  
33 ~~areas;~~

34 ~~(10) coordinate work with assigned auxiliaries and recognized service organizations;~~

35 ~~(11) draft annually for board or commission approval long and short range plans and~~  
36 ~~budget requests for programs, and evaluate program budget performance against agreed-~~  
37 ~~upon evaluation criteria;~~

38 ~~(12) propose staffing levels and review staff performance; and~~

39 ~~(13) normally represent the board or commission in contacts within and outside the Synod.~~

40 ~~(d)(c)~~ Each chief executive or executive director shall report on staff activities and  
41 recommendations to the national Synod, district, ~~or~~ agency, or officer to which that ~~officer~~  
42 executive is responsible and, as requested, to the president of the district or of the Synod.  
43

### 44 *1.5 Regulations for Corporate Synod and Agencies of the Synod*

#### 45 *General*

46  
47  
48 1.5.1 Board and commission members of all agencies shall be members of member congregations of  
49 the Synod.  
50

1 1.5.1.1 Unless otherwise specified or permitted by the Bylaws, chief executives and executive  
2 directors, faculty, and all staff on either the national or district level shall not be members of the  
3 board of the agency under which they serve, nor shall any such executives or staff be members  
4 of the board of any other agency of the Synod.

5  
6 1.5.1.2 No one, either in the Synod or a district, or between the Synod and a district, shall hold more  
7 than one elective office; or hold more than two offices, although one or both be appointive; or  
8 ever hold two offices of which one is directly responsible for the work done by the other.

9  
10 (a) An office shall be regarded as elective only if it is an office filled through election by a  
11 national or a district convention, even though a vacancy in such an office may be filled by  
12 appointment.

13 (b) Doubtful cases shall be decided by the President of the Synod.

14  
15 1.5.1.3 Every board or commission member, officer, and all staff of corporate Synod and every agency  
16 of the Synod shall be sensitive in their activities to taking or giving offense, giving the  
17 appearance of impropriety, causing confusion in the Synod, or creating potential liability.

18  
19 *Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest*

20  
21 1.5.2 Every board or commission member, officer, and all staff of corporate Synod and every agency  
22 of the Synod shall avoid conflicts of interest as described in this bylaw.

23  
24 (a) Every agency shall implement the synodwide conflict-of-interest policy, and that policy  
25 shall be applicable to them and all staff operating under them. This policy shall include the  
26 following provisions:

27 (1) Every board or commission member shall disclose to the chairman of the agency and all  
28 staff shall disclose to the chief executive or executive director of the agency any potential  
29 conflicts of interest. Each chairman or chief executive or executive director shall disclose  
30 personal potential conflicts of interest to the appropriate board or commission.

31 (2) Such disclosures shall include board membership on, a substantial interest in, or  
32 employment of the individual or a relative by any organization doing business with  
33 corporate Synod or any of the agencies of the Synod.

34 (3) Every board or commission member, officer, and all staff of corporate Synod and every  
35 agency of the Synod who receives honoraria or payments for any sales or services rendered  
36 to corporate Synod or any of the agencies of the Synod shall disclose such information.

37 (4) All such disclosures shall be reported to the respective board or commission to  
38 determine by a vote of its remaining impartial members whether an inappropriate interest  
39 exists, and such vote shall be recorded in its official minutes. In the case of officers, all  
40 such disclosures shall be reported to the President of the Synod to determine whether an  
41 inappropriate interest exists.

42 (b) Responsibilities shall be carried out in a manner reflecting the highest degree of integrity  
43 and honesty consistent with the Scriptures, the Lutheran Confessions, the Constitution, Bylaws,  
44 and resolutions of the Synod, the policies of corporate Synod and the agencies of the Synod,  
45 and civil laws.

46 (1) Activities shall not be entered into which may be detrimental to the interests of the  
47 Synod. Any inappropriate activity shall cease or the position will be vacated.

48 (2) Information acquired in the course of carrying out duties of the Synod shall not  
49 knowingly be used in any way that would be detrimental to the welfare of the Synod.

50 (3) No one shall vote on any transaction in which the individual might receive a direct or  
51 indirect financial gain.

- 1 (4) The Board of Directors shall establish policy regarding the acceptance of gifts,  
2 entertainment, or favors from any individual or outside concern which does or is seeking to  
3 do business with corporate Synod or the agencies of the Synod.  
4 (c) Individuals, prior to accepting elected, appointed, or staff positions, shall initially and  
5 annually thereafter sign statements stating that they have received, understand, and agree to  
6 abide by this bylaw and the Synod's conflict of interest policy.  
7

## 8 *Organization*

9

- 10 1.5.3 Every agency of the Synod shall meet at least quarterly unless otherwise stipulated in the  
11 Bylaws of the Synod. Exceptions require the approval at least annually of the President of the  
12 Synod. All agencies shall announce their upcoming meetings.  
13
- 14 1.5.3.1 At the initial meeting after election or appointment, all ~~program~~ mission boards, commissions,  
15 and governing boards shall organize themselves as to chair, vice-chair, secretary, and other  
16 committees and positions as necessary or mandated by these Bylaws and shall conduct business  
17 in accordance with accepted parliamentary rules.  
18
- 19 1.5.3.2 All ~~program~~ mission boards, commissions, and governing boards may make use of executive  
20 committees to act in times of emergency between plenary meetings and to act on delegated  
21 assignments.  
22
- 23 (a) Executive committees may not perform acts specifically required by statute or by legislation  
24 or the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod to be performed by the agency, nor  
25 may they overturn actions of the agency.  
26 (b) All executive committee actions shall be reported to plenary sessions of the agency.  
27
- 28 1.5.3.3 All ~~program~~ mission boards, commissions, and governing boards may also delegate a specific  
29 assignment for a limited time to a committee composed of its own members.  
30
- 31 1.5.3.4 All ~~program~~ mission boards, commissions, and governing boards may appoint standing  
32 committees of specialists to provide professional or technical assistance to the board or  
33 commission and may delegate certain responsibilities to such committees while retaining  
34 supervision. Standing committees may be made up of or include non-board or commission  
35 members. The creation of standing committees shall be reported to the President and the Board  
36 of Directors of the Synod.  
37
- 38 1.5.3.5 All agencies of the Synod shall develop policies and procedures for making available official  
39 minutes of their meetings. All ~~program~~ mission boards and commissions shall develop policies  
40 and procedures to make available upon request and at a reasonable price a verbatim copy of the  
41 official minutes of their meetings except for executive sessions. Any member of the Synod may  
42 request a copy of any official minutes of ~~program~~ mission boards or commissions by submitting  
43 a written or electronic via E-mail request to the Secretary of the Synod, who shall provide such  
44 minutes according to the policy of the Board of Directors.  
45

## 46 *Full Financial Disclosure*

47

- 48 1.5.4 The Synod and each of its agencies shall fully disclose their financial books and records to any  
49 member congregation of the Synod.  
50

1 (a) Full disclosure includes all information (including, but not limited to, information required  
2 to be made available under state law) recorded in any fashion, except the following:

3 (1) Information that would violate the expected confidentiality of donors.

4 (2) Personnel files or other information that would violate the expected confidentiality of  
5 employees.

6 (3) Information that relates to in-process negotiations of financial matters.

7 (4) Information the disclosure of which would breach a legal obligation of the Synod or its  
8 agencies or affect pending litigation or claims against the Synod or its agencies.

9 (5) Information that is preliminary in nature or otherwise has not been finalized in its form  
10 and content.

11 (b) Salaries of elected officers of the Synod, as identified in Constitution Art. X A, shall be  
12 published annually in an official periodical.

13 (c) The accounting department of the Synod shall publish annually in an official periodical an  
14 invitation to request full, audited financial statements and summary operating budgets of the  
15 Synod or its agencies.

16 (d) The Synod and its agencies shall share, upon request, the quarterly financial statements as  
17 reported to the respective governing boards.

18 (e) All information produced for normal publication or distribution shall be provided free of  
19 charge.

20 (f) Requests for detailed financial information or the inspection of financial records shall be  
21 made in writing to the respective corporate boards by a member congregation and shall state the  
22 records desired and the time period to be covered.

23 (1) All responses to requests for information involving research or compilation shall be  
24 billed to the member on the basis of actual costs.

25 (2) Any inspection of financial records shall be done by (a) member(s) of the congregation  
26 or its stated authorized agent at a mutually agreeable time and place.

27 (3) The board may decline to provide the information requested if the board can  
28 demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence that the member congregation's request is  
29 with the specific intent to cause harm to the Synod or one of its agencies or with the sole  
30 intent of deliberately and significantly disrupting the operations and affairs of the Synod or  
31 one of its agencies.

32 (4) Any declination to provide information or decision to limit inspection shall be explained  
33 in writing.

34 (5) Challenges to any board decisions declining to provide information or to limit  
35 inspection may be reviewed under the Synod's dispute resolution process.

### 36 37 *Agency Operations*

38  
39 1.5.5 Every agency of corporate Synod and every synodwide corporate entity shall operate under the  
40 general human resources policies of the Synod as provided by the Board of Directors of the  
41 Synod, in accordance with Bylaw 3.3.5.3. Specific policies under these general policies may be  
42 adopted by each synodwide corporate entity in order to accommodate the unique character of  
43 its operations.

44  
45 1.5.5.1 Every agency of corporate Synod that has staff reporting to it and every synodwide corporate  
46 entity may create chief executive (who may be designated as an officer of the corporation) or  
47 executive director positions, pursuant to Bylaw 1.2.1, and fill them in accordance with the  
48 Bylaws of the Synod, and the human resources policies adopted pursuant to Bylaw 1.5.5.

49  
50 (a) The chief executive or executive director shall serve at the pleasure of the board or  
51 commission.

1 (1) The slate of candidates for the initial appointment of the chief executive or executive  
2 director shall be selected by the board or commission in consultation with and with the  
3 mutual concurrence of the President of the Synod.

4 (2) In the event of a vacancy, the appropriate board or commission and the President of the  
5 Synod shall act expeditiously to fill the vacancy. This board or commission shall present its  
6 list of candidates to the President.

7 (3) The board or commission shall conduct an annual review of ~~the~~ its chief executive or  
8 executive director and, before the expiration of five years, conduct a comprehensive  
9 review.

10 (4) At the conclusion of each five-year period, the appointment shall terminate unless the  
11 board or commission takes specific action to continue the person in the office, each  
12 subsequent term not to exceed five years.

13 (b) Any interim appointments of a chief executive or executive director shall follow a process  
14 similar to the initial appointment of a chief executive or executive director.

15 (1) Such interim appointees must be approved by the President of the Synod, and may not  
16 serve more than 18 months without the concurrence of the President of the Synod.

17 (2) Such interim appointees shall be ineligible to serve on a permanent basis without the  
18 concurrence of the President of the Synod.

19 (c) The chief executives and executive directors shall normally attend all meetings of their  
20 ~~agencies~~ board or commission except when their own positions are being considered.

21  
22 1.5.5.2 Every agency of corporate Synod that has staff reporting to it and every synodwide corporate  
23 entity may create and fill other staff positions in accordance with the human resources policies  
24 adopted pursuant to Bylaw 1.5.5. Such staff may attend meetings of their ~~agencies~~ board or  
25 commission upon request of the ~~agency~~ board or commission.

26  
27 1.5.5.3 All agencies shall develop policies regarding their relations with staffs.

### 28 29 *Agency Conflict Resolution*

30  
31 1.5.6 Dissent to decisions made by an agency shall ordinarily be expressed within the structure of  
32 that agency.

33  
34 1.5.6.1 Administrative and programmatic conflicts between agencies of corporate Synod, between such  
35 agencies and the synodwide corporate entities, and between synodwide corporate entities shall  
36 be dealt with by the parties concerned in a Christian manner with the assistance of the President  
37 of the Synod.

## 38 39 ***1.6 Confessional Position of the Synod***

40  
41 1.6.1 The confessional position of the Synod is set forth in Article II of its Constitution, to which all  
42 who wish to be and remain members of the Synod shall subscribe. ~~4-6.2~~ The Synod, in seeking  
43 to clarify its witness or to settle doctrinal controversy, so that all who seek to participate in the  
44 relationships that exist within and through the Synod may benefit and may act to benefit others,  
45 shall have the right to adopt doctrinal resolutions, doctrinal resolutions of special significance,  
46 and doctrinal statements which are in harmony with Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions (cf.  
47 Constitution Art. VIII)

### 48 49 *Doctrinal Resolutions and Statements*

1 1.6.2 ~~(a)~~ Doctrinal resolutions may be adopted for the information, counsel, and guidance of the  
2 membership. They shall conform to the confessional position of the Synod as set forth in  
3 Article II of its Constitution and shall ordinarily cite the pertinent passages of the Scriptures,  
4 the Lutheran Confessions, and any previously adopted official doctrinal statements and  
5 resolutions of the Synod. Such resolutions come into being in the same manner as any other  
6 resolutions of a convention of the Synod and are to be honored and upheld by the members of  
7 the Synod in accordance with each resolution's intended status until such time as the Synod  
8 amends or repeals them.

9  
10 1.6.3 Doctrinal resolutions of special significance (such as those initiating, modifying, or repealing  
11 specific positions or practices of the Synod) may be adopted for the information, counsel, and  
12 guidance of the membership.

13  
14 (a) They shall conform to the confessional basis of the Synod as set forth in Article II of its  
15 Constitution and shall ordinarily cite the pertinent passages of the Scriptures, the Lutheran  
16 Confessions, and any previously adopted official statements and resolutions of the Synod.

17 (b) Such resolutions require a two-thirds vote for adoption. The floor committee shall determine  
18 which resolutions fall into this category. The convention may overrule such determination by a  
19 two-thirds vote. The convention may also, by simple majority vote, refer the matter to the  
20 Commission on Theology and Church Relations for evaluation, refinement, development, or  
21 recommendation to the next convention of the Synod.

22 (c) All adopted doctrinal resolutions are to be honored and upheld by the members of the Synod  
23 in accordance with each resolution's intended status until such time as the Synod amends or  
24 repeals them.

### 25 Doctrinal Statements

26  
27  
28 1.6.4 ~~(b)~~ Doctrinal statements set forth in greater detail the position of the Synod especially in  
29 controverted matters. A proposed statement or a proposal for the development of such a  
30 statement shall be:

31  
32 ~~(1)~~(a) submitted by the Commission on Theology and Church Relations or submitted to the  
33 Commission on Theology and Church Relations by a convention of the Synod (including that  
34 of a district), a faculty of the Synod, or an official district conference of ministers of religion-  
35 ordained and/or ministers of religion-commissioned ~~ministers~~ for evaluation, refinement,  
36 development, or recommendation, as the case may be;

37 ~~(2)~~(b) submitted by the commission, if it acts favorably, to the colleges, universities, seminaries,  
38 congregations, and other members of the Synod for study and suggestions for no more than one  
39 year (failure by the commission to submit a proposed doctrinal statement within a year may be  
40 appealed to the Synod in convention through a proper overture);

41 ~~(3)~~(c) refined further by the commission on the basis of suggestions received;

42 ~~(4)~~(d) submitted by the commission to the Synod in convention for further consideration and  
43 possible adoption by ~~majority~~ a two-thirds affirmative vote of those present and voting;  
44 amendments shall also require a two-thirds affirmative vote of those present and voting;

45 ~~(5)~~(e) resubmitted to the congregations for ratification in its final existing form;

46 ~~(6)~~(f) ratified and operative if a two-thirds majority of the member congregations which  
47 respond within six months registers an affirmative vote on a ballot supplied by the Secretary of  
48 the Synod for that purpose. Failure to ratify makes the statement inoperative, and this fact shall  
49 be reported by the Secretary to the members of the Synod through an announcement in an  
50 official periodical;

1 ~~(7)~~(g) Such adopted and ratified doctrinal statements shall be regarded as the position of the  
2 Synod and shall be “accepted and used as helpful expositions and explanations” (FC SD Rules  
3 and Norm 10). They shall be honored and upheld (“to abide by, act, and teach in accordance  
4 with” [1971 Res. 2-21]) until such time as the Synod amends or repeals them;.

5 ~~(8)~~(h) An overture to amend such an adopted ratified doctrinal statement shall follow the same  
6 procedure as listed in ~~(4-6 (a)-(f))~~ above;.

7 ~~(9)~~(i) An overture to repeal such an adopted and ratified doctrinal statement shall require a  
8 majority vote of the Synod in convention in answer to an overture properly submitted and be  
9 subject to the procedure of congregational approval set forth in paragraph (6) above;.

10 ~~(10)~~(j) In the interim, those who submit overtures to amend or to repeal shall, while retaining  
11 their right to dissent, continue to honor and uphold publicly the statement as the position of the  
12 Synod, notwithstanding further study and action by the Synod in convention.  
13

### 14 ***1.7 Agreements***

15  
16 1.7.1 The Constitution, Bylaws, and all other rules and regulations of the Synod apply to all  
17 congregational and individual members of the Synod.  
18

19 1.7.2 The Synod expects every member congregation of the Synod to respect its resolutions and to  
20 consider them of binding force ~~if on the assumption that they are in accordance with the Word~~  
21 ~~of God and that they are if they appear applicable as far as to the condition of the congregation is~~  
22 ~~concerned.~~ The Synod, being an advisory body, recognizes the right of a congregation to be the  
23 judge of the applicability of the resolution to its local condition. However, in exercising such  
24 judgment, a congregation must not act arbitrarily, but in accordance with the principles of  
25 Christian love and charity.  
26

27 1.7.3 The Synod expects congregations that have not been received into membership, but are served  
28 by the Synod, and whose ministers of religion, ordained and commissioned, hold membership  
29 in the Synod, to honor its rules and regulations.  
30

### 31 ***1.8 Dissent***

32  
33 1.8.1 While retaining the right of brotherly dissent, members of the Synod are expected as part of the  
34 life together within the fellowship of the Synod to honor and uphold the resolutions of the  
35 Synod.  
36

37 1.8.2 Dissent from doctrinal resolutions and statements is to be expressed first within the fellowship  
38 of peers and then brought to the attention of the Commission on Theology and Church  
39 Relations before finding expression as an overture to the convention calling for revision or  
40 rescision. While the conscience of the dissenter shall be respected, the consciences of others, as  
41 well as the collective will of the Synod, shall also be respected.  
42

### 43 ***1.9 Doctrinal Review***

#### 44 *Definition*

45  
46  
47 1.9.1 Doctrinal review is the exercise of the Synod's responsibility to determine that every doctrinal  
48 statement made in its or any of its agencies' or auxiliaries' materials is in accord with the  
49 Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.  
50

#### 51 *Material Subject to Doctrinal Review*

1  
2 1.9.1.1 The following materials are subject to doctrinal review:  
3

4 (a) All official periodicals and journals of the Synod as well as any material with doctrinal  
5 content issued publicly by boards, commissions, or other subordinate groups of the Synod  
6 except as stipulated in these Bylaws shall be subject to doctrinal review.

7 (b) The right to produce study documents and exploratory material plainly designated as such  
8 and published by boards, commissions, or other subordinate groups of the Synod is recognized,  
9 and such material is not required to be submitted to the doctrinal review process. Publication of  
10 such study material that is not submitted for doctrinal review shall always include this notice on  
11 or immediately following the title page: "This material is being released for study and  
12 discussion purposes, and the author(s) is(are) solely responsible for its contents. It has not been  
13 submitted to the process for doctrinal review stipulated in the Bylaws of The Lutheran  
14 Church—Missouri Synod and does not necessarily reflect the theology of the Lutheran  
15 Confessions or the doctrinal position of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod."

16 (c) Each district is accountable to the Synod through its respective president and board of  
17 directors for the content of all of its published materials.

18 (d) Each of the Synod's schools is accountable to the Synod through its respective president and  
19 board of regents for the content of its professional journals and all of its published materials  
20 that are not the official publications of the Synod (paragraph [a] of Bylaw 3.8.5.2.3). The  
21 editorial boards of such publications shall serve as their own doctrinal reviewers.

22 (e) Auxiliary organizations recognized by the Synod shall be held directly accountable for their  
23 material. However, in accord with his office as defined in Article XI B 1 of the Synod's  
24 Constitution, the President of the Synod shall require doctrinal review.

25 (f) In the case of broadcasts over the Synod's radio station by other than staff members,  
26 individuals must be held responsible for their own material since it is not feasible to apply the  
27 process of doctrinal review to such broadcasts.

28 (g) Official reports of the boards, commissions, task forces, and committees of the Synod  
29 prepared in response to directives from the Synod shall not be subject to doctrinal review.  
30

### 31 *Procedure*

32  
33 1.9.2 Before materials stipulated in Bylaw 1.9.1 are published, they shall be submitted to (a)  
34 doctrinal reviewer(s). Reviewers shall make a careful evaluation of the doctrinal content of all  
35 items submitted. Materials are to be reviewed in a prompt manner and completed in no longer  
36 than four weeks. Exceptions shall be arranged by mutual agreement between the reviewer(s)  
37 and the originating entity.  
38

39 (a) The primary responsibility for doctrinal supervision and review lies with the President of the  
40 Synod (Constitution, Art. XI B 1).

41 (1) Each board, commission, and other subordinate group of the Synod shall advise the  
42 President of the Synod of the number and desired competency of doctrinal reviewers  
43 needed by it and may suggest a list of qualified persons. The President shall appoint  
44 reviewers for each group according to its needs. They shall be broadly representative of the  
45 ministry of the Synod.

46 (2) Reviewers shall be appointed for renewable ~~three~~four-year terms. An appointment may  
47 be terminated prior to the completion of the appointed term if the reviewer is unable or  
48 unwilling to carry out the reviewing tasks assigned. In the event of such termination, the  
49 President of the Synod shall appoint another reviewer to complete the unexpired term.

1 (b) Each agency of the Synod, synodwide corporate entity, or auxiliary shall establish  
2 procedures that will insure that its material as specified in Bylaw 1.9.1 will be submitted for  
3 doctrinal review to one of the reviewers referred to in Bylaw 1.9.2 (a).

4 (c) Since time requirements vary according to the type of material being reviewed, the  
5 procedure in each case shall be worked out to the mutual satisfaction of the sponsoring group  
6 and the doctrinal reviewer(s).

7 (d) The identity of authors and reviewers shall not be disclosed without the approval of the  
8 President. Consultation may at times be advisable, however, where clarification is necessary.

9 (e) The reviewer's primary concern is that items submitted to him be in agreement in their  
10 doctrinal content with the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.

11  
12 (f) The reviewer(s) shall also be concerned that the items submitted do not contain statements  
13 that are inadequate, misleading, ambiguous, or lacking in doctrinal clarity.

14 (g) The reviewer(s) shall further be concerned that resolutions of the Synod be honored and  
15 upheld and that positions deviating from the doctrinal resolutions of the Synod be clearly  
16 identified as such.

17 (h) When the author is also a reviewer, his material shall be assigned to another reviewer. In  
18 order to avoid any conflict of interest, no author shall be involved in any way in the selection or  
19 assignment of reviewer(s) for his or her own work.

20 (i) The reviewer may request that specific material assigned to him also be reviewed by another  
21 reviewer.

22 (j) Where changes appear to be necessary, the reviewer(s) shall submit a thorough and clearly  
23 written documented critique that shall be made available to the author, the sponsoring group,  
24 and the publisher. The documentation provided by the reviewer(s) shall provide a thorough and  
25 detailed explanation, with all appropriate biblical and confessional references used to support  
26 the opinion offered.

27 (k) The author shall consider the critique and make necessary revisions until there is agreement  
28 between the author and the reviewer(s).

29 (l) Should any problem arise between an author, the reviewer(s), the publisher, or any other  
30 party involved with respect to the material submitted for review, the sponsoring group shall  
31 endeavor to resolve it to the satisfaction of the reviewer(s). If it cannot do so, the problem shall  
32 be submitted to the Commission on Doctrinal Review which shall follow the appeals procedure  
33 and criteria stated in Bylaw 3.9.3.2.1.

## 34 35 ***1.10 Dispute Resolution of the Synod***

### 36 37 *Preamble*

38  
39 1.10.1 When disputes, disagreements, or offenses arise among members of the body of Christ, it is a  
40 matter of grave concern for the whole church. Conflicts that occur in the body should be  
41 resolved promptly (Matthew 5:23–24; Eph. 4:26–27). Parties are urged by the mercies of God  
42 to proceed with one another with “the same attitude that was in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 2:5). In so  
43 doing, individuals, congregations, and various agencies within the Synod are urged to reject a  
44 “win-lose” attitude that typifies secular conflict. For the sake of the Gospel, the church should  
45 spare no resource in providing assistance.

46  
47 1.10.1.1 The Holy Scriptures (1 Cor. 6:1–7) urge Christians to settle their differences by laying them  
48 before the “members of the brotherhood.” Therefore, the Synod in the spirit of 1 Corinthians 6  
49 calls upon all parties to a disagreement, accusation, controversy, or disciplinary action to rely  
50 exclusively and fully on the Synod's system of reconciliation and conflict resolution. The use of

1 the Synod's conflict resolution procedures shall be the exclusive and final remedy for those who  
2 are in dispute. Fitness for ministry and other theological matters must be determined within the  
3 church. Parties are urged, in matters of a doctrinal nature, to follow the procedures as outlined  
4 in Bylaw section 1.8.  
5

6 1.10.1.2 The words of Jesus in Matthew 18:15–20 provide the basis for church discipline for the local  
7 congregation. The same passage also grants Christ's guidance to all Christians in seeking to  
8 settle other disputes, many of which fall outside the purview of church discipline involving the  
9 congregation. In either case, the steps of Matthew 18 should be applied lovingly in both formal  
10 and informal settings. Matthew 18 does not apply directly in cases of public sin, but face-to-  
11 face meetings are required nonetheless, even in the case of public sin, toward the goal of  
12 reconciliation and winning the brother or sister. The parties and others attempting to effect  
13 resolution of a dispute must always remain mindful that the church has been given the  
14 “ministry of reconciliation” (2 Cor. 5:18). Hence, conflict resolution in the church is to lead to  
15 reconciliation, restoring the erring member in a spirit of gentleness (Gal. 6:1). Its aim is to  
16 avoid the adversarial system practiced in society.  
17

18 1.10.1.3 The heart and center of all Christian conflict resolution is the justification of the sinner through  
19 grace in Christ Jesus. Biblical reconciliation of persons in conflict begins with God's truth that  
20 we are all sinners who have been reconciled to God through the death and resurrection of Christ  
21 Jesus. Christ's “ministry of reconciliation” is one of the church's foremost priorities.  
22

23 1.10.1.4 Christian conflict resolution seeks to resolve disputed issues in a manner pleasing to God.  
24 Those in conflict are urged to proceed prayerfully in good faith and trust. Disputes are more  
25 likely to be resolved harmoniously if those involved in the conflict recognize one another as  
26 redeemed children of God.  
27

28 1.10.1.5 Christians involved in conflict must always stand ready to ask for or extend forgiveness in  
29 accordance with Scripture. As the church endeavors to help bring about peace, truth, justice,  
30 and reconciliation, it always seeks to do so with a proper distinction between Law and Gospel,  
31 that is, in the context of God's judgment and mercy. We are ever to be mindful that it is God  
32 who judges the hearts of sinful men and grants His gracious word of forgiveness to us all.  
33

34 1.10.1.6 When there is repentance and reconciliation, the body of Christ rejoices in its oneness with  
35 Christ and with one another.  
36

### 37 *Purpose*

38  
39 1.10.2 This procedure is established to resolve, in a God-pleasing manner, disputes that involve as  
40 parties, (1) members of the Synod, (2) the Synod itself, (3) a district or an organization owned  
41 and controlled by the Synod, (4) persons involved in excommunication, or (5) lay members of  
42 congregations of the Synod holding positions with the Synod itself or with districts or other  
43 organizations owned and controlled by the Synod. It shall be the exclusive remedy to resolve  
44 such disputes that involve theological, doctrinal, or ecclesiastical issues except those covered  
45 under Bylaw sections 2.14–2.17 and except as provided in Bylaw 1.10.3. It is applicable  
46 whether the dispute involves only a difference of opinion without personal animosity or is one  
47 that involves ill will and sin that requires repentance and forgiveness. No person or agency to  
48 whom or to which the provisions of this dispute resolution process are applicable because such  
49 person or agency is a member of the Synod may render these provisions inapplicable by  
50 terminating that membership.  
51

1 *Exceptions*

2  
3 1.10.3 This chapter provides evangelical procedures to remedy disputes only and does not set forth  
4 procedures for expulsion from membership (Constitution Art. XIII and Bylaw sections  
5 2.14–2.17) nor does it set forth procedures for board of regents’ supervision of faculty and  
6 administration as specified in Bylaws ~~3.8.2.7.5~~3.10.4.7.5–3.10.4.7.9~~3.8.2.7.9~~ and  
7 ~~3.8.3.8.5~~3.10.5.6.5–3.10.5.6.9~~3.8.3.8.9~~. While Christians are encouraged to seek to resolve all  
8 their disputes without resorting to secular courts, this chapter does not provide an exclusive  
9 remedy for the following matters, unless such matters involve theological, doctrinal, or  
10 ecclesiastical issues, including those arising under the divine call of a member of the Synod:

- 11 (a) Disputes concerning property rights (e.g., real estate agreements, mortgages, fraud, or  
12 embezzlement); and  
13 (b) Disputes arising under contractual arrangements of all kinds (e.g., contracts for goods,  
14 services, or employment benefits).  
15

16 *Definition of Terms as Used in this Bylaw Section 1.10*

17  
18 1.10.4 In order to communicate effectively and avoid misunderstanding, it is critical that terms be  
19 carefully defined:  
20

21 (a) *Administrator*: The secretary of a district or of the Synod or an appointee (Bylaw 1.10.6)  
22 who manages the dispute resolution process but who does not take leadership, declare  
23 judgments, advise, or become involved in the matter in dispute.

24 (b) *Appeal Panel*: Three district presidents selected according to these bylaws to determine  
25 whether the decision of a Dispute Resolution Panel should be reconsidered or reviewed.

26 (c) *Blind draw*: Selection of names according to the procedures set forth in the *Standard*  
27 *Operating Procedures Manual*.

28 (d) *Complainant*: A party and/or parties to a dispute who initiate an action to settle a conflict  
29 under the provisions of the Synod's dispute resolution process.

30 (e) *Dispute Resolution Panel*: Three persons who are reconcilers selected according to these  
31 bylaws and one person who is a nonvoting hearing facilitator selected according to these  
32 bylaws, who shall hear matters in dispute between parties and assist in reconciliation or provide  
33 for a resolution of the dispute by rendering a final decision.

34 (f) *Face-to-face*: A meeting face-to-face in person between the parties in dispute in the manner  
35 described in Matthew 18:15. E-mail, regular mail, fax, or telephone call (or any combination  
36 thereof) does not satisfy this requirement. (Note: Failure to conduct a face-to-face meeting  
37 within 30 days or within such extension as may be established by the involved ecclesiastical  
38 supervisors shall result in dismissal if the fault lies with the accuser or movement to the next  
39 stage if the fault lies with the accused.)

40 (g) *Formal*: Efforts to resolve the dispute toward reconciliation beginning with the formal  
41 reconciliation meeting.

42 (h) *Hearing facilitator*: One selected according to these bylaws and trained to serve as a  
43 facilitator for hearings before panels.

44 (i) *Informal*: All efforts toward reconciliation prior to the formal reconciliation meeting.

45 (j) *Party and/or parties to a dispute or the matter (Party to the matter in dispute)*: A “party  
46 and/or parties to a dispute” is either a complainant or a respondent. A reconciler, panel member,  
47 hearing facilitator or ecclesiastical supervisor is not a “party and/or parties to a dispute.”

48 (k) *Persons involved*: “Persons involved” includes the complainant, the respondent, the  
49 administrator of the process, the ecclesiastical supervisor, a reconciler, panel members, the  
50 hearing facilitator, a witness, an advisor, or any others involved in the dispute resolution  
51 process.

1 (l) *Reconciler*: As used in this chapter, a member of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod or  
2 of an LCMS congregation who is appointed to be available to assist parties to a dispute with a  
3 view toward reconciling them or enabling them to adjust or settle their dispute and who has  
4 completed the Synod’s training program. A reconciler does not judge or take sides but rather,  
5 with the help of God, assists both parties to find their own resolution to the dispute.

6 (m) *Reply of Respondent*: A written response issued by a party to a dispute containing factual  
7 assertions that answer a complainant's statement of the matter in dispute.

8 (n) *Respondent*: One who is named party to a dispute brought by a complainant.

9 (o) *Review Panel*: Three reconcilers selected according to these bylaws and one person who is a  
10 nonvoting hearing facilitator selected according to these bylaws who shall give a final hearing  
11 when the determination of the Appeal Panel is that a decision of the Dispute Resolution Panel  
12 should be reconsidered or reviewed.

13 (p) *Statement of the Matter in Dispute*: A written concise statement containing factual  
14 assertions involving contended or conflicted issues between one or more parties. The statement  
15 may also contain a request for the type of relief to be granted.

16 (q) *Witness*: A person called to give testimony regarding facts to a dispute before a Dispute  
17 Resolution Panel. A reconciler appointed to assist parties in dispute resolution or a person  
18 called upon by a reconciler at the formal reconciliation meeting shall not testify as a witness  
19 before a Dispute Resolution Panel in the same dispute.

#### 20 21 *Informal Efforts toward Reconciliation; Consultation*

22  
23 1.10.5 Before any matter is submitted to the formal reconciliation process, the parties involved in a  
24 dispute must meet together, face-to-face, in a good-faith attempt to settle their dispute in the  
25 manner described in Matthew 18:15 and may involve the informal use of a reconciler. And  
26 further, before any matter is submitted to the formal reconciliation process, the complainant  
27 must meet and consult with his or her ecclesiastical supervisor to seek advice and also so that it  
28 can be determined whether this is the appropriate bylaw procedure (Bylaw section 1.10) or  
29 whether the matter falls under Bylaw sections 1.8, 2.14, 2.15, 2.16, or 2.17, or Bylaws  
30 3.8.2.7.93.10.4.4.7 and 3.10.5.6.93.8.3.8.9. In regard to this consultation:

31  
32 (a) The district president shall inform the district president of the respondent that a consultation  
33 is underway. He may also seek advice from the vice-presidents of his own district or from the  
34 district president of the respondent. The district president may also ask for an opinion of the  
35 Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) and/or the Commission on Theology and  
36 Church Relations (CTCR). The district president must follow any opinion received from either  
37 the CCM or the CTCR, which shall be rendered within 30 days or such additional time as the  
38 district president may allow.

39 (b) The district president shall require the complainant to follow the correct bylaw provision  
40 under the circumstance, if any, and shall provide evangelical supervision, counsel, and care to  
41 the party or parties.

42 (c) If Bylaw section 1.10 applies, the district president shall require the complainant to meet  
43 face-to-face with the respondent in the manner described in Matthew 18:15 if the complainant  
44 has not already done so as set forth above. The reputation of all parties is to be protected as  
45 commanded in the Eighth Commandment. The goal throughout is always one of reconciliation,  
46 of repentance and forgiveness, even if the following proceedings are carried out.

#### 47 48 *Formal Efforts toward Reconciliation*

49  
50 1.10.6 If either party is of the opinion that informal reconciliation efforts have failed, such party, in  
51 consultation with his or her ecclesiastical supervisor, shall submit a request to the administrator

1 of the dispute resolution process, the secretary of the Synod or district, or an appointee, as  
2 appropriate, that a reconciler be appointed to assist in seeking reconciliation. Such request shall  
3 be accompanied by:

4 (a) a written statement of the matter in dispute; and

5 (b) a written statement setting forth, in detail, the informal efforts that have been made to  
6 achieve reconciliation.

7 If the secretary of the Synod or district is a party to the matter in dispute, has a conflict of  
8 interest, or serves as a witness, then the President of the Synod or the district president, as  
9 appropriate, shall appoint an administrator of the process in the matter.

10  
11 1.10.6.1 The administrator shall promptly select the reconciler in the manner hereinafter set forth and  
12 then notify the parties to the dispute as to the name and address of the reconciler. He/she shall  
13 also forward to the chosen reconciler and the respondent the statement of the matter in dispute  
14 and the written statement of the informal reconciliation efforts.

15  
16 1.10.6.2 If the reconciler determines that informal reconciliation efforts have been inadequate, the  
17 reconciler shall direct the parties to engage in further informal reconciliation efforts. Such  
18 additional time shall not exceed 60 days.

19  
20 1.10.6.3 If informal reconciliation efforts do not resolve the matter, the reconciler shall direct the  
21 respondent to submit to the reconciler and the complainant a written reply responding to the  
22 statement of the matter in dispute. The reconciler shall simultaneously arrange a formal  
23 reconciliation meeting with the parties to the dispute. Such meeting shall be scheduled by the  
24 reconciler at the earliest reasonable date possible, at a location which will minimize travel for  
25 the parties to the dispute.

26  
27 1.10.6.4 At the formal reconciliation meeting, the reconciler shall listen to the facts as presented by the  
28 parties to the dispute and seek to reconcile their differences on the basis of Christian love and  
29 forgiveness. With the approval of the reconciler, each party may, in the manner described in  
30 Matthew 18:16, bring one or two persons to the meeting “so that every matter may be  
31 established by their testimony.” Such meeting shall not be open to the public, nor shall any  
32 formal record be made thereof. The reconciler may draw upon persons and resources that the  
33 reconciler deems necessary to assist in the reconciliation process.

34  
35 1.10.6.5 Upon conclusion of the formal reconciliation meeting or meetings, the reconciler shall prepare  
36 a written report which contains the actions of the reconciler, the issues that were resolved, the  
37 issues that remain unresolved, and whether reconciliation was achieved. Attached to the report  
38 shall be

39 (a) the statement of the complainant as to informal reconciliation efforts;

40 (b) the statement of the matter in dispute; and

41 (c) any reply by the respondent.

42 No information shared in confidence shall be included in the report. The report and the  
43 attachments shall be forwarded to the parties to the dispute and the secretary of the Synod or  
44 district as appropriate.

45  
46 *Procedure of a Dispute Resolution Panel*

47  
48 1.10.7 If the parties with the assistance of the reconciler have been unable to achieve reconciliation,  
49 the complainant shall notify the Secretary of the Synod within 30 days after receiving the report  
50 from the reconciler if the matter is to be presented to a Dispute Resolution Panel.

1 1.10.7.1 If the complainant requests the formation of a Dispute Resolution Panel, the Secretary of the  
2 Synod, or his representative, shall within 21 days select such a panel in the prescribed manner  
3 and then forward to each panel member a copy of the report of the reconciler with its  
4 attachments.

5  
6 1.10.7.2 Each Dispute Resolution Panel shall have a nonvoting hearing facilitator who will serve as  
7 chairman of the panel. Within 30 days after the appointment of the panel, the hearing facilitator  
8 shall confer with the parties and the Dispute Resolution Panel for the purpose of choosing a  
9 location and a date for the formal hearing of the matter.

10  
11 1.10.7.3 The formal hearing before the Dispute Resolution Panel, conducted by a hearing facilitator,  
12 shall take place within 60 days after the date of final selection of the hearing facilitator, unless  
13 there is unanimous consent by the panel members for a short delay beyond such 60 days for  
14 reasons the panel deems appropriate.

15  
16 1.10.7.4 The following rules for the Dispute Resolution Panel shall apply:

17  
18 (a) The hearing shall be private, attended only by the parties and one adviser of each party's  
19 choice, should any party desire one. This adviser shall not address the panel or participate in the  
20 discussion at the hearing. Witnesses who can substantiate the facts relevant to the matter in  
21 dispute may be called before and address the panel. The administrator of the process shall not  
22 attend the hearing or serve as a witness. The panel shall establish the procedure to be followed  
23 in the hearing and the relevancy of evidence so that each party shall be given an opportunity  
24 fully to present its respective position. In performing its duty, the panel shall continue efforts to  
25 reconcile the parties on the basis of Christian love and forgiveness.

26 (b) Within 60 days after the final hearing, the panel shall issue a written decision that shall state  
27 the facts determined by the panel and the reasons for its decision.

28 (c) The panel shall forward a copy of its decision to

- 29 (1) each party to the matter in dispute;  
30 (2) the Secretary of the Synod;  
31 (3) the President of the Synod; and  
32 (4) the president of the respective district.

33 (d) Subject to request for review or appeal (contemplated or pending), the final decision of a  
34 Dispute Resolution Panel shall

- 35 (1) be binding upon the parties to that dispute;  
36 (2) have no precedential value;  
37 (3) be carried out by the appropriate person, group, or member of the Synod; and  
38 (4) be publicized as deemed appropriate under the circumstances by the district president or  
39 the President of the Synod.  
40

41 *Reconsideration of a Dispute Resolution Panel Decision*

42  
43 1.10.8 Within 30 days after receiving the decision of the Dispute Resolution Panel, any party to the  
44 dispute or the President of the Synod, if a question of doctrine or practice is involved  
45 (Constitution Art. XI B 1–3), may appeal the decision. The President may also request that an  
46 opinion of the Commission on Constitutional Matters or the Commission on Theology and  
47 Church Relations be obtained.

48  
49 1.10.8.1 Such appeal shall be mailed to the Secretary of the Synod, each member of the Dispute  
50 Resolution Panel, and the other parties to the dispute and shall be accompanied by a written  
51 memorandum stating the basis of the request.

1  
2 1.10.8.2 Within 30 days after receipt, an Appeal Panel shall be selected in the prescribed manner, and  
3 the Secretary of the Synod shall send the appeal to each panel member.  
4

5 1.10.8.3 Within 30 days after its formation, the Appeal Panel shall issue its written decision in response  
6 to the request for reconsideration.  
7

8 1.10.8.4 If an appeal is granted, the Secretary of the Synod, or his representative, shall, within 21 days,  
9 select a Review Panel in the prescribed manner. The Review Panel shall generally decide the  
10 issue on the record without further formal hearing but may follow the procedure used by a  
11 Dispute Resolution Panel if deemed necessary.  
12

13 1.10.8.5 The final decision of the Review Panel shall

14 (a) be binding upon the parties to that dispute and not be subject to further appeal;

15 (b) have no precedential value;

16 (c) be carried out by the appropriate person, group, or member of the Synod; and

17 (d) be publicized as deemed appropriate under the circumstances by the district president or the  
18 President of the Synod.  
19  
20

#### 21 *Congregation's Right of Self-Government* 22

23 1.10.9 The congregation's right of self-government shall be recognized. However, when a decision of  
24 a congregation is at issue, a Dispute Resolution Panel may review the decision of the  
25 congregation according to the Holy Scriptures and shall either uphold the action of the  
26 congregation or advise the congregation to review and revise its decision. If the congregation  
27 does not revise its decision, the other congregations of the Synod shall not be required to  
28 respect this decision, and the district involved shall take action with respect to the congregation  
29 as it may deem appropriate.  
30

#### 31 *District Reconcilers* 32

33 1.10.10 Within three months after conventions of the Synod, each district board of directors shall  
34 appoint a district roster of four reconcilers, no more than two of whom shall be ministers of  
35 religion—ordained ~~pastors~~, from a list supplied by the circuit counselors of the district.  
36

37 1.10.10.1 The term of service shall be ~~six~~ eight years, renewable without limit. They shall be people “of  
38 good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom” (Acts 6:3). Vacancies for an unexpired  
39 term shall be filled in the same manner by the district board of directors within 30 days  
40 following their occurrence. The district board of directors may add to the district roster of  
41 reconcilers a reconciler who moves into the district from the district where appointed.  
42

43 1.10.10.2 One of the four shall be chosen by blind draw according to the procedures set forth in the  
44 *Standard Operating Procedures Manual* (hereafter referred to as the *SOPM*) by the secretary of  
45 the district to serve as reconciler in the following situations arising in the district:  
46

47 (a) Procedural questions involved in excommunication cases;

48 (b) Cases in which a member of the Synod shall have been removed from the position that such  
49 member holds in a congregation that is a member of the Synod;

50 (c) Cases in which a person, whether or not a member of the Synod, is removed from the  
51 position which the person holds in the district; and

1 (d) Cases involving differences between congregations within the same district or between a  
2 congregation and its district.  
3

4 1.10.10.3 The members of the district roster of reconcilers of all the districts shall comprise the Synod's  
5 roster of reconcilers. One member of the Synod's roster of reconcilers shall be chosen by blind  
6 draw according to the *SOPM* by the Secretary of the Synod in all disputes except those  
7

8 (a) enumerated in Bylaw 1.10.10.2; or

9 (b) cases under Article XIII of the Constitution, which shall follow the procedure for  
10 terminating membership set forth in Bylaw sections 2.14–2.17.  
11

### 12 *Special Considerations for Reconcilers*

13  
14 1.10.11 Limitations on holding multiple offices do not apply to reconcilers.  
15

16 1.10.11.1 If a reconciler moves from the district where appointed, such reconciler shall remain as a  
17 member of the Synod's roster of reconcilers until the term of service of the reconciler expires.  
18

19 1.10.11.2 If all of the district reconcilers are unavailable for a particular matter, the secretary of the  
20 district shall request that a reconciler from another district be chosen in the prescribed manner  
21 by the secretary of the other district.  
22

### 23 *Hearing Facilitators*

24  
25 1.10.12 After the training of the reconcilers and in consultation with the appropriate district presidents,  
26 the Secretary of the Synod shall identify 25 of the reconcilers who exhibit skills in the proper  
27 conduct of a fair and impartial hearing to comprise the Synod's roster of hearing facilitators,  
28 who shall be trained for such purpose.  
29

30 (a) The term of service shall be ~~six~~ eight years, renewable without limit.

31 (b) Any vacancies for an unexpired term shall be filled in the same manner as described above  
32 as needed and as requested by the Secretary of the Synod.  
33

34 1.10.12.1 Limitations on holding multiple offices do not apply to hearing facilitators.  
35

36 1.10.12.2 If a hearing facilitator moves from the district where nominated, such hearing facilitator, if on  
37 the roster of hearing facilitators, shall remain as a member of the Synod's roster of hearing  
38 facilitators until the term of service of the hearing facilitator expires.  
39

40 1.10.12.3 A hearing facilitator shall not serve as a reconciler or as a voting member of a panel.  
41

### 42 *Dispute Resolution Panels*

43  
44 1.10.13 The Synod's roster of reconcilers shall comprise the list from which dispute resolution panel  
45 voting members will be selected.  
46

47 1.10.13.1 Each Dispute Resolution Panel shall consist of three voting members, at least one of whom  
48 shall be a minister of religion~~–ordained pastor~~ and one a layperson.  
49

50 (a) Nine names shall be selected by a blind draw from the dispute resolution roster.

1 (b) No member of a panel shall be from the district in which the dispute arose or, if it is a  
2 Synod question, from any district in which a party holds membership.

3 (c) The list shall be mailed simultaneously to each party, who shall be entitled to strike three  
4 names and return the list to the Secretary of the Synod within one week.

5 (d) The Secretary of the Synod shall correct any problem with the panel from the remaining  
6 names by blind draw according to the *SOPM*. In the event that additional names are needed,  
7 three names will be selected in the manner set forth above and those names submitted to each  
8 party who shall have a right to strike one. In the event that there is more than one remaining,  
9 the Secretary shall determine the final member by a blind draw according to the *SOPM* from  
10 the remainder.

11  
12 1.10.13.2 The hearing facilitator shall be selected as follows:

13  
14 (a) Three names shall be selected by a blind draw according to the *SOPM* from the hearing  
15 facilitator roster.

16 (b) No hearing facilitator shall be from the district in which the dispute arose or from any  
17 district in which a party holds membership.

18 (c) The list shall be mailed simultaneously to each party, who shall be entitled to strike one  
19 name and return the list to the Secretary of the Synod within one week.

20 (d) The Secretary of the Synod shall correct any problem with the panel from the remaining  
21 names by blind draw according to the *SOPM*. In the event that additional names are needed,  
22 three names will be selected in the manner set forth above and those names submitted to each  
23 party, who shall have the right to strike one. In the event that there is more than one remaining,  
24 the Secretary shall determine the final member by a blind draw according to the *SOPM* from  
25 that remainder.

26  
27 1.10.13.3 The hearing facilitator shall conduct the hearing, shall serve as chairman of the panel, and may  
28 draw upon persons and resources that he deems necessary for conducting a hearing in a fair and  
29 equitable manner.

30  
31 1.10.13.4 The Dispute Resolution Panel shall select its own secretary from its members.

32  
33 *Appeal Panels*

34  
35 1.10.14 The Appeal Panel shall be made up of three district presidents who shall be trained for such  
36 service.

37  
38 (a) One district president shall be selected by the complainant, one selected by the respondent,  
39 and the third selected by the two appeal panel members so selected.

40 (b) If the two appeal panel members cannot agree on a third, the Secretary of the Synod shall  
41 select the third member by blind draw according to the *SOPM* from the remaining district  
42 presidents.

43  
44 *Review Panels*

45  
46 1.10.15 Review Panel members shall be selected from the Synod's roster of reconcilers.

47  
48 1.10.15.1 Each Review Panel shall consist of three voting members, at least one of whom shall be a  
49 minister of religion—ordained pastor, and at least one layperson.

1 (a) Nine names shall be selected by a blind draw according to the *SOPM* from the roster of  
2 reconcilers of the Synod.

3 (b) No member shall be from the district in which the dispute arose, or, if it is a Synod question,  
4 from any district in which a party holds membership.

5 (c) The list shall be mailed simultaneously to each party, who shall be entitled to strike three  
6 names and return the list to the Secretary of the Synod within one week.

7 (d) The Secretary of the Synod shall correct any problem with the panel from the remaining  
8 names by blind draw according to the *SOPM*. In the event that additional names are needed,  
9 three names will be selected in the manner set forth above and those names submitted to each  
10 party who shall have the right to strike one. In the event that there is more than one remaining,  
11 the Secretary shall determine the final member by a blind draw according to the *SOPM* from  
12 that remainder.

13  
14 1.10.15.2 The hearing facilitator shall be selected as follows:

15  
16 (a) Three names shall be selected by a blind draw according to the *SOPM* from the hearing  
17 facilitator roster.

18 (b) No hearing facilitator shall be from the district in which the dispute arose or from any  
19 district in which a party holds membership.

20 (c) The list shall be mailed simultaneously to each party, who shall be entitled to strike one  
21 name and return the list to the Secretary of the Synod within one week.

22 (d) The Secretary of the Synod shall correct any problem with the panel from the remaining  
23 names by blind draw according to the *SOPM*. In the event additional names are needed, three  
24 names will be selected in the manner set forth above and those names submitted to each party,  
25 who shall have the right to strike one. In the event that there is more than one remaining, the  
26 secretary shall determine the final member by a blind draw according to the *SOPM* from that  
27 remainder.

28  
29 1.10.15.3 The hearing facilitator shall conduct the hearing, shall serve as chairman of the panel, and may  
30 draw upon persons and resources that he deems necessary for conducting a hearing in a fair and  
31 equitable manner.

32  
33 1.10.15.4 The Review Panel shall select its own secretary from its members.

34  
35 *Disqualification*

36  
37 1.10.16 The standard for disqualification of a reconciler or panel member or hearing facilitator shall be  
38 actual partiality or the appearance thereof.

39  
40 1.10.16.1 Any party and/or parties to a dispute shall have the right to request disqualification of a  
41 reconciler, panel member, or hearing facilitator. If that individual does not agree to the  
42 disqualification, the decision shall be made by a separate three-member panel of reconcilers  
43 drawn for that purpose according to the *SOPM*.

44  
45 1.10.16.2 In the event that a reconciler, panel member, or hearing facilitator is disqualified, another  
46 individual shall be chosen by blind draw according to the *SOPM*.

47  
48 1.10.16.3 An individual who has served as a reconciler in a matter shall not be a member of the Dispute  
49 Resolution Panel in the same matter.

50  
51 *Decisions*

1  
2 1.10.17 The Dispute Resolution Panel, Appeal Panel, or Review Panel shall issue a decision based on a  
3 majority vote of the panel.

4  
5 (a) A majority of the panel members shall be involved in all stages of the decision-making  
6 process.

7 (b) The hearing facilitator shall serve as an advisor to the panel on the form but not the  
8 substance of the decision.

9 (c) In the event that a majority decision cannot be reached, a new panel shall be formed  
10 immediately in accordance with the Bylaws and the matter reheard.

11  
12 *Rules of Procedure*

13  
14 1.10.18 Reconcilers, Dispute Resolution Panels, Appeal Panels, and Review Panels shall be governed  
15 in all their actions by Holy Scripture, the Lutheran Confessions, and the Constitution and  
16 Bylaws of the Synod.

17  
18 1.10.18.1 The following rules of procedure shall be followed:

19  
20 (a) In the interest of promoting the reconciliation process, any member of the Synod, officer of  
21 a congregation, or officer of any organization owned or controlled by the Synod shall, when  
22 called upon by a Dispute Resolution Panel, Appeal Panel, or Review Panel to do so, testify or  
23 produce records related to the dispute.

24 (b) Each party and/or parties to a dispute shall assume its/their own expenses. The expenses of  
25 reconcilers, Dispute Resolution Panels, and Review Panels shall be borne by the Synod, except  
26 for those that arise under Bylaw 1.10.10.2, which shall be borne by the district.

27 (c) No party and/or parties to a dispute nor anyone on the party's behalf shall either directly or  
28 indirectly communicate with the reconciler, the hearing facilitator, or any member of the  
29 Dispute Resolution Panel, Appeal Panel, or Review Panel without the full knowledge of the  
30 other party to the dispute.

31 (d) While the matter is still undecided or while an appeal is contemplated or pending, publicity  
32 shall not be given to the issues in the matter by any of the persons involved during any part of  
33 the procedures outlined in this bylaw. However, at his discretion and as needs dictate in order to  
34 "promote and maintain unity of doctrine and practice" (Constitution Art. XI B 3) and in order  
35 to provide counsel, care, and protection to all the members of the Synod (Art. III 8, 9), the  
36 President of the Synod or the district president in consultation with the President of the Synod,  
37 as the case may be, may properly advise or inform the involved congregation(s) and/or the  
38 district or Synod as to the status of the process.

39 (e) Any party and/or parties may seek, at its/their own personal expense, the assistance of  
40 individuals familiar with the issues involved in the dispute. They may actively participate in  
41 research and the preparation of necessary documents. At the hearing, however, each party may  
42 have an adviser present but must represent itself, with no public participation by the adviser.  
43 Any reconciler or hearing facilitator shall not serve as an adviser. If a party and/or parties is a  
44 board or commission of the Synod or its districts, it shall be represented by its chairman or  
45 designated member.

46 (f) A Dispute Resolution Panel, Appeal Panel, or Review Panel shall determine the number of  
47 witnesses necessary for a full and complete understanding of the facts involved in the dispute. It  
48 shall question parties and witnesses directly and shall also permit the parties to do so.

49 (g) All Dispute Resolution Panel, Appeal Panel, or Review Panel records of disputes in which a  
50 final decision has been rendered by the Dispute Resolution Panel, Appeal Panel, or Review  
51 Panel shall be placed in the custody of Concordia Historical Institute. All such records shall be

1 sealed and shall be opened only for good cause shown and only after permission has been  
2 granted by a Dispute Resolution Panel, selected by blind draw for that purpose.

3 (h) If any part of the dispute involves a specific question of doctrine or doctrinal application,  
4 each party shall have the right to an opinion from the Commission on Theology and Church  
5 Relations. If it involves questions of constitution or bylaw interpretation, each party shall have  
6 the right to an interpretation from the Commission on Constitutional Matters. The request for  
7 an opinion must be made through the Dispute Resolution Panel or Review Panel, which shall  
8 determine the wording of the question(s). The request for an opinion must be made within four  
9 weeks of the final formation of the Dispute Resolution Panel or Review Panel. If a party does  
10 not request such an opinion within the designated time, such a request may still be made to the  
11 Dispute Resolution Panel or Review Panel that shall, at its discretion, determine whether the  
12 request shall be forwarded. The Dispute Resolution Panel or Review Panel shall also have the  
13 right, at any time, to request an opinion from the Commission on Theology and Church  
14 Relations or the Commission on Constitutional Matters. Any opinion so requested shall be  
15 rendered within 30 days or such greater time as the Dispute Resolution Panel may allow. When  
16 an opinion has been requested, the time limitations will not apply until the opinion has been  
17 received by the parties. Any opinion received from the Commission on Theology and Church  
18 Relations and the Commission on Constitutional Matters must be followed by the Dispute  
19 Resolution Panel or Review Panel.

20 (i) Any member participating in this bylaw procedure who intentionally and materially violates  
21 any of the requirements in this bylaw or is persistent in false accusations is subject to the  
22 disciplinary measures as set forth in the appropriate Bylaw sections 2.14–2.17. Any member of  
23 the Synod who has personal factual knowledge of the violation shall inform the appropriate  
24 district president as the ecclesiastical supervisor. Violations of the prohibition against publicity  
25 while a matter is still undecided or while an appeal is contemplated or pending (Bylaw  
26 1.10.18.1 [d] above) by any persons involved are specifically included as a violation subject to  
27 the same disciplinary measures set forth in the Bylaws.

28 (j) In consultation with the Secretary of the Synod and the Council of Presidents, the  
29 Commission on Constitutional Matters shall amend as necessary the *Standard Operating*  
30 *Procedures Manual* that serves as a comprehensive procedures manual for Bylaw section 1.10,  
31 Dispute Resolution of the Synod.  
32  
33

## 34 **2. MEMBERSHIP**

### 35 **2.1 Overview**

- 36  
37  
38 2.1.1 Included in the ~~objectives~~ mission and purpose of the Synod as stated in its Constitution are,  
39 under Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, to “provide “evangelical supervision, counsel,  
40 and care, and protection for ~~pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers~~ congregations,  
41 ministers of religion—ordained, and ministers of religion—commissioned in the performance of  
42 their official duties” ~~and to “provide protection for congregations, pastors, teachers, and other church~~  
43 ~~workers in the performance of their official duties and the maintenance of their rights”~~ (Article III 8,  
44 9). In view of this, it is clear that membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod,  
45 whether individual or congregational, is viewed as a valuable asset to be carefully monitored  
46 and managed. In order for this to occur, it is necessary for standards to be developed and  
47 maintained for the benefit of all members so that its value is not diminished or destroyed.  
48 Consequently, it is important for the Synod to establish the standards and qualifications it  
49 believes necessary for acquiring and maintaining the status of membership as well as  
50 procedures for protecting those who attain it.

1  
2 2.1.2 In achieving these goals the Synod has identified certain standards which must be met before  
3 membership, whether individual or congregational, is granted and has identified those  
4 responsible for determining that such standards have been met before approving their inclusion  
5 on the official membership rosters of the Synod. Furthermore, it has identified those  
6 responsible for ecclesiastical supervision of its members, including such matters as advice and  
7 counsel as well as suspension of membership and forfeiture of it for failure to continue to meet  
8 membership requirements. In protecting the rights of members, provision has also been made  
9 for challenging those decisions by ecclesiastical supervisors that result in suspension or loss of  
10 membership and for restoration of membership when necessary conditions are met.

## 11 ***2.2 Eligibility of Congregations***

12  
13  
14 2.2.1 To apply for membership in the Synod a congregation shall have an approved constitution and  
15 bylaws.

16  
17 (a) The congregation shall submit its constitution and bylaws to the appropriate district  
18 president, who shall refer such to the standing constitution committee of the district.

19 (1) Every congregation is encouraged to include in its organizational structure an elected or  
20 appointed board or committee for stewardship.

21 (2) This board or committee shall be responsible for carrying on an adequate stewardship  
22 program in the manner prescribed by the congregation.

23 (b) The Constitution Committee shall examine the constitution and bylaws to ascertain that they  
24 are in harmony with Holy Scripture, the Confessions, and the teachings and practices of the  
25 Synod in order that any necessary changes may be made by the congregation before the  
26 application is acted upon.

27 (c) The application for membership shall not be acted upon by the district board of directors  
28 until the congregation has made such changes as may be deemed necessary.

## 29 ***2.3 Application by Congregations***

30  
31  
32 2.3.1 Each application for membership in the Synod shall be submitted to the appropriate district  
33 president and acted upon by the board of directors of that district.

34  
35 (a) It shall be the policy of the Synod to decline membership to congregations whose  
36 constitutions deny membership or other congregational privileges to any Christian because of  
37 race or ethnic origin.

38 (b) If an application for membership is approved, the president and secretary of the newly  
39 admitted congregation shall, as representatives of the congregation, sign the Constitution of the  
40 Synod on behalf of the congregation.

41 (1) In recognition of the importance of the event, the appropriate district president shall  
42 normally attend a special worship service in which the signing takes place.

43 (2) Such service shall occur as promptly as possible following approval of the  
44 congregation's application for membership.

45 (c) If an application for membership is denied by the board of directors and the congregation  
46 requests reconsideration, the district president shall submit the application and a full report  
47 concerning its denial to the next regularly scheduled convention of the district, which shall  
48 determine whether to grant the application or to affirm the denial.

1 2.3.2 A copy of the signed constitution shall be forwarded to the secretary of the district. Acceptance  
2 by the district board of directors shall be reported to the next regularly scheduled convention of  
3 the district. The signatures to the constitution on behalf of the congregation shall be preserved  
4 by the district secretary and the year in which the congregation is received into membership  
5 shall be noted.  
6

## 7 ***2.4 Continued Eligibility of Congregations***

8  
9 2.4.1 A congregation desiring to retain membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod shall  
10 continue to have a constitution and bylaws approved by the Synod.  
11

12 (a) A member congregation which revises its constitution or bylaws or adopts a new  
13 constitution or bylaws shall, as a condition to continued eligibility as a member of the Synod,  
14 submit such revised or new constitution and/or bylaws to the district president.

15 (b) The district president shall refer such to the district's constitution committee for review to  
16 ascertain that the provisions are in harmony with Holy Scripture, the Confessions, and the  
17 teachings and practices of the Synod.

18 (c) Upon advice of the constitution committee and recommendation by the district president,  
19 the district board of directors shall determine if the changes are acceptable to the Synod.

20 (d) Upon favorable action by the district board of directors, the congregation shall be notified  
21 that the changes are acceptable to the Synod and that the congregation is entitled to continue to  
22 function as a member of the Synod in good standing under the new or changed constitution or  
23 bylaws.  
24

25 2.4.2 A copy of the signed constitution shall be forwarded to the secretary of the district. Acceptance  
26 by the district board of directors shall be reported to the next regularly scheduled convention of  
27 the district.  
28

## 29 ***2.5 Calling Ministers of Religion by Congregations***

30  
31 2.5.1 Congregations shall seek the counsel of their respective district presidents when calling  
32 ministers of religion—ordained or ministers of religion—commissioned—~~ministers~~.  
33

34 2.5.2 Congregations that are members of the Synod shall call and be served only by ministers of  
35 religion—ordained ~~ministers~~—who have been admitted to their respective ministries in accordance  
36 with the rules and regulations set forth in these Bylaws and have thereby become members of  
37 the Synod.  
38

39 2.5.3 Congregations that are members of the Synod shall call only ministers of religion—  
40 commissioned ~~ministers~~—who have been admitted to their ministries in accordance with the rules  
41 and regulations set forth in these Bylaws and have thereby become members of the Synod.  
42

43 2.5.4 Congregations that violate these requirements and persist in such violation shall, after due  
44 admonition, forfeit their membership in the Synod.  
45

## 46 ***2.6 Individual Membership***

47  
48 2.6.1 “Ministers of the Gospel,” designated by the Synod as “ministers of religion—ordained”  
49 (ordained ministers) or “ministers of religion—commissioned” (commissioned ministers), are  
50 eligible for individual membership in the Synod.

1  
2 2.6.2 Individuals who have been declared qualified for a first call and assigned first calls in  
3 accordance with Bylaw sections 2.7–2.9 shall, by the rites of both ordination or commissioning  
4 and installation in accordance with Bylaw section 2.10, become members of the Synod.

5  
6 2.6.3 There is no inherent right to membership in the Synod, and the decision as to qualification for a  
7 first call and the assignment of first calls shall be at the sole discretion of the Synod.  
8

## 9 ***2.7 Eligibility for Individual Membership***

10  
11 2.7.1 A graduate of an authorized educational institution of the Synod must be declared qualified for  
12 a first call and recommended by the faculty of the respective educational institution before the  
13 effective date of the first call to service in the church, as assigned by the Council of Presidents  
14 acting as the Board of Assignments as provided in Bylaw section 2.9.  
15

16 2.7.2 Candidates who have satisfactorily completed an approved colloquy program of the Synod for  
17 the ordained or commissioned ministry must be declared qualified for a first call and be  
18 recommended by the appropriate colloquy committee (see Bylaws ~~3.8.2-43.10.2ff.~~ and  
19 3.10.3ff~~3.8.3-5.1~~) before the effective date of the first call to service in the church as assigned by  
20 the Board of Assignments as provided in Bylaw section 2.9.  
21

22 2.7.3 Candidates who have satisfactorily completed an approved educational program of the Synod  
23 for the ordained or commissioned ministry involving extensive use of distance learning and/or a  
24 mentoring system must be declared qualified for a first call and recommended by the faculty of  
25 one of the seminaries, colleges, or universities of the Synod before the effective date of the first  
26 call to service in the church, as assigned by the Board of Assignments as provided in Bylaw  
27 section 2.9.  
28

29 2.7.4 Graduates of one of the colleges, universities, or seminaries of the Synod who desire to  
30 continue their professional studies after they have completed the prescribed undergraduate  
31 curriculum, or who for any other valid reason are not ready for first calls to service in the  
32 church, shall continue to be eligible for unqualified recommendation for first calls as long as  
33 they can be recommended by the faculty of the educational institution of the Synod from which  
34 they have graduated. The respective faculty shall annually ascertain through personal  
35 interviews with the candidate or through satisfactory testimonials that each candidate so  
36 classified is still qualified for recommendation for a first call to serve in the church.  
37

38 2.7.5 A pastor emeritus from another church body, after having completed an approved colloquy  
39 program of the Synod, may be placed on the roster of the Synod without call by action of the  
40 Council of Presidents on the basis of policies adopted by the Council of Presidents.

41 (a) Such placement shall be acknowledged by a rite of recognition in a worship service  
42 preferably of the congregation of the Synod where he holds membership.

43 (b) Such rite is to be authorized by the district president.  
44

## 45 ***2.8 Qualification for First Call***

46  
47 2.8.1 Candidates shall be declared qualified for first calls.  
48

49 (a) They are those who before the effective date of the first calls will have satisfactorily  
50 completed the prescribed courses of studies and will have received diplomas from their



1 (c) submitted a request for ordination or commissioning to the respective district president, who  
2 shall grant the request and schedule the ordination or commissioning when he is satisfied that  
3 all requirements for such have been fulfilled; and

4 (d) evidenced an intent to accept membership in the Synod promptly after the assignment of  
5 first calls and prior to ordination or commissioning by signing and filing with the president of  
6 the district in which membership will be initially held a statement to be supplied by the district  
7 president which acknowledges subscription to the Constitution of the Synod and which, upon  
8 installation and following ordination or commissioning, shall be deemed equivalent to the  
9 member having signed the Synod's Constitution.

#### 10 11 *Rites of Ordination or Commissioning*

12  
13 2.10.3 The president of the district of which the calling congregation is a member or in which the  
14 eligible calling agency is located or with which it is otherwise identified shall be responsible for  
15 the rites of ordination and commissioning of candidates for the ministry called to that  
16 congregation or agency.

17  
18 (a) The rite of ordination or commissioning should normally take place in the presence of the  
19 congregation or other agency to which the candidate has been called.

20 (b) In the case of missionaries called by the Synod, members of a faculty of an institution of the  
21 Synod, or institutional chaplains, the rite shall take place in a setting approved by the district  
22 president.

23 (c) If an unusual circumstance warrants it, the appropriate district president may authorize that  
24 the rite take place in the home congregation of the candidate, or other appropriate congregation,  
25 with the permission of the calling congregation or other agency.

26 (d) A service of celebration on the part of the candidate's home congregation is encouraged.

27 (e) The district president shall issue a diploma of ordination or commissioning.

#### 28 29 *Forms and Practices*

30  
31 2.10.4 The rites of ordination and commissioning and the rites of installation should be in accordance  
32 with forms and practices developed by the Synod for that purpose, and in all events the minister  
33 shall be solemnly pledged to the Scriptures as the inspired and inerrant Word of God and the  
34 Symbolical Books of the Lutheran Church as a true exposition of the Scriptures.

### 35 36 ***2.11 Continued Eligibility of Individual Members***

#### 37 38 *Active Members*

39  
40 2.11.1 To remain on the roster of the Synod as an active individual member, ~~an~~ minister of religion–  
41 ordained or minister of religion–commissioned ~~minister of religion~~–must be a communicant  
42 member of a congregation which is a member of the Synod (except as provided in paragraph [c]  
43 below) and be regularly performing the duties of one of the following:

44  
45 (a) ~~An~~ minister of religion–ordained ~~minister~~–serving a congregation of the Synod.

46 (b) A minister of religion–commissioned ~~minister~~–serving a congregation of the Synod.

47 (c) A minister of religion, ~~—~~ordained or minister of religion–commissioned, serving a  
48 congregation which is not a member of the Synod, provided that such is approved (on the basis  
49 of policies adopted by the Council of Presidents) by the president of the district in which the  
50 congregation is located.

51 (d) An elected officer of the Synod, including a district or other agency of the Synod.

- 1 (e) An executive or professional staff member serving the Synod, including a district or other  
2 agency of the Synod.
- 3 (f) An executive or professional staff member serving a national inter-Lutheran entity of which  
4 the Synod is a member.
- 5 (g) A missionary serving under a call by the Synod, including a call by a district.
- 6 (h) A person serving on the faculty or professional staff of an educational institution of the  
7 Synod.
- 8 (i) A military or institutional chaplain or other specialized ministry endorsed by the Synod,  
9 including endorsement by one of its districts.
- 10 (j) An executive or professional staff member called or appointed by a national inter-Lutheran  
11 agency referred to in Bylaw 1.3.8.
- 12 (k) An executive or professional staff member called or appointed by an auxiliary (Bylaw  
13 section 6.1) or other recognized service organization (Bylaw section 6.2), or a person serving  
14 an educational institution solely governed by congregations of the Synod and recognized by a  
15 district of the Synod.

16  
17 *Inactive Members*

18  
19 2.11.2 Inactive members ~~are advisory~~ continue to be individual members of the Synod.

- 20  
21 (a) As such, they have all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of ~~advisory~~ individual  
22 membership in the Synod as defined in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.
- 23 (b) To remain on the roster of the Synod as an inactive member, a ~~minister of religion~~  
24 ordained or minister of religion-commissioned ~~minister of religion~~ must be a communicant  
25 member in good standing of a congregation which is a member of the Synod and must qualify  
26 and make application for one of the following categories.

27  
28 *Emeritus*

29  
30 2.11.2.1 An “emeritus” member is one whose membership is held for retention on the individual  
31 member roster upon retirement after reaching the age of 55 or for reasons of total and  
32 permanent disability. Any unusual case shall be decided by the Council of Presidents if the  
33 appropriate district president so requests.

- 34  
35 (a) The emeritus member or a representative identified by his district president shall, by  
36 January 31, make an annual report to the member’s district president.
- 37 (b) This report shall include current contact information and address the criteria for remaining  
38 an inactive member of the Synod.

39  
40 *Candidate*

41  
42 2.11.2.2 A “candidate” member is one who is eligible to perform the duties of any of the offices of  
43 ministry specified in Bylaw section 2.11 but who is not currently an active ~~member~~ or ~~an~~  
44 emeritus individual member.

- 45  
46 (a) A candidate may be continued on the roster for a period not to exceed four years by act of  
47 the president of the district through which the person holds membership.
- 48 (b) The candidate shall, by January 31, make an annual report to the district president who shall  
49 evaluate the member's eligibility for remaining on candidate status. The candidate's report shall  
50 include current contact information and address the criteria for remaining on candidate status.
- 51 (c) Among criteria for determining whether candidate status should be granted or continued are:

- (1) The health of the applicant;
- (2) A spirit of cooperation in any efforts to address any unresolved issues involving fitness for ministry;
- (3) The extent of current involvement on a part-time and assisting basis in his/her respective ministry; and
- (4) A demonstrated willingness to consider a call or appointment to any of the offices of ministry specified in Bylaw section 2.11.

### *Non-Candidate*

2.11.2.3 A “non-candidate” member is one who is eligible to perform the duties of any of the offices of ministry specified in Bylaw section 2.11 but who is not currently an active ~~member~~ or ~~an~~ emeritus member and who chooses not to be a candidate member.

(a) The member may be continued on the roster for a period of up to eight years by act of the president of the district through which the member holds membership.

(b) The non-candidate shall, by January 31, make an annual report to the district president who shall evaluate the member's eligibility for remaining on non-candidate status. The non-candidate's report shall include current contact information and the member's efforts to fulfill the responsibilities of an advisory member of the Synod.

(c) Non-candidate members are eligible to serve in ministry situations upon approval of their district presidents and according to guidelines established by the Council of Presidents.

(d) The Council of Presidents may grant an extension of non-candidate status for a second period of up to eight years upon request of the appropriate district president.

## ***2.12 District Membership and Ecclesiastical Supervision***

2.12.1 Except as otherwise provided in this section, a member shall be under the ecclesiastical supervision of the president of the district through which membership in the Synod is held.

2.12.1.1 The district through which an individual holds membership and the district through which an individual member is ecclesiastically supervised will not be determined in any case on the basis of district membership of the congregation to which the individual belongs.

2.12.1.2 An individual member of the Synod who is serving a congregation shall hold membership in the Synod through the district of which the congregation is a member.

2.12.1.3 An individual member of the Synod who is serving a district shall hold membership in the Synod through that district.

2.12.1.4 A missionary or chaplain serving under a call by the Synod shall hold individual membership in the Synod through the district designated by the missionary or chaplain if approved by the president of that district after consultation with the Board for Mission Services and the president of the district through which membership is currently held.

2.12.1.5 An individual member of the Synod who is serving an agency other than a congregation or district and other than a missionary or chaplain serving under call by the Synod shall hold membership through the district designated by that person if approved by both the president of that district and the president of the district in which the agency is located, but shall be subject to the ecclesiastical supervision of the president of the geographical district in which the agency

1 is located. When all voting members of the agency are members of a non-geographical district,  
2 membership shall be held through that district.

3  
4 2.12.1.6 An individual member of the Synod who is an executive or professional staff member called or  
5 appointed by an auxiliary or other recognized service organization shall hold Synod  
6 membership in the geographical district in which the member resides or the non-geographical  
7 district in which he or she holds membership.

8  
9 2.12.1.7 An emeritus member shall continue to hold membership through the district through which  
10 membership was held at the inception of emeritus status unless a transfer is approved by both  
11 the president of that district and the president of the district to which membership would be  
12 transferred.

13  
14 2.12.1.8 An inactive member having candidate or non-candidate status shall continue to hold  
15 membership in the Synod through the district through which membership was held at the  
16 inception of candidate or non-candidate status except when a transfer is approved by both the  
17 president of that district and the president of the district to which membership would be  
18 transferred.

19  
20 2.12.1.9 A member having restricted status while not serving a congregation or other eligible agency  
21 shall continue to hold membership through the district through which membership was held at  
22 the inception of restricted status unless a transfer is approved by both the president of that  
23 district and the president of the district to which membership would be transferred.

24  
25 2.12.1.10 A member having suspended status shall continue to hold membership through the district  
26 through which membership was held at the time of the suspension.

## 27 28 ***2.13 Membership Status and Limitations***

### 29 30 *Specific Ministry Pastor Status and Limitations*

31  
32 2.13.1 A “specific ministry pastor” is a minister of religion—ordained who has completed the  
33 requirements for service as a specific ministry pastor and has been examined by one of the  
34 Synod’s seminaries, has received a regular call, and has been placed by the Council of  
35 Presidents into a specific Word and Sacrament ministry context. He is eligible to serve only in  
36 that specific ministry context for which he has been trained and may not be offered or accept a  
37 call for ministry for which he has not been certified as determined by his district president. He  
38 shall serve under the supervision of his district president and another pastor who is not a  
39 specific ministry pastor.

40  
41 (a) Because he is under supervision of another pastor and because a specific ministry pastor’s  
42 theological education has been formed in part by and for a specific ministry context, he may not  
43 be placed or called into ecclesiastical roles that exercise pastoral oversight outside the location  
44 of his call.

45 (b) A specific ministry pastor is not eligible to

46 (1) serve as a voting delegate to a national convention of the Synod—but may serve ~~as an~~  
47 ~~advisory delegate to national conventions and~~ as a pastoral delegate to district conventions;

48 (2) hold any elected or appointed office on the district or national Synod level that is  
49 assigned by the Bylaws of the Synod to “a pastor” or “an ordained minister” (although

1 specific ministry pastors may serve in all other capacities, especially representing the  
2 ministerial contexts in which they serve);

3 (3) supervise vicars; or

4 (4) serve as a circuit counselor.

5 (c) The ministers of religion—ordained records maintained by district presidents as well as the  
6 official membership roster of the Synod shall distinguish between specific ministry pastors and  
7 other pastors.

8  
9 *Restricted Status and Limitations*

10  
11 2.13.2 An individual member of the Synod may be placed on restricted status by the district president  
12 who has ecclesiastical supervision of the member.

13  
14 2.13.2.1 The district president may take this action if information with respect to such member provides  
15 a substantial basis to conclude that such member

16  
17 (a) has engaged in conduct which could lead to expulsion from the Synod under Article XIII of  
18 the Constitution;

19 (b) is incapable of performing the duties of the office or position because of physical, mental, or  
20 emotional disability; or

21 (c) neglects or refuses to perform the duties of the office or position.

22  
23 2.13.2.2 An individual member of the Synod on restricted status is ineligible to

24  
25 (a) perform functions of ministry except in the position of service, if any, held at the inception  
26 of restricted status and otherwise only if approved by the district president; and

27 (b) accept a call to any other position of service in the Synod.

28  
29 2.13.2.3 An individual member of the Synod shall be notified in writing as to the specific reasons for  
30 having been placed on restricted status.

31  
32 (a) Such restricted status shall continue for a period of one year or a lesser period if the matter  
33 is satisfactorily resolved.

34 (b) In order to extend the restricted status beyond one year, the district president shall annually  
35 thereafter notify the member in writing as to the reasons for such continuance of restricted  
36 status.

37  
38 2.13.2.4 While a member is on restricted status, the district president shall minister to that member  
39 either directly or through others, concern himself with the spiritual well-being of that member,  
40 and continue efforts to resolve those matters which led to the imposition of restricted status.

41  
42 (a) The records maintained by the respective district president shall reflect the restricted status.

43 (b) The district president shall notify in writing the President of the Synod and all other district  
44 presidents of such restricted status.

45  
46 *Removal of Restricted Status and Limitations*

47  
48 2.13.3 An individual member of the Synod who is placed on restricted status shall have the right to  
49 appeal the placement on or continuance of restricted status by filing a petition for removal of  
50 restricted status.

1 2.13.3.1 A party on restricted status may petition for removal therefrom no more than once in a 12-  
2 month period.

3  
4 2.13.3.2 Such petition for removal of restricted status shall be addressed solely to the Council of  
5 Presidents through the office of the President of the Synod. The Council of Presidents shall rule  
6 on such petition within six months from the date of receipt.

7  
8 (a) A hearing on the petition for removal of restricted status shall be conducted by a hearing  
9 panel consisting of three district presidents selected as follows:

10 (1) One district president selected by the petitioner.

11 (2) One district president selected by the district president who imposed restricted status  
12 (hereinafter referred to as the involved district president). The involved district president  
13 may not choose himself.

14 (3) A third district president selected by the other two hearing panel members. If the two  
15 hearing panel members cannot agree on the third hearing panel member, then such third  
16 member shall be chosen by blind draw from among the remaining district presidents.

17 (b) Upon receipt of a petition for removal of restricted status, the chairman of the Council of  
18 Presidents shall promptly notify the petitioner and the involved district president of their  
19 respective right to choose one hearing panel member and direct that the identity of their  
20 selection be transmitted to the chairman of the Council of Presidents within one month from the  
21 date of such notice. If either party declines to make a selection within such one-month period,  
22 such selection shall then be made by the chairman of the Council of Presidents.

23 (c) When two hearing panel members have so been chosen, the chairman of the Council of  
24 Presidents shall promptly notify them of their selection to the hearing panel and direct that they  
25 select the third member of the hearing panel and notify the chairman of the Council of their  
26 selection.

27 (d) After the hearing panel is constituted, it shall select one of its members as chairman, who  
28 shall then, after conferring with the petitioner and the involved district president, select a date  
29 and location where the hearing panel will consider the petition.

30 (e) The hearing before the panel shall be private, attended only by the parties and the witnesses  
31 who can substantiate the facts relevant to the matter in dispute. The panel shall establish the  
32 procedure to be followed in the hearing and the relevancy of evidence so that each party shall  
33 be given an opportunity fully to present its respective position.

34 (f) Upon completion of the hearing, the hearing panel shall deliberate and then issue its written  
35 decision within 60 days, a copy of which shall be mailed to the petitioner, the involved district  
36 president, and the chairman of the Council of Presidents.

37 (g) The decision of the hearing panel shall be the decision of the Council of Presidents and shall  
38 be final with no right of appeal.

39  
40 *Suspended Status and Limitations*

41  
42 2.13.4 When formal proceedings have been commenced against a member of the Synod (individual or  
43 congregation) under the procedures set forth in Bylaw sections 2.14–2.17 which may lead to  
44 expulsion from the Synod under Article XIII of the Constitution, the member shall have  
45 suspended status. If such member was on restricted status at the commencement of formal  
46 proceedings, the restricted status shall become suspended status.

47  
48 2.13.4.1 Suspended status shall continue until the formal proceedings are completed favorably to the  
49 member or until membership is duly terminated.

1 2.13.4.2 While on suspended status, the member shall continue to hold all rights under the Constitution  
2 and Bylaws except that the member shall

3  
4 (a) be relieved of duties as a member of the Synod (e.g., as a delegate to a district or Synod  
5 convention or as a member of any district or Synod board or commission);

6 (b) be relieved of the duties and responsibilities which the member holds with the Synod,  
7 district, or other agency of the Synod; and

8 (c) be ineligible to accept a call to any other position of service in the Synod.  
9

10 2.13.4.3 The member on suspended status shall continue to be eligible to perform those duties and  
11 responsibilities of any other position which such member held at the time when placed on  
12 suspended status, including a position with a member congregation.

13  
14 (a) When a member is placed on suspended status, the district president who has ecclesiastical  
15 supervision of the member shall

16 (1) reflect the suspended status in the records maintained by him;

17 (2) notify in writing the President of the Synod and all other district presidents of the  
18 affected member's suspended status; and

19 (3) advise the congregation or other agency being served by the individual member of the  
20 suspended status to take appropriate action so that the rights of both the member and  
21 congregation or other agency are preserved.

22 (b) While a member is on suspended status, the district president shall minister to that member  
23 either directly or through others, concern himself with the spiritual well-being of such member,  
24 and continue efforts to resolve those matters which led to imposition of the suspended status.

25 (c) If the member on suspended status is a district president, the duties assigned to the district  
26 president under paragraphs (a) and (b) hereof shall be performed by the next proper successor  
27 district officer.  
28

## 29 ***2.14 Expulsion of Congregations or Individuals from Membership in the Synod***

### 30 *Preamble*

31  
32  
33 2.14.1 Termination of membership in the Synod is a serious matter involving both the doctrine and life  
34 of those to whom it has been granted. Such action should only be taken as a final step when it  
35 is clear that those who are being terminated after previous futile admonition have acted contrary  
36 to the confession laid down in Article II or the conditions of membership laid down in Article  
37 VI or have persisted in offensive conduct (Constitution, Art. XIII 1). For this reason the Synod  
38 establishes procedures for such action including the identification of those who are responsible  
39 for ecclesiastical supervision of its members. Such supervision includes not only suspension or  
40 termination of membership but also advice, counsel, encouragement, and, when necessary,  
41 admonition regarding teaching and/or practice. Furthermore, the procedures that may lead to  
42 termination of membership also provide for the protection of members by including provisions  
43 for challenging the decisions of ecclesiastical supervisors in these matters as well as provisions  
44 for restoration of membership that has been suspended or terminated.  
45

46 (a) Although the Constitution (see Art. VI 3 and Art. XII 7–8) deals with the “life” of ministers  
47 of religion—ordained and ministers of religion—commissioned ~~ministers~~ of the Synod and  
48 provides for dealing with “ungodly life” of such ordained and commissioned ~~ministers~~, this  
49 does not suggest that the Synod, including any district of the Synod, has the duty or even an  
50 opportunity to observe the activities in the life of an individual member of the Synod or has the

1 means or authority to regulate, restrict, or control those activities. The only remedy available to  
2 the Synod in response to improper activities in the life of such a member of the Synod is, as is  
3 true with respect to violations of other conditions of membership or is otherwise appropriate  
4 under the Constitution or these Bylaws, and following the procedures set forth in these Bylaws,  
5 to take such action as may lead to termination of that membership and the attendant rights and  
6 privileges.

7 (b) The action to commence expulsion of a congregation or individual from membership in the  
8 Synod is the sole responsibility of the district president who has the responsibility for  
9 ecclesiastical supervision of such member. This Bylaw section 2.14, among others, provides the  
10 procedures to carry out Article XIII of the Constitution, "Expulsion from the Synod." However,  
11 it does not provide the procedure for the expulsion of the district presidents and the officers of  
12 the Synod (Bylaw section 2.15), the President of the Synod (Bylaw section 2.16), or individual  
13 members in cases involving sexual misconduct or criminal behavior (Bylaw section 2.17).

### 14 15 *Definition of Terms*

16  
17 2.14.2 The definitions of terms used in this bylaw are as follows:

18 (a) *Accused*: The party named by the accuser as being in violation of Article XIII and under the  
19 procedural ecclesiastical supervision of Bylaw sections 2.14–2.17.

20 (b) *Accuser*: The party who accuses a member under the provisions of Article XIII through the  
21 process of Bylaw sections 2.14–2.17.

22 (c) *Conflict of interest*: Representation of two opposing interests. Carrying out the  
23 responsibility of ecclesiastical supervision does not give rise to conflict of interest.

24 (d) *Ecclesiastical supervision*: See Bylaw 1.2.1 (g).

25 (e) *Face-to-face*: A face-to-face meeting in person between the accuser and the accused in the  
26 manner described in Matthew 18:15. E-mail, regular mail, fax, or telephone call (or any  
27 combination thereof) does not satisfy this requirement. (Note: Failure to conduct a face-to-face  
28 meeting within 30 days or within such extension as may be established by the involved  
29 ecclesiastical supervisors shall result in dismissal if the fault lies with the accuser or movement  
30 to the next stage if the fault lies with the accused.)

31 (f) *Facts*: Substantiated information of an alleged accusation.

32 (g) *Fails to act*: No measures initiated within the required period of time to ascertain the truth  
33 or falsity of the accusations, or the stifling of a complaint by the refusal to act.

34 (h) *Final Hearing Panel*: Three district presidents who when the decision of the Hearing Panel  
35 is appealed shall be selected according to these bylaws to give a final hearing.

36 (i) *Formal Proceedings*: The proceedings that begin with the suspension of a member.

37 (j) *Hearing Panel*: Three district presidents selected according to these bylaws to hear the  
38 matter and render a final decision unless appealed.

39 (k) *Investigation Committee*: Any number of persons appointed by the ecclesiastical supervisor  
40 to investigate thoroughly to determine the facts in the matter prior to the determination whether  
41 or not to proceed.

42 (l) *Own personal knowledge*: A personal witness to the alleged violation—not secondhand or  
43 hearsay information.

44 (m) *Party to the matter*: A "party to the matter" is the accuser and the accused. Carrying out the  
45 responsibility of ecclesiastical supervision does not make the ecclesiastical supervisor a party to  
46 the matter, even if the accuser is the ecclesiastical supervisor.

47 (n) *Persons involved*: "Persons involved" includes the accuser or whoever brings the matter to  
48 the attention of the ecclesiastical supervisor; also any parties to whom the matter is presented  
49 and who are required to thoroughly investigate whether the allegations can be substantiated,  
50 i.e., any ecclesiastical supervisor involved in the case, the accused, the Hearing Panel, the Final  
51 Hearing Panel, a witness or advisor, or any others involved in the matter.

1 (o) *Publicity*: Any information or action, whether written, oral, or visual, that brings a person,  
2 cause, or an alleged accusation to public notice, including information that results in public  
3 notice, whether or not the person or persons delivering it gave approval to the bringing of the  
4 information to public notice.

5 (p) *Reconciliation Committee*: A small committee appointed by the ecclesiastical supervisor  
6 (prior to the determination whether or not to proceed to assist in reconciliation efforts) if the  
7 matter warrants it.

8 (q) *Referral Panel*: A panel that may be formed of three circuit counselors or district presidents,  
9 who shall be selected according to these bylaws to determine, according to the facts learned  
10 from the investigation, whether or not to proceed.

11 (r) *Statement of the matter*: A written concise statement containing factual assertions involved  
12 in an accusation with a request for expulsion from membership.

13 (s) *Witness*: A person called to give testimony regarding facts to a matter before a Hearing  
14 Panel or Final Hearing Panel. A member of any reconciliation committee appointed by a  
15 district president or the President of the Synod shall not testify as a witness before a Hearing  
16 Panel or a Final Hearing Panel in the same matter or case.

## 17 18 *Consultation*

19  
20 2.14.3 When a member congregation or individual member of the Synod is aware of information  
21 which could lead to the expulsion of a member from the Synod under Article XIII of the  
22 Constitution, prior to any formal written complaint or accusation the member shall consult with  
23 his or her respective district president to seek advice and also so that it can be determined  
24 whether this is the appropriate bylaw procedure (Bylaw section 2.14) or whether the matter  
25 falls under Bylaw sections 2.15, 2.16, 2.17, or 1.8; ~~Bylaws 3.8.2.7.9~~ 3.10.4.7.5ff. or 3.10.5.6.5ff.  
26 ~~3.8.3.8.9~~; or dispute resolution under Bylaw section 1.10. In regard to this consultation:  
27

28 (a) The district president shall inform the district president of the accused that a consultation is  
29 underway. He may also seek advice from the vice-presidents of his own district, from the  
30 district president of the accused, or from the President of the Synod. The district president may  
31 also ask an opinion of the Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) and/or the  
32 Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR). The district president must follow  
33 any opinion received from either the CCM or the CTCR, which shall be rendered within 30  
34 days or such additional time as the district president may allow.

35 (b) The district president shall require the accuser to follow the correct bylaw provision under  
36 the circumstance, if any, and shall provide evangelical supervision, counsel, and care to the  
37 persons involved.

38 (c) If Bylaw section 2.14 applies, the district president shall ensure that the accuser has met  
39 face-to-face with the accused in the manner described in Matthew 18:15. Even if the alleged  
40 violation of Article XIII of the Constitution is considered to be “public,” this provision of  
41 Matthew 18:15 shall be followed. The reputation of all parties is to be protected as commanded  
42 in the Eighth Commandment.

43 (d) In consultation with the district president of the accused, the district president of the accuser  
44 may appoint a small committee to assist in reconciliation efforts. The goal throughout is always  
45 one of admonition and reconciliation, of repentance and forgiveness (even if the following  
46 proceedings result in expulsion from membership).

47 (e) The Synod’s requirement of previous admonition called for in Article XIII of the  
48 Constitution commences at this stage if applicable.

49 (f) Only after all the requirements of the consultation provided in this bylaw (Bylaw 2.14.3)  
50 have been followed may the accuser bring the matter to the district president of the accused for

1 action under the correct bylaw provision determined by the accuser's district president  
2 (paragraph [b] above).

3  
4 *Commencing an Action*

5  
6 2.14.4 Under this bylaw (Bylaw section 2.14) the district president of the accused shall commence the  
7 following action when he becomes aware of information or allegations that could lead to  
8 expulsion of a member from the Synod under the provisions of Article XIII of the Constitution.  
9 The district president may become aware of such information by his own personal knowledge.  
10 Such information or allegations may also be conveyed to him in a formal written complaint or  
11 accusation made by a member of the Synod who has carried out the above provision (Bylaw  
12 2.14.3). In commencing such action, the district president of the accused:

13  
14 (a) Shall determine whether the Bylaw 2.14.3 provisions have been carried out and shall  
15 thoroughly investigate the matter (cf. Bylaw 4.4.6) to determine whether the facts learned from  
16 his investigation form a basis for expulsion of the member under Article XIII of the  
17 Constitution. He may appoint a small investigation committee.

18 (b) Shall proceed in the manner described in Matthew 18:15–16 as the required admonition in  
19 Article XIII of the Constitution, if applicable, continues to be carried out.

20 (c) May, apart from the investigation, also appoint a small committee to assist in reconciliation  
21 efforts (see Bylaw 2.14.3 [d] above).

22  
23 2.14.4.1 In the event the district president is disqualified because he has a conflict of interest or is unable  
24 to act, the next qualified district officer shall function in his place. The President of the Synod,  
25 who is his ecclesiastical supervisor, shall determine any challenge to the eligibility of the  
26 district president to act that is not agreed to by the district president.

27  
28 *Referral Panel*

29  
30 2.14.5 In the determination whether or not to initiate formal proceedings, the district president may  
31 form a Referral Panel consisting of three circuit counselors of the district.

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

35 (b) This panel shall be formed by blind draw and shall not include the circuit counselor of the  
36 accused or the accuser. The blind draw shall be administered by the district president and  
37 audited by witnesses.

38  
39 2.14.5.1 After reviewing the accusation and the results of the investigation, the Referral Panel shall  
40 make the determination whether or not to initiate formal proceedings.

41  
42 2.14.5.2 Whether made by the district president or the Referral Panel, if the determination is not to  
43 initiate formal proceedings, the district president shall in writing so inform the accuser, any  
44 other district president involved, and the involved member, which shall terminate the matter.

45  
46 2.14.5.3 If the district president fails to act within 60 days after receipt of the formal written complaint  
47 or accusation, the accuser may present a formal written request to the district president for the  
48 forming of the Referral Panel, which request the district president must grant. If the provisions  
49 of Bylaw 2.14.4 have not been carried out, the Referral Panel shall carry out these provisions in  
50 the process of making its determination whether or not to initiate formal proceedings.

1  
2 *Commencing Formal Proceedings*  
3

4 2.14.6 If the district president or the Referral Panel concludes that the facts form a basis for expulsion  
5 of the member under Article XIII of the Constitution, the district president in commencing the  
6 formal proceedings shall

7  
8 (a) provide to the member a written notification of the member's suspended status under Bylaw  
9 2.13.5;

10 (b) provide to the member a written statement of the matter which sets forth the facts and states  
11 that he is requesting expulsion of the member from the Synod in accord with Article XIII of the  
12 Constitution; and

13 (c) provide to the member a written notification that the member has 15 days from the date of  
14 receipt of the statement of the matter to advise his district president that there is a desire to have  
15 the matter heard and resolved.  
16

17 2.14.6.1 Failure by the member to file such written request for hearing and resolution within the 15-day  
18 period shall be deemed to be consent to expulsion from membership in the Synod.  
19

20 *Hearing Panel*  
21

22 2.14.7 If the request for hearing as granted in Bylaw 2.14.6 (c) is made, the president of the district  
23 (the district president of the suspended/accused member) shall inform the chairman of the  
24 Council of Presidents who shall form a Hearing Panel of district presidents within 30 days of  
25 the request in accordance with the provisions in this bylaw.  
26

27 2.14.7.1 At the time that the request for hearing is made, the district president shall forward to the  
28 chairman of the Council of Presidents the statement of the matter and a written memorandum  
29 describing the manner in which there was compliance with the guidelines provided in Matthew  
30 18:15–16, “previous futile admonition” (Constitution Art. XIII), as well as all of the provisions  
31 of Bylaws 2.14.3–2.14.6.1.  
32

33 2.14.7.2 A Hearing Panel consisting of three district presidents selected as follows but excluding the  
34 involved district presidents shall conduct the hearing:

35 (a) One district president selected by the accused.

36 (b) One district president selected by the district president who imposed the suspended status (a  
37 district president may not choose himself).

38 (c) A third district president selected by the other two Hearing Panel members. If the two  
39 Hearing Panel members cannot agree on the third Hearing Panel member, then such third  
40 member shall be chosen by blind draw from among the remaining district presidents, excluding  
41 any involved district president, with the blind draw administered by the chairman of the  
42 Council of Presidents and audited by witnesses.  
43

44 2.14.7.3 Upon receipt of a request for hearing, the chairman of the Council of Presidents shall promptly  
45 notify the accused and the district president who imposed the suspended status of their  
46 respective right to choose one Hearing Panel member and direct that the identity of their  
47 selection be transmitted to the chairman of the Council of Presidents within 15 days from the  
48 date of such notice. If either party declines to make a selection within 15 days, the chairman of  
49 the Council of Presidents shall then make such selection within five days.  
50

1 2.14.7.4 When two Hearing Panel members have so been chosen, the chairman of the Council of  
2 Presidents shall promptly notify them of their selection to the Hearing Panel and direct that they  
3 select the third member of the Hearing Panel within 10 days and notify the chairman of the  
4 Council of Presidents of their selection.

5  
6 2.14.7.5 Within 15 days after the Hearing Panel is constituted, it shall select one of its members as  
7 chairman, who shall then, after conferring with the accused and the district president who  
8 imposed the suspended status, select a date and location within 45 days after the Hearing Panel  
9 is constituted to determine when and where the Hearing Panel will consider the matter.

10  
11 2.14.7.6 The chairman of the Council of Presidents shall forward to the Hearing Panel the statement of  
12 the matter together with the written memorandum describing the manner in which there was  
13 compliance with the guidelines provided in Matthew 18:15–16, “previous futile admonition”  
14 (Constitution Art. XIII), as well as all of the provisions of Bylaws 2.14.3–2.14.6.1.

15  
16 2.14.7.7 The following guidelines are applicable to the Hearing Panel and all involved persons:

17  
18 (a) Holy Scripture, the Lutheran Confessions, and the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod  
19 shall govern the panel in all its actions.

20 (b) The hearing before the panel shall be private, attended only by the persons involved and the  
21 witnesses who can substantiate the facts relevant to the matter. The only exception is stated  
22 under paragraph (h) below.

23 (c) The panel shall establish the procedure to be followed in the hearing and the relevancy of  
24 the evidence so that each party involved shall be given an opportunity fully to present its  
25 respective position.

26 (d) Any member of the Synod, officer of a congregation, or officer of any organization owned  
27 or controlled by the Synod shall, when called upon by the panel to do so, testify or produce  
28 records related to the matter.

29 (e) Each party to the matter shall assume its own expenses. The expenses of the panel shall be  
30 borne by the district or the Synod.

31 (f) No party to the matter nor anyone on the party’s behalf shall communicate either directly or  
32 indirectly with the panel or any member of the panel without the full knowledge of the other  
33 party to the matter.

34 (g) While the matter is still undecided or while an appeal is contemplated or pending, publicity  
35 shall not be given to the issues in the matter by any of the persons involved during any part of  
36 the procedures outlined in this bylaw. However, at his discretion and as the needs dictate in  
37 order to “promote and maintain unity of doctrine and practice” (Constitution Art. XI B 3) and  
38 in order to provide counsel, care, and protection for all the members of the Synod (~~Art. I~~ III-8,  
39 9), the President of the Synod or the district president in consultation with the President of the  
40 Synod, as the case may be, may properly advise or inform the involved congregation(s) and/or  
41 the district or the Synod.

42 (h) Any party to the matter may seek, at its own personal expense, the assistance of individuals  
43 familiar with the issues involved in the matter. They may actively participate in research and  
44 the preparation of necessary documents. At the hearing, however, each party involved may  
45 have an adviser present but must represent itself, with no public participation by the adviser.

46 (i) The panel shall determine the number of witnesses necessary for a full and complete  
47 understanding of the facts involved in the matter. It shall question persons involved and  
48 witnesses directly and may also permit the persons involved to do so (cf. paragraph [h] above).

49 (j) All panel records in which the panel has rendered a final decision shall be placed in the  
50 custody of Concordia Historical Institute. All such records shall be sealed and shall be opened  
51 only for good cause shown and only after a panel of three district presidents, selected by blind

1 draw for that purpose by the chairman of the Council of Presidents and audited by witnesses,  
2 has granted permission.

3 (k) If any part of the dispute involves a specific question of doctrine or doctrinal application,  
4 each party shall have the right to an opinion from the Commission on Theology and Church  
5 Relations (CTCR). If it involves questions of constitution or bylaw interpretation, each party  
6 shall have a right to an interpretation from the Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM).

7 (1) The request for an opinion must be made through the panel, which shall determine the  
8 wording of the question(s).

9 (2) The request for an opinion must be made within 30 days of the final formation of the  
10 panel. If a party does not request such an opinion within the designated time, such a request  
11 may still be made to the panel, which shall, at its discretion, determine whether the request  
12 shall be forwarded. The panel shall also have the right, at any time, to request an opinion  
13 from the CCM or the CTCR.

14 (3) Any opinion so requested shall be rendered within 30 days or such greater time as the  
15 panel may allow.

16 (4) When an opinion has been requested, the time limitations will not apply until the parties  
17 have received the opinion. The panel must follow any opinion received from either the  
18 CCM or the CTCR.

19  
20 2.14.7.8 Upon completion of the hearing, the Hearing Panel shall deliberate and then issue its written  
21 decision within 30 days, a copy of which shall be mailed to the accused, the district president  
22 who imposed the suspension, the accuser and his district president, the chairman of the Council  
23 of Presidents, and the President of the Synod.

24  
25 (a) The decision of the Hearing Panel shall have no precedential value and shall be final and  
26 binding, subject to appeal by the accused or the President of the Synod as set forth in Bylaw  
27 2.14.8 below.

28 (b) If not appealed, the decision shall be carried out by the district president or the President of  
29 the Synod and shall be publicized as deemed appropriate under the circumstances by the district  
30 president or President of the Synod.

31  
32 *Final Hearing Panel*

33  
34 2.14.8 Within 15 days after receiving the decision of the Hearing Panel, the accused or the President  
35 of the Synod if a question of doctrine or practice is involved (Constitution Art. XI B 1–3) may  
36 request a final hearing.

37  
38 (a) The President of the Synod may also request that an opinion of the Commission on  
39 Constitutional Matters (CCM) or Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) be  
40 obtained.

41 (1) Any opinion so requested shall be rendered within 30 days or such greater time as the  
42 panel may allow.

43 (2) When an opinion has been requested, the time limitations will not apply until the parties  
44 have received the opinion.

45 (3) The panel must follow any opinion received from either the CCM or the CTCR.

46 (b) Such request for a final hearing shall be submitted to the chairman of the Council of  
47 Presidents with copies supplied to the district president of the accuser and the accused, the  
48 chairman of the Hearing Panel, the accuser, and the President of the Synod, and shall be  
49 accompanied by a written memorandum stating the basis for the request.

50  
51 2.14.8.1 Within 30 days after receipt of the request, a Final Hearing Panel shall be selected.

1  
2 (a) The panel shall be constituted in the same prescribed manner as described in Bylaws  
3 2.14.7.2–2.14.7.5, except that the three district presidents that constituted the Hearing Panel  
4 and the involved district presidents are omitted from consideration for the Final Hearing Panel.

5 (b) The procedures for the final hearing shall be the same as prescribed in Bylaws 2.14.7.5  
6 –2.14.7.7.

7 (c) The chairman of the Hearing Panel shall provide the Final Hearing Panel with a written  
8 statement of the matter and the Hearing Panel’s report, minutes, records, and proceedings.  
9

10 2.14.8.2 Upon completion of the hearing by the Final Hearing Panel, the panel shall deliberate and then  
11 issue its written decision within 30 days, a copy of which shall be mailed to the accused, the  
12 district president that imposed the suspension, the accuser and his district president, the  
13 chairman of the Council of Presidents, and the President of the Synod. The final decision of the  
14 Final Hearing Panel shall  
15

16 (a) be binding upon the parties and not be subject to further appeal;

17 (b) have no precedential value;

18 (c) be carried out by the district president or the President of the Synod; and

19 (d) be publicized as deemed appropriate under the circumstances by the district president or the  
20 President of the Synod.  
21

## 22 *General Regulations*

23

24 2.14.9 The district president of the accused/suspended member and the district president of the accuser  
25 shall take those steps necessary to attend to the spiritual needs of all those affected and shall  
26 continue efforts to resolve those matters which led to the commencement of the formal action  
27 against the accused member.  
28

29 2.14.9.1 If the matter involves individual membership, the calling or contracting body is encouraged to  
30 continue financial support, existing housing, and insurance of individual members until the  
31 final decision is rendered.  
32

33 2.14.9.2 Any member participating in this bylaw procedure that violates any of the requirements or  
34 procedures in this bylaw or is persistent in false accusations is subject to the same disciplinary  
35 measures as set forth in this bylaw. Violations of the prohibition against publicity while a  
36 matter is still undecided or while an appeal is contemplated or pending (Bylaws 2.14.7.7 [g]  
37 above) by any of the persons involved are specifically included as violations subject to the  
38 same disciplinary measures set forth in this bylaw.  
39

40 2.14.9.3 In consultation with the Secretary of the Synod and with the concurrence of the Council of  
41 Presidents, the Commission on Constitutional Matters shall amend as necessary the *Standard*  
42 *Operating Procedures Manual* that serves as a comprehensive procedures manual for the  
43 provisions set forth in Bylaw section 2.14.  
44

## 45 ***2.15 Expulsion of a District President or Officer*** 46 ***from Membership in the Synod*** 47

48 2.15.1 The action to commence expulsion of a district president or an officer of the Synod from  
49 membership in the Synod is the sole responsibility of the President of the Synod, who has the  
50 responsibility for ecclesiastical supervision of such member (Constitution Art. XI A and B 1).

1 This Bylaw section 2.15, among others, provides the procedures to carry out Article XIII of the  
2 Constitution, “Expulsion from the Synod.” However, it does not provide the procedure for the  
3 expulsion of a congregation or individual member of the Synod (Bylaw section 2.14), the  
4 President of the Synod (Bylaw section 2.16), or individual members in cases involving sexual  
5 misconduct or criminal behavior (Bylaw section 2.17).  
6

### 7 *Definition of Terms*

8  
9 2.15.2 For a definition of terms used in this bylaw, see Bylaw 2.14.2.  
10

### 11 *Consultation*

12  
13 2.15.3 When a member congregation or individual member of the Synod is aware of information  
14 which could lead to the expulsion of a district president or an officer of the Synod from the  
15 Synod’s membership under Article XIII of the Constitution, prior to any formal written  
16 complaint or accusation the member shall consult with the member’s district president or with  
17 the President of the Synod if the member’s district president is the accused to seek advice and  
18 also so that it can be determined whether this is the appropriate bylaw procedure (Bylaw  
19 section 2.15) or whether the matter falls under Bylaw sections 2.14, 2.17, or 1.8, or dispute  
20 resolution under Bylaw section 1.10. In regard to this consultation:  
21

22 (a) If and when the accuser’s district president (if the district president is not the one accused or  
23 if the accused is an officer of the Synod) is the one consulted, the district president shall consult  
24 with the President of the Synod. Whether the President of the Synod is the one consulted  
25 directly by the accuser or by the district president, the President of the Synod may consult with  
26 the vice-presidents of the Synod, with the district president of the accused (if an officer of the  
27 Synod), with the chairman of the Council of Presidents, or with the Commission on Theology  
28 and Church Relations (CTCR). The President of the Synod may also ask an opinion of the  
29 Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM). The President of the Synod must follow any  
30 opinion received from either the CCM or the CTCR, which shall be rendered within 30 days or  
31 such additional time as the President of the Synod may allow.

32 (b) The district president or the President of the Synod shall require the accuser to follow the  
33 correct bylaw provision under the circumstance, and shall provide for evangelical supervision,  
34 counsel, and care to the persons involved.

35 (c) If this Bylaw section 2.15 applies, the district president or the President of the Synod shall  
36 ensure that the accuser has met face-to-face with the accused in the manner described in  
37 Matthew 18:15. Even if the alleged violation of Article XIII of the Constitution is considered to  
38 be “public,” this provision of Matthew 18:15 shall be followed. The reputation of all parties is  
39 to be protected as commanded in the Eighth Commandment.

40 (d) The district president of the accuser or the President of the Synod may appoint a small  
41 committee to assist in reconciliation efforts. The goal throughout is always one of admonition  
42 and reconciliation, of repentance and forgiveness (even if the following proceedings result in  
43 expulsion from membership).

44 (e) The requirement of the Synod of previous admonition called for in Article XIII of the  
45 Constitution commences at this stage if applicable.

46 (f) Only after all of the requirements of the consultation provided in this bylaw (Bylaw 2.15.3)  
47 have been followed may the accuser bring the matter to the President of the Synod for action  
48 under the correct bylaw provision determined by the accuser’s district president (paragraph [b]  
49 above).  
50

### 51 *Commencing an Action*

1  
2 2.15.4 Under this bylaw, the President of the Synod shall commence the following action when he  
3 becomes aware of information or allegations that could lead to expulsion of a member from the  
4 Synod under the provisions of Article XIII of the Constitution. The President of the Synod may  
5 become aware of such information by his own personal knowledge. Such information or  
6 allegations may also be conveyed to him in a formal written complaint or accusation made by a  
7 member of the Synod who has carried out the above provision (Bylaw 2.15.3). In commencing  
8 such action, the President of the Synod:

9  
10 (a) Shall determine whether Bylaw 2.15.3 provisions have been carried out and shall  
11 thoroughly investigate the matter to determine whether the facts learned from his investigation  
12 form a basis for expulsion of the member under Article XIII of the Constitution. He may  
13 appoint a small investigation committee (cf. Bylaw 4.4.6). If the accused is a district president,  
14 the investigation shall include consultation with that president's district board of directors and  
15 district vice-presidents. He may also consult with the circuit counselors of the given district.

16 (b) Shall proceed in the manner described in Matthew 18:15–16 as the requirement of  
17 "admonition" in Article XIII of the Constitution, if applicable, continues to be carried out.

18 (c) May, apart from the investigation, also appoint a small committee to assist in reconciliation  
19 efforts (see Bylaw 2.15.3 [d] above).

20  
21 2.15.4.1 In the event the President of the Synod is disqualified because he has a conflict of interest or is  
22 unable to act, the chairman of the Council of Presidents or the next qualified officer of the  
23 Council of Presidents shall function in his place in carrying out any of the following bylaw  
24 provisions. The majority vote of the district presidents of the Council of Presidents, excluding  
25 the involved district presidents, shall determine any challenge to the eligibility of the President  
26 of the Synod to act which is not agreed to by the President of the Synod.

27  
28 *Referral Panel*

29  
30 2.15.5 In the determination of whether or not to initiate formal proceedings, the President of the Synod  
31 may form a Referral Panel consisting of three district presidents.

32  
33 (a) This panel shall be formed by blind draw, shall not include the district president that is a  
34 party to the matter or the district president of an accused officer or the district president of the  
35 accuser.

36 (b) The blind draw shall be administered by the chairman of the Council of Presidents audited  
37 by witnesses.

38  
39 2.15.5.1 After reviewing the accusation and the results of the investigation, the Referral Panel shall  
40 make the determination whether or not to initiate formal proceedings.

41  
42 2.15.5.2 Whether made by the President of the Synod or the Referral Panel, if the determination is not to  
43 initiate formal proceedings, the President of the Synod shall in writing so inform the accuser,  
44 any other district president involved, and the involved member, which shall terminate the  
45 matter.

46  
47 2.15.5.3 If the President of the Synod fails to act within 60 days after receipt of the formal written  
48 complaint or accusation, the accuser may present a formal written request to the President of  
49 the Synod for the forming of the Referral Panel, which request the President of the Synod must  
50 grant. If the provisions set forth in Bylaw 2.15.4 have not been carried out, the Referral Panel

1 shall carry out these provisions in the process of making its determination whether or not to  
2 initiate formal proceedings.  
3

#### 4 *Commencing Formal Proceedings*

5

6 2.15.6 If the President of the Synod or the Referral Panel concludes that the facts form a basis for  
7 expulsion of the member under Article XIII of the Constitution, the President of the Synod in  
8 commencing the formal proceedings shall

9 (a) provide to the member a written notification of the member's suspended status under Bylaw  
10 2.13.5;

11 (b) provide to the member a written statement of the matter which sets forth the facts and states  
12 that he is requesting expulsion of the member from the Synod in accord with Article XIII of the  
13 Constitution; and

14 (c) provide to the member a written notification that the member has 15 days from the date of  
15 receipt of the statement of the matter to advise the President of the Synod that there is a desire  
16 to have the matter heard and resolved.  
17

18 2.15.6.1 Failure by the member to file such written request for hearing and resolution within the 15-day  
19 period shall be deemed to be consent to expulsion from membership in the Synod.  
20

#### 21 *Hearing Panel*

22

23 2.15.7 If the request for hearing as granted in Bylaw 2.15.6 (c) is made, the President of the Synod  
24 shall inform the chairman of the Council of Presidents who shall form a Hearing Panel of  
25 district presidents within 30 days of the request in accordance with the provisions in this bylaw.  
26

27 2.15.7.1 At the time that the request for hearing is made, the President of the Synod shall forward to the  
28 chairman of the Council of Presidents the statement of the matter and a written memorandum  
29 describing the manner in which there was compliance with the guidelines provided in Matthew  
30 18:15–16 and “previous futile admonition” (Constitution Art. XIII), as well as all of the  
31 provisions of Bylaws 2.15.3–2.15.6.1.  
32

33 2.15.7.2 A Hearing Panel consisting of three district presidents (excluding the involved district  
34 presidents) selected as follows shall conduct the hearing:  
35

36 (a) One district president selected by the accused (a district president, if he is the accused, may  
37 not choose himself).

38 (b) One district president selected by the President of the Synod.

39 (c) A third district president selected by the other two Hearing Panel members. If the two  
40 Hearing Panel members cannot agree on the third Hearing Panel member, then such third  
41 member shall be chosen by blind draw from among the remaining district presidents with the  
42 blind draw administered by the chairman of the Council of Presidents and audited by witnesses.

43 (d) If a Referral Panel was formed, the three district presidents that served in that capacity are  
44 not eligible to serve on a Hearing Panel.  
45

46 2.15.7.3 Upon receipt of a request for hearing, the chairman of the Council of Presidents shall promptly  
47 notify the accused and the President of the Synod of their respective right to choose one  
48 Hearing Panel member and direct that the identity of their selection be transmitted to the  
49 chairman of the Council of Presidents within 15 days from the date of such notice. If either  
50 party declines to make a selection within 15 days, the chairman of the Council of Presidents  
51 shall then make such selection within 5 days.

1  
2 2.15.7.4 When two Hearing Panel members have so been chosen, the chairman of the Council of  
3 Presidents shall promptly notify them of their selection to the Hearing Panel and direct that they  
4 select the third member of the Hearing Panel within 10 days and notify the chairman of the  
5 Council of Presidents of their selection.  
6

7 2.15.7.5 Within 15 days after the Hearing Panel is constituted, it shall select one of its members as  
8 chairman, who shall then, after conferring with the accused and the President of the Synod,  
9 select a date and location within 45 days after the panel is constituted to determine when and  
10 where the Hearing Panel will consider the matter.  
11

12 2.15.7.6 The chairman of the Council of Presidents shall forward to the Hearing Panel the statement of  
13 the matter together with the written memorandum describing the manner in which there was  
14 compliance with the guidelines provided in Matthew 18:15–16 and “previous futile  
15 admonition” (Constitution Art. XIII), as well as all of the provisions of Bylaws 2.15.3–2.15.6.1.  
16

17 2.15.7.7 The Hearing Panel and all parties shall follow the guidelines as set forth in Bylaw 2.14.7.7 with  
18 the exception of paragraph (g) and instead shall follow this guideline in its place:  
19

20 (g) While the matter is still undecided or while an appeal is contemplated or pending, publicity  
21 shall not be given to the issues in the matter by any of the persons involved during any part of  
22 the procedures outlined in this bylaw with one exception. Due to the fact that this bylaw  
23 procedure deals with a district president or an officer of the Synod, which necessarily means  
24 that the case will most likely have a high public exposure, as the ecclesiastical supervisor the  
25 President of the Synod, at his discretion, may carry out his duties to properly advise the Synod  
26 as the needs dictate in order to “promote and maintain unity of doctrine and practice”  
27 (Constitution Art. XI B 3) and in order to provide counsel, care, and protection for all of the  
28 members of the Synod (~~Constitution Art. III 8,9~~).  
29

30 2.15.7.8 Upon completion of the hearing, the Hearing Panel shall deliberate and then issue its written  
31 decision within 30 days, a copy of which shall be mailed to the accused district president or  
32 officer, the President of the Synod, the accuser and his district president, and the chairman of  
33 the Council of Presidents.  
34

35 (a) The decision of the Hearing Panel shall have no precedential value and shall be final and  
36 binding subject to appeal by the accused or the President of the Synod.

37 (b) The decision shall be carried out by the President of the Synod and be publicized as deemed  
38 appropriate under the circumstances by the President of the Synod if not appealed by the  
39 accused or by the President of the Synod.  
40

#### 41 *Final Hearing Panel* 42

43 2.15.8 Within 15 days after receiving the decision of the Hearing Panel, the accused, or the President  
44 of the Synod if a question of doctrine or practice is involved (Constitution Art. XI B 1–3), may  
45 request a final hearing.  
46

47 (a) The President of the Synod may also request that an opinion of the Commission on  
48 Constitutional Matters (CCM) or Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) be  
49 obtained.  
50

51 (1) Any opinion so requested shall be rendered within 30 days or such greater time as the  
panel may allow.

1 (2) When an opinion has been requested, the time limitations will not apply until the parties  
2 have received the opinion.

3 (3) The panel must follow any opinion received from either the CCM or the CTCR.

4 (b) Such request for a final hearing shall be submitted to the chairman of the Council of  
5 Presidents with copies supplied to the district president of the accuser and the accused  
6 (depending upon whether it is a district president or an officer of the Synod that is the accused),  
7 the chairman of the Hearing Panel, the accuser, and the President of the Synod, and shall be  
8 accompanied by a written memorandum stating the basis for the request.

9  
10 2.15.8.1 Within 30 days after receipt of the request, a Final Hearing Panel shall be selected.

11  
12 (a) The panel shall be constituted in the same prescribed manner as described in Bylaws  
13 2.15.7.2–2.15.7.5, except that the three district presidents that constituted the Hearing Panel  
14 and the three district presidents that constituted a Referral Panel and any other involved district  
15 presidents are omitted from consideration for the Final Hearing Panel.

16 (b) The procedures for the final hearing shall be the same as prescribed in Bylaws  
17 2.15.7.5–2.15.7.7.

18 (c) The chairman of the Hearing Panel shall provide the Final Hearing Panel with a written  
19 statement of the matter and the Hearing Panel’s report, minutes, records, and proceedings.

20  
21 2.15.8.2 Upon completion of the hearing of the Final Hearing Panel, the panel shall deliberate and then  
22 issue its written decision within 30 days, a copy of which shall be mailed to the accused, any  
23 involved district president, the accuser, the chairman of the Council of Presidents, and the  
24 President of the Synod. The final decision of the Final Hearing Panel shall

25  
26 (a) be binding upon the parties and not be subject to further appeal;

27 (b) have no precedential value;

28 (c) be carried out by the President of the Synod; and

29 (d) be publicized as deemed appropriate under the circumstances by the President of the Synod.

30  
31 *General Regulations*

32  
33 2.15.9 The President of the Synod shall take those steps necessary to assure that the spiritual needs of  
34 the respective members (accuser and accused) are attended to and shall continue efforts to  
35 resolve those matters which led to the commencement of the formal action against the accused  
36 member.

37  
38 2.15.9.1 Since this matter involves individual membership, the calling or contracting body is encouraged  
39 to continue financial support, existing housing, and insurance of individual members until the  
40 final decision is rendered.

41  
42 2.15.9.2 Any member participating in this bylaw procedure that violates any of the requirements or  
43 procedures in this bylaw or is persistent in false accusations is subject to the same disciplinary  
44 measures as set forth in Bylaw section 2.14 or this Bylaw section 2.15. Violations of the  
45 prohibition against publicity while a matter is still undecided or while an appeal is  
46 contemplated or pending (Bylaw 2.15.7.7 [g] above) by any of the persons involved are  
47 specifically included as violations subject to the same disciplinary measures set forth in this  
48 bylaw section or Bylaw section 2.14.

49  
50 2.15.9.3 In consultation with the Secretary of the Synod and with the concurrence of the Council of  
51 Presidents, the Commission on Constitutional Matters shall amend as necessary the *Standard*

1 *Operating Procedures Manual* that serves as a comprehensive procedures manual for the  
2 provisions set forth in Bylaw section 2.15.

3  
4 ***2.16 Expulsion of a President of the Synod***  
5 ***from Membership in the Synod***  
6

7 2.16.1 The action to commence expulsion of a President of the Synod from membership in the Synod  
8 is the responsibility of the district presidents of the Council of Presidents, who collectively  
9 comprise the ecclesiastical supervisors of all the respective districts of the Synod. This  
10 responsibility does not make the district presidents collectively or individually the ecclesiastical  
11 supervisor(s) of the President of the Synod. The Synod in convention reserves that right to itself  
12 alone. This Bylaw section 2.16, among others, provides the procedures to carry out Article XIII  
13 of the Constitution, “Expulsion from the Synod.” While the Council of Presidents commences  
14 and facilitates the process of expulsion on behalf of the congregations of the Synod, this bylaw  
15 allows only the congregations of the Synod to expel a President of the Synod. This bylaw does  
16 not provide the procedure for the expulsion of a district president or an officer of the Synod  
17 (Bylaw section 2.15), an individual member in cases involving sexual misconduct or criminal  
18 behavior (Bylaw section 2.17), or a congregation or individual member from the Synod (Bylaw  
19 section 2.14).

20  
21 *Definition of Terms*  
22

23 2.16.2 For a definition of terms used in this bylaw, see the “Definition of Terms” under Bylaw 2.14.2.  
24

25 *Consultation*  
26

27 2.16.3 When a district president of the Synod is aware of information which could lead to the  
28 expulsion of the President of the Synod from the Synod under Article XIII of the Constitution,  
29 prior to any formal written complaint or accusation, the district president shall consult with the  
30 Council of Presidents to seek advice and also so that it can be determined whether this is the  
31 appropriate bylaw procedure (Bylaw section 2.16) or whether the matter falls under Bylaw  
32 sections 2.17 or 1.8, or dispute resolution under Bylaw section 1.10. In regard to this  
33 consultation:  
34

35 (a) The Council of Presidents by 51 percent of the votes of the district presidents may ask an  
36 opinion of the Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) and/or the Commission on  
37 Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) and must follow any opinion received from either,  
38 which shall be rendered within 30 days or such additional time as the district president may  
39 allow.

40 (b) By 51 percent of the votes of the district presidents, the Council of Presidents shall require  
41 the accuser district president to follow the correct bylaw provision under the circumstance, if  
42 any, and shall provide for evangelical supervision, counsel, and care to the persons involved.

43 (c) If the Council of Presidents by 51 percent of the votes of the district presidents determines  
44 that Bylaw section 2.16 applies, then the Council of Presidents shall ensure that the accuser has  
45 met face-to-face with the accused President of the Synod in the manner described in Matthew  
46 18:15. Even if the alleged violation of Article XIII of the Constitution is considered to be  
47 “public,” this provision of Matthew 18:15 shall be followed. The reputation of all parties is to  
48 be protected as commanded in the Eighth Commandment.

49 (d) The Council of Presidents may appoint a small committee to assist in reconciliation efforts.  
50 The goal throughout is always one of admonition and reconciliation, of repentance and  
51 forgiveness (even if the following proceedings result in expulsion from membership).

1 (e) The requirement of the Synod of previous admonition called for in Article XIII of the  
2 Constitution commences at this stage if applicable.

3 (f) Only after all the requirements of the consultation provided in this bylaw (Bylaw 2.16.3)  
4 have been followed may the accuser district president bring the matter to the chairman of the  
5 Council of Presidents (acting on behalf of the district presidents) for action under this bylaw  
6 provision, if so determined by the Council of Presidents (paragraph [b] above).  
7

### 8 *Commencing an Action*

9

10 2.16.4 Under this bylaw (Bylaw section 2.16), the chairman of the Council of Presidents, acting on  
11 behalf of the district presidents, shall commence the following action when he becomes aware  
12 of information or allegations that could lead to expulsion of the President of the Synod from the  
13 Synod under the provisions of Article XIII of the Constitution by such information or  
14 allegations being conveyed to him in a formal written complaint or accusation made by a  
15 district president of the Synod who has carried out the above provision (paragraph 2.16.3). In  
16 commencing such action, the chairman of the Council of Presidents:

17  
18 (a) Shall determine whether Bylaw 2.16.3 provisions have been carried out and shall  
19 thoroughly investigate the matter to determine whether the facts learned from his investigation  
20 form a basis for expulsion of the President of the Synod under Article XIII of the Constitution.  
21 He may appoint a small investigation committee (cf. Bylaw 4.4.6).

22 (b) Shall proceed in the manner described in Matthew 18:15–16 as the requirement for  
23 admonition in Article XIII of the Constitution, if applicable, continues to be carried out.

24 (c) May, apart from the investigation, also appoint a small committee to assist in reconciliation  
25 efforts (see Bylaw 2.16.3 [d] above).  
26

27 2.16.4.1 In the event the chairman of the Council of Presidents is disqualified because he is a party to  
28 the matter, has a conflict of interest, or is unable to act, the next qualified officer of the Council  
29 of Presidents shall function in his place. The majority vote of the district presidents, excluding  
30 any involved district president, shall determine any challenge to the eligibility of the chairman  
31 of the Council of Presidents to act which is not agreed to by the chairman.  
32

### 33 *Referral Panel*

34

35 2.16.5 In the determination whether or not to initiate formal proceedings, the chairman of the Council  
36 of Presidents may form a Referral Panel consisting of three district presidents.  
37

38 (a) This panel shall be formed by blind draw and shall not include any district president that is a  
39 party to the matter or the accuser district president.

40 (b) The blind draw shall be administered by the chairman of the Council of Presidents and  
41 audited by witnesses.  
42

43 2.16.5.1 After reviewing the accusation and the results of the investigation, the Referral Panel shall  
44 determine its recommendation whether or not to initiate formal proceedings.  
45

46 2.16.5.2 If the chairman of the Council of Presidents fails to act within 60 days after receipt of the  
47 formal written complaint or accusation, the district president who is the accuser may present a  
48 formal written request to the chairman of the Council of Presidents for the forming of a Referral  
49 Panel, which request the chairman must grant. If the provisions of Bylaw 2.16.4 have not been  
50 carried out, the Referral Panel shall carry out these provisions in the process of determining its  
51 recommendation whether or not to initiate formal proceedings.

1  
2 2.16.5.3 Whether made by the chairman of the Council of Presidents or the Referral Panel, in the  
3 recommendation whether or not to initiate formal proceedings, the chairman of the Council of  
4 Presidents shall bring the matter to the full Council of Presidents for hearing the  
5 recommendation, for discussion, and for vote.  
6

7 (a) An affirmative vote to proceed, by written ballot of at least 51 percent of the total number of  
8 district presidents (the collective ecclesiastical supervisors elected by the districts), shall be  
9 required for the determination to initiate formal proceedings. Any district president that is a  
10 party to the matter shall be excluded from voting.

11 (b) If the result of the vote is not to initiate formal proceedings, the chairman shall in writing so  
12 inform the accuser and the President of the Synod, which shall terminate the matter.

13 (c) If the results of the vote require the case to proceed, the chairman shall proceed as hereafter  
14 required.  
15

#### 16 *Commencing Formal Proceedings* 17

18 2.16.6 If the district presidents according to the procedure set forth in Bylaw 2.16.5 above conclude  
19 that the facts form a basis for expulsion of the President of the Synod under Article XIII of the  
20 Constitution, the chairman of the Council of Presidents in commencing the formal proceedings  
21 shall  
22

23 (a) provide to the President of the Synod a written notification of his suspended status under  
24 Bylaw 2.13.5;

25 (b) provide to the President of the Synod a written statement of the matter which sets forth the  
26 facts and states that he is requesting expulsion of the President of the Synod from membership  
27 in the Synod in accord with Article XIII of the Constitution;

28 (c) prepare a written memorandum describing the manner in which there was compliance with  
29 the guidelines provided in Matthew 18:15–16 and “previous futile admonition” (Constitution  
30 Art. XIII), as well as all of the provisions of Bylaws 2.16.3–2.16.5; and

31 (d) provide to the President of the Synod a written notification that he has 15 days from the date  
32 of receipt of the statement of the matter to advise the secretary of the Council of Presidents that  
33 there is a desire to have the matter heard and resolved.  
34

35 2.16.6.1 Failure by the President of the Synod to file such written request for hearing and resolution  
36 within the 15-day period shall be deemed to be consent to expulsion from membership in the  
37 Synod.  
38

#### 39 *Hearing Panel* 40

41 2.16.7 If the request for hearing as granted in Bylaw 2.16.6 (d) is made, the secretary of the Council of  
42 Presidents shall form a Hearing Panel of district presidents within 30 days of the request in  
43 accordance with the provisions in this bylaw.  
44

45 2.16.7.1 A Hearing Panel consisting of three district presidents, excluding the chairman of the Council  
46 of Presidents and any district president that is party to the matter, shall conduct the hearing. The  
47 Panel shall be selected as follows:  
48

49 (a) One district president selected by the President of the Synod.

50 (b) One district president selected by the vice-chairman of the Council of Presidents.

1 (c) The third district president selected by the other two Hearing Panel members. If the two  
2 Hearing Panel members cannot agree on the third Hearing Panel member, then such third  
3 member shall be chosen by blind draw from among the remaining district presidents, with the  
4 blind draw administered by the chairman of the Council of Presidents and audited by witnesses.  
5

6 2.16.7.2 Upon receipt of a request for the hearing from the President of the Synod, the secretary of the  
7 Council of Presidents shall promptly notify the accused and the vice-chairman of the Council of  
8 Presidents of their respective right to choose one Hearing Panel member and direct that the  
9 identity of their selection be transmitted to the secretary of the Council of Presidents within 15  
10 days from the date of such notice. If either party declines to make a selection within 15 days,  
11 the secretary of the Council of Presidents shall then make such selection within five days by  
12 blind draw, audited by witnesses.  
13

14 2.16.7.3 When two Hearing Panel members have so been chosen, the secretary of the Council of  
15 Presidents shall promptly notify them of their selection to the Hearing Panel and direct that they  
16 select the third member of the Hearing Panel within 10 days and notify the secretary of the  
17 Council of Presidents of their selection.  
18

19 2.16.7.4 Within 15 days after the Hearing Panel is constituted, it shall select one of its members as  
20 chairman, who shall then, after conferring with the accused President of the Synod, and the  
21 chairman of the Council of Presidents, select a date and location within 45 days after the panel  
22 is constituted when and where the Hearing Panel will consider the matter.  
23

24 2.16.7.5 The chairman of the Council of Presidents shall forward to the Hearing Panel the statement of  
25 the matter together with the written memorandum describing the manner in which there was  
26 compliance with the guidelines provided in Matthew 18:15–16 and “previous futile  
27 admonition” (Constitution Article XIII) as well as all provisions of Bylaws 2.16.3–2.16.6.1.  
28

29 2.16.7.6 The Hearing Panel and all parties shall follow the guidelines as set forth in Bylaws 2.14.7.7  
30 with the exception of paragraph (g) and instead shall follow this guideline in its place:  
31

32 (g) While the matter is still undecided or while a request for a final hearing is contemplated or  
33 pending, publicity shall not be given to the issues in the matter by any of the persons involved  
34 during any part of the procedures outlined in this bylaw with one exception. Due to the fact that  
35 this bylaw procedure deals with the President of the Synod, which necessarily means that the  
36 case will most likely have a broad public exposure, the chairman of the Council of Presidents,  
37 at his discretion and in consultation and concurrence with the Council of Presidents, may carry  
38 out actions to advise the Synod as the needs dictate in order to “promote and maintain unity of  
39 doctrine and practice” (Constitution Article XI B 3) and in order to provide counsel, care, and  
40 protection for all the members of the Synod (~~Constitution~~-Art. III 8,-9).  
41

42 2.16.7.7 Upon completion of the hearing, the Hearing Panel shall deliberate and then issue its  
43 recommendation to the district presidents within 30 days, a copy of which shall be mailed to the  
44 accused President of the Synod, the chairman of the Council of Presidents, and the accuser.  
45

#### 46 *Final Hearing*

47

48 2.16.8 Prior to acting upon the recommendation of the Hearing Panel and if requested within 15 days  
49 by the accused President of the Synod, the district presidents shall within 45 days of the request  
50 for the final hearing grant a final hearing before the full Council of Presidents.  
51

1 (a) The guidelines for this final hearing shall be the same as prescribed in Bylaw 2.16.7.6. (b)  
2 The President of the Synod and/or the district presidents may also request that an opinion of the  
3 Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) or Commission on Theology and Church  
4 Relations (CTCR) be obtained. Any opinion so requested shall be rendered within 30 days or  
5 such greater time as the district presidents may allow. When an opinion has been requested, the  
6 time limitations will not apply until the parties have received the opinion. Any opinion received  
7 from either the CCM or the CTCR shall be followed.

8 (c) In acting upon the report and/or recommendation of the Hearing Panel, if any (a report may  
9 be given without an accompanying recommendation), an affirmative vote by written ballot of at  
10 least 75 percent of the total number of district presidents of the Council of Presidents (the  
11 collective ecclesiastical supervisors elected by the districts) shall be required to submit the  
12 matter to the member congregations of the Synod for a written vote in order to terminate the  
13 membership of the President of the Synod.

14 (d) If the result of the vote is not the required 75 percent of the total number of district  
15 presidents, the chairman of the Council of Presidents shall so inform the accuser and the  
16 President of the Synod, which shall terminate the matter, vacating the suspended status.  
17

### 18 *Decision by Congregations*

19  
20 2.16.9 Prior to submitting the matter to the congregations of the Synod, the Council of Presidents shall  
21 provide and send full and complete information regarding the matter including such written  
22 responses as the President of the Synod may wish to make to the member congregations of the  
23 Synod. This information shall also be published in an official periodical of the Synod.  
24

25 2.16.9.1 At least one-fourth of the member congregations are required to register their vote within 45  
26 days of the date that the matter was submitted to the member congregations of the Synod and  
27 also a majority vote of those congregations voting is required for the termination of  
28 membership of the President of the Synod.  
29

30 2.16.9.2 If the decision by the member congregations is not to terminate, suspended status shall be  
31 considered removed immediately upon the vote of the congregations.  
32

33 2.16.9.3 If the decision results in the expulsion of the President of the Synod from membership, the First  
34 Vice-President of the Synod shall carry out the decision, and the decision shall be publicized as  
35 deemed appropriate under the circumstances by the First Vice-President of the Synod. Article  
36 XI C 2 of the Constitution shall take effect immediately.  
37

### 38 *General Regulations*

39  
40 2.16.10 The decision of the district presidents or the member congregations shall have no precedential  
41 value and shall be final and binding and not subject to further appeal.  
42

43 2.16.10.1 The President of the Synod (the previous First Vice-President of the Synod) shall take those  
44 steps necessary to assure that the spiritual needs of the terminated President of the Synod are  
45 attended to and shall continue efforts to resolve those matters which led to the commencement  
46 of the formal action against him.  
47

48 2.16.10.2 The Synod is encouraged to continue financial support, existing housing, and insurance of the  
49 accused President of the Synod at least until the final decision is rendered.  
50

1 2.16.10.3 Any district president participating in this bylaw procedure who violates any of the  
2 requirements or procedures in this bylaw or is persistent in false accusations is subject to the  
3 same disciplinary measures as set forth in Bylaw sections 2.14 or 2.15. Violations of the  
4 prohibition against publicity while a matter is still undecided or while an appeal is  
5 contemplated or pending (Bylaw 2.16.7.6 [g] above) by any of the parties involved are  
6 specifically included as violations subject to the same disciplinary measures set forth in Bylaw  
7 sections 2.14 or 2.15.

8  
9 2.16.10.4 In consultation with the Secretary of the Synod and with the concurrence of the Council of  
10 Presidents, the Commission on Constitutional Matters shall amend as necessary the *Standard*  
11 *Operating Procedures Manual* that serves as a comprehensive procedures manual for the bylaw  
12 provisions set forth in Bylaw section 2.16.

13  
14 ***2.17 Expulsion of Individuals from Membership in the Synod***  
15 ***as a Result of Sexual Misconduct or Criminal Behavior***

16  
17 2.17.1 The action to commence expulsion of an individual from membership in the Synod is the sole  
18 responsibility of the district president or the President of the Synod who is responsible for the  
19 ecclesiastical supervision of such member. This bylaw provides the procedure to carry out  
20 Article XIII of the Constitution, “Expulsion from the Synod,” as regards “offensive conduct” of  
21 individual members of the Synod involving sexual misconduct or criminal behavior.

22  
23 *Definition of Terms*

24  
25 2.17.2 For a definition of terms used in this bylaw, see the “Definition of Terms” under Bylaw 2.14.2.

26  
27 *Consultation*

28  
29 2.17.3 Prior to any formal written complaint or accusation, when any person is aware of information  
30 or facts that could lead to the expulsion of an individual member from the Synod, including a  
31 district president, an officer of the Synod, or the President of the Synod under Article XIII of  
32 the Constitution for alleged sexual misconduct or criminal behavior, the person shall consult  
33 with the appropriate ecclesiastical supervisor, which would be a district president of the Synod  
34 or the President of the Synod, to seek advice, direction, and spiritual ministry as the needs and  
35 circumstances dictate. If the accused is the President of the Synod, the person shall consult with  
36 the chairman of the Council of Presidents. In regard to this consultation:

37  
38 (a) The appropriate ecclesiastical supervisor may consult with any others as considered  
39 appropriate under the circumstances.

40 (b) If the accuser is a member of the LCMS or a member of an LCMS congregation, the  
41 ecclesiastical supervisor shall discuss with the accuser whether this bylaw provision or Bylaw  
42 section 1.10 is appropriate under the circumstances.

43 (c) The ecclesiastical supervisor shall provide evangelical supervision, counsel, and care.

44 (d) The ecclesiastical supervisor shall advise the accuser that it is understood that he/she shall  
45 not be put under risk by requiring the accuser to meet face-to-face with the accused in the  
46 manner described in Matthew 18:15. However, the reputation of all parties, the accuser and the  
47 accused, is to be protected as commanded in the Eighth Commandment.

48  
49 *Commencing an Action*

1 2.17.4 Under this bylaw (Bylaw section 2.17), the ecclesiastical supervisor of the accused shall  
2 commence the following action when he becomes aware of information or facts that could lead  
3 to expulsion of the member from the Synod under the provisions of Article XIII of the  
4 Constitution. The district president, the President of the Synod, or the chairman of the Council  
5 of Presidents may become aware of such information or facts by his own personal knowledge.  
6 Such information or facts may also be conveyed to him in a formal written complaint or  
7 accusation made by any person. In commencing such action, the ecclesiastical supervisor of the  
8 accused:

9  
10 (a) Shall determine whether the provisions in Bylaw 2.17.3 have been followed and shall  
11 thoroughly investigate whether the allegations of the accuser can be substantiated. He may  
12 appoint a small investigation committee (cf. Bylaw 4.4.6);

13 (b) Shall inform the accused of the accusation at the earliest appropriate time (cf. Matthew  
14 18:15).

15  
16 2.17.4.1 In the event the district president has a conflict of interest or is unable to act, the next qualified  
17 officer of the district shall function in his place. The President of the Synod, who is  
18 ecclesiastical supervisor of the district president, shall determine any challenge to the eligibility  
19 of the district president to act, which is not agreed to by the district president.

20  
21 (a) In the event that the district president is the accused, the President of the Synod shall  
22 function in such instance;

23 (b) In the event that the accused is an officer of the Synod, the President of the Synod shall  
24 function in such instance;

25 (c) In the event that the accused is the President of the Synod, the chairman of the Council of  
26 Presidents shall function in such instance, and the matter shall thereafter proceed as set forth in  
27 Bylaws 2.16.4–2.16.10.4.

28  
29 *Referral Panel*

30  
31 2.17.5 In the determination whether or not to initiate formal proceedings, the district president may  
32 form a Referral Panel consisting of three circuit counselors of the district.

33  
34 (a) If three circuit counselors from the district are not available to serve by reason of conflict of  
35 interest or otherwise, the district president may select a sufficient number from other districts in  
36 order to form the panel.

37 (b) This panel shall be formed by blind draw and shall not include the circuit counselor of the  
38 accused or the accuser. The blind draw shall be administered by the district president audited by  
39 witnesses.

40  
41 2.17.5.1 In the event that the accused is a district president, an officer of the Synod, or the President of  
42 the Synod, the Referral Panel shall consist of three district presidents selected by a blind draw  
43 administered by the chairman of the Council of Presidents and audited by witnesses. Such  
44 panel, which shall exclude any involved district president, shall function as set forth hereafter.

45  
46 2.17.5.2 After reviewing the accusation and the results of the investigation, the Referral Panel shall  
47 make the determination whether or not to initiate formal proceedings.

48  
49 2.17.5.3 Whether made by the district president or the Referral Panel, if the determination is not to  
50 initiate formal proceedings, the district president shall in writing so inform the accuser, any  
51 other district president involved, and the involved member, which shall terminate the matter.

1  
2 2.17.5.4 If the district president fails to act within 60 days after receipt of the formal written complaint  
3 or accusation, the accuser may present a formal written request to the district president for the  
4 forming of the Referral Panel, which request the district president must grant. If the provisions  
5 of Bylaw 2.17.4 have not been carried out, the Referral Panel shall carry out these provisions in  
6 the process of making its determination whether or not to initiate formal proceedings.  
7

8 *Commencing Formal Proceedings*  
9

10 2.17.6 If the district president or the President of the Synod or the chairman of the Council of  
11 Presidents or the Referral Panel, whichever the case may be, concludes that the facts form a  
12 basis for expulsion of the member under Article XIII of the Constitution, the appropriate  
13 ecclesiastical supervisor in commencing the formal proceedings shall  
14

15 (a) provide to the member a written notification of the member's suspended status under Bylaw  
16 2.13.5;

17 (b) provide to the member a written statement of the matter which sets forth the facts and states  
18 that he is requesting expulsion of the member from the Synod in accord with Article XIII of the  
19 Constitution; and

20 (c) provide to the member a written notification that the member has 15 days from the date of  
21 receipt of the statement of the matter to advise his ecclesiastical supervisor that there is a desire  
22 to have the matter heard and resolved.  
23

24 2.17.6.1 Failure by the member to file such written request for hearing and resolution within the 15-day  
25 period shall be deemed to be consent to expulsion from membership in the Synod.  
26

27 *Hearing Panel*  
28

29 2.17.7 If the request for hearing as granted in Bylaw 2.17.6 (c) is made, the ecclesiastical supervisor  
30 shall inform the chairman of the Council of Presidents, who shall form a Hearing Panel of  
31 district presidents within 30 days of the request in accordance with the provisions in this bylaw.  
32

33 2.17.7.1 At the time that the request for hearing is made, the ecclesiastical supervisor shall forward to  
34 the chairman of the Council of Presidents the statement of the matter and a written  
35 memorandum describing the manner in which there was compliance with the provisions of  
36 Bylaws 2.17.3–2.17.7.  
37

38 2.17.7.2 A Hearing Panel consisting of three district presidents (excluding the involved district  
39 presidents), selected as follows, shall conduct the hearing:  
40

41 (a) One district president selected by the accused.

42 (b) One district president selected by the ecclesiastical supervisor who imposed the suspended  
43 status (a district president may not choose himself).

44 (c) A third district president selected by the other two Hearing Panel members. If the two  
45 Hearing Panel members cannot agree on the third Hearing Panel member, then such third  
46 member shall be chosen by blind draw from among the remaining district presidents with the  
47 blind draw administered by the chairman of the Council of Presidents and audited by witnesses.  
48

49 2.17.7.3 Upon receipt of a request for hearing, the chairman of the Council of Presidents shall promptly  
50 notify the accused and the involved ecclesiastical supervisor of their respective right to choose  
51 one Hearing Panel member and direct that the identity of their selection be transmitted to the

1 chairman of the Council of Presidents within 15 days from the date of such notice. If either  
2 party declines to make a selection within such 15-day period, the chairman of the Council of  
3 Presidents shall then make such selection within five days.  
4

5 2.17.7.4 When two Hearing Panel members have so been chosen, the chairman of the Council of  
6 Presidents shall promptly notify them of their selection to the Hearing Panel and direct that they  
7 select the third member of the Hearing Panel within 10 days and notify the chairman of the  
8 Council of Presidents of their selection.  
9

10 2.17.7.5 Within 15 days after the Hearing Panel is constituted, it shall select one of its members as  
11 chairman, who shall then, after conferring with the accused and the involved ecclesiastical  
12 supervisor, select a date within 45 days after the Hearing Panel is constituted and select a  
13 location to determine when and where the Hearing Panel will consider the matter.  
14

15 2.17.7.6 The chairman of the Council of Presidents shall forward to the Hearing Panel the statement of  
16 the matter together with the written memorandum describing the manner in which there was  
17 compliance with the provisions of Bylaws 2.17.3–2.17.6.  
18

19 2.17.7.7 The Hearing Panel and all parties shall follow the guidelines as set forth in Bylaw 2.14.7.7  
20 (a)–(j).  
21

22 2.17.7.8 Upon completion of the hearing, the Hearing Panel shall deliberate and then issue its written  
23 decision within 30 days, a copy of which shall be mailed to the accused, the involved district  
24 president, the accuser and the ecclesiastical supervisor who initially served as consultant to the  
25 accuser, the chairman of the Council of Presidents, and the President of the Synod.  
26

27 (a) The decision of the Hearing Panel shall have no precedential value and shall be final and  
28 binding subject to appeal by the accused.

29 (b) The decision shall be carried out by the district president or the President of the Synod and  
30 publicized as deemed appropriate under the circumstances by the district president or the  
31 President of the Synod, if not appealed by the accused.  
32

### 33 *Final Hearing Panel* 34

35 2.17.8 Within 15 days after receiving the decision of the panel, the accused may request a final  
36 hearing.  
37

38 (a) Such request for a hearing shall be submitted to the chairman of the Council of Presidents  
39 with copies supplied to the ecclesiastical supervisor ministering to the accuser if applicable, the  
40 district president of the accused, the chairman of the Hearing Panel, the accuser, and the  
41 President of the Synod.

42 (b) A written memorandum stating the basis for the request shall accompany the request for a  
43 final hearing.  
44

45 2.17.8.1 Within 30 days after receipt of the request, a Final Hearing Panel shall be selected.  
46

47 (a) The panel shall be selected in the same manner as described in Bylaws 2.17.7–2.17.7.5,  
48 except that the district presidents that constituted the Referral Panel and the Hearing Panel or  
49 any other involved district presidents are omitted from consideration for the Final Hearing  
50 Panel.

1 (b) The procedures for the final hearing shall be the same as prescribed in Bylaws  
2 2.17.7.5–2.17.7.7.

3 (c) The chairman of the Hearing Panel shall provide the Final Hearing Panel with a written  
4 statement of the matter and the Hearing Panel’s report, minutes, records and proceedings.  
5

6 2.17.8.2 Upon completion of the hearing by the Final Hearing Panel, the panel shall deliberate and then  
7 issue its written decision within 30 days, a copy of which shall be mailed to the accused, the  
8 involved district president, the accuser, the ecclesiastical supervisor who initially served as  
9 consultant to the accuser, the chairman of the Council of Presidents, and the President of the  
10 Synod. The decision of the Final Hearing Panel shall

11  
12 (a) be binding upon the parties and not be subject to further appeal;

13 (b) have no precedential value;

14 (c) be carried out by the district president or the President of the Synod; and

15 (d) be publicized as deemed appropriate under the circumstances by the district president or the  
16 President of the Synod.  
17

### 18 *General Regulations*

19  
20 2.17.9 The ecclesiastical supervisor of the accused and suspended member shall take those steps  
21 necessary to attend to the spiritual needs of all those affected.  
22

23 2.17.9.1 Since the matter involves individual membership, the calling or contracting body is encouraged  
24 to continue financial support, existing housing, and insurance of individual members until the  
25 final decision is rendered.  
26

27 2.17.9.2 Any member participating in this bylaw procedure that violates any of the requirements or  
28 procedures in this bylaw or is persistent in false accusations is subject to the disciplinary  
29 measures as set forth in Bylaw section 2.14 or Bylaw section 2.15. Violations of the prohibition  
30 against publicity while a matter is still undecided or while an appeal is contemplated or pending  
31 (Bylaw 2.17.7.7 above) by any of the persons involved are specifically included as a violation  
32 subject to the same disciplinary measures set forth in Bylaw sections 2.14 or 2.15.  
33

34 2.17.9.3 In consultation with the Secretary of the Synod and with the concurrence of the Council of  
35 Presidents, the Commission on Constitutional Matters shall amend as necessary the *Standard*  
36 *Operating Procedures Manual* that serves as a comprehensive procedures manual for the bylaw  
37 provisions set forth in Bylaw section 2.17.  
38

39 2.17.9.4 Any pending criminal or civil court proceedings permit exceptions to any of the time limits  
40 specified in this Bylaw section 2.17 at the discretion of the ecclesiastical supervisor.  
41

### 42 ***2.18 Reinstatement of Individuals into Membership***

43  
44 2.18.1 Any person who at any time has held membership in the Synod but has resigned that  
45 membership, or whose membership in the Synod has been terminated, is eligible to seek  
46 reinstatement into membership. However, there is no inherent right to membership in the  
47 Synod, and the decision as to whether to accept or deny a request for reinstatement shall be at  
48 the sole discretion of the Council of Presidents.  
49

### 50 *Applications*

1 2.18.2 Procedures for investigating and processing requests for reinstatement shall be the  
2 responsibility of the Council of Presidents.

3  
4 (a) All applications by individuals for reinstatement into membership in the Synod shall be  
5 addressed to the president of the district in which the applicant last held membership.

6 (b) The president of the district shall review the matter and shall ordinarily make a  
7 recommendation to the Council of Presidents but may be excused by the Council from making  
8 such a recommendation where circumstances warrant.

9 (c) A decision to reinstate shall require an affirmative vote of at least 75 percent of the Council  
10 of Presidents present and voting, and shall be by written ballot.

11 (d) If the applicant is reinstated, the district president shall publish this fact in an official  
12 periodical of the Synod.

13 (e) A decision not to reinstate shall be unappealable, but the individual may reapply for  
14 reinstatement three or more years after his or her last preceding application has been denied.  
15  
16

### 17 **3. NATIONAL ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### 18 **3.1 National Conventions**

19  
20  
21 3.1.1 ~~The~~ For the sake of assisting congregations and their members in conserving and promoting the  
22 unity of the faith and in carrying out their mission and ministry, the national convention of the  
23 Synod shall afford an opportunity for worship, nurture, inspiration, fellowship, theological and  
24 missiological study and discussion, and the communication of vital information.

25  
26 3.1.1.1 ~~#~~ The national convention is the principal legislative assembly, which amends the Constitution  
27 and Bylaws, considers and takes action on reports and overtures, and handles appropriate  
28 appeals.

29  
30 3.1.1.2 The national convention receives reports from ~~It establishes general positions and policies of the~~  
31 ~~Synod, provides overall program direction and priorities, and evaluates all such positions, programs,~~  
32 policies, directions, and priorities in order to provide responsible service for and on behalf of its  
33 the members of the Synod.

34  
35 3.1.1.3 The national convention establishes general positions and policies of the Synod and provides  
36 synodwide mission and ministry direction and priorities by establishing quadrennial emphases  
37 resulting from the following process:

38  
39 (a) Congregations shall be encouraged to submit to their district conventions through their  
40 circuit forums recommendations for national mission and ministry emphases for the coming  
41 quadrennium.

42 (b) Each district convention shall, through delegate vote, forward for consideration by the  
43 national convention a list of two to three mission and ministry emphases.

44 (c) The floor committee to which such overtures from districts are assigned shall, after  
45 consultation with the President, propose up to four emphases for convention consideration  
46 from the items submitted by the districts. The national convention shall then select the  
47 emphases for the coming quadrennium.  
48

1 3.1.1.4 Only a national convention of the Synod shall authorize affiliation or association and the  
2 discontinuance of such affiliation or association of the Synod with other church bodies, synods,  
3 or federations.  
4

5 *Voting Delegates*  
6

7 ~~3.1.2~~ ~~Voting delegates shall consist of one pastor and one layman from each electoral circuit.~~

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

12 ~~(b) Exceptions to these requirements may be made only by the President of the Synod upon request~~  
13 ~~of a district board of directors.~~

14 The Office of the Secretary shall facilitate the election of voting delegates to the next following  
15 national convention. These delegates shall be elected for four-year terms during the  
16 conventions of the districts of the Synod.  
17

18 (a) The total number of delegates shall be 10% of the number of congregations in the Synod six  
19 months prior to the start of the first district convention. Such number shall be rounded to the  
20 higher even number.

21 (b) Two factors shall be averaged to determine the number of delegates from each district.  
22 Those factors are:

23 (1) The percentage of the district's member congregations compared to the number of  
24 member congregations of the Synod; and

25 (2) The percentage of the number of confirmed members of the district's congregations  
26 compared to the number of confirmed members of the congregations of the Synod.

27 (c) The most recent available roster statistics shall be used to determine all matters related to  
28 delegate representation.

29 (d) One-half of the district's total allotment of delegates shall be laity from member  
30 congregations of the district and one-half shall be individual members of the Synod with  
31 membership in the congregations of the district  
32

33 ~~3.1.2.1~~ ~~Elections of voting delegates to the national convention shall take place in accordance with~~  
34 ~~established policy and procedure as follows.~~  
35

36 ~~(a) Each electoral circuit shall meet at the call of the counselor(s) to elect its delegates not later than nine~~  
37 ~~months prior to the opening day of the convention. Early in its proceedings, each district~~  
38 ~~convention, following recommendation by its board of directors (such recommendation~~  
39 ~~circulated at least four weeks prior to the convention), shall determine how its congregations~~  
40 ~~will be grouped in light of its prescribed number of delegates to the next national convention.~~  
41 ~~Such groupings shall take into consideration geographical and such other factors as will provide~~  
42 ~~reasonable and equitable congregational representation in and as a result of the delegate~~  
43 ~~selection process.~~

44 ~~(b) Elections shall be by written ballot. Candidates for election as delegates to the national~~  
45 ~~convention shall be the delegates attending the district convention, except for those unwilling or~~  
46 ~~unable to serve.~~

47 ~~(c) The privilege of voting shall be exercised by one pastor and one layperson from each member~~  
48 ~~congregation of the circuit, both of whom shall have been selected in the manner prescribed by the~~  
49 ~~congregation. Multiple parishes shall be entitled to a lay vote from each member congregation. Time~~  
50 ~~shall be allotted on the district convention agenda to allow the delegates from each apportioned~~  
51 ~~group of congregations to caucus to select its delegates to the following national convention.~~

1 ~~(d) All pastors who are not advisory members under Article V B of the Constitution shall be eligible for~~  
2 ~~election. A circuit counselor appointed by the president of the district shall chair the caucus.~~  
3 ~~Nominations shall be received and delegates elected in the following order: (1) individual~~  
4 ~~member delegate; (2) lay delegate; (3) alternate individual member delegate; and (4) alternate~~  
5 ~~lay delegate.~~

6 ~~(1) Each voter may write in the names of two pastors on the initial ballot. The three pastors (or more,~~  
7 ~~in case of a tie vote) who receive the highest number of votes in this preliminary ballot shall be~~  
8 ~~placed on the next ballot.~~

9 ~~(2) Each voter shall now vote for only one candidate. Balloting shall continue with the lowest~~  
10 ~~candidate being removed from each succeeding ballot until one pastor shall have received a simple~~  
11 ~~majority of all votes cast, whereupon he shall be declared the pastoral delegate.~~

12 ~~(3) The congregation or congregations served by the elected pastoral delegate shall be removed from~~  
13 ~~consideration for supplying any other voting delegate or alternate for that particular convention.~~

14 ~~(e) A majority ballot vote is required for the election of each delegate. Prior to the meeting of the~~  
15 ~~electoral circuit, each congregation may nominate one layperson, either from its congregation or from the~~  
16 ~~circuit. These names must be submitted to the circuit counselor prior to the day of the circuit meeting and~~  
17 ~~shall constitute the slate of candidates. All congregational nominees, except those who have been~~  
18 ~~eliminated through the election of the pastoral delegate, shall be eligible for election.~~

19 ~~(1) Each voter may write in the name of two of the remaining lay nominees on the initial ballot. The~~  
20 ~~three laypersons (or more, in case of a tie vote) who received the highest number of votes in this~~  
21 ~~preliminary ballot shall be placed on the next ballot.~~

22 ~~(2) Each voter shall now vote for only one candidate. Balloting shall continue with the lowest~~  
23 ~~candidate being removed from each succeeding ballot until one layperson shall have received a~~  
24 ~~simple majority of all votes cast, whereupon he or she shall be declared the lay delegate.~~

25 ~~(3) The congregation from which the lay delegate has been elected shall then be removed from~~  
26 ~~consideration for supplying any alternates to that particular convention.~~

27 ~~(f) All other pastors who received votes in the initial write in ballot, except those who were eliminated~~  
28 ~~through the election of the lay delegate, shall be eligible for election as the alternate.~~

29 ~~(1) Each voter shall now vote for only one candidate.~~

30 ~~(2) Balloting shall continue with the lowest candidate being removed from each succeeding ballot~~  
31 ~~until one pastor shall have received a simple majority of all votes cast, whereupon he shall be~~  
32 ~~declared the alternate pastoral delegate.~~

33 ~~(3) The congregation or congregations served by him shall be removed from consideration for~~  
34 ~~supplying the remaining lay alternate.~~

35 ~~(g) All lay nominees except those who have been disqualified through the procedures listed above shall~~  
36 ~~be eligible for election as the alternate lay delegate. The election of the alternate shall follow the same~~  
37 ~~procedure as in paragraph (f) above.~~

38 ~~(h) (f) All four persons delegates elected shall come from four different member congregations.~~

39 ~~(i) (g) The circuit counselor(s) selected to chair the caucus shall report the results of the~~  
40 ~~elections to the secretary of the district in writing immediately after said election.~~

41 ~~(j) (h) If neither the delegate nor the alternate (pastoral individual or lay) can is able to serve, the~~  
42 ~~vacancy shall be filled by an appointment of the district president in consultation with the~~  
43 ~~respective circuit counselor(s) harmony with Bylaw 3.1.2.1 (a).~~

44 ~~(i) Delegates are certified by the submission of their names and addresses to the Secretary of the~~  
45 ~~Synod by the secretary of the district using official registration forms provided by the Secretary~~  
46 ~~of the Synod.~~

47  
48 3.1.2.2 ~~Voting delegates Delegates shall continue to serve until a three year term beginning with the next~~  
49 ~~district convention, shall functioning as advisory members of the circuit forum, shall serve as~~  
50 ~~resource persons to the congregations they represent and to the district and national Synod, in~~  
51 ~~the circuit, and shall assisting in the dissemination and implementation of reports and resolutions~~  
52 ~~of the national convention Synod in the circuit.~~  
53

1 (a) ~~Delegates~~ They are responsible to the ~~circuits~~ the congregations they represent and shall  
2 attempt to discover the sentiment of the members thereof, ~~but the congregations~~  
3 ~~(b) Congregations shall not require their delegates~~ them to vote in accordance with specific  
4 instructions, ~~but every delegate shall be permitted to vote according to his or her own conviction.~~  
5 ~~(c) Delegates are expected to be faithful in attendance at~~ They shall attend all sessions of the  
6 convention. ~~All duly elected voting delegates shall attend all sessions regularly until the close of the~~  
7 ~~convention. Delegates who arrive late or leave early or who do not attend at all shall~~ and present a  
8 written excuses to their respective district president for all absences, late arrivals, and early  
9 departures.  
10 ~~(d) Delegates shall report the actions of the Synod to their circuits after each convention, preferably~~  
11 ~~appearing before each of the congregations they represent.~~

### 13 *Nonvoting Advisory Delegates*

14 3.1.3 ~~Advisory members of the Synod shall attend district conventions, but they shall not be elected by any~~  
15 ~~congregation or by any group of congregations as lay delegates to a national convention of the Synod.~~

16 3.1.3.1 ~~Each district shall select one advisory delegate for every 60 advisory ordained ministers and specific~~  
17 ~~ministry pastors, and one advisory delegate for every 60 commissioned ministers on the roster of the~~  
18 ~~Synod. Fractional groupings shall be disregarded except that each district shall be entitled to at least one~~  
19 ~~advisory delegate in each category.~~

20 ~~(a) Selection of district advisory delegates to conventions of the Synod shall be made by the respective~~  
21 ~~groups meeting at the call of the district secretary either during the district convention or at official~~  
22 ~~district conferences of ordained and/or commissioned ministers.~~

23 ~~(b) Such selections must be completed at least nine months prior to the opening day of the convention.~~

24 ~~(c) Individuals who are eligible for selection in any category under Bylaw 3.1.4 shall not be counted in~~  
25 ~~determining the number of advisory delegates from each district, shall not be eligible to be selected as~~  
26 ~~delegates from the groups defined in this bylaw, and shall not participate in the election process.~~

27 3.1.3.2 ~~All district voting and nonvoting advisory delegates and representatives and their alternates shall be~~  
28 ~~certified before attending a convention of the Synod.~~

29 ~~(a) The names and addresses of all voting and nonvoting advisory delegates and representatives and their~~  
30 ~~alternates shall be forwarded by the district secretary before the announced registration deadline to the~~  
31 ~~Secretary of the Synod on registration forms provided by the latter.~~

32 ~~(b) This procedure shall constitute certification.~~

### 34 *Other Advisory Representatives*

35  
36 3.1.4.3.1.3 ~~Elected and appointed~~ officers of the Synod, including district presidents, and representatives of  
37 the Synod's boards, commissions, educational institutions, mission areas, chaplains and district  
38 boards of directors shall ~~also~~ serve as ~~advisory~~ representatives to the convention of the Synod,  
39 specifically:

40  
41 3.1.4.1 ~~1. All~~ Each elected and appointed officers ~~board and commission~~ of the Synod, including all  
42 district presidents and all members of the Board of Directors of the Synod; ~~shall be represented at~~  
43 ~~conventions of the Synod.~~

44 ~~(a) Each board or commission shall be represented by its chairman or another board or commission~~  
45 ~~member and by its principal staff person.~~

46 2. Such members of ~~(b) Standing exceptions shall be the Board of Directors, the Commission on~~  
47 ~~Constitutional Matters, the Commission on Handbook, and the Commission on Theology and~~  
48 ~~Church Relations, who may be represented by as many of their membership as they deemed~~  
49 ~~necessary by those commissions.~~

50 3. The chairman or another member and the principal staff person of all other boards and  
51 commissions (cf. Bylaws 3.2.2, 3.2.2.1, 3.2.3, and 3.2.3.1) ~~(e) Other exceptions must have the~~  
52 ~~approval of the Board of Directors of the Synod prior to each convention.~~

1 ~~3.1.4.2~~ 4. Each The president and one faculty member from each educational institution of the Synod;  
2 shall be represented at conventions of the Synod.

3 ~~(a) Educational institutions of the Synod shall be represented by one board member in addition to the~~  
4 ~~district president, by their presidents, and by one faculty member for every 30 faculty members who are~~  
5 ~~members of the Synod.~~

6 ~~(b) Fractional groupings shall be disregarded.~~

7 ~~3.1.4.3~~ 5. The number of world Each foreign-mission and chaplaincy representatives as determined by  
8 the President area, as defined and established from time to time by the Board for Mission Services, shall  
9 be represented at conventions of the Synod.;

10 ~~(a) Foreign mission areas shall not exceed 10 in number and may be represented by an advisory~~  
11 ~~representative from within the mission area who is on home leave at the time of the convention and will~~  
12 ~~return to the mission area represented.~~

13 ~~(b) These representatives shall be elected by the Board for Mission Services in consultation with the field~~  
14 ~~authority (Missionary Advisory Council) for each field and shared with the missionaries at least nine~~  
15 ~~months in advance of a convention of the Synod, provided, however, that each said mission area shall be~~  
16 ~~entitled to a representative, even though there may be no other than terminating missionaries on home~~  
17 ~~leave at convention time.~~

18 ~~3.1.4.4~~ Chaplains in each branch of the Armed Forces of the United States may be represented at conventions of  
19 the Synod.

20 ~~(a) Chaplains may be represented by active duty chaplains stationed stateside.~~

21 ~~(b) Representatives shall be approved by the Board for Mission Services at least nine months before the~~  
22 ~~convention of the Synod.~~

23 ~~3.1.4.5~~ 6. One representative selected by the Each district board of directors of each district (other than  
24 the district president), whether a member of the board or district staff; and shall be represented at  
25 conventions of the Synod.

26 7. Such exceptions as may be granted by the Board of Directors of the Synod prior to each  
27 convention.

28 ~~(a) Each district board of directors is entitled to send one representative from the district board of~~  
29 ~~directors and one from the district executive staff other than the district president.~~

30 ~~(b) If the district has no executive staff, it may select two members of its board of directors.~~

31 ~~3.1.4.6~~ Each district may be represented by two youth representatives at conventions of the Synod.

32 ~~(a) Youth representatives may be selected as a district may specify.~~

33 ~~(b) They may speak at the request of a floor committee and with the permission of the chair.~~

#### 34 *Responsibilities of Advisory Delegates and Representatives*

35 ~~3.1.5~~ Advisory delegates and representatives shall have voice but no vote and shall be entitled to the floor to  
36 express their opinion the same as voting members.

37 ~~3.1.5.3.1.4~~ Representatives shall be determined at least nine months in advance of a convention and  
38 Advisory delegates and representatives shall be eligible for membership on committees and for  
39 offices of the convention unless otherwise specified.

40 ~~3.1.5.23.1.5~~ Representatives shall have voice but no vote. TheyAll duly elected advisory delegates and  
41 representatives shall attend all sessions regularly until the close of the convention. Delegates who  
42 arrive late or leave early or who do not attend at all shall present a written excuse.

#### 43 *Reports and Overtures*

44 ~~3.1.6~~ The principal business of a convention of the Synod shall be the consideration of reports and  
45 overtures. Reports and overtures must be submitted in triplicate to the President of the Synod  
46 not later than 18 weeks prior to the opening date of the convention.

1 (a) No report or overture received subsequent to that date shall be accepted for convention  
2 consideration unless a committee consisting of the President, the First Vice-President, and the  
3 Secretary adjudge it to be a matter of overriding importance and urgency which is not  
4 adequately covered by documents already before the convention.

5 (b) Overtures and recommendations involving capital outlay or current expenditures shall be  
6 accompanied, to the extent feasible, by cost projections and the basis thereof.

7  
8 *Reports*

9  
10 3.1.6.1 Reports to a convention of the Synod may be submitted only by the President; ~~a the First Vice-~~  
11 ~~President; vice president,~~ the Secretary; ~~the Vice President Finance Treasurer~~ Chief Financial  
12 Officer; the Board of Directors of the Synod; a board or commission of the Synod as listed in  
13 Bylaws 3.2.2, 3.2.2.1, 3.2.3, and 3.2.3.1; and other individuals or duly constituted groups who  
14 may be required or permitted to do so by the Bylaws, by action of a prior convention of the  
15 Synod, or by the President.

16  
17 (a) Reports are statements of work performed or contemplated by those who are charged with  
18 conducting the business of the Synod between conventions, communications to a convention  
19 with respect to studies that may have been made for the Synod in order to further its work, or  
20 other types of communications to the Synod.

21 (b) A report shall not include an overture unless the report is submitted by someone authorized  
22 to submit overtures.

23  
24 *Overtures*

25  
26 3.1.6.2 Overtures to a convention of the Synod may be submitted only by a member congregation of  
27 the Synod; a convention or board of directors of a district; an official district conference of  
28 ministers of religion—ordained and/or ministers of religion—commissioned—ministers; the  
29 faculty of an educational institution of the Synod; the Board of Directors of the Synod; a board  
30 or commission of the Synod listed in Bylaws 3.2.2, 3.2.2.1, 3.2.3, and 3.2.3.1; a committee  
31 established by a prior convention; or a forum of a circuit. ~~(a)~~ Overtures are recommendations in  
32 the form of proposed resolutions requesting action on the part of the convention. Such overtures  
33 recommend action on doctrinal or theological positions, general positions, policies, mission and  
34 ministry directions, priorities, and emphases of the Synod.

35  
36 3.1.6.2.1 All overtures should demonstrate that they are in harmony with the Scriptures and the  
37 Confessions, as well as the Constitution and polity of the Synod, and that they will enhance or  
38 move forward the mission and purpose of the Synod.

39  
40 3.1.6.2.2 ~~(b)~~ Overtures with reference to a case in which a member has been suspended and which is at  
41 present in the process of dispute resolution, as well as overtures which, upon advice of legal  
42 counsel, may subject the Synod or the corporate officers of the Synod to civil action for libel or  
43 slander or which contain libel ~~and~~ or slander, shall not be accepted for convention  
44 consideration.

45  
46 3.1.6.2.3 ~~(c)~~ The President of the Synod shall determine if any overture contains information which is  
47 materially in error, or contains any apparent misrepresentation of truth or of character. He shall  
48 not approve inclusion of any such overture in the *Convention Workbook* and shall refer any  
49 such overture to the district president who has ecclesiastical supervision over the entity  
50 submitting the overture for action. If any published overture or resolution is found to be  
51 materially in error or contains a misrepresentation of truth or of character, it shall be withdrawn

1 from convention consideration and referred by the President of the Synod to the appropriate  
2 district president for action.

3  
4 3.1.6.2.4 Overtures to a convention of the Synod may be submitted only by a member congregation of  
5 the Synod; a forum of a circuit; a convention or board of directors of a district; an official  
6 district conference of ministers of religion—ordained and/or ministers of religion—commissioned  
7 ~~ministers~~; the faculty of an educational institution of the Synod; the President and other  
8 officers of the national Synod, including the Board of Directors, a board or commission of the  
9 Synod listed in Bylaws 3.2.2, 3.2.2.1, 3.2.3, and 3.2.3.1; a council; or a committee established  
10 by a prior convention (all within their areas of responsibility).

11  
12 3.1.6.2.5 Believing that the Synod can accomplish its mission primarily through mutual encouragement  
13 and support based upon the power and authority of the Word, and for the sake of broad and  
14 effective in-depth participation, study, and influence, member congregations shall, when  
15 possible, submit their overtures(s) intended for national conventions through their circuit  
16 forums and district conventions. Overtures thus adopted shall receive priority consideration.

### 17 18 *Convention Committees*

19  
20 3.1.7 All reports and overtures accepted by the President in accordance with the foregoing  
21 paragraphs shall be referred by him to convention committees appointed by him in the name of  
22 the convention.

23  
24 (a) Appointments will be made from among the voting delegates (Bylaws 3.1.2ff.), ~~advisory~~  
25 ~~delegates (Bylaw 3.1.3ff)~~, and ~~advisory~~-representatives (Bylaws 3.1.3ff.3-1.4ff).

26 (b) ~~Ordained~~ Ministers of religion—ordained, ministers, of religion—commissioned—ministers,  
27 and laypersons shall be represented on all committees.

28 (c) The President shall notify committee members of their appointment and of the time and  
29 place of their first meeting no later than 12 weeks before the start of the convention.

30 (d) The committee rosters shall be published in an official periodical at least 10 weeks before  
31 the convention.

32 (e) If the President deems it advisable, he may convene any committees prior to the opening of  
33 the convention.

34 (f) After due consideration of the matters referred to it, each committee will report its findings  
35 and recommendations to the convention.

36 (g) Each proposed resolution involving expenditures, prior to its consideration on the floor of  
37 the convention, shall be presented to the floor committee on financial matters, which in  
38 consultation with the accounting department shall attach to the recommended resolution  
39 accompanying information on estimated cost on an annual or project basis.

### 40 41 *Pre-Convention Publications*

42  
43 3.1.8 A *Convention Workbook* containing a convention manual, reports and overtures, the names and  
44 mailing addresses of all voting delegates, and other information shall be published under the  
45 editorship of the Secretary subject to approval of the President.

46  
47 (a) The President shall also decide which of the matters accepted for presentation to and  
48 consideration by the convention shall be published in the *Convention Workbook*.

49 (b) A copy of the *Convention Workbook* shall be sent not later than 10 weeks prior to the  
50 opening date of the convention to each minister of religion—ordained and minister of religion—  
51 commissioned minister on the official rosters of the Synod, to each lay delegate and alternate,

1 to each lay member of boards and commissions of the Synod, and to all such lay teachers and  
2 lay ministers as are designated by their district presidents.

3 (c) Any member of the Synod (congregation, ~~ordained minister of religion—ordained, minister~~  
4 ~~of religion—commissioned—minister~~) and any lay delegate to the convention wishing to express  
5 comments on reports and overtures appearing in the *Convention Workbook* may submit them in  
6 triplicate at least seven weeks prior to the convention to the Secretary of the Synod, who shall  
7 transmit them to the appropriate convention committee for consideration.  
8

9 3.1.8.1 The first issue of *Today's Business* containing proposed resolutions shall be sent to all  
10 registered delegates of the convention and to each congregation of the Synod.

11  
12 (a) Responses to the tentative resolutions contained in the first issue of *Today's Business* shall  
13 be submitted to the chairman of the appropriate floor committee at least one week prior to the  
14 convention.

15 (b) All floor committees shall meet at the convention site at a time prior to the opening of the  
16 convention to review such responses and reconsider their proposed resolutions accordingly.  
17  
18

### 19 *Convention Order*

20  
21 3.1.9 The President shall be responsible for the overall organization and operations of the  
22 conventions of the Synod.

23  
24 (a) As convention manager, the Director of General Services, within the assigned general  
25 meeting and conference planning function, shall be responsible to the President for making  
26 arrangements for and directing the externals of the convention and other major assemblies of  
27 the Synod and may assist with planning and arranging for district conventions.

28 (1) The convention manager shall arrange for lodging and may also provide for joint meals  
29 while the convention is in session.

30 (2) Rates for lodging and joint meals shall be established and published.

31 (b) When necessary, the President in consultation with the convention manager may appoint a  
32 local convention chairman and a local convention committee to assist the convention manager.

33 (c) The President of the Synod shall indicate which convention committees must meet before  
34 the convention opens and shall notify the convention manager, who shall provide pre-  
35 convention housing and meeting facilities for them. All direct expenses incurred by these pre-  
36 convention meetings shall be borne by the Synod.

37 (d) The primary sources of income which are to offset the operating costs of the conventions of  
38 the Synod are the district levy, registration fees, exhibit space rentals, and other miscellaneous  
39 receipts.

40 (1) The amount of the district levy per communicant member and the registration fees will  
41 be based on the convention budget submitted by the convention manager to the Board of  
42 Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for approval, who shall notify the  
43 district treasurers of the amount of their assessments by September 1 of the year preceding  
44 the convention of the Synod.

45 (2) The district treasurer shall remit the amount of the district levy to the accounting  
46 department of the Synod not later than the month of March before the convention.

47 (3) The accounting department of the Synod shall prescribe, install, and supervise  
48 convention accounting procedures, financial controls, and budgetary classifications for  
49 operating income and costs of the convention.

50 (e) All travel and convention expenses of the Synod's Praesidium, Secretary, Vice-  
51 President—Finance—Treasurer, Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod,

1 district presidents, Commission on Constitutional Matters, and legal counsel are included in the  
2 operating cost of the convention and as such are included in the district levy.

3 (f) All travel and convention expenses of the delegates and representatives shall be paid by the  
4 districts, the boards, or the commissions that are represented by the respective delegates or  
5 representatives.

6 (g) Convention preachers, worship leaders, and essayists shall be appointed by the President  
7 prior to the convention.

8 (h) The President shall arrange for suitable orientation and guidance for delegates. A  
9 convention manual shall be provided for this purpose in the *Convention Workbook*.

10 (i) The convention shall organize at its first session on the basis of its registration and the report  
11 of the committee on credentials.

12 (1) The President shall then make his presidential address and submit his official report.

13 (2) The President shall, at the first session and during the course of succeeding sessions of  
14 the convention, announce the order of business for the day and following days.

15 (3) The President shall conduct the sessions according to accepted parliamentary rules and  
16 make every effort to arrange the schedule of business so that the sessions do not exceed one  
17 week in duration.

18 (4) Daily minutes shall be prepared by the Secretary's office for inclusion in *Today's*  
19 *Business*.

20 (j) Before adjournment the convention shall decide upon the time of the next convention.

21 (1) If the convention fails to do so, the President shall do so. In case of necessity he may  
22 change the appointed time.

23 (2) Conventions shall be conducted in the St. Louis area, with the understanding that  
24 consideration may be given by a previous convention to other areas upon special request.

25 (3) Prior to submitting an invitation, a host group shall determine the minimum  
26 requirements from the convention manager and then shall submit a proposal to the Board of  
27 Directors of the Synod for evaluation and recommendation to a convention.

28 (4) The President may also submit a site to the Board of Directors of the Synod. Prior to  
29 submission, the district president for the area in which the site is located shall be made  
30 aware of the submission and agree to provide any needed local support.

### 31 *Convention Communications*

32  
33  
34 3.1.10 The Synod's Board for Communication Services shall be responsible for telling the story of the  
35 conventions of the Synod to the public.

36  
37 3.1.10.1 The official *Convention Proceedings* of each convention shall be sent by Concordia Publishing  
38 House to every congregation in the Synod.

39  
40 (a) All delegates (voting and advisory) and all members of boards and commissions of the  
41 Synod shall also be sent a copy.

42 (b) The cost shall be paid by the Synod.  
43

### 44 *Special Sessions*

45  
46 3.1.11 The business of any special session of the Synod (Constitution Art. VIII B) is limited to the  
47 specific stated purpose(s) for the calling of the special session.

48  
49 3.1.11.1 The President of the Synod, in consultation with the Council of Presidents and the Board of  
50 Directors of the Synod, shall establish the specific provisions for any special session of the  
51 Synod such as "Reports and Overtures," "Convention Committees," "Pre-convention

1 Publications,” Convention Order,” and “Convention Communications,” including any required  
2 implementation timeframes.

### 3.2 *Elected or Appointed Officers, Boards, and Commissions*

#### *Officers Elected By the Convention*

3.2.1 The elected officers of the Synod ~~elected by the convention~~ shall be the President, the First Vice-  
President, five regional vice-presidents ~~in line of succession, and~~ the Secretary, ~~the Vice-~~  
~~President Finance Treasurer (who shall also be designated as Chief Financial Officer), and the~~ The  
Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is also an officer of the Synod,  
with some members elected by the Synod.

#### *Boards*

3.2.2 The governing boards of the Synod whose members are solely elected by the national  
convention of the Synod shall be:

- ~~1. Board for District and Congregational Services~~
- ~~2. Board for Mission Services~~
- ~~3. the~~ Board of Directors of Concordia Publishing House,
- ~~4. Board of Regents for each seminary of the Synod~~

3.2.2.1 The boards of the Synod ~~or~~ and appointed as otherwise prescribed in these Bylaws shall  
be:

- ~~1. Board for Pastoral Education~~
- ~~2. Board for University Education (Board of Directors of Concordia University System)~~
- ~~3. Board for Black Ministry Services~~
- ~~4. Board for Communication Services~~
- ~~5. Board for Human Care Ministries~~
- ~~6.2.~~ Board of Directors of Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod (Board for  
Church Extension)
- ~~7.3.~~ Board of Trustees—Concordia Plans ~~which also serves as the~~ (Board of Directors for  
Concordia Plan Services)
- ~~8.4.~~ Board of Trustees for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation
- ~~9.5.~~ A board of regents for each college, university, ~~or high school~~ and seminary of the  
Synod
- ~~10.6.~~ Board of Governors of Concordia Historical Institute
7. Board for National Mission
8. Board for International Mission

#### *Commissions*

3.2.3 The commissions of the Synod elected or appointed by the President or Board of Directors shall  
be:

1. Commission on Constitutional Matters
2. Commission on Doctrinal Review
3. Commission on Handbook ~~Ministerial Growth and Support~~
- ~~4. Commission on Structure~~
- ~~5. Commission on Worship~~

1 3.2.3.1 The commission of the Synod constituted in part by election and in part by appointment as  
2 provided in the Bylaws is the Commission on Theology and Church Relations.  
3

4 *Terms of Office*  
5

6 3.2.4 The term of office of all elected officers of the Synod (~~Bylaw 3.2.4~~) shall be ~~three~~ four years; of  
7 the elected members of the Board of Directors and all other boards and commissions of the  
8 Synod ~~six~~ four years; of all members of college and university boards of regents ~~three~~ four  
9 years; and of all appointed members of boards, commissions, and standing committees ~~three~~  
10 four years, unless these Bylaws specifically provide otherwise. When possible, appointed  
11 members shall be used to provide for staggering of terms for the sake of continuity.  
12

13 (a) The President, First Vice-President, regional vice-presidents, Secretary, Chief Financial  
14 Officer ~~Vice President Finance Treasurer~~, and members of all elected boards and commissions  
15 of the Synod shall assume office on September 1 following the convention and shall be  
16 inducted into office on a date subsequent to September 1 following the convention.

17 (b) In the interim, the newly elected President shall meet with the reelected and newly elected  
18 vice-presidents to assess the state of the Synod, to plan for the communication and carrying out  
19 of the resolutions adopted at the convention, to assign areas of responsibility to the vice-  
20 presidents, and to gather names and obtain information helpful for making wise appointments;  
21 ~~he~~ He shall also meet with ~~the chairman and executive directors of boards and commissions to discuss~~  
22 ~~their convention reports, to assess with them the financial support they will need; he shall meet with the~~  
23 current financial and administrative officers to assess the financial status of the Synod and ~~the~~  
24 estimates of the financial resources available for the coming years.

25 (c) ~~All newly appointed members of all boards and commissions shall begin their service on September 1~~  
26 ~~following each regular meeting of the Synod in convention.~~

27 (d) ~~The newly elected members of the boards of directors and other elected boards and commissions shall~~  
28 ~~attend whatever meetings are held in the interim, without vote, to become acquainted with their new~~  
29 ~~responsibilities and functions.~~

30 (e) ~~The initial meeting of boards and commissions shall ordinarily be held in association with the~~  
31 ~~induction and shall begin with a combined orientation program conducted under the direction of the~~  
32 ~~President.~~

33 (f) Incumbents shall serve until their successors assume office. The existing boards of directors  
34 and other elected boards and commissions shall continue to function until the newly elected and  
35 reelected members of these boards and commissions assume office. They shall continue to  
36 carry out programs initiated prior to the electing convention.

37 (g) ~~(d)~~ No appointments to boards or commissions of the Synod shall be made and no new  
38 programs shall be initiated by the outgoing President or the boards of directors or elected or  
39 appointed boards or commissions during the interim. ~~(h)~~ Emergency action that demands  
40 immediate attention may be taken in consultation with and with the consent of the newly  
41 elected President.

42 (e) All newly elected and appointed members of boards and commissions shall attend all  
43 meetings that are held prior to their induction into their positions, without vote, to become  
44 acquainted with their new responsibilities and functions.

45 (f) Initial meetings of newly constituted boards and commissions shall ordinarily be held in  
46 association with the induction and shall begin with a combined orientation program conducted  
47 under the direction of the President.  
48

49 3.2.4.1 The offices of ~~the~~ President, ~~the~~ First Vice-President, regional ~~the~~ vice-presidents, ~~in line of~~  
50 ~~succession, the~~ and Secretary, ~~and the~~ Vice President Finance Treasurer shall be without  
51 limitation as to reelection.

1  
2 (a) If the President, ~~the~~ First Vice-President, ~~the~~ or Secretary, ~~or the Vice President Finance~~  
3 ~~Treasurer of the Synod~~ are not reelected or do not stand for re-election, they shall continue to  
4 receive full salary for a period of six (6) months while rendering transitional service.

5 (b) Such service and salary will cease at the time such person accepts another full-time position.

6 (c) Before his successor assumes office, the outgoing President shall use the intervening time to  
7 settle the affairs of his administration and assist the newly elected President as requested to  
8 become acquainted with the responsibilities of the office.  
9

10 3.2.4.2 All members of all boards and commissions of the Synod shall be ineligible for re-election or  
11 re-appointment to the same board or commission after serving a total of ~~two~~ three successive  
12 ~~six~~ four-year ~~elected terms or three successive appointed or elected three year terms~~, unless otherwise  
13 provided by bylaw in the Bylaws.  
14

15 (a) Such persons may become eligible again for election or appointment to the same office,  
16 board, or commission after an interval of ~~three~~ four or more years.

17 (b) One-half or more of a term shall be regarded as a full term under limited tenure rules.

18 (c) Any member of a board or commission who is ineligible for re-election or reappointment  
19 may be elected or appointed to another position.  
20

#### 21 *Vacancies*

22  
23 3.2.5 Unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws, vacancies that occur on elected boards or  
24 commissions of the Synod shall be filled by the Board of Directors of the Synod.  
25

26 (a) The Secretary of the Synod shall be responsible for gathering a list of nominees from the  
27 board or commission where the vacancy occurs, the President of the Synod, the district boards  
28 of directors, and the slate of candidates from the previous convention of the Synod within 90  
29 days of notification of the vacancy.

30 (b) A list of at least three but no more than five candidates shall be submitted as soon as  
31 possible to the appropriate appointing body.

32 (c) This list shall be determined by the chairman and two members of the Committee for  
33 Convention Nominations of the Synod as determined by the committee. The Synod's Director  
34 of Human Resources shall be consulted in developing the candidate list.

35 (d) The appointing board may not amend the list of candidates.  
36

37 3.2.5.1 Vacancies in any appointed board or commission of the Synod shall be filled by the appointing  
38 authority unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws. The board or commission may submit  
39 suggestions to the appointing authority.  
40

### 41 ***3.3 Elected Officers of the Synod***

#### 42 *President*

43  
44  
45 3.3.1 The President of the Synod shall be a full-time executive and shall serve as a voting member of  
46 the Board of Directors of the Synod.  
47

48 (a) He shall not be in charge of a congregation or hold a chair at any educational institution but  
49 may be called as an assistant pastor, provided such services do not interfere with his official  
50 duties as President.

1 (b) He shall, with the approval of the Board of Directors of the Synod, be empowered to engage  
2 sufficient staff to carry out the duties of his office.

3  
4 *Powers and Duties—Ecclesiastical*  
5

6 3.3.1.1 As the chief ecclesiastical officer of the Synod, the President shall supervise the doctrine taught  
7 and practiced in the Synod, including all synodwide corporate entities.  
8

9 3.3.1.1.1 The President of the Synod has ecclesiastical supervision of all officers of the Synod and its  
10 agencies, the individual districts of the Synod, and all district presidents.  
11

12 (a) He shall see to it that the resolutions of the Synod are carried out. After the national  
13 convention has determined quadrennial emphases for the Synod, he shall, in consultation with  
14 the Council of Presidents, identify specific goals for the national office that will support and  
15 encourage ministry at the congregational level.

16 (b) In the districts of the Synod, he shall carry out his ecclesiastical duties through the district's  
17 president.

18 ~~(b)(c)~~ (c) He shall at regular intervals officially visit or cause to be visited all the educational  
19 institutions of the Synod to exercise supervision over the doctrine taught and practiced in those  
20 institutions.

21 ~~(c)(d)~~ (d) He shall meet regularly with the Council of Presidents and, as deemed necessary, with  
22 individual district presidents or small groups of district presidents to see to it that they are in  
23 accordance with Article II of the Constitution, adopted doctrinal statements of the Synod, and  
24 doctrinal resolutions of the Synod. He shall receive regular reports on this subject from the  
25 district presidents. In cases of doctrinal dissent, Bylaw section 1.8 shall be followed.  
26

27 3.3.1.1.2 The President shall be the chief ecumenical officer of the Synod.  
28

29 (a) He shall represent the Synod, in consultation with the appropriate board or commission, in  
30 official contacts with all partner churches by aiding, counseling, and advising them and by  
31 strengthening the relations with and among them.

32 (b) He or his representative shall represent the Synod in official contacts with other church  
33 bodies.  
34

35 *Powers and Duties—Administrative*  
36

37 3.3.1.2 The President shall oversee the activities of all officers, executives, and agencies of the Synod  
38 to see to it that they are acting in accordance with the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of  
39 the Synod.  
40

41 (a) He shall at regular intervals officially visit or cause to be visited all the educational  
42 institutions of the Synod and thereby exercise oversight over their administration as it relates to  
43 adherence to the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod.

44 (b) He shall meet regularly with the Council of Presidents and, as deemed necessary, with  
45 individual district presidents or small groups of district presidents, to see to it that their  
46 administration is in accordance with the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod. He  
47 shall receive regular reports on this subject from the district presidents.

48 (c) He shall call up for review any action by an individual officer, executive, or agency that, in  
49 his view, may be in violation of the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod.

50 (1) If he deems appropriate, he shall request that such action be altered or reversed.

1 (2) If the matter cannot be resolved, he shall refer it to the Synod's Board of Directors, the  
2 Commission on Constitutional Matters, and/or the Synod in convention as he deems  
3 appropriate to the issues and party/parties involved.

4 (3) This provision in no way alters the President's constitutional duty to report to the Synod  
5 those who do not act in accordance with the Constitution and do not heed his admonition,  
6 as prescribed in Art. XI B 2 of the Constitution.

7 (d) He shall serve as leader of the Administrative Team (see Bylaw section 3.5) and shall report  
8 to the Board of Directors on the activities of the team.  
9

10 *Powers and Duties – Ecclesiastical and Administrative*

11  
12 3.3.1.3 The President shall have ~~powers~~ responsibilities and duties that are both ecclesiastical and  
13 administrative.  
14

15 (a) He shall report in person or through a vice-president or other officer of the Synod to all  
16 district conventions and to that end formulate the report that is to be made.

17 (b) He shall make provisions for new district presidents and members of boards and  
18 commissions of the Synod to be acquainted with their duties and responsibilities.

19 (c) He shall carry out his constitutional responsibility (Art. XI B 1–4) for the supervision of the  
20 doctrine and administration of all officers, executives, and agencies of the national office.

21 (d) He shall personally or by way of a representative have the option to attend all meetings of  
22 all commissions (except the Commission on Constitutional Matters), the Synod's program boards,  
23 the boards of all synodwide corporate entities, and the Board of Trustees—Concordia Plans, and  
24 (Board of Directors—Concordia Plan Services), including executive sessions: (the President or  
25 his representative serves as a voting member of the mission boards and serves as a voting  
26 member of the Board of Directors).

27 (1) The President's representative shall normally be a member of the ~~a~~Administrative  
28 ~~†~~Team.

29 (2) The President shall, in reasonable time, receive notice of such meetings, the proposed  
30 agenda, and minutes thereof.

31 ~~(d)~~(e) He shall engage in consultation with each program board, commission, and the governing  
32 board of each synodwide corporate entity to reach mutual concurrence on a slate of candidates  
33 for the position of chief executive or executive director.

34 (f) As ecclesiastical supervisor, he shall provide leadership to all officers, agencies, and  
35 national office staff of the Synod.

36 (g) Through the Chief Mission Officer, he shall supervise the content of communications,  
37 public relations, and news and information provided by the Synod.

38 (h) Through the Chief Mission Officer, he shall coordinate and supervise all fundraising and  
39 planned giving activity by the national Synod and its agencies.

40 (i) Through the Chief Mission Officer, he shall serve the Synod by providing leadership,  
41 coordination, and oversight for pre-seminary education programs, seminary education, and  
42 post-seminary continuing education, and by providing advocacy for pastoral education and  
43 health within the Synod.

44 ~~(e)~~(j) He shall consult with the vice-presidents, as elected advisers, whenever important and  
45 difficult Synod, inter-Lutheran, and partner church questions arise.

46 (k) He shall establish the duties and responsibilities of the First Vice-President in consultation with the  
47 First Vice-President.

48 ~~(g)~~(l) He shall make an official report at each meeting of the Synod in convention.

49 ~~(h)~~(m) He shall approve the draft of the *Convention Proceedings* before it is published by the  
50 Secretary of the Synod.

1           ~~(n)~~ He shall have the right to authorize the vice-presidents to perform the duties of his office  
2 and hold them responsible for their performance. Accountability, however, shall always remain  
3 with the President.

4           ~~(o)~~ He shall exercise executive power when the affairs of the Synod demand it and when he  
5 has been expressly invested with such power by the Synod in convention.

6           ~~(p)~~ He shall be authorized, in the event that the affairs of the Synod require the exercise of  
7 executive power for a purpose for which there is no specific directive of the Synod, to exercise  
8 such power after consultation with the vice-presidents, the Board of Directors of the Synod, or  
9 the Council of Presidents, whichever in his judgment is most appropriate. Any member of the  
10 Synod shall have the right to appeal such action to the Commission on Constitutional Matters  
11 and/or the Synod in convention, whichever is appropriate. The Lutheran Church Extension  
12 Fund—Missouri Synod is exempt from this bylaw.

13           ~~(q)~~ He shall in the interval between meetings of the Synod in convention appoint special  
14 boards or committees whenever the purpose for which the Synod has been organized requires  
15 or when conditions arising in the course of time demand such action.

16  
17 *Inability to Serve*

18  
19 3.3.1.4    When the President is unable to serve, the duties and responsibilities of the Office of President  
20 shall be assumed by the First Vice-President.

21  
22           (a) The Board of Directors of the Synod shall determine when the President is unable to serve  
23 in that capacity because of prolonged illness or disability.

24           (b) The First Vice-President shall remain as the acting president until that board determines that  
25 such illness or disability has been removed.

26  
27 *Vice-Presidents*

28  
29 3.3.2       The vice-presidents shall be elected advisors of the President and, upon the President's request  
30 or as provided by the Synod, shall assist him in discharging his responsibilities or represent  
31 him.

32  
33 3.3.2.1     The vice-presidents shall, in the order in which they have been ranked, assume the presidency if  
34 the office is vacated or perform the duties of the President if he becomes incapacitated.

35  
36 3.3.2.2     The First Vice-President shall be a full-time executive and a nonvoting member of the Board of  
37 Directors.

38  
39           ~~(a)~~ He shall be responsible to the President at all times for the performance of his duties.

40           ~~(b)~~ He shall serve as the chairman of the Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry.

41           ~~(c)~~ He shall server as the chairman of the Colloquy Committee for Commissioned Ministry.

42  
43 3.3.2.3     ~~Four additional~~ Five regional vice-presidents shall also be elected ~~ranked from two to five and are to~~  
44 ~~be selected~~ in the manner prescribed in these Bylaws. They shall serve the Synod in a part-time  
45 capacity and shall be responsible to the President for the performance of their duties.

46  
47 3.3.2.4     A vacancy in ~~any vice-presidency~~ the office of First Vice-President shall be filled by advancing  
48 the lower-ranking vice-presidents. The resulting vacancy or any vacancy in a regional vice-  
49 presidency shall be filled by appointment of the President in consultation with the district  
50 presidents within that region ~~shall remain vacant until filled by election at the next convention of the~~  
51 ~~Synod.~~

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*Secretary*

- 3.3.3 The Secretary shall perform all the customary duties of a corporate secretary and shall serve as a nonvoting member and the secretary of the Board of Directors of the Synod.
- 3.3.3.1 The Secretary shall carry out all required responsibilities relating to conventions of the Synod.
  - (a) He shall carry out responsibilities with reference to the nomination and election of the President and vice-presidents as detailed in Bylaw section 3.12.
  - (b) He shall serve as consultant to the local convention committee.
  - (c) He shall publish the names of the members of the Committee for Convention Nominations in an official periodical of the Synod as soon as possible after they have been elected.
  - (d) He shall carry out responsibilities with reference to the Committee for Convention Nominations as determined in the Bylaws.
  - (e) He shall provide the Committee on Elections with copies of a manual of suggested election procedures.
  - (f) He shall record the proceedings when the Synod meets in convention.
  - (g) He shall announce daily the time and the place of committee meetings at conventions.
  - (h) He shall officially notify individuals elected to office of their election.
  - (i) He shall edit the proceedings of the Synod in convention and arrange for its distribution in harmony with the provisions of the Bylaws.
- 3.3.3.2 The Secretary shall perform such other work as pertains to his office or such other work as the Synod in convention, the President, or the Board of Directors of the Synod may assign to him.
  - (a) He shall serve as a nonvoting member and secretary of the Commission on Constitutional Matters.
  - (b) He shall administer the Synod's dispute resolution process.
  - (c) He shall serve as a voting member of the Board of Governors of Concordia Historical Institute.
  - (d) He shall supervise the maintenance of the official roster of member congregations and ministers of religion—ordained and ministers of religion—commissioned ~~ministers~~ on the basis of information supplied by the district presidents.
  - (e) He shall serve as editor of *The Lutheran Annual*.
  - (f) He shall keep a file of all governing instruments of all agencies of the Synod.
- 3.3.3.3 In the event of the death, resignation, or permanent incapacity of the Secretary, the Board of Directors of the Synod shall appoint a successor for the unexpired term.

*Board of Directors*

- 3.3.5 The Board of Directors of the Synod is the legal representative of the Synod and the custodian of all the property of the Synod. It shall be accountable to the Synod in convention for the discharge of its duties.
- 3.3.5.1 The Board of Directors shall consist of up to 14 ~~15~~-voting members and two non-voting members.
  - 1. One layperson from each of five regions will serve as voting members.

1 ~~2. Two<sup>13</sup> members are elected by the Synod in convention and serve a maximum of two six-year~~  
2 ~~terms: four ordained ministers of religion—ordained elected at-large from the Synod will~~  
3 ~~serve as voting members.~~

4 ~~3. One minister of religion—commissioned minister elected at-large from Synod, and eight~~  
5 ~~laypersons. No more than one of these may be elected from one District will serve as voting~~  
6 ~~members.~~

7 ~~4. Two laypersons elected at-large from Synod will serve as voting members.~~

8 ~~2-5. Up to three laypersons appointed by the elected members of the board (to supplement~~  
9 ~~specific skill sets) will serve as voting members.~~

10 ~~6. The President of the Synod and Secretary shall will serve as ~~be~~ voting members of the~~  
11 ~~board.~~

12 ~~3- 7. With the exception of the President of the Synod, no more than two voting members shall be~~  
13 ~~elected from the same District. Voting members with the exception of the President shall serve~~  
14 ~~a maximum of three four-year terms.~~

15 ~~8. The First Vice-President and the Secretary, Vice President Finance—Treasurer of the Synod~~  
16 ~~shall serve as ~~be~~ non-voting members of the board.~~

17  
18 3.3.5.2 The Board of Directors shall have the powers and duties that have been accorded to it by the  
19 Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod, and the laws of  
20 the State of Missouri.

21  
22 3.3.5.3 The Board of Directors shall provide for the review and coordination of the policies and  
23 directives of the Synod authorized by the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod,  
24 evaluating plans and policies and communicating to the appropriate boards and commissions  
25 suggestions for improvement, and, in the case of ~~program~~ corporate Synod boards and  
26 commissions, require changes for compliance with Board of Directors' policies within the  
27 sphere of its responsibility.

28  
29 3.3.5.4 The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the general management of the business and  
30 legal affairs of the Synod. It shall receive copies of all legal opinions or written counsel  
31 received by ~~program~~ boards, commissions, and councils of the Synod. It shall be authorized to  
32 take on behalf of the Synod any action related to such business and legal affairs which has not  
33 been expressly delegated by the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod to other  
34 officers or agencies of the Synod, and as to those shall have general oversight responsibility.

35  
36 (a) The board shall elect its own chair and vice-chair and such operating officers as may be  
37 necessary.

38 (b) The board shall name those officers who have authority to sign official documents on behalf  
39 of the Synod.

40 (c) Members of the Administrative Team shall assist the Board of Directors in carrying out its  
41 responsibilities by completing assignments made to them by the board.

42 (d) The board may also designate a member of the Administrative Team other than the  
43 President or First Vice-President to function as its staff person to carry out duties and  
44 responsibilities not assigned to other team members.

45 (e) A person salaried by the Synod or an agency of the Synod (other than one serving by virtue  
46 of his office) may not be a voting member of the board.

47  
48 3.3.5.5 The Board of Directors shall allocate available funds to the ~~program~~ mission boards,  
49 commissions, councils, offices and departments of corporate Synod and hold them responsible  
50 therefor.

51

1 (a) To the extent of its responsibilities relative to the general management and supervision of  
2 the business and legal affairs of the Synod:

3 (1) It shall receive such reports as it requests on the operations and policies of the ~~program~~  
4 mission boards, commissions, offices and councils.

5 (2) It shall have the right to request review of any action or policy of a ~~program~~ mission  
6 board, commission, office or council which primarily relates to business, property, and/or  
7 legal matters and, after consultation with the agency involved and when deemed necessary,  
8 require modification or revocation thereof, except opinions of the Commission on  
9 Constitutional Matters.

10 (b) The Synod's budgeting process and the budget itself shall be designed to support the  
11 worldwide mission and ministry of the Synod.

12 (1) The board shall establish policies and guidelines relating to the preparation of the  
13 annual budget of the Synod.

14 (2) The board shall adopt the annual budget of the Synod.

15 (c) The Board of Directors shall be responsible for providing operating and capital funds to  
16 carry out the work of the Synod ~~and to that end provide for a department of stewardship ministry~~  
17 ~~under the Board for District and Congregational Services which will promote stewardship education and~~  
18 ~~nurture in accordance with the biblical principles of stewardship.~~

19 (d) Regarding the Synod's seminaries, the board shall, together with national fundraising  
20 operations, establish policy guidelines for the distribution of grants of the synod (unrestricted  
21 and restricted) and efforts for securing additional financial support from other sources.

22 (e) Regarding the Synod's colleges, universities, and seminaries, the board shall approve capital  
23 projects in relation to campus property management agreements and institutional master plans,  
24 and shall establish and monitor criteria for determining institutional viability, fiscal and  
25 otherwise.

26  
27 3.3.5.6 The Board of Directors shall exercise general oversight over the operations and activities of the  
28 synodwide corporate entities, the Concordia Plans, and Concordia Plan Services as required of  
29 it in the Constitution of the Synod and specified in these Bylaws.

30  
31 (a) It shall assure itself that their accounting, budgeting, and financial policies comply with  
32 generally accepted accounting standards.

33 (b) It shall assure itself that audits are performed by internal auditors or independent certified  
34 public accountants for the Synod's

35 (1) synodwide corporate entities;

36 (2) colleges, universities, and seminaries;

37 (3) districts;

38 (4) Concordia Plan Services; and

39 (5) the Concordia Plans.

40 (c) It shall be furnished with copies of these and any interim financial reports it requests.

41  
42 3.3.5.7 The Board of Directors shall serve as the custodian of all the property of the Synod as defined  
43 in Bylaw 1.2.1 (m). Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, it shall have the authority  
44 and responsibility with respect to the property of the Synod as is generally vested in and  
45 imposed upon a board of directors of a corporation.

46  
47 (a) It shall, however, delegate to district boards of directors the authority to buy, sell, and  
48 encumber real and personal property in the ordinary course of performing the functions which  
49 the district carries on for the Synod in accord with general policies (which shall be applicable to  
50 all districts) established from time to time by itself or the Synod in convention.

1 (b) It may, however, delegate to any agency of the Synod powers and duties with respect to  
2 property of the Synod for which such agency of the Synod has direct supervisory responsibility.  
3 (c) Such delegation shall be in writing and shall be subject to change at any time by the Synod's  
4 Board of Directors provided that reasonable deliberations, as determined by the Board of  
5 Directors, take place with such agency prior to the change.  
6

7 3.3.5.8 The Board of Directors shall be empowered to authorize the ~~Vice President Finance Treasurer~~  
8 Chief Financial Officer of the Synod to borrow capital funds after the board has determined the  
9 amounts and the conditions under which these capital funds shall be borrowed, for capital-fund  
10 outlay, for site acquisition, or for construction projects that are authorized by conventions of the  
11 Synod.  
12

13 (a) It and the responsible officers of the Synod are empowered to do all things necessary to  
14 effect such capital-fund borrowings if and when required, including the pledging of real and  
15 other property belonging to the Synod in order to secure loans to obtain the necessary funds.  
16 (b) The borrowed capital funds shall not be used for any operating expenditures and shall be  
17 subject to provision for amortization.  
18

19 3.3.5.9 The Board of Directors of the Synod, subject to the approval of the President of the Synod, may  
20 appoint ~~vice presidents not in line of succession, assistant~~ other officers, and ~~other~~ staff required  
21 from time to time to carry out the business and legal affairs of the Synod.  
22

### 23 ***3.4 Appointed Officers of the Synod***

24 ~~Vice President Finance Treasurer~~ Chief Financial Officer  
25

26  
27 ~~3.3.4.3.4.1~~ 3.4.1 The ~~Vice President Finance Treasurer Chief Financial Officer~~ shall be a layperson, shall not be an  
28 officer or staff member of a synodwide corporate entity, shall perform all customary duties of a corporate  
29 chief financial officer, and shall serve as a nonvoting member of the Board of Directors. ~~3.3.4.1~~ The  
30 ~~Vice President Finance Treasurer~~ shall administer the financial affairs of the Synod, excluding  
31 the synodwide corporate entities, the districts, the Concordia Plans, and Concordia Plan  
32 Services.  
33

34 ~~3.3.4.1.3.4.1.1~~ 3.4.1.1 The Chief Financial Officer shall be an officer of the Synod and a layperson appointed by  
35 the Board of Directors of the Synod in consultation and mutual concurrence with the President  
36 of the Synod.  
37

38 3.4.1.2 The Chief Financial Officer shall serve a four-year renewable term of office during which  
39 he/she shall serve at the direction of the Board of Directors.  
40

41 (a) He/she may serve an unlimited number of terms

42 (b) Each reappointment shall be with the mutual concurrence of the President and the Board of  
43 Directors of the Synod.  
44

45 3.4.1.3 The Chief Financial Officer also serves as the Treasurer of the corporation and shall.  
46

47 (a) ~~He shall~~ Carry out the duties of the office in accordance with the rules and regulations  
48 adopted by the Synod and as directed by the Board of Directors of the Synod.

49 (b) ~~He shall~~ Receive and disburse the moneys of corporate Synod and keep accurate account of  
50 them under the instruction of the Board of Directors of the Synod.

1 (c) ~~He shall a~~Act as the depository for all funds in the hands of corporate Synod's boards  
2 (excluding the Concordia Plans and Concordia Plan Services), commissions, officers, and  
3 employees who by virtue of their office act as custodians or trustees of such funds.

4 (d) ~~He shall k~~Keep informed about financial affairs of the synodwide corporate entities.

5 (e) ~~He shall s~~Serve as a nonvoting member of the governing boards of the Concordia University  
6 System, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation, The Lutheran Church Extension  
7 Fund—Missouri Synod, the Concordia Plans, Concordia Plan Services, and Concordia  
8 Publishing House, and on the investment committee of the Concordia Plans and Concordia Plan  
9 Services.

10 (f) ~~He shall k~~Keep on file a correct list of all devises and bequests that directly or indirectly  
11 have been given to corporate Synod. Legacies and bequests made to other agencies of the  
12 Synod shall be reported annually to the ~~Vice President Finance Treasurer~~ Chief Financial  
13 Officer as part of the audit process.

14 (g) ~~He shall r~~Report regularly to the Synod through an official periodical and at every meeting  
15 of the Synod in convention on the performance of his/her office.

16 (h) ~~He shall b~~Be authorized to borrow in the name of the Synod, provided its Board of  
17 Directors has first determined the amounts and conditions under which such moneys shall be  
18 borrowed.

19 (1) Instruments relative to such borrowing shall require two signators.

20 (2) One shall be the ~~Vice President Finance Treasurer~~ Chief Financial Officer and the other  
21 shall be another officer of the Synod designated by the Board of Directors of the Synod.

22 (i) ~~He shall a~~At any time submit to an audit of official books and accounts when so ordered by  
23 the Synod or its Board of Directors.

24 3.3.4.2 (j) ~~The Vice President Finance Treasurer~~ shall ~~p~~Perform such other work as the Synod in  
25 convention, the President, or the Board of Directors of Synod may assign.

26 3.3.4.3 ~~In the event of the death, resignation, or permanent incapacity of the Vice President Finance~~  
27 ~~Treasurer, the Board of Directors of the Synod shall appoint a successor for the unexpired term.~~

28  
29 3.4.1.4 The Chief Financial Officer shall work together closely with the Chief Administrative Officer  
30 and the Chief Mission Officer in carrying out the programmatic, administrative, and financial  
31 functions of the national Synod.

32  
33 *Chief Administrative Officer*

34  
35 3.4.1.3.4.2 The Chief Administrative Officer shall assist the Board of Directors of the Synod in carrying  
36 out the responsibilities given to it by the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod.

37  
38 3.4.2.3.4.2.1 The Chief Administrative Officer shall be an officer of the Synod and shall be appointed by  
39 the Board of Directors of the Synod in consultation and mutual concurrence with the President  
40 of the Synod.

41  
42 3.4.3.4.2.2 The Chief Administrative Officer shall serve a ~~three~~four-year renewable term of office during  
43 which he/she shall serve at the ~~pleasure~~ direction of the Board of Directors.

44  
45 (a) ~~Annual reviews and evaluations shall be conducted between conventions by the Board of~~  
46 ~~Directors.~~(b) He/she may serve an unlimited number of terms.

47 (c) (b) Each reappointment shall be with the mutual concurrence of the President and the Board  
48 of Directors of the Synod.

49  
50 3.4.4.3.4.2.3 The Chief Administrative Officer shall ~~meet regularly with the executive officers of program~~  
51 ~~boards, commissions, and synodwide corporate entities as the liaison with the Board of Directors and~~

1 ~~shall provide leadership to assure that the mission and ministry activities of the Synod are being carried~~  
2 ~~out in a coordinated, cooperative, and effective manner~~ work together closely with the Chief  
3 Financial Officer and the Chief Mission Officer in carrying out the programmatic,  
4 administrative, and financial functions of the national Synod.

5  
6 Chief Mission Officer

7  
8 3.4.3 The Chief Mission Officer shall be responsible to the President of the Synod for the mission,  
9 ministry, and any programmatic and coordinative functions which are implemented according  
10 to the policies adopted by the Board for National Mission and the Board for International  
11 Mission.

12  
13 3.4.3.1 The Chief Mission Officer and executive directors (if any) who report to the Chief Mission  
14 Officer shall serve as staff resource(s) to the Board for National Mission and the Board for  
15 International Mission.

16  
17 3.4.3.2 The Chief Mission Officer shall be an officer of the Synod and shall be appointed and  
18 subsequently reappointed by the President of the Synod following the President's consultation  
19 with the Board for National Mission and the Board for International Mission and with the  
20 mutual concurrence of the Board of Directors. The CMO may serve an unlimited number of  
21 terms.

22  
23 3.4.3.3 The Chief Mission Officer shall serve a four-year renewable term of office and shall serve at  
24 the direction of the President of the Synod.

25  
26 3.4.3.4 The Chief Mission Officer shall meet regularly with the chief executives of commissions (if  
27 any) and synodwide corporate entities as the liaison for and at the direction of the President of  
28 the Synod. He shall work together closely with the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief  
29 Administrative Officer in carrying out the programmatic, administrative, and financial  
30 functions of the national Synod.

31  
32 3.4.3.5 The Chief Mission Officer shall, at the direction of the President, supervise the work of the  
33 Office of National Mission and the Office of International Mission.

34  
35 3.4.3.6 The Chief Mission Officer shall, on behalf of the President, supervise fundraising activity of the  
36 national office according to policies established by the Board of Directors of the Synod.

37  
38 3.4.3.7 The Chief Mission Officer shall, on behalf of the President, supervise the content of  
39 communications, public relations, and news and information provided by the Synod, including  
40 the official periodicals of the Synod, *The Lutheran Witness and Reporter*.

41  
42 3.4.3.8 The Chief Mission Officer shall, on behalf of the President, provide leadership, coordination,  
43 and oversight for pre-seminary education programs, seminary education and post-seminary  
44 continuing education, and by providing advocacy for pastoral education and health within the  
45 Synod

46  
47 **3.5 Administrative TeamNational Office Teams**

48  
49 Administrative Team

1 3.5.1 The Administrative Team shall assist the President and the Board of Directors of the Synod in  
2 carrying out their respective responsibilities for oversight, supervision, management, and  
3 coordination as set forth in the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod and  
4 according to the quadrennial emphases adopted by conventions of the Synod.

5  
6 ~~3.5.2~~3.5.1.1 The Administrative Team shall consists of the President, the First Vice-President, the  
7 Secretary, the ~~Vice President—Finance—Treasurer~~Chief Financial Officer, the Chief Mission  
8 Officer, and the Chief Administrative Officer and shall be under the leadership of the President.  
9

#### 10 Operations Team

11  
12 3.5.2 The Operations Team shall assist the President and the Board of Directors of the Synod in  
13 carrying out their respective responsibilities for oversight, supervision, management, and  
14 coordination of the operations of the national office and according to the quadrennial  
15 emphases adopted by conventions of the Synod.

16  
17 3.5.2.1 The Operations Team shall consist of the Chief Mission Officer, the Chief Administrative  
18 Officer, and the Chief Financial Officer and shall be convened by the Chief Administrative  
19 Officer.  
20  
21

### 22 **3.6 Synodwide Corporate Entities**

#### 23 *General Principles*

24  
25  
26 3.6.1 The Synod in convention has authorized the creation of corporate and legal entities that are to  
27 be servants of and to the Synod and its members. Their purpose, function, and assigned areas of  
28 responsibility are set forth in these Bylaws. They are referred to in the Bylaws as “synodwide  
29 corporate entities” and are as follows:

- 30 1. Concordia Historical Institute
- 31 2. Concordia Publishing House
- 32 3. The Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod
- 33 4. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation
- 34 5. Concordia University System

35  
36 3.6.1.1 Formation of a synodwide corporate entity shall require the approval of the Synod in  
37 convention or the Board of Directors of the Synod.  
38

39 (a) At least six months prior to such approval an announcement thereof shall be given in an  
40 official publication of the Synod together with a detailed explanation of the problems or factors  
41 which make the formation of the proposed synodwide corporate entity advisable or necessary.

42 (b) The announcement shall include an invitation for members of the Synod to submit  
43 comments thereon to the Board of Directors of the Synod.  
44

45 3.6.1.2 The members, if any, of a synodwide corporate entity shall be as set forth in these Bylaws.

46  
47 3.6.1.3 Each synodwide corporate entity shall have a governing board.

48  
49 (a) A minimum of one-third of the voting members of every governing board shall be elected  
50 by the Synod in convention as described in these Bylaws.

1 (b) The names of the individual members of each of these governing boards shall be reported  
2 annually in an official periodical of the Synod.  
3

4 3.6.1.4 Each governing board of a synodwide corporate entity shall elect its own chair, vice-chair, and  
5 secretary and such operating officers as may be necessary.  
6

7 (a) The executive officer of each synodwide corporate entity shall serve at the pleasure of the  
8 governing board.

9 (b) The governing board of each executive shall conduct an annual review and, before the  
10 expiration of each five-year period, the appointment shall terminate unless the governing board  
11 takes specific action to continue the person in the office.

12 (c) In the event of a vacancy, the appropriate governing board and the President shall act  
13 expeditiously to fill the vacancy. The board shall present its list of candidates to the President  
14 of the Synod.

15 (d) The slate of candidates for the initial appointment of an executive officer shall be selected  
16 by its governing board in consultation and mutual concurrence with the President of the Synod.

17 (e) Any interim appointments of an executive officer shall be processed in a similar manner.  
18 Such appointee must be approved by the President of the Synod, may not serve more than 18  
19 months without the concurrence of the President of the Synod, and shall be ineligible to serve  
20 on a permanent basis without the concurrence of the President of the Synod.  
21

22 3.6.1.5 Each governing board of a synodwide corporate entity shall have such powers and duties as  
23 have been assigned to it by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod, the resolutions of the  
24 Synod in convention, and the governing instruments of the synodwide corporate entity. Within  
25 such limitations it shall operate in accord with federal and state laws.  
26

27 (a) It is vested with the supervision of the business, financial, property, personnel, and legal  
28 affairs of the Synod assigned to that synodwide corporate entity.

29 (b) It shall develop policies governing its operations.

30 (c) It shall have an independent audit.

31 (d) It shall provide for insurance and fidelity bonding.

32 (e) It shall use common policies with other synodwide corporate entities whenever possible.

33 (f) It shall establish and monitor long- and short-range plans and operating and capital budgets  
34 to carry out such plans in accord with the ~~objectives~~ mission and purpose of the Synod and its  
35 convention resolutions.

36 (g) It shall reply to inquiries and suggestions from the Synod's Board of Directors relative to its  
37 operations and activities. If the governing board and the Synod's Board of Directors do not  
38 reach an accord on such suggestions, the matter may be brought by the Synod's Board of  
39 Directors to the Synod in convention for a decision.

40 (h) It shall be accountable to the Synod in convention for the discharge of its assigned duties  
41 and shall submit a report relative thereto for inclusion in the *Convention Workbook*.

42 (i) It shall be accountable to the President of the Synod for doctrinal faithfulness.

43 (j) It shall respond to any questions asked by the President of the Synod as he carries out his  
44 constitutional duties.  
45

46 3.6.1.6 The governing instruments of a synodwide corporate entity shall be in conformity with the  
47 Synod's Constitution, Bylaws, and applicable resolutions of the Synod in convention.  
48

49 (a) Before becoming effective, such governing instruments, and any amendments thereto, shall  
50 be reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors of the Synod and the Commission on  
51 Constitutional Matters.

1 (b) A negative decision by either of these two bodies may be appealed to the Synod in  
2 convention, which retains the right on its own initiative to require amendments to such  
3 governing instruments.

4 (c) A copy of the current governing instruments of each synodwide corporate entity shall be  
5 filed with the Secretary of the Synod.

6 (d) A copy of its current governing instrument shall be made available by a synodwide  
7 corporate entity to any member of the Synod upon request.

8  
9 3.6.1.7 Each synodwide corporate entity shall provide the following in its governing instruments.

10  
11 (a) Each governing instrument shall include the provision that every member of the governing  
12 board shall be a member of a congregation that is a member of the Synod.

13 (b) Each governing instrument shall include the provision that it is a component part of the  
14 Synod, is subject to the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod, and its governing  
15 instruments are subordinate to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.

16 (c) Each governing instrument shall include the provision that any amendments to a provision  
17 of its governing instruments which relate to its objects and purposes, the designating of its  
18 members, or the procedure for amending its governing instruments shall require a two-thirds  
19 affirmative vote of its members, if any, who are appointed by the Board of Directors of the  
20 Synod.

21 (d) Each governing instrument shall include the provision that upon dissolution of a synodwide  
22 corporate entity, its remaining assets shall be transferred to the Synod. Any amendment to this  
23 provision shall require the affirmative vote of the Synod in convention.

24  
25 3.6.1.8 Dissolution of a synodwide corporate entity shall require the approval of the Synod in  
26 convention or the Board of Directors of the Synod.

27  
28 *Concordia Historical Institute*

29  
30 3.6.2 Concordia Historical Institute, a corporation, shall be the official Department of Archives and  
31 History of the Synod.

32  
33 3.6.2.1 Membership in the Concordia Historical Institute is defined in the articles of incorporation and  
34 bylaws of the institute.

35  
36 3.6.2.1.1 The Board of Governors of Concordia Historical Institute shall have nine members:

- 37 1. The Secretary of the Synod  
38 2. Five members who shall be chosen by the membership of the institute  
39 3. Three members who are elected by the Synod in convention, two of whom shall be  
40 ~~ordained~~ ordained ministers of religion

41  
42 3.6.2.1.2 Members of the Board of Governors of Concordia Historical Institute may not serve more than  
43 ~~two~~ three successive ~~six~~ four-year terms, except the Secretary of the Synod who may serve  
44 unlimited terms.

45  
46 3.6.2.2 Concordia Historical Institute shall promote interest in the history of Lutheranism in America,  
47 particularly of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

48  
49 3.6.2.2.1 Concordia Historical Institute shall serve as an advisory and correlating agency for historical  
50 interests within the Synod and shall collect and preserve articles of historical value.  
51

1 (a) Congregations permanently disbanding (not merging) are urged to transfer all of their  
2 records, such as registers of official acts, minutes, and other historical materials, to the institute.

3 (b) All records created by officers of the Synod, boards, commissions, committees, task forces,  
4 and other agencies owned or controlled by the Synod are the property of the Synod and may be  
5 disposed of only under procedures and guidelines established by the Department of Archives  
6 and History and supervised by it.

7 (c) The President, vice-presidents, Secretary, and ~~Vice President Finance—Treasurer~~Chief  
8 Financial Officer; the Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and its  
9 officers and staff; the Council of Presidents; and all other boards, commissions, committees,  
10 and other agencies of the Synod shall transfer correspondence, records, minutes, reports, and  
11 other files from their respective offices to the archives when they are no longer of current  
12 operational value.

13 (d) The records of retiring officers (President, First Vice-President, Secretary) not needed by  
14 their successors shall be transferred to the Department of Archives and History within six  
15 months after they leave office. Such transfer shall be done under the auspices of the Department  
16 of Archives and History's staff and in consultation with the successor in the office.

17 (e) Such minutes, files, records, and reports shall ordinarily be transferred to the archives at the  
18 expiration of not more than 15 years after their creation unless such records are still currently  
19 being used by the officer or board. If the latter is the case, this shall be reported to the archives.

20 (f) Temporary committees, task forces, and other entities or agencies serving the Synod shall  
21 immediately on their dissolution transfer to the archives all of their files containing the  
22 correspondence, records, minutes, and reports relating to their work.(g) Institutions,  
23 organizations, and agencies related to the Synod or to any of its structure or work that are  
24 disbanding permanently are urged to transfer their files, correspondence, records, reports, and  
25 other historical materials to the archives.

26 (h) All auxiliary agencies and interchurch councils and structures related to the Synod or in  
27 which the Synod holds membership shall file copies of all official documents, including articles  
28 of incorporation, constitutions, bylaws, convention proceedings, official publications, minutes,  
29 and other materials, with the archives on a regular basis.

30  
31 3.6.2.2.2 Concordia Historical Institute shall stimulate historical research, publish its results, and may, at  
32 its discretion, serve as the official depository for such other groups as designate the institute as  
33 their depository.  
34

35 3.6.2.2.3 Concordia Historical Institute shall provide guidelines for the establishment of an archive-  
36 historical unit by each district, seminary, college, and university and other agencies of the  
37 Synod.  
38

39 (a) Copies of official documents of the districts such as articles of incorporation, constitutions,  
40 bylaws, convention proceedings, and other official publications shall be filed in the archives of  
41 the Synod. Each district shall also establish the office of “Archivist-Historian” and pattern the  
42 responsibilities of the office after those of the archives of the Synod and encourage this officer  
43 to work in close relationship with the archives of the Synod.

44 (b) Colleges, universities, and seminaries of the Synod shall establish departments of archives  
45 and history for the preservation of their records and shall transfer bylaws, handbooks, minutes,  
46 and official publications to the archives of the Synod. The job description of the college or  
47 seminary archivist shall be patterned after that of the archivist of the Synod. Such archivist shall  
48 also be directed to work in close cooperation with the archives of the Synod.  
49

50 *Concordia Publishing House*  
51

1 3.6.3 The purpose of Concordia Publishing House is to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
2 It shall serve the Synod and its agencies by developing, producing, marketing, and distributing  
3 products for use by members of the Synod, other Christians, and the public in general.  
4

5 (a) It shall supply publishing and distribution services for the agencies of the Synod as required,  
6 unless this is deemed detrimental to the agency involved.

7 (b) It shall consult with representatives of other boards when materials are produced in concert  
8 with them.

9 (c) Unless otherwise instructed by the Synod, the Board of Directors of Concordia Publishing  
10 House shall determine what is to be published by the corporation.

11 (d) All materials of a religious or theological nature shall be approved through the Synod's  
12 prescribed procedure for doctrinal review before publication.

13 (e) Surplus funds, when not needed in the operation of the publishing house and as determined  
14 by the Concordia Publishing House Board of Directors, may be ordered paid to The Lutheran  
15 Church—Missouri Synod by the Concordia Publishing House Board of Directors at any regular  
16 or special meeting.  
17

18 3.6.3.1 Concordia Publishing House shall be maintained and controlled by the Synod as a corporate  
19 entity organized under the laws of the State of Missouri and shall be operated by a board of  
20 directors consisting of:

21 1. One minister of religion—ordained ~~minister~~ elected by the Synod in convention

22 2. One minister of religion—commissioned ~~minister~~ elected by the Synod in convention

23 3. Seven laypersons elected by the Synod in convention

24 4. The President of the Synod or his representative from the clergy roster, who will serve  
25 as a voting member of the board

26 5. The Synod's ~~Vice President Finance Treasurer~~ Chief Financial Officer, who will be a  
27 nonvoting member  
28

29 3.6.3.2 Board composition needs to reflect commitment to the mission of the church. Directors should  
30 have training and experience in diverse disciplines necessary for the operation of a publishing  
31 house, including product development and business management.  
32

33 *The Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod*  
34

35 3.6.4 The Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod, as established on June 15, 1978, as a  
36 corporate entity under the laws of the State of Missouri, is operated by its members and Board  
37 of Directors, in accordance with its Articles of Incorporation and corporate Bylaws, to further  
38 the objectives and duties of the church extension fund within the Synod. It is formed to provide  
39 financial resources and related services for ministry, witness, and outreach of The Lutheran  
40 Church—Missouri Synod.  
41

42 (a) Any amendment to the Articles of Incorporation and the corporate Bylaws of the Lutheran  
43 Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod as heretofore adopted shall be made by a two-thirds  
44 vote of the members of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod as set forth in  
45 its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

46 (b) Amendments shall be reported to the next convention of the Synod.  
47

48 3.6.4.1 The assets and liabilities of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod are separate  
49 and distinct from those of the Synod and its assets cannot be used to satisfy the liabilities and  
50 obligations of the Synod.  
51

1 3.6.4.1.1 In the event the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod is ever dissolved, its net  
2 assets shall be distributed to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod or its successor.

3  
4 3.6.4.2 As established by its bylaws, the members of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri  
5 Synod are divided into two classes.

6  
7 3.6.4.2.1 One class of members consists of the President of the Synod or his representative, the Vice-  
8 President—Finance—Treasurer of the Synod, and such additional members appointed by the  
9 Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as shall equal one for each ten  
10 members of the other class of members.

11  
12 3.6.4.2.2 The second class of members consists of representatives of participating districts, the number  
13 determined according to the following formula, with any fraction rounded to the nearest whole  
14 number:

$$\begin{array}{rcccl} \frac{\text{Baptized Members}}{50,000} & + & \frac{\text{Investments}}{10,000,000} & + & \frac{\text{Investments}}{\text{Baptized}} \times .015 \\ & & \text{Members} & & \\ & + & \text{Fund} & & \text{Number of} \\ & & \text{Balance} & \times .010 = & \text{Members per} \\ & & 100,000 & & \text{District} \end{array}$$

15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23 3.6.4.3 The board of directors for the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod shall consist  
24 of such number of directors as are specified in the bylaws of The Lutheran Church Extension  
25 Fund—Missouri Synod. All voting members of the board of directors of the Lutheran Church  
26 Extension Fund—Missouri Synod shall serve a maximum of four three-year terms.

27 1. Three directors shall be elected by the Synod in convention and shall include one  
28 minister of religion—ordained or minister of religion—commissioned ~~minister~~ and two  
29 laypersons.

30 2. The remaining voting directors shall be chosen by the members.

31 3. The ~~Vice President—Finance—Treasurer~~ Chief Financial Officer of the Synod shall also be a  
32 nonvoting member of the board.

33  
34 ~~3.6.4.3.1~~ 3.6.4.4 All directors shall have an understanding of the church extension program and/or  
35 demonstrate an expertise in fields or areas closely related to church extension activities, such as  
36 knowledge of real estate, management, and financial planning.

37  
38 3.6.4.5 The Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod shall raise funds primarily through the  
39 issuance of corporate notes and other debt instruments.

40  
41 3.6.4.5.1 The assets of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod shall be used exclusively  
42 to provide financing and services for the acquisition of sites, for the construction of facilities,  
43 for the purchase of buildings and equipment, for operating expenses, for professional church  
44 worker education, for the residential housing needs of professional church workers, for  
45 promoting strategic ministry planning and assisting in capital campaigns; and for other  
46 purposes approved by its governing board consistent with the ministry and mission of the  
47 Synod under policies approved by the Board of Directors of the Synod.

48  
49 3.6.4.5.2 The assets of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod shall also be used  
50 exclusively to provide financing for its own operations and for distribution of operating results

1 to its member districts, congregations, and corporate Synod, as determined by its governing  
2 board.

3  
4 *The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation*

5  
6 3.6.5 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation shall provide investment management  
7 services for legacies, bequests, devises, endowments, annuity gifts, and other trust funds of the  
8 Synod and its agencies as established by the Foundation Bylaws.

9  
10 3.6.5.1 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation shall also provide such services to  
11 congregations, auxiliaries, other recognized service organizations, and others under policies  
12 approved by its board of trustees.

13  
14 3.6.5.1.1 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation shall be maintained and controlled by the  
15 Synod as a corporate entity organized under the laws of the State of Missouri and shall be  
16 operated by a board of trustees responsible to the Synod, in accordance with the provisions of  
17 its Articles of Incorporation and corporate Bylaws. Any amendments to the Articles of  
18 Incorporation shall be subject to approval by the members of the Foundation.

19  
20 3.6.5.1.2 Since the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation serves the entire Synod, no new  
21 foundations shall be established by its agencies without prior approval of the Board of Directors  
22 of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

23  
24 3.6.5.2 The voting members of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation shall consist of two  
25 groups, one consisting of individuals appointed by the Board of Directors of The Lutheran  
26 Church—Missouri Synod and the other consisting of that number of individuals representing  
27 agencies or auxiliaries of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as established by the  
28 Foundation Bylaws.

29  
30 3.6.5.2.1 The Board of Trustees of the Foundation shall consist of:

- 31 1. Two members elected by the Synod in convention (one minister of religion—ordained  
32 ~~minister~~ and one layperson)  
33 2. The ~~chairman of the Board for District and Congregational Services or his representative from~~  
34 ~~that board~~Chief Mission Officer of the Synod  
35 3. At least seven members appointed by the members, as provided in the Bylaws of the  
36 Foundation  
37 4. The President of the Synod or his representative  
38 5. The ~~Vice President Finance—Treasurer~~Chief Financial Officer of the Synod as a nonvoting  
39 member

40  
41 3.6.5.2.2 The Foundation Board of Trustees shall elect a president/chief executive.

42  
43 (a) The board shall assemble the slate of candidates for this position in consultation and mutual  
44 concurrence with the President of the Synod.

45 (b) The chief executive of the Foundation shall give regular reports to the Board of Directors of  
46 the Synod.

47  
48 3.6.5.3 The Foundation shall devise synodwide programs of deferred giving, including legacies,  
49 bequests, devises, endowments, foundations, and other trusts for the advancement, promotion,  
50 endowment, and maintenance of the Synod and its districts, colleges, seminaries, and other

1 agencies, and such other causes as may be designated by its board of trustees and the Board of  
2 Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

3  
4 (a) It shall provide estate-planning services, materials, and training events in accordance with  
5 applicable policies established by its board of trustees to assist estate-planning counselors  
6 throughout the Synod in consummating gifts.

7 (b) It shall maintain on a prioritized basis a current catalog of North American and worldwide  
8 missions and social ministry, higher education, and other projects that could be funded by gifts  
9 from individuals, congregations, and auxiliaries, and shall develop prospectuses for use by  
10 counselors in making all calls.

11 (c) It shall provide materials and conduct training events to assist both volunteer and salaried  
12 counselors throughout the Synod.

13  
14 3.6.5.3.1 The Foundation shall distribute designated funds in accordance with the contractual instructions  
15 of the donor. The distribution of undesignated funds shall be determined by its board of trustees  
16 in consultation with the Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

17  
18 3.6.5.3.2 The Foundation shall be audited annually by independent certified public accountants selected  
19 by its board of trustees.

20  
21 (a) The audit report shall be made available upon request.

22 (b) The auditors shall also provide an annual letter commenting on the administrative and  
23 financial controls.

24  
25 *Concordia University System*

26  
27 3.6.6 Concordia University System, as a corporation under the laws of the State of Missouri, is  
28 operated by its members and board of directors in accordance with its Articles of Incorporation  
29 and corporate Bylaws to further the objectives ~~and duties of the Board for University~~  
30 ~~Education~~ higher education within the Synod. Any amendments to these Articles of  
31 Incorporation shall be subject to approval by the members. ~~3.8.3 The Board for University~~  
32 ~~Education, which also serves as the board of directors of the Concordia University System, has authority~~  
33 ~~with respect to all of the Synod's colleges and universities. 3.8.3.1 The Board for University Education~~  
34 ~~shall have the overall responsibility to provide for the education of commissioned ministers, other~~  
35 ~~professional church workers for the Synod, and others desiring a Christian Lutheran liberal arts education~~  
36 ~~by supervising and coordinating the activities of the Synod's colleges and universities as a unified system~~  
37 ~~of the Synod through their respective boards of regents.~~

38  
39 3.6.6.1 ~~The Board for University Education shall serve as the board of directors of the Concordia University~~  
40 ~~System. Thus, the bylaws in this section apply to the one board, both as the Board for University~~  
41 ~~Education, a program board of the Synod, and as the governing board of the Concordia University~~  
42 ~~System, a synodwide corporate entity. 3.6.6.1.1~~ ~~As the~~ The Board of Directors of the  
43 Concordia University System, this board has authority with respect to the Synod's colleges and  
44 universities. It shall have the overall responsibility to provide for the education of pre-seminary  
45 students, ministers of religion—commissioned, other professional church workers of the Synod,  
46 and others desiring a Christian liberal arts education by coordinating the activities of the  
47 Synod's colleges and universities as a unified system of the Synod through their respective  
48 boards of regents.

49  
50 3.6.6.2 The members of Concordia University System shall consist of the Synod and the colleges and  
51 universities of the Synod. The Board of Directors of the Synod and the Council of Presidents of

1 the Synod each shall elect delegates representing the Synod. The boards of regents of the  
2 colleges and universities of the Synod shall elect delegates representing the colleges and  
3 universities. The numbers of delegates elected by the Board of Directors of the Synod, the  
4 Council of Presidents, and the boards of regents shall be established by the Articles of  
5 Incorporation and Bylaws of Concordia University System.  
6

7 ~~3.8.3.2~~3.6.6.3 The Board of Directors of Concordia University System~~for University Education~~ shall be  
8 composed of nine voting and four nonvoting members (no more than one member elected by  
9 the Synod shall be from the same district, and no executive, faculty member, or staff member  
10 from a Lutheran institution of higher education may serve on the Board~~for University Education~~  
11 of Directors of Concordia University System as a voting member):

12 *Voting Members:*

- 13 1. Two ministers of religion-ordained ~~ministers~~ elected by the Synod
- 14 2. One minister of religion-commissioned ~~minister~~ elected by the Synod
- 15 3. Two laypersons elected by the Synod
- 16 4. Three laypersons appointed by the delegates of the members of Concordia University  
17 System

- 18 5. The President of the Synod or his representative

19 *Nonvoting Advisory Members:*

- 20 1. A district president appointed by the Council of Presidents
- 21 2. The Chief Financial Officer~~Vice President Finance~~—~~Treasurer~~ of the Synod
- 22 3. The Chief Mission Officer or his/her representative ~~executive director of the Board for~~  
23 ~~Pastoral Education~~
- 24 4. One university president

25  
26 ~~3.8.3.3~~ The Board for University Education shall conduct its business in no less than three meetings per year.

27 ~~3.8.3.3.1~~ The Board for University Education shall meet in the same location with the Board for Pastoral  
28 Education at least once a year for collaborative discussions.  
29

30 ~~3.8.3.2~~3.6.6.4 The presidents and interim presidents of the Synod's educational institutions shall  
31 comprise an advisory council which shall meet at the call of the Board of Directors of  
32 Concordia University System~~for University Education~~ and report the results of its studies to the  
33 board for consideration in making its decisions.  
34

35 ~~3.8.3.4~~3.6.6.5 In keeping with the mission and purpose and the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of  
36 the Synod, the Board of Directors of Concordia University System~~for University Education~~ shall  
37

38 (a) develop detailed coordinating policies and procedures for cooperative roles and  
39 responsibilities of the colleges and universities;

40 (b) together with boards of regents and the Board of Directors of the Synod, coordinate  
41 institutional planning and approve capital projects in relation to campus property-management  
42 agreements and institutional master plans ~~for each college and university~~;

43 (c) review and approve new programs and manage peer review of programs in the interest of  
44 the institution(s) and the Synod;

45 (d) establish policy guidelines involving distribution of grants from the Synod (unrestricted and  
46 restricted) and efforts for securing additional financial support from other sources;

47 (e) obtain data on liberal arts education and current trends and government regulations in higher  
48 education that impact upon collaborative efforts and relationships within the Concordia  
49 University System;

50 (f) ~~grant approval for initial appointments of theological faculty~~;

1 ~~(g) approve capital projects in relation to campus property management agreements and institutional~~  
2 ~~master plans;~~  
3 ~~(h) visit institutions periodically to identify strengths and weaknesses based upon professional standards;~~  
4 ~~(i)(f) together with the Board of Directors of the Synod, establish and monitor criteria for~~  
5 ~~determining institutional viability, fiscal and otherwise;~~  
6 ~~(j)(g) together with districts, congregations, local boards of regents, and national efforts, assist~~  
7 ~~congregations and districts in student recruitment for both professional church work and lay~~  
8 ~~higher education;~~  
9 ~~(k)(h) serve as a resource for the development of lists of potential teaching and administrative~~  
10 ~~personnel;~~  
11 ~~(l)(i) upon request of the President of the Synod, monitor assist in monitoring the on-going~~  
12 ~~faithfulness of all Concordia University System institutions to the Synod's doctrine and~~  
13 ~~practices;~~  
14 ~~(m) monitor recognized service organization standards and follow up in cases of inadequacy;~~  
15 ~~(n) establish and maintain a system of colloquy and certification of commissioned ministers;~~  
16 ~~(o)(j) together with schools, districts, congregations, and national efforts, foster continuing~~  
17 ~~education for ministers of religion—commissioned church workers; and~~  
18 ~~(p)(k) have authority, after receiving the consent of the Board of Directors of the Synod by its~~  
19 ~~two- thirds vote and also the consent of either the Council of Presidents by its two-thirds vote~~  
20 ~~or the appropriate board of regents by its two- thirds vote, to consolidate, relocate, separate, or~~  
21 ~~divest a college or university.~~

22  
23 ~~3.8.3.4.13.6.6.6~~ The Board of Directors of Concordia University System shall  
24 receive evidence on a regular basis that it is complying with an emphasis on mission- focused  
25 leadership and with the following key principles to guide the future of the Concordia  
26 University System: (1) Work to maintain and enhance the Christ-centered Lutheran character  
27 of its institutions; (2) provide ministers of religion—commissioned ministers for the Synod; (3)  
28 work to ensure a strong fiscal future for its institutions; (4) establish expectations for the  
29 quality of its institutions; (5) implement the preceding four principles through governance  
30 structures that require more clearly focused accountability of its institutions to the system-wide  
31 board, while expecting stronger governance of the institutions by their boards of regents.

### 3.7 *Synodwide Trust Entities*

34  
35 3.7.1 The synodwide trust entities of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod are collectively known  
36 as the Concordia Plans.

#### *The Concordia Plans*

37  
38  
39  
40 3.7.1.1 Concordia Plan Services is responsible for managing the benefit plans/trusts of The Lutheran  
41 Church—Missouri Synod, including the Concordia Retirement Plan, Concordia Disability and  
42 Survivor Plan, Concordia Health Plan, Concordia Retirement Savings Plan, and Pension Plan  
43 for Pastors and Teachers, each of which is a separate trust operated under trust laws but  
44 collectively known as the Concordia Plans.

45  
46 (a) The “Concordia Retirement Plan for Ministers of Religion and Lay Workers of The  
47 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Its Member Congregations, Controlled Organizations, and  
48 Affiliated Agencies” is the retirement plan adopted by the Board of Directors of The Lutheran  
49 Church—Missouri Synod pursuant to Res. 10-02 of the 45th convention of the Synod, as such  
50 plan has been heretofore or may hereafter be amended. The text of the plan, as amended from

1 time to time, shall be published in booklet form under the supervision of the Board of  
2 Trustees—Concordia Plans.

3 (b) The “Concordia Health Plan for Ministers of Religion and Lay Workers of The Lutheran  
4 Church—Missouri Synod, Its Member Congregations, Controlled Organizations, and Affiliated  
5 Agencies” is the health plan adopted by the Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—  
6 Missouri Synod pursuant to Res. 10-02 of the 45th convention of the Synod, as such plan has  
7 been heretofore or may hereafter be amended. The text of the plan, as amended from time to  
8 time, shall be published in booklet form under the supervision of the Board of Trustees—  
9 Concordia Plans.

10 (c) The “Concordia Disability and Survivor Plan for Ministers of Religion and Lay Workers of  
11 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Its Member Congregations, Controlled Organizations,  
12 and Affiliated Agencies” is the plan adopted by the Board of Directors of The Lutheran  
13 Church—Missouri Synod in accord with directives adopted at a prior convention of the Synod  
14 (Res. 10-02 of the 45th convention) to provide for surviving widows and children those benefits  
15 previously provided under the Concordia Retirement Plan. This Plan also provides for disability  
16 benefits for such workers. The text of the plan, as amended from time to time, shall be  
17 published in booklet form under the supervision of the Board of Trustees—Concordia Plans.

18 (d) The “Pension Plan for Pastors and Teachers of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod” is  
19 the pension plan established by the Synod as of Oct. 1, 1937, as heretofore or hereafter  
20 amended. The text of the plan, as amended from time to time, shall be published in booklet  
21 form under the supervision of the Board of Trustees—Concordia Plans.

22 (e) The Concordia Retirement Savings Plan is the tax-sheltered annuity retirement savings plan  
23 adopted by the Board of Directors in August 2003, effective October 1, 2005, as such plan as  
24 been heretofore or may hereafter be amended. The text of the plan, as amended from time to  
25 time, shall be published in booklet form under the supervision of the Board of Trustees—  
26 Concordia Plans.

27 (f) The lists of ~~ministers of religion—ordained~~ and ~~ministers of religion—commissioned~~ ~~ministers~~  
28 appearing on the official roster of the Synod shall be official lists for the purpose of the Board  
29 of Trustees—Concordia Plans.

30 (g) National inter-Lutheran entities will be eligible to be “employers” under the Concordia  
31 Plans of the Synod unless the policies of such a plan preclude such organization as an eligible  
32 employer.  
33

34 3.7.1.2 Concordia Plan Services is also responsible for managing other ancillary programs, including  
35 various supplemental insurance and administration services programs and the Support Program.  
36

37 (a) The Support Program of the Synod is not a trust but rather a program of financial assistance  
38 to those eligible ~~ordained~~ ~~ministers of religion—ordained~~, ~~ministers of religion—commissioned~~  
39 ~~ministers~~, and other professional church workers and their eligible dependents who are in  
40 financial need. This aid is in the form of a gift from the budgeted funds of the Synod. Eligibility  
41 standards shall be determined by the Board of Directors—Concordia Plan Services.

42 (b) There exists and may be added in the future various ancillary supplemental insurance and  
43 administration services that will be made available to member organizations and their  
44 employees. These programs are not trusts and will be under the supervision of the Board of  
45 Directors—Concordia Plan Services.  
46

47 3.7.1.3 The board of directors of Concordia Plan Services and the board of trustees of Concordia Plans  
48 shall consist of 13 voting members appointed by the Board of Directors of the Synod and the  
49 ~~Vice President Finance—Treasurer~~ Chief Financial Officer of the Synod as a nonvoting member.  
50 The 13 voting members shall include:

- 51 1. Two parish pastors



1  
2 Policies determined by the Board (implemented by staff) may include but not be limited to:

- 3 • strong national mission leadership,
- 4 • Lutheran school ministries and accreditation
- 5 • human care and domestic mercy efforts
- 6 • stewardship
- 7 • evangelism
- 8 • church planting and revitalization
- 9 • youth ministry

10  
11 3.8.3.1 The Board for National Mission shall have oversight of the implementation of policies adopted by  
12 the board and implemented by the Office of National Mission for the coordination of and in  
13 support of district ministries that are directed toward the ministry functions of the national office  
14 and district ministries that are directed toward the ministries of congregations and schools. The  
15 board shall be under the supervision of the President of the Synod regarding doctrine and  
16 administration consistent with the President’s responsibility under Constitution Art. XI B 1–4 (cf.  
17 Art. XI B 7; Bylaws 3.3.1.1–3.3.1.3) between conventions of the Synod and ultimately shall be  
18 responsible to the Synod in convention (Art. XI A 1–2).

19  
20 3.8.3.2 The Board for National Mission shall be comprised of 11 members, selected in the following  
21 manner:

- 22 1. Five lay persons and five individual members of the Synod (one of each from each region of  
23 the Synod) shall be elected in the same manner as are regional members of the Board of  
24 Directors of the Synod (see Bylaws 3.12.1 and 3.12.2.5)
- 25 2. The President of the Synod or his representative

26  
27 Office of National Mission

28  
29 3.8.2.3 The Office of National Mission, which relates to the Board for National Mission and  
30 implements its policies, shall be responsible to the President of the Synod through the Chief  
31 Mission Officer for domestic ministries that especially serve congregations and schools through  
32 the districts of the Synod. Such district ministries may include but not be limited to:

- 33 • Lutheran school ministries and accreditation
- 34 • human care and domestic mercy efforts
- 35 • stewardship
- 36 • evangelism
- 37 • church planting and revitalization
- 38 • youth ministry

39  
40 3.8.2.4 In carrying out its mission responsibilities, the Office of National Mission shall receive its  
41 primary focus from the mission and ministry emphases developed quadrennially by the national  
42 Synod in convention and from the policies developed and determined by the Board for National  
43 Mission. Through the Chief Mission Officer, it shall also receive direction from the President of  
44 the Synod on all aspects of its responsibilities.

45  
46 3.8.2.5 The President’s supervisory responsibilities under the Constitution Art. XI B and Bylaws 3.3.1–  
47 3.3.1.3 will assure that the Office of National Mission incorporates the doctrine, mission, and  
48 vision of the Synod in its service to the Synod. All staff shall be responsible and accountable  
49 for their activities to the President of the Synod (Art. XI B 1–4) between conventions of the  
50 Synod and ultimately to the Synod in convention (Art. XI A 1–2).

1  
2 3.8.2.6 The staff of the Office of National Mission shall assume a coordinative role for ministry areas  
3 in response to directives from the Synod in convention or upon the request of two-thirds of the  
4 members of the Council of Presidents on behalf of the districts.

5  
6 3.8.2.7 The Office of National Mission shall be responsible for granting recognized service  
7 organization status to organizations providing services primarily within the United States that  
8 are independent of the Synod, engage in program activity that is in harmony with the programs  
9 of the Synod, and warrant recognition by the Synod according to section 6.2 of these Bylaws.

10  
11 *Board for International Mission*

12  
13 3.8.3 The Board for International Mission is charged with developing and determining policies in  
14 support of mission and ministry in foreign countries for the Office of International Mission  
15 (Bylaw 1.2.1[m]). These policies shall embrace and apply the mission and ministry emphases  
16 adopted by the national convention. Under the leadership of the President of the Synod,  
17 pursuant to Bylaw 3.3.1.1.1, the Board shall assist in identifying the specific goals for the  
18 Office of International Mission.

19  
20 Policies determined by the Board (implemented by staff) may include but not be limited to:

- 21 • strong mission leadership,
- 22 • training of missionaries,
- 23 • ministry for all of Synod's military personnel,
- 24 • safeguarding the rights of partner churches,
- 25 • ministry for all civilians and their dependents overseas,
- 26 • international human care
- 27 • liaison with the colleges, universities and seminaries of Synod
- 28 • liaison with the Chief Ecumenical Officer of Synod
- 29 • international schools

30 Upon the recommendation of the Office of International Mission, the Board shall serve as the  
31 only sending agency through which workers and funds are sent to the foreign mission areas of the  
32 Synod, including the calling, appointing, assigning, withdrawing and releasing of missionaries  
33 (ministers of religion—ordained and ministers of religion—commissioned) and other workers for  
34 the ministries in foreign areas.

35  
36 3.8.3.3 The Board for International Mission shall have oversight of the implementation of policies  
37 adopted by the board and implemented by the Office of International Mission for the coordination  
38 of and in support of ministries of the Synod in foreign countries. The board shall be under the  
39 ecclesiastical supervision of the President of the Synod regarding doctrine and administration  
40 consistent with the President's responsibility under Constitution Art. XI B 1–4 (cf. Art. XI B 7;  
41 Bylaws 3.3.1.1–3.3.1.3) between conventions of the Synod and ultimately shall be responsible to  
42 the Synod in convention (Art. XI A 1–2).

43  
44 3.8.3.4 The Board for International Mission shall be comprised of 11 members, selected in the following  
45 manner:

- 46 1. Five lay persons and five individual members of the Synod (one of each from each region of  
47 the Synod) shall be elected in the same manner as are regional members of the Board of  
48 Directors of the Synod (see Bylaws 3.12.1 and 3.12.2.5)
  - 49 2. The President of the Synod or his representative
- 50

1 Office of International Mission  
2

3 3.8.3.3 The Office of International Mission, which relates to the Board for International Mission and  
4 implements its policies shall be responsible to the President of the Synod through the Chief  
5 Mission Officer for the work of the Synod in foreign countries. Such responsibilities may  
6 include but not be limited to

- 7 • placement and support of foreign missionaries
- 8 • establishment and maintenance of international schools
- 9 • coordination of international relief efforts
- 10 • policy recommendations to the Board of International Mission
- 11 • support and encouragement of international partner churches in conjunction with the  
12 office of the President

13  
14 3.8.3.4 In carrying out its mission responsibilities, the Office of International Mission shall receive its  
15 primary focus from the mission and ministry emphases developed quadrennially by the national  
16 Synod in convention and from the policies developed and determined by the Board for  
17 International Mission. Through the Chief Mission Officer, it shall also receive direction from  
18 the President of the Synod on all aspects of its responsibilities.

19  
20 3.8.3.5 The President's supervisory responsibilities under Constitution Art. XI B and Bylaws 3.3.1–  
21 3.3.1.3 will assure that the Office of National Mission incorporates the doctrine, mission, and  
22 vision of the Synod in its service to the Synod. All staff shall be responsible and accountable  
23 for their activities to the President of the Synod (Art. XI B 1–4) between conventions of the  
24 Synod and ultimately to the Synod in convention (Art. XI A 1–2).

25  
26 3.8.3.6 The Office of International Mission shall be responsible for granting recognized service  
27 organization status to organizations that provide services primarily outside of the United  
28 States, are independent of the Synod, engage in program activity that is in harmony with the  
29 programs of the Synod, and warrant recognition by the Synod according to section 6.2 of these  
30 Bylaws.

31  
32  
33 Board for Pastoral Education

34  
35 ~~3.8.2 The Board for Pastoral Education has authority with respect to the Synod's seminaries. The board serves~~  
36 ~~the members of the Synod by coordinating pre-seminary education programs, seminary education, and~~  
37 ~~post-seminary continuing education, and by providing advocacy for pastoral education within the church.~~

38 ~~3.8.2.1 The Board for Pastoral Education shall be composed of nine voting and five nonvoting members (no~~  
39 ~~more than one voting member elected by the Synod shall be from the same district, and no executive,~~  
40 ~~faculty member, or staff member from a Lutheran institution of higher education may serve on the Board~~  
41 ~~for Pastoral Education as a voting member):~~

42 ~~*Voting Members:*~~

- 43 ~~1. Three ordained ministers (at least two shall be parish pastors) elected by the Synod~~
- 44 ~~2. One commissioned minister elected by the Synod~~
- 45 ~~3. Four laypersons elected by the Synod~~
- 46 ~~4. The President of the Synod or his representative~~

47 ~~*Nonvoting Advisory Members:*~~

- 48 ~~1. A district president appointed by the Council of Presidents~~
- 49 ~~2. The Vice President Finance Treasurer of the Synod~~
- 50 ~~3. The Concordia University System executive director~~
- 51 ~~4. The two seminary presidents~~

52 ~~3.8.2.2 The Board for Pastoral Education shall conduct its business in no less than three meetings per year.~~

- 1 ~~3.8.2.2.1 The Board for Pastoral Education shall meet in the same location with the Board for University~~  
2 ~~Education at least once a year for collaborative discussions.~~  
3 ~~3.8.2.2.2 The Board for Pastoral Education shall meet jointly on a seminary campus with the two seminaries'~~  
4 ~~boards of regents once a year.~~  
5 ~~3.8.2.3 In keeping with the objectives and the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod, the Board for~~  
6 ~~Pastoral Education shall~~  
7 ~~(a) advise on pre seminary education programs in the Synod's colleges and universities;~~  
8 ~~(b) coordinate institutional planning and approve master plans for each seminary;~~  
9 ~~(c) develop coordinating policies and procedures for coordinating roles and responsibilities of the~~  
10 ~~seminaries;~~  
11 ~~(d) review and approve new programs and manage peer review of programs in the interest of the~~  
12 ~~seminaries and the Synod;~~  
13 ~~(e) establish policy guidelines for distribution of grants of the Synod (unrestricted and restricted) and~~  
14 ~~efforts for securing additional financial support from other sources;~~  
15 ~~(f) obtain data on pre seminary, seminary, and post seminary theological education, including current~~  
16 ~~trends in pastoral education and other graduate programs;~~  
17 ~~(g) grant approval for initial appointments of seminary faculty members;~~  
18 ~~(h) approve capital projects in relation to campus property management agreements and institutional~~  
19 ~~master plans;~~  
20 ~~(i) establish and monitor criteria for determining institutional viability, fiscal and otherwise;~~  
21 ~~(j) foster continuing education for pastors;~~  
22 ~~(k) recommend to the Synod in convention actions related to consolidation, relocation, or divestiture of a~~  
23 ~~seminary;~~  
24 ~~(l) visit seminaries on a periodic basis to identify strengths and weaknesses on the basis of agreed upon~~  
25 ~~standards and provide support for their growth in excellence;~~  
26 ~~(m) serve as a resource for the development of lists of potential teaching and administrative personnel;~~  
27 ~~and~~  
28 ~~(n) monitor recognized service organization standards and follow up in cases of inadequacy.~~

29  
30 *Board for Black Ministry Services*

- 31  
32 ~~3.8.4 The Board for Black Ministry Services exists to serve as an advocate on behalf of black ministry in the~~  
33 ~~congregations and agencies of the Synod.~~  
34 ~~3.8.4.1 The Board for Black Ministry Services shall consist of nine members:~~  
35 ~~1. Three members (one ordained minister, one commissioned minister, and one layperson) shall be~~  
36 ~~elected by the Synod in convention~~  
37 ~~2. Three ordained ministers and three laypersons shall be appointed by the President of the Synod~~  
38 ~~3.8.4.1.1 The President shall appoint from a list of at least three candidates for each vacant seat on the board.~~  
39 ~~(a) These candidates will have been reviewed, evaluated, and approved by the representatives of the~~  
40 ~~black congregations, meeting in convocation.~~  
41 ~~(b) Vacancies on the board shall be filled by appointment by the President of the Synod from the~~  
42 ~~remaining nominees on the same slate of candidates.~~  
43 ~~3.8.4.2 The Board for Black Ministry Services shall develop policies that will assist congregations in reaching~~  
44 ~~out more effectively with the Gospel of Jesus Christ among African Americans.~~  
45 ~~(a) It shall evaluate the effectiveness and administration of plans and programs designed to coordinate~~  
46 ~~and expand black ministry in the Synod.~~  
47 ~~(b) It shall function in cooperation with the convocation of black Lutheran congregations, appropriate~~  
48 ~~boards, and the President of the Synod.~~  
49 ~~© It shall represent the interests of black ministry throughout the Synod.~~

50  
51 *Board for Communication Services*

- 52  
53 ~~3.8.5 The Board for Communication Services exists to interpret, subject to the approval of the applicable~~  
54 ~~officers and boards, the Synod's purpose and program to its members and to promote an increased~~  
55 ~~understanding on the part of the church's publics of the mission of the Synod as identified in Article III~~  
56 ~~of the Constitution.~~

- 1 ~~3.8.5.1 — The Board for Communication Services shall have seven members:~~  
2 ~~1. One ordained parish pastor and one commissioned minister shall be elected by the Synod in~~  
3 ~~convention~~  
4 ~~2. Two ordained ministers and three laypersons shall be appointed by the Board of Directors of the~~  
5 ~~Synod~~
- 6 ~~3.8.5.1.1 Faculty members of colleges, universities, and seminaries of the Synod shall be eligible for board~~  
7 ~~membership, including those serving as administrators. Membership shall include representatives of both~~  
8 ~~print and electronic media.~~
- 9 ~~3.8.5.2 — The Board for Communication Services shall provide resources to the various boards, commissions,~~  
10 ~~congregations, and other agencies of the Synod.~~  
11 ~~(a) It shall provide creative ideas and information along with programs, production facilities, and other~~  
12 ~~assistance for print and electronic media.~~  
13 ~~(b) It shall assist the appropriate officers of the Synod in their communication responsibilities.~~  
14 ~~© It shall maintain liaison and cooperation with recognized service organizations and other appropriate~~  
15 ~~agencies.~~  
16 ~~(d) It shall encourage and assist the Synod's colleges, universities, and seminaries in providing~~  
17 ~~educational opportunities in print and electronic media.~~
- 18 ~~3.8.5.2.1 The Board for Communication Services shall establish communication policies to guide the staff in~~  
19 ~~organizing and coordinating communications activities at all national Synod, district, and circuit levels.~~
- 20 ~~3.8.5.2.2 The Board for Communication Services shall serve the public relations needs of the Synod.~~  
21 ~~(a) It shall authorize and supervise the production of the necessary print and broadcast materials for the~~  
22 ~~church and its publics.~~  
23 ~~(b) Matters relating to doctrine shall be approved under the prescribed procedure for doctrinal review~~  
24 ~~before publication.~~
- 25 ~~3.8.5.2.3 The Board for Communication Services shall be responsible for the official periodicals of the Synod,~~  
26 ~~coordinating the Standing Committee on News and Information as appropriate.~~  
27 ~~(a) The official periodicals of the Synod are *The Lutheran Witness* and *Reporter*.~~  
28 ~~(b) The official periodicals of the Synod shall as a primary purpose promote growth and strengthen the~~  
29 ~~individual Christian life, include official reports and notices, promote the Synod's work, provide current~~  
30 ~~news from the Synod, transmit to the congregations information concerning the Synod's positions and~~  
31 ~~programs, assist congregational leaders in developing coordinated programs, facilitate the exchange of~~  
32 ~~information concerning successful methods of practical church work, serve as a forum for the responsible~~  
33 ~~exchange of opinion on issues confronting the Synod, and report general church news of interest to the~~  
34 ~~Synod.~~  
35 ~~(c) The Director of News and Information Services, who also serves as executive editor of the Synod's~~  
36 ~~official periodicals, shall be appointed by the Board for Communication Services from a list prepared by~~  
37 ~~that board and approved by the Council of Presidents.~~

38  
39 *Board for District and Congregational Services*  
40

- 41 ~~3.8.6 — The Board for District and Congregational Services exists to enable vision and outcome development, to~~  
42 ~~prepare and revise policies responsive to both current and anticipated situations, and to initiate action in~~  
43 ~~order to meet the changing needs of districts and congregations.~~
- 44 ~~3.8.6.1 — The Board for District and Congregational Services shall consist of eight members to be elected by the~~  
45 ~~Synod in convention:~~  
46 ~~1. Two ordained ministers (one of whom must be a parish pastor)~~  
47 ~~2. Two commissioned ministers currently serving in a congregation or Lutheran school (early~~  
48 ~~childhood through higher education, including school associations)~~  
49 ~~3. Four laypersons~~
- 50 ~~3.8.6.2 — The Board for District and Congregational Services serves with districts in assisting congregations to~~  
51 ~~develop and foster vibrant ministries to bring the saving, life giving Gospel of Jesus Christ to the sinful,~~  
52 ~~dying world.~~  
53 ~~(a) The board shall determine the number and nature of ministry areas necessary to meet expressed~~  
54 ~~district and congregation needs.~~  
55 ~~(b) The board shall develop policies to guide the staff in providing assistance in meeting those needs.~~

1 (c) The board shall arrange and carry out a comprehensive and effective program of Christian education,  
2 especially counseling that the most effective education agencies available to the church for equipping  
3 children and youth for ministry are the Lutheran early childhood centers and full time Lutheran  
4 elementary and secondary schools, so that the Gospel of Jesus Christ may become even more effective in  
5 the life of the individual Christian and of the congregation, helping districts help congregations in  
6 building up disciples for service in the church and to all people in today's world.

7 (d) In the area of stewardship support, the Department of Stewardship shall

8 (1) provide input to The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod Foundation and other units of the Synod  
9 to assist them in including proper scriptural motivation in all gift programs;

10 (2) provide to the Board for District and Congregational Services advice and materials which will  
11 cultivate congregational members to continue to grow in living their lives as faithful stewards of  
12 Jesus Christ, effectively carrying out Christ's ministry and mission collectively through  
13 congregations and through the Synod and its agencies as well as in their day to day personal  
14 relationships; and

15 (3) provide, in consultation with districts, materials and training events to aid districts, pastors, and  
16 congregations in effectively teaching the grace of proportionate giving and in promoting their  
17 programs in the congregation and through the district and the Synod.

18  
19 *Board for Human Care Ministries*

20  
21 3.8.7 — The Board for Human Care Ministries exists to provide opportunities through which the members of the  
22 Synod may express their Christian concern, love, and compassion in meeting human needs (Constitution,  
23 Art. III 4).

24 3.8.7.1 — The Board for Human Care Ministries shall have seven voting members:

25 1. One ordained parish pastor and one commissioned minister shall be elected by the Synod in  
26 convention

27 2. Two ordained ministers and three laypersons shall be appointed by the Board of Directors of the  
28 Synod

29 3.8.7.2 — The Board for Human Care Ministries, as a witness to our faith in Jesus Christ, shall develop policies to  
30 guide the staff and others as they carry out functions that will serve as a channel for the love and  
31 compassion of the church for helping the homeless, the persecuted, the sick, and the needy.

32 (a) The board will assist districts in their institutional chaplaincy, pastoral counselor, and social ministry  
33 programs, and participate in social education and endeavors to remove or alleviate human suffering.

34 (b) The board will provide assistance to congregations and through them to their members and others in  
35 dire emergencies and disaster situations through Lutheran disaster response and domestic grant funds.

36 (c) The board will provide materials and programs that will assist congregations and their members in  
37 responding to human needs and providing for human care.

38 (d) The board will provide advisory services to the program boards in order that their materials and  
39 programs will cultivate congregation members in their concern for human care.

40 (e) The board will promote the health and healing ministry of the Gospel throughout the Synod.

41 (f) The board will sponsor and participate in world relief activities for the alleviation of human suffering,  
42 furthered through cooperation with Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services,  
43 Lutheran Services in America, the Board for Mission Services, and domestic projects endorsed by  
44 districts.

45 (g) The board shall maintain liaison with the appropriate units of other church bodies, with approved  
46 inter Lutheran agencies, and with recognized service organizations and domestic projects endorsed by  
47 districts.

48 (h) Subject to the provisions of chapter 6 of these Bylaws, the board shall grant recognized service  
49 organization status to health, chaplaincy, and social ministry agencies and institutions to validate their  
50 merit for use and support with assurance that they meet acceptable standards.

51 3.8.7.3 — The Board for Human Care Ministries shall be assisted by a committee dealing with sanctity of life  
52 ministry.

53  
54 *Board for Mission Services*

- ~~3.8.8 The Board for Mission Services (LCMS World Mission) exists to strengthen congregations and their members in giving bold witness by word and deed to the love and work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness into all the world (Constitution, Art. III 2).~~
- ~~3.8.8.1 The Board for Mission Services shall consist of nine members who shall be elected by the national convention of the Synod:~~
- ~~1. Four ordained ministers~~
  - ~~2. One commissioned minister~~
  - ~~3. Four laypersons~~
- ~~3.8.8.1.1 The board of regents of each seminary shall be entitled to designate a representative on the Board for Mission Services to serve as an advisory member.~~
- ~~3.8.8.2 The Board for Mission Services shall formulate, recommend, review, and supervise the mission policies of the Synod and provide for an aggressive and united mission effort.~~
- ~~(a) It shall have a special concern for mission and ministry among minorities, among sensory impaired, and on campuses.~~
  - ~~(b) It shall recommend and monitor budgets and review organizational effectiveness.~~
  - ~~(c) It shall maintain liaison and cooperation with assigned auxiliary and other recognized service organizations.~~
- ~~3.8.8.2.2 The Board for Mission Services shall serve as the only sending agency through which workers and funds are sent to the foreign mission areas of the Synod.~~
- ~~(a) It shall call, appoint, assign, withdraw, and release missionaries (ordained and commissioned ministers) and other workers for the ministries and areas within its direct responsibility.~~
    - ~~(1) It shall always safeguard the rights of the partner churches and workers involved.~~
    - ~~(2) It shall maintain a concern for the specific training of missionaries and other workers related to the mission endeavors of the Synod.~~
    - ~~(3) It shall establish a continuing liaison with the terminal schools of the Synod.~~
  - ~~(b) It shall serve as the sending agency even though programs are supported by districts or other agencies.~~
  - ~~(c) It shall counsel with the mission boards of the districts and partner churches with reference to their total mission program and supervise the planning and implementation of programs which will best utilize the Synod's resources of people and possessions.~~
  - ~~(d) It shall provide a ministry for all of the Synod's military personnel, dependents of military personnel overseas, civilians and their dependents overseas, and patients of veterans hospitals.~~
  - ~~(e) It shall function as a recruitment, liaison, and endorsement agency with the various governmental units involved in the Armed Forces and Veterans Administration and between these units and the Synod's chaplains and directors of religious education.~~
- ~~3.8.8.2.3 The Board for Mission Services shall propose formal recognition of a mission of the Synod as a self-governing partner church at a convention of the Synod with the approval of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations.~~

### *3.9 Commissions*

3.9.1 The commissions of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod are the following:

1. Commission on Constitutional Matters
2. Commission on Doctrinal Review
3. Commission on Handbook-Ministerial Growth and Support
- ~~4. Commission on Structure~~
- 5.4. Commission on Theology and Church Relations
- ~~6. Commission on Worship~~

#### *Commission on Constitutional Matters*

3.9.2 The Commission on Constitutional Matters exists to interpret the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod and ensure that the governing instruments of the Synod and its agencies are in accord with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.

- 1 3.9.2.1 The Commission on Constitutional Matters shall consist of:  
2 1. Five voting members, whose terms shall be for ~~six~~four years renewable ~~once~~twice, three  
3 of whom shall be minister of religion–ordained ~~ministers~~–and two shall be ~~lawyers~~  
4 attorneys.  
5 2. The Secretary of the Synod, who shall serve as a nonvoting member of the commission  
6 and its secretary.  
7

8 3.9.2.1.1 The Commission on Constitutional Matters shall be appointed in the following manner:  
9

- 10 (a) Candidates shall be nominated only by the district boards of directors and shall be presented  
11 to the Council of Presidents through the Office of the Secretary.  
12 (b) The Council of Presidents shall select five candidates for each vacant position and present  
13 them through the office of the Secretary of the Synod to the President of the Synod.  
14 (c) The President of the Synod, in consultation with the vice-presidents of the Synod, shall  
15 appoint the members of the commission from the list presented by the Council of Presidents.  
16 (d) Thereafter the appointments shall become effective upon ratification by a majority vote of  
17 the members of the Council of Presidents.  
18 (e) Vacancies in appointed positions shall be filled by following the procedure set forth above.  
19

20 3.9.2.2 The Commission on Constitutional Matters shall interpret the Synod’s Constitution, Bylaws,  
21 and resolutions upon the written request of a rostered member (congregation, minister of  
22 religion–ordained or minister of religion–commissioned ~~minister~~), official, board, commission,  
23 or other agency of the Synod.  
24

- 25 (a) A request for an opinion may be accompanied by a request for an appearance before the  
26 commission.  
27 (b) The commission shall notify an officer or agency of the Synod if a request for an opinion  
28 involves an activity of that officer or agency and shall allow that officer or agency to submit in  
29 writing information regarding the matter(s) at issue.  
30 (c) An opinion rendered by the commission shall be binding on the question decided unless and  
31 until it is overruled by a convention of the Synod. Overtures to a convention that seek to  
32 overrule an opinion of the commission shall support the proposed action with substantive  
33 rationale from the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod. All such overtures shall  
34 be considered by the floor committee to which they have been assigned and shall be included in  
35 a specific report to the convention with recommendations for appropriate action.  
36 When an opinion pertains to business, legal, or property matters and the Board of Directors of  
37 the Synod concludes that such opinion of the commission is contrary to the laws of the State of  
38 Missouri, the board and the commission, or their respective representatives, shall meet jointly  
39 to discuss the issue(s) and seek resolution thereof. If agreement cannot be reached on whether  
40 the matter is governed by the laws of the state of Missouri, that question shall be presented to a  
41 five-member panel consisting of three hearing facilitators (Bylaw 1.10.12) chosen by blind  
42 draw by the Executive Director of Internal Audit of the Synod from the pool of hearing  
43 facilitators; one person appointed by the Commission on Constitutional Matters; and one person  
44 appointed by the Board of Directors. At least one of the hearing facilitators shall be an attorney,  
45 and the appointees of the commission and board shall not be members of the groups that  
46 appointed them. The decision of the panel in support of the Commission on Constitutional  
47 Matters or the Board of Directors shall be binding on the issue(s) unless and until it is overruled  
48 by a convention of the Synod.  
49

50 3.9.2.2.1 ~~The Commission on Constitutional Matters shall examine all reports and overtures to the Synod asking~~  
51 ~~for amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod or which in any manner affect the~~

1 ~~Constitution and Bylaws, to determine their agreement in content and language with the Constitution and~~  
2 ~~Bylaws of the Synod.~~ 3.9.2.2.2 The Commission on Constitutional Matters shall be represented at  
3 the meetings of the national convention floor committees considering constitutional and bylaw  
4 matters at the convention of the Synod to ensure that they are in accord with the Constitution,  
5 Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod.

6  
7 ~~3.9.2.2.3 The Commission on Constitutional Matters shall revise the Handbook of the Synod immediately after~~  
8 ~~each convention of the Synod to bring it into harmony with the resolutions or changes adopted by the~~  
9 ~~convention. The commission shall maintain a complete file of succeeding handbooks so that a~~  
10 ~~comparison can be made between current regulations and those immediately preceding.~~

11  
12 ~~3.9.2.2.4~~ 3.9.2.2.2 The Commission on Constitutional Matters shall examine ~~in advance~~ the articles of  
13 incorporation, and the bylaws, and policy manuals or governing instruments of every agency of  
14 the Synod ~~and all proposed amendments of such documents~~ to ascertain whether they are in  
15 harmony with the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod.

16  
17 ~~(a) An agency of the Synod shall~~ Agencies intending to make such amendments to articles of  
18 incorporation or bylaws shall make such intentions known and receive approval from the  
19 commission in advance ~~or changes in these documents as may be necessary to conform.~~

20 (b) The commission shall maintain a file of the articles of incorporation, bylaws, and ~~governing~~  
21 instruments policy manuals of all agencies of the Synod.

### 22 23 *Commission on Doctrinal Review*

24  
25 3.9.3 The Commission on Doctrinal Review exists to assist the President of the Synod in the exercise  
26 of his responsibility that all doctrinal content in its or any of its agencies' materials be in accord  
27 with the Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions.

28  
29 3.9.3.1 The Commission on Doctrinal Review shall consist of five members appointed by the President  
30 of the Synod from the total number of doctrinal reviewers.

31 (a) The commission shall elect its own officers.

32 (b) The commission shall effect its own organization.

33  
34  
35 3.9.3.2 The Commission on Doctrinal Review functions in accordance with Bylaw section 1.9 and  
36 shall meet as often as necessary to provide guidelines for the work of doctrinal reviewers and to  
37 concern itself with problem areas in the procedures of doctrinal review and appeals.

### 38 39 *Appeals Prior to Publication*

40  
41 3.9.3.2.1 Appeals regarding materials not yet published may be initiated by an author, the sponsoring  
42 group, or an executive staff member of that group and submitted to the chairman of the  
43 Commission on Doctrinal Review.

44  
45 (a) Within seven business days after receipt of an appeal, the chairman of the Commission on  
46 Doctrinal Review shall inform all concerned and shall appoint three members of the  
47 commission to serve as a review panel and shall designate one as its chairman. A panel member  
48 shall disqualify himself on the basis of any kind of personal involvement in the issue.

49 (b) The review panel shall provide a copy of the appeal to the author and the sponsoring group  
50 and invite them to provide a response to the appeal. All parties to the appeal shall be given 14  
51 days to provide their response.

1 (c) To aid objectivity, the identity of author and review panel shall ordinarily not be disclosed.  
2 However, consultation may at times be necessary for clarification.

3 (d) In making its recommendation, the panel shall decide within 30 days whether the item in  
4 question

- 5 (1) is suitable for publication; or
- 6 (2) may be published after alteration; or
- 7 (3) may be published as a study document; or
- 8 (4) shall be denied publication.

9 (e) The decision of the panel shall be determined by a majority vote and shall be final so far as  
10 the Commission on Doctrinal Review is concerned. A report together with the panel's minutes  
11 shall be submitted to the chairman of the Commission on Doctrinal Review.

12 (f) The chairman of the commission shall report the decision within seven business days to the  
13 author, the original reviewer(s), the sponsoring group, and the President of the Synod.

14  
15 *Appeals Following Publication*

16  
17 3.9.3.2.2 A challenge to the doctrinal review certification of a published item may be initiated by any  
18 member of the Synod and shall be submitted in writing via mail or personal delivery to the  
19 chairman of the Commission on Doctrinal Review.

20  
21 (a) In order for the Commission on Doctrinal Review to consider a challenge, the challenger is  
22 obliged to provide specific references demonstrating how the published item is not in  
23 agreement with Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions.

24 (b) After receipt of the challenge, the chairman of the commission shall within seven business  
25 days inform the President of the Synod, the sponsoring group, and, if applicable, Concordia  
26 Publishing House, shall appoint three members of the commission to serve as a review panel,  
27 and shall designate one as its chairman.

28 (c) The chairman of the Commission on Doctrinal Review shall provide a copy of the appeal to  
29 the President of the Synod, the sponsoring group, and, if applicable, Concordia Publishing  
30 House, and offer them the opportunity to respond to the appeal within 14 days from the date of  
31 notification.

32 (d) To aid in maintaining objectivity, the identity of the challenger and the identity of the panel  
33 will ordinarily not be disclosed. There shall be no publicity given to the appeal, nor an effort  
34 made to circularize the Synod on a pending appeal.

35 (e) The panel shall after reviewing the published material declare, within 45 days following the  
36 expiry of the 14-day response period provided in Bylaw 3.9.3.2.2 ©, whether the doctrinal  
37 review certification is affirmed or revoked based on whether the published material is in  
38 agreement with the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.

39 (f) If the panel revokes the doctrinal review certification, it must identify the part(s) of the item  
40 in need of clarification, amplification, and/or deletion in order to bring into agreement with  
41 Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, and withdraw the publication until such agreement is  
42 reached.

43 (g) The panel will appoint one of its members to be the doctrinal reviewer for the recycling of  
44 the revised material to assure the item's agreement with Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions  
45 if republished.

46  
47 *Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support*

48 ~~3.9.4 The Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support exists to provide opportunity for the continuing~~  
49 ~~education and vocational growth of the church's workers, to advocate and facilitate care and counsel for~~  
50 ~~the church's workers to support them in the performance of their official duties, and to advocate and~~  
51 ~~facilitate support for the personal well-being of the church's workers and their family members.~~

1 3.9.4.1 ~~The Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support shall consist of 13 members appointed by the~~  
2 ~~President of the Synod:~~  
3 ~~1. Three ordained ministers~~  
4 ~~2. Three commissioned ministers~~  
5 ~~3. Three laypersons~~  
6 ~~4. One district president~~  
7 ~~5. Two seminary faculty members~~  
8 ~~6. One Concordia University System faculty member~~

9 ~~3.9.4.1.1 The Commission on Ministerial Growth shall be appointed as follows:~~

- 10 ~~(a) The three ordained ministers shall be parish pastors.~~  
11 ~~(b) The three commissioned ministers shall be two teachers and one other than a teacher.~~  
12 ~~(c) One of the laypersons shall be a parish pastor's wife.~~  
13 ~~(d) One seminary faculty member shall be from each seminary.~~

14 3.9.4.2 ~~The Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support exists to serve the individual members of the Synod~~  
15 ~~in carrying out the mission and ministry of the Synod.~~

- 16 ~~(a) It shall assist and encourage the church's workers in the planning of their continuing educational and~~  
17 ~~vocational growth and the personal well-being of them and their family members.~~  
18 ~~(b) It shall assist and encourage congregations in assessing and promoting the continuing educational and~~  
19 ~~vocational growth of the church's workers and the personal well-being of them and their family~~  
20 ~~members.~~  
21 ~~(c) It shall assist and encourage districts in the development of support systems for the continuing~~  
22 ~~educational and vocational growth of the church's workers and the personal well-being of them and their~~  
23 ~~families.~~  
24 ~~(d) It shall provide opportunities and settings for the church's workers to continue to grow in Christ and~~  
25 ~~in the knowledge, attitudes, skills, and personal well-being they need to serve Him in His church.~~  
26 ~~(e) It shall develop, sponsor, and coordinate continuing educational and vocational growth and personal~~  
27 ~~well-being initiatives among the agencies of the Synod whose work impacts the church's workers and~~  
28 ~~their families.~~  
29 ~~(f) It shall seek grants and maintain funds from outside sources for the support of its objectives when it~~  
30 ~~deems necessary to do so.~~

31  
32 *Commission on ~~Structure~~Handbook*

33  
34 3.9.5~~3.9.4~~ ~~The Commission on HandbookStructure exists to serve the members of the Synod in convention by~~  
35 ~~providing direction for~~ provides for the ongoing maintenance and management of the *Handbook*,  
36 that is, the Constitution, Bylaws, and Articles of Incorporation of the Synod.

37  
38 3.9.5.1~~3.9.4.1~~ ~~The Commission on Structure Handbook shall consist of eight members, ~~seven~~ five voting~~  
39 ~~and ~~one~~ three nonvoting members. Of the five appointed members, three shall be individual~~  
40 ~~members of the Synod and two shall be attorneys,~~

- 41 ~~1. Five members appointed by the Board of Directors of the Synod~~  
42 ~~2.1. The Secretary and the Chief Administrative Officer of the Synod who shall serve as ~~voting ex~~~~  
43 ~~*officio* advisory members~~  
44 ~~3.2. A voting member of the Commission on Constitutional Matters ~~who~~ shall serve as an advisory~~  
45 ~~member of the Commission on Structure~~  
46 3. Five members (whose terms shall be for four years renewable twice) appointed in the  
47 following manner

48 3.9.5.1.1 ~~Appointments by the Board of Directors shall be made in consultation and with the mutual concurrence~~  
49 ~~of the President of the Synod and in conjunction with the first meeting of the Board of Directors~~  
50 ~~following each national convention of the Synod. The member from the Commission on Constitutional~~  
51 ~~Matters shall be selected by that commission.~~

1  
2 (a) Candidates shall be nominated by district boards of directors and presented to the Council  
3 of Presidents through the office of the Secretary of the Synod.

4 (b) The Council of Presidents shall select five candidates for each vacant position and present  
5 them through the office of the Secretary of the Synod to the President of the Synod.

6 (c) The President of the Synod, in consultation with the vice-presidents of the Synod, shall  
7 appoint the members of the commission from the list presented by the Council of Presidents.

8 (d) Thereafter the appointments shall become effective upon ratification by a majority vote of  
9 the members of the Council of Presidents.

10 (e) Vacancies shall be filled by following the same procedure set forth above.

11  
12 ~~3.9.5.23.9.4.2~~ The Commission on Handbook shall ~~assist the convention in maintaining~~ maintain the  
13 *Handbook* of the Synod by ~~identifying and recommending modifications to areas of concern in the~~  
14 *Handbook* and for promotion of its ease of use, thereby to enable the Synod most effectively to  
15 accomplish its mission.

16  
17 (a) It shall assist convention floor committees when developing bylaw proposals asking for  
18 amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod or which in any manner affect the  
19 Constitution and Bylaws to determine their agreement in language (terminology) with the  
20 current *Handbook*, thereby to maintain *Handbook* integrity and good order.

21 (b) In consultation with the Commission on Constitutional Matters, it shall revise the  
22 *Handbook* of the Synod immediately after each convention to bring it into harmony with the  
23 resolutions and changes adopted by the convention.

24 (c) It shall maintain a complete file of succeeding handbooks so that comparison can be made  
25 between current provisions and those preceding.

26 (d) It shall carry out assignments by conventions of the Synod relating to the *Handbook*.

27 (e) It shall respond to requests from agencies of the Synod to propose new provisions to  
28 address specific *Handbook*-related issues that surface between conventions.

29  
30 *Commission on Theology and Church Relations*

31  
32 ~~3.9.63.9.5~~ The Commission on Theology and Church Relations exists to assist congregations in achieving  
33 the ~~objectives of~~ mission and purpose of Article III A 2-4 4 and 6 of the Constitution of the  
34 Synod and to assist the President of the Synod in matters of church relationships.

35  
36 ~~3.9.6+3.9.5.1~~ The Commission on Theology and Church Relations shall consist of 16 voting and 4  
37 advisory members:

38 *Voting Members:*

- 39 1. Two ministers of religion—ordained ~~ministers~~ who are parish pastors
- 40 2. One minister of religion—commissioned ~~minister~~ who is a parish teacher
- 41 3. Two laypersons
- 42 4. Two additional ministers of religion—ordained ~~ministers~~ (one of whom shall be a district  
43 president)
- 44 5. Two additional laypersons
- 45 6. Four seminary faculty members
- 46 7. Two additional members
- 47 8. A member from the faculties of the colleges and universities of the Synod

48 *Nonvoting Advisory Members:*

- 49 9. The President and the First Vice-President of the Synod
- 50 10. The presidents of the St. Louis and Fort Wayne seminaries

51

1 ~~3.9.6.1~~3.9.5.1.1 The members of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations shall be selected as  
2 follows:

3  
4 (a) The two parish pastors, the parish teacher, and two laypersons shall be elected by a  
5 convention of the Synod.

6 (b) The two additional ministers of religion—ordained ~~ministers~~—and the two additional  
7 laypersons shall be elected by ballot by the Council of Presidents (as in #4 and #5 above).

8 (c) The St. Louis and Fort Wayne seminary theological faculties shall each appoint or elect two  
9 members of their faculties (as in #6 above).

10 (d) The two additional members (as in #7 above) shall be appointed by the President of the  
11 Synod, in consultation with the vice-presidents.

12 (e) The member from the faculties of the colleges and universities of the Synod shall be  
13 appointed by the President of the Synod.

14 (f) Vacancies that occur in the positions that were filled by appointment shall be filled by the  
15 same appointing body.

16 (g) In the case of vacancies that occur in positions that were filled by election of a national  
17 convention of the Synod, the appointing body shall be the Board of Directors of The Lutheran  
18 Church—Missouri Synod, which shall follow the nominating procedures for filling vacancies  
19 on boards and commissions elected by the Synod as outlined in the Bylaws of the Synod.  
20

21 ~~3.9.6.2~~3.9.5.2 The Commission on Theology and Church Relations shall assist the President of the Synod  
22 at his request in discharging his constitutional responsibilities for maintaining doctrinal unity  
23 within the Synod.  
24

25 ~~3.9.6.2~~3.9.5.2.1 The Commission on Theology and Church Relations shall provide guidance to the  
26 Synod in matters of theology and church relations.  
27

28 (a) It shall bring matters of theology and church relations through special studies and  
29 documents to the membership of the Synod and to conferences.

30 (b) It shall refer theological issues and questions to the proper individuals or groups of  
31 individuals for additional study.

32 (c) It shall suggest and provide studies of contemporary issues, including also current social  
33 issues, as they affect the church and as the church may affect such social issues.

34 (d) It shall foster and provide for ongoing theological education through institutes, seminars,  
35 and other means.

36 (e) It shall obtain and study theological treatises, conference papers, and similar documents and  
37 studies.  
38

39 ~~3.9.6.2~~3.9.5.2.2 The Commission on Theology and Church Relations shall assist the President of the  
40 Synod at his request in discharging his constitutional responsibilities for maintaining doctrinal  
41 integrity as he relates to other church bodies.  
42

43 (a) It shall address itself to and evaluate existing fellowship relations for the purpose of mutual  
44 admonition and encouragement.

45 (b) When a church body applies for formal recognition of altar and pulpit fellowship with the  
46 Synod, such recognition shall be proposed at a convention of the Synod only after the approval  
47 of the commission.

48 (c) When a mission of the Synod applies for formal recognition as a self-governing partner  
49 church, such recognition shall be proposed at convention of the Synod by the Board for Mission  
50 Services with the approval of the commission.  
51

1 *Fraternal and Other Organizations*

2  
3 ~~3.9.6.3.9.5.3~~ 3.9.5.3 The Commission on Theology and Church Relations shall assist congregations, ~~and~~  
4 ~~ministers of religion—ordained,~~ and ~~ministers of religion—commissioned~~ ~~ministers of religion~~ in  
5 fulfilling their commitment to witness publicly and privately to the one and only Gospel set  
6 forth in the Holy Scriptures specifically as they carry out their responsibilities relating to  
7 membership in societies, lodges, cults, or any organizations of an unchristian or anti-Christian  
8 character to which the Synod has declared itself firmly opposed.

9  
10 (a) It shall provide information and counsel concerning organizations, philosophies, and world-  
11 views about which ~~ministers of religion—ordained~~ or ~~ministers of religion—commissioned~~  
12 ~~ministers~~—and congregations may make inquiry relative to objectives, tenets, programs,  
13 practices, or ceremonies.

14 (b) It shall seek to explain the Synod’s concerns to any organizations that are involved in  
15 religion and have unchristian or anti-Christian features, with the goal of persuading them to  
16 abandon such features.

17 (c) It shall prepare and disseminate periodic reports concerning new organizations,  
18 philosophies, and worldviews, changes within existing agencies, and developments relative to  
19 the world religious scene in general.

20 (d) It shall serve as the resource center for the Synod with reference to information on religious  
21 agencies and worldviews, publish study materials, and assist pastors and congregations in  
22 providing counsel.

23  
24 ~~3.9.6.3.13.9.5.3.1~~ 3.9.5.3.1 The Commission on Theology and Church Relations shall assist the pastors and  
25 congregations of the Synod in carrying out the policy of the Synod regarding fraternal  
26 organizations as set forth in the following guidelines.

27  
28 (a) Pastors and congregations alike must avoid membership or participation in any organization  
29 that in its objectives, ceremonies, or practices is inimical to the Gospel of Jesus Christ or the  
30 faith and life of the Christian church. It is the solemn, sacred, and God-given duty of every  
31 pastor properly to instruct his people concerning the sinfulness of all organizations that

- 32 (1) explicitly or implicitly deny the Holy Trinity, the deity of Christ, or the vicarious  
33 atonement;  
34 (2) promise spiritual light apart from that revealed in the Holy Scripture;  
35 (3) attach spiritual or eternal rewards to the works or virtues of men; and/or  
36 (4) embrace ideologies or principles that clearly violate an express teaching of the Holy  
37 Scriptures concerning the relationships of men to one another.

38 (b) The responsibility of diligent and conscientious pastoral care requires that pastors of the  
39 Synod do not administer Holy Communion to nor admit to communicant membership members  
40 of such organizations who, after thorough instruction, refuse to sever their affiliation with such  
41 organizations, since Holy Communion expresses an exclusive spiritual relationship of the  
42 communicant to his Lord and to his brethren (Matthew 10:32; 1 Cor. 10:6–7; 1 Cor. 11:25).  
43 Earnest, continuous efforts should be put forth to bring individuals to a clear-cut decision  
44 regarding their contradictory confessions, in order that they may become or remain  
45 communicant members of the congregation, as the case may be.

46 (c) The responsibility of conscientious pastoral care recognizes that a pastor will occasionally  
47 encounter an exceptional case in which he is called on to administer Holy Communion to a  
48 person who is outwardly connected with such an organization. Such exceptional cases  
49 ordinarily involve an individual who

1 (1) has accepted the pastoral care of the congregation and is being instructed by its pastor in  
2 an effort to lead that person to see the inconsistency of contradictory confession and  
3 witness; and

4 (2) has renounced to the pastor and/or church council the unchristian or anti-Christian  
5 character of the organization in which membership is held.

6 (d) In such exceptional cases the pastor should consult with his brethren in the ministry or with  
7 officials of the Synod, as the case may require. He should, furthermore, beware of  
8 procrastination and the giving of offense to members of either the congregation or sister  
9 congregations.

10 (e) The Synod instructs its officials to exercise vigilant care and urges all pastors and  
11 congregations to carry out these provisions and faithfully eradicate all compromise or negation  
12 of the Gospel through members' identification with objectionable organizations. It shall be the  
13 duty of every member, pastor, and especially officials of the Synod to admonish those pastors  
14 and congregations that fail to offer counter testimony and take decisive action in matters  
15 pertaining to this subject. Refusal to heed brotherly admonition shall lead to suspension and  
16 eventual expulsion from the Synod.

### 17 *Commission on Worship*

18 ~~3.9.7 The Commission on Worship exists to serve the members of the Synod by providing guidance and  
19 materials to assist them in developing and deepening an understanding and love for the Lutheran heritage  
20 in Christian worship and for the various media of expression associated with such worship.~~

21 ~~3.9.7.1 The Commission on Worship shall be appointed by the President of the Synod after consultation with the  
22 vice presidents. It shall consist of seven members and include ordained and commissioned ministers and  
23 laypersons.~~

24 ~~(a) The commission may solicit the assistance of other persons who are well qualified to render valuable  
25 and necessary service to the church through the commission.~~

26 ~~(b) Such persons may serve as advisory members.~~

27 ~~3.9.7.2 The Commission on Worship shall make worship literature available to congregations of the Synod to  
28 develop and deepen an understanding and love for the Lutheran heritage in Christian worship and for the  
29 various media of expression helpful to Lutheran worship.~~

30 ~~(a) It shall consult with the practical theology and the music departments of schools of the Synod to  
31 establish and affirm principles and practices in liturgy, church music, and church art which best express  
32 the true confessional theology of worship in Word and Sacrament of the Lutheran Church.~~

33 ~~(b) It shall clear all literature related to corporate Christian worship in liturgy and hymnody made  
34 available through the Synod's various boards, commissions, auxiliaries, and recognized service  
35 organizations and through Concordia Publishing House.~~

36 ~~(c) It shall recommend worship materials to the church and advise and warn against the use of worship  
37 materials that are unworthy of use in the corporate worship of the Lutheran Church.~~

38 ~~(1) All service books and hymnals that are to be accepted as official service books and hymnals of  
39 the Synod shall be given such status only by a convention of the Synod after a process of exposure  
40 and testing decided upon by the Synod in convention.~~

41 ~~(2) Revisions in such books shall be made only by a convention of the Synod after requesting from  
42 the commission an evaluation and recommendations.~~

43 ~~(d) It shall represent the Synod in the preparation of service books and hymnals in which the Synod may  
44 engage in cooperation with other synods.~~

## 45 **3.10 Other Councils, Committees and Boards**

### 46 **A. Council of Presidents**

47 ~~3.10.1 The President, the First Vice-President, the regional and vice-presidents, of the Synod in line of  
48 succession and the district presidents shall comprise the Council of Presidents.~~

1 3.10.1.1 The council shall meet three times each year and in addition at the call of the President or at the  
2 request of one-third of the Council of Presidents.

3  
4 ~~3.10.2~~3.10.1.2 The Council of Presidents shall provide opportunity for the President of the Synod to  
5 advise and counsel his representatives in the regions and districts and for the regional vice-  
6 presidents and district presidents in turn to give counsel to the President. The Council of  
7 Presidents also exists to provide opportunity for the presidents of the districts and the  
8 Praesidium of the Synod to counsel with one another on matters regarding the doctrine and  
9 administration of the Synod, its regions, and its districts, and to edify and support one another  
10 in the work they share, ~~and to serve as the Board of Assignments of the Synod.~~

11  
12 ~~3.10.2~~3.10.1.3 The Council of Presidents shall serve as the Board of Assignments of the Synod. It shall  
13 assign first calls to candidates for the offices of ministers of religion—ordained and ministers of  
14 religion—commissioned ~~ministers~~ and handle or assist with placement of other professional  
15 church workers.

16  
17 ~~3.10.2~~3.10.1.4 The Council of Presidents shall carry out such assignments as the Synod in convention  
18 may give to the council from time to time.

### 19 20 **B. Colloquy Committee for Pastoral Ministry**

21  
22 3.10.2 The Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry shall be responsible for the reception and  
23 processing of applications for individual membership in the Synod through colloquy.

24  
25 3.10.2.1 The Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry shall consist of the First Vice-President of  
26 the Synod as chairman, a district president appointed by the Council of Presidents, and the  
27 presidents of the seminaries or their representatives.

28  
29 3.10.2.2 The Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry shall establish and monitor academic,  
30 theological, and personal standards for admission to the office of the pastoral ministry by  
31 colloquy after consultation with the faculties of the seminaries.

32  
33 (a) In consultation with the President of the Synod, it shall develop all necessary policies to  
34 govern eligibility and the process to be followed to determine qualifications and suitability for  
35 pastoral service in the Synod.

36 (b) Decisions to declare applicants qualified for the pastoral ministry and to certify for  
37 placement shall be at the sole discretion of the committee.

38 (c) Every applicant whom the committee declares qualified shall be assigned his first call by the  
39 Council of Presidents acting as the Board of Assignments.

#### 40 *Admission to the Pastoral Ministry by Colloquy*

41 ~~3.8.2.4~~ The Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry shall function as a standing committee of the Board  
42 for Pastoral Education.

43 ~~3.8.2.4.1~~ The Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry shall consist of the First Vice President of the Synod,  
44 a district president appointed by the Council of Presidents, the presidents of the seminaries, and the  
45 executive director of the Board for Pastoral Education or his representative in an advisory capacity. The  
46 First Vice President shall be chairman of the committee.

47 ~~3.8.2.4.2~~ The Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry shall direct activity of the Synod in matters of  
48 colloquies for the pastoral ministry. It shall establish and monitor academic, theological, and personal  
49 standards for admission to the office of the pastoral ministry by colloquy, and in the establishment of  
50 these standards shall consult the faculties of the seminaries. It may consider and approve those applicants  
51 who meet the requirements for eligibility as specified in this bylaw and concerning whom no valid  
52 objection is made pursuant to paragraph (d).

- 1 ~~(a) Only such male applicants shall be considered eligible to apply for colloquy who are~~  
2 ~~(1) ministers who are in good standing in other Christian church bodies, are graduates of programs~~  
3 ~~of study leading to ordination of no less than 60 semester hours or the equivalent thereof in length,~~  
4 ~~and have served at least three years in a recognized ministry of their church body;~~  
5 ~~(2) in exceptional cases, laymen who have carried out the full responsibilities of the pastoral ministry~~  
6 ~~for at least 10 years, who are currently licensed for such ministry by a district president, and who~~  
7 ~~have been recommended by a congregation holding membership in the Synod on the basis of that~~  
8 ~~congregation's observation and experience, and with the stated assurance that such congregation will~~  
9 ~~extend a divine call asking the recommended individual to serve as their pastor; or~~  
10 ~~(3) men who are graduates of programs of study leading to ordination of no less than 60 semester~~  
11 ~~hours or the equivalent thereof in length, and who have been communicant members in good~~  
12 ~~standing of congregations of the Synod for at least two years.~~  
13 ~~(b) Other applicants for the ministry, such as commissioned ministers of religion, laymen of a special~~  
14 ~~ethnic or linguistic group, and laymen who have fulfilled at least 10 years of significant service in a~~  
15 ~~congregation, will participate in special theological education (alternate routes) under the direction of the~~  
16 ~~seminaries.~~  
17 ~~(c) Applicants for colloquy shall be directed to the president of the district where the applicant resides.~~  
18 ~~(1) The district president shall refer the applicant to the District Interview Committee (for seminary~~  
19 ~~applicants), who shall give a report and recommendation to the district president.~~  
20 ~~(2) The district president shall recommend qualified applicants to the chairman of the colloquy~~  
21 ~~committee. Such recommendation shall be processed according to the policies and procedures~~  
22 ~~adopted by the Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry.~~  
23 ~~(d) The colloquy committee shall publish notice of its intent to interview an applicant in an official~~  
24 ~~periodical of the Synod unless the applicant requests such notice be delayed until after his interview.~~  
25 ~~(1) If no valid objection is received by the committee within 30 days after the publication of such~~  
26 ~~notice, the applicant may be interviewed.~~  
27 ~~(2) If the applicant was interviewed first, notice shall then be published and upon publication 30~~  
28 ~~days given for valid objections to be received.~~  
29 ~~(3) The committee, in its sole discretion, shall decide whether an objection is valid. Its decision shall~~  
30 ~~not be the subject of any appeal.~~  
31 ~~(e) The colloquy committee shall arrange for a personal colloquy, or discussion, with qualified~~  
32 ~~applicants. The decision on each applicant shall be made on the basis of such colloquy examination and~~  
33 ~~shall be the sole prerogative of the colloquy committee.~~  
34 ~~(f) The criteria by which the colloquy committee shall determine an applicant's readiness for certification are to be based on adopted standards, including,~~  
35 ~~but not limited to~~  
36 ~~(1) areas of general education;~~  
37 ~~(2) understanding of and agreement with the scriptural and doctrinal positions of The Lutheran~~  
38 ~~Church—Missouri Synod;~~  
39 ~~(3) studies in theology assuring a well rounded education in the major fields of theological~~  
40 ~~discipline; and~~  
41 ~~(4) positive experience in the work of the pastoral ministry.~~  
42 ~~(g) The colloquy committee, at its sole discretion, shall determine the content and amount of academic~~  
43 ~~work, personal study programs, or supervised ministry that may be required prior to certification. To this~~  
44 ~~end, the committee may request the assistance of the seminary faculties, or of qualified pastors or~~  
45 ~~teachers in other locations, to serve as instructors or mentors.~~  
46 ~~(h) The committee, at its discretion, may require a second colloquy interview following the completion of~~  
47 ~~such study and/or supervised ministry programs.~~  
48 ~~(i) The colloquy committee shall~~  
49 ~~(1) certify for placement those applicants who have satisfactorily completed the colloquy interview~~  
50 ~~and any other requirements as assigned by the colloquy committee;~~  
51 ~~(2) report this action to the chairman of the Council of Presidents Placement Committee for the~~  
52 ~~Pastoral Ministry, to the office of the Board for Pastoral Education of the Synod, and to the~~  
53 ~~appropriate district president; and~~  
54 ~~(3) publish a report of its favorable action in an official periodical of the Synod.~~  
55 ~~(j) Every applicant whom the colloquy committee declares qualified for the pastoral ministry shall be~~  
56 ~~assigned his first call by the Council of Presidents acting as the Board of Assignments.~~

1           ~~(k) The colloquy committee shall report to the Synod in convention.~~  
2 *Admission to Commissioned Ministry by Colloquy—Purpose of Colloquy Programs*

3  
4           **C. Colloquy Committee for Commissioned Ministry**

5  
6 ~~3.8.3.5.3.10.3~~ Colloquy Commissioned ministry colloquy programs prepare men and women who are  
7 currently serving in ministry roles for membership in the Synod.

8  
9 (a) Colloquy programs ensure that those who seek to join the Synod have been educated in  
10 theology, have become oriented to service to the Synod, and have demonstrated the  
11 professional and spiritual attributes that the Synod expects of its members.

12 (b) Qualified applicants are those who are competent workers in the field for which they seek  
13 colloquy; ~~therefore, colloquy does not provide basic preparation for the field of service. For example,~~  
14 ~~colloquy does not provide courses in lesson preparation; rather, it provides a theological education to~~  
15 ~~professionally-qualified teachers.~~

16 *Colloquy Committee for Commissioned Ministry*

17  
18 ~~3.8.3.5.4.3.10.3.1~~ The Colloquy Committee for Commissioned Ministry shall consist of ~~a vice president~~ the  
19 First Vice-President of the Synod ~~as chairman, the executive director of the Board for University~~  
20 Education a representative of Concordia University System, and two college/university  
21 presidents; ~~appointed by the~~ The President of the Synod, two CUS faculty involved in Colloquy  
22 appointed by the President of CUS and one representative from CUEnet, ~~shall appoint the vice president~~  
23 ~~of the Synod and the two college/university presidents serving on the committee. The vice president~~  
24 ~~appointed by the President shall be the chairman of the committee.~~

25  
26 ~~(a)~~ 3.10.3.2 The committee shall direct the Synod activity in matters of colloquies for ministers of  
27 religion—commissioned ministers.

28  
29 (a) The committee shall oversee for each category of commissioned ministry at each college  
30 and university of the Synod the prerequisites for colloquy application, required courses of  
31 study, and internship expectations.

32 (b) The committee shall also establish and monitor academic and theological standards for each  
33 of the colloquy programs. The committee shall consult the directors of the programs at the  
34 Synod's colleges and universities when establishing or reviewing the standards.

35 (c) The committee shall render a report on the commissioned ministry ~~minister~~ colloquy  
36 activities to each convention of the Synod.

37  
38 *Application and Certification*

39 ~~3.8.3.5.2~~ Each individual college or university shall be responsible for acting upon applications and for  
40 establishing a prescribed program of study (including the requisite courses in theology) for each person  
41 admitted.

42 (a) Each of the Synod's colleges and universities shall have a colloquy examining committee.

43 (b) ~~The institution's president shall appoint the committee, and it shall include the directors of the~~  
44 ~~commissioned ministry programs.~~

45 ~~3.8.3.5.2.1~~ Persons seeking membership in the Synod through a colloquy program for commissioned ministry shall  
46 submit an application to one of the Concordia campuses offering the desired colloquy program or to  
47 Concordia University Education Network (CUEnet) when applicable. Determination of the applicant's  
48 eligibility to begin a course of study shall rest with each institution and/or with CUEnet. The student  
49 shall also be notified regarding the remaining procedures outlined in this section.

50 (a) After the student's application has been reviewed and accepted and a course of study has been  
51 prescribed, the student may begin taking courses.

52 (b) As the student begins taking the courses prescribed, the endorsement of the district president (and  
53 others, depending upon program) shall be sought by the student.

- 1 ~~3.8.3.5.2.2~~ After the prescribed course of study has been completed and all endorsements have been finalized, the  
2 student shall be examined by a faculty colloquy examining committee.  
3 (a) If the faculty colloquy examining committee finds the student satisfactorily prepared for ministry, the  
4 committee shall recommend the student to the full faculty for certification.  
5 (b) After the student has been certified, the chairman of the colloquy examining committee for  
6 commissioned ministry shall cause the name of the student to be published in an official periodical of the  
7 Synod.  
8 (c) The chairman of the Colloquy Committee for Commissioned Ministry shall notify the Colloquy  
9 Committee for Commissioned Ministry of any objections received from the church.
- 10 ~~3.8.3.5.2.3~~ The Colloquy Committee for Commissioned Ministry, in its sole discretion, shall decide whether an  
11 objection is valid.  
12 (a) The decision of the committee cannot be appealed.  
13 (b) If no valid objection is submitted to the chairman of the Colloquy Committee for Commissioned  
14 Ministry within a period of four weeks following publication of notice, the student shall be declared  
15 eligible for placement.

16 *Placement*

- 17 ~~3.8.3.5.3~~ When all requirements have been met, including a final oral examination, the faculty of the respective  
18 educational institution shall declare that the student is a candidate for placement as a minister of  
19 religion—commissioned.  
20 (a) Such action shall be reported to the chairman of the Colloquy Committee for Commissioned Ministry  
21 and the appropriate district president.  
22 (b) Notice of the action shall be published in an official periodical of the Synod.
- 23 ~~3.8.3.5.3.1~~ The Council of Presidents, acting as the Board of Assignments, shall assign a call to the candidate.  
24 (a) The courses shall be taken in a traditional classroom setting from a Synod college/university, with  
25 faculty of a Synod college/university teaching via CUEnet, or in another setting with the prior approval  
26 of the Board for University Education.  
27 (b) Students shall complete an internship under the supervision of a Synod institution offering a  
28 bachelor's degree leading to family life ministry certification or one year of successful family life  
29 ministry in an LCMS congregation.

30 *Teacher Colloquy Admission and Curriculum*

- 31 ~~3.8.3.5.4~~ Before submitting an application to the teacher colloquy program, each prospective applicant shall have  
32 been a communicant member in good standing of a congregation of the Synod for at least the past two  
33 years and shall possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution. He or she shall have completed  
34 student teaching under the supervision of a Synod institution offering a bachelor's degree in teacher  
35 education or one year of successful teaching in a school recognized by the Synod.
- 36 ~~3.8.3.5.4.1~~ Students shall complete eight courses in biblical interpretation, church history, the Lutheran Confessions,  
37 doctrine, the beliefs of other religious bodies, and the ministry of the Lutheran teacher.  
38 (a) The courses shall be taken in a traditional classroom setting from a Synod college/university, with  
39 faculty of a Synod college/university teaching via CUEnet, or in another setting with the prior approval  
40 of the Board for University Education.  
41 (b) Students shall complete an internship under the supervision of a Synod institution offering a  
42 bachelor's degree leading to Lutheran teacher certification or one year of successful teaching in a school  
43 recognized by the Synod.

44 *Director of Christian Education Colloquy Admission and Curriculum*

- 45 ~~3.8.3.5.5~~ Before submitting an application to the director of Christian education colloquy program, each  
46 prospective applicant shall have been a communicant member in good standing of a congregation of the  
47 Synod for at least the past two years and shall possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.  
48 Additional admission requirements may be established by the Board for University Education in  
49 consultation with the (Synod) Colloquy Committee for Commissioned Ministry and campus program  
50 directors.
- 51 ~~3.8.3.5.5.1~~ Students shall complete eight courses in biblical interpretation, church history, the Lutheran Confessions,  
52 doctrine, the beliefs of other religious bodies, and the ministry of the director of Christian education.  
53 (a) The courses shall be taken in a traditional classroom setting from a Synod college/university, with  
54 faculty of a Synod college/university teaching via CUEnet, or in another setting with the prior approval  
55 of the Board for University Education.

1 ~~(b) Students shall complete an internship under the supervision of a Synod institution offering a~~  
2 ~~bachelor's degree leading to director of Christian education certification or one year of successful~~  
3 ~~Christian education ministry in an LCMS congregation.~~

4 *Director of Christian Outreach Colloquy Admission and Curriculum*

5 ~~3.8.3.5.6 Before submitting an application to the director of Christian outreach colloquy program, each prospective~~  
6 ~~applicant shall have been a communicant member in good standing of a congregation of the Synod for at~~  
7 ~~least the past two years and shall possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution. Additional~~  
8 ~~admission requirements may be established by the Board for University Education in consultation with~~  
9 ~~the (Synod) Colloquy Committee for Commissioned Ministry and campus program directors.~~

10 ~~3.8.3.5.6.1 Students shall complete eight courses in biblical interpretation, church history, the Lutheran Confessions,~~  
11 ~~doctrine, the beliefs of other religious bodies, and the ministry of the director of Christian outreach.~~

12 ~~(a) The courses shall be taken in a traditional classroom setting from a Synod college/university, with~~  
13 ~~faculty of a Synod college/university teaching via CUEnet, or in another setting with the prior approval~~  
14 ~~of the Board for University Education.~~

15 ~~(b) Students shall complete an internship under the supervision of a Synod institution offering a~~  
16 ~~bachelor's degree leading to director of Christian outreach certification or one year of successful~~  
17 ~~Christian outreach ministry in an LCMS congregation.~~

18 *Deaconess Colloquy Admission and Curriculum*

19 ~~3.8.3.5.7 Before submitting an application to the deaconess colloquy program, each prospective applicant shall~~  
20 ~~have been a communicant member in good standing of a congregation of the Synod for at least the past~~  
21 ~~two years and shall possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.~~

22 ~~(a) Each applicant shall have already received training to do the work of a deaconess and shall have~~  
23 ~~served at least three years in a recognized ministry of their previous church body.~~

24 ~~(b) Applicants who do not meet these requirements are to be directed to a Synod institution that offers a~~  
25 ~~deaconess program for enrollment in an undergraduate or alternate route program.~~

26 ~~(c) Additional admission requirements may be established by the Board for University Education in~~  
27 ~~consultation with the (Synod) Colloquy Committee for Commissioned Ministry and campus program~~  
28 ~~directors.~~

29 ~~3.8.3.5.7.1 Students shall complete eight courses in biblical interpretation, church history, the Lutheran Confessions,~~  
30 ~~doctrine, the beliefs of other religious bodies, and the ministry of the deaconess.~~

31 ~~(a) The courses shall be taken in a traditional classroom setting from a Synod college/university, with~~  
32 ~~faculty of a Synod college/university teaching via CUEnet, or in another setting with the prior approval~~  
33 ~~of the Board for University Education.~~

34 ~~(b) Students shall complete an internship under the supervision of a Synod institution offering a~~  
35 ~~bachelor's degree leading to deaconess certification or one year of successful deaconess ministry in an~~  
36 ~~LCMS congregation or an agency recognized by the Synod.~~

37 *Lay Ministry Colloquy Admission and Curriculum*

38 ~~3.8.3.5.8 Before submitting an application to the lay ministry colloquy program, each prospective applicant shall~~  
39 ~~have been a communicant member in good standing of a congregation of the Synod for at least the past~~  
40 ~~two years and shall possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution. Additional admission~~  
41 ~~requirements may be established by the Board for University Education in consultation with the (Synod)~~  
42 ~~Colloquy Committee for Commissioned Ministry and campus program directors.~~

43 ~~3.8.3.5.8.1 Students shall complete eight courses in biblical interpretation, church history, the Lutheran Confessions,~~  
44 ~~doctrine, the beliefs of other religious bodies, and the ministry of the lay minister.~~

45 ~~(a) The courses shall be taken in a traditional classroom setting from a Synod college/university, with~~  
46 ~~faculty of a Synod college/university teaching via CUEnet, or in another setting with the prior approval~~  
47 ~~of the Board for University Education.~~

48 ~~(b) Students shall complete an internship under the supervision of a Synod institution offering a~~  
49 ~~bachelor's degree leading to lay ministry certification or one year of successful lay ministry in an LCMS~~  
50 ~~congregation.~~

51 *Director of Parish Music Colloquy Admission and Curriculum*

52 ~~3.8.3.5.9 Before submitting an application to the director of parish music colloquy program, each prospective~~  
53 ~~applicant shall have been a communicant member in good standing of a congregation of the Synod for at~~  
54 ~~least the past two years and shall possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution. Additional~~  
55 ~~admission requirements may be established by the Board for University Education in consultation with~~  
56 ~~the (Synod) Colloquy Committee for Commissioned Ministry and campus program directors.~~

1 ~~3.8.3.5.9.1~~ Students shall complete eight courses in biblical interpretation, church history, the Lutheran Confessions,  
2 doctrine, the beliefs of other religious bodies, and the ministry of the director of parish music.  
3 (a) The courses shall be taken in a traditional classroom setting from a Synod college/university, with  
4 faculty of a Synod college/university teaching via CUEnet, or in another setting with the prior approval  
5 of the Board for University Education.  
6 (b) Students shall complete an internship under the supervision of a Synod institution offering a  
7 bachelor's degree leading to director of parish music certification or one year of successful parish music  
8 ministry in an LCMS congregation.

9 *Director of Family Life Ministry Colloquy Admission and Curriculum*

10 ~~3.8.3.5.10~~ Before submitting an application to the director of family life ministry colloquy program, each  
11 prospective applicant shall have been a communicant member in good standing of a congregation of the  
12 Synod for at least the past two years and shall possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.  
13 Additional admission requirements may be established by the Board for University Education in  
14 consultation with the (Synod) Colloquy Committee for Commissioned Ministry and campus program  
15 directors.

16 ~~3.8.3.5.10.1~~ Students shall complete eight courses in biblical interpretation, church history, the Lutheran Confessions,  
17 doctrine, the beliefs of other religious bodies, and the ministry of the director of family life education.  
18 (a) The courses shall be taken in a traditional classroom setting from a Synod college/university, with  
19 faculty of a Synod college/university teaching via CUEnet, or in another setting with the prior approval  
20 of the Board for University Education.  
21 (b) Students shall complete an internship under the supervision of a Synod institution offering a  
22 bachelor's degree leading to director of parish music certification or one year of successful parish music  
23 ministry in an LCMS congregation.  
24

25 **D. Seminary Boards of Regents**

26  
27 ~~3.8.2.5.3.10.4~~ Each college, university, and seminary of the Synod, with its president and faculty, shall be  
28 governed by a board of regents, subject to general policies set by the Synod.  
29

30 ~~3.8.2.5.13.10.4.1~~ In exercising its relationship to the Board for Pastoral Education as set forth in Bylaw 3.8.2, the  
31 The board of regents of each theological seminary shall consider as one of its primary duties the  
32 defining and fulfilling of the mission of the seminary within the broad assignment of the Synod.  
33

34 ~~3.8.2.5.23.10.4.2~~ The board of regents of each theological seminary shall consist of no more than thirteen  
35 voting members:

36 1. Three ministers of religion~~ordained ministers~~, one minister of religion~~commissioned~~  
37 ~~minister~~, and three laypersons shall be elected by the convention of the Synod.

38 (a) Elected and appointed seminary boards of regents members may serve a maximum  
39 of ~~two~~three consecutive ~~six~~four-year terms and must hold membership in a member  
40 congregation of the Synod.

41 (b) Not more than two of the elected members shall be members of the same  
42 congregation.

43 2. A vice-president of the Synod shall be designated by the President of the Synod.

44 3. A district president other than the geographical district president shall be appointed by  
45 the Council of Presidents.

46 4. Four members may be appointed as voting members by the board of regents.

47 5. Appointed members may not vote on the appointment of other members of the board.

48 6. In order to achieve continuity, a plan of staggered terms for the appointed board  
49 members will be adopted by each board of regents.  
50

51 ~~3.8.2.5.33.10.4.3~~ Once annually, the two seminary boards of regents shall meet jointly on a seminary  
52 campus, ~~in the same location on the same dates~~. Some of the meeting sessions shall be conducted  
53 jointly.

1  
2 ~~3.8.2.5.43.~~10.4.4 Vacancies that occur on a board of regents shall be filled in the following manner.

3  
4 (a) If the vacancy occurs in a position that was previously filled by the board of regents, the  
5 board of regents shall be the appointing body.

6 ~~(b) If the vacancy occurs in a position that was previously filled at a district convention, the~~  
7 ~~district board of directors shall be the appointing body.~~

8 ~~(c)~~ (e) If the vacancy occurs in a position that had been filled by a national convention of the  
9 Synod, the ~~Board for Pastoral Education~~Board of Directors of the Synod shall be the appointing  
10 body and shall follow the nomination procedure provided for filling vacancies on elected  
11 boards and commissions of the Synod as outlined in Bylaw 3.2.5.

12  
13 ~~3.8.2.5.53.~~10.4.5 The board of regents of each theological seminary shall become familiar with and  
14 develop an understanding of pertinent policies, standards, and guidelines of the Synod ~~and the~~  
15 ~~Board for Pastoral Education.~~

16  
17 (a) It shall develop details of policies and procedures for governance of the seminary.

18 (b) It shall participate in and coordinate institutional planning for the seminary ~~and approve the~~  
19 ~~seminary's plans.~~

20 (c) It shall review and approve new academic programs recommended by the administration  
21 and faculty after assessment of system policies in accordance with ~~Board for Pastoral Education~~  
22 accreditation standards and guidelines and institutional interests and capacities.

23 (d) It shall review and approve the institutional budget.

24 (e) It shall approve institutional fiscal arrangements, develop the financial resources necessary  
25 to operate the seminary, and participate in its support program.

26 (1) Only the board of regents is authorized to establish a line of credit or to borrow for  
27 operating needs, subject to the policies of the ~~Board for Pastoral Education and the Board of~~  
28 ~~Directors of the Synod.~~

29 (2) All surplus institutional funds above an adequate working balance shall be deemed to be  
30 surplus and shall be deposited with the ~~Vice President Finance Treasurer~~ Chief Financial  
31 Officer of the Synod for investment. Earnings from such investments shall be credited to  
32 the depositing seminary.

33 (f) It shall establish appropriate policies for institutional student aid.

34 (g) It shall participate fully in the procedures for the selection and regular review of the  
35 president of the seminary and of the major administrators; approve of the appointment of  
36 faculty members who meet the qualifications of their positions; approve sabbatical and study  
37 leaves; and encourage faculty development and research.

38 (h) It shall take the leadership in assuring the preservation and improvement of the assets of the  
39 seminary and see to the acquisition, management, use, and disposal of the properties and  
40 equipment of the seminary within the guidelines set by the Board of Directors of The Lutheran  
41 Church—Missouri Synod.

42 (i) It shall operate and manage the seminary as the agent of the Synod, in which ownership is  
43 primarily vested and which exercises its ownership through the Board of Directors as custodian  
44 of the Synod's property, ~~the Board for Pastoral Education,~~ and the respective board of regents as  
45 the local governing body. Included in the operation and management are such responsibilities  
46 as these:

47 (1) Carrying out efficient business management through a business manager appointed on  
48 recommendation of the president of the seminary and responsible to him.

49 (2) Receiving of all gifts by deed, will, or otherwise made to the institution and managing  
50 the same, in accordance with the terms of the instrument creating such gift and in  
51 accordance with the policies of the board of regents.

- (3) Demonstrating concern for the general welfare of the institutional staff members and other employees, adoption of regulations governing off campus activities, development of policies regarding salary and wage scales, tenure, promotion, vacations, health examinations, dismissal, retirement, pension, and other employee welfare benefit provisions.
- (4) Determining that the Charter, Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, and Bylaws of the seminary conform to and are consistent with those of the Synod.
- (5) Serving as the governing body corporate of the seminary vested with all powers which its members may exercise in law either as directors, trustees, or members of the body corporate, unless in conflict with the laws of the domicile of the seminary or its Articles of Incorporation. In such event the board of regents shall have power to perform such acts as may be required by law to effect the corporate existence of the seminary;
- (6) Establishing and placing a priority on the capital needs of the seminary and determining the plans for the maintenance and renovation of the buildings and property and purchase of needed equipment, but having no power by itself to close the seminary or to sell all or any part of the property which constitutes the main campus.
- (7) Recognizing that the authority of the board of regents resides in the board as a whole and delegating the application of its policies and execution of its resolutions to the president of the seminary as its executive officer.
- (8) Reviewing and approving the major policies of the seminary regarding student life and activities as developed by the faculty and recommended by the administration.
- (9) Promoting the public relations of the seminary and developing the understanding and cooperation of its constituency.
- (10) Requiring regular reports from the president of the seminary as the executive officer of the board and through him from other officers and staff members in order to make certain that the work of the seminary is carried out effectively.

*Seminary Presidents*

~~3.8.2.6~~3.10.4.6 The president of a theological seminary shall be the executive officer of the board of regents. He shall serve as the spiritual, academic, and administrative head of the seminary.

- (a) He shall represent the seminary in its relations to the Synod and its officers and boards.
- (b) He shall supervise, direct, and administer the affairs of the seminary and all its departments, pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Synod and its boards and agencies, and the policies of the board of regents.
- (c) He shall bring to the attention of the board of regents matters that require consideration or decision and make pertinent recommendations.
- (d) He shall be the academic head of the faculty, preside at its meetings, and be an *ex officio* member of all standing committees of the faculty and its departments with the exception of the standing hearings committee or of another standing committee to which the functions of such a committee have been assigned.
- (e) He shall periodically visit or cause to be visited the classes of professors and instructors, and in general secure conformity in teaching efficiency and subject matter to the standards and policies prescribed by the board of regents and by accrediting agencies, ~~the Synod through the Board for Pastoral Education.~~
- (f) He shall advise and admonish in a fraternal spirit any member of the faculty found dilatory, neglectful, or exhibiting problems in his teaching. Should this action prove ineffective, he shall request selected members of the faculty privately to engage their colleague in further fraternal discussion. If this results in failure to correct or improve the situation, the president shall report the matter to the board of regents with his recommendation for action.

1 (g) He shall delegate or reassign one or more of his functions to a member of the faculty or  
2 staff, although standing administrative assignments shall be made by the board of regents upon  
3 his recommendation.

4 (h) He shall be responsible for the provision of spiritual care and nurture for every student.

5 (i) He shall carefully watch over the spiritual welfare, personal life, conduct, educational  
6 progress, and physical condition of the students and in general exercise such Christian  
7 discipline, instruction, and supervision as may be expected at a Christian seminary.

8 (j) He shall be responsible for the employment, direction, and supervision of all employees of  
9 the seminary.

10 (k) He shall be responsible for the business management of the school and for the proper  
11 operation and maintenance of grounds, buildings, and equipment.

12 (l) He shall make periodic and special financial reports to the board of regents.

13  
14 ~~3.8.2.6.13.10.4.6.1~~ The president of each theological seminary shall serve a five-year renewable term of  
15 office under the terms set forth herewith under Bylaw ~~3.8.2.6.13.10.4.6.1~~ (b), beginning with the  
16 date of his assumption of his responsibilities as president.

17  
18 (a) Each president shall relinquish academic tenure upon assumption of the presidency, and  
19 shall not be granted academic tenure during the time of presidential service.

20 (b) The president and board of regents shall develop mutually agreed upon institutional goals  
21 and priorities that give direction to the individual as he carries out the duties of the office of the  
22 presidency. The board of regents will annually evaluate presidential effectiveness based on  
23 these goals and priorities.

24 (c) Nine months prior to the end of each five-year term, the board of regents will conduct a  
25 formal review of the president's effectiveness in the current term of office. The president shall  
26 then be eligible for another five-year term by majority action of the board of regents, voting  
27 with a ballot containing only the current president's name.

28 (1) In addition to considering the evaluation report, the board of regents shall consult with  
29 the President of the Synod ~~and the chairman of the Board for Pastoral Education~~.

30 (2) The regents may consult with other boards, commissions, and councils of the Synod as  
31 they deem wise.

32 (d) In the event that a president's term is not renewed, the office of the president shall be  
33 considered vacant as of the end of the term of the incumbent. A president whose term is not  
34 renewed shall continue to receive full salary and benefits for six months excepting those  
35 benefits specifically associated with the office of the president.

36 (e) When a president retires, the board of regents may continue the president's full salary and  
37 benefits for six months excepting those benefits specifically associated with the office of the  
38 president.

39  
40 ~~3.8.2.6.23.10.4.6.2~~ As soon as an impending vacancy in the office of president is known, the board of  
41 regents, with prior consent of the ~~Board for Pastoral Education~~ President of the Synod, shall issue  
42 in an official periodical of the Synod a call for the nomination of candidates for the presidency  
43 of the seminary. The call for nominations shall describe the office and qualifications desired to  
44 fill it.

45  
46 (a) Candidates may be nominated by congregations of the Synod, ~~the Board for Pastoral~~  
47 ~~Education~~, the board of regents, and the faculty of the seminary.

48 (b) All nominations must be filed with the designee of the board of regents within 60 days of  
49 the date of its published request unless the request sets a later date.

50 (1) Persons nominated may decline to be candidates, and their names will be removed from  
51 the list of nominees.

1 (2) Nominees who allow themselves to be listed as candidates will be asked to pledge, if  
2 called, to render a decision within 15 days of receipt of the call, unless granted an extension  
3 by the board of regents.

4 (3) The designee of the board of regents shall publish in an official periodical of the Synod  
5 the names of the nominees who have permitted themselves to be candidates and the date on  
6 which the election is to be held, which shall not be less than 30 days after the date of the  
7 publication of the names of the candidates.

8 (c) All recommendations, statements of qualifications of any nominees, or objections to any  
9 nominee with reasons therefore, must be filed with the board of regents before the time fixed  
10 for the election. If a charge of false doctrine or offensive life is registered, the board of regents  
11 shall investigate and reach a decision on such charge before proceeding with the election.

12 (d) A search committee, in its first phase of activity, shall be composed of three full-time  
13 faculty members (elected by the faculty with one alternate), and three board of regents  
14 members (elected by the board with one alternate). The alternate members shall participate in  
15 all meetings but shall not vote while serving as alternates.

16 (1) The search committee shall make a written report of the needs of the seminary, the  
17 requirements of the Synod, and the required and desired qualifications of the nominees.

18 (2) This written report shall be shared with the electors.

19 (e) The search committee, in its second phase of activity, shall be composed of the original  
20 search committee, with the addition of three full-time faculty members (elected by the faculty).

21 (1) The search committee shall prepare reports on the credentials of the nominees. The  
22 board of regents shall make available to the search committee all information it receives  
23 regarding the candidates.

24 (2) The search committee shall submit to the electors a report of evaluations and  
25 recommendations regarding the candidates.

26 (f) Open forums shall be conducted with administrative staff, students, and other constituents as  
27 deemed essential by the search committee to gather extensive input to the process.

28 (g) The search committee shall prepare a list of at least five candidates that it recommends to  
29 the electors as the list from which the election slate is prepared.

30 (h) At a special meeting of the board of regents held to elect a president, there shall be present  
31 and voting as electors the members of the board of regents as a group with one vote (the district  
32 president on the board not voting with the board); the district president elected to the board or  
33 his official representative with a distinct vote; the chair of the Board of Directors of the Synod  
34 and the President of the Synod or his official representative with one vote; ~~and the chairman of~~  
35 ~~the Board for Pastoral Education or his official representative with one vote. The executive director of~~  
36 ~~the Board for Pastoral Education shall attend as an observer.~~

37 (i) At least two weeks before the election, the electors shall finalize the slate of nominees to be  
38 interviewed in the election meeting.

39 (1) The slate is fixed by a majority of the electors, with the members of the board of regents  
40 now voting as individuals.

41 (2) They may add names to the search committee's list only from the officially published  
42 list of nominees, after consultation with the search committee.

43 (3) The entire board of regents (voting as individuals) shall participate, and the addition or  
44 deletion of names shall require a simple majority of all electors and board-of-regents  
45 members present. The search committee shall be available to answer questions regarding  
46 potential interviewees.

47 (4) If there are persons placed on the slate who were not on the search committee's  
48 recommendation list, they shall complete all interviews and questionnaires prior to the  
49 election.

50 (j) The election shall be held on the day designated in the notice published in the official  
51 periodical of the Synod or as soon thereafter as feasible. The electors shall give due

1 consideration to the recommendations and statements of qualifications and objections submitted  
2 on behalf of all nominees.

3 (k) The initial election of a president shall require three of four elector votes. If the electors are  
4 unable to finalize the slate or complete the election, they shall postpone the election and, if  
5 desirable, request the board of regents to issue a new call for nominations.

6 (l) The board of regents shall extend the formal call promptly after the election and submit its  
7 action to an official periodical of the Synod for publication.

8 (m) Whenever a call is declined, the chairman of the board of regents shall give notice in an  
9 official periodical of the Synod and shall promptly call another meeting of the electors, at  
10 which meeting the call may be reissued or another person may be elected from among the  
11 remaining candidates, or the board of regents may be requested by the electors to issue a new  
12 call for candidates.

13  
14 *Seminary Faculties*

15  
16 ~~3.8.2.7~~3.10.4.7 The faculty of each theological seminary of the Synod shall consist of the president, the  
17 full-time faculty, and the part-time faculty.

18  
19 (a) Part-time or temporary faculty members are distinguished by an appropriate prefix or suffix  
20 (“visiting, guest, adjunct, emeritus”) or the term “graduate assistant.”

21 (b) Part-time or temporary faculty members shall hold nonvoting membership on the faculty.

22  
23 ~~3.8.2.7.1~~3.10.4.7.1 At each theological seminary the president shall propose creation, modification, or  
24 abolition of administrative positions to the board of regents for its approval.

25  
26 (a) The board of regents at each school shall maintain clear policies for filling and vacating  
27 administrative positions.

28 (b) Administrative appointments shall be made by the board of regents on recommendation by  
29 the president of the seminary. ~~The Board for Pastoral Education shall periodically review the~~  
30 ~~internal administrative organization of the Synod’s seminaries.~~

31 (c) Each board of regents shall maintain a clear plan of succession of administration to assure  
32 that the seminary continues to function effectively in the case of incapacity or lengthy absence  
33 of the president.

34  
35 ~~3.8.2.7.2~~3.10.4.7.2 Each theological seminary shall have established policies and procedures related to  
36 appointments. There shall be two levels of faculty appointments: (1) Initial level, where the  
37 appointment can be terminated with no formal requirement for a show of cause; (2) continuing  
38 level, where termination requires a formal show of cause.

39  
40 (a) Seminaries are free to decide for themselves what names to apply to these two levels of  
41 appointment.

42 (b) Each seminary normally shall have at least thirty-five percent of its full-time faculty serving  
43 at the continuing appointment level.

44 (c) Each seminary shall require specific action by the board of regents for promotion from an  
45 initial-level appointment to a continuing-level appointment.

46 (d) Standards or qualifications for moving a faculty member from initial-level appointment to  
47 continuing-level appointment shall be the following:

48 (1) The faculty member shall ordinarily have completed four to six years of creditable  
49 service (periods of leave are not included) as a member of the faculty of one or more  
50 educational institutions of the Synod, at least the last two years of which shall have been in  
51 the seminary currently served.

1 (2) The faculty members shall, as determined by their academic discipline, regularly  
2 continue to demonstrate scholarly achievement that may be institutionally funded as  
3 determined by the board of regents.

4 (3) The faculty member's reputation, character, concern for students, and ability to honor  
5 leaders shall present a good reflection on the seminary and the church.

6 (4) The faculty member's aptness to teach has been demonstrated by effective  
7 communication in the classroom.

8 (e) Steps in moving a faculty member from an initial-level appointment to a continuing-level  
9 appointment shall be the following:

10 (1) If the board of regents, on recommendation of the president of the seminary, determines  
11 that a faculty member meets the above requirements and is still at the initial-level  
12 appointment, it shall either carry forward the procedure for promotion to a continuing-level  
13 appointment or inform the faculty member of its decision not to do so, in which case the  
14 individual either may continue at the initial-level appointment or be terminated. Any  
15 continuation of employment at the initial-level appointment shall be on a year-to-year basis.  
16 Faculty employment during the initial-level appointment period may be terminated without  
17 disclosure of cause. In cases in which the decision is made to terminate the individual's  
18 contract, the contract shall be extended for at least six months beyond the time at which  
19 notice is given. If the board of regents does not take up the question of promotion to a  
20 continuing-level appointment at least nine months prior to the end of the sixth year of  
21 service, the faculty member may petition the board of regents to do so.

22 (2) Notice of intent to promote to a continuing-level appointment status shall be announced  
23 in an official periodical of the Synod.

24 (3) The faculty member shall be given the opportunity to respond to any comments or  
25 concerns that may have been raised relative to promotion to a continuing-level  
26 appointment.

27 (4) At least six weeks after the notice is published, consent of the electors of the seminary  
28 shall be given.

29 (5) If the above steps have all been met, after final review the board of regents may  
30 promote to a continuing-level appointment status.

31 (f) Promotion to continuing-level appointment status shall in no case be construed as requiring  
32 or indicating advancement in rank or increase in salary.

33 (g) Other types of faculty appointments may be established by seminaries as the need arises.

34  
35 ~~3.8.2.7.33.10.4.7.3~~ The board of regents on recommendation of the president of the seminary shall appoint  
36 all full-time members of the faculty. ~~The Board for Pastoral Education shall require certification~~  
37 ~~of theological and professional competency. All initial appointments to seminary faculties shall~~  
38 ~~require the prior approval of the Board for Pastoral Education and shall include a thorough theological~~  
39 ~~review involving the district president and selected members of the board of regents.~~

40  
41 (a) The terms and conditions of every appointment shall be stated in writing and be in the  
42 possession of both the seminary and the prospective faculty member before the appointment is  
43 consummated. Limitations of academic freedom because of the religious and confessional  
44 nature and aims of the seminary shall be stated in writing at the time of the appointment and  
45 conveyed to the person being appointed.

46 (b) Ordinarily candidates for full-time teaching positions shall be rostered members of the  
47 Synod. When laypersons are employed in full-time teaching positions, they shall pledge to  
48 perform their duties in harmony with the Holy Scriptures as the inspired Word of God, the  
49 Lutheran Confessions, the Synod's doctrinal statements, and the policies of the Synod.

50 (c) The board of regents may decline to renew an initial-level appointment of a faculty member  
51 at its discretion and without formal statement of cause. If reappointment to the teaching staff is

1 not contemplated, the board of regents shall so notify the faculty member in writing through the  
2 president of the seminary at least six months prior to the expiration of the current appointment.  
3 Notice of non-reappointment shall be made at least 6 months before the expiration of an initial-  
4 level appointment of a faculty member.

5 ~~The Board for Pastoral Education~~ Board of Regents shall ~~state~~ maintain standards of good  
6 practice that provide uniform procedures for renewing faculty employment contracts.

7 (e) Each seminary shall state policies regarding faculty appointments, employment contracts,  
8 contract renewal, and contract termination for all employees ~~within Board for Pastoral Education~~  
9 guidelines.

10  
11 ~~3.8.2.7.43.10.4.7.4~~ 10.4.7.4 A formal procedure shall be in place to carry out performance reviews for all faculty on  
12 a regular basis to help faculty identify their strengths as well as areas in which improvement is  
13 needed (formative) and to provide the information needed to make a decision about future  
14 employment status (summative).

15  
16 (a) Performance reviews shall be based on a set of clearly articulated criteria that are shared  
17 with faculty prior to their employment and current assignment.

18 (b) All faculty on initial-level appointments shall be reviewed at least triennially.

19 (c) All faculty on continuing-level appointments shall be reviewed at least every five years.

20 (d) The president of a seminary may call for a formal review of any faculty member at any  
21 time.

22 (e) The review shall involve input from peers.

23 (f) A written summary of the results of the review shall be prepared.

24 (g) The summary shall be shared with the faculty member involved and he/she shall be given an  
25 opportunity to respond.

26 (h) A final decision about any action to be taken as a result of the review shall be made by the  
27 board of regents of the seminary upon recommendation of the president of the seminary.

28 (i) An appeal process shall be in place for use by faculty members of a continuing-level  
29 appointment (those who already have been granted continuing-level appointment status) who  
30 wish to challenge a termination decision. The appeal may be about the substance of the decision  
31 or the procedures followed in reaching the decision.

32 (j) Faculty members with an initial-level appointment (who have no expectation of continued  
33 employment) shall not be entitled to an appeal process following (or prior to) a decision of non-  
34 retention. The only exception is that a faculty member with an initial-level appointment may  
35 ask the board of regents to assure that appropriate procedures were followed in reaching the  
36 decision or the basis on which the decision was made.

37  
38 ~~3.8.2.7.53.10.4.7.5~~ 10.4.7.5 The only causes for which members of a faculty may be removed from office, other  
39 than honorable retirement, are (1) professional incompetency including, but not limited to, the  
40 failure to meet the criteria identified in Bylaw ~~3.8.2.7.23.10.4.7.2~~ (d); (2) incapacity for the  
41 performance of duty; (3) insubordination; (4) neglect of or refusal to perform duties of office;  
42 (5) conduct unbecoming a Christian; and (6) advocacy of false doctrine (Constitution, Art. II)  
43 or failure to honor and uphold the doctrinal position of the Synod as defined further in Bylaw  
44 1.6.2 (b).

45  
46 ~~3.8.2.7.63.10.4.7.6~~ 10.4.7.6 The board of regents may decline to renew the appointment of a faculty member during  
47 an initial-level appointment period without a formal statement of cause.

48  
49 ~~3.8.2.7.6.13.10.4.7.6.1~~ 10.4.7.6.1 No member of the faculty on a continuing-level appointment or on an initial-level  
50 appointment except at the expiration of the term of appointment shall be removed from the  
51 faculty either by ecclesiastical authority or by the board of regents except for cause.

1  
2 ~~3.8.2.7.7~~3.10.4.7.7 Positions of initial-level appointment as well as continuing-level appointment faculty  
3 may be terminated by the board of regents under certain institutional conditions that do not  
4 reflect on the competency or faithfulness of the individual faculty member whose position is  
5 terminated. These conditions are the following: (1) Discontinuance of an entire program; (2)  
6 discontinuance of an entire division or department of a seminary; (3) reduction of the size of  
7 staff in order to maintain financial viability in compliance with policies concerning fiscal  
8 viability; and (4) discontinuance, merger, or consolidation of an entire seminary operation.  
9

10 (a) In the event of termination of a faculty position by the board of regents, a minimum of six  
11 months advance notice to initial-level appointment faculty and 12 months advance notice to  
12 continuing-level appointment faculty must be provided the terminated faculty member in  
13 writing.

14 (b) The opportunity to serve the seminary in another capacity for which the terminated faculty  
15 member has credentials and qualifications shall be offered the terminated faculty member if  
16 such a vacancy exists at the time of termination or becomes available within two academic  
17 years.

18 (c) In identifying which specific faculty positions are to be discontinued or terminated, the  
19 board of regents shall follow the guidelines and procedures of that seminary's reduction in  
20 force policy.

21 (d) A terminated position may not be filled subsequently by another person during the next two  
22 academic years without first offering the last previous incumbent who held the position with  
23 continuing-level appointment status the position at his or her last previous salary plus average  
24 annual salary increases provided to that faculty during the interim.  
25

26 ~~3.8.2.7.8~~3.10.4.7.8 A faculty member who is on a roster of the Synod is under the ecclesiastical  
27 supervision of the Synod. In the event a member is removed from membership in the Synod  
28 pursuant to procedure established in these bylaws, then that member is also considered removed  
29 from the position held and shall be terminated forthwith by the board of regents.  
30

31 ~~3.8.2.7.9~~3.10.4.7.9 The board of regents shall have authority to investigate, hear, and act on any complaint  
32 arising out of Bylaw ~~3.8.2.7.5~~3.10.4.7.5.  
33

34 (a) If the board of regents receives a complaint against a member of that seminary's faculty or  
35 administration concerning any matter, including those specified under Bylaw ~~3.8.2.7.5~~  
36 3.10.4.7.5, it shall direct the complainant first to meet face-to-face with the respondent in an  
37 attempt to resolve the issue (in the manner described in Matthew 18:15).

38 (1) The president of the seminary shall assist in this attempt.

39 (2) If the president himself is the respondent, the chairman of the board shall act in his  
40 stead.

41 (b) If the complainant is of the opinion that such informal reconciliation efforts have failed and  
42 there is a wish to pursue the matter, the complainant shall prepare a written statement of the  
43 matter in dispute and a written statement setting forth, in detail, the efforts that have been made  
44 to achieve informal reconciliation and forward such statements to the board of regents and to  
45 the respondent.

46 (c) Within 21 days after receipt of the written statement of the matter in dispute, the respondent  
47 shall submit a written reply to the board of regents and the complainant. If the respondent fails  
48 to reply, the allegations of the statement of the matter in dispute shall be deemed accepted.

49 (d) Upon receipt of a reply from the respondent, or if no reply is received and the board of  
50 regents determines that all informal reconciliation efforts have failed, the board of regents shall  
51 form a review committee of five persons (Matthew 18:16), which shall be chosen as follows:

1 (1) Each party shall select one faculty member and one regent.

2 (2) The Secretary of the Synod shall select the fifth member by blind draw from the  
3 Synod's roster of hearing facilitators, who shall serve as chairman.

4 (3) The selection shall be completed within one month of the date on which the board  
5 decides to form the review committee.

6 (e) If the board decides that the matter is of such a nature that the interests of the seminary will  
7 best be served, it may limit the activities of the respondent. It may do so by relieving the  
8 respondent of teaching and/or administrative duties pending final resolution of the conflict.  
9 However, contractual obligations of the seminary shall continue until the matter is resolved.

10 (f) The review committee shall proceed as follows:

11 (1) The committee shall hold its first hearing no later than 60 days after the last committee  
12 member has been appointed.

13 (2) The chairman of the committee shall notify the complainant and the respondent, at least  
14 28 days in advance, of the date, time, and place of the said hearing.

15 (3) If any part of the dispute involves a specific question of doctrine or doctrinal  
16 application, each party shall have the right to an opinion from the Commission on Theology  
17 and Church Relations. If it involves questions of Constitution or Bylaw interpretation, each  
18 party shall have a right to an interpretation from the Commission on Constitutional Matters.  
19 The request for an opinion must be made through the review committee, which shall  
20 determine the wording of the question(s). The request for an opinion must be made within  
21 four weeks of the final formation of the review committee. If a party does not request such  
22 an opinion within the designated time, such a request may still be made to the review  
23 committee, which shall, at its discretion, determine whether the request shall be forwarded.  
24 The review committee shall also have the right, at any time, to request an opinion from the  
25 Commission on Theology and Church Relations or the Commission on Constitutional  
26 Matters. When an opinion has been requested, the time limitations will not apply until the  
27 opinion has been received by the parties. Any opinion received must be followed by the  
28 review committee.

29 (4) All hearings shall be private, attended only by the parties and the witnesses who can  
30 substantiate the facts relevant to the matter in dispute. The review committee shall follow  
31 the procedures set forth in the *Standard Operating Procedures Manual* for this bylaw to be  
32 followed in the hearing and shall establish the relevancy of evidence so that each party shall  
33 be given an opportunity to present fully its respective position. In performing its duty, the  
34 review committee shall continue efforts to reconcile the parties on the basis of Christian  
35 love and forgiveness. If a party is a board or commission of the Synod or its districts, it  
36 shall be represented by its chairman or a designated member.

37 (5) Within 60 days after completion of the final hearing, the review committee shall issue a  
38 written decision which shall state the facts determined by the committee and the reasons for  
39 its decision and forward them to the parties and the board of regents. The board of regents  
40 shall then take appropriate action, which shall be final.

41 (g) If the committee decides there is a valid complaint

42 (1) regarding matters under Bylaw ~~3.8.2.7.5~~3.10.4.7.5 (1)–(4), it may take whatever action it  
43 deems appropriate, including recommendation for termination of the employment contract;

44 (2) Regarding matters under Bylaw ~~3.8.2.7.5~~3.10.4.7.5 (5)–(6), if the member of the  
45 seminary's faculty or administration is a member of the Synod, it must also refer the  
46 complaint to the district president, who shall follow the procedure set forth in Bylaw  
47 sections 2.14 or 2.17.

48 (h) At every stage of the above-described procedure, all parties must be furnished copies of all  
49 documents filed.

50 (i) Any decision made pursuant to Bylaw ~~3.8.2.7.9~~3.10.4.7.9 shall be final and binding on the  
51 parties involved with no right of further appeal.

1 (j) In consultation with the Commission on Constitutional Matters, ~~the Board for Pastoral~~  
2 ~~Education~~ the boards of regents of the seminaries shall maintain and amend, as necessary, a  
3 *Standard Operating Procedures Manual* which shall serve as a comprehensive procedures  
4 manual for this bylaw.  
5

6 ~~3.8.2.7.10~~3.10.4.7.10 Each seminary shall have established policies and procedures related to salary,  
7 faculty organization, faculty involvement in establishing education policies, dispute resolution,  
8 modified service, sabbaticals and leaves. It shall also have policies and procedures related to  
9 student discipline.  
10

11 (a) The salary schedules of all institutional employees shall be fixed by the board of regents on  
12 recommendation of the president of the seminary. ~~The salary schedules shall be established within~~  
13 ~~the broad guidelines provided by the Board for Pastoral Education.~~

14 (b) The board of regents, on recommendation of the president of the seminary, shall establish  
15 an effective faculty organizational structure.

16 (1) The president or his designee shall preside at regular and special meetings.

17 (2) The faculty shall elect a secretary and provide for the election of committees, consisting  
18 of faculty members or of faculty members and other persons, who shall study, evaluate, and  
19 report to the faculty on policy matters affecting the academic activity of the seminary, the  
20 activity and welfare of the members of the faculty, and the life and welfare of the students.

21 (3) The faculty shall elect a standing hearings committee or assign the functions of such a  
22 committee to another standing committee.

23 (c) Each faculty shall recommend policy to the board of regents through the president for the  
24 admission, transfer, dismissal, or withdrawal of students, set the standards of scholarship to be  
25 maintained by students, determine criteria for graduation or failure, act on recommendations in  
26 the matter of granting certificates, diplomas, and such academic or honorary degrees as may  
27 lawfully be conferred by the seminary.

28 (d) Each faculty shall develop and construct curricula implementing the recognized and  
29 established purposes of the seminary and designed to attain the objectives of preparation for  
30 professional church workers and other Christian leaders approved by the Synod.

31 (e) Each faculty shall pursue the improvement of teaching and learning and the evaluation of  
32 their effectiveness in every segment of the seminary and its curriculum.

33 (f) Each faculty shall recommend policy to the board of regents through the president regarding  
34 out-of-class life and activity of its students so that the co-curricular and off- campus activities  
35 of the students contribute to the attainment of the educational objectives of the seminary. The  
36 faculty shall recommend such policies as will be conducive to the cultivation of a Christian  
37 deportment on the part of all students, will stimulate the creation of a cultured and academically  
38 challenging atmosphere on and about the whole campus, and will make a spiritually wholesome  
39 community life possible.

40 (g) Each faculty shall recommend policy to the board of regents through the president regarding  
41 the maintenance of wholesome conditions of faculty service and welfare.

42 (h) The faculty of each seminary, because it prepares professional workers directly for service  
43 in the Synod, shall conform its placement policies to the provisions for the distribution of  
44 candidates and workers through the Board of Assignments of the Synod.

45 (1) An academic year of supervised internship (vicarage) is required of all seminary  
46 students before graduation.

47 (2) Every vicar shall be assigned by the Council of Presidents, acting as the Board of  
48 Assignments.

49 (i) Controversies and disagreements among faculty members or other employees (other than  
50 those involving matters described in Bylaw ~~3.8.2.7.5~~3.10.4.7.5) shall be submitted to the  
51 president of the seminary for mediation.

1 (1) If this proves unsuccessful, he shall report the matter to the board of regents for  
2 arbitration.

3 (2) After hearing the parties the board will render its decision, which shall be final, without  
4 the right of appeal under the provisions of the dispute resolution process of the Synod.

5 (3) A record of the proceedings shall be filed with the ~~Board for Pastoral Education~~ President  
6 of the Synod.

7 (j) Faculty members may request early retirement under the applicable provisions of the  
8 Concordia Retirement Plan.

9 (1) Upon retirement, faculty members who are ministers of religion—ordained or ministers  
10 of religion—commissioned ~~ministers of religion~~ are retained on the emeritus roster of the  
11 Synod on the basis of Bylaw 2.11.2.1 and may, by action of the board of regents, be  
12 retained on the roster of their faculty as “emeriti” (Bylaw ~~3.8.2.7~~ 3.10.4.7).

13 (2) Service loads and the conditions of service after retirement shall be determined by the  
14 board of regents.

15 (k) Each seminary shall state policies regarding sabbaticals for faculty and leave-of-absence  
16 procedures for all employees within ~~Board for Pastoral Education~~ guidelines provided by the  
17 board of regents.

18 (l) Each board of regents, on recommendation of the president, shall adopt a comprehensive  
19 policy statement committing the school to the principles of Christian discipline, evangelical  
20 dealing, and good order governing the students individually and collectively.

21 (1) Each student shall be informed regarding the disciplinary policy and procedure and  
22 under what conditions and to whom an appeal from a disciplinary decision may be made.

23 (2) There shall be no right of appeal under the provisions of the dispute resolution process  
24 of the Synod.

### 25 26 **E. Concordia University System Boards of Regents**

27  
28 ~~3.8.3.6~~ 3.10.5 Each college and university of the Synod, with its president and faculty, shall be governed  
29 by a board of regents, subject to general policies set by the Synod.

30  
31 ~~3.8.3.6~~ 3.10.5.1 In exercising its relationship to the Synod and to the ~~Board for University Education~~  
32 Concordia University System as set forth elsewhere under Bylaw ~~3.8.3.6~~ 6ff, the board of  
33 regents of each institution shall consider as one of its primary duties the defining and fulfilling  
34 of the mission of the institution within the broad assignment of the Synod.

35  
36  
37 ~~3.8.3.6~~ 3.10.5.2 The board of regents of each college and university shall consist of no more than 17  
38 voting members.

39 1. One minister of religion—ordained—~~minister~~, one minister of religion—commissioned  
40 ~~minister~~, and two laypersons shall be elected by the conventions of the Synod.

41 2. One minister of religion—ordained—~~minister~~, one minister of religion—commissioned  
42 minister, and two laypersons shall be elected by the geographical district in which the  
43 institution is located.

44 3. No less than four and no more than eight laypersons shall be appointed as voting  
45 members by the board of regents.

46 4. The president of the district in which the college or university is located or a district  
47 vice-president as his standing representative shall serve as an *ex officio* member.

48 5. College and university boards of regents members may be elected or appointed to serve a  
49 maximum of three consecutive ~~three~~ four-year terms and must hold membership in a  
50 member congregation of the Synod.

51 6. Not more than two of the elected members shall be members of the same congregation.

1  
2 ~~3.8.3.6.33.10.5.3~~ Vacancies that occur on a board of regents shall be filled in the following manner:  
3

4 (a) If the vacancy occurs in a position that was previously filled by the board of regents, the  
5 board of regents shall be the appointing body.

6 (b) If the vacancy occurs in a position that was previously filled at a district convention, the  
7 district board of directors shall be the appointing body.

8 (c) If the vacancy occurs in a position that had been filled by a national convention of the  
9 Synod, the ~~Board for University Education~~ of Directors of Concordia University System shall be  
10 the appointing body and shall follow the nomination procedure provided for filling vacancies  
11 on elected boards and commissions of the Synod as outlined in Bylaw 3.2.5.  
12

13 ~~3.8.3.6.43.10.5.4~~ The board of regents of each institution shall become familiar with and develop an  
14 understanding of pertinent policies, standards, and guidelines of the Synod and the ~~Board for~~  
15 University Education of Directors of Concordia University System.  
16

17 (a) It shall develop details of policies and procedures for governance of the institution.

18 (b) It shall coordinate institutional planning with other Concordia University System schools  
19 ~~participate in planning for the institution~~ and approve the institution's master plans for its college or  
20 university.

21 (c) It shall review and approve academic programs recommended by the administration and  
22 faculty after assessment of system policies in accordance with ~~Board for~~ Concordia University  
23 System Education standards and guidelines and institutional interests and capacities.

24 (d) It shall review and approve the institutional budget.

25 (e) It shall approve institutional fiscal arrangements, develop the financial resources necessary  
26 to operate the institution, and participate in its support program.

27 (1) Only the board of regents is authorized to establish a line of credit or to borrow for  
28 operating needs, subject to the policies of the ~~Board for University Education~~ of Directors of  
29 Concordia University System and the Board of Directors of the Synod.

30 (2) All surplus institutional funds above an adequate working balance shall be deposited  
31 with the Concordia University System for investment. Earnings from such investments  
32 shall be credited to the depositing institution.

33 (f) It shall establish appropriate policies for institutional student aid.

34 (g) It shall participate fully in the procedures for the selection and regular review of the  
35 president of the institution and of the major administrators; approve of the appointment of  
36 faculty members who meet the qualifications of their positions; approve sabbatical and study  
37 leaves; and encourage faculty development and research.

38 (h) It shall take the leadership in assuring the preservation and improvement of the assets of the  
39 institution and see to the acquisition, management, use, and disposal of the properties and  
40 equipment of the institution within the guidelines set by the Board of Directors of The Lutheran  
41 Church—Missouri Synod.

42 (i) It shall operate and manage the institution as the agent of the Synod, in which ownership is  
43 primarily vested and which exercises its ownership through the Board of Directors as custodian  
44 of the Synod's property, the ~~Board for University Education~~ of Directors of Concordia University  
45 System, and the respective board of regents as the local governing body. Included in the  
46 operation and management are such responsibilities as these:

47 (1) Carrying out efficient business management through a business manager appointed on  
48 recommendation of the president of the institution and responsible to him.

49 (2) Receiving of all gifts by deed, will, or otherwise made to the institution and managing  
50 the same, in accordance with the terms of the instrument creating such gift and in  
51 accordance with the policies of the board of regents.

- (3) Demonstrating concern for the general welfare of the institutional staff members and other employees, adoption of regulations governing off campus activities, development of policies regarding salary and wage scales, tenure, promotion, vacations, health examinations, dismissal, retirement, pension, and other employee welfare benefit provisions.
- (4) Determining that the charter, articles of incorporation, constitution, and bylaws of the institution conform to and are consistent with those of the Synod.
- (5) Serving as the governing body corporate of the institution vested with all powers which its members may exercise in law either as directors, trustees, or members of the body corporate, unless in conflict with the laws of the domicile of the institution or its Articles of Incorporation. In such event the board of regents shall have power to perform such acts as may be required by law to effect the corporate existence of the institution.
- (6) Establishing and placing a priority on the capital needs of the institution and determining the plans for the maintenance and renovation of the buildings and property and purchase of needed equipment, but having no power by itself to close the institution or to sell all or any part of the property which constitutes the main campus.
- (7) Recognizing that the authority of the board of regents resides in the board as a whole and delegating the application of its policies and execution of its resolutions to the president of the institution as its executive officer.
- (8) Reviewing and approving the major policies of the institution regarding student life and activities as developed by the faculty and recommended by the administration.
- (9) Promoting the public relations of the institution and developing the understanding and cooperation of its constituency.
- (10) Requiring regular reports from the president of the institution as the executive officer of the board and through him from other officers and staff members in order to make certain that the work of the institution is carried out effectively.

Concordia University System Presidents

3.8.3.73.10.5.5 The president of the institution shall be the executive officer of the board of regents. He shall serve as the spiritual, academic, and administrative head of the institution.

- (a) He shall represent the institution in its relations to the Synod and its officers and boards.
- (b) He shall supervise, direct, and administer the affairs of the institution and all its departments, pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Synod and its boards and agencies and the policies of the board of regents.
- (c) He shall bring to the attention of the board of regents matters that require consideration or decision and make pertinent recommendations.
- (d) He shall be the academic head of the faculty, preside at its meetings, and be an *ex officio* member of all standing committees of the faculty and its departments with the exception of the standing hearings committee or of another standing committee to which the functions of such a committee have been assigned.
- (e) He shall periodically visit or cause to be visited the classes of professors and instructors, and in general secure conformity in teaching efficiency and subject matter to the standards and policies prescribed by the board of regents and by the Synod through the ~~Board for University Education~~ of Directors of Concordia University System.
- (f) He shall advise and admonish in a fraternal spirit any member of the faculty found dilatory, neglectful, or exhibiting problems in his teaching. Should this action prove ineffective, he shall request selected members of the faculty privately to engage their colleague in further fraternal discussion. If this results in failure to correct or improve the situation, the president shall report the matter to the board of regents with his recommendation for action.

1 (g) He shall delegate or reassign one or more of his functions to a member of the faculty or  
2 staff, although standing administrative assignments shall be made by the board of regents upon  
3 his recommendation.

4 (h) He shall be responsible for the provision of spiritual care and nurture for every student.

5 (i) He shall carefully watch over the spiritual welfare, personal life, conduct, educational  
6 progress, and physical condition of the students and in general exercise such Christian  
7 discipline, instruction, and supervision as may be expected at a Christian educational  
8 institution.

9 (j) He shall be responsible for the employment, direction, and supervision of all employees of  
10 the institution.

11 (k) He shall be responsible for the business management of the school and for the proper  
12 operation and maintenance of grounds, buildings, and equipment.

13 (l) He shall make periodic and special financial reports to the board of regents.

14  
15 ~~3.8.3.7.1~~3.10.5.5.1 The president of each college or university shall serve a five-year renewable term of  
16 office under the terms set forth herewith under Bylaw ~~3.8.3.7.1~~3.10.5.5.1 (b), beginning with the  
17 date of his assumption of his responsibilities as president.  
18

19 (a) Each president shall relinquish academic tenure upon assumption of the presidency, and  
20 shall not be granted academic tenure during the time of presidential service.

21 (b) The president and board of regents shall develop mutually agreed upon institutional goals  
22 and priorities that give direction to the individual as he carries out the duties of the office of the  
23 presidency. The board of regents will annually evaluate presidential effectiveness based on  
24 these goals and priorities.

25 (c) Nine months prior to the end of each five-year term, the board of regents will conduct a  
26 formal review of the president's effectiveness in the current term of office. The president shall  
27 then be eligible for another five-year term by majority action of the board of regents, voting  
28 with a ballot containing only the current president's name.

29 (1) In addition to considering the evaluation report, the board of regents shall consult with  
30 the President of the Synod and the chairman of the Board-for-University-Education-of  
31 Directors of Concordia University System.

32 (2) The regents may consult with other boards, commissions, and councils of the Synod as  
33 they deem wise.

34 (d) In the event that a president's term is not renewed, the office of the president shall be  
35 considered vacant as of the end of the term of the incumbent. A president whose term is not  
36 renewed shall continue to receive full salary and benefits for six months excepting those  
37 benefits specifically associated with the office of the president.

38 (e) When a president retires, the board of regents may continue the president's full salary and  
39 benefits for six months excepting those benefits specifically associated with the office of the  
40 president.  
41

42 ~~3.8.3.7.2~~3.10.5.5.2 As soon as an impending vacancy in the office of president is known, the board of  
43 regents, with prior consent of the Board-for-University-Education-of Directors of Concordia  
44 University System, shall issue in an official periodical of the Synod a call for the nomination of  
45 candidates for the presidency of the institution. The call for nominations shall describe the  
46 office and qualifications desired to fill it.  
47

48 (a) Candidates may be nominated by congregations of the Synod, the Board-for-University  
49 Education of Directors of Concordia University System, the board of regents, and the faculty of  
50 the institution.

1 (b) All nominations must be filed with the designee of the board of regents within 60 days of  
2 the date of its published request unless the request sets a later date.

3 (1) Persons nominated may decline to be candidates, and their names will be removed from  
4 the list of nominees.

5 (2) Nominees who allow themselves to be listed as candidates will be asked to pledge, if  
6 called, to render a decision within 15 days of receipt of the call, unless granted an extension  
7 by the board of regents.

8 (3) The designee of the board of regents shall publish in an official periodical of the Synod  
9 the names of the nominees who have permitted themselves to be candidates and the date on  
10 which the election is to be held, which shall not be less than 30 days after the date of the  
11 publication of the names of the candidates.

12 (c) All recommendations, statements of qualifications of any nominees, or objections to any  
13 nominee with reasons therefore, must be filed with the board of regents before the time fixed  
14 for the election. If a charge of false doctrine or offensive life is registered, the board of regents  
15 shall investigate and reach a decision on such charge before proceeding with the election.

16 (d) A search committee, in its first phase of activity, shall be composed of three full-time  
17 faculty members (elected by the faculty with one alternate), and three board of regents  
18 members (elected by the board with one alternate). The alternate members shall participate in  
19 all meetings but shall not vote while serving as alternates.

20 (1) The search committee shall make a written report of the needs of the institution, the  
21 requirements of the Synod, and the required and desired qualifications of the nominees.

22 (2) This written report shall be shared with the electors.

23 (e) The search committee, in its second phase of activity, shall be composed of the original  
24 search committee, with the addition of three full-time faculty members (elected by the faculty).

25 (1) The search committee shall prepare reports on the credentials of the nominees. The  
26 board of regents shall make available to the search committee all information it receives  
27 regarding the candidates.

28 (2) The search committee shall submit to the electors a report of evaluations and  
29 recommendations regarding the candidates.

30 (f) Open forums shall be conducted with administrative staff, students, and other constituents as  
31 deemed essential by the search committee to gather extensive input to the process.

32 (g) The search committee shall prepare a list of at least five candidates that it recommends to  
33 the electors as the list from which the election slate is prepared.

34 (h) At a special meeting of the board of regents held to elect a president, there shall be present  
35 and voting as electors the members of the board of regents as a group with one vote (the district  
36 president on the board not voting with the board); the district president elected to the board or  
37 his official representative with a distinct vote; the President of the Synod or his official  
38 representative with one vote; and the chairman of the Board for University Education of Directors  
39 of Concordia University System or his official representative with one vote. The executive  
40 director of the Concordia University System Board for University Education shall attend as an  
41 observer.

42 (i) At least two weeks before the election, the electors shall finalize the slate of nominees to be  
43 interviewed in the election meeting.

44 (1) The slate is fixed by a majority of the electors, with the members of the board of regents  
45 now voting as individuals.

46 (2) They may add names to the search committee's list only from the officially published  
47 list of nominees, after consultation with the search committee.

48 (3) The entire board of regents (voting as individuals) shall participate, and the addition or  
49 deletion of names shall require a simple majority of all electors and board-of-regents  
50 members present. The search committee shall be available to answer questions regarding  
51 potential interviewees.

1 (4) If there are persons placed on the slate who were not on the search committee's  
2 recommendation list, they shall complete all interviews and questionnaires prior to the  
3 election.

4 (j) The election shall be held on the day designated in the notice published in the official  
5 periodical of the Synod or as soon thereafter as feasible. The electors shall give due  
6 consideration to the recommendations and statements of qualifications and objections submitted  
7 on behalf of all nominees.

8 (k) The initial election of a president shall require three of four elector votes. If the electors are  
9 unable to finalize the slate or complete the election, they shall postpone the election and, if  
10 desirable, request the board of regents to issue a new call for nominations.

11 (l) The board of regents shall extend the formal call promptly after the election and submit its  
12 action to an official periodical of the Synod for publication.

13 (m) Whenever a call is declined, the chairman of the board of regents shall give notice in an  
14 official periodical of the Synod and shall promptly call another meeting of the electors, at  
15 which meeting the call may be reissued or another person may be elected from among the  
16 remaining candidates, or the board of regents may be requested by the electors to issue a new  
17 call for candidates.

18  
19 Concordia University System Faculties

20  
21 ~~3.8.3.8.3.10.5.6~~ 3.8.3.8.3.10.5.6 The faculty of each college or university of the Synod shall consist of the president, the  
22 full-time faculty and the part-time faculty.

23  
24 (a) Part-time or temporary faculty members are distinguished by an appropriate prefix or suffix  
25 (“visiting, guest, adjunct, emeritus”) or the term “graduate assistant.”

26 (b) Part-time or temporary faculty members shall hold nonvoting membership on the faculty.

27  
28 ~~3.8.3.8.4.3.10.5.6.1~~ 3.8.3.8.4.3.10.5.6.1 At each school the president shall propose creation, modification, or abolition of  
29 administrative positions to the board of regents for its approval.

30  
31 (a) The board of regents at each school shall maintain clear policies for filling and vacating  
32 administrative positions.

33 (b) Administrative appointments shall be made by the board of regents on recommendation by  
34 the president of the institution. The Board for University Education of Directors of Concordia  
35 University System shall periodically review the internal administrative organization of the  
36 Synod's institutions.

37 (c) Each board of regents shall maintain a clear plan of succession of administration to assure  
38 that the institution continues to function effectively in the case of incapacity or lengthy absence  
39 of the president.

40  
41 ~~3.8.3.8.23.10.5.6.2~~ 3.8.3.8.23.10.5.6.2 Each educational institution shall have established policies and procedures related to  
42 appointments. There shall be two levels of faculty appointments: (1) Initial level, where the  
43 appointment can be terminated with no formal requirement for a show of cause; and (2)  
44 continuing level, where termination requires a formal show of cause.

45  
46 (a) Institutions are free to decide for themselves what names to apply to these two levels of  
47 appointment.

48 (b) Each educational institution of the Synod normally shall have at least thirty-five percent of  
49 its full-time faculty serving at the continuing appointment level.

50 (c) Each institution shall require specific action by the board of regents for promotion from an  
51 initial-level appointment to a continuing-level appointment.

1 (d) Standards or qualifications for moving a faculty member from initial-level appointment to  
2 continuing-level appointment shall be the following:

3 (1) The faculty member shall ordinarily have completed four to six years of creditable  
4 service (periods of leave are not included) as a member of the faculty of one or more  
5 educational institutions of the Synod, at least the last two years of which shall have been in  
6 the institution currently served.

7 (2) The faculty members shall, as determined by their academic discipline, regularly  
8 continue to demonstrate scholarly achievement that may be institutionally funded as  
9 determined by the board of regents.

10 (3) The faculty member's reputation, character, concern for students, and ability to honor  
11 leaders shall present a good reflection on the institution and the church.

12 (4) The faculty member's aptness to teach has been demonstrated by effective  
13 communication in the classroom.

14 (e) Steps in moving a faculty member from an initial-level appointment to a continuing-level  
15 appointment shall be the following:

16 (1) If the board of regents, on recommendation of the president of the institution,  
17 determines that a faculty member meets the above requirements and is still at the initial-  
18 level appointment, it shall either carry forward the procedure for promotion to a continuing-  
19 level appointment or inform the faculty member of its decision not to do so, in which case  
20 the individual either may continue at the initial-level appointment or be terminated. Any  
21 continuation of employment at the initial-level appointment shall be on a year-to-year basis.  
22 Faculty employment during the initial-level appointment period may be terminated without  
23 disclosure of cause. In cases in which the decision is made to terminate the individual's  
24 contract, the contract shall be extended for at least six months beyond the time at which  
25 notice is given. If the board of regents does not take up the question of promotion to a  
26 continuing-level appointment at least nine months prior to the end of the sixth year of  
27 service, the faculty member may petition the board of regents to do so.

28 (2) Notice of intent to promote to a continuing-level appointment status shall be announced  
29 in an official periodical of the Synod.

30 (3) The faculty member shall be given the opportunity to respond to any comments or  
31 concerns that may have been raised relative to promotion to a continuing-level  
32 appointment.

33 (4) At least six weeks after the notice is published, consent of the electors of the institution  
34 shall be given.

35 (5) If the above steps have all been met, after final review the board of regents may  
36 promote to a continuing-level appointment status.

37 (f) Promotion to continuing-level appointment status shall in no case be construed as requiring  
38 or indicating advancement in rank or increase in salary.

39 (g) Other types of faculty appointments may be established by institutions as the need arises.  
40

41 ~~3.8.3.8.33~~ 10.5.6.3 The board of regents on recommendation of the president of the institution shall  
42 appoint all full-time members of the faculty. The ~~Board for University Education of Directors of~~  
43 Concordia University System shall require certification of theological and professional  
44 competency. All initial appointments to seminaries and to college/university theology faculties  
45 shall require the prior approval of the ~~Board for University Education of Directors of Concordia~~  
46 University System. All other initial full-time appointments shall require prior approval of the  
47 board of regents and shall include a thorough theological review involving the district president  
48 and selected members of the board of regents.  
49

50 (a) The terms and conditions of every appointment shall be stated in writing and be in the  
51 possession of both the institution and the prospective faculty member before the appointment is

1 consummated. Limitations of academic freedom because of the religious and confessional  
2 nature and aims of the institution shall be stated in writing at the time of the appointment and  
3 conveyed to the person being appointed.

4 (b) Ordinarily candidates for full-time teaching positions shall be rostered members of the  
5 Synod. When laypersons are employed in full-time teaching positions, they shall pledge to  
6 perform their duties in harmony with the Holy Scriptures as the inspired Word of God, the  
7 Lutheran Confessions, the Synod's doctrinal statements, and the policies of the Synod.

8 (c) The board of regents may decline to renew an initial-level appointment of a faculty member  
9 at its discretion and without formal statement of cause. If reappointment to the teaching staff is  
10 not contemplated, the board of regents shall so notify the faculty member in writing through the  
11 president of the institution at least six months prior to the expiration of the current appointment.  
12 Notice of non-reappointment shall be made at least 6 months before the expiration of an initial-  
13 level appointment of a faculty member.

14 (d) The Board for University Education of Directors of Concordia University System shall state  
15 standards of good practice that provide uniform procedures for renewing faculty employment  
16 contracts.

17 (e) Each institution shall state policies regarding faculty appointments, employment contracts,  
18 contract renewal, and contract termination for all employees within Board for Concordia  
19 University System Education guidelines.

20  
21 ~~3.8.3.8.43~~ 10.5.6.4 A formal procedure shall be in place to carry out performance reviews for all faculty on  
22 a regular basis to help faculty identify their strengths as well as areas in which improvement is  
23 needed (formative) and to provide the information needed to make a decision about future  
24 employment status (summative).

25  
26 (a) Performance reviews shall be based on a set of clearly articulated criteria that are shared  
27 with faculty prior to their employment and current assignment.

28 (b) All faculty on initial-level appointments shall be reviewed at least triennially.

29 (c) All faculty on continuing-level appointments shall be reviewed at least every five years.

30 (d) The president of an institution may call for a formal review of any faculty member at any  
31 time.

32 (e) The review shall involve input from peers.

33 (f) A written summary of the results of the review shall be prepared.

34 (g) The summary shall be shared with the faculty member involved and he/she shall be given an  
35 opportunity to respond.

36 (h) A final decision about any action to be taken as a result of the review shall be made by the  
37 board of regents of the institution upon recommendation of the president of the institution.

38 (i) An appeal process shall be in place for use by faculty members of a continuing-level  
39 appointment (those who already have been granted continuing-level appointment status) who  
40 wish to challenge a termination decision. The appeal may be about the substance of the decision  
41 or the procedures followed in reaching the decision.

42 (j) Faculty members with an initial-level appointment (who have no expectation of continued  
43 employment) shall not be entitled to an appeal process following (or prior to) a decision of non-  
44 retention. The only exception is that a faculty member with an initial-level appointment may  
45 ask the board of regents to assure that appropriate procedures were followed in reaching the  
46 decision or the basis on which the decision was made.

47  
48 ~~3.8.3.8.53~~ 10.5.6.5 The only causes for which members of a faculty may be removed from office, other  
49 than honorable retirement, are (1) professional incompetency including, but not limited to, the  
50 failure to meet the criteria identified in Bylaw ~~3.8.3.8.23~~ 10.5.6.2 (d); (2) incapacity for the  
51 performance of duty; (3) insubordination; (4) neglect of or refusal to perform duties of office;

1 (5) conduct unbecoming a Christian; and (6) advocacy of false doctrine (Constitution, Art. II)  
2 or failure to honor and uphold the doctrinal position of the Synod as defined further in Bylaw  
3 1.6.2 (b).

4  
5 ~~3.8.3.8.63~~10.5.6.6 The board of regents may decline to renew the appointment of a faculty member during  
6 an initial-level appointment period without a formal statement of cause.

7  
8 ~~3.8.3.8.64~~10.5.6.6.1 No member of the faculty on a continuing-level appointment or on an initial-level  
9 appointment except at the expiration of the term of appointment shall be removed from the  
10 faculty either by ecclesiastical authority or by the board of regents except for cause.

11  
12 ~~3.8.3.8.73~~10.5.6.7 Positions of initial-level appointment as well as continuing-level appointment faculty  
13 may be terminated by the board of regents under certain institutional conditions that do not  
14 reflect on the competency or faithfulness of the individual faculty member whose position is  
15 terminated. These conditions are the following: (1) Discontinuance of an entire program (e.g.,  
16 social work, business); (2) discontinuance of an entire division or department (e.g., modern  
17 foreign language) of a college or university; (3) reduction of the size of staff in order to  
18 maintain financial viability in compliance with policies concerning fiscal viability; and (4)  
19 discontinuance, merger, or consolidation of an entire college or university operation.

20  
21 (a) In the event of termination of a faculty position by the board of regents, a minimum of six  
22 months advance notice to initial-level appointment faculty and 12 months advance notice to  
23 continuing-level appointment faculty must be provided the terminated faculty member in  
24 writing.

25 (b) The opportunity to serve the college or university in another capacity for which the  
26 terminated faculty member has credentials and qualifications shall be offered the terminated  
27 faculty member if such a vacancy exists at the time of termination or becomes available within  
28 two academic years.

29 (c) In identifying which specific faculty positions are to be discontinued or terminated, the  
30 board of regents shall follow the guidelines and procedures of that institution's reduction in  
31 force policy.

32 (d) A terminated position may not be filled subsequently by another person during the next two  
33 academic years without first offering the last previous incumbent who held the position with  
34 continuing-level appointment status the position at his or her last previous salary plus average  
35 annual salary increases provided to that faculty during the interim.

36  
37 ~~3.8.3.8.83~~10.5.6.8 A faculty member who is on a roster of the Synod is under the ecclesiastical  
38 supervision of the Synod. In the event a member is removed from membership in the Synod  
39 pursuant to procedure established in these bylaws, then that member is also considered removed  
40 from the position held and shall be terminated forthwith by the board of regents.

41  
42 ~~3.8.3.8.93~~10.5.6.9 The board of regents shall have authority to investigate, hear, and act on any complaint  
43 arising out of Bylaw ~~3.8.3.8.53~~10.5.6.5.

44  
45 (a) If the board of regents receives a complaint against a member of that institution's faculty or  
46 administration concerning any matter, including those specified under Bylaw  
47 ~~3.8.3.8.53~~10.5.6.5, it shall direct the complainant first to meet face-to-face with the respondent  
48 in an attempt to resolve the issue (in the manner described in Matthew 18:15).

49 (1) The president of the institution shall assist in this attempt.

50 (2) If the president himself is the respondent, the chairman of the board shall act in his  
51 stead.

1 (b) If the complainant is of the opinion that such informal reconciliation efforts have failed and  
2 there is a wish to pursue the matter, the complainant shall prepare a written statement of the  
3 matter in dispute and a written statement setting forth, in detail, the efforts that have been made  
4 to achieve informal reconciliation and forward such statements to the board of regents and to  
5 the respondent.

6 (c) Within 21 days after receipt of the written statement of the matter in dispute, the respondent  
7 shall submit a written reply to the board of regents and the complainant. If the respondent fails  
8 to reply, the allegations of the statement of the matter in dispute shall be deemed accepted.

9 (d) Upon receipt of a reply from the respondent, or if no reply is received and the board of  
10 regents determines that all informal reconciliation efforts have failed, the board of regents shall  
11 form a review committee of five persons (Matthew 18:16), which shall be chosen as follows:

12 (1) Each party shall select one faculty member and one regent.

13 (2) The Secretary of the Synod shall select the fifth member by blind draw from the  
14 Synod's roster of hearing facilitators, who shall serve as chairman.

15 (3) The selection shall be completed within one month of the date on which the board  
16 decides to form the Review Committee.

17 (e) If the board decides that the matter is of such a nature that the interests of the institution will  
18 best be served, it may limit the activities of the respondent. It may do so by relieving the  
19 respondent of teaching and/or administrative duties pending final resolution of the conflict.  
20 However, contractual obligations of the institution shall continue until the matter is resolved.

21 (f) The review committee shall proceed as follows:

22 (1) The committee shall hold its first hearing no later than 60 days after the last committee  
23 member has been appointed.

24 (2) The chairman of the committee shall notify the complainant and the respondent, at least  
25 28 days in advance, of the date, time, and place of the said hearing.

26 (3) If any part of the dispute involves a specific question of doctrine or doctrinal  
27 application, each party shall have the right to an opinion from the Commission on Theology  
28 and Church Relations. If it involves questions of Constitution or Bylaw interpretation, each  
29 party shall have a right to an interpretation from the Commission on Constitutional Matters.  
30 The request for an opinion must be made through the review committee, which shall  
31 determine the wording of the question(s). The request for an opinion must be made within  
32 four weeks of the final formation of the review committee. If a party does not request such  
33 an opinion within the designated time, such a request may still be made to the review  
34 committee, which shall, at its discretion, determine whether the request shall be forwarded.  
35 The review committee shall also have the right, at any time, to request an opinion from the  
36 Commission on Theology and Church Relations or the Commission on Constitutional  
37 Matters. When an opinion has been requested, the time limitations will not apply until the  
38 opinion has been received by the parties. Any opinion received must be followed by the  
39 review committee.

40 (4) All hearings shall be private, attended only by the parties and the witnesses who can  
41 substantiate the facts relevant to the matter in dispute. The review committee shall follow  
42 the procedures set forth in the *Standard Operating Procedures Manual* for this bylaw to be  
43 followed in the hearing and shall establish the relevancy of evidence so that each party shall  
44 be given an opportunity to present fully its respective position. In performing its duty, the  
45 review committee shall continue efforts to reconcile the parties on the basis of Christian  
46 love and forgiveness. If a party is a board or commission of the Synod or its districts, it  
47 shall be represented by its chairman or a designated member.

48 (5) Within 60 days after completion of the final hearing, the review committee shall issue a  
49 written decision which shall state the facts determined by the committee and the reasons for  
50 its decision and forward them to the parties and the board of regents. The board of regents  
51 shall then take appropriate action, which shall be final.

- 1 (g) If the committee decides there is a valid complaint  
2 (1) regarding matters under Bylaw ~~3.8.3.8.5~~3.10.5.6.5 (1)–(4) it may take whatever action it  
3 deems appropriate, including recommendation for termination of the employment contract;  
4 (2) regarding matters under Bylaw ~~3.8.3.8.5~~3.10.5.6.5 (5)–(6), if the member of the  
5 institution’s faculty or administration is a member of the Synod, it must also refer the  
6 complaint to the district president, who shall follow the procedure set forth in Bylaw  
7 sections 2.14 or 2.17.  
8 (h) At every stage of the above-described procedure, all parties must be furnished copies of all  
9 documents filed.  
10 (i) Any decision made pursuant to Bylaw ~~3.8.3.8.9~~3.10.5.6.9 shall be final and binding on the  
11 parties involved with no right of further appeal.  
12 (j) In consultation with the Commission on Constitutional Matters, the Board ~~for University~~  
13 Education of Directors of Concordia University System shall maintain and amend, as necessary,  
14 a *Standard Operating Procedures Manual* which shall serve as a comprehensive procedures  
15 manual for this bylaw.  
16

17 ~~3.8.3.8.10~~3.10.5.6.10 Each institution shall have established policies and procedures related to salary,  
18 faculty organization, faculty involvement in establishing institutional education policies,  
19 dispute resolution, modified service, sabbaticals and leaves. It shall also have policies and  
20 procedures related to student discipline.  
21

22 (a) The salary schedules of all institutional employees shall be fixed by the board of regents on  
23 recommendation of the president of the institution. The salary schedules shall be established  
24 within the broad guidelines provided by the Board ~~for University Education~~ of Directors of  
25 Concordia University System.

26 (b) The board of regents, on recommendation of the president of the institution, shall establish  
27 an effective faculty organizational structure.

28 (1) The president or his designee shall preside at regular and special meetings.

29 (2) The faculty shall elect a secretary and provide for the election of committees, consisting  
30 of faculty members or of faculty members and other persons, who shall study, evaluate, and  
31 report to the faculty on policy matters affecting the academic activity of the institution, the  
32 activity and welfare of the members of the faculty, and the life and welfare of the students.

33 (3) The faculty shall elect a standing hearings committee or assign the functions of such a  
34 committee to another standing committee.

35 (c) Each faculty shall recommend policy to the board of regents through the president for the  
36 admission, transfer, dismissal, or withdrawal of students, set the standards of scholarship to be  
37 maintained by students, determine criteria for graduation or failure, act on recommendations in  
38 the matter of granting certificates, diplomas, and such academic or honorary degrees as may  
39 lawfully be conferred by the institution.

40 (d) Each faculty shall develop and construct curricula implementing the recognized and  
41 established purposes of the institution and designed to attain the objectives of preparation for  
42 professional church workers and other Christian leaders approved by the Synod.

43 (e) Each faculty shall pursue the improvement of teaching and learning and the evaluation of  
44 their effectiveness in every segment of the institution and its curriculum.

45 (f) Each faculty shall recommend policy to the board of regents through the president regarding  
46 out-of-class life and activity of its students so that the co-curricular and off-campus activities of  
47 the students contribute to the attainment of the educational objectives of the institution. The  
48 faculty shall recommend such policies as will be conducive to the cultivation of a Christian  
49 deportment on the part of all students, will stimulate the creation of a cultured and academically  
50 challenging atmosphere on and about the whole campus, and will make a spiritually wholesome  
51 community life possible.

- 1 (g) Each faculty shall recommend policy to the board of regents through the president regarding  
2 the maintenance of wholesome conditions of faculty service and welfare.
- 3 (h) The faculty of each institution which prepares professional workers directly for service in  
4 the Synod shall conform its placement policies to the provisions for the distribution of  
5 candidates and workers through the Board of Assignments of the Synod.
- 6 (i) Controversies and disagreements among faculty members or other employees (other than  
7 those involving matters described in Bylaw ~~3.8.3.8.5~~3.10.5.6.5) shall be submitted to the  
8 president of the institution for mediation.
- 9 (1) If this proves unsuccessful, he shall report the matter to the board of regents for  
10 arbitration.
- 11 (2) After hearing the parties the board will render its decision, which shall be final, without  
12 the right of appeal under the provisions of the dispute resolution process of the Synod.
- 13 (3) A record of the proceedings shall be filed with the ~~Board for University Education~~Board  
14 of Directors of Concordia University System.
- 15 (j) Faculty members may request early retirement under the applicable provisions of the  
16 Concordia Retirement Plan.
- 17 (1) Upon retirement, faculty members who are ministers of religion—ordained or ministers  
18 of religion—commissioned ~~ministers of religion~~ are retained on the emeritus roster of the  
19 Synod on the basis of Bylaw 2.11.2.1 and may, by action of the board of regents, be  
20 retained on the roster of their faculty as “emeriti” (Bylaw ~~3.8.3.8.10.5.6~~).  
21 (2) Service loads and the conditions of service after retirement shall be determined by the  
22 board of regents.
- 23 (k) Each institution shall state policies regarding sabbaticals for faculty and leave-of-absence  
24 procedures for all employees within Board for University Education guidelines.
- 25 (l) Each board of regents, on recommendation of the president, shall adopt a comprehensive  
26 policy statement committing the school to the principles of Christian discipline, evangelical  
27 dealing, and good order governing the students individually and collectively.
- 28 (1) Each student shall be informed regarding the disciplinary policy and procedure and  
29 under what conditions and to whom an appeal from a disciplinary decision may be made.
- 30 (2) There shall be no right of appeal under the provisions of the dispute resolution process  
31 of the Synod.

### 32 **F. Board for Church Extension**

33  
34  
35 ~~3.6.4.4~~3.10.6 Until such time that all districts of the Synod conduct their church extension activities  
36 through the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod, there shall also be a Board for  
37 Church Extension of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Members of the board of  
38 directors of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod shall also serve as members  
39 of the Board for Church Extension of the Synod.

- 40  
41 (a) The board shall aid districts in motivating individuals, congregations, and organizations in  
42 acquiring investments for church extension in a systematic manner.
- 43 (b) The board shall strive to coordinate and obtain uniformity in the church extension programs  
44 of the districts.
- 45 (c) The board shall provide leadership in advance site acquisition for further expansion.
- 46 (d) The board shall ensure that district church extension boards or committees administer the  
47 districts' church extension programs in conformity with policies established by the Synod's  
48 Board for Church Extension and in accordance with district regulations.
- 49 (e) The board shall establish policies within which districts are to operate with respect to the  
50 making of loans and the type of security required, taking into consideration the financial status  
51 of the organization to which the loan is being made and circumstances of the loan.

- 1 (f) The board shall establish policies and programs for maintaining, supervising, and enlarging  
2 the district church extension funds on a sound financial basis by  
3 (1) periodically reviewing financial statements of all district church extension funds;  
4 (2) conferring with districts in cooperatively promoting church extension funds and seeking  
5 greater uniformity in the policies and programs of the districts;  
6 (3) including a complete financial statement of district funds in its report to the Synod,  
7 including money borrowed and received, the total amounts of loans outstanding, and the  
8 amounts delinquent in each district; and  
9 (4) providing architectural advice and site selection counsel, when requested, to  
10 congregations, Synod and district boards and commissions, and agencies of the Synod and  
11 district.

### 12 **3.11 Staff**

13  
14  
15 3.11.1 Unless otherwise specified by the board of directors of the respective agency, all employees  
16 shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authorities.

- 17  
18 (a) Members of the Synod who are appointed to positions requiring ~~an ordained minister of~~  
19 ~~religion—ordained~~ or a minister of religion—ordained or a ~~minister—commissioned~~ ~~minister~~ shall receive a solemn call.  
20 (b) Other ministers of religion—ordained or ministers of religion—commissioned ~~ministers~~  
21 appointed to positions in the Synod shall be affirmed by the respective board or commission  
22 through a solemn call.  
23 (c) All positions requiring called ministers shall be filled in consultation with the President of  
24 the Synod subject to all appropriate provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws as well as the  
25 respective board of directors' policy manual.  
26

### 27 **3.12 Nominations and Elections**

#### 28 Regional Elections

29  
30  
31 3.12.1 For all elections requiring regional representation, the Board of Directors of the Synod and the  
32 Council of Presidents acting jointly shall designate five geographic regions.

- 33  
34 (a) Regions shall be designated 24 months prior to conventions of the Synod and shall take into  
35 consideration geographical and confirmed membership information in the interest of fair  
36 representation.  
37 (b) This information shall be shared immediately with all districts of the Synod.  
38

#### 39 President and First Vice-Presidents

40  
41 ~~3.12.13.12.2~~ Nominations for the offices of President and First Vice-President, and other vice-presidents  
42 shall be made by the member congregations of the Synod.

- 43  
44 (a) Each member congregation shall be entitled to nominate from the clergy roster of the Synod  
45 two ministers of religion—ordained ~~ministers~~ as candidates for president, and two ministers of  
46 religion—ordained ~~ministers~~ as candidates for First Vice-President, and ~~four ordained ministers as~~  
47 ~~candidates for other vice-presidents in line of succession.~~ two ministers of religion—ordained from  
48 their respective region as candidates for regional vice-president.  
49 (b) The Secretary of the Synod shall, using lists of delegates in attendance at the previous  
50 district conventions as submitted by the secretaries of the districts, mail to each provide a secure

1 and verifiable method that will offer opportunity to every congregation of the Synod to submit  
2 nominations. He shall, with the approval of the Board of Directors of the Synod, obtain the  
3 assistance necessary to accomplish this task—ballots for nominating these candidates.

4 ~~(c) Each~~ The nominating process shall be completed—ballot shall be signed by the president and the  
5 secretary of the member congregations and shall be sent to the Secretary of the Synod not later than  
6 four five months prior to the opening date of the convention.

7 (d) The Secretary of the Synod may engage, with the approval of the Board of Directors ~~of The~~  
8 ~~Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, may engage~~, an external auditing firm to tabulate the  
9 nominations, and shall report ~~to the convention by means of~~ in the *Convention Workbook* the  
10 names and tallies of all ministers of religion—ordained ministers who have received nominating  
11 votes for the offices of President, First Vice President, and other vice presidents in line of succession.

12 ~~(e) Groups and individuals within and without the Synod are urged to refrain from circularizing the~~  
13 ~~Synod or areas thereof relative to favoritism in nominations for President, First Vice President, and other~~  
14 ~~vice presidents in line of succession.~~

15  
16 ~~3.12.1.13.12.2.1~~ The candidates—Candidates for the offices of President ~~and First Vice President~~ shall be in  
17 each instance the five three ministers of religion—ordained ministers receiving who received the  
18 highest number of votes in the nominating process and who consent to serve if elected. The  
19 candidates for the office of First Vice-President—ballots of the congregations, and the candidates for  
20 the offices of vice presidents two through five shall be the 20 ministers of religion—ordained  
21 ministers—receiving the highest number of votes in the nominating process—ballots of the  
22 congregations for other vice presidents in line of succession. No opportunity shall be provided for  
23 additional nominations.

24  
25 (a) The Secretary of the Synod shall notify each candidate and shall secure his approval in  
26 writing within 10 days after receiving the results of the ballots for the inclusion of his name on  
27 the convention ballot. Each candidate shall reply within 10 days as to his willingness to serve if elected.

28 (b) In the event of the death, declination, or unavailability of any candidate, the nominee having  
29 the next highest number of votes shall become a candidate. ~~(c)~~ In the event of a tie for the final  
30 candidate position, all names involved in the tie shall be ~~listed~~ included as candidates.

31  
32 ~~3.12.1.23.12.2.2~~ The Secretary of the Synod shall publish in the *Convention Workbook* and post on the  
33 Synod website brief biographies of the ~~five~~ three candidates for President, and the ~~five~~ twenty  
34 candidates for First Vice-President, ~~and the twenty candidates for vice presidents two through five.~~  
35 This report shall contain such pertinent information as age, residence, number of years in the  
36 Synod, present position, offices previously held in a district or the Synod, year of ordination,  
37 former pastorates, involvement in community, government, or interchurch affairs, any other  
38 specific experience and qualification for the office, and, if the candidate so desires, also a ~~brief~~  
39 personal statement.

40  
41 ~~3.12.1.3~~ The convention shall have the right to alter each slate at the proper time by amendment.

42 (a) ~~The amendment procedure shall include merely a motion, a second, and a vote on the amendment,~~  
43 ~~deliberately excluding verbal characterizations and discussion of the motion (except for the chair to~~  
44 ~~ascertain that the requirements have been met as to eligibility, consent, and the filing of the biographical~~  
45 ~~form).~~

46 (b) ~~Delegates making nominations from the floor shall have secured prior written consent of the~~  
47 ~~candidates they wish to nominate.~~

48 (c) ~~Such delegates shall immediately submit to the Secretary of the Synod this document and written~~  
49 ~~pertinent information concerning their nominee(s) as detailed in Bylaw 3.12.1.2.~~

50 (d) ~~After all such amendments have been voted on, the convention shall ratify the slate of candidates~~  
51 ~~prior to each election.~~

1 ~~3.12.1.4~~3.12.2.3 ~~Each voting delegate shall be entitled~~ Four weeks prior to the national convention, the  
2 Secretary of the Synod, using lists of delegates in attendance at the prior year's district  
3 conventions as submitted by the secretaries of the districts, shall provide via a secure and  
4 verifiable method opportunity for two voting delegates from each congregation in attendance at  
5 the previous district conventions who remain members of the congregations they represented to  
6 vote for one of the candidates for President. If one or both delegates are unavailable,  
7 congregations shall be provided opportunity to select substitute voters. The Secretary shall,  
8 with the approval of the Board of Directors of the Synod, obtain the assistance necessary to  
9 accomplish this task.

10  
11 (a) If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the ~~four~~ two candidates receiving the  
12 highest number of votes shall be retained on the ballot, and another vote shall be taken in the same  
13 manner. There shall be no opportunity provided for additional nominations.

14 ~~(a)~~(b) Two weeks prior to the convention, the Secretary shall notify the candidates of the results  
15 of the ballots. He shall thereafter also make the results known to the public. The candidate  
16 receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be ~~declared~~ recognized as elected.

17 ~~(b)~~ Thereafter, the candidate receiving the smallest number of votes shall be eliminated on each  
18 subsequent ballot until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.

19  
20 ~~3.12.1.5~~3.12.2.4 ~~After the results of~~ Prior to all other elections the election of the President have been  
21 announced, the convention shall ~~then~~ elect the First Vice-President, according to the procedures  
22 outlined for the election of President in Bylaws 3.12.1.3 and 3.12.1.4.

23  
24 (a) The President-elect shall select from the list of 20 nominees for the Office of First Vice-  
25 President five nominees who have consented to serve if elected.

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

29  
30 *Regional Vice-Presidents*

31  
32 ~~3.12.1.6~~3.12.2.5 After the results of the election of the First Vice-President have been announced, the  
33 convention shall ~~then~~ elect five regional vice-presidents according to the following nominations  
34 and elections process two through five as outlined in Bylaw 3.12.1.3. The rank of vice-presidents shall  
35 be determined by the order of their election or, if more than one is elected in the same voting, by the  
36 number of votes received by each. (This shall also be the process used for all other regional  
37 elections.)

1  
2 (a) Each member congregation of a region (including any non-geographic-district congregations  
3 in that region) shall be given opportunity to nominate two ministers of religion—ordained from  
4 the clergy roster and with residence in the designated region as a candidate for regional vice-  
5 president.

6 (b) Employees of the Synod or its agencies and auxiliaries are not eligible to serve.

7 (c) The secretary of the Synod shall receive such nominations (signed by the president and  
8 secretary of the nominating congregation).

9 (d) The names of the five ministers of religion—ordained residing within the boundaries of the  
10 each geographic region who receive the most nominating votes shall form the slate from which  
11 the Synod convention shall select by majority vote each regional vice-president.

12 (e) No opportunity shall be provided for additional nominations from the floor of the  
13 convention.

14 (f) Voting delegates to the national convention shall be entitled to vote for one of the  
15 candidates from each region. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the three  
16 candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be retained on the ballot.

17 (g) Balloting shall continue with the candidate receiving the least number of votes eliminated  
18 until one candidate from each region has received a majority of the votes cast.

19 (h) A final ballot will be used to determine the ranking of the five regional vice-presidents in  
20 line of succession.

21 ~~(a) Should one or more of the candidates be elected to the office of President or First Vice-President,~~  
22 ~~their names shall be removed from the ballot without requiring the addition of other names to the ballot.~~

23 ~~(b) In the election, each voting delegate shall be entitled to vote for as many candidates as there are~~  
24 ~~offices to be filled. A candidate whose total vote equals or exceeds a majority of the number of delegates~~  
25 ~~voting shall be declared elected.~~

26 ~~(c) If more candidates receive a majority than there are offices to be filled, those receiving the greatest~~  
27 ~~number of votes shall be declared elected.~~

28 ~~(d) If not all offices are filled in such voting, the candidate or candidates receiving the least number of~~  
29 ~~votes shall be eliminated so that two candidates remain for each office to be filled and another vote shall~~  
30 ~~then be taken.~~

31 ~~(e) This procedure shall be followed until all the offices have been filled.~~

32 ~~*Vice President—Finance—Treasurer*~~

33 ~~3.12.2 The nominee or slate of nominees for the election of the Vice President—Finance—Treasurer/Chief~~  
34 ~~Financial Officer shall be provided by the Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod~~  
35 ~~after consultation with the other boards on which he or she serves. The Vice President—Finance—~~  
36 ~~Treasurer shall be elected by the convention and shall not be in line of succession to the presidency of the~~  
37 ~~Synod.~~

38 ~~(a) Any additional nominations from the floor must meet the requirements of Bylaw 3.3.4.~~

39 ~~(b) The Board of Directors shall serve as the Committee for Nominations for this position.~~

40  
41 *Committee for Convention Nominations*

42  
43 3.12.3 The Committee for Convention Nominations is to be regarded as an *ad hoc* convention  
44 committee, to which limitations on holding multiple offices do not apply.

45  
46 3.12.3.1 In preparation for a convention of the Synod, one-half of the districts shall elect through their  
47 regular election procedures at the district convention one member to the Committee for  
48 Convention Nominations and an alternate:

49 Atlantic	Nebraska
50 California-Nevada-	North Wisconsin
51 Hawaii	Northern Illinois
52 Central Illinois	Northwest

1	Florida-Georgia	Oklahoma	
2	Indiana		SELC
3	Iowa West	South Dakota	
4	Minnesota South	Southern	
5	Missouri	Wyoming	
6			

7 3.12.3.2 In preparation for the following convention, the remaining districts shall elect in the same  
8 manner:

9	Eastern		New Jersey
10	English		North Dakota
11	Iowa East	Ohio	
12	Kansas		Rocky Mountain
13	Michigan	South Wisconsin	
14	Mid-South	Southeastern	
15	Minnesota North	Pacific Southwest	
16	Montana	Southern Illinois	
17	New England	Texas	
18			

19 3.12.3.3 One-half of the electing districts shall be designated by the Secretary of the Synod to elect a  
20 professional church worker and the other half a layperson, with roles reversed every ~~six~~ eight  
21 years.

23 3.12.3.4 The Secretary of the Synod shall handle the preliminary work for the Committee on Convention  
24 Nominations.

26 (a) He shall begin to solicit names of potential nominees from officers, boards, commissions,  
27 and agencies of the Synod and its districts at least 24 months prior to the convention.

28 (b) Approximately 24 months before a regular meeting of the Synod in convention, he shall  
29 solicit from the program boards and the synodwide corporate entity boards descriptions of  
30 criteria for qualified candidates to serve on those boards.

31 (c) With such criteria in view, the Secretary shall issue the first call for nominations through a  
32 publication of the Synod 18 months before the convention, soliciting names from program  
33 boards and synodwide corporate entity boards, as well as congregations, district presidents,  
34 district boards of directors, circuit counselors, and other likely sources.

35 (d) All incumbents eligible for reelection shall be considered for nominations.

36 (e) Qualifications of each candidate suggested are to be submitted together with the names.

37 (f) All suggested names and information for consideration by the Committee for Convention  
38 Nominations shall be submitted to the committee no later than nine months prior to the  
39 convention of the Synod.

40 (g) The Secretary shall present the names and information gathered to the Committee for  
41 Convention Nominations at its first meeting.

43 3.12.3.5 The first meeting of the Committee for Convention Nominations shall be at the call of the  
44 Secretary of the Synod within nine months prior to the convention of the Synod.

46 (a) The Secretary shall not serve as a member of the committee, but he shall convene the initial  
47 meeting of the committee and be available, upon call, for consultation.

48 (b) The committee shall elect its own chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary and shall organize  
49 its work in whatever way it deems necessary.

50 (c) The committee shall inform itself as to the duties and requirements of each position to be  
51 filled and thereby be guided in its selection of nominees.

1 (d) In the case of the boards of regents of educational institutions of the Synod, the committee  
2 shall consult with the ~~Board for Pastoral Education and Board for University Education~~ President of  
3 the Synod or the Board of Directors of Concordia University System and receive their  
4 ~~nominations for the various boards of regents~~ input for the committee's consideration.  
5

6 3.12.3.6 The Committee on Convention Nominations shall nominate candidates for all elective offices,  
7 boards, and commissions except President; and vice-presidents; ~~and Vice President Finance—~~  
8 ~~Treasurer.~~  
9

10 (a) At least two candidates shall be nominated for each position.

11 (b) At least five months prior to the convention, the committee shall determine its complete list  
12 of candidates and alternates, obtain the consent of the persons it proposes to nominate, and  
13 transmit its final report to the Secretary of the Synod in ample time to provide for its  
14 publication in a pre-convention issue of an official periodical of the Synod and also in the  
15 *Convention Workbook*.

16 (c) The committee's report shall list the qualifications of various positions used in the  
17 solicitation of candidates and contain pertinent information concerning each candidate, such as  
18 occupation or profession, district affiliation, residence, specific experience, number of years as  
19 a member of an LCMS congregation, present position, offices previously held in a  
20 congregation, district or the Synod, and qualifications for the office in question, and, if the  
21 candidate so desires, also a brief personal statement.  
22

23 3.12.3.7 The chairman of the Committee for Convention Nominations shall submit the committee's  
24 report in person to the convention at one of its earliest sessions.  
25

26 (a) The convention may amend the slate by nominations from the floor.

27 (b) Floor nominations shall be brought individually before the convention for approval before  
28 being added to the ballot. No floor nominations shall be accepted which would preclude, by  
29 virtue of election limitations of such office, election of any pending nominee already on the  
30 slate of candidates received from the Committee for Convention Nominations without  
31 disclosing such potential effect immediately to the convention.

32 (c) Such floor nominations may only be made from the list of names which have previously  
33 been offered to the Committee for Convention Nominations prior to the final deadline  
34 established and published by the committee, unless the convention shall otherwise order by a  
35 simple majority vote.

36 (d) If the convention approves the receipt of such additional nominations, any delegate making  
37 such a nomination shall have secured prior written consent of the candidate being nominated  
38 and shall immediately submit it to the chairman of the Committee for Convention Nominations  
39 along with required pertinent information concerning the nominee as detailed in Bylaw 3.12.3.6  
40

41 (c).

42 (e) The chairman of the Committee for Convention Nominations shall have on hand at the  
43 convention a reserve list of nominees, approved by the committee, for use if required.

44 (f) Whenever possible the Committee for Convention Nominations should be informed in  
45 advance if any new board or commission is likely to be established at a convention of the  
46 Synod, so that it may have a slate of candidates in readiness.

47 3.12.3.8 The Committee for Convention Nominations, in consultation with officials of the Synod, shall  
48 maintain a description of the desirable expertise required for each elected board and shall  
49 transmit this information together with suggestions for improvement of procedures to the next  
50 committee through the Secretary of the Synod.  
51

1 *Committee on Elections*

2  
3 3.12.4 Prior to the convention of the Synod, the President shall appoint a Committee on Elections,  
4 which shall make the necessary arrangements for the elections, shall be responsible for the  
5 preparation and distribution of ballots, and shall supervise the elections and the tabulation of  
6 the votes.

7  
8 (a) The President shall designate a chairman for the committee.

9 (b) The Secretary of the Synod shall provide the chairman with a current manual of suggested  
10 election procedures.

11 (c) The committee shall be empowered to adopt procedures and methods that will insure  
12 efficiency and accuracy, including the use of mechanical, electronic, or other methods of  
13 casting, recording, or tabulating votes.

14 (d) All ballots in each election shall be preserved by the chairman of the committee until the  
15 close of the convention and shall then be destroyed.

16  
17 3.12.4.1 The names and district affiliation of the candidates in all elections—at least two for each  
18 position—shall be placed on the election ballot in alphabetical order. All names shall be listed  
19 without any distinctive mark, except where regional representation is a preference or  
20 requirement of the Synod.

21  
22 3.12.4.2 The President shall determine and announce a period of time during the convention for the  
23 election of the members of all elective boards and commissions.

24  
25 (a) After the election of the President, the First Vice-President, and the other vice-presidents in  
26 that order, and the election by ballot of the Secretary, ~~the Vice President—Finance—Treasurer,~~ and  
27 the elective members of the Board of Directors of the Synod, the members of all elective boards  
28 and commissions shall be elected.

29 (b) A majority of all votes cast shall be required for election to all elective offices and elective  
30 board positions. Candidates receiving a majority on the first ballot shall be declared elected.

31 (c) Except in the elections of president and vice-presidents, when a second or succeeding ballot  
32 is required for a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes and all candidates receiving  
33 less than 15 percent of the votes cast shall be dropped from the ballot, unless fewer than two  
34 candidates receive 15 percent or more of the votes cast, in which case the three highest  
35 candidates shall constitute the ballot.

36 (d) The tally of the votes cast for each candidate shall be announced after each ballot in all  
37 elections.

38  
39 3.12.4.3 The Committee on Elections shall report the official results of each election to the convention  
40 and shall file a written report of the tabulation of votes of each election, certified by the  
41 chairman and at least one other member of the committee, with the convention chairman and  
42 the Secretary of the Synod.

43  
44  
45 **4. DISTRICT ORGANIZATION**

46  
47 **4.1 Governing Principles**

48  
49 4.1.1 The Synod is not merely an advisory body in relation to a district, but establishes districts in  
50 order more effectively to achieve its ~~objectives~~ mission and purpose and carry on its activities.

- 1  
2 4.1.1.1 A district is the Synod itself performing the functions of the Synod. Resolutions of the Synod  
3 are binding upon the districts.  
4
- 5 4.1.1.2 The Constitution of the Synod is also the constitution of each district. The Bylaws of the Synod  
6 shall be primarily the bylaws of the district.  
7
- 8 (a) A district may adopt additional bylaws, regulations, and resolutions necessary or proper for  
9 its own administration or for effectively carrying on the work of the Synod. These shall not  
10 conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.  
11 (b) The bylaws and regulations of the district and any subsequent change therein shall be  
12 submitted to the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod for review and approval.  
13
- 14 4.1.1.3 The Synod decides when and whether a district shall be formed, divided, realigned, or merged  
15 with another or other districts, or dissolved; determines the boundaries of a district; and  
16 approves the name of a district.  
17
- 18 (a) A proposal calling for the formation, division, realignment, merger, or dissolution of a  
19 district or districts may be initiated by a national convention of the Synod or the Board of  
20 Directors of the Synod.  
21 (b) Such proposals shall  
22 (1) be submitted to the President at least six months prior to a convention of the Synod;  
23 (2) be produced in consultation with the Department of Planning and Research;  
24 (3) include a substantiated description of the nonviable aspects of the current district(s) on  
25 the basis of general principles of viability adopted from time to time by conventions of the  
26 Synod, and shall specify the problems or factors which make the adoption of the proposal  
27 advisable or necessary;  
28 (4) provide evidence that the proposed change is the best of the options available;  
29 (5) provide a specific and realistic development plan for the proposed district(s), including  
30 detailed proposals for staff personnel and financial operations; and  
31 (6) be the object of an evaluation prepared by the Board of Directors of the Synod and  
32 submitted to the convention.  
33
- 34 4.1.1.4 Transfer of congregations between districts is completed upon approval of the respective  
35 district boards of directors at the request of the congregation.  
36
- 37 4.1.1.5 Transfer of congregations between partner churches requires the additional approval of the  
38 governing boards of the church bodies.  
39
- 40 4.1.2 The membership of a district consists of all those members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri  
41 Synod (congregations, ministers of religion—ordained and ministers of religion—commissioned  
42 ~~ministers~~) who have been received into the district at the time of joining the Synod, who have  
43 been transferred from another district, or who have been assigned to the district by the Synod.  
44
- 45 4.1.2.1 Termination of membership in the Synod terminates membership in a district.  
46
- 47 4.1.3 A district may incorporate or adopt such other convenient form of association as may be  
48 permitted by the civil laws under which the district carries on its activities. The form of  
49 incorporation or association and any subsequent proposed change thereof shall be submitted to  
50 the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod for review and approval before  
51 adoption by the district and before presentation to the proper civil authorities.

- 1  
2 4.1.4 Upon dissolution of a district, all property and assets to which the district holds title or over  
3 which it has control shall be transferred immediately to the Synod or its nominee.  
4  
5 4.1.4.1 Upon dissolution of a corporation controlled by a district (through its board of directors or its  
6 member congregations), the assets of such corporation shall be distributed to the district, or, if  
7 the district is not in existence, to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.  
8  
9 4.1.5 Jurisdiction with respect to everything that is administered by or for the entire Synod resides in  
10 the national Synod itself. Jurisdiction includes but is not limited to general supervision of  
11 doctrine and practice; foreign missions; institutions of the Synod; qualification for ordination,  
12 commissioning, and installation of ministers of religion—ordained and ministers of religion—  
13 commissioned ~~ministers~~—and requirements for individual as well as congregational membership  
14 in the Synod; publication of official religious periodicals; conduct of negotiations and  
15 affiliations with other church bodies; and the like.  
16  
17 4.1.6 The relationship of a congregation to the district is the same as the relationship of a  
18 congregation to the Synod as defined in Article VII of the Constitution of the Synod and Bylaw  
19 sections 1.3, 1.6, 1.7, and 1.8.  
20  
21 4.1.6.1 Relationships on the district level are those as defined in Bylaw section 1.4.  
22  
23 4.1.7 Officers of the district shall have primary responsibility for district implementation of decisions  
24 of the Synod at the national level as they apply at the district level and within the boundaries of  
25 the respective district and for implementation of decisions of the district convention and district  
26 agencies.  
27  
28 4.1.7.1 Communications between national and district levels shall be maintained in order to carry out  
29 the most effective and coordinated programs possible.  
30

## 31 ***4.2 District Conventions***

- 32  
33 4.2.1 Conventions of the districts shall afford opportunities for worship, nurture, inspiration,  
34 fellowship, and the communication of vital information. They are the principal legislative  
35 assemblies, which amend the district's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, consider and take  
36 action on reports and overtures, and handle appropriate appeals.  
37  
38 (a) The conventions of the districts shall be governed by the bylaws adopted by the Synod for  
39 its conventions, insofar as these may be applicable.  
40 (b) The district convention is the instrument to receive overtures (Bylaws 3.1.6.2–3.1.6.2.5),  
41 including overtures and recommendations for synodwide mission and ministry emphases,  
42 submitted by member congregations and adopted by a circuit forum.  
43 (c) Following in-depth study and discussion, the district convention shall act on the overtures  
44 and may, as determined by the convention, submit overtures to the national convention.  
45 (d) The district convention shall, through delegate vote, forward to the national convention a  
46 list of two to three quadrennial mission and ministry emphases for consideration by the national  
47 convention.  
48 (e) ~~(b)~~ Each district may adopt other regulations, provided these are not contrary to the  
49 Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.

1 (f)(e) The president of the district shall conduct the sessions according to accepted  
2 parliamentary rules and shall so arrange the schedule of business that the sessions do not extend  
3 beyond six business days.

4  
5 4.2.2 The delegates of a voting congregation to a district convention shall be accredited.

6  
7 (a) They shall be entitled to vote upon presenting to the secretary at the opening of the  
8 convention the proper credentials provided by the district secretary and signed by two of the  
9 congregation's officers.

10 (b) All duly elected voting delegates shall attend all sessions of the convention regularly until  
11 the close of the convention.

12  
13 4.2.3 ~~All nonvoting ordained and commissioned ministers who are members of the Synod within the district  
14 shall serve as advisory delegates.~~

15 ~~(a) They are entitled to voice and vote on a floor committee, if appointed, and to voice in the convention.~~

16 ~~(b) All advisory members are expected to attend all sessions of the convention.~~

17 ~~(c) Those advisory members whose office in the Synod, district, or other agency imposes professional or  
18 service requirements on which full and regular convention attendance makes undue demands, shall  
19 nevertheless, in consultation with their supervisory boards, arrange for their own partial or occasional  
20 attendance and participation in accordance with policies established by their supervisory boards.~~

21 Congregational representation at a district convention ordinarily shall be the senior or sole  
22 pastor of the congregation and a lay person duly elected by the congregation. If that is not  
23 possible, as determined by the congregation, it shall be either

24 1. the senior or sole pastor of the congregation and a minister of religion—commissioned; or

25 2. with the initiative and approval of the senior or sole pastor of the congregation another  
26 individual member of the Synod who is a member of the congregation, and a lay person.

27  
28 4.2.3.1 If the senior or sole pastor position is vacant, the congregation shall decide which one of the  
29 following three combinations it prefers

30 1. an individual member of the Synod who is a member of the congregation and a lay  
31 person; or

32 2. the vacancy/intentional interim pastor of the congregation (provided he is not already  
33 serving as the voting representative of another congregation) and a lay person; or

34 3. the vacancy/intentional interim pastor of the congregation (provided he is not already  
35 serving as a voting representative of another congregation) and a minister of religion—  
36 commissioned who is a member of the congregation.

37  
38 4.2.3.2 Multiple-congregation parishes shall be represented by the senior or sole pastor and a lay  
39 person from each congregation. Any congregation in a multiple-congregation parish that is not  
40 represented by the sole or senior pastor may, in addition to its lay representative, be represented  
41 by an individual member of the Synod who is a member of that congregation.

42  
43 4.2.3.3 Congregations with an average weekly worship attendance of 750 or more shall be entitled to  
44 two additional delegates. The most recent available roster statistics shall be used to determine  
45 worship attendance. Of that congregation's four delegates, at least one shall be a member of the  
46 laity of the congregation.

47  
48 4.2.4 The President of the Synod or his representative shall report on the condition and affairs of the  
49 Synod. He shall also deliver the sermon at the opening or convention service.

50  
51 **4.3 District Officers**

1  
2 4.3.1 The following officers shall be elected from the clergy roster of the Synod by each district: a  
3 president, two or more vice-presidents, a secretary, and a circuit counselor for each circuit  
4 established by the district.

5  
6 4.3.2 Each district shall have a treasurer who shall be a layperson and shall be elected or appointed as  
7 the bylaws of the district may provide.

8  
9 4.3.3 All officers and members of boards shall be members of member congregations of the district  
10 upon assuming office and during the course of their tenure.

#### 11 **4.4 District President**

12  
13  
14 4.4.1 The district president is the chief executive of the district.

15  
16 (a) Upon him is incumbent the responsibility that the resolutions of the district are  
17 implemented.

18 (b) He shall report to the district convention.

19  
20 4.4.2 The district president shall represent the Synod in his district.

21  
22 (a) He shall cause the resolutions of the Synod to be implemented in the district, encouraging  
23 the congregations and schools to embrace the mission and ministry emphases adopted by the  
24 national convention for the quadrennium.

25 (b) He shall regularly report to the President of the Synod.

26 (c) He shall serve the congregations of the district as liaison between the congregations, district,  
27 and the Synod.

28  
29 4.4.3 The district president shall represent the Synod in connection with all ordinations,  
30 commissionings, and installations.

31  
32 (a) *First calls*: Ordinations, commissionings, and initial installations shall be conducted by or at  
33 the direction of the district president when the requirements of Bylaw 2.10.2 (a) have been  
34 satisfied.

35 (b) *Missionaries*: The authorization for the ordination or commissioning and the installation of  
36 a missionary called into the foreign fields, whether as a first or subsequent call, shall be issued  
37 upon the request of the Board for Mission Services by the president of the district in which the  
38 missionary resides. The authorization with respect to the ordination or commissioning and the  
39 installation for service within a district of the Synod, whether as a first or subsequent call, shall  
40 be issued by the president of that district.

41 (c) *Synod staff members*: ~~Ordained~~ Ministers of religion—ordained and ministers of religion—  
42 commissioned ministers who are members of the Synod called or appointed to serve the national  
43 Synod shall be installed, in accordance with forms and practices developed by the Synod for  
44 that purpose, by the president of the Missouri District, or by his representative.

45 (d) *Professors and instructional staff members*: ~~Ordained~~ Ministers of religion—ordained and  
46 ministers of religion—commissioned ministers who are members of the Synod called or  
47 appointed to serve at the Synod's educational institutions as professors and instructional staff  
48 members shall be installed, in accordance with forms and practices developed by the Synod for  
49 that purpose, by the president of the district in which the institution is located, or by his  
50 representative.

1 (e) *Second and subsequent installations of ministers:* Except as provided in the foregoing  
2 paragraphs, ministers of religion—ordained ministers and ministers of religion—commissioned  
3 ~~ministers~~ who have been duly called to a position of full-time service shall be installed upon  
4 authorization by the appropriate district president. Each installation shall be conducted, in  
5 accordance with forms and practices developed by the Synod for that purpose, by the district  
6 president or by an minister of religion—ordained minister designated by the district president.  
7

8 4.4.4 The district president shall, in accordance with the Constitution of the Synod, in his ministry of  
9 ecclesiastical supervision visit the congregations of the district.  
10

11 (a) He shall arrange in advance for an official visit to each congregation of his district at least  
12 once every three years and otherwise as he deems it necessary. He may call upon the circuit  
13 counselors and vice-presidents to assist him with the triennial visitation of congregations.

14 (b) In his official visits he shall seek to bring about to the greatest possible degree the  
15 achievement of the Synod's ~~objectives~~ mission and purpose as expressed in Article III of its  
16 Constitution.

17 (c) He shall conduct his official visits in an evangelical manner.

18 (d) He shall come to the pastor and the congregation as a brotherly advisor, reminding them of  
19 the joy of serving in the mission and ministry of the church.

20 (e) In his visits he shall include fraternal discussion in regard to worship and communion  
21 attendance; participation by the congregation in missions and the work of the church at large;  
22 the congregation's evangelism and education endeavors; its cultivation of sound stewardship  
23 principles; all aspects of compensation for professional church workers; the need for  
24 maintenance of purity of doctrine; the strengthening of the bond of Christian fellowship; and  
25 the provision of resources, opportunities, and assistance so God's people can grow in their faith,  
26 hope, and love.

27 (f) The jurisdiction of the district president shall include non-member congregations whose  
28 pastors are members of the Synod. However, for the purpose of official visits in such a  
29 congregation the consent of the congregation shall first be secured. The district president may  
30 appoint the circuit counselor in whose circuit such a congregation is located to be his official  
31 representative.  
32

33 4.4.5 Each district president, in accordance with the Constitution of the Synod, shall supervise the  
34 doctrine, the life, and the official administration on the part of the ministers of religion—  
35 ordained or ministers of religion—commissioned ~~ministers~~ who are members through his district  
36 or are subject to his ecclesiastical supervision, and shall inquire into the prevailing spiritual  
37 conditions of the congregations of his district.  
38

39 (a) As often as possible he shall attend the conferences of ~~pastors~~ ministers of religion—ordained  
40 and ministers of religion—commissioned ~~teachers~~ held in his district, advise the congregations of  
41 his district as to the calling of ~~pastors~~ ministers of religion—ordained and ministers of religion—  
42 commissioned ~~teachers~~, give counsel, and respond to requests and inquiries.

43 (b) He may call upon circuit counselors to assist him.  
44

45 4.4.6 The district president, even without formal request therefor, may through the proper channels  
46 arrange for an official visit or investigation when a controversy arises in a congregation or  
47 between two or more congregations of the district or when there is evidence of a continuing  
48 unresolved problem in doctrine or practice.  
49

50 (a) He shall ask for a full report on the case in order that he may have a clear understanding of  
51 the situation.

1 (b) If he authorizes anyone to represent him in such matters, his representative shall be  
2 accorded the same rights as the district president.

3  
4 4.4.7 The district president shall be responsible for maintaining the official rosters of his district.

5  
6 (a) He shall add the names of those ministers of religion—ordained or ministers of religion—  
7 commissioned ~~ministers~~—initially placed in the district and those accepting a call to or otherwise  
8 transferring to the district.

9 (b) He shall remove the names of those who have died or have resigned their membership or  
10 have had their membership in the Synod duly terminated.

11 (c) A ~~minister of religion~~—ordained or minister of religion—commissioned ~~minister~~—accepting a  
12 call to a congregation in a sister district or to an institution which relates to such district shall  
13 immediately report such decision to his district president and ask for a transfer of membership.  
14 The district president shall forward such transfer to the president of the sister district.

15 (d) Upon receipt of the transfer and of a request for installation from the minister of religion,  
16 the district president of the sister district shall install or authorize installation of such minister.

17 (e) He shall regularly forward roster reports to the Secretary of the Synod.

18  
19 4.4.8 The district president shall revise annually the official rosters of ministers of religion—ordained  
20 ~~ministers~~—and of ministers of religion—commissioned ~~ministers~~—for publication in *The Lutheran*  
21 *Annual*.

#### 22 ***4.5 District Boards of Directors***

23  
24 4.5.1 Each district shall elect a board of directors, the size and composition of which shall be  
25 determined by the Bylaws of the district. It shall have such powers and duties as are accorded to  
26 it by the Constitution, Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, resolutions, and policies of the Synod,  
27 as well as those of the district.

28  
29 (a) Subject to such limitations, it shall operate within the applicable federal and state laws.

30 (b) It shall be vested with the general management and supervision of the district's business and  
31 legal affairs and shall adopt policies and require procedures which assure that said management  
32 and supervision is effected.

33 (c) In fulfilling its functions and in coordinating its work with the Synod, the board shall be  
34 guided generally by the functions of the Board of Directors of the Synod as defined in Bylaws  
35 3.3.5ff as these apply to districts.

36 (d) Between conventions it shall provide for implementation within the district of the decisions  
37 of the national and district conventions and allocate necessary funds for the support of the  
38 national and district budgets.

#### 39 ***4.6 District Committee or Board for Stewardship***

40  
41  
42 4.6.1 Each district shall elect or appoint a committee or board for stewardship.

43  
44 (a) This board shall cooperate with the Synod's ~~Department of Stewardship~~ Office of National  
45 Mission and shall assist and advise local congregations in the development and promotion of an  
46 adequate stewardship program.

47 (b) Districts are advised to provide for the systematic supervision and qualified guidance and  
48 promotion of stewardship education, where possible establishing and maintaining the office of  
49 a stewardship counselor or secretary, who shall be responsible to the district stewardship board.

1 (c) Each district may invite a representative of the Synod to meet for mutual assistance in  
2 budget planning for mission and ministry.

3 (d) Each district shall arrange for adequate time at its convention for a report on the mission  
4 and ministry program of the Synod, made by a representative of the Synod assigned by the  
5 President of the Synod.

#### 6 7 **4.7 District Nominations, Elections, and Appointments** 8

9 4.7.1 Each district may adopt regulations for the nomination and election of its president; the  
10 nomination, election, and ranking of its vice-presidents; and the succession in case of  
11 vacancies, as long as these provisions do not conflict with the Bylaws of the Synod.

12  
13 4.7.2 A nominating committee of each district shall be elected by the district convention. Nominating  
14 committees may not be employed in the election of the president and vice-presidents.

15  
16 4.7.3 A majority of all votes cast shall be required in every election to all elective offices and elective  
17 board positions. Except in the election of the president and the vice-presidents, the following  
18 regulations shall apply:

19  
20 (a) Candidates receiving a majority on the first ballot shall be declared elected.

21 (b) When a second or succeeding ballot is required for a majority, the candidate receiving the  
22 fewest votes and all candidates receiving less than 15 percent of the votes cast shall be dropped  
23 from the ballot, unless fewer than two candidates receive 15 percent or more of the votes cast,  
24 in which case the three highest candidates shall constitute the ballot.

25 (c) In every election balloting shall continue until every position has been filled by majority  
26 vote.

27  
28 4.7.4 Terms of office ~~of shall be as follows: (1) Elected officers, and elected and appointed members of~~  
29 ~~boards and commissions shall be threefour years. (2) Elected board and commission members~~  
30 ~~threefour years. However, districts may adopt bylaws setting such terms at six years instead of three~~  
31 ~~years. 4.7.5 Limitations of tenure, if any, may shall be determined by a district.~~

#### 32 33 **4.8 Official District Conferences** 34

35 4.8.1 Official conferences shall be conducted for the spiritual and professional growth of their  
36 members.

37  
38 (a) Conferences, whether official or unofficial, provide a means for ministers of religion  
39 ~~ordained and ministers of religion~~—commissioned ~~ministers~~ to relate together on a regular basis.

40 (b) Matters pertaining to Christian doctrine and practice, to professional problems, to the proper  
41 conduct in office, to private study, to the welfare of the respective congregations and schools, to  
42 the work of the Synod, including the district, or to any other professional matter should at all  
43 times receive due and sympathetic attention.

44 (c) The minutes and essays or a reasonably comprehensive summary of the essays accepted by  
45 the pastoral conference and by the teachers conference in plenary and sectional meetings shall  
46 be mailed to the office of the district president for review and for the district's record within one  
47 month following such conference.

48 (d) Professional conferences have no administrative functions in the Synod.  
49

1 4.8.2 Official conferences for all ministers of religion-ordained and ministers of religion-  
2 commissioned ~~ministers~~ on the respective rosters of the Synod shall meet, if possible, in  
3 plenary sessions at least once each year.

4  
5 (a) The members of official conferences are to aim to cultivate positive relationships, to be  
6 mutually helpful in every way possible, and to encourage, instruct, and admonish one another  
7 in a spirit of sincerity and Christian love.

8 (b) Such conferences may meet more frequently in major sections (not more than four sections)  
9 whose geographical boundaries shall be established by the district in convention.

10 (c) Such major sectional meetings shall be regarded as sessions of the official conference.

11 (d) All ministers of religion-ordained and ministers of religion-commissioned ~~ministers~~ on the  
12 district rosters are expected to attend meetings of their official conference or present a valid  
13 excuse.

14 (1) Attendance at the official conferences shall be obligatory for ministers of religion-  
15 ordained and ministers of religion-commissioned ~~ministers~~ serving in congregations and  
16 parishes.

17 (2) Those whose offices in the Synod, district, or other agency impose professional or  
18 service requirements on which full and regular conference attendance makes undue  
19 demands shall, nevertheless, in consultation with their supervisory boards, arrange for their  
20 own partial or occasional attendance and participation in their own official conferences in  
21 accordance with policies established by their supervisory boards.

22  
23 4.8.3 The plenary and any sectional conferences may adopt and submit overtures to conventions of  
24 the Synod, including those of districts.

#### 25 26 **4.9 Other District Meetings**

27  
28 4.9.1 ~~Other meetings~~ Meetings other than official district conferences, such as district theological  
29 convocations, also may ~~exist to~~ consider matters of doctrine, exegesis, and practical theology;  
30 and ~~may be used for promotion of the basic~~ promote the activities of the Synod church. ~~Such~~  
31 ~~meetings, including circuit conferences, shall not be regarded as official conferences.~~

32  
33 4.9.1.1 During the second year of the quadrennium following a national convention, districts shall hold  
34 district theological convocations, gatherings of all member congregations of the districts.

35  
36 (a) They shall provide a setting under the power and authority of God's Word for in-depth  
37 study and discussion (mutual conversation and consolation) of theological, missiological, and  
38 contemporary issues before the Synod.

39 (b) They shall also provide encouragement and resources for congregations and circuit forums  
40 to generate helpful, effective, and responsible overtures to district and national conventions of  
41 the Synod.

42 (c) The district president as the district ecclesiastical supervisor serves as chairman of the  
43 convocation and has the primary responsibility for setting the agenda, in consultation with the  
44 district praesidium and the circuit counselors of the district. He may consult with and utilize the  
45 resources of the President of the Synod, the Council of Presidents, the Commission on  
46 Theology and Church Relations, and the faculties of the seminaries and universities of the  
47 Synod.

48  
49 4.9.1.2 ~~(a)~~ Pastors, teachers, directors of Christian education, directors of Christian outreach, directors  
50 of family life ministry, directors of parish music, deaconesses, certified lay ministers, and

1 parish assistants are encouraged to meet also jointly for the purpose of discussing doctrinal,  
2 professional, and practical matters.

3  
4 4.9.1.3 ~~(b) Ordained Ministers of religion—ordained and ministers of religion—commissioned—ministers~~  
5 are also encouraged to organize smaller meetings in addition to their official conferences.

6  
7 4.9.1.4 ~~(c) Intersynodical conferences~~ Conferences with other church bodies for the study of theology are  
8 desirable and are encouraged to be held on a regular basis. ~~They also are not official conferences.~~

## 11 5. *CIRCUITS*

### 13 5.1 *Visitation Circuits* Circuit Networks

14  
15 5.1.1 ~~Each circuit shall consist of 7 to 20 member congregations involving an aggregate communicant~~  
16 ~~membership from 1,500 to 10,000.~~

17 ~~(a) Exceptions to these requirements and limitations can be made only by the President of the Synod.~~

18 ~~(b) Exceptions must be requested by the district board of directors.~~

19 A circuit is a network of congregations that “walks together” for mutual care, support, advice,  
20 study, ecclesiastical encouragement, service, coordination, resources, and counsel—all for the  
21 sake of greater congregational participation in God’s mission.

22  
23 5.1.2 Districts shall establish circuits according to geographic, demographic, and mission criteria, or  
24 such other criteria as shall be determined by a district.

### 26 5.2 *Circuit Counselors*

27  
28  
29 5.2.1 The circuit counselor is the principal officer of the circuit and serves in accordance with the  
30 duties assigned to this position in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod and the bylaws of  
31 the districts.

32  
33 (a) The circuit may select such other officers as it deems necessary.

34 (b) The circuit may create such other offices as may be desirable and also appoint committees  
35 for specific assignments.

36 (c) The circuit counselor may appoint from member congregations of the circuit, with the  
37 approval of the district president, ministers of religion—ordained, ministers of religion—  
38 commissioned, pastors, teachers, or laypersons to assist him in fulfilling his responsibilities.

39  
40 5.2.2 The circuit counselor shall hold his position by virtue of his ~~election by action of~~ selection by the  
41 circuit forum and ratification by the district convention.

42  
43 (a) Circuit forums shall meet at the call of their circuit counselors to select their circuit  
44 counselors no later than the time established by the district.

45 (b) The district president, in consultation with the praesidium of the district, shall nominate  
46 ~~Every voting congregation of each circuit shall be entitled to nominate as a candidate for the office of~~  
47 ~~circuit counselor either one or two individual~~ pastors of the member congregations of the circuit or  
48 from among the emeriti pastors who hold membership in one of the member congregations of  
49 that the circuit as candidates for the office of circuit counselor. Nominations may also be made  
50 from the floor.

1 (c) Selection of the circuit counselor shall be by election by written ballot. The privilege of  
2 voting shall be exercised by one pastor and one layperson from each member congregation of  
3 the circuit, both of whom shall have been selected in the manner prescribed by the congregation  
4 (cf. Bylaw 5.3.2).

5 (d) All pastors serving congregations and emeriti pastors shall be eligible for election in  
6 accordance with section 4.3 of these Bylaws.

7 (1) Following presentations of pertinent information regarding each pastor as listed in  
8 Bylaw 3.12.3.6 (c) and circuit counselor responsibilities as provided hereafter in this bylaw,  
9 each voter shall write in the names of two pastors on the initial ballot.

10 (2) The three pastors (or more in case of a tie vote) who receive the highest number of  
11 votes in this preliminary ballot shall be placed on the next ballot. Each voter shall vote for  
12 only one candidate.

13 (3) Balloting shall continue with the lowest candidate being removed from each succeeding  
14 ballot until one pastor shall have received a simple majority of all votes cast, who shall be  
15 declared the nominee.

16 (e) Immediately following the circuit forum the circuit counselor shall report in writing the  
17 results of the selection process to the president and secretary of the district in preparation for  
18 ratification by the district convention.

19 ~~(1) The nominations shall be made at least four months prior to the elections and shall be submitted~~  
20 ~~to the nominating committee through the secretary of the district.~~

21 ~~(2) The pastor who receives a majority of votes cast on the nominating ballot shall be the nominee.~~

22 ~~(b) If no candidate has received a majority, the district secretary shall forward to each congregation in~~  
23 ~~that circuit an additional ballot with the names of the two men, or more in case of a tie, receiving the~~  
24 ~~highest number of votes in the initial balloting.~~

25 ~~(1) The congregations shall then mark their ballot with one name and return it to the district~~  
26 ~~secretary by the date specified by him.~~

27 ~~(2) The pastor who receives the majority of votes cast shall be the nominee.~~

28 ~~(e) If no pastor has received a majority in the voting, a circuit caucus shall be held during an early session~~  
29 ~~of the convention at a specified time on the agenda. Balloting shall take place by the pastors and lay~~  
30 ~~delegates of the circuit until one pastor receives the majority of votes.~~

31 ~~(d) Should the candidate(s) no longer be available for this office, the circuit caucus shall have the right to~~  
32 ~~act on behalf of the congregations to nominate a replacement.~~

33 ~~(e)(f) The convention shall have the right to alter the slate by amendment.~~

34 ~~(f)(g) The convention shall then ratify the slate of circuit counselors, which ratification shall~~  
35 ~~constitute election.~~

36  
37 5.2.2.1 Vacancies that occur in the office of circuit counselor between conventions shall be filled by  
38 appointment by the district president.

39  
40 5.2.3 Each circuit counselor shall assist the district president within the circuit.

41  
42 (a) He shall serve under the direction of and be accountable to the district president and shall  
43 serve as his spokesman when so authorized and directed and shall assist him in doctrinal and  
44 spiritual supervision.

45 (b) He shall serve in a servant role.

46 (c) He shall seek to remind and encourage members of the circuit of their responsibilities as  
47 God's people and the privilege they have in being about His mission.

48 (d) He and any other officers of the circuit shall have the primary responsibility for maintaining  
49 liaison between the circuit and the Synod at the national and district levels.

50 (e) He shall be conversant with and supportive of synodwide and district resolutions and  
51 programs.

1 (f) He shall facilitate the engagement of congregations in the submission of overtures (Bylaws  
2 3.1.6.2–3.1.6.2.5) to district and national conventions through the circuit forum.

3 (g) He shall assist in the development and attainment of synodwide mission and ministry  
4 emphases.

5 ~~(h)~~(h) He shall seek to strengthen the spirit of cooperation among ministers of religion–  
6 ordained, ministers of religion–commissioned, pastors, commissioned ministers, and  
7 congregations in his circuit.

8 ~~(i)~~(i) He may, when requested to do so by the district president, serve as a mediator to effect  
9 reconciliation of disputes within the circuit not under dispute resolution of the Synod as  
10 outlined in section 1.10 of these Bylaws.

11 ~~(j)~~(j) He shall regularly convene the ministers of religion–ordained ~~pastors~~ of his circuit for  
12 circuit conferences.

13 ~~(k)~~(k) He shall regularly report on his activities to the district president.

14 ~~(l)~~(l) The district president shall meet with the circuit counselors of the district at least once per  
15 year to discuss their work, to encourage them, and to conduct ongoing training for  
16 congregational and pastoral visits.

17 ~~(m)~~(m) The circuit counselor is authorized to draw on the district treasury for his expenses.  
18  
19

20 5.2.3.1 The circuit counselor shall, when requested to do so by the district president, serve as his  
21 representative in the triennial visitation of the congregations of the circuit network.  
22

23 (a) In doing so, he should keep in mind the glory and responsibility of the universal priesthood  
24 of all believers as it applies to the congregations. He shall remind them that they are “a chosen  
25 generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people to show forth the praises of Him  
26 who has called them out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

27 (b) He shall endeavor to strengthen the spirit of unity among circuit network congregations to  
28 effect mission and ministry and shall seek to strengthen and support the spirit of fellowship.

29 (c) When he is requested to make an official visit to a congregation by the district president, he  
30 shall arrange for such visits in advance with the respective pastor and congregation, except  
31 under extraordinary circumstances.  
32

33 5.2.3.2 The circuit counselor shall serve the pastors of the circuit network as a collegial and brotherly  
34 adviser, reminding them of the joy of the ministry and of its great responsibilities.  
35

36 (a) He shall encourage the fellow pastors of the circuit network in their preaching and teaching;  
37 in the exercise of church discipline in an evangelical manner; and in the proper supervision of  
38 Christian education and training in the parish.

39 (b) He shall encourage, in a brotherly manner, the pastors of the circuit network in their  
40 spiritual and family life.

41 (c) He shall encourage the pastors of the circuit network to continue both formal and informal  
42 continuing professional education.  
43

44 5.2.3.3 The circuit counselor shall assist the district president, as assigned, in the ecclesiastical  
45 supervision of the other members of the Synod in the circuit network.  
46

### 47 ***5.3 Circuit Forums***

48  
49 5.3.1 The circuit forum is the group which aids the process of keeping congregations, (particularly  
50 the lay leaders), ~~commissioned ministers, and pastors,~~ ministers of religion–commissioned, and  
51 ministers of religion–ordained supportive of one another in their common confession and

1 mutually active in developing programs for the good of member congregations, in considering  
2 and recommending new work, and in suggesting improvements for services and programming  
3 at the national and district levels and is encouraged to meet at least twice a year.  
4

5 (a) The circuit counselor shall endeavor to provide resources, opportunities, and assistance so  
6 God's people can grow in their faith.

7 (b) Among the functions which the circuit forum may perform are the following:

8 (1) To study the Scriptures and the Confessions in order to promote an evangelical spirit in  
9 our walking together.

10 (2) To develop and adopt within existing policies of the respective district complementary  
11 and sometimes joint plans for mission outreach in the circuit area.

12 (3) To devise and develop programs and services relevant to the needs of circuit  
13 congregations, lay leaders, ~~teachers, and pastors~~ ministers of religion—commissioned, and  
14 ministers of religion—ordained.

15 (4) To receive and respond as appropriate to advice, guidance, resolutions, and programs in  
16 other sections of the Synod as such may be addressed to it from other circuits, the  
17 respective district, and the general Synod.

18 (5) To serve as a setting to review and evaluate programs, plans, and long-range directions  
19 of the district and the Synod and thus participate in the quadrennial process of suggesting,  
20 developing, and attaining Synod priorities and goals.

21 (6) To receive convention overtures submitted by individual member congregations and,  
22 after study, discussion, and possible amendment, to forward to the district convention as the  
23 forum deems appropriate overtures intended for either the district convention or the Synod  
24 convention.

25  
26 5.3.2 The circuit forum consists of ~~a pastor~~ an individual member of Synod (Article V B; Bylaw  
27 4.2.3–4.2.3.1) of each congregation and one lay member of each congregation, both designated  
28 by the congregation.

29  
30 (a) Depending on each circuit's adopted objectives, the circuit may provide for additional  
31 representation from each congregation.

32 (b) The circuit counselor and any other officers shall have the primary responsibility of  
33 preparing the agenda for the circuit forum.

34 (c) The circuit counselor shall ordinarily serve as chairman of the circuit forum.  
35

36 5.3.3 The circuit forum ~~will~~ shall meet at least once ~~triennially~~ quadrennially to elect a circuit counselor  
37 and to submit overtures intended for either the district convention or the national  
38 convention ~~delegates to the national convention. It shall elect the pastoral and lay delegates and their~~  
39 ~~alternates to the national convention of the Synod according to the regulations of the Synod. The lay~~  
40 ~~delegate shall, upon election, serve through the triennium following the next convention as an advisory~~  
41 ~~member of the circuit forum.~~

42  
43 (a) Individual member congregations are strongly encouraged to send their overture(s) to  
44 convention through their circuit forums. Overtures from member congregations that have been  
45 adopted by a circuit forum shall receive priority consideration by a district convention.

46 (b) ~~5.3.4~~ The circuit forum also qualifies ~~shall be qualified~~ to submit its own overtures to national  
47 and district conventions as it deems appropriate.

48  
49 5.3.4 The circuit forum may also participate in the quadrennial process of suggesting, developing,  
50 and attaining Synod priorities and goals.  
51

## 5.4 Circuit Convocations

- 1  
2  
3 5.4.1 The circuit convocation is a larger gathering of members from circuit congregations during a  
4 year one of the quadrennium in which there is no following a national or district convention.  
5
- 6 5.4.2 The purpose of a circuit convocation is to provide a setting in which congregational members  
7 may learn of and celebrate the ministry pursued by each congregation, may review and discuss  
8 the work of the circuit forum, may discuss and evaluate mission potential within the circuit and  
9 may receive information on various phases of the work pursued through districts and the  
10 Synod.
- 11
- 12 (a) Its emphasis should be on inspiration, education, and motivation, and mission and  
13 theological discourse both within and beyond the circuit. The convocation should also be a  
14 place for in-depth discussion among all circuit congregation members of the theological and  
15 missiological issues before the Synod.
- 16 (b) The circuit counselor shall serve as coordinator of the circuit convocation and other circuit  
17 gatherings.
- 18 (c) The circuit counselor and any other officers shall have the primary responsibility of  
19 preparing the agenda for the circuit convocation.  
20  
21

## 6. AUXILIARY AND RECOGNIZED SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

### 6.1 Auxiliaries

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23  
24  
25  
26
- 27 6.1.1 An auxiliary exists as an arm of the Synod and has as its primary function aiding the Synod,  
28 specifically in programs that extend the ministry and mission of the Synod. Auxiliary status is  
29 presently limited to the International Lutheran Laymen's League and International Lutheran  
30 Women's Missionary League.
- 31
- 32 6.1.2 An organization desiring to be recognized as an auxiliary of the Synod shall apply for that  
33 status to a convention of the Synod through the Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—  
34 Missouri Synod.
- 35
- 36 6.1.2.1 An organization desiring to be recognized as an auxiliary of the Synod shall satisfy the  
37 following requirements:  
38
- 39 (a) Be national in scope and voluntary in membership and participation.  
40 (b) Identify itself with the Synod but not be a part of the Synod's constitutional structure.  
41 (c) Operate with freedom and self-determination as a ministry and be independent of the Synod  
42 in its organization and administration, in the establishment and evaluation of its own objectives,  
43 activities, and programs, and in financial matters, while complying with the responsibilities  
44 outlined in this bylaw.  
45 (d) Coordinate plans and programs with those of the Synod through regular sharing and contact  
46 with representatives of those boards to which the Synod has assigned specific responsibilities  
47 (boards of the Synod will share with the auxiliaries in a similar manner).  
48 (e) Be classified by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) corporation.  
49 (f) Have membership made up of persons who are baptized members of congregations that are  
50 members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and all partner churches.

1  
2 6.1.2.2 Auxiliaries shall continue to meet the above requirements for continued recognition.  
3

4 6.1.3 An auxiliary assumes the following responsibilities:  
5

6 (a) It reports annually, through its president, to the President of the Synod and, upon his  
7 request, to conventions of the Synod.

8 (b) It provides the Synod, through its president, with an annual program report for sharing with  
9 the appropriate boards.

10 (c) It keeps the Synod advised of any new program under consideration.

11 (e) It submits all material of a biblical or theological nature to the Synod for doctrinal review.

12 (f) It is responsible for its own debts and liabilities and so indicates in all of its agreements of a  
13 financial nature, statements of ownership, financial offers, and other legal documents,  
14 agreements, and promotional materials, and all other communications of a financial nature in  
15 accordance with criteria determined by the Board of Directors of the Synod, so that it is clear  
16 that being an auxiliary is not regarded as an endorsement by the Synod of its organization and  
17 administration, or as a guarantee on the part of the Synod for the fiscal solvency of, or any  
18 financial responsibility for, the organization or for services expressly offered or implied.

19 (g) It honors and upholds the doctrine and practice of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
20 as set forth in the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.  
21

22 6.1.4 Being a recognized auxiliary of the Synod offers the following privileges:  
23

24 (a) Eligibility of ministers of religion—ordained and ministers of religion—commissioned  
25 ~~ministers of the Synod~~ serving such organizations to remain on the membership rosters of the  
26 Synod as “active members,” if otherwise eligible.

27 (b) Eligibility for obtaining church extension loans from the Lutheran Church Extension  
28 Fund—Missouri Synod (LCEF), unless the policies of LCEF preclude such organization as an  
29 eligible borrower.

30 (c) Eligibility to be an “employer” under the Concordia Plans of the Synod unless the policies  
31 of such a plan preclude such organization as an eligible employer.

32 (d) Recognition of the auxiliary in the *Handbook* of the Synod and listing of the organization in  
33 *The Lutheran Annual* as an auxiliary of the Synod, provided that such listing shall be prefaced  
34 by a statement that recognition is not a guarantee on the part of the Synod for the fiscal  
35 solvency of the auxiliary, or any financial responsibility for such organization or for services  
36 expressly or impliedly offered.

37 (e) The opportunity to report to conventions of the Synod.

38 (f) The opportunity to raise funds within the Synod to support the auxiliary's programs.  
39

## 40 ***6.2 Recognized Service Organizations***

41  
42 6.2.1 The granting of recognized service organization status by the Synod signifies that a service  
43 organization, while independent of the Synod, fosters the mission and ministry of the church,  
44 engages in program activity that is in harmony with the programs of the boards of the Synod,  
45 and respects and does not act contrary to the doctrine and practice of the Synod.  
46

47 (a) Under the governance and policies of its own board, a recognized service organization  
48 operates with freedom and self-determination as a ministry organization independent of the  
49 Synod or districts or member congregations of the Synod in the establishment and evaluation of  
50 its own objectives, activities, and programs, in organization and administration, and in financial  
51 matters.

1 (b) The Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod shall adopt common  
2 policies for granting recognized service organization status.

3 (c) Each ~~operating other granting~~ board ~~of the Synod~~ may also adopt policies and criteria to  
4 assure that its unique needs are met and shall report these to the Board of Directors.

5  
6 6.2.2 Recognized service organization status may be granted by the Board of Directors, the Board for  
7 National Mission, the Board for International Mission, and the boards of the synodwide  
8 corporate entities to a service organization (other than an auxiliary) that extends the mission  
9 and ministry of the Synod but is not part of the Synod as defined by its Constitution and  
10 Bylaws.

11  
12 (a) ~~Requests~~ Applications for recognized service organization status shall be made to the Office  
13 of the Secretary of the Synod for processing according to policies developed by the Synod's  
14 Board of Directors ~~the board of the Synod to which the organization desires to relate.~~

15 (b) Within the area of its responsibility, each granting board ~~of the Synod~~ may determine those  
16 organizations to which recognized service organization status will be granted.

17  
18 6.2.3 Each granting board ~~of the Synod~~ shall adopt policies requiring each recognized service  
19 organization to give its assurance in its governing documents that recognition as a service  
20 organization is not an endorsement by the Synod or a guarantee of financial responsibility for  
21 the debts and obligations of the organization or for services provided or offered.

## 22 23 24 **7. AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS**

25  
26 7.1 Amendments to the Bylaws may be made using one of two procedures, provided they are not  
27 contrary to the Constitution of the Synod.

28  
29 7.1.1 Amendments may be made by conventions of the Synod.

30 (a) They shall be presented in writing to a convention of the Synod.

31 (b) They shall be specified as bylaw amendments and considered by a convention floor  
32 committee.

33 (c) They shall be examined by the Commission on Constitutional Matters prior to presentation  
34 to the convention to determine that they are not in conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws of  
35 the Synod.

36 (d) They shall be adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the delegates present and  
37 voting.

38  
39 7.1.2 In exceptional circumstances and upon the express direction of a convention of the Synod,  
40 amendments may be made by a two-thirds majority of the Board of Directors.

41 (a) Such amendments to the Bylaws shall be necessary to implement resolutions adopted by a  
42 convention of the Synod.

43 (b) Such amendments shall be drafted by the Secretary of the Synod and shall be reviewed by  
44 the Commission on Constitutional Matters.