

Convention Minutes

Opening Worship Service Saturday, July 18, 2026

Opening Divine Service with Holy Communion

The opening worship service of the 69th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) was held in the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix, Arizona, under the theme, “Christ is Risen Indeed.” Presiding was the Rev. Michael Kessler, pastor of Calvary Lutheran Church, Yuma, Ariz., which hosted the communion service; the Rev. Sean Daenzer, chaplain and director of LCMS Worship, assisted. The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, Synod President, preached on the “woes of Paul” and the *sine qua non* of preaching, the matters of “first importance” in 1 Corinthians 15:12–25. Crucifers, acolytes, altar guild servers, and choir (conducted by John Busarow, director of the Fort Wayne Children’s Choir) were comprised of children from congregations of Ill., Ind., Mich., and Mo. participating in LCMS Worship’s “Sing, Pray, and Keep His Ways” project. Dr. Jonathan Rudy, Kantor, Grace Lutheran Church, Clarksville, Tenn., served as organist and the Red Rock Brass Quintet (Derek Sanchez, Malachy Rodriguez, Alex Austin, Charles Hopkins, Kevin Bock), Liz Guzman, and Esther Witherell provided instrumental music.

[President Harrison’s sermon introduced the convention theme, “Christ is Risen Indeed.” The entire text of President Harrison’s sermon will be printed in *Today’s Business* and in the *2026 Convention Proceedings*.]

Session 1 Sunday a.m., July 19, 2026

Matins

The Rev. Peter K. Lange, First Vice-President, preached on John 20:1–18 in the Office of Matins, with Chaplain Sean Daenzer serving as liturgist. Organist for the daily services was the Rev. Elect Matthew Machemer, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Ind.

[The entire text of First Vice-President Lange’s sermon will be printed in the *2026 Convention Proceedings*.]

Convention Opening and Presentation of Gavel

After the taking of a convention group photo, President Matthew C. Harrison called the assembly to order and called on the Rev. Dr. Daniel Harmelink, executive director of Concordia Historical Institute, to present the historic gavel used, since 1911, by the chair to call Synod conventions officially to order. In presenting the gavel, Dr. Harmelink spoke of the unique history and inscriptions on the gavel, commissioned to be carved from a log from the Synod’s original log cabin seminary to celebrate the centenary of C.F.W. Walther’s birth, which is ordinarily on display at the institute’s Lutheran History Museum in the LCMS International Center. Having received the gavel, the chairman opened the 69th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The President introduced those seated at the front with particular convention roles: the Board of Directors, the Council of Presidents; the Commissions on Handbook and Constitutional Matters; some members of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, executive directors and staff; First Vice-President Peter Lange, assisting the President; Secretary John Sias and Assistant Secretary Samuel Powell; Parliamentarian Al Gage; convention timekeeper Rev. Scot Schible; and Mr. Matt Bergholt, assisting with the microphone queue.

Committee 11: Registration, Credentials, and Elections

The chair called upon the Rev. James Maxwell, president of the Rocky Mountain District and chairman of Committee 11 (Registration, Credentials, and Elections), to introduce the electronic queuing and voting systems provided by Padgett Communications, including the new queuing kiosk system.

Having done so, Chairman Maxwell proceeded to present the initial registration report, noting that a total of 969 voting delegates had pre-registered for the convention (a quorum requires one quarter of these to be present, or 243). He reported the following present for the opening of the convention:

Voting delegates	943	(464 lay and 479 pastors)
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1	Advisory delegates	161	
2	Advisory representatives	165	(including 4 district youth representatives)
3	Special guests and others	167	

4 A motion was introduced and carried, without discussion, to adopt the report of the committee [Yes votes: 914;
5 No votes: 10]. The chair declared the presence of a quorum.

6 *Standing Rules*

7 The chair called attention to the proposed Standing Rules for the convention, printed on pages 14–17 of the pre-
8 convention edition of *Today's Business* (TB, 1:14–17), summarizing changes relative to those used in the 2023
9 convention (these having been detailed in the delegate orientation). A motion to adopt the rules was introduced by
10 Floor Committee 11.

11 It was moved to amend Rule 30 to strike “and non-distracting”; to strike “the following ... devices.” and insert
12 “while also respecting the continuing duties and obligations to family, congregations, and others, delegates shall use
13 godly judgment in their use of all electronic devices and equipment.”; to strike “where use is permitted”; and, finally,
14 to replace, in the following table, “No” with “Yes” in the first row and column.

15 The question was called and debate was closed on the amendment [Yes votes: 880; No votes: 38]. The amendment
16 was adopted [Yes votes: 476; No votes: 431]. Rule 30 will therefore read: “In order to promote an orderly convention
17 atmosphere, while also respecting the continuing duties and obligations to family, congregations, and others, delegates
18 shall use godly judgment in their use of all electronic devices and equipment. In all cases, the sound-producing
19 capabilities of such devices shall not be used. Except as approved by convention staff, personal extension cords shall
20 not be allowed in Halls AB.” “Yes” will also replace “No” in the first row and column of the following table.

21 The question on the standing rules was called and debate was closed [Yes votes: 847; No votes: 76]. The standing
22 rules were adopted as amended by the required two-thirds vote [Yes votes: 846; No votes: 68]. The chair entertained
23 additional motions, but none were offered.

24 [The rules, as amended and adopted, will be printed in full in *Today's Business*, Issue 3, and will be included in
25 the *Convention Proceedings*.]

26 *Convention Schedule*

27 The chair next called attention to the convention schedule, proposed as found in *Today's Business* issue 2B
28 (2B:257–58) with the chair noting the changes relative to that in *Today's Business*, First Edition. The schedule was
29 moved and seconded. Without debate, the convention schedule was adopted [Yes votes: 894; No votes: 17].

30 The convention was declared to be in order and ready to conduct business.

31 *President's Report, Part 3*

32 First Vice-President Lange, assuming the chair, introduced President Harrison to give the third section of his
33 convention report.

34 [The entire text of Part 3 of the President's Report is printed in *Today's Business*, Issue 3, and will be included in
35 the *Convention Proceedings*.]

36 *Consent Calendar*

37 The chair gave a word of explanation regarding this new procedure (see Rule 10), and introduced the day's consent
38 calendar, as found in *Today's Business* issue 2B (2B:266), to include Res. 1-04, “To Give Thanks for 130 Years of
39 Deaf Ministry” (TB, 1:60); 2-01A, “To Give Thanks for LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces” (TB, 2B:276–77); and
40 2-05, “To Give Thanks to God for 125 Years of Gospel Ministry, Partner Churches, and Mission in the Latin America
41 and Caribbean Region” (TB, 1:74–75). It was noted that the change between Res. 2-01 and 2-01A is the addition of
42 the second-last resolve (TB, 2B:277, lines 16–17).

43 It was moved to remove Res. 2-05 from the consent calendar. This removal carried at the request of more than
44 10% of the voting delegates [Yes votes: 95; No votes: 762], sending Res. 2-05 back to the regular floor committee
45 schedule. The consent calendar, with Res. 2-05 removed, was adopted [Yes votes: 864; No votes: 29], including Res.
46 1-04 and 2-01A.

1 *Welcome and Greetings from Pacific Southwest District*

2 The chair recognized the Rev. Dr. Michael Gibson, President, Pacific Southwest District, to welcome delegates to
3 Phoenix and to his district. He described the demographics of his district's mission field—including as many people
4 as the areas of twelve other districts—and his district's resourcing the congregations, schools, agencies, and individual
5 members of the district. He noted the importance of schools in his district at all levels—including some of the Synod's
6 largest, and the largest Lutheran school in America, in Las Vegas—and the number of baptisms that result from their
7 outreach. He noted with gratefulness over 3,000 workers—and that this year 50 students from the district are preparing
8 for the pastoral ministry in the Synod's various routes. He noted also the ministry of Concordia University Irvine in
9 the district and beyond.

10 *Convention Essay: "Christ is the Truth"*

11 [The entire text of the essay by the Rev. Dr. Jon S. Bruss, president of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort
12 Wayne, and the response by the Rev. Dr. Scott R. Murray, Third Vice-President, will be printed in the *2026 Convention*
13 *Proceedings*.]

14 *Presentation—All Nations Ministry*

15 With Second Vice-President (Central Region) Benjamin Ball assuming the chair, the Rev. Stephen Heimer,
16 manager of All Nations Ministry for the Office of National Mission, after an introductory video, delivered a
17 presentation on the ministry area formed in 2024 to support those serving in Asian, Black, Hispanic, Native American,
18 and other ethnic ministries around the United States. After comments noting that people are coming to faith and
19 wanting to be part of the Lutheran Church, he introduced a number of individuals, some representing organizations,
20 involved in "All Nations" ministry and the related council fostered by the Office of National Mission. The activity is
21 a "connecting point and encourager" for ministry *to*, *with*, and *as* all ethnicities and languages—and so are the body
22 of Christ, and part of *God's Mission Here*.

23 *Committee 1: National Witness*

24 The chair recognized Chairman Eric C. Johnson, president, Southern District, to begin the report of his committee,
25 the floor committee chairman noting that only the *resolves* would be read.

26 Res. 1-01A, "To Celebrate and Encourage All Nations Ministry in North America" (*TB*, 2B:269–70), was read and
27 introduced by the committee after changes from the original version were summarized.

28 It was moved and seconded to amend by adding a resolve after line 9 to read "*Resolved*, That ONM work with
29 districts to focus on placing missionaries in ethnic ministries as new mission starts." The amendment was adopted
30 [Yes: 737; No: 126].

31 Without further debate, the resolution as amended was adopted [Yes: 843; No: 40] and the convention sang as
32 resolved.

33 Res. 1-02, "To Proclaim 2029 the 500th Year of Luther's Catechisms" (*TB*, 1:58–59), was read and introduced by
34 the committee, Chairman Johnson noting that funding has in large measure been obtained for the work proposed.

35 It was moved and seconded to amend by inserting a resolve on line 58 after line 41: "*Resolved*, That the Synod in
36 convention direct CPH to add the Large Catechism to existing digital resources." In response to a question, the maker
37 of the amendment clarified that he was intending inclusion of the resource on *catechism.cph.org*. After debate, the
38 amendment was adopted [Yes: 499; No: 383]. It was moved and seconded to call the question; this prevailed [Yes:
39 809; No: 76]. The resolution as amended was adopted [Yes: 757; No: 136] and the convention sang as resolved.

40 Res. 1-03A, "To Give Thanks to God for 150 Years of Black Ministry" (*TB*, 2B:270–71), was read and introduced
41 by the committee after changes from the original version were summarized. Debate having been exhausted, the
42 resolution was adopted [Yes: 825; No: 61].

Session 2
Sunday p.m., July 19, 2026

Midday Prayer

Second Vice-President Ball having called the assembly together, the Rev. Brady L. Finner, president, Minnesota North District, preached on Luke 24:13–35 in the order of Midday Prayer, with Chaplain Daenzer serving as liturgist.

[The entire text of President Finner's sermon will be printed in the *2026 Convention Proceedings*.]

Committee 11: Registration, Credentials, and Elections

Second Vice-President Ball called the assembly to order and called upon the Rev. James Maxwell, president, Rocky Mountain District, and chairman of Committee 11 (Registration, Credentials, and Elections), to announce the result of the LCMS Presidential Election. President Sailer and the chair offered thanks to the Office of the Secretary; the LCMS Department of Rosters, Statistics, and Research Services; and Yes Elections (formerly Election-America, the Synod's election contractor) for their assistance of congregations and parishes and their voters in completing the process. He described the election process and noted the five final candidates and the numbers of votes each received (TB, 2B:259). These results are as follows:

	<u>Ballot 1</u>		<u>Ballot 2</u>		<u>Ballot 3</u>	
Matthew C. Harrison	2,050	43.84%	2,243	46.32%	2,524	50.10%
Joel D. Biermann	1,822	38.96%	2,229	46.03%	2,414	47.92%
Benjamin T. Ball	371	7.93%	212	4.38%	100	1.98%
Brady L. Finner	321	6.86%	158	3.26%		
Peter K. Lange	112	2.40%				

Committee Chairman Maxwell reported Matthew C. Harrison to have been elected, his having received the majority of votes cast in the third ballot, and the chair offered congratulations. By way of response, President Harrison recalled his words at his first installation that the Missouri Synod has kept his broken record of electing a sinner as President. Joined by his wife, Kathy, their sons, and their families, he noted the length of his service, uncommon in this era, and a number of family losses during the triennium. He apologized to his family for what service to the Synod has cost them. He intends in the next three years to serve and to lead with the Gospel.

President Harrison, resuming the chair, acknowledged Rev. Maxwell and called for an update to the registration report, which read as follows:

Voting delegates	940
Advisory delegates	161
Advisory representatives	166

The report was moved and adopted [Yes: 913; No: 8].

President Maxwell reviewed the process for election of the First Vice-President of the Synod; after that election, he would do the same for the regional vice-presidents. He called upon Chaplain Daenzer to offer prayer.

Election of First Vice-President

First Vice-President (Ordained, 3-year term)

Christopher S. Esget (EN)	66	
Alfonso O. Espinosa (PSW)	157	
Eric T. Lange (NOW)	77	
Peter K. Lange (MO)	559	(declared elected)
Don R. (Richard) Stuckwisch Jr. (IN)	67	

Election of Regional Vice-Presidents

Regional Vice-President (Ordained, Central Region, 3-year term)

Benjamin T. (Ben) Ball (SI)	449	488	(declared elected)
Joel D. Biermann (MO)	402	432	
Peter J. Brock (IN)	28		
Jeffrey P. Cloeter (MO)	36	20	
Michael P. Schuermann (CI)	21		

Regional Vice-President (Ordained, East-Southeast Region, 3-year term)

Wally M. Arp (SELC)	121		
Christopher S. Esget (EN)	525	(declared elected)	
Jeffrey E. Skopak (SE)	100		
Deric A. Taylor (NJ)	82		
Luke T. Zimmerman (EN)	97		

Regional Vice-President (Ordained, Great Lakes Region, 3-year term)

Mark D. Brandt (MI)	205	260	311	
Jamison J. Hardy (EN)	139			
David P. Ramirez (SW)	184	219		
Eric C. Skovgaard (SW)	343	452	614	(declared elected)
Sean A. Willman (MI)	48			

Regional Vice-President (Ordained, Great Plains Region, 3-year term)

David C. Mumme (MNS)	118			
Nabil S. Nour (SD)	472	(declared elected)		
Matthew R. Richard (ND)	144			
Scott C. Sailer (SD)	92			
Steven D. Turner (IW)	95			

Regional Vice-President (Ordained, West-Southwest Region, 3-year term)

Timothy P. (Tim) Ahlman (PSW)	215			
Alfonso O. Espinosa (PSW)	498	(declared elected)		
Bradley W. Jurischk (TX)	34			
Eric T. Lange (NOW)	113			
Yohannes A. Mengsteab (TX)	75			

Election to Determine Ranking of Second through Sixth Vice-Presidents

For Second Vice-President

Benjamin T. (Ben) Ball (SI)	417	493	(declared elected)
Christopher S. Esget (EN)	97	69	
Alfonso O. Espinosa (PSW)	199	247	
Nabil S. Nour (SD)	149	123	
Eric C. Skovgaard (SW)	70		

For Third Vice-President

Christopher S. Esget (EN)	233	258	
Alfonso O. Espinosa (PSW)	407	520	(declared elected)
Nabil S. Nour (SD)	204	151	
Eric C. Skovgaard (SW)	84		

For Fourth Vice-President

Christopher S. Esget (EN)	419	494	(declared elected)
Nabil S. Nour (SD)	384	436	
Eric C. Skovgaard (SW)	123		

For Fifth Vice-President

Nabil S. Nour (SD)

618

(declared elected)

Eric C. Skovgaard (SW)

308

Sixth Vice-President

Eric C. Skovgaard (SW)

(declared elected)

Greetings—Concordia Plan Services

The chair invited Mr. Kevin Herweck, president and chief executive officer of Concordia Plan Services (CPS), to bring his greetings to the convention on behalf of the synodwide corporate entity. After a video presentation noting that Concordia Plan Services is “created to care for *you* as you are called to serve a higher purpose,” he noted the pension is *strong* with a funding status over 90 percent, having increased 5 percent this year—partly due to contribution increases that have improved cash flow substantially, allowing investments to continue to grow above pace. CPS is five years ahead of its plan to achieve full funding by 2045. Employee-contributed funds in the Concordia Retirement Savings Plan, a 403(b), have grown to over a billion dollars. CPS has worked over the past four years on the health care side to keep increases below half the national average. Herweck emphasized mental health care and its higher-than-average utilization, as well as wellness programs that improve quality of life and, over time, reduce health care costs. He also mentioned work together by the board of directors and CPS to form, as of April 1, a captive that can help bring stability to insurance coverage costs for ministries, on which information is available at the CPS booth.

Omnibus Resolutions

President Harrison introduced Omnibus A, as printed in *Today’s Business*, 1:51–53. The resolution was moved and seconded.

It was moved and seconded to remove Ov. 7-28, “To Conduct a Project Postmortem Examination of Concordia University Ann Arbor,” and refer it back to the committee; this failed [Yes: 317; No: 547].

It was moved and seconded to remove Ov. 10-31, “To Certify Accuracy and Trustworthiness of Call,” and refer it back to the committee; this failed [Yes: 209; No: 662].

It was moved and seconded to remove Ov. 10-36, “To Call for Publication of Council of Presidents Manual,” and refer it back to the committee; this failed [Yes: 288; No: 583].

It was moved and seconded to remove Ov. 5-43, “To Refer Some Assignments from CTCR to Seminaries,” and refer it back to committee; this failed [Yes: 224; No: 664].

It was moved and seconded to remove Ov. 7-29, “To Request Transparency from Concordia University Wisconsin—Ann Arbor,” and refer it back to committee; this failed [Yes: 280; No: 627].

It was moved and seconded to remove Ov. 5-40, “To Address Release and Use of Luther’s Large Catechism with Annotations and Contemporary Applications,” and refer it back to committee; this failed [Yes: 276; No: 636].

It was moved and seconded to remove Ov. 8-16, “To Encourage Synod Transparency and Unity regarding Concluded *HotChalk* Litigation,” and refer it back to committee; this failed [Yes: 226; No: 678].

It was moved and seconded to remove Ov. 5-24, “To Urge the Church of Christ to Stay and Do Her Duty,” and refer it back to committee; this failed [Yes: 156; No: 745].

It was moved and seconded to remove Ov. 5-25, “To Publicly Acknowledge Theological and Ecclesial Errors in the Church’s Response to COVID-19 Pandemic,” and refer it back to committee; this failed [Yes: 251; No: 663].

It was moved and seconded to remove Ov. 1-16, “To Proactively Put in Place National Standards for our Schools to Protect Students,” and refer it back to committee; this failed [Yes: 193; No: 715].

It was moved and seconded to remove Ov. 2-05, “To Amend Bylaws to Protect Divine Calls of Missionaries,” and refer it back to committee; this failed [Yes: 185; No: 710].

It was moved and seconded to close debate on the omnibus, which carried [Yes: 851; No: 71]. Thereupon Omnibus A was adopted as presented [Yes: 857; No: 62].

1 The chair next introduced Omnibus B, it was later clarified, revised as printed in *Today's Business*, 2B:266–67.
2 The resolution was moved and seconded.

3 It was moved and seconded to remove Ov. 5-33, “To Reconsider Issue of Woman Suffrage in the Church,” and
4 refer it back to committee; this failed [Yes: 259; No: 652].

5 A delegate asked to limit votes to 15 seconds; the chair clarified this was not possible at this time.

6 It was moved and seconded to remove Ov. 1-26, “To Strengthen Christ Centered Homes Through Family
7 Discipleship Work,” and refer it back to committee; this failed [Yes: 109; No: 790].

8 It was moved and seconded to remove Ov. 5-34, “To Direct that the Synod and Its Commission on Theology and
9 Church Relations Study and Reexamine Woman Suffrage in Light of Synod’s Historic Practice and Holy Scripture,
10 so as to Address and Resolve Confusion and Disunity,” and refer it back to committee; this failed [Yes: 255; No: 666].

11 It was moved and seconded to close debate on the omnibus, which carried [Yes: 861; No: 70]. Thereupon Omnibus
12 B was adopted as presented [Yes: 847; No: 70].

13 The chair next introduced Omnibus C, as printed in *Today's Business*, 1:82. The resolution was moved and
14 seconded. It was moved and seconded to close debate, which carried [Yes: 863; No: 60]. Thereupon Omnibus C was
15 adopted as presented [Yes: 892; No: 27].

16 *Committee 12: Convention Nominations – Floor Nominations for Secretary and Synod Board of Directors*

17 President Harrison called to the podium the chairman of the Committee for Convention Nominations, Jamison
18 Hardy, to present the slates for election of Secretary and Board of Directors, and to receive floor nominations for these
19 positions. Chairman Hardy noted the Bylaw charge of his committee and that the members of his committee, elected
20 by 18 districts this triennium, are listed in the *Convention Workbook*. He briefly explained the committee’s work and
21 the committee’s report in the *Biographical Synopses and Statements of Nominees (BSSN)*. He noted an initial slate of
22 candidates for the Commission on Worship that might be restored by Res. 4-06, if adopted; floor nominations for
23 these positions will be taken Monday. Res. 9-05 would add an elected director on the Lutheran Church Extension
24 Fund board; there are adequate candidates already to fill this position. Finally, he explained the impact of Res. 9-06
25 on elections to the same board. The committee thanked all those providing information to the committee; the
26 Secretary’s office, for its extensive preparatory work; and especially those consenting to serve if elected.

27 He then called attention to and presented the slate of candidates for Secretary (*BSSN*, p. 40), as determined by the
28 committee. After further explanation from Chairman Hardy, President Harrison opened the floor for nominations,
29 none of which were offered. The chair declared nominations for Secretary closed.

30 Chairman Hardy next called attention to and presented the slates for Board of Directors (*BSSN*, pp. 41–43) and
31 President Harrison opened the floor for nominations, none of which were offered. The chair declared nominations for
32 Board of Directors closed.

33 Chairman Hardy noted Monday’s floor nomination period and upcoming elections, advising delegates to prepare
34 by reading the committee’s report, included in the *BSSN*, with care.

35 *Presentation: International Missions—Spread the Gospel*

36 The chair recognized the Rev. Tyler McMiller, LCMS missionary in Italy, to present on mission work in Italy.
37 Rev. McMiller shared how, for the past five years, he has served as a missionary in Italy. The mission began in Padova
38 with Luiz Lange, a man who reached out to the LCMS looking for a pastor, and expanded after former Anglicans
39 Joshua Salas and Lorenzo Murrone found the LCMS via online resources. McMiller received his call in 2020 and
40 started online services during the COVID-19 pandemic, later building a network of house churches across Italy serving
41 diverse immigrants and native Italians. To reach locals, weekly Bible studies were introduced and a network of house
42 churches were formed through the southern half of Italy. As the work in Italy has progressed, the first two Italian
43 pastors have been ordained and serve the principal congregation in Rome, Christus Victor. There are also preaching
44 stations in Salerno and San Giovanni Rotondo. McMiller expressed gratitude to LCMS leaders, fellow missionaries,
45 and supporting congregations for their prayers and partnership through challenges and miracles.

46 *Committee 2: International Witness*

47 The chair recognized Chairman R. Lee Hagan, president, Missouri District, to begin the report of his committee.
48 He noted is “good to be here” to celebrate the Lord’s resurrection together. Thursday will be a year since Hagan

1 suffered a stroke in New Orleans at the Youth Gathering. He gave thanks for God’s grace and encouragement from
2 across the Synod. He also noted in introductory remarks that there is much here to celebrate, but also a call to action
3 in support of mission. A video was shown explaining the FORO concept.

4 Res. 2-02A, “To Direct Districts and Encourage Congregational Participation in Global Mission through Prayer,
5 Partnership, and Support” (*TB*, 2B:277–78), was read, including the *whereases*, and introduced by the committee. It
6 was moved to close debate, which carried [Yes: 865; No: 17]. The resolution was adopted [Yes: 864; No: 27].

7 Res. 2-03A, “To Give Thanks to God for Missionary Care Provided by the Office of International Mission” (*TB*,
8 2B:278–79), was read and introduced by the committee. After debate, it was moved to close debate, which carried
9 [Yes: 869; No: 26]. Thereupon, the resolution was adopted [Yes: 817; No: 83].

10 Res. 2-04, “To Amend Bylaws 1.7.3, 2.11.1, 3.8.3, 3.8.3.8, and 4.4.4–5 to Establish a Framework for Ecclesiastical
11 Supervision and Pastoral Care for Independent International Congregations” (*TB*, 1:71–74), was read and introduced
12 by the committee. An attempt to amend a bylaw change was ruled out of order as not having been reviewed and
13 approved by the Commission on Constitutional Matters before presentation to the convention. It was moved to close
14 debate, which carried [Yes: 846; No: 44]. The resolution was adopted [Yes: 806; No: 80].

15 The chair asked the indulgence of the assembly, near orders of the day, to complete the committee’s final
16 resolution.

17 Res. 2-05, “To Give Thanks to God for 125 Years of Gospel Ministry, Partner Churches, and Mission in the Latin
18 America and Caribbean Region” (*TB*, 1:74–75), was read and introduced by the committee. An amendment was moved
19 but ruled out of order as not germane. Debate having been exhausted, the resolution was adopted by voice vote.

20 The work of the committee completed, Hagan thanked the Office of International Mission for its great work.

21 *Committee 4: Life Together*

22 The chair recognized Chairman Christopher S. Esget, Fifth Vice-President, to begin the report of his committee.

23 Res. 4-01, “To Establish *Tell the Next Generation* as Synod Mission and Ministry Emphasis” (*TB*, 1:82), was read
24 and introduced by the committee. Without debate, the resolution was adopted by unanimous voice and hand vote.

25 Res. 4-02A, “To Amend Bylaws to Refine Process for Creating Triennial Mission and Ministry Emphases” (*TB*,
26 2B:284–87), was read and introduced by the committee. Without debate, the resolution was adopted by voice vote.

27 Res. 4-03, “To Commend and Sunset Synod Mission Priorities” (*TB*, 1:85), was read and introduced by the
28 committee. Without debate, the resolution was adopted by voice vote.

29 Res. 4-06A, “To Amend Bylaws to Reinstate Commission on Worship” (*TB*, 2B:288–91), was read and introduced
30 by the committee. An attempted amendment to the bylaw text was ruled out of order as not having the prior approval
31 of the Commission on Constitutional Matters. After 20 minutes’ debate, in which the exact changes from the previous
32 version were elaborated, the closure of debate was called automatically under rule 22; this carried on a voice vote.
33 The resolution was adopted [Yes: 613; No: 289].

34 The chair announced that following the service the convention would stand in recess until tomorrow.

35 *Evening Prayer*

36 Chaplain Sean Daenzer led the convention in the Order of Evening Prayer, with the text, John 20:19–29.

37 John W. Sias, *Secretary*