CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS 1979 ST. LOUIS



CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS

53rd Regular Convention
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
St. Louis, Missouri
July 6—12, 1979



"With the Lord Begin Thy Task"



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53rd Regular Convention
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
St. Louis, Missouri
July 6—12, 1979

Officers of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

President
Rev. J. A. O. Preus, Ph.D., D.D., St. Louis, Mo.

First Vice-President
Rev. Edwin C. Weber, D.D., St. Louis, Mo.

Second Vice-President
Rev. Guido Merkens, D.D., San Antonio, Tex.

Third Vice-President
Rev. Walter A. Maier, Th.D., Fort Wayne, Ind.

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Rev. Robert Sauer, D.D., St. Louis, Mo.

Fifth Vice-President
Rev. George Wollenburg, D.D., Billings, Mont.

Secretary
Rev. Herbert Mueller, D.D. LL.D., St. Louis, Mo.

Treasurer
Mr. Norman Sell, LL.D., St. Louis, Mo.

1979 Convention Arrangements Committee

Dr. J. A. O. Preus, *Chairman*
Mr. W. J. Barge, *Convention Manager*
Mr. Vernon R. Scholl, *Convention Coordinator*
Dr. Robert Sauer, *Worship*
Mr. Victor Bryant, *Public Relations*
Mrs. Edwin Weber, *Convention Services*
Mrs. Elmer Smitt, *Registration*
Dr. Edwin Weber
Dr. Herbert Mueller

Those Three Little Dots . . .

How many members of the Synod can still recall the theme of the 1971 New York convention? Or the logo developed by Marxhausen for the 1969 Denver convention? Or the theme of the gathering in Cleveland in 1962?

Convention themes and logos seem destined soon to be forgotten. But it is safe to assume that the 1979 theme "God Opens Doors . . ." with its three little dots and its dynamic logo will long be remembered by those who were in attendance.

Having sat on the rostrum now for 10 consecutive conventions, we are tempted to call this one a great convention. It was at least the best in many years.

It was a positive, forward-looking, intelligent, and happy convention.

This was due in no small measure to the mission theme, to the presence of representatives of our overseas partner churches and many of our overseas missionaries, to the inspiring mission rally at Kiel Auditorium attended by some 6,000 persons, to the Mission Fair with its many booths manned by St. Louis area congregations, to the daily Bible study on the Book of Acts, to the short addresses from our overseas and minority brothers and sisters, and to the opening service, which set the tone for the entire week.

Perhaps one of the most lasting memories will be that of our overseas brothers and sisters gathered together on the rostrum, with the President of the Synod suddenly being asked to offer an extemporaneous prayer. In the hushed stillness one thought of the unseen cloud of witnesses (Heb. 12:1) who had gone before—prophets, apostles, martyrs, fathers, mothers. We were "following in their train."

To be sure, there were other features. We heard from the former President of our Synod, Dr. Oliver R. Harms, encouraging us to pass through God's open doors.

The convention was honored by the senior senator from Missouri, Thomas Eagleton, and pondered his concern over governmental encroachments in the voluntary sector of our American life, including the work of the churches.

The delegates witnessed the presentation of awards to men and women who had excelled in service to the deaf, to the mentally retarded, to the educational institutions of our church, and in other ways.

* * *

Yes, it was also by necessity a legislative assembly. Many elections were held and many resolutions passed. The difficult decision regarding fellowship with the ALC was delayed for another biennium; a new hymnal was approved; participation in the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A. was continued; a master plan (or set of basic principles) was adopted for the colleges and seminaries; a constitutional amendment (which must now be submitted to the congregations) elaborating on the objectives of the Synod (Article III) was approved; some of the recommendations of the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure were adopted, some declined, and a smaller continuation task force created.

We are listing for handy reference the resolutions which seem to be of more general interest (see also the index at the back of the book):

Res. 1-02A	Brazil
Res. 1-03A ff.	Mission Challenges
Res. 1-09	Great Commission Convocation
Res. 2-03	Objectives (Article III)
Res. 2-05A	Article VII
Res. 2-07	Auxiliaries
Res. 3-01	New Hymnal
Res. 3-02A	Abortion
Res. 3-03	ALC Fellowship
Res. 3-05	Canada
Res. 3-07	LCUSA
Res. 3-08	SELC Merger
Res. 3-10	Charismatic Movement
Res. 4-01A	Separate Church Extension Fund
Res. 4-07	Headquarters (also 4-08)
Res. 4-09	Black Ministry
Res. 4-14	Faculty Salaries (also 12-13)
Res. 5-07	Vice-Presidential Vacancies
Res. 5-08	Dallas 5-01 (Dual Membership)
Res. 5-11	Uncertified Pastoral Delegates
Res. 5-13	Teacher Status
Res. 6-01A	Model for Higher Education
Res. 6-04A	Saskatoon
Res. 6-05	Deaconess Program
Res. 7-05	Pan-Lutheran Catechism
Res. 8-08	Pastoral Counselors
Res. 12-01A	Fundraising Effort
Res. 12-04	Master Plan
Res. 12-06	Budgets and Work Program

* * *

Once again a few technical explanations are in order.

Some resolutions have an "A" attached to their identifying number. This indicates that the resolution originally prepared by the floor committee over the Memorial Day weekend had been revised by the committee, usually in answer to reactions received prior to the convention.

The number in parentheses below each resolution indicates the session in which final action was taken. In many instances it might be well to consult the minutes of that session for additional information. The parenthetical comments in small type below some resolutions provide still additional information from the notebooks of both secretaries.

CW refers to the *Convention Workbook,* the 336-page book of reports and overtures to the convention. *TB* stands for *Today's Business,* the daily publication bringing the text of the proposed resolutions prepared by the floor committees. The first issue of *Today's Business* (Sections A and B) was sent to all congregations and delegates prior to the convention and contained practically all resolutions. The daily issues distributed at the convention proper brought the revised versions to the attention of the delegates.

The following should also be noted for the record:

—All sessions were held in the new Alfonso J. Cervantes Convention and Exhibition Center in St. Louis, Mo.

—For the second time the convention had a full-time chaplain. This position was filled by Dr. Gerhardt Nitz, pastor of Grace Chapel, St. Louis, and former member of the Board of Directors.

—Dr. Walter Rosin functioned again as assistant secretary, ably filling a most taxing role. Thanks are also due to those who produced *Today's Business* under the leadership of Jean Buettner and to Pearl Houghton, "the Secretary's secretary."

* * *

It had been 41 years since the Synod had met in St. Louis, its headquarters city. To many it seemed like a happy homecoming. It was good to have been here.

But now what?

Those three little dots in the theme "God Opens Doors . . ." indicate that the action is not finished. The statement needs to be completed. Whenever God opens doors, He expects His people to be on the move. Open doors are for entering.

Indeed! "Here am I. Send me, send me!" Amen. Even so, Lord Jesus! . . .

Herbert Mueller, *Secretary*



The prayer for our overseas workers

REGISTERED DELEGATES AND REPRESENTATIVES

A. Voting and Advisory Delegates

Alberta and British Columbia District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Hennig, Valentine, Calgary, Alta.
2. Rodeman, Kenneth, Leduc, Alta.
3. Repo, Daniel, Dawson Creek, B.C.
4. Radke, Edward, Edmonton, Alta.
5. Mayan, Ernest, Vernon, B.C.
6. Rentz, Garwood, Delta, B.C.
7. Schulze, Robert, Campbell River, B.C.
8. Eifert, Norman, Delta, B.C.

B. Voting Laymen

1. Hope, Ian R., Medicine Hat, Alta.
2. Beck, Bruce, Bluffton, Alta.
3. Woeppel, Ray, Edson, Alta.
4. Hubick, Walter, Edmonton, Alta.
5. Walch, Brad, Robson, B.C.
6. Ruecker, Otto, Vancouver, B.C.
7. Bechtel, G.W., Cobble Hill, B.C.
8. Epp, Al, Abbotsford, B.C.

Atlantic District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Yingling, Stanton A., Delmar, NY
2. Gronbach, Arthur F., Pawling, NY
3. Zwernemann, James C., Bronxville, NY
4. Hempel, William G., Mt. Vernon, NY
5. Benke, David H., Brooklyn, NY
6. Rapp, Victor J., Queens Village, NY
7. Weldon, John H., Bayside, NY
8. Graser, Alfred P., Williston Park, NY
9. Lesslie, Arthur W., Amityville, NY
10. Meyer, William J., Patchogue, NY

B. Voting Laymen

1. Euler, Carl, Scotia, NY
2. Bertha, Michael, Yorktown Heights, NY
3. Herd, Walter, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY
4. De Jesus, Miguel, Bronx, NY
5. Lantieri, Michael, Brooklyn, NY
6. Gutheil, Herman, Richmond Hill, NY
7. Norem, Stanley, Bayside, NY
8. Maurer, Carl, Sea Cliff, NY
9. Witt, Robert, Hungtington Station, NY
10. Mehrling, John, Stony Brook, NY

C. Advisory Pastors

Miesner, Donald, Bronxville, NY
Peterson, Clifford H., Bronxville, NY

D. Advisory Teachers

Fink, Mildred R., Yorktown Heights, NY
Matern, John H., Queens Village, NY
Weber, Michael, Bronxville, NY

Brazil District

A. Voting Pastor

1. Hasse, Paulo, Sao Paulo, Brazil

B. Voting Layman

1. Seifert, Gerald, Sao Leopoldo, Brazil

California-Nevada-Hawaii District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Jacobson, Frank, San Francisco, CA
2. Mosley, Leland K., Fremont, CA
3. Fickenscher, Robert, Stockton, CA
4. Faust, William, Woodland, CA
5. Oesch, Norbert C., Bakersfield, CA
6. Zimmerman, Ted, Napa, CA
7. Streufert, Kenneth, Livermore, CA
8. Taddey, Martin R., Palo Alto, CA
9. Russow, James, Paso Robles, CA
10. Leising, Emil P., Gardnerville, NV
11. Fricke, Milton, Kahului, HI
12. Becker, Wilbur H., Paradise, CA
13. Muhly, Lester, Santa Rosa, CA
14. Haupt, James F., Clovis, CA
15. Hernandez, Carlos, Watsonville, CA
16. Fiechtner, Gregory, Pinole, CA
17. Preisinger, Don C., Santa Clara, CA
18. Herman, Don O., Placerville, CA

B. Voting Laymen

1. Ohlendorf, Elmer, Daly City, CA
2. Gieseke, Wilbert, San Leandro, CA
3. Dayton, Charles, Turlock, CA
4. Moldenhauer, Leonard, Dixon, CA
5. Hurty, Earl, Lake Isabella, CA
6. Bybee, James E., Fairfield, CA
7. Reed, Robert, Pleasanton, CA
8. Davis, H. Russ, San Bruno, CA
9. Pauling, David, Lompoc, CA
10. Bossen, Norma, Winnemucca, NV
11. Hamano, Hiroo, Hilo, HI
12. Burgstahler, Gary, Chico, CA
13. Lindskog, Bruce, Eureka, CA
14. Mauer, Philip H., Jr., Exeter, CA
15. Elsberry, Russell, Carmel Valley, CA
16. Schneider, Harold, Richmond, CA
17. Olsen, Melvin, San Jose, CA
18. Judish, Floyd, Citrus Heights, CA

C. Advisory Pastors

Chen, Cromwell, San Francisco, CA
Geistlinger, Jack, Terra Bella, CA

D. Advisory Teachers

Borkenhagen, Martin, San Jose, CA
Haas, Mark, Hayward, CA
Laurente, Marvin, Lodi, CA
Marty, Robert, Fair Oaks, CA

Central Illinois District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Bolin, Richard, Altamont, IL
2. Matzke, Marvin L., El Paso, IL
3. Eissfeldt, Raymond, Champaign, IL
4. Krueger, Delmar, Danville, IL
5. Beiderwieden, George H., Decatur, IL
6. Fortkamp, Gary, Strasburg, IL
7. Knief, Louis C., Arenzville, IL
8. Kirchner, Donald E., Chestnut, IL
9. Marston, William, Peoria, IL
10. Adam, William W., Clayton, IL
11. Friedrich, William E., East Moline, IL
12. Jensen, David C., Rochester, IL
13. Likeness, David, Washington, IL

B. Voting Laymen

1. Wendte, Walter, Altamont, IL
2. Ehling, Loren, Normal, IL
3. Nolte, Kenneth, Mattoon, IL
4. Mull, Howard, Rantoul, IL
5. Beals, H. Raymond, Mt. Zion, IL
6. Miller, Glen, Teutopolis, IL
7. Alhorn, Wilbur, Meredosia, IL
8. Maaks, Melvin, San Jose, IL
9. Karstensen, Karl, Peoria, IL
10. Allen, Virgil, Quincy, IL
11. Pinkerton, Allen, Colona, IL
12. Bojarzin, Robert, Springfield, IL
13. Woelfle, Clarence, Pekin, IL

C. Advisory Pastor

Weseloh, Melvin, Dunlap, IL

D. Advisory Teachers

Heidloff, David N., Bloomington, IL
Hinz, Kenneth E., Decatur, IL
Luehmann, Lloyd L., Kewanee, IL
Tieman, Edsel W., Springfield, IL

Colorado District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Rauber, Roland, Pueblo, CO
2. Fenske, Leo, Hudson, CO
3. Gabbert, Lambert, Greeley, CO
4. Meyer, Tom, Aurora, CO
5. Fingerlin, Henry F., Littleton, CO
6. Gardels, Norman, Clovis, NM
7. Rahe, Gary, Holyoke, CO
8. Snyder, Walter W., Gallup, NM
9. Hartenberger, Martin J., Albuquerque, NM
10. Jeske, Bruce, Orem, UT
11. Ahlman, Arnold, Northglenn, CO
12. Engel, Ronald, Denver, CO
13. Krause, Roger L., Colorado Springs, CO

B. Voting Laymen

1. Gillson, Phyllis, Alamosa, CO
2. Dorn, Paul, Longmont, CO
3. Mueller, Gene, Loveland, CO
4. Gleichmann, George, Littleton, CO
5. Simpson, Harold, Denver, CO
6. Kunkel, Oscar, Roswell, NM
7. Krueger, Jay Dean, Amherst, CO
8. Ostermann, David, Carbondale, IL
9. Uhle, Gordon K.P., Gallup, NM
10. Priebe, Norman, Salt Lake City, UT
11. Behrens, Leal, Westminster, CO
12. Krentz, August, Arvada, CO
13. Schaefer, Harvey, Colorado Springs, CO

C. Advisory Pastor

Behnken, John W., Albuquerque, NM

D. Advisory Teachers

Cattau, Rollin, Westminster, CO
Rehwaldt, Carolyn, Denver, CO
Senechal, John, Colorado Springs, CO

Eastern District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Streufert, Carl A., Williamsville, NY
2. Schubert, Gary T., Buffalo, NY
3. Musall, David J., Lockport, NY
4. Rickus, Robert L., Tonawanda, NY
5. Koessel, Francis, Otto, NY
6. Minnix, Roy W., Jr., Colden, NY
7. Muller, Donald M., Canandaigua, NY
8. Saresky, Edward L., Rochester, NY
9. Goehring, Charles N., Spencerport, NY
10. Steinke, Robert C., Massena, NY
11. Pape, Richard E., Glenshaw, PA
12. Langhoff, Donald H., Pittsburgh, PA
13. Winkler, Donald C., Pittsburgh, PA
14. Wolter, Henry G., Pittsburgh, PA
15. Koller, Walter E., Cheltenham, PA
16. Hegstrom, Wayne R., Mt. Pocono, PA

B. Voting Laymen

1. Athoe, Harold, Batavia, NY
2. Wolka, Allan D., Hamburg, NY
3. Pafk, Glenn, Akron, NY
4. O'Neill, Gerald, N. Tonawanda, NY
5. Serra, William W., Wellsville, NY
6. Lehning, Larry F., Delevan, NY
7. Israel, Herbert, Ithaca, NY
8. Polmateer, Stanley W., Henrietta, NY
9. Lowitzer, Edwin, Rochester, NY
10. Bierwagen, Max, Dewitt, NY
11. Kieninger, Frank, Pittsburgh, PA
12. Moll, Leroy, Sewickley, PA
13. Sallach, Carl, Monroeville, PA
14. Hoffman, Harold, Pittsburgh, PA
15. Gollwitzer, Herman, Springfield, PA
16. Trotz, William J., Olyphant, PA

C. Advisory Pastors

Bichsel, M. Alfred, Rochester, NY
Sommerfeld, Walter R., Pittsburgh, PA

D. Advisory Teachers

Kosinsky, John, West Seneca, NY
Kuske, Wilmer, Levittown, PA

English District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Marth, David, Phoenix, AZ
2. Ilten, Philip H., Sepulveda, CA
3. Meyer, Merlin C., Scarsdale, NY
4. Kraus, Thomas, Harrisburg, PA
5. Heinze, W. Philip, Niagara Falls, Ont.
6. Kohlmeier, Wm., Cleveland Hts., OH
7. Heimer, Karl, Cleveland, OH
8. Jung, Donald F., W. Bloomfield, MI
9. Schulte, E.N., Detroit, MI
10. Pittelko, Roger D., Elk Grove Village, IL
11. Kuerschner, David, Lakeview, MI
12. Murphy, John, Pittsburgh, PA
13. Wians, Herbert, Chicago, IL
14. Drews, Richard, Elmhurst, IL
15. Kirst, Donald, Mt. Vernon, IL
16. Einem, Harold E., Milwaukee, WI

B. Voting Laymen

1. Michalk, Ervin, Tucson, AZ
2. Braeunig, Chris, El Cajon, CA
3. Kunath, Wallington, Ridgefield, NJ
4. Oeschger, Robert, Furlong, PA
5. Brennenstuhl, Eleanor, Toronto, Ont.
6. Doty, James, Akron, OH
7. Ayer, Howard, Cincinnati, OH
8. Durrenberg, Betty, Troy, MI
9. Schradie, Joseph, Toledo, OH
10. Unrath, Paul, Chicago, IL
11. Stahl, Ken, Fort Wayne, IN
12. Kaufman, Kurt, Kenmore, NY
13. Raschke, Wayne, Chicago, IL
14. Toepke, Rex, New Lenox, IL
15. Hoehle, Louis, Florissant, MO
16. Hoppert, Marion, Hales Corners, WI

C. Advisory Pastor

Strelow, Timothy, Arlington Hgts., IL

D. Advisory Teachers

Gruendler, Carl, Chicago, IL

Florida-Georgia District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Frobe, Roger, Decatur, GA
2. Besalski, Robert C., Gainesville, FL
3. Hoard, Samuel L., Orlando, FL
4. Reiter, Donald, Melbourne, FL
5. Fuqua, Kent, Lake Wales, FL
6. Bergmann, Mark, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
7. Eisold, Theodore W., Lake Worth, FL
8. Oermann, Ervin, N. Miami Beach, FL
9. Mueller, David A., Miami, FL
10. Renner, Martin, N. Fort Myers, FL
11. Sammetinger, Carl, Clearwater, FL
12. Hassold, William, Tampa, FL
13. Mentz, Marlin A., East Point, GA

B. Voting Laymen

1. Lotz, Arthur W., Dunwoody, GA
2. Borcherding, George, Jacksonville, FL
3. McCall, Beverly, Apopka, FL
4. Hoisington, Robt., Cape Canaveral, FL
5. Roseman, Loretta, Bartow, FL
6. Nord, John D., Pompano Beach, FL
7. Burger, L.J., Delray Beach, FL
8. Aker, James E., Miami, FL
9. Hendel, Henry, Tavernier, FL
10. Hoyer, Norman, Ft. Meyers, FL
11. Kuhl, Earl, St. Petersburg, FL
12. Lineberger, Ted, Tampa, FL
13. Woerman, Kenneth D., Marietta, GA

C. Advisory Pastors

Biel, Kurt W., Orlando, FL
Rupprecht, Martin W., Clearwater, FL

D. Advisory Teachers

Anderson, Charles, Boca Raton, FL
Wangerin, Paul W., Coconut Creek, FL
Wesche, Paul W., Winter Haven, Fl

Indiana District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Beer, Milton W., Dyer, IN
2. Meilaender, Gilbert C., Hobart, IN
3. Garvue, Donald R., Chesterton, IN
4. Meyer, Edward, La Porte, IN
5. Nickel, James, Elkhart, IN
6. Gerike, Kenneth J., Kendallville, IN
7. Aubuchon, Stan, Churubusco, IN
8. Nichols, Jerry, Fort Wayne, IN
9. Wetzel, Ralph, Woodburn, IN
10. Russert, Luther, Decatur, IN
11. Hoerle, Darrel, Reynolds, IN
12. Muhl, A. Herbert, Kokomo, IN
13. Mitchell, Larry, Beech Grove, IN
14. Dworak, Gary A., Indianpolis, IN
15. Meier, Robert, Indianapolis, IN
16. Stache, William, Columbus, IN
17. Sauls, Ottis L., Seymour, IN
18. Dau, Luther, Greensburg, IN
19. Garber, Reuben, New Albany, IN
20. Yunghans, Charles E., Henderson, KY
21. Boettcher, Loren, Evansville, IN

B. Voting Laymen

1. Ball, Raymond, Hammond, IN
2. Woldt, Walter H., Merrillville, IN
3. Rummelmann, Paul, Kouts, IN
4. Gardin, Guy, North Judson, IN
5. Smith, Ben, Bremen, IN
6. Rastl, Ronald, Columbia City, IN
7. Kruse, Edgar, Fort Wayne, IN
8. Hollman, Robert, Fort Wayne, IN
9. Behrendt, John, New Haven, IN
10. Crosby, James, Ossian, IN
11. Hinkle, Charles, W. Layfayette, IN
12. Davidson, Roger, Kokomo, IN
13. Folkening, Donald, New Palestine, IN
14. Holtmann, Ervan, Terre Haute, IN
15. Hoeltke, Herbert, Greenwood, IN
16. Middendorf, Max, Brownstown, IN
17. Benker, Alvin, Seymour, IN
18. Brauer, Arnold, Aurora, IN
19. Pierce, Charles, Lanesville, IN
20. Freudenberg, Charles, Newburgh, IN
21. Wolske, Walter. Vincennes, IN

C. Advisory Pastors

Barth, Walter L., Fort Wayne, IN
Kallio, Harold N., Indianapolis, IN
Keller, Walter E., Valparaiso, IN
Mueller, Bernhard G., Fort Wayne, IN

D. Advisory Teachers

Engebrecht, Franklin E., Fort Wayne, IN
Klemm, Lowell E., Elkhart, IN
Mangels, Hersey G., Seymour, IN
Manske, Alfred R., Fort Wayne, IN
Wentland, James L., Indianapolis, IN

Iowa East District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Schuster, Fred, Vinton, IA
2. Thompson, Richard L., Cedar Rapids, IA
3. Richter, E.W., Clinton, IA
4. Bohlmann, Gordon, Eldridge, IA
5. Schindler, Walter, Dubuque, IA
6. Pillack, Roland, Hampton, IA
7. Pierson, Richard, State Center, IA
8. Belk, Kit B., Osage, IA
9. Melz, Arno H., Waterloo, IA
10. Brandt, John, Westgate, IA
11. Jacobs, Robert C., Marengo, IA

B. Voting Laymen

1. Freie, Verne, Newhall, IA
2. Bern, Harold, Cedar Rapids, IA
3. Ketelsen, Elmer, Grand Mound, IA
4. Stoltenberg, Richard, Stockton, IA
5. Rusch, Ellis W., Dubuque, IA
6. Koenen, David, Latimer, IA
7. Prochaska, Darwin, Marshalltown, IA
8. Myers, Myron, Riceville, IA
9. Veatch, Steve, Dike, IA
10. Janssen, Alfred M., Waverly, IA
11. Weiss, George, Victor, IA

C. Advisory Pastor

Kitzmann, I.G., Osage, IA

D. Advisory Teacher

Varner, Roger, Williamsburg, IA

Iowa West District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Luecht, Norman, Dexter, IA
2. Spitzack, Maynard A., Boone, IA
3. Bottjen, Dean, Coon Rapids, IA
4. Riemer, LeRoy, Sutherland, IA
5. Ebke, Richard, Council Bluffs, IA
6. Hoyer, Victor O., Manilla, IA
7. Simminger, K. Michael, Des Moines, IA
8. Folle, Ronald G., Ames, IA
9. Meyer, Walter A., West Bend, IA
10. Stolle, Gary, Eagle Grove, IA
11. Burrack, Richard, Pomeroy, IA
12. Sieveking, Paul G., Ireton, IA
13. Leege, Robert J., Ute, IA
14. Petersen, Reynold, Garner, IA
15. Koss, Noel, Ocheyedan, IA
16. Kramer, Herman W., Lake View, IA
17. Hamp, Robert B., Sioux City, IA
18. Loose, Rodney W., Osceola, IA
19. Barth, Robert, Yorktown, IA
20. Wenger, Norman, Terril, IA
21. Marsh, Joseph, Alta, IA

B. Voting Laymen

1. Wingate, Noel, Anita, IA
2. Garwood, Charles, Perry, IA
3. Asmus, Harold, Audubon, IA
4. Woolridge, Wayne, Cherokee, IA
5. Hanusa, Theodore, Council Bluffs, IA
6. Hubner, Walter R., Denison, IA
7. Jensen, Richard, Des Moines, IA
8. Beitz, Don, Ames, IA
9. Struecker, Marvin, West Bend, IA
10. Licht, Walter, Badger, IA
11. Schaeffer, Albert, Rockwell City, IA
12. Ladenthin, Herbert, Le Mars, IA
13. Hamann, Stan, Anthon, IA
14. Meyer, Edgar, Algona, IA
15. Dykstra, Les, Everly, IA
16. Glasnapp, Roger, Lytton, IA
17. Bradstreet, Eugene, Sioux City, IA
18. Brooks, Jim, New Market, IA
19. Hamman, Floyd, Red Oak, IA
20. Olson, O.E., Estherville, IA
21. Lietz, Howrad, Alta, IA

C. Advisory Pastor

Langhans, Clarence, Bouton, IA

D. Advisory Teacher

Duitsman, James, Paullina, IA

Kansas District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Kalsow, Larry D., Wathena, KS
2. Schulz, Victor, Kansas City, KS
3. Sabo, Andrew, Overland Park, KS
4. Krause, Elmer, Topeka, KS
5. Peckman, Walt, Oswego, KS
6. Drush, John, Barnes, KS
7. Miller, Rowland A., Alma, KS
8. Press, G. G., Herington, KS
9. Pool, John M., Wichita, KS
10. Harders, Delmer J., Canton, KS
11. Benning, Virgil T., Claflin, KS
12. Hanneman, Harvey, Atwood, KS
13. Reith, Merlin L., Garden City, KS

B. Voting Laymen

1. Remmers, Alvin T., Sabetha, KS
2. Brown, Hubert F., Kansas City, KS
3. Minden, Ralph, Shawnee Mission, KS
4. Bauck, Reuben, Vassar, KS
5. Wehmeyer, Willard, Pittsburg, KS
6. Stigge, Orvill, Washington, KS
7. Parker, Leonard, Wamego, KS
8. Kohls, Dennis, Salina, KS
9. Ratz, Bill, Winfield, KS
10. Kinast, Charles, Hutchinson, KS
11. Holthus, Lawrence E., Smith Center, KS
12. Young, Harold, Larned, KS
13. Proctor, W.E., Bill, Cold Water, KS

C. Advisory Pastor

Pullman, Martin, Winfield, KS

D. Advisory Teachers

Jacobs, Mrs. Norma, Kansas City, KS
Pralle, Leroy, Bremen, KS
Wischmeyer, Don, Wichita, KS

Manitoba and Saskatchewan District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Haberstock, Clif, Moose Jaw, Sask.
2. Borchardt, Carl, Regina, Sask.
3. Murray, Milford, Saskatoon, Sask.
4. Pudrycki, Irwin, Hudson Bay, Sask.
5. Brown, Richard, Melville, Sask.
6. Borchardt, Paul J., Roblin, Man.
7. Koehler, Fred, Winnipeg, Man.

B. Voting Laymen

1. Wymer, F.W., Stewart Valley, Sask.
2. Dressler, Lloyd, Regina, Sask.
3. Jensen, Murray, Wilkie, Sask.
4. Moore, Harry, Nipawin, Sask.
5. Korfman, Lawrence, Broadview, Sask.
6. Kleebaum, Oscar, Inglis, Man.
7. Webster, Allan, Winnipeg, Man.

C. Advisory Pastor

Koehler, Walter, Saskatoon, Sask.

Michigan District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Mueller, Ronald W., Gaylord, MI
2. Frederick, Clarke, Mullett Lake, MI
3. Clark, Robert, Jackson, MI
4. Zehnder, Ronald, Ann Arbor, MI
5. Heil, Thomas, Battle Creek, MI
6. Tyvela, Leslie, Bay City, MI
7. Pollatz, Paul, Onekama, MI
8. Doroh, Gerhardt, Charlotte, MI
9. Glick, Dennis, Dearborn, MI
10. Dobberfuhl, G.P., Detroit, MI
11. O'Brien, Pat F.A., Detroit, MI
12. Mehl, Carl, Farmington Hills, MI
13. Geary, Duane, Detroit, MI
14. Estes, David R., Mount Morris, MI
15. Brinker, Henry, Birch Run, MI
16. Welsh, Ronald, Flint, MI
17. Buckert, Mark, Greenville, MI
18. Goltz, Gordon K., Grand Rapids, MI
19. Hoehner, Robert, Kentwood, MI
20. St. Pierre, Rupert, Farmington Hills, MI
21. Schwartz, Vernon H., New Haven, MI
22. Christiansen, Herman, Rochester, MI
23. Klein, Theodore, Port Huron, MI
24. Fluegge, Wilton H., Center Line, MI
25. —
26. Croll, Gilbert, Milan, MI
27. Nelson, Richard, Nunica, MI
28. Abatie, Rodger, Muskegon, MI
29. Pflug, Mark R., Huntington Woods, MI
30. Burow, Paul E., Rochester, MI
31. Simon, Donald E., Milford, MI
32. Foerster, Barry, Caro, MI
33. Smith, Charles O., Saginaw, MI
34. Schulz, Michael P., Cassapolis, MI
35. Ruhlig, Erwin, Sturgis, MI
36. Wentzel, Wayne H., Sebewaing, MI
37. Glander, Dennis, Bad Axe, MI
38. Wilk, James L., Standish, MI
39. Walburg, Jim, Bellaire, MI
40. —
41. Renken, Gerald, Southgate, MI

B. Voting Laymen

1. Wade, Michael, Hillman, MI
2. Hempel, Eldon R., Hawks, MI
3. Perry, James, Manitou Beach, MI
4. Schroeder, Clarence, Britton, MI
5. Goeres, William F., Three Rivers, MI

6. Appold, Eldor, Bay City, MI
7. Bredow, Daniel, Baldwin, MI
8. La Haine, Gilbert, Sr., Lansing, MI
9. Challis, Richard, Dearborn, MI
10. Le Borious, James, Detroit, MI
11. Kienman, Henry R., Madison Hgts., MI
12. Young, Gerald, Detroit, MI
13. Dickerson, Joe B., Detroit, MI
14. Bachtel, Dale, Burton, MI
15. Paul, Junior, Swartz Creek, MI
16. Klautsch, Adolph, Linden, MI
17. Kemmis, Frank, Greenville, MI
18. Engel, Joan, Ada, MI
19. Meyers, Richard, Grand Rapids, MI
20. Moser, Marvin, Livonia, MI
21. Kogelman, August, New Haven, MI
22. Hohnstadt, Howard, Washington, MI
23. Kogelmann, Samuel, Romeo, MI
24. Beck, Ronald, East Detroit, MI
25. Gust, Dale, Mt. Pleasant, MI
26. Gruber, Viola, Monroe, MI
27. Brown, Robert E., Shelby, MI
28. Burch, Lester, Grand Haven, MI
29. Zinke, Bob, Troy, MI
30. Koschmann, Norbert E., Rochester, MI
31. Buttenmiller, Karl, Walled Lake, MI
32. Mueller, Eugene, Reese, MI
33. Luplow, Leroy, Freeland, MI
34. Viganski, Gerald, Bridgman, MI
35. Scheumann, Rudy, Colon, MI
36. Cooke, Ronald E., Caseville, MI
37. Baerwolf, Elwyn, Sandusky, MI
38. Sell, Larry, Roscommon, MI
39. Parker, Marion, Charlevoix, MI
40. Denham, William, Northport, MI
41. Floetke, William, Southgate, MI

C. Advisory Pastors

Allen, David A., East Detroit, MI
Einem, Edward H., Detroit, MI
Hellwege, Allen D., Kalamazoo, MI

D. Advisory Teachers

Aufdemberge, Erwin J., Detroit, MI
Block, Richard A., Detroit, MI
Ebert, Dorothy, Roseville, MI
Edenfield, Harry N., Bridgeman, MI
Grotelueschen, Richard E., Sterling Heights, MI
Hartman, David A., Flint, MI
Hetzner, Mark W., Detroit, MI
Hunter, Janet M., Detroit, MI
Kell, Delmar A., Midland, MI
Kirchhoff, Fred A., Naples, FL
Kuske, Eugene C., Frankenmuth, MI
Lehl, Christine G., Northville, MI
List, Rose, Frankenmuth, MI
Nack, Delton L., Port Huron, MI
Ramsey, McNair, Jr., Detroit, MI
Rolf, Elda, Saginaw, MI
Smith, Dale R., Taylor, MI
Schwartz, Justin, Dearborn, MI
Stoppenhagen, Arnold, Caledonia, MI
Stueber, Ross E., Lansing, MI
Vogt, Don, East Detroit, MI
Zabel, Wm. R., Unionville, MI

Mid-South District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Childress, William, Jacksonville, AR
2. Schulz, Wm., Wartburg, TN
3. Wiese, Ron, Memphis, TN
4. Hagemeier, Fred, Fort Smith, AR
5. Boehlke, Alvin, Nashville, TN
6. Brandt, Rudolph, Bowling Green, KY
7. Marhenke, Larry, Pine Bluff, AR
8. Claybaker, Richard, Fayetteville, AR

B. Voting Laymen

1. Frazier, Charles, Benton, AR
2. Banner, Herrmann, Elizabethton, TN
3. Ruff, Alfred, Memphis, TN
4. Williams, Cliff, Fort Smith, AR
5. Klaus, Rupert, Murphreesboro, TN
6. Goacher, Ralph, Blytheville, AR
7. Poll, Rick, Gillett, AR
8. Bucher, Alfred, Harrison, AR

C. Advisory Pastor

Gabbert, Roland, Johnson City, TN

D. Advisory Teacher

Walker, Roger, Memphis, TN

Minnesota North District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Anderson, David, Crookston, MN
2. Kayser, Lowell N., Park Rapids, MN
3. Guehna, Richard L., Perham, MN
4. Johnshoy, Edward, Sebeka, MN
5. Grande, R.J., Kakabeka Falls, Ont.
6. Drevlow, Otto H., Virginia, MN
7. Reinemann, Lewis, Duluth, MN
8. MacLachlan, Neal F., Brainerd, MN
9. Vaudt, Erwin, Sauk Rapids, MN
10. Bartz, Paul, Braham, MN
11. Abrahams, Dan C., Fergus Falls, MN
12. Bruening, Stephen, Alexandria, MN
13. Rose, Karl, Elbow Lake, MN
14. Kirsch, Donald W., Sauk Centre, MN
15. Friedrich, Robert, Bellingham, MN
16. Langemo, Martin S., Canby, MN

B. Voting Laymen

1. Wentzel, Noel, Fisher, MN
2. Dramstad, Harry, Baudette, MN
3. Gorentz, Gerald, Vergas, MN
4. Langemo, Martin, Deer Creek, MN
5. Kouhi, George, Thunder Bay, Ont.
6. Larson, Vernon, Deer River, MN
7. Vukelich, Robert, Esko, MN
8. Zastrow, Marvin, Little Falls, MN
9. Hoffman, Carl, Kimball, MN
10. Stoeckel, Leon, Bethel, MN
11. Krabbenhoft, Victor, Glyndon, MN
12. Josephs, Harold, Brandon, MN
13. Grohn, Donald, Wheaton, MN
14. Haack, Arthur A., Grey Eagle, MN
15. Gumm, Milton, Morris, MN
16. Henning, Lyle, Montevideo, MN

D. Advisory Teacher

Stohs, Delton, Perham, MN

Minnesota South District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Michael, Gerhard C., Howard Lake, MN
2. Taylor, Donald L., Watertown, MN
3. Hinrichs, Daniel L., Minnetonka, MN
4. Heimlich, Gerald P., Osseo, MN
5. Wippich, De Lloyd D., Minneapolis, MN
6. Becker, Bernard H., Green Isle, MN
7. Meyr, Victor, Red Wing, MN
8. Schornhorst, Ronald L., Webster, MN
9. Lange, William H., Minneapolis, MN
10. Glade, Eugene, Hudson, WI
11. Krueger, Mark, Jasper, MN
12. Leckband, Royce C., Marshall, MN
13. Kruse, Loren D., Alpha, MN
14. Ehlers, Harvey I., Sherburn, MN
15. Luehmann, Alfred J., New Ulm, MN
16. Miller, Jeffrey, Waterville, MN
17. Drevlow, Arthur H., St. James, MN
18. Bongard, Ronald, Blue Earth, MN
19. Sherren, Randolph, Medford, MN
20. West, Donald E., St. Charles, MN
21. Hannemann, Herman, Brownsdale, MN
22. Markworth, James A., Rochester, MN
23. Krogen, Richard A., Coon Rapids, MN
24. Eifert, Edwin W., Bloomington, MN

B. Voting Laymen

1. Kuseske, Elmer, Buffalo, MN
2. Narr, Roland, Young America, MN
3. Ahlschwede, Kathleen E., St. Paul, MN
4. Hinderks, James H., Brooklyn Park, MN
5. Lindskoog, Harold, Minneapolis, MN
6. Zimmerman, Burton, Brownton, MN
7. Rahn, Marvin, Eagan, MN
8. Gehlher, Leonard W., Prior Lake, MN
9. Busacker, Dale, St. Paul, MN
10. Winter, Lester, Hugo, MN
11. Everett, Leslie, Pipestone, MN
12. Voehl, Harry, Lakefield, MN
13. Dahl, Clinton, Jackson, MN
14. Becker, Wilbert, Granada, MN
15. Laechelt, Wilfred, Mankato, MN
16. Schaetzke, Harvey, Janesville, MN
17. Meier, Lorenz, Ormsby, MN
18. Nase, Bud, Amboy, MN
19. Schulz, Elmer, Faribault, MN
20. Wohlers, William, Plainview, MN
21. Heuton, Russell, Austin, MN
22. Cordes, Martin, Rochester, MN
23. Matasovsky, Gerald, Coon Rapids, MN
24. Marks, Clarence E., Richfield, MN

C. Advisory Pastors

Gallman, Lawrence K., Bloomington, MN
Heidorn, Norman, Mankato, MN
Panning, Paul H., Rochester, MN

D. Advisory Teachers

Affeldt, Arnold, Glencoe, MN
Cloeter, Hubert V., Faribault, MN
Duchow, Wayne L., St. Paul, MN
Holtmeier, Ronald G., Minneapolis, MN
Krause, Edward B., St. James, MN

Missouri District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Aurich, Leonard H., Perryville, MO
2. Leeman, Karl K., Gordonville, MO
3. Groenke, Lloyd E., Trenton, MO
4. Bielefeld, Earl, Fulton, MO
5. Wellman, Keith, Lexington, MO
6. Zabel, William, Concordia, MO
7. Wegener, Merlen, Farmington, MO
8. Mitkos, Les, Jackson, MO
9. Kalthoff, James, Jefferson City, MO
10. Klockau, Keith, Kansas City, MO
11. Reeder, Thomas, Kansas City, MO
12. Mehl, Clemens, Kansas City, MO
13. Spomer, Charles, Milan, MO
14. Baker, Garth L., Rolla, MO
15. Mueller, Mark, Wentzville, MO
16. Hackbarth, Lloyd, Maryville, MO
17. Moeller, Roy, St. Louis, MO
18. Paul, Leroy L., St. Louis, MO
19. Dubberke, Edwin, St. Louis, MO
20. Pranschke, Leonard, St. Louis, MO
21. Karsten, Darwin, Eureka, MO
22. Stolzenburg, Floyd, Florissant, MO
23. Hager, Harry A., Jr., Creve Coeur, MO
24. Bischoff, Clifford L., St. Louis, MO
25. Spree, Floyd H., Brentwood, MO
26. Nothwehr, Rolland, Sedalia, MO
27. Desens, Merwin, Monett, MO
28. Heilman, Carl, Springfield, MO
29. Koch, Clinton W., New Haven, MO

B. Voting Laymen

1. Bergt, Gerhard, Altenburg, MO
2. Roth, Walter, Cape Girardeau, MO
3. Blunk, Marvin, Brunswick, MO
4. Wahlers, Roy, Columbia, MO
5. Dautenhahn, David, Marshall, MO
6. Weber, Elmer, Emma, MO
7. Broderick, James, Sr., Imperial, MO
8. Ruesler, Clarence, Jackson, MO
9. Brammeier, Arthur, Camdenton, MO
10. Bray, Glenn, Kansas City, MO
11. Hauptmann, Jerzy, Parkville, MO
12. Broockmann, Mearl, Belton, MO
13. Kohlenberg, Gilbert, Kirksville, MO
14. Koch, Wm., Sullivan, MO
15. Knoernschild, Ed, Warrenton, MO
16. Heitman, Bill, Fairfax, MO
17. Kopecky, Frank, Jr., St. Louis, MO
18. Moeller, John W., St. Louis, MO
19. Giewald, Al, St. Louis, MO
20. Jung, Norman A., St. Louis, MO
21. Harms, Paul, Manchester, MO
22. Stierholz, Hugo, Florissant, MO
23. Corner, Donald D., Overland, MO
24. Rathert, Robert, Chesterfield, MO
25. Runge, Carl, Crestwood, MO
26. Fajen, Reinhart, Warsaw, MO
27. Hasselbring, Dale, Sarcoxie, MO
28. Mueller, Charles, Hartville, MO
29. Johnson, Paul, Owensville, MO

C. Advisory Pastors

Bailey, Robert, Cape Girardeau, MO
Brese, Erwin, Cape Girardeau, MO
Eickmann, Jerrold, St. Louis, MO
Johnson, John, St. Louis, MO
Krause, Ed, Springfield, MO
Loesel, Berthold, Perryville, MO
Rittmann, Clarence, Winona, MO
Tormoehlen, Alger, Florissant, MO
Uttech, William, St. Louis, MO

D. Advisory Teachers

Bernhardt, David, St. Charles, MO
Bertke, Richard, Perryville, MO
Block, Harold, Concordia, MO
Bohler, Don, St. Louis, MO
Bude, Cleo, St. Louis, MO
Henkelmann, Ervin, Webster Groves, MO
Kassel, Robert, Freistatt, MO
Koepke, Roger, Overland, MO
Kolander, Luther, St. Louis, MO
Mangels, Anne, St. Louis, MO
Mueller, Delores, Florissant, MO
Schoech, Lois, St. Louis, MO
Verseman, Calvin, St. Louis, MO

Montana District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Boehnke, David A., Billings, MT
2. Blunck, Paul H., Missoula, MT
3. Urban, Otto H., Colstrip, MT
4. Glinsmann, Alvin H., Great Falls, MT
5. Elvers, Louis E., Boulder, MT

B. Voting Laymen

1. Hein, Keith, Billings, MT
2. Sappington, James, Kalispell, MT
3. Rehn, Frank E., Miles City, MT
4. Neumann, Emil, Power, MT
5. Braasch, Cathi, Whitehall, MT

D. Advisory Teacher

Bluhm, Don G., Kalispell, MT

Nebraska District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Haynes, Douglas W., Valentine, NE
2. Ericksen, David, Wymore, NE
3. Wink, Thomas, Columbus, NE
4. Theiss, Paul D., Superior, NE
5. Weinrich, Karl C., Tecumseh, NE
6. Corniels, Douglas R., Wahoo, NE
7. Sievers, John, Grand Island, NE
8. Poock, Donald, Red Cloud, NE
9. Schmidt, Don, Bertrand, NE
10. Johnston, Tom, Ravenna, NE
11. Bass, John C., Walton, NE
12. Davies, Karl, Norfolk, NE
13. Hornig, Juraine, Ogallala, NE
14. Jank, Roland, Jr., Omaha, NE
15. Williams, Edwin, Springfield, NE
16. Ritchey, Caryl M., Wausa, NE
17. Weyland, James D., S. Sioux City, NE
18. Timm, Terry A., Pender, NE
19. Meschke, B.F., Hampton, NE

B. Voting Laymen

1. Boettcher, Herb, Spencer, NE
2. Bartels, Elroy, Tobias, NE
3. Loseke, Clifford, Columbus, NE
4. Schleifer, Reuben, Chester, NE
5. Roland, Max, Falls City, NE
6. Erxleben, Austin, Fremont, NE
7. Zimmerman, Leon, Loup City, NE
8. Nolte, Ramon, Kenesaw, NE
9. Achterberg, Al, Holdrege, NE
10. Kahle, Martin, Kearney, NE
11. Greenthaner, Edw., Lincoln, NE
12. Kurpgeweit, Marvin, Madison, NE
13. Brengelman, Richard, Arnold, NE
14. Steiner, Paul, Omaha, NE
15. Brashear, Kermit, II, Omaha, NE
16. Kahny, Darrell, Osmond, NE
17. Meyer, Leon F., Wayne, NE
18. Stigge, Alvin, West Point, NE
19. Bauer, Donald, Seward, NE

C. Advisory Pastors

Peckman, Richard E., Lincoln, NE
Smith, Warren L., Kearney, NE

D. Advisory Teachers

Bluma, George W., Arlington, NE
Brandt, Lillian, Grand Island, NE
Chandler, William F., Grand Island, NE
Cornett, Ronald, Hampton, NE
Lehmann, Arlo V., Orchard, NE

New England District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Bartsch, H. Elmer, Nashua, NH
2. Mahn, David P., Canton, MA
3. Ashcraft, Darrel E., Raynham, MA
4. Martin, Theodore, Clinton, MA
5. Peyser, S. Erik K., Springfield, MA
6. Kuhl, Charles W., Manchester, CT
7. Thompson, William G., Bristol, CT
8. Skov, Richard H., Niantic, CT
9. Klauck, Roland M., New Fairfield, CT

B. Voting Laymen

1. Bertermann, Jonathan, Scarborough, ME
2. —
3. Sonstroem, Robert J., North Kingstown, RI
4. Samuli, Kauko, Westminster, MA
5. Jaehing, Arthur, Suffield, CT
6. Freudenstein, John W., Mansfield Center, CT
7. Krampitz, Reinhardt, Terryville, CT
8. Upton, Ronald, N. Stonington, CT
9. Rosen, John, Trumbull, CT

C. Advisory Pastor

Ruppar, William A., Wethersfield, CT

D. Advisory Teacher

Palmeter, Donald, Terryville, CT

New Jersey District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Wangerin, Jack, New Milford, NJ
2. Puerto, Jose G., West New York, NJ
3. Pekari, William J., Bloomfield, NJ
4. Baker, Otto E., Clifton, NJ
5. Heller, Ralph W., Bound Brook, NJ
6. Keyl, Rudolf J., S. Basking Ridge, NJ
7. Nesko, Milan A., Medford, NJ
8. Johnson, Norman, Old Bridge, NJ

B. Voting Laymen

1. Crumb, Howard F., Ridgewood, NJ
2. Koehler, William, North Bergen, NJ
3. Whitehead, John, N. Arlington, NJ
4. Lesh, Ethel, Clifton, NJ
5. Herron, William L., Elizabeth, NJ
6. Kaack, Carl, Florham Park, NJ
7. Casaday, Barry, Allenton, NJ
8. Ledogar, Walter, Whiting, NJ

C. Advisory Pastor

Kaufman, Arthur M., Lawton, OK

D. Advisory Teacher

Pfeifer, Leonard, Edison, NJ

North Dakota District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Roth, Carlyle, Carrington, ND
2. Miller, Carl, Lisbon, ND
3. Marschner, L.D., Williston, ND
4. Lueker, Arnold, Cavalier, ND
5. Theiss, Harry R., Halliday, ND
6. Heinert, David, Devils Lake, ND
7. Voll, Theodore, Monango, ND

B. Voting Laymen

1. Schander, Reuben, Fessenden, ND
2. Koppelman, Herbert, Lidgerwood, ND
3. Filipek, Kim J., Burlington, ND
4. Reinke, Gary, Fargo, ND
5. Rehling, Walter H., Dickinson, ND
6. Kersten, Gene, Newburg, ND
7. Rempfer, William, Edgeley, ND

C. Advisory Pastor

Thomas, Ray, Fargo, ND

D. Advisory Teacher

Koehler, Ken, West Fargo, ND

North Wisconsin District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Zutz, Alfred, Forestville, WI
2. Perryman, Dennis, Marinette, WI
3. Parsch, Harold, Shawano, WI
4. Kessen, Clifford, Tigerton, WI
5. Luedtke, Carl, Manawa, WI
6. Buth, Frederick P., Laurium, MI
7. Dominkowski, D., Boulder Junction, WI
8. Michael, Gerhard C., Jr., Merrill, WI
9. Hedtke, Thomas E., Wausau, WI
10. Wesener, Donald, Wisconsin Rapids, WI
11. Giese, Gordon W., Junction City, WI
12. Schielke, Frederick W., Cable, WI
13. Krug, Ronald, Prentice, WI
14. Fink, Robin, Colby, WI
15. Kloehn, Gordon, Chippewa Falls, WI
16. Ruthenbeck, Norman, Mondovi, WI
17. Luecke, Martin, Cumberland, WI
18. Mathies, Richard, New Richmond, WI

B. Voting Laymen

1. Loppnow, Ray, Sr., Greenleaf, WI
2. Kriewaldt, Irwin, White Lake, WI
3. Ruhbusch, Victor, Gresham, WI
4. Krueger, Vilas, Clintonville, WI
5. Peterson, Larry, Appleton, WI
6. Erickson, Thomas, White Pine, MI
7. Barden, Alvin, Eagle River, WI
8. Czech, Robert, Hamburg, WI
9. Telschow, Harold, Wausau, WI
10. Facklam, Randolph, Wis. Rapids, WI
11. Scheunemann, Floyd, Vesper, WI
12. Ylitalo, Ramon, Ashland, WI
13. Wood, Wm., Park Falls, WI
14. Schulz, Calvin, Owen, WI
15. Boettcher, Henry, Cadott, WI
16. Krenz, David, Augusta, WI
17. Schepps, Bert, Turtle Lake, WI
18. Retz, Emil, Boyceville, WI

C. Advisory Pastors

Brauer, Harold H., Wausau, WI
Krueger, Willard L., Mosinee, WI

D. Advisory Teachers

Giese, Philip, Merrill, WI
Oldehoeft, Harold W., Antigo, WI

Northern Illinois District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Stoll, Roy, Chicago, IL
2. Garrett, Gerald, Chicago, IL
3. Wegner, Peter, Chicago, IL
4. Bunnett, Robert, Des Plaines, IL
5. Bakalyar, Donovan, Palatine, IL
6. Sternberg, John, Schaumburg, IL
7. Ross, Harold, Elgin, IL
8. Schmidtke, Gary, Hampshire, IL
9. Hanson, Philip, Harvard, IL
10. Schelling, James, Franklin Park, IL
11. Lams, Edgar, Oak Park, IL
12. Gierke, Charles A., Downers Grove, IL
13. Heimsoth, Elton N., Lombard, IL
14. Geschke, Edward M., Plainfield, IL
15. Huber, Timothy, Yorkville, IL
16. Mueller, Kennard O., Rockford, IL
17. Lassanske, Dennis L., Lena, IL
18. McCants, Elder, Chicago, IL
19. Miller, Lamar, Blue Island, IL
20. Groth, M.C., Chicago, IL
21. Philipp, John, Alsip, IL
22. Teske, Herbert J., Jr., Homewood, IL
23. Wacker, David L., Park Forest, IL
24. Schwartz, Paul, Lemont, IL
25. Volkert, Robert W., Grant Park, IL
26. Helmich, Clarence, Milford, IL

B. Voting Laymen

1. Schulz, Ralph F., Chicago, IL
2. Koop, Lester, Chicago, IL
3. —
4. Stolz, Marty, Gurnee, IL
5. Collister, Emmett, Mt. Prospect, IL
6. Thiemann, Norma, Roselle, IL
7. Niss, Richard, Dundee, IL
8. Schinzer, Jack, Rochelle, IL
9. O'Day, Gary, McHenry, IL
10. Kohn, Larry, Oak Park, IL
11. Petrovic, Frank, N. Riverside, IL
12. Anderson, Harmon, Burr Ridge, IL
13. Miessler, Hilmar C., Addison, IL
14. Ford, Dan, Lisle, IL
15. Crome, Wilfred, Batavia, IL
16. Wilke, Richard, Rockford, IL
17. Schirmer, Elmer, Freeport, IL
18. McDonald, Lucill, Chicago, IL
19. Freese, Donald, Dolton, IL
20. Kleidon, Walter, Chicago, IL
21. Johnson, Richard, Chicago, IL
22. Engel, Leroy, Homewood, IL
23. Geuther, Robert, Mokena, IL
24. Mitchell, Wm., Mendota, IL
25. Noffke, Geo. A., Kankakee, IL
26. Cluver, Herbert, Wateska, IL

C. Advisory Pastors

Backert, Alan, Arlington Hgts., IL
Lange, George, River Forest, IL
Lehenbauer, Albert W., Maywood, IL
Schaibley, Robert W., River Forest, IL

D. Advisory Teachers

Beyer, Norman, Dundee, IL
Emerich, Jack, Elgin, IL
Hauser, Ronald, LaGrange, IL
Herzog, Arthur O., Addison, IL
Jany, Lee, Itasca, IL
Janzow, John, Roselle, IL
Knauft, Paul, Lansing, IL
Martin, Fred, Arlington Heights, IL
Pohlmann, Lawrence, Chicago, IL
Reuter, John, Chicago, IL
Schmit, James, Mt. Prospect, IL
Schmohe, Roger, Evanston, IL
Stegemann, D. V., Burbank, IL
Wichmann, Werner, Blue Island, IL

Northwest District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Schaleger, Rollin J., Medford, OR
2. Nadasdy, Dean, Eugene, OR
3. Hering, Earl R., Philomath, OR
4. Koepke, Frank, Sandy, OR
5. Stroschein, Arnold, Portland, OR
6. Kasting, Michael D., Vancouver, WA
7. Dey, Arthur, Cornelius, OR
8. Neels, Dennis, McCall, ID
9. Ploetz, George, Idaho Falls, ID
10. Puttler, James D., Sunnyside, WA
11. Hemenway, Wm. B., Coeur d'Alene, ID
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Heine, Gilbert R.
Herbst, H. Allen
Krentz, Eugene L.
Laesch, Norman T.
Mennicke, August
Nieting, Ellis
Pullmann, Albert G.
Rusch, Wilbert H.
Shepherd, Frederick W.
Sohn, Lawrence E.

Board for Missions

Board
Kayser, Walter W.
Sohns, Wilbert J.

Staff
Hoover, David W.
Leenerts, Roger W.
Westcott, Edward A.

Board for Evangelism

Board
Hartman, Evelyn
Wright, William R.

Staff
Kolb, Erwin J.

Board for Church Extension

Board
Hast, Herbert
Hinrichs, Vance

Staff
Haake, Arthur C.
Lietz, Fred E.

Council for Christian Medical Work

Council
Montz, Florence C.

Board of Social Ministry and World Relief

Board
Hoffmann, Julian G.

Staff
Weber, Leslie F.
Witt, Melvin E.

Armed Forces Commission

Commission
Stevens, Leland R.

Staff
Ernstmeyer, M. S.

Board for Higher Education

Board
Brackebusch, Arthur P.
Halm, D. Ray

Staff
Ahlschwede, Arthur M.
Schulz, Delphin L.

Colloquy Boards

Boards
Bohlmann, Ralph A.

Board for Lay Ministers

Board
Korth, Dale W.

Board of Parish Education

Board
Brandt, Maynard H.
Mueller, Raymond A.

Staff
Constien, Victor A.
Gaulke, Earl H.
Radtke, Fred A.
Senske, Al H.

Board of Youth Ministry

Board
Baumgarn, Jack

Staff
Bimler, Richard W.
Symmank, Leo

Commission for Services to the Mentally Retarded

Commission
Stiemke, Frederick A.

Staff
Nelson. Marshall R.

Commission on Architecture

Commission
Schumm, Otto J.

Board for Public Relations

Board
Rickman, Victor C.

Staff
Bryant, Victor W.

Board for Lutheran Radio

Board
Kuhlmann, Elmer

Staff
Devantier, Paul

Editorial Commission for Official Periodicals

Commission
Wagner, William

Staff
Pankow, Fred J.
Wittmer, Geo.

Commission on Church Literature

Commission
Janssen, Ihno A

Concordia Publishing House Board of Directors

Board
Brown, J. Barclay
Krueger, Paul W.

Staff
Johnson, Thomas P.
Reinke, Ralph L.

Board of Stewardship

Board
Bosma, Charles
Koehneke, Paul

Staff
Soeldner, Arnold O.
Zill, Marcus T

Board of Managers Worker Benefit Plans

Board
Meyer, Richard A.

Staff
Clegg, Robert J.
Haake, Earl E.
Hammond, Harry R.

LCMS Foundation

Board
Schiewe, Edwin

Staff
Heino, David
Leeman, Dan

Board of Trustees

Board
Jouppi, Arvid

Commission on Ministerial Health

Commission
Niedner, Frederick

President's Office

Preus, J. A. O.

Staff
Sauer, Robert C.

First Vice-President's Office

Weber, Edwin C.

Secretary's Office

Mueller, Herbert
Rosin, Walter L.

Treasurer's Office

Sell, Norman D.

Legal Counselor

Draheim, Philip

Parliamentarians

Steege, Mark
Stickel, Mabel

Convention Manager

Barge, William J.

Convention Chaplain

Nitz, Gerhardt

OFFICIAL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

Alberta and British Columbia District
Gierach, Lester, Edmonton, Alta.

Atlantic District
Fischer, Louis T., Yonkers, NY
Roth, Clarence L., Queens Village, NY

Brazil District
Seifert, Geraldo P., Sao Leopoldo, Brazil

California-Nevada-Hawaii District
Hartkopf, Walter, San Bruno, CA
Iverson, Ted, Moraga, CA

Central Illinois District
Goldhammer, David L., Lincoln, IL
Krueger, Edward F., Springfield, IL

Eastern District
Helming, Warren H., Buffalo, NY
Kreyling, Paul C., Buffalo, NY

English District
Lindsay, Kenneth, Detroit, MI
Harman, Ronald, Phoenix, AZ

Florida-Georgia District
Eggers, Ben W., Orlando, FL
Frank, Erdmann A., Orlando, FL

Indiana District
Fenner, Walter D., Columbus, IN
Schlutz, Carl B., Fort Wayne, IN

Iowa East District
Barry, Alvin, Cedar Rapids, IA
Wahl, Robert, Monticello, IA

Iowa West District
Hoppes, James, Fort Dodge, IA
Wright, William R., Fort Dodge, IA

Kansas District
Anschutz, Dale, Ellsworth, KS
Schmidt, Eugene, Kansas City, KS

Michigan District
Heins, John L., Dearborn Heights, MI
Reimann, Frederick H., Ludington, MI

Mid-South District
Donner, Paul, Paducah, KY
Reese, Herman, Crossett, AR

Minnesota North District
Franzmeier, Wilbur C., Sauk Rapids, MN
Uhrinak, James S., Brainerd, MN

Minnesota South District
Eichhorst, Ervin, Waldorf, MN
Fry, Victor G., Maple Grove, MN

Missouri District
Strickert, Walter F., St. Louis, MO
Wyssmann, Robert, Lees Summit, MO

Nebraska District
Harnapp, Harlan L., North Platte, NE
Heinicke, Iddo C., Seward, NE

New England District
Kraus, George R., New Britain, CT
Radke, Frederick, West Hartford, CT

New Jersey District
Jorcke, Frank, Howell, NJ
Mueller, Ewald H., Ridgewood, NJ

North Dakota District
Sincebaugh, Norman, Fargo, ND

North Wisconsin District
Buelow, Leonard, Green Bay, WI
Schultz, Joseph, Antigo, WI

Northern Illinois District
Huener, Wm. C., Downers Grove, IL
Tornow, Hans R., Addison, IL

Northwest District
Bauer, Erhart L., Yakima, WA
Hilken, Robert, Portland, OR

Ohio District
Kane, Ewald, Olmsted Falls, OH

Oklahoma District
Doering, William, Jr., Ponca City, OK
Quiram, A. Gerald, Midwest City, OK

SELC District
Bajus, Luther, Norridge, IL
Kucharik, John, Oviedo, FL

South Dakota District
Scheibe, Donald, Huron SD

South Wisconsin District
Hessler, Edward A., Horicon, WI
Lewis, William R., Menomonee Falls, WI

Southeastern District
Clancy, Bryant, Charlotte, NC
Scruggs, Robert, Lanham, MD

Southern District
Kieschnick, Harold C., Montgomery, AL
Kerkes, Robt. S., New Orleans, LA

Southern California District
Dammann, Dean, Tustin, CA

Southern Illinois District
Harms, Elvin R., Belleville, IL
Rakow, Edgar C., Belleville, IL

Texas District
Schkade, Ray, Austin, TX
Schubert, Milburn, Austin, TX

Wyoming District
Temme, Ralph, Emblem, WY

OVERSEAS MISSIONARIES

Beversdorf, James—Philippines
Borchard, Terrance H.—New Guinea
Burce, Willard—New Guinea
De Moss, Walter—Ghana
Greinke, Kenneth—Nigeria
Johnstone, Douglas—Venezuela
Konrad, Allen—Liberia
Londenberg, David—Philippines
Lutz, Arnold J.—India
McClure, Garry D.—Central America
Riemer, Hilbert W.—Korea
Rowold, Henry—Taiwan
Fajen, John—Nigeria
Shibata, George—Japan
Volz, Paul M.—East Africa

C. Special Representatives

AD HOC COMMITTEES

(Reporting to Convention)

ALC-LCMS Commission on Fellowship

Bohlmann, Ralph A., St. Louis, MO

Committee re Fellowship Provisions for Canada

Mueller, Herbert, St. Louis, MO

Special Hymnal Review Committee

Hettrick, Jane, Westburg, NY

Special Committee on Synodical Membership

Meyer, Louis C., Mahwah, NJ
Dorn, Otto A., St. Louis, MO
Stelmachowicz, Michael J., Seward, NE

Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure

Grese, Everett, G., St. Louis, MO
Schuett, John C., Moline, IL
Wheeler, Roger, Bloomington, MN

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

Alberta and British Columbia District
Schaefer, Wayne, Chilliwack, BC

Atlantic District
Schonberg, Christian, Flushing, NY

California-Nevada-Hawaii District
Coyne, Jon, San Francisco, CA
Hintz, Cheryl, North Highlands, CA

Colorado District
Ashby, Sue, Aurora, CO
Gehring, Tony, Grand Junction, CO

English District
Thomas, Glen, Maplewood, MO

Florida-Georgia District
Schanuel, Tami, Cape Canaveral, FL
Ward, Karen, Winter Haven, FL

Central Illinois District
Bork, Edwin, Oakley, IL
Gehlbach, Gary, Lincoln, IL

Indiana District
Williams, S. T., Gary, IN
Stennfeld, Kris, Fort Wayne, IN

Iowa East District
Schewe, Karl, Dowds, IA

Michigan District
Hoffman, Ann L., Southgate, MI

Minnesota North District
Trovall, Carl, Clearwater, MN

Minnesota South District
Witt, Mary, Bingham Lake, MN

Missouri District
Kruse, Katharine, Sweet Springs, MO
Krueger, R. Scott, Parkville, MO

Nebraska District
Hedlund, Kelly, O'Neill, NE
Trembath, Lisa, Omaha, NE

New England District
Aho, Mitch, Leominster, MA
Duchow, Martin, Manchester, NH

North Dakota
Lien, Terri, Fargo, ND
Rutter, Robert, Glenburn, ND

Northern Illinois District
Ireland, Gary, Lisle, IL
Rateike, Trudy, Arlington Heights, IL

Northwest District
Kahlen, Beth, Clackamas, OR
Lierman, Kim, Jerome, ID

Ohio District
Canterberry, Jerry, N. Ridgeville, OH
Learn, Martha, Cleveland, OH

Oklahoma District
Brakhage, Lori, Lahoma, OK

Ontario District
Fischer, Debbie, Oakville, Ont.

SELC District
Ballas, Michael, Greenwich, CT
Geis, William, Norridge, IL

Southern District
Stringer, Lisa, Birmingham, AL
Wilkening, Paul, Shreveport, LA

Southern California District
Dammann, Dede, Tustin, CA
Den Auden, Robert, Torrance, CA

Southern Illinois District
Campbell, Sue, Chester, IL

Texas District
Collier, Mark, Houston, TX
Radunz, Lori, Waco, TX

Wyoming District
Neugeubauer, Ricky, Moorcraft, WY

Tabular Survey

Synodical District	Delegates Present							Delegates Absent					
	Voting			Advisory				Voting		Advisory			
	Pastors	Laymen	Totals	Pres. and Brd. Dir.	Pastors	Teachers	Totals	Pastors	Laymen	Pastors	Teachers	Others	Total
Atlantic	10	10	20	3	2	3	8	0	0	0	1	0	1
California-Nevada-Hawaii	18	18	36	3	2	4	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
California, Southern	25	25	50	2	1	10	13	0	0	1	0	1	2
Colorado	13	13	26	1	1	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastern	16	16	32	3	2	2	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
English	16	16	32	3	1	1	5	0	0	0	1	0	1
Florida-Georgia	13	13	26	3	2	3	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Illinois, Central	13	13	26	3	1	4	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Illinois, Northern	26	25	51	3	4	14	21	0	1	0	0	0	1
Illinois, Southern	7	7	14	3	1	3	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indiana	21	21	42	3	4	5	12	0	0	0	3	0	3
Iowa East	11	11	22	3	1	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Iowa West	21	21	42	3	1	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kansas	13	13	26	3	1	3	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Michigan	39	41	80	3	3	22	28	2	0	1	2	0	5
Mid-South	8	8	16	3	1	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minnesota North	16	16	32	3	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minnesota South	24	24	48	3	3	5	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
Missouri	29	29	58	3	9	13	25	0	0	0	0	0	0
Montana	5	5	10	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nebraska	19	19	38	3	2	5	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
New England	9	8	17	3	1	1	5	0	1	0	0	0	1
New Jersey	8	8	16	3	1	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Dakota	7	7	14	2	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northwest	19	19	38	3	3	4	10	0	0	1	0	0	1
Ohio	14	14	28	2	1	3	6	0	0	0	0	1	1
Oklahoma	6	6	12	3	1	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
SELC	3	3	6	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Dakota	10	10	20	2	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southeastern	17	17	34	3	2	4	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southern	11	11	22	3	1	1	5	0	0	0	1	0	1
Texas	22	22	44	3	3	7	13	0	0	0	1	0	1
Wisconsin, North	18	18	36	3	2	2	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wisconsin, South	23	23	46	3	3	8	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wyoming	6	6	12	2	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alberta and British Columbia	8	8	16	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1
Manitoba and Saskatchewan	7	7	14	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ontario	6	6	12	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Argentina	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brazil	1	1	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1
Boards and Commissions (129)							116						
General Officials (19)							17						
Boards of Control							15					1	1
Faculty Members							46					3	3
Overseas Missionaries							15					1	1
Totals	558	558	1,116	103	64	140	516	2	2	5	9	7	25
Ad Hoc Committees (9)							6					0	0
District Youth Representatives							43					2	2

Comparative Figures

	1967	1969	1971	1973	1975	1977	1979
Voting Delegates Present	875	993	1,020	1,075	1,118	1,123	1,116
Advisory Delegates Present	508	558	546	500	492	496	516
Total Delegates Present	1,383	1,551	1,566	1,575	1,610	1,619	1,632

(Figures in parentheses indicate the total number, including those who were registered also in other categories. These were deducted in order to arrive at the exact number of persons involved.)

CONVENTION FLOOR COMMITTEES

Key to Abbreviations

C—Chairman

P—Pastors

L—Laypersons

T—Teachers

AB—Alberta and Brit. Col.
Ar—Argentine
At—Atlantic
Br—Brazil
CNH—California-Nevada-Hawaii
CI—Central Illinois
Co—Colorado
Ea—Eastern
En—English
FG—Florida-Georgia
In—Indiana
IE—Iowa East
IW—Iowa West
Ks—Kansas
MS—Manitoba and Sask.
Mc—Michigan
MdS—Mid-South
MnN—Minnesota North
MnS—Minnesota South
Mo—Missouri
Mt—Montana
Ne—Nebraska
ND—North Dakota
NE—New England
NJ—New Jersey
NW—North Wisconsin
NI—Northern Illinois
Nw—Northwest
Oh—Ohio
Ok—Oklahoma
On—Ontario
SD—South Dakota
SW—South Wisconsin
SE—Southeastern
So—Southern
SC—Southern California
SI—Southern Illinois
SELC—SELC District
Tx—Texas
Wy—Wyoming

Committee 1—MISSIONS

C: E. Happel (NI)

P: J. Bass (Ne), L. Behnken (FG), G. Beiderwieden (CI), J. Gedrat (Br), L Gros (Ar), K. Heimer (En), H. Hein (Tx), R. Holm (MS), V. Hoyer (IW), T. Klinkenberg (SC), C. Mehl (Mc), R. Meyer (So), D. Morthole (SE), J. Nichols (In), R. Phipps (Co), J. Puerto (NJ), W. Snyder (Co), A. Strohschein (Nw), J. Suelflow (SW), D. Winkler (Ea), D. Wippich (MnS)

T: W. Knorr (SW)

L: R. Biar (Tx), C. Bronson (SE), M. de Jesus (At), J. Engel (Mc), V. Freie (IE), L. Hoehle (En), B. Lindskog (CNH), B. Steege (In), O. Stigge (Ks), R. Vukelich (MnN)

Committee 2—TASK FORCE

C: A. Mennicke (MnN)

P: C. Gierke (NI), R. Handschin (Oh), W. Hemenway (Nw), R. Krogen (MnS), A. Melz (IE), E. Mueller (NJ), N. Sincebaugh (ND)

T: J. Senechal (Co)

L: J. Doty (En), J. Freudenstein (NE), F. Kieninger (Ea), R. Schallhorn (On), H. Stierholz (Mo)

Committee 3
THEOLOGY AND CHURCH RELATIONS

C: R. Schlecht (Mc)

P: M. Bichsel (Ea), C. Borchardt (MS), W. Britton (Oh), O. Cloeter (MnS), G. Dolak (SELC), G. Dworak (In), J. Hawley (SD), E. Heimsoth (NI), J. Kalthoff (Mo), L. Kayser (MnN), R. Knoll (On), C. Napier (SE), O. Oswald (CNH), K. Potratz (SW), A. Reimnitz (ND), G. Rentz (AB)

T: L. Kolander (Mo)

L: A. Freitag (Nw), M. Kahle (Ne), G. LaHaine (Mc), J. Mehrling (At)

Committee 4—ADMINISTRATION

C: A. Kollmann (SI)

P: W. Childress (MdS), M. Pullmann (Ks), R. St. Pierre (Mc), R. Schkade (Tx), S. Yingling (At)

T: W. Klenke (SE)

L: H. Borchard (SD), R. Glasnapp (IW), A. Hartwig (So), K. Hein (Mt)

Committee 5
CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

C: A. Kuntz (SC)

P: K. Barth (SW), W. Krueger (NW), M. Matzke (CI), G. Plvan (SELC), M. Taddey (CNH)

T: H. Mangels (In)

L: K. Brashear (Ne), L. Dressler (MS), W. Helberg (Ok), L. Kissinger (Wy), E. Kuhl (FG)

Committee 6—HIGHER EDUCATION

C: J. Zimmermann (IE)

P: L. Buelow (NW), E. Garcia (Tx), J.Haupt (CNH), R. Hinz (SE), S. Hoard (FG), T. Klein (Mc), G. Kohlstedt (SW), R. Leege (IW), E. Meyer (Ne), H. Niermann (Wy), G. Ploetz (Nw), L. Pranschke (Mo), R. Sherren (MnS), H. Wians (En), E. Zimmermann (In)

T: A. Stoppenhagen (Mc)

L: K. Buttenmiller (Mc), H. Cluver (NI), T. Crown (SW), D. Dautenhahn (Mo), H. Israel (Ea), C. Kinast (Ks), R. Loppnow (NW), P. Murphy (Oh), A. Pinkerton (CI), M. Zastrow (MnN)

Committee 7—PARISH SERVICES

C: A. Marcis

P: G. Bode (Ok), G. Bornemann (En), E. Braun (Oh), P. Burow (Mc), H. Harnapp (Ne), N. MacLachlan (MnN), R. Merz (Nw), G. Michael (MnS), L. Miller (NI), J. Nickel (In), E. Rakow (SI), A. Senn (SW), W. Zeile (NJ)

T: J. Duitsman (IW), H. Edenfield (Mc), N. Jacob (Ks), H. Kieschnick (So), J. Knittel (Nw)

L: R. Challis (Mc), R. Geuther (NI), M. Gumm (MnN), R. Heuton (MnS), P. Knippa (Tx), D. Krenz (NW), D. Naumann (SE), H. Schaefer (Co), N. Schilling (SW), W. Serra (Ea), R. Stoltenberg (IE), C. Woelfle (CI)

Committee 8—SOCIAL MINISTRY

C: A. Ziegler (Oh)

P: E. Bielefeld (Mo), B. Clancy (SE), D. Geary (Mc), E. Jaech (Nw), E. McCants (NI), N. Ruthenbeck (NW), O. Sauls (In), P. Wendling (SD)

T: E. Aufdemberge (Mc)

L: E. Bartels (Ne), W. Marsh (So), H. Mull (CI), E. Schulz (MnS), C. Sallach (Ea)

Committee 9
SPECIAL AND SUNDRY MATTERS

C: A. Kuehnert (CI)

P: M. Bergmann (FG), L. Brack (SC), R. Fink (At), W. Fluegge (Mc), A. Gallert (SW), A. Kromphardt (Ea), E. Melchior (SI), G. Mennen (SE)

T: G. Bluma (Ne)

L: C. Dahl (MnS), R. Fajen (Mo), D. Ford (NI), W. Gieseke (CNH), J. Koetter (Tx), B. Smith (In)

Committee 10—NOMINATIONS

C: E. Nieting (IW)

P: K. Beachboard (SE), E. Bek (SW), D. Caspersen (Ne), E. Krentz (Mc), N. Laesch (En), A. Pullmann (Mt)

T: G. Heine (Ne), H. Herbst (CI), L. Sohn (SW)

L: J. Daniels (Mo), C. Egger (IE), R. Fickenscher (CN), L. Haluska (CI), F. Shepherd (Co)

Committee 11—ELECTIONS

C: H. Simon (NW)

P: D. Abrahams (MnN), G. Bruening (Ks), W. Friedrich (CI), L. Kruse (MnS), P. Pollatz (Mc)

L: A. Achterberg (Ne), H. Davis (CNH), R. Peters (Oh)

Committee 12
PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

C: W. Griesse (MdS)

P: P. Blunck (Mt), L. Gierach (AB), E. Glade (MnS), A. Lesslie (At), K. Lindsay (En), D. Meyer (SI), G. Michael (NoW), G. O'Shoney (Tx), P. Spitz (Mo), A. Stanfel (On), K. Streufert (CNH), R. Temme (Wy), R. Thompson (IE), H. Tornow (NI), J. Uhrinak, T. Werfelmann (Ok)

T: D. Hartmann (Mc)

L: D. Beitz (IW), J. Bertermann (NE), H. Crumb (NJ), J. Daniel (SELC), R. Engel (So), H. Geidel (SD), G. Gleichman (Co), D. Goldhammer (CI), I. Heinicke (Ne), N. Hoyer (FG), E. Kruse (In), E. Lowitzer (Ea), M. Luening, (SC), R. Pett (SW), W. Ratz (Ks), G. Reinke (ND), G. Tagge (Nw), M. Taylor (SE), A. Webster (MS), J. Wilkins (SC)

Committee 13
REGISTRATION AND CREDENTIALS

C: H. Huber (Mt)

P: M. Dienst (NE), G. Renken (Mc)

T: M. Laurente (CNH)

L: T. Hanusa (IW), G. Matasovsky (MnS)

Sing unto the Lord a New Song

The deaf sing





. . . the young sing

. . . and we older folks too



CONVENTION SCHEDULE

(as proposed)

FRIDAY—JULY 6

7:30 Opening Service with Communion
(Including Memorial Recognition)

SATURDAY—JULY 7

8:00 Devotions—President's Address
8:15 Registration & Credentials (13)
8:20 Gavel Presentation
8:25 Welcome and Response
8:40 Constitutional Matters (5)
Registration and Credentials (13)
Standing Rules
9:20 President's Report, Part II
10:30 Resolutions A and B
10:45 Nominating Committee (10)
11:30 Missions (1)
12:25 Closing Devotions
12:30 Recess
2:00 Devotions
2:10 Higher Education (6)
3:40 Nominating Committee (10)
3:50 Task Force (2)
5:10 Parish Services (7)
6:00 Recess
Alumni Gatherings

SUNDAY—JULY 8

9:00 Bible Study
10:00 Hymn Sing
10:30 Worship Service
2:00 Devotions
2:10 Missions (1)
3:10 Theology & Church Relations
New Hymnal (3)
4:55 Devotions
5:00 Recess
7:00 Mission Rally
Kiel Auditorium

MONDAY—JULY 9

8:00 Devotions
8:10 Constitutional Matters (5)
9:10 Administration (4)
10:00 Bible Study
11:00 Ontario District Anniversary
11:10 Theology & Church Relations (3)
12:25 Devotions
12:30 Recess
2:00 Devotions
2:10 Minutes
2:15 Task Force (2)
3:30 ILLL & LWML
3:40 Special & Sundry Matters (9)
4:00 Missions (1)
5:00 Elections (11)
Silent Devotions
6:00 Recess
Social Evening

TUESDAY—JULY 10

8:00 Devotions
8:10 Higher Education (6)
10:00 Bible Study
11:00 Recognition
11:05 Constitutional Matters (5)
12:25 Devotions
12:30 Recess
2:00 Devotions
2:10 Minutes
2:15 Theology & Church Relations (3)
3:55 Recognition
4:00 Missions (1)
5:00 Elections (runoff) (11)
5:20 Administration (4)
5:55 Devotions
6:00 Recess
8:00 Devotions
8:05 Special & Sundry Matters (9)
8:30 Social Ministry (8)
9:25 Unfinished Business
9:55 Devotions
10:00 Recess

WEDNESDAY—JULY 11

8:00 Devotions
8:10 Task Force (2)
10:00 Bible Study
11:00 Recognition
11:05 Parish Services (7)
12:25 Devotions
12:30 Recess
2:00 Devotions
2:10 Minutes
2:15 Constitutional Matters (5)
3:55 Recognition
4:00 Missions (1)
5:00 Theology & Church Relations (3)
5:55 Devotions
6:00 Recess
8:00 Informal Relaxation or
Catch-up Business Session

THURSDAY—JULY 12

8:00 Devotions
8:10 Higher Education (6)
10:00 Bible Study
11:00 Recognition
11:05 Administration (4)
11:50 Program Implementation (12)
12:25 Devotions
12:30 Recess
2:00 Devotions
2:10 Minutes
2:15 Theology & Church Relations (3)
3:00 Parish Services (7)
3:55 Recognition
4:00 Missions (1)
5:15 Social Ministry (8)
5:55 Devotions
6:00 Recess

8:00 Devotions
8:05 Theology & Church Relations (3)
8:35 Unfinished Business
9:55 Devotions
10:00 Recess

FRIDAY—JULY 13

8:00 Devotions
8:10 Program Implementation (12)
9:00 Recognition
9:05 Dr. David Preus—ALC
Dr. James Crumley—LCA
Dr. S. T. Jacobson—ELCC
9:25 Missions (1)
10:25 Unfinished Business
12:25 Devotions
12:30 Recess
2:00 Devotions
(Installation of Board Members)
2:15 Minutes
2:20 Unfinished Business
4:10 Closing Devotions
4:30 Adjournment (tentative)

MINUTES OF THE CONVENTION

Opening Service

The opening service of the 53rd regular convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod was held July 6, 1979, in the Alfonso J. Cervantes Convention and Exhibition Center, St. Louis, Mo., with Dr. George Wollenburg, Fifth Vice-President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, serving as the preacher and Dr. Samuel Goltermann, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, St. Louis, Mo., serving as presiding minister. In his sermon Dr. Wollenburg stressed the fact that we can never forget that we are gathered as church. People throughout the world have sought many answers for opening doors which are closed in various ways, but none have been successful, and all of the ways followed have led to a dead end. Through the death and resurrection of Christ, the One who holds the keys of death and hell, who opens and no man shuts, God has placed before us an open door. He asks us to accept the responsibility, to go through that open door which He has placed before us, and to accept the challenge which is ours.

Session 1

July 7, Morning

Opening

The opening devotion of the 53rd regular convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod was conducted by Dr. J. A. O. Preus, President of the Synod, and began with the singing of the hymn "With the Lord Begin Thy Task." Dr. Preus based his remarks on Acts 14:27, which are the words on which the convention theme is based. He stated that the theme, "God Opens Doors . . .," should be etched indelibly on the hearts, minds, intentions, and desires of the delegates. The process began when man closed the door through his sin and closed it so effectively that it could not be climbed over or broken through in any way. Nevertheless, through Christ God has made a door which no man can close. It is the single purpose of the church that through Christian testimony and lives of love its members are to say to the world, "The door is open. Come with us and enter into the opportunities which God has placed before us."

Registration and Credentials

Rev. Harold Huber, chairman of the Committee on Registration and Credentials, was called upon to report on the number of registered delegates and guests present.

Convention Gavel

Prior to hearing the report on registration, Dr. August Suelflow, Archivist of the Synod, presented Dr. Preus with a gavel made from a log of the cabin in Perry County which served as the first seminary. The gavel was first presented to Dr. Pfotenhauer and used by him in 1911. Subsequently it was used by Dr. Behnken in 1935 and the following years of his administration, by Dr. Harms in 1962 and the years of his administration, and by Dr. Preus since 1971. The gavel is inscribed with the faces of Luther and C. F. W. Walther and includes the words of Romans 3:28. It also contains Luther's coat of arms, a cross, and a depiction of the log-cabin seminary.

Registration and Credentials

Chairman Huber of the Floor Committee on Registration and Credentials introduced Mrs. Lorraine Smitt, chairman of the local Registration Committee, who reported the following in attendance: voting pastors—501, voting lay delegates—525, for a total of 1,026 voting delegates. After hearing the report of the committee, Dr. Preus, using the historic gavel presented earlier, declared the convention opened in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Announcements

Following the opening of the convention, Dr. Preus introduced Dr. Mark Steege and Mrs. Mabel Stickel, who will serve as parliamentarians for the convention, as well as Dr. Herbert Mueller, Secretary of the Synod, and Dr. Walter Rosin, convention secretary.

Welcome

Dr. Paul Spitz, President of the Missouri District, brought greetings to the delegates from the 286 congregations of the District and welcomed them to Missouri. He urged the delegates, while they were present in St. Louis, to visit historic places related to the origin of the Missouri Synod.

Dr. Alvin Kollmann, President of the Southern Illinois District, which is cosponsoring the convention, also brought greetings to the delegates. He spoke of the fact that God has opened doors to life, forgiveness, eternal life, mission, and has also opened the doors of faith, love, and fellowship. He concluded by saying that the door of welcome is open to the delegates at the convention.

Dr. Ralph Bohlmann, president of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, welcomed the delegates to the city which has been home for most of the 140 years of the seminary's existence. He stressed the fact that God has opened doors in many ways. He has done it through teachers like Pieper, Stoeckhardt, and others, as well as through the students who will be pastors in the future and through missionaries who have gone out into the world.

Mr. Carl Muhlenbruch, a member of the Board of Directors, responded to the greetings, thanking the Districts and the seminary for the preparations which had gone into the convention. He concluded by saying that the best way to thank our hosts is to get on with the Father's business.

Registration and Credentials

Chairman Huber of the Floor Committee on Registra-

tion and Credentials reported that no formal objections challenging registered delegates had been received.

Standing Rules

Dr. Herbert Mueller, Secretary of the Synod, presented the proposed special standing rules for the convention to the delegates. They appear on page 8 of *Today's Business*. After hearing them, the delegates adopted these rules as presented and as attached to the official copy of the minutes.

Greetings

Dr. Herbert Mueller reported that greetings had been received from the Lutheran Church of Finland.

Constitutional Matters

Chairman Arnold Kuntz of the Floor Committee on Constitutional Matters presented Res. 5-01, 5-02, 5-03, and 5-04 (*TB* 117—118) to the delegates. By adopting the resolutions, the congregations of Gloria Dei, Escondido, Calif., Our Savior's Lutheran Church, St. Cloud, Minn., Shepherd of the Desert, Page, Ariz., and Zion Evangelical Lutheran, Whitehall, Mont., were received into membership in the Synod.

President's Report

President Preus began his report by pointing out that the first section of it had been presented to the floor committees at an earlier meeting and was printed in the first issue of *Today's Business*. He continued his report by giving thanks to all those who have served the Synod in any way, since the church lives by the collective work of all of its members rather than simply by the work of a few. He expressed special thanks to Dr. E. C. Weber, First Vice-President of the Synod. Dr. Preus pointed out that in his opinion, based on observations, the morale of the Synod appears to be better than it has for a long time. The desire to enter open doors is greater than it has ever been. During the past biennium 217 congregations have elected to leave The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and have been accompanied by 350 pastors. Dr. Preus expressed regret for anything which may have wrongly caused them to leave and asked for their forgiveness. On the other hand, over 6,000 congregations have explicitly or implicitly said they would remain with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Much of this is due to at least three factors. First, during this period of time 55 pastoral conferences sponsored by the Commission on Theology and Church Relations were attended by over 50 percent of the pastors of the Synod. These conferences were instrumental in bringing about a unified understanding. Second, the 1978 District elections were an important factor. Third, after a period of stress the Synod seems to have overcome its identity problems.

Continuing his report, President Preus pointed out that this convention is to be a missions convention. That means it is not simply to be passing pious resolutions and then to go home. More must be done. He complimented the Floor Committee on Missions for its resolutions with challenging goals. The accomplishment of these goals will cost money, and therefore a proposal has been made that The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod should raise $40 million for this purpose. Dr. Preus expressed the hope that the resolution regarding this special offering would pass unanimously. Continuing his report, Dr. Preus pointed to the achievements but also the work which remains to be done in the areas of Black mission work, the Hispanic program, work among Orientals and native Americans.

Changes which are taking place in the Church Extension Fund were referred to as well as the fact that the Church Extension Fund program is now moving into the foreign area, helping partner churches establish such programs. Delegates were urged to support the resolutions dealing with the structure of the Church Extension Fund.

In his report Dr. Preus referred to the work in social ministry, an arm of the church which must reach all people in any need in word and deed, to the youth work which is being carried on and to the youth convention which will be held in Colorado next year, to the area of parish services, which reports the highest number of persons attending Bible classes in 135 years, and to Concordia Publishing House, which will be celebrating its 110th anniversary of existence.

In the area of stewardship finance and planning, Dr. Preus stated that there is good news and bad news. Last year over $400 million was gathered for all purposes. This is good. However, there is a distribution problem. Since 1965 giving has increased 104%, but each year the funds which remain within congregations and Districts increase. At the present time there is a synodical deficit of $2.9 million. The delegates were asked to consider remembering Synod when their congregational budgets are established and to determine their priorities.

In the area of higher education it was reported that two colleges have achieved four-year status during the past biennium and that there are record enrollments at the seminaries. However, there is a need for increasing the salaries of professors at higher educational institutions and for filling the colleges and seminaries, which have 9,000 student stations but only 6,000 enrolled. He asked each pastor and delegate to serve as a one-man recruiting team to fill all student stations.

The delegates were urged to adopt the hymnbook which is being presented to the convention. A report was also given on inter-Lutheran relationships and discussions being carried on with various church bodies. Dr. Preus urged that the present relationship with The American Lutheran Church be continued, as well as the membership in LCUSA. Delegates were asked to support resolutions for the development of an indigenous Lutheran Church of Canada and partner-church status for the Brazil District.

Dr. Preus closed his report by pointing out that God has opened doors for us. The question is, Do we have the spiritual and moral fiber to enter those doors? He stated that there are two things which he feels need improvement. First, we must learn the forgiveness of sins and its importance. Second, there should be less criticizing and

more doing. He emphasized this, using the miracle of the paralyzed man as a basis for his remarks. The first order of business in this miracle was the forgiveness of sins and then the getting up of the healed man and going on his way.

Former President

Dr. Oliver Harms, former President of the Synod, addressed the convention briefly. In his remarks he pointed out that missions are not an optional activity. We operate from the base of the inspired and infallible Scriptures and need renewed dedication to the Scriptures and Confessions, not as fences to keep people out but rather to lengthen the cords and strengthen the stakes.

Presentation

Dr. Ralph Reinke, president of Concordia Publishing House, presented President and Mrs. Preus with a specially bound copy of the translation of Martin Chemnitz' defense of the real presence of the body and blood of Christ in the Lord's Supper. The translation had been prepared by President Preus with the assistance of Mrs. Preus.

Resolution A

Secretary Herbert Mueller presented Resolution A (*TB* 169), directing that those expressing concerns in certain overtures be referred to synodical boards or commissions before approaching the convention. This resolution was adopted with the addition of Overtures 3-39, 3-40A—C (*CW* 103—104) to the list of overtures to be referred.

Resolution B

Dr. Mueller next presented Resolution B, which asked that petitioners bringing certain overtures be referred to previous convention action dealing with the issues addressed by these overtures. The resolution was adopted by the delegates.

Greetings

Dr. Milton Carpenter, former treasurer of the State of Missouri and of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, introduced Senator Thomas Eagleton, senator from Missouri since 1968, who addressed the delegates. Senator Eagleton has been active in the Right-to-Life movement and has been a friend of the Synod in its dealings on church-state relations. In his remarks Senator Eagleton discussed the recent IRS ruling on contributions of church members whose children attend Christian day schools. In its ruling the IRS had declared that only a portion of such contributions were deductible as charitable contributions. Senator Eagleton expressed his disagreement with this ruling and his intention to work towards its reversal.

Nominations

Dr. Ellis Nieting, chairman of the Floor Committee on Nominations, explained the procedure involved in preparing the slate of candidates. He pointed out that 2,500 nominations had been received.

Higher Education

Dr. John C. Zimmermann, chairman of the Floor Committee on Higher Education, presented Res. 6-02



Dr. Milton Carpenter, Dr. J. A. O. Preus, Senator Thomas Eagleton, Dr. Herbert Mueller

(*TB* 123), which called for a change in election procedures for the Brazil Boards of Control, giving that partner church responsibility for election of members of those boards. The resolution was adopted after the addition of the words "(or District)" between the words "church" and "in" on line 67 (*TB* 123). By adopting Res. 6-03 (*TB* 124), the delegates agreed not to hold elections for the Board of Control of Seminario Concordia, Argentina, since no nominations had been received for the positions to be filled. They also agreed that the present members of the Board of Control of that institution should continue to serve until an election can be held. Because Concordia College, St. Paul, Minn., is now a four-year school with multiple programs and a relatively large enrollment, it was agreed that the size of the board should be increased to seven members, with the addition of one teacher and one layman (Res. 6-19, *TB* 133). By the adoption of Res. 6-24 (*TB* 197) the Board of Control of Oakland was removed from the list of Boards of Control elected by the Synod since no active program is being carried out on the Oakland campus at this time and since the Board of Directors is serving as trustees of the property.

Committee on Nominations

After having adopted the above resolutions, which would affect elections, the delegates heard the report of the Nominations Committee presented by Floor Committee Chairman Ellis Nieting in the booklet "Biographical Synopses and Statements of Nominees." After nominations for each board and commission by the committee and from the floor, the nominations were declared closed. The following changes were made in the list through nominations from the floor and by the Committee on Nominations.

Commission of Adjudication: Kenneth Vogt, layman (added)

Concordia Publishing House Board of Directors: Roger C. Laesch, teacher (added)

Board for Missions: Robert E. Meier, pastor (added)

Board of Parish Education: L. W. Heidemann, pastor (declared ineligible); Robert Koeppen, pastor (declined); David Dissen, pastor (added by the committee); Wayne Schumpe, pastor (added by the committee)

Board of Youth Ministry: Gordon Peeks, layman (added)

Commission on Theology and Church Relations: Luther P.J. Steiner, pastor (added)

Board of Control, Ann Arbor: William J. Hassold, pastor (added)

Board of Control, Austin: Marvin Lehnhardt, pastor (added); Donald E. Schmidt, teacher (added)

Board of Control, Bronxville: Robert Baal, layman (added); Donald Muller, pastor (added)

Board of Control, Fort Wayne: Kenneth Vogt, layman (added); H. Allen Herbst, teacher (added)

Board of Control, St. Paul: Mark Baganz, teacher (added); Robert Golnitz, teacher (added); Charles Nuernberg, layman (added); Robert Overn, layman (added)

Board of Control, Selma: Chester F. Preyar, layman (deleted); Willie L. Holmes, layman (added); George C. Royal, layman (added); Howard Foard, pastor (added)

Board of Control, Seward: Robert Horn, layman (added)

Nominating Lists

After hearing a motion from the floor relating to the dissemination of lists of approved candidates, the delegates adopted it as presented:

> WHEREAS, The Nominating Committee has carefully evaluated the qualifications of the potential candidates for the boards and commissions of the Synod; and
>
> WHEREAS, At recent conventions of the Synod a number of lists of approved candidates have been distributed to the members of the convention; and
>
> WHEREAS, Such a procedure evidences a lack of faith in the guidance of the Holy Spirit; therefore be it
>
> *Resolved,* That the 53rd convention of the Synod plead with all who have prepared such lists to refrain from disseminating them and to allow the Holy Spirit to guide the elections at this convention; and be it further
>
> *Resolved,* That we plead with all delegates to refrain from consulting any such lists in the election procedure. [See also Minutes, Session 12]

Missions

Chairman Edmund Happel of the Floor Committee on Missions presented Res. 1-01 (*TB* 45), which called for deletion of all *Handbook* references to "sister churches" and for a change of the word "sister" to "partner" wherever it occurs. This resolution was adopted by the delegates. They next considered and approved Res. 1-02A (*TB* 181), which called for recognition of the Brazil District as a partner church. The action is to become effective Jan. 1, 1980, and the President of the Synod and the Board of Directors in consultation with officials of the partner church of Brazil are to prepare the necessary documents for implementation of the partnership; necessary *Handbook* changes are also to be made. Before voting on this resolution, President Gedrat of the Brazil District addressed the delegates, describing the work and challenges which face the church in Brazil. By common consent the words "or amended as the case may be" had been added between the words "rescinded" and "and" in line 37 (*TB* 181). The resolution was adopted by a rising vote.

Convention Guests

Rev. Paul Michael, president of the Lutheran Free Church of Denmark, brought greetings and reported on the situation and activities of that group. Dr. Wilbert Kreiss, president of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of France and Belgium, addressed the delegates, bringing greetings and describing the work of the church in Belgium and France. He stated that literature provided by the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of France and Belgium is used for work among the French in Quebec and that his church is now beginning work in Zaire.

Missions

After hearing the reports of the previous speakers, the delegates adopted Res. 1-03A (*TB* 181), which called for encouragement and assistance to African and European partner churches/mission fields for the purpose of increasing membership in those areas by participation in the development of necessary programs, Bible studies, strategies, and plans, so that the increase might be achieved.

Guests

The delegates were next greeted by the president of the Polish Lutheran Church in Exile, who reviewed the history of Lutheranism in Poland. Dr. E. George Pearce, president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of England, described Britain as largely unchurched today, stating that of 56 million no more than 5 million have a connection with the Christian church.

Closing Devotion

The morning session was brought to a close with a devotion led by Dr. Gerhardt Nitz, former member of the Board of Directors of the Synod and convention chaplain.

Session 2

July 7, Afternoon

Opening Devotion

The opening devotion for the afternoon session was led by Convention Chaplain Dr. Gerhardt Nitz. After the singing of a hymn, he based his opening devotion on 1 Cor. 16:9, in which St. Paul spoke of a door being open to him although there were many adversaries. He pointed out that God provides "adversaries" so that like St. Paul we can learn to trust solely in God's grace and power. The devotion was closed with a prayer.

Point of Privilege

Rev. Milton Fricke and the lay delegate from Hawaii were granted a point of privilege to present leis to President and Mrs. Preus. They also took the opportunity to present them to President Orval Oswald of the California-Nevada-Hawaii District and his wife.

Higher Education

Floor Committee Chairman John Zimmermann of the Committee on Higher Education called on committee member and President of the Indiana District Elwood Zimmermann to present Res. 6-01 (*TB* 123), commending the Board for Higher Education for its report and calling for implementation of a systemwide model of higher education for the Synod. After the motion was made and seconded, considerable discussion followed. After declining a motion to table the resolution as well as an amendment which called for deletion of the words "and where possible" and the addition of the words "Board of Directors" between the words "the" and "Stewardship" in line 37 (*TB* 123), the delegates agreed to refer the matter back to the Floor Committee on Higher Education for clarification. Floor Committee Chairman John Zimmermann asked President Eldor Meyer of the Nebraska District and committee member to present Res. 6-05 (*TB* 125), which would expand the deaconess program by authorizing the Board for Higher Education to direct Concordia College, River Forest, Ill., to establish a full deaconess training program on its campus by the fall of 1980. During discussion of the resolution the convention declined to consider a substitute resolution which asked for referral of the committee resolution to the Board for Higher Education for further study in consultation with the Lutheran Deaconess Association and for report to the next convention. They also declined a resolution calling for the tabling of the motion. After agreeing to call the question, the resolution was adopted as presented. Resolution 6-23 (*TB* 135), requesting an opinion from the Commission on Constitutional Matters regarding the constitutionality of the placement of deaconess graduates by the Council of Presidents, was introduced. Considerable discussion followed. Time allotted for discussion of the resolution elapsed before the delegates could act on it.

Greetings

President Markku Sarela of the Confessional Lutheran Church of Finland brought greetings from that body to the delegates, as did Dr. Jobst Schoene, bishop of the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germany.

Task Force

Dr. August Mennicke, chairman of the floor committee dealing with the report of the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure of the Synod, introduced Roger Wheeler, chairman of the Task Force, and asked him to present an overview of the group's work to the delegates. Mr. Wheeler reviewed past convention recommendations calling for a study of the structure of the Synod and pointed out that consultation with pastors, boards, and laymen of the Synod indicated a need for change. During consultation with these groups and individuals, concerns were expressed not over the theology of the Synod but over its manner of working together. It was pointed out that frequent references were made to the fact that we are no longer as good stewards of resources as we once were, and that conventions were frequently cited as prime examples of waste. He pointed out that there are legal problems which must be faced, as well as the question of whether the Synod is a federation of Districts or a synod of congregations. Studies have shown that laymen generally are unacquainted and less interested in the work of the Synod than they should be. After this review, Res. 2-01 (*TB* 65) was introduced. The resolution called for the provision of a statement on a common foundation for living and working together as an appendix to the synodical *Handbook*. During the discussion a lengthy amendment was offered which it was agreed should be printed in *Today's Business*. Further discussion and action on the resolution was delayed until after the amendment

had been printed for study. Resolution 2-02 (*TB* 67—68), calling for a change in the preamble of the Synod's Constitution, was next introduced. By common consent the word "Ghost" was changed to "Spirit" in line 8 (*TB* 68). An amendment calling for the placing of a period after the word "bond" in line 19 (*TB* 68) and the elimination of lines 21—33 (*TB* 68) was declined. After agreeing to call the question, the resolution was declined when it failed to receive a two-thirds majority vote. The final tally showed 508 in favor of the resolution and 457 opposing it.

Parish Services

Chairman Albert Marcis of the Floor Committee on Parish Services introduced Res. 7-01 (*TB* 137), which called for a study by the Board of Directors as to the advisability of a means of correlating and coordinating the internal and external communications of the Synod and asked that a report of its findings be made at the next convention. This resolution was adopted. By adopting Res. 7-02 (*TB* 137) the delegates asked the Board of Parish Education, the Board for Missions, and Concordia Publishing House to make materials available in the Spanish language and requested the Synod to provide necessary funding for publication of Lutheran educational materials in that language. They also adopted a resolution calling for the Synod to continue to furnish moral and financial support to the Council for American Private Education (Res. 7-03, *TB* 137). This action was taken after the words "does not abridge" were substituted for the words "permits us to maintain" in line 68 (*TB* 137). Resolution 7-04A (*TB* 198), asking that concerns regarding translations of Luther's Small Catechism be dealt with, was then introduced. The delegates declined an amendment calling for the substitution of the words "Commission on Theology and Church Relations" for the words "Board of Parish Education" in line 32 (*TB* 198). They also declined an amendment which asked that the words "be authorized to commission" be substituted for the words "be encouraged to study the need for" in the same line. They further rejected a substitute resolution which called for the consideration of Res. 7-04 (*TB* 138) instead of Res. 7-04A. However, they accepted an amendment which called for deletion of the last resolved, lines 32—33 (*TB* 198), and the changing of the first resolved to read, "That the CTCR make available to all congregations and schools by July 1980 a brief critique of *The Small Catechism in Contemporary English* and any cautionary notes as to its use." After agreeing to call the question, the resolution was adopted as amended. During the discussion of the resolution it was made clear that it has been the tradition of the Synod that before any new catechism translation is used officially, it must be adopted by the Synod. This was the case in 1941 and 1967 when the Synod approved catechism translations which had been made. Discussion of Res. 7-05 (*TB* 138—139), asking the Synod to defer participation in a pan-Lutheran catechism and to provide for the approval of other projects of the Coordinating Committee for Cooperative Projects in Congregational Life, was begun. Before presenting the resolution, the Floor Committee on Parish Services had deleted the words "Board of Directors" and substituted the words "President in consultation with the Vice-Presidents" in line 10 (*TB* 139). Time elapsed before discussion of this resolution could be completed.

Closing Devotion

Convention Chaplain Dr. Gerhardt Nitz led the delegates in a closing devotion which included the singing of the hymn "O Jesus, King Most Wonderful," a meditation based on John 10:9, and prayer.

Session 3

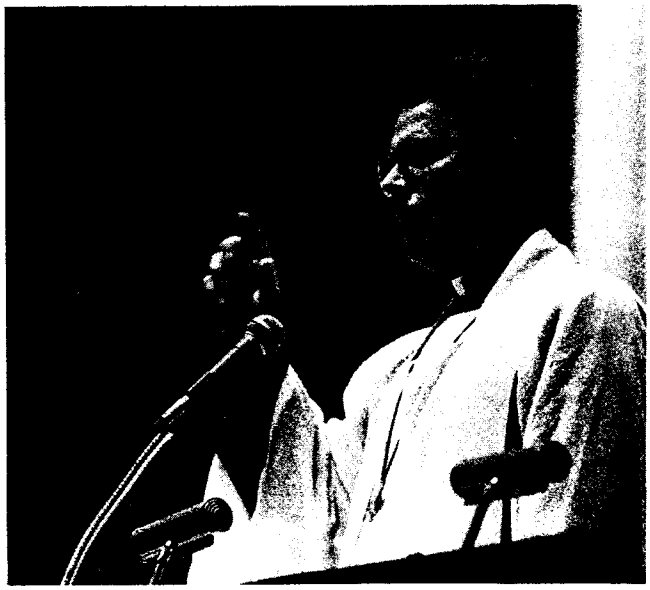
July 8, Afternoon

Opening Devotion

For the opening devotion of this session the convention chaplain, Dr. Nitz, led the delegates in the singing of the hymn "Soldiers of the Cross, Arise" and offered a brief meditation based on Eph. 1:19 ff. In his remarks he pointed out that there is no such thing as a little church if the Gospel is preached, giving life, and the powerful Holy Spirit is present. He concluded by saying, "When you think of the church, think big."

Guests

President Preus introduced President Ladlad of The Lutheran Church in The Philippines to the delegates. In his remarks President Ladlad reviewed the development of that church during the past 33 years. He stated that God is still opening doors in The Philippines, and though the work does not go forward by leaps and bounds, it does move forward, often through the work of one individual with another. He concluded his remarks



Johannes Gedrat, Brazil District President, preacher at the Sunday morning service

by saying that he hoped and prayed that The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod would continue to be The Lutheran Church—Missionary Synod. President Andrew Chiu of the Lutheran Church—Hong Kong Synod was next introduced to the convention. He described the problems and opportunities facing the church there, referring particularly to the refugee problem and to concerns regarding the spiritual welfare of these people. In addition to bringing greetings from the Hong Kong Lutheran Church, he also presented a check to the Synod for over 2,700 American dollars, or 14,092.85 Hong Kong dollars. The funds were gathered through a special thankoffering among the Lutherans in Hong Kong.

Missions

Chairman Edmund Happel of the Floor Committee on Missions introduced Res. 1-04A (*TB* 182), which called for encouragement and assistance to Asian partner churches/mission fields to increase their membership. The resolution was adopted as presented.

Guests

Bishop Waesa, one of the first New Guinea converts and now head of the Gutnius ["Good News"] Lutheran Church, formerly the Wabag Lutheran Church, was introduced to the delegates by Dr. Preus. He described the work which has been carried on in New Guinea since 1948 by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and spoke of the struggle to reduce back-door losses, which are resulting from a change in the culture in that country. He thanked The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for help which had been given and also presented an offering gathered by the Gutnius Lutheran Church in the amount of $246.25.

Missions

Following the presentation on the work in New Guinea, the delegates approved Res. 1-06A (*TB* 183), which called for encouragement and assistance to partner churches/mission fields to increase their mission outreach. By approval of this resolution the mission challenge for the 1980s was adopted, including assistance to partner churches/mission fields in establishing functioning mission boards where feasible for strengthening the awareness and zeal for reaching people beyond their cultural tradition, social sphere, and geographic boundaries with the Gospel. The membership of the Synod is to be kept informed of progress made in this area.

Guests

Dr. Edward Westcott, Executive Secretary for Missions, introduced missionary Garry McClure of Guatemala to the convention. Missionary McClure brought greetings from the churches in Central America and described the work which is being carried on by them. He pointed out that with unstable conditions, the task facing the church in Central America is that of taking the universal priesthood seriously, so that if political realities require missionaries to leave, the church will be led by a strong group of indigenous leaders.

Missions

Following this presentation the delegates considered and adopted Res. 1-05A (*TB* 182), which called for encouragement and assistance to partner churches/mission fields in Latin America to increase membership. The resolution was adopted after the convention agreed to add the words "the proclamation of the Gospel and" on line 44 (*TB* 182) between the words "through" and "Baptism."

Guests

Rev. Leopoldo Gros, President of the Argentine District, next addressed the delegates, describing how the Lord has opened doors to test and strengthen the church in that District. During the past year that District lost four pastors and has experienced an inflation rate of 160 percent.

Amendment

Although Res. 1-03A (*TB* 181) and Res. 1-04A (*TB* 182) had already been approved, the delegates agreed by common consent to add the words "the proclamation of the Gospel and" between the words "through" and "Baptism" in line 56 (*TB* 181) and line 14 (*TB* 182).

Theology and Church Relations

Chairman Richard Schlecht of the Floor Committee on Theology and Church Relations presented Res. 3-01 (*TB* 83—84) to the convention for consideration. This resolution called for adoption of the book *Lutheran Worship* as an official hymnal of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Prior to presenting the resolution the committee had deleted the words *"LBW,* some in revised form," (line 3, *TB* 84) and substituted the letters "NIV." They had also added the words "(1943 version)" after the word "Catechism" in line 13 (*TB* 84). Lengthy discussion followed the presentation of the resolution. A number of amendments to the resolution were offered, none of which were accepted by the delegates. One of the amendments, which called for a commendation of both the *Lutheran Book of Worship* and *Lutheran Worship* to congregations as guidelines in the selection of their worship resources, was declared to be out of order since the Dallas convention had called for adoption of an approved hymnal. When the proposed amendment was revised to allow for two official hymnals, this was declared to be a substitute resolution, one which the delegates declined to consider. When time for debate had elapsed according to the standing rules of the convention, the delegates agreed by a two-thirds vote to call the question. The resolution was then adopted as presented by the committee. In response to questions from the floor prior to voting on the resolution, the committee stated that the resolution did not include occasional services and pointed out that some hymns may be added, but that this should not be considered as a substantive change. Delegates were also urged to

communicate with the Commission on Worship regarding changes which they felt would be beneficial. Resolution 3-02A (*TB* 208), calling for the Synod to state its position on abortion, was next presented to the delegates for consideration. In the discussion which followed, three amendments were approved. The first amendment placed the words "(Prov. 31:8-9)" in line 42 (*TB* 208) between the words "privately" and "against." The second added as No. 7 to the second resolved the words, "To teach the biological, social, and parental functions of childbearing within our schools and churches" [see Minutes, Session 7]. The third added as No. 8 to the same resolved the words, "To support the efforts to secure the human-life amendment to the United States Constitution." The resolution was then adopted as amended. After the resolution had been adopted, the word "Lutheran" was added by common consent prior to the word "schools" in the second amendment which was approved. Following the adoption of the resolution, a certificate of charter membership in Lutherans for Life was presented to Dr. and Mrs. Preus.

Closing Devotion

As a closing devotion the convention chaplain, Dr. Nitz, led the delegates in the singing of the hymn "Arise, O God, and Shine" and in a prayer for the church.

Session 4

July 9, Morning

Opening Devotion

Opening devotion for the session was conducted by Dr. Richard Schlecht, President of the Michigan District, substituting for the convention chaplain, Dr. Nitz. After the singing of the hymn "Every Morning Mercies New" the delegates joined in the praying of the morning prayer, including Luther's Morning Prayer.

Point of Privilege

Responding to a question from the floor about the distribution of *Affirm,* Secretary Mueller stated that according to the policy of the Board of Directors there is to be no distribution within the building proper. However, there is no policy regarding distribution outside the convention building.

Constitutional Matters

Chairman Arnold Kuntz of the Floor Committee on Constitutional Matters presented Res. 5-05A (*TB* 210) and Res. 5-20 (*TB* 210), which called for receiving St. James, Lynnwood, Wash., and Beautiful Savior, Lees Summit, Mo., into membership in the Synod. The delegates agreed to act on both resolutions simultaneously and adopted them. They also agreed in response to late Overture L5-20 (*TB* 243) to receive Nativity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Parshallville, Mich., into membership. After declining to add the words "one week prior to the Circuit meeting" as the final words of the second resolved, the delegates adopted Res. 5-06 (*TB* 119), which called for improving the implementation of Bylaw 1.53 regarding election of Circuit delegates. They also agreed to a Bylaw change which provided that in the event of a vacancy in the office of the Presidency or Vice-Presidency of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod between conventions, the remaining officers would be advanced to fill such vacancy or vacancies and the resulting vacancy would remain until filled by election at the next convention of the Synod (Res. 5-07, *TB* 119). The delegates affirmed their belief that Dallas Res. 5-01 was appropriate and in keeping with constitutional procedures in dealing with the problem of dual membership (Res. 5-08, *TB* 120). By adopting Res. 5-09 (*TB* 120) and Res. 5-11 (*TB* 120) the convention deferred action on proposed synodical membership of directors of Christian education and declined to seat uncertified pastors at conventions, in agreement with a previous ruling of the Commission on Constitutional Matters. Discussion of Res. 5-12 (*TB* 121) was begun. During the discussion the delegates agreed to consider a substitute motion. This substitute resolution stated that—

> WHEREAS, "Retired member" is defined by the Concordia Retirement Plan itself as a minister of religion who may be employed by a congregation part time (Concordia Welfare Plan 1.15 and 1.17); and
>
> WHEREAS, There is nothing in Synod's Constitution which prohibits a Christian congregation from calling a minister to serve them as pastor on a part-time basis; and
>
> WHEREAS, We have many congregations in our rural areas and small towns who can be served well on a part-time basis by retired pastors; and
>
> WHEREAS, Over 500 vacancies in the Synod is clear evidence that the services of these pastors are needed in the service of Christ and His church; and
>
> WHEREAS, Scripture itself encourages ministers to continue serving Christ according to ability no matter what their age (1 Cor. 4:2; Matt. 25:14 ff.); therefore be it
>
> *Resolved,* That our smaller congregations be encouraged to call on our retired pastors on a part-time basis; and be it further
>
> *Resolved,* That retired pastors who are called by congregations as their pastors be guaranteed their constitutional right to vote at District and synodical conventions (*Handbook,* Constitution, Art. V, A).

After agreeing to close debate on the substitute motion, the delegates declined it. They then agreed to terminate debate on the resolution as presented by the committee and adopted it. The Floor Committee on Constitutional Matters next presented Res. 5-10A (*TB* 255). By adopting this resolution the delegates agreed to defer action on establishing the office of evangelist. During the discussion of Res. 5-13 (*TB* 121), which called for deferring the granting of voting rights to teachers, a resolution on which the floor committee dealing with matters presented by the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure of the Synod concurred, the delegates declined to consider Overture 5-24 (*CW* 160) as a substitute motion. Then they adopted the original motion as presented. Discussion of Res. 5-14 (*TB* 121), calling for declining the pastoral vote to lay ministers, was begun. During the discussion the convention agreed to consider Overture 5-25 (*CW* 161) as a substitute motion. Time elapsed, however, before action could be completed on the resolution.

Administration

Chairman of the Floor Committee on Administration, Alvin Kollmann, introduced Res. 4-01A (*TB* 245), which called for *Handbook* changes which would provide for the separate incorporation of Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod. By adopting the resolution the delegates ratified the formation of the Fund as a separate corporation and provided for the necessary Bylaws. Resolution 4-02 (*TB* 107), calling for assurance of the voluntary nature of District participation in Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod, was next considered. A motion to add a second resolved stating, "That when authority to allocate the District funds is taken from the District, they shall have the right to withdraw or secede from the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod," later simplified to simply include "or withdrawal" in the resolution, was considered but declined by the delegates. The resolution was then adopted as presented. During the discussion it was stated that provisions for withdrawal by Districts are included in the Articles of Incorporation of the Fund. Prior to adopting Res. 4-03A (*TB* 250), requesting the Board of Managers to review Survivor Plan benefits, the convention adopted several amendments. The first of these called for the deletion of lines 18—23 (*TB* 250). The second called for the deletion of the words "pastors and teachers" in line 25 and the substitution of the word "workers," the deletion of the words "have opted out of" and the substitution of the words "do not participate in" in line 26 (*TB* 250), the placing of a semicolon after the words "Social Security," and the deletion of the remaining words in the same line. After approving these changes, the resolution was adopted as amended. The delegates then adopted Res. 4-04 (*TB* 108) and thereby referred concerns regarding retirement matters to the Board of Managers and asked them to report their findings and decisions on Worker Benefit Plans to the next convention.

Introductions

Dr. Ben Holt, who is 96 years old and has served the Synod faithfully in many capacities, was introduced to the convention and received a standing ovation from the delegates. Dr. Preus also welcomed representatives from the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and representatives of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Bible Study

President Preus introduced Dr. Oswald Hoffmann, Lutheran Hour speaker, who led the delegates in a Bible study based on Acts 1 and 2. Copies of *Good News in Action,* containing the Book of Acts in Today's English Version of the New Testament prepared by the American Bible Society, were distributed to the delegates. Group discussion among them was based on a series of questions for reflection and discussion on mission themes in the Acts of the Apostles entitled "On the Way," which had been prepared by Dr. Hoffmann.

Guests

Mrs. Ursula Glander, representing the American Bible Society, was introduced to the convention by President Preus. In her remarks Mrs. Glander described the work of the organization, whose goal is to place a portion of Scripture into the hands of every man, woman, and child in the world. She pointed out that an old proverb says there is only one crime worse than murder, and that is knowing where there is water on the desert and not telling someone about it. This is like knowing the Good News, the water of life, and not sharing it with anyone else. Dr. Robert Schnabel, president of Valparaiso University, was introduced to the delegates and addressed them briefly on the role of the university and its relation to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. He pointed out that the university received its origin as a result of the work of members of the Synod and stated that the university is proud of its linkage with the Synod ever since its founding in 1925. Valparaiso University considers itself a partnership institution in many ways with the Synod. Dr. Schnabel expressed gratitude for past support and asked for continuing assistance through observance of Valparaiso Sundays by the congregations of the Synod.

Anniversary Observance

After the delegates had joined in the singing of the Canadian national anthem, "O Canada," Dr. Preus introduced President Albin Stanfel of the Ontario District. In his remarks Dr. Stanfel pointed out that the Ontario District is the successor of the Canada District, which came into existence 100 years ago. The District had its origin when Johann Adam Ernst gathered 11 congregations together in 1879 and formed the Canada District. The theme of the centennial observance was "Past in Praise; the Future in Faith." Following this presentation President Elroy Treit of the Lutheran Church—Canada addressed the convention. He urged the delegates to support the formation of an indigenous partner church in Canada, one which is in all areas one with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod but separate in administration. He supported his request by pointing to problems which confront the Lutheran Church in Canada, problems which he felt could be solved only through the formation of an independent organization. He described such an organization as a strong Canadian group dedicated to a strong confessional position and fully dedicated to Christ.

Theology and Church Relations

Chairman Richard Schlecht of the Floor Committee on Theology and Church Relations introduced Res. 3-03 (*TB* 96) for consideration. This resolution called for a continuation of a state of "fellowship in protest" with The American Lutheran Church. After the resolution had been read, Rev. Nafzger, Executive Secretary of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, reviewed the factors which had been taken into consideration in preparing the report of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations. He asked the delegates to give careful consideration to the proposed resolution and stated that it is the belief of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations that the recommended

resolution does not compromise the doctrinal position of the Synod. During the discussion which followed, the delegates declined to consider a substitute resolution which called for the deletion of lines 57—64 (*TB* 96), of lines 58—62 (*TB* 97), and the replacement of lines 40—42 (*TB* 97) with the words, *"Resolved,* That the LCMS suspend fellowship with the ALC at the present time for the above-mentioned doctrinal reasons; and be it further." Responding to a question from the floor, President Preus stated that if the proposed resolution were passed, we would be in a state as described in the resolution with specific actions to be taken. If the resolution is declined, we would be in the same position as that established at the Dallas convention. In response to a question as to the meaning of "due time," the committee stated that it understood this to mean until there would be sufficient time to complete discussion of issues with The American Lutheran Church. It was assumed that this would be by 1981. Wishing to hear from President Preus, the delegates, by a resolution, asked him to address the convention expressing his views. By convention resolution Dr. Scharlemann, who had spoken earlier, was also granted three additional minutes to address the delegates. Time expired before action on the resolution could be completed.

Closing Devotion

Following the singing of the hymn "From Greenland's Icy Mountains," the chaplain for the convention, Dr. Nitz, introduced President G. Thomas Edward, president of the India Evangelical Lutheran Church, who led the convention in a brief devotion and prayer.

Session 5

July 9, Afternoon

Opening Devotion

Dr. Karl Barth, President of the South Wisconsin District, led the delegates in the opening devotion, which consisted of the singing of the hymn "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" and the reading of Acts 16:25-34 in unison. The closing prayer included intercessions for a bereaved family and for a delegate who had been hospitalized with a heart attack.

Announcements

President Preus made several announcements to the delegates, including the awarding of a doctor of letters degree to the president of the Lutheran Church in Korea, Dr. Won Sang Ji, by Concordia College, St. Paul, Minn. The 125th anniversary of the Eastern District was also recognized, as well as the birthdays of missionaries Kenneth Greinke and Henry Rowold.

Minutes

Since there were no substantive changes, the minutes for the first and second sessions of the convention were approved.

Task Force

The delegates resumed the discussion of Res. 2-01 (*TB* 65), on which action had not been completed. This resolution dealt with the provision of a common foundation for living and working together as an appendix to the synodical *Handbook.* The discussion began with consideration of a proposed amendment which the delegates had asked to be printed in *Today's Business (TB* 207). Prior to discussion of the amendment the committee deleted the word "partial" in line 11 (*TB* 207) and replaced the period after the word "purity" in line 12 with a comma followed by the words "and the" in line 12 (*TB* 207). After declining to change the word "a" to "the" in line 16 (*TB* 207), the delegates also declined the entire proposed amendment. The convention agreed to change the word "certified" to "endorsed" in lines 17 and 39 (*TB* 66), but declined to add the words "but not limited to" after the word "include" in line 37 (*TB* 66). After agreeing to call the question, the delegates voted on the original resolution as amended. A division of the house was called for after the chairman had declared the resolution lost. The judgment of the chairman was sustained when the vote reported 333 in favor of the resolution and 541 opposing it. While introducing Res. 2-03 (*TB* 68), which called for a revision of Article III of the Constitution defining the objectives of the Synod, the committee pointed out that the revision included two new paragraphs, Nos. 4 and 10 (*TB* 69). A motion to reverse the order of points 1 and 2 as presented in the resolution was declined. The delegates also declined to add the words "proclaiming the Word of God and by" after the word "in" and before "giving" in line 18 (*TB* 69). After agreeing to close debate on all amendments and the resolution, the convention adopted Res. 2-03 by a vote of 663 to 272. After changing the word "equitable" to "appropriate" in line 36 (*TB* 189), the floor committee introduced Res. 2-04A (*TB* 189), which asked that provisions be made for continued study of the synodical organization. After agreeing to cease debate on an amendment which had been offered, the delegates declined to add the words "that an equal number of those who see serious problems in the Task Force proposals be included in the composition and makeup of the new continued Task Force on synodical reorganization," which were called for by the amendment. Time expired before action on the resolution could be completed.

Announcement

Before proceeding with the orders of the day, President Preus reminded the delegates that time used by the floor committees for responses and explanations was not considered as discussion time in determining the total time allowed for consideration of a resolution.

Auxiliary Organizations

Mrs. Helen Morris, president of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, was introduced to the convention by President Preus. She brought greetings from the 200,000 members of the LWML to the delegates and referred them to the report of the organization found in *Today's Business,* page 19. In her remarks she expressed thanks for the opportunity to work closely with synod-

ical officals, who still allowed the organization to plan its own program and choose its own projects. She reported that the mission goal of $560,000 had been exceeded by over $2,000 during the past year. The LWML will be holding its meeting in Omaha July 16—19 under the theme "Sow the Seed." Mrs. Morris then presented Dr. Preus with a counselor pin as the chief counselor of the Synod and of the LWML. Since A. Walter Hanf, president of the International Lutheran Laymen's League, was not able to be present, he was represented by John Daniels, executive director of the LLL. He brought greetings from the organization to the delegates and reminded them of the convention which will be held in Toronto under the theme "God So Loves the World." He stated that God not only opens doors but that they are off their hinges and we had better be ready to enter.

Announcement

Dr. Edward Westcott, Executive Secretary for Missions, announced that the offering at the Mission Rally held on Sunday evening had reached a total of over $43,000 and was still climbing. He reminded the delegates that this is what can happen when we walk by faith and not by sight.

Sundry Matters

Chairman Arthur Kuehnert of the Floor Committee on Sundry Matters introduced Res. 9-01 (*TB* 153) to the delegates. This resolution called for the Synod to express its opposition to blasphemy and pornography in movies, in the media, and in literature and asked the Public Relations Department of the Synod to relay this stance to the producers of the public media as well as to develop guidelines for helping congregations, schools, and families in their efforts to protest and combat this evil trend. The convention adopted the resolution as presented. After declining to consider Res. 9-02 (*TB* 153) as a substitute resolution, the delegates adopted Res. 9-02A (*TB* 257), which called for allowing the concept of special creation to be taught in public schools and for a copy of the resolution to be sent to all State Departments of Education. This action was taken after the resolution had been amended by adding the words "we urge" in the first resolve and by deleting references to the United States by common consent. Through this action, the words "of the United States" and the words "in the United States" were deleted in lines 13 and 16 (*TB* 257).

Missions

Chairman Happel of the Floor Committee on Missions introduced Res. 1-09 (*TB* 49), which called for the support of a Great Commission Convocation on Nov. 6—9, 1980. Before considering the resolution the delegates heard Dr. Erwin Kolb, Executive Secretary for Evangelism, describe the position of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as a declining one. He pointed out that a turnaround is needed and that evangelism must have higher priority. This can be done by learning from each other in a gathering such as the proposed convocation. The theme of the convocation would be "Discipling in the '80s." After adding an additional resolved, which stated, *"Resolved,* That we encourage Districts or regional combinations of Districts to hold similar convocations in their area after the 1980 synodical convocation," the delegates adopted the resolution as amended. Resolution 1-10 (*TB* 49—50), calling for the establishment of goals in evangelism, was taken under consideration by the convention. The delegates declined to add as point 5 (*TB* 50) a statement to the effect that Districts should evaluate losses of membership in congregations and help congregations take corrective action. They also declined to refer the resolution back to the committee for a stronger resolution on evangelism and for the purpose of avoiding the use of percentages or statistics. After further discussion they agreed to change the words "at least 80 percent" to "all" in lines 3 and 5 (*TB* 50), the words "at least 90 percent" to "all" in line 7, and the words "at least 30" to "all" in line 10 (*TB* 50). After agreeing to cease discussion on all amendments as well as the original resolution, Res. 1-10 (*TB* 49—50) was then adopted as amended. Res. 1-17 (*TB* 53—54), thanking God for the 20 years of blessings which have come to the church and people around the world through the Concordia Tract Mission and encouraging a greater use of tracts in ministry by individuals and congregations, as well as other forms of support for this ministry, was adopted without debate.

Recognition

Following the adoption of Res. 1-17 (*TB* 53—54) Dr. Kolb introduced Mr. Emil Benz, director of the Concordia Tract Mission, who introduced Werner and June Schaffner, who have been involved in the tract ministry since its inception. A plaque was presented to them recognizing their work in this ministry for the past 25 years.

Missions

Continuing their consideration of resolutions related to missions, the delegates adopted Res. 1-11 (*TB* 50), calling for the establishment of Open-House Mission emphases in Districts and congregations of the Synod. This action was taken after an amendment calling for the addition of the words "open doors" before all references to "Open-House" was declined. They also declined an amendment which called for the addition of a resolved which would state, *"Resolved,* That all other Lutheran church bodies be invited to join in planning and participating in such 'Open-House' missions." By the adoption of Res. 1-28 (*TB* 61) the delegates asked the Board of Directors of the Synod to expedite the expansion of the Synod's evangelism staff by adding a third member to it. They also requested a clarification of relationships between the Synod and the group known as Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ (Res. 1-29, *TB* 61).

Announcements

President Preus reminded the delegates that resolutions may be read and approved by title if the convention agrees to that procedure. It is not necessary that all

resolutions be read in their entirety, with the exception of resolutions involving changes in the Bylaws.

Elections

Chairman Henry Simon of the Floor Committee on Elections directed the distribution of ballots to all voting delegates and explained the election procedure which would be followed. Dr. Preus then declared the session recessed for the day as far as any other business was concerned, and delegated the Elections Committee chairman to declare the election closed at the opportune time. Election of boards and commissions followed with the afternoon session being closed with a silent devotion.

Session 6

July 10, Morning

Devotion

Opening devotion for the morning session was led by President Arthur Kuehnert of the Central Illinois District and included the singing of the hymn "When All Thy Mercies, O My God," the reading of Psalm 32, and prayer, including intercessory prayer for the wife of a member of the Board of Directors and for a delegate from the Northern Minnesota District, who were reported as being ill.

Announcements

President Preus announced to the delegates that the orders of the day would be interrupted by the Floor Committee on Elections for announcements when election results were available.

Point of Privilege

Dr. Norman Sell, Treasurer of the Synod, was granted a point of privilege to inform the delegates that the Treasurer's report on higher education (Report of Financial Operations, page 29), which they had received earlier, was in error. He indicated that corrections would be made and the delegates should ignore the report as received.

Higher Education

Chairman John Zimmermann of the Floor Committee on Higher Education requested permission to withdraw Res. 6-23 (*TB* 135), on which discussion had begun in a previous session. This permission was granted by common consent. Since Res. 6-01 had been referred back to the floor committee in a previous session, the delegates were directed to the consideration of Res. 6-01A (*TB* 277) as a revision of the original resolution. It was pointed out by the committee chairman that the whereases of the original resolution had been removed and had been replaced by a preamble which summarizes the report of the Board for Higher Education. After declining to delete the words "and with priority being given to students preparing for the pastoral and teaching ministries" in lines 62—63 (*TB* 277) and agreeing to cease debate, the delegates adopted Res. 6-01A (*TB* 277) as presented. Discussion was next begun on Res. 6-04A (*TB* 191), which called for the continuation of arrangements for the training of pastoral candidates at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon on a temporary basis. This arrangement is to continue through the 1980—81 academic year. In the meantime definite transitional plans for permanent arrangements for the education of pastoral candidates in Canada are to be formulated and presented to the next convention, with the first class under the permanent arrangement to be enrolled in 1981—82. After discussion, during which the three Canadian District Presidents were granted a special privilege to address the delegates, the convention adopted the resolution as presented.

Convention Rules

The delegates agreed to dispense with the reading of resolutions in the future and to adopt them by title, with the exception of those resolutions requiring Bylaw changes, which must be read in their entirety.

Higher Education

By adopting Res. 6-06 (*TB* 126) the convention reaffirmed its agreement with synodically approved procedures for certification of Seminex graduates and asked District Presidents to encourage uncertified Seminex graduates within their jurisdiction to seek such certification. This action was taken after the delegates had declined to consider Overture 6-65 (*CW* 201) as a substitute resolution for the one offered by the committee. In response to Overture 6-62A—B (*CW* 200) the convention adopted Res. 6-07 (*TB* 126), advising the Rev. Herman Otten to reapply to the faculty of Concordia Seminary for certification, if he so desires, or to seek certification by way of colloquy. They also reaffirmed their willingness to welcome into the pastoral ministry all who have met the requirements for certification. Since Res. 6-08A (*TB* 192) called for a change in Bylaw 6.54 of the *Handbook,* this resolution was read in its entirety. With the adoption of this resolution by the delegates, regulations regarding the granting of permanent tenure to faculty members were changed. The new Bylaw establishes a normal minimum of 40% tenured faculty members and a maximum of 60%, and allows for the continuation of untenured status for faculty members after completing six years of service at an institution. The Bylaw change was adopted after the delegates had declined to reinsert point 2 found in line 47 of Res. 6-08 (*TB* 127) into Res. 6-08A (*TB* 192) between points 1 and 2 on line 21 (*TB* 193). Continuing the consideration of resolutions related to higher education, the delegates adopted Res. 6-09 (*TB* 128), which directed the Board for Higher Education to evaluate social-service programs at synodical schools and certify those that are acceptable. The convention agreed that Res. 6-10A (*TB* 194) should be read in its entirety, although they had earlier agreed that resolutions should be adopted by title only. Prior to adoption of Res. 6-10A (*TB* 194) the delegates accepted an amendment which would replace the first resolved with the words, *"Resolved,* That the Synod require the synodical President, with the chairman of

the Division of Higher Education, in consultation with the Hispanic Advisory Council, the Board for Higher Education, the Board for Missions, and the Colloquy Board, to assume responsibility for the implementation of Dallas Res. 10-3, calling for the preparation and training of workers for Hispanic pastoral ministries; and be it further." The amendment also added words to the last resolved, *"Resolved,* That the President and the chairman of the Division of Higher Education be empowered to direct the seminaries and colleges and boards to carry out without delay assignments given them in the area of a Hispanic program." The resolution was then adopted as amended.

Elections

The chairman of the Floor Committee on Elections, Henry Simon, assisted by committee member George Bruening, President of the Kansas District, reported election results to the convention. It was reported that elections had been completed in all except nine areas. Election results were as follows:

Board of Directors
PASTOR
Lemke, Ervin R.
LAYMEN
Goertz, David H.
Melde, Gus
Mohr, George H.
Scott, Edward S.

Commission of Adjudication
PASTORS
Elowsky, Earl W.
Humann, Roger J.
LAYMAN
Doggett, Robert I.

Board of Appeals
PASTORS
Martens, Elden E.
Mueller, Bernhard G.
LAYMEN
Theis, Elmer H.
Wahl, Robert L.

Board for Church Extension
PASTOR
Rusch, Lowell H.
TEACHER
Graebner, Winfried M.
LAYMEN
Claussen, Donovan D.
Peterson, Orville, E.

Concordia Publishing House
LAYMEN
Kemmerle, Arnold
Krueger, Paul W.

Committee for Convention Nominations
PASTORS
Bahr, Albert W.
Korte, Carl
Krengel, George A.
Krueger, Willard
Melchior, Edward F.
Meyer, Eldor W.
Stanfel, Albin J.
TEACHERS
Doehrmann, Loren
Krause, Roy C.
Laesch, Roger C.
LAYMEN
Brown, Laurence
Burmeister, Charles
Duewer, Marvin J.
Farley, Hilton A.
Kaylor, Joe W.

Board for Evangelism
PASTOR
Otto, Edgar J. H.
LAYMAN
Koehlinger, Gerhard E.

Board for Higher Education
PASTOR
Halm, Dennis Ray
TEACHER
Straub, Carl
LAYMAN
Kercher, Conrad J.

Board for Missions
PASTOR
Suelflow, Roy A.
TEACHER
Wingfield, Albert B.
LAYMEN
Balke, Ernest W.
Dennis, Benjamin G.
Marten, Ralph H.

Board of Parish Education
PASTOR
Schumpe, Wayne E.
TEACHERS
Hintz, Dennis
Wildauer, Charles F.
LAYMAN
McCants, John H.

Board of Stewardship
PASTORS
Reiss, Harold H.
Simcak, Andrew, Jr.
LAYMAN
Lahaine, Gilbert E.

Board of Youth Ministry
PASTOR
Baumgarn, Jack R.
YOUNG PEOPLE
Brauer, Kurt
Gergens, Lynn R.
Hofman, Keren E.
Hoyer, Jan
Wiseman, Le Anne

Commission on Theology and Church Relations
PASTOR
Wenthe, Dean O.
LAYMAN
Ridgeway, Don

Board of Control, Ann Arbor
PASTOR
Nickel, James T.
TEACHER
Schwartz, Justin
LAYMEN
Korthals, Richard
Schoenherr, Robert O.

Board of Control, Austin
LAYMEN
Cadra, Godfrey J.
Schroeder, Leonard F.

Board of Control, Bronxville
PASTOR
Mather, Elwood E., Jr.
TEACHER
Beckman, Robert T.
LAYMEN
Appel, Henry G., Sr.
Weber, Arnold K.

Board of Control, Concordia, Mo.
TEACHER
Golz, Lester P.
LAYMEN
Eichler, Roger M.
Walquist, Wayne R.

Board of Control, Fort Wayne
PASTORS
Fehl, William H. B.
Niederbrach, Willard E.
LAYMEN
Biesemeier, John D.
Joeckel, Raymond N.

Board of Control, Irvine (2 year term)
PASTOR
Suhr, Marvin E.
LAYMEN
Antonovich, Mike D.
Fickenscher, Edgar H.

Board of Control, Irvine (4 year term)
PASTOR
Huscher, Frederick J.
TEACHER
Bergman, Fred E.
LAYMAN
Molyneaux, Glenn

Board of Control, Milwaukee
PASTOR
Sedory, Elmer J.
TEACHER
Maas, Richard E.
LAYMEN
Korth, Dale W.
Metzger, George

Board of Control, Portland
TEACHER
Brosz, Keith E.
LAYMEN
Culley, Roy J.
Wisman, Jay F.

Board of Control, River Forest
PASTOR
Wians, Herbert T.
TEACHER
Carpenter, Robert M.
LAYMAN
Koeneman, Henry O.

Board of Control, St. Louis
PASTORS
Rehwaldt, Edgar F.
Schmidt, Neil R.
TEACHER
Bergman, Henry
LAYMAN
Dissen, Walter C.

Board of Control, St. Paul (4 year term)
TEACHER
Lohse, Arnold W.
LAYMEN
Bartz, Harold W.
Degner, Lorenz L.

Board of Control, St. Paul (2 year term)
TEACHER
Golnitz, Robert
LAYMAN
Overn, Robert

Board of Control, Selma
TEACHER
McBride, Mary A.

Board of Control, Seward
TEACHER
Chandler, F. William
LAYMEN
Herpolsheimer, Robert W.
Hokamp, Albert
Krohn, David C.

Board of Control, Winfield
LAYMEN
Beltz, Sidney
Perry, Robert L., Jr.

Bible Study

Continuing a Bible study which had been begun the previous day, Dr. Oswald Hoffmann, Bible study leader, led the delegates in a further study of sections of the book of the Acts of the Apostles.

Honorary Degrees

In a brief ceremony Dr. Ralph Bohlmann, president of Concordia Seminary, assisted by members of the seminary faculty, conferred the honorary doctor of divinity degree upon President Michael of the Evangelical Lutheran Free Church of Denmark. An academic hood was also given to Bishop Jobst Schoene for presentation to Bishop Rost of the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germany, upon whom the degree of doctor of laws had previously been conferred. The degrees were granted for faithful service and faithful adherence to the Scriptures and Confessions in spite of difficulties which have been experienced by churches in their geographical areas.

Recognition

Following conferral of the degrees, two pastoral delegates at the convention, a father and son who are relatives of President Michael, were recognized. President Preus also recognized Rev. Otto Hoemann, a 1909 graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Constitutional Matters

Delegates resumed the consideration of Res. 5-14 (*TB* 121), on which action had not been completed in a previous session. Discussion began with the consideration of Overture 5-25 (*CW* 161) as a substitute motion. During the discussion of the substitute motion an amendment to it was proposed which would change the second whereas to read, "WHEREAS, Lay ministers now serve congregations as their designated pastors, performing all pastoral functions; and" and would change the resolved to read, "*Resolved,* That the Synod change the appropriate *Handbook* regulations to allow male ministers known as lay ministers, serving in congregations and performing all the functions of the pastoral office, the privilege of voting at District and synodical conventions as the pastoral delegate of their congregation(s)." After agreeing to cease debate on all matters before the convention, the delegates then declined the amendment to the substitute resolution, as well as the substitute resolution itself, and adopted the resolution as presented by the floor committee (Res. 5-14, *TB* 121). Discussion was then begun on Res. 5-15 (*TB* 121), which called for retaining the practice of giving only one lay vote to a dual parish. The delegates agreed to consider Overture 5-22A (*CW* 160) as a substitute motion, with the wording of the last sentence of the overture changed to read, "The lay delegate of a voting congregation shall stand accredited and entitled to vote upon presenting to the Secretary at the opening of the convention the proper credentials signed by his pastor or vacancy pastor and two of the congregation's officers. A voting congregation shall not be deprived of its lay delegate even though it might share its pastor with another congregation, have a temporary pastor, or no pastor at all." During discussion of the substitute motion the delegates declined to recommit the substitute motion and the original resolution to the committee for reconsideration. After agreeing to cease debate on the substitute motion, the delegates declined to accept it and approved Res. 5-15 (*TB* 121) as presented. By adopting Res. 5-16 (*TB* 122) they agreed with the committee to decline overtures calling for a change in the method of selecting convention delegates. They also declined to limit the tenure of elected officers of the Synod by the adoption of Res. 5-17 (*TB* 122). This action was taken after the convention declined to consider Overture 5-27A (*CW* 161) without its last resolved as a substitute motion. In order to deal with the problems experienced by teachers and other workers who had remained with congregations when these congregations joined other Lutheran synods, they resolved that the Districts prepare to expedite all existing processes by which congregations might call these workers who are receptive to a call from a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod parish. This was done through the adoption of Res. 5-18 (*TB* 122). Through the approval of Res. 5-19 (*TB* 122) the delegates also agreed to decline Overtures 5-26A—C (*CW* 161), calling for specific doctrinal pledges to be signed by elected officers of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, since all members of the Synod have pledged themselves to adhere to Articles II and VI of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.

Point of Privilege

Chairman Karl Barth of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations was granted a point of privilege to explain to the delegates that the document which is to be prepared by the commission will not speak directly to the question of suffrage. It will rather delineate the relationship between the pastoral office and other offices in the church and will help to establish a theological base which may help in reaching decisions on the issue of suffrage. It was felt that this explanation was necessary since some delegates had received the impression that the report of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations would deal with the suffrage issue.

Constitutional Matters

Chairman of the Floor Committee on Constitutional Matters, Arnold Kuntz, reported that this concluded the work of Committee 5.

Greetings

Dr. Preus presented to the delegates greetings which had been received from President S. T. Jacobson of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.

Program Implementation

Chairman Wilbert Griesse of the Floor Committee on Program Implementation introduced Res. 12-04 (*TB*

160), which called for the development of a master plan for responding to the challenge for the '80s. Prior to discussing and voting on the resolution, the delegates were referred by committee member G. Tagge to a supporting exhibit found on page 270 of *Today's Business*. After hearing an explanation of how the master plan would be developed, the delegates adopted the resolution as presented. By approving Res. 12-05 (*TB* 161) they also changed the fiscal year of the Synod and designated July 1 as the beginning of the new fiscal year. After a delegate stated his belief that the motion had not been made and seconded, the delegates proceeded to approve the resolution through a motion, second, and vote for adoption. They also agreed to a proposal for the establishment of a new method of preparing budgets and work programs through the adoption of Res. 12-06 (*TB* 161), and then adopted Res. 12-07 (*TB* 162), which would change Bylaws 9.01—9.06 of the *Handbook* in order to allow for their implementation. The convention agreed to dispense with the reading of this resolution and to adopt it by title even though it contained Bylaw changes.

Closing Devotion

Dr. Gerhardt Nitz, chaplain for the convention, led the delegates in the singing of a hymn and in the common table prayer as a closing devotion for this session.

Session 7

July 10, Afternoon

Opening Devotion

Opening devotion for the session, led by Dr. Paul Michael of the Evangelical Lutheran Free Church of Denmark, consisted of the singing of the hymn "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing," the reading of Psalm 119:97-112, with a devotion based on these words, and prayer.

Recognition

President Preus called the attention of the delegates to the presence of Dr. William H. Dau, a longtime servant of the church, who graduated from the seminary in St. Louis in 1917.

Theology and Church Relations

Prior to resuming the discussion of Res. 3-03, which called for continuing fellowship in protest with the ALC, the delegates were led in prayer by Chairman Schlecht of the Floor Committee on Theology and Church Relations. Dr. Ralph Bohlmann, president of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and a member of the CTCR, pointed out that we are agreed that we have problems, but the question is, "What do we do?" He stated that in his opinion many of the delegates felt that there were only two choices, either to suspend fellowship or to declare full fellowship. He pointed out that the resolution as presented provides a third possibility. By a resolution of the delegates Dr. Robert Preus, president of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, was granted equal time to that used by Dr. Bohlmann in addressing the delegates. He indicated that he did not believe the resolution stated clearly the depth of disagreement, particularly at the seminary level, between the two church bodies. At this point President Preus stated that it should be understood that the time taken by any of the remarks of the previous speakers would not be considered as part of the 30 minutes allowed for debate. A substitute resolution was presented to the delegates:

> WHEREAS, The concept "protesting fellowship" is meaningless to most people and puts everyone into a state of confusion about the issue of fellowship; and
>
> WHEREAS, The issues that surround the fellowship issue will not change in two years; therefore be it
>
> *Resolved,* That Res. 3-03 be removed from consideration at this convention; and be it further
>
> *Resolved,* That Committee 3 be directed by this convention to come forward with a resolution either favoring or opposing fellowship with the ALC.

The delegates, however, declined to consider it. Another substitute resolution proposed from the floor was declared out of order because, in effect, it proposed suspension of fellowship, an action which had previously been rejected by the convention. The chairman declared that if the matter was to be reopened, a delegate voting on the prevailing side in the previous session in which the resolution for suspension had been rejected, would have to move that the motion be reconsidered. Although the ruling of the chair was challenged, the ruling was sustained by convention vote. When a delegate voting on the prevailing side moved that the motion for suspension previously offered be reconsidered, the delegates declined to do so by a vote of 352 to 632. After the time for debate of Res. 3-03 (*TB* 96) had expired according to the standing rules of the convention, the delegates agreed to cease debate and adopted the resolution. A division of the house which was called for showed a vote of 861 for the resolution and 147 opposed. Dr. Schlecht thanked the delegates for the churchmanship which had been exhibited during the discussion of the resolution. By adopting Res. 3-04 (*TB* 98) the convention called for a celebration of the 400th anniversary of the Book of Concord and the 450th anniversary of the Augsburg Confession, inviting partner churches to join in the celebration and encouraging the congregations of the Synod to give special attention to the ongoing education of their members in the content of the confessional writings. During the discussion of the resolution the delegates declined an amendment which would have called on Lutherans other than partner churches to join in the celebration.

Presentation

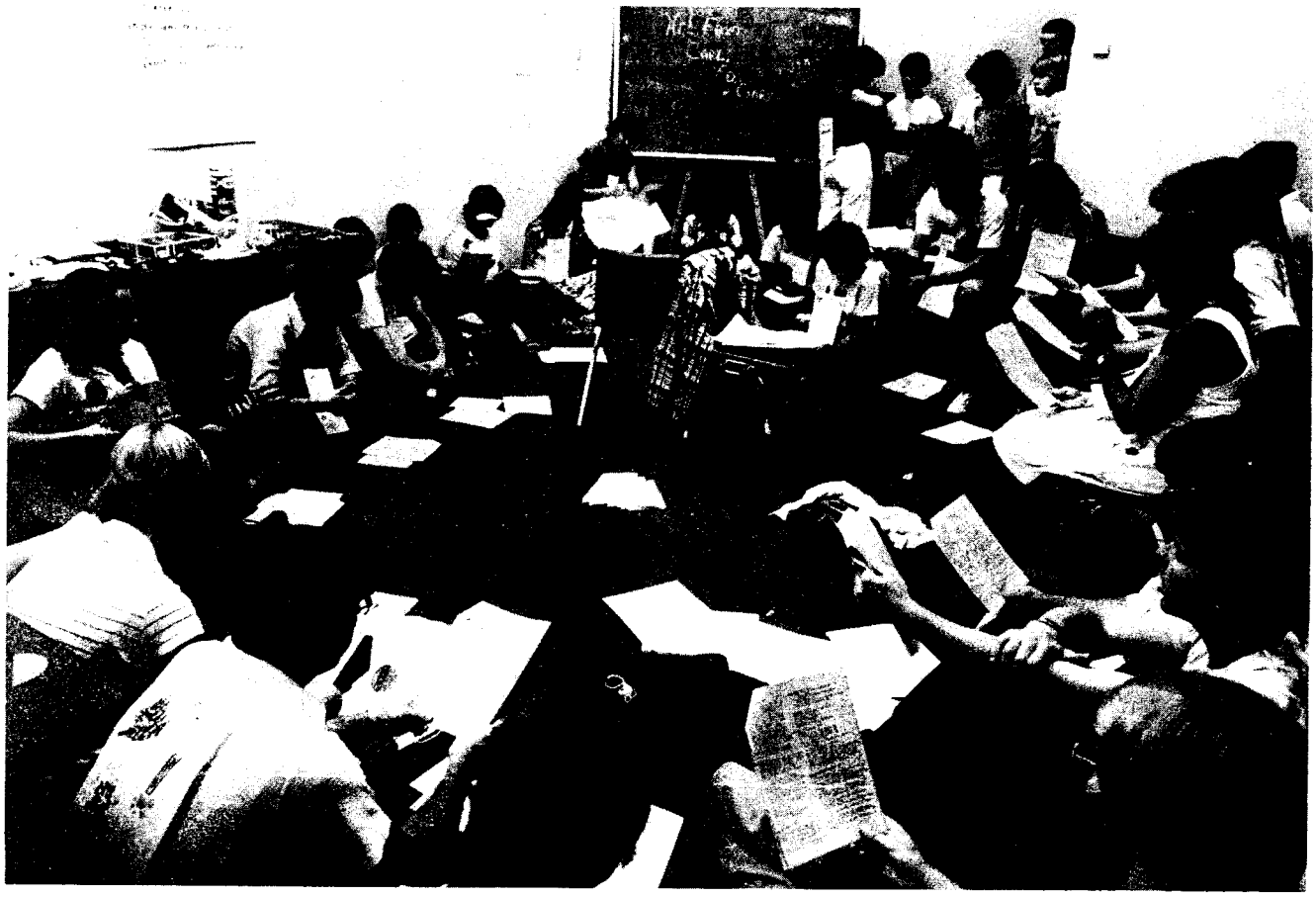
Following the adoption of the previous resolution Dr. Suelflow presented to President Preus a copy of a medal which was struck at a similar celebration 100 years ago. The medal is one of the few remaining from that celebration.

Theology and Church Relations

By the adoption of Res. 3-05 (*TB* 98) the Lutheran Church—Canada was encouraged to proceed with the formation of an indigenous Lutheran Church—Canada. After adopting an amendment which called for the addition of the words "or other Canadian university, if necessary" in line 45 between the words "university " and "so" in Res. 3-06A (*TB* 209), the delegates approved the establishment of the St. Catharines extension of the Fort Wayne seminary as a separate Canadian seminary with a separate budget at the end of the present fiscal year and the election of a Board of Control at the 1981 convention. During the discussion of Res. 3-07 (*TB* 99), calling for the continuation of membership in the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A., several amendments were proposed. One called for a resolved stating, "That we request the ALC and the LCA to withdraw the National Lutheran Campus Ministry and the Lutheran Student Movement from under the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A." The second called for the addition of the words "and that the decision from time to time to continue or not, commitments to LCUSA beyond the Division of Administration and the Division of Theological Studies, be left to the Synod's Board of Directors" be added to the final resolved. After both amendments were declined, the convention adopted Res. 3-07 (*TB* 99) as originally presented.

LCUSA Representatives

Dr. George Harkins, retiring general secretary of LCUSA, addressed the convention and spoke of his appreciation for the participation of representatives of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in the work of the council. He stressed their participation particularly in three areas: dialog with other denominations, participation in the Consultation on Church-State Relations, and participation in work with refugees. Dr. John Houck, newly elected general secretary of LCUSA, also addressed the delegates, pointing out that any action which is taken by groups involved in the council should not be a cooperation forced by inflationary concerns but rather one which is determined on the basis of sound reasoning. He asked for the prayers of the delegates for himself and the council as he begins his new term of office. Following these remarks Dr. Herbert Mueller, newly elected president of LCUSA, addressed the convention. In his remarks he expressed appreciation for the convention action which had been taken in continuing membership in LCUSA and described it as a sign of maturity. He pointed out that God has given us two hands, one to hold on to Christ and the Scriptures and the other to hold on to our brothers and sisters. Sometimes this involves tension, but as another church leader has said, "So be it. The church lives under tension."



Our youth representatives

Youth Delegation

A special presentation by youth delegates attending the convention stressed activities which have been carried on and are being planned in the Districts and on a national basis. Particular reference was made to the formation of the Lutheran Youth Fellowship and to the youth convention which will be held in Colorado. The presentation was brought to a close as the youth delegation led the convention in the singing of a song, "We Are the Church."

Missions

Prior to considering Res. 1-16 (*TB* 53) the convention was addressed by Mrs. Florence Montz, chairman of the Council for Christian Medical Work. She brought greetings to the delegates from the Council of Christian Medical Work and described the work which is being carried on in foreign countries, for which she was thankful. She pointed out that God opens doors, but He also opens the windows of our heart and life and lets His Sonshine in. In her remarks she stressed the fact that full health and healing come from the great Healer, Jesus Christ, through His life, death, and resurrection. Following this presentation the delegates adopted Res. 1-16 (*TB* 53), which called for support of the Council for Christian Medical Work. President Shiba of the Japan Lutheran Church next addressed the delegates. He described the coming of Christianity to Japan through the Roman Catholic Church several hundred years ago. He pointed out that that door was closed later in history and was reopened after World War II. He expressed his thanks for what The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod had done for Christians in Japan. After deleting the number "10" in the subject heading and replacing the number "10" with the word "all" in line 56, the Floor Committee on Missions presented Res. 1-08 (*TB* 48), which asked the Board for Missions to work closely with the Internal Auditing Department of the Synod and the Treasurer's Department to assist in developing sound accounting practices in partner churches/mission fields. Resolution 1-08 (*TB* 48) was adopted as presented. Since Res. 1-13 (*TB* 51) called for encouragement of the growth of special ministries, this resolution was read in its entirety, so that it could be signed for the deaf as it was read. Resolution 1-13 (*TB* 51) was also adopted as presented.

Recognition

In recognition of the fact that the First Vice-President of the Synod, Dr. Edwin Weber, was at the podium and presiding over the convention once again after a period of illness, the delegates joined in singing the Common Doxology in thanks to God.

Missions

Prior to considering Res. 1-14A (*TB* 184), which called for the establishment of an American Indian Advisory Council, Dr. Edward Westcott introduced native American Pastor Donald Johnson. Pastor Johnson spoke of his conversion and how he was called to serve his own people in Indian ministry. He pointed out that 350 years of Indian ministry by Christians have gone by and that during that time many mistakes have been made. The church has a basic lack of experience in Indian mission work and has failed to take into account the vast cultural differences. He pointed out that God has opened a crack in the door and we must enter by listening to Indian people and being aware of Indian culture. After declining an amendment which would add as a final resolved, *"Resolved,* That the LCMS relationship with the National Indian Lutheran Board (NILB) and the LCUSA Indian desk to be continued through, to, and beyond March 1, 1980, if necessary, awaiting recommendations of the American Indian Advisory Council regarding this relationship," the convention adopted Res. 1-14A (*TB* 184) as presented by the floor committee. They also agreed to adopt the document "Statement of Jewish-Lutheran Concerns" as proposed in Res. 1-30 (*TB* 60). During the discussion the delegates declined to include the first and second resolveds of Overture 1-28 (*CW* 52). Discussion of Res. 1-12A (*TB* 183), which called for an increase in churches and membership, was begun. During the discussion the delegates declined to add as a first resolved the words, "That Synod's Evangelism Department work with Districts to develop new and further current programs which would better equip the members of our congregation to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ." Since the words "including Black, average of ten per year; Hispanic, average of five per year;" after the words "180 average per year;" in line 70 (*TB* 183) were omitted in printing of the resolution, the convention agreed by common consent to the addition of these words. Time for discussion of the resolution elapsed before action could be completed.

Minutes

Although properly reported, the delegates agreed to amend the minutes for Session 3 by changing the sequence of wording of Res. 3-02A, lines 44—45 (*TB* 280) to read, "To teach, within our schools and churches, the biological, social, and parental functions of childbearing." The minutes for Sessions 3 and 4 were then approved as amended.

Elections

Chairman Henry Simon of the Floor Committee on Elections directed the distribution of ballots for positions still remaining to be filled. After voting procedures had been described and voting had taken place, the elections were declared closed.

Administration

Chairman Alvin Kollmann of the Floor Committee on Administration presented Res. 4-05A (*TB* 250), which called on the Board for Higher Education to review the Bylaws pertaining to the retirement of personnel in our colleges and seminaries. This resolution was adopted. After the reading of this resolution by title, the delegates declined to reverse a previous decision which had been made to pass resolutions by title, and determined to

continue the procedure which had previously been adopted. By the adoption of Res. 4-06 (*TB* 109) the Board of Managers—Concordia Welfare Plan was asked to give careful consideration to post-65 benefits, to bring such benefits even with the objectives of full medical coverage, including government Medicare, for those on fixed incomes. In approving Res. 4-07 (*TB* 109) and Res. 4-08B (*TB* 275) the convention authorized the construction or purchase of a synodical headquarters building and requested The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation to make every effort to obtain sufficient gifts so that the entire project might be debt free at its completion. If this could not be done, the Treasurer of the Synod was authorized to obtain suitable financing for costs not covered by the gifts. The site for the new headquarters building is to be on the campus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. In the event it cannot be constructed at that location, the Board of Directors was empowered to select another location in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

Recognition

Following the passage of the previous resolutions, Dr. Norman Sell, Treasurer of the Synod, introduced Dr. J. David Heino, Executive Director of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation. Dr. Heino requested Pastor Ervin Lemke, the pastor of Mrs. Marcella Neimann, to introduce her to the delegates. Mrs. Neimann had provided the seed money for the headquarters building for the Synod. After she had briefly addressed the convention, President Preus expressed the thanks of the entire Synod for her generosity.

Closing Devotion

Closing devotion for the session was conducted by Rev. Henry Koepchen, a member of the Board of Directors of the Synod, and consisted of a hymn, a reading from the Book of Acts, and prayer.

Session 8

July 10, Evening

Opening Devotion

Opening devotion for the evening session was conducted by the chaplain for the convention, Dr. Gerhardt Nitz, who led the delegates in the singing of "Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness." This was followed by a devotion based on a section from 1 Cor. 12 and prayer.

Special and Sundry Matters

Chairman Arthur Kuehnert of the Floor Committee on Special and Sundry Matters introduced Res. 9-03 (*TB* 154), which called for the improvement and emphasizing of conferences. By adopting this resolution the delegates encouraged attendance at conferences by those for whom they were organized as a means for growth. They adopted Res. 9-04 (*TB* 155) and thereby amended Bylaw 15.51, which dealt with the transfer of official records to the Concordia Historical Institute. Prior to adopting this resolution, Dr. August Suelflow, Archivist of the Synod, pointed out that Concordia Historical Institute serves three purposes. It serves as a depository for manuscripts, as the historical library, and as a museum area. The Bylaws were amended in order to help prevent the loss of important historical documents, as well as to bring the Bylaws into harmony with present practice. By adoption of Res. 9-05 (*TB* 156) the convention urged the resolution of concerns expressed in Overture 9-11 (*CW* 243) by encouraging the parties involved to expedite efforts towards a God-pleasing solution to any difficulties. Prior to adoption of Res. 9-06 (*TB* 157), calling for support of the ministry of the Armed Forces Commission, the convention was addressed By Dr. Milton Ernstmeyer, executive secretary of the commission. In his remarks he expressed thankfulness for the continued generous support by pastors and congregations of the LCMS in providing a Lutheran ministry to members in the military service, as well as to their families and civilian members overseas. He also expressed thankfulness for the faithful ministry of more than 100 pastors serving on active duty as chaplains, for the special ministry performed by 125 pastors who are reserve chaplains, and for the sincere interest in pastoral care of ministers and congregations who have provided the names of members who are serving in the military or are civilian members overseas. Resolution 9-06 (*TB* 157) was adopted as presented. Discussion was begun on Res. 9-07 (*TB* 157), which called for the provision of adequate maintenance for church workers. A motion was made and seconded to consider an amendment which would place before the words "to see to it" the words "to remind congregations" in line 64 (*TB* 157). Time for discussion expired before action on the resolution could be completed.

Elections

Chairman Simon of the Floor Committee on Elections reported the following election results:

Concordia Publishing House Board of Directors
TEACHER
Laesch, Roger C.

Board of Youth Ministry
LAYMAN
Krueger, Rick

Board of Control, Austin
PASTOR
Lehnhardt, Marvin H.
TEACHER
Schmidt, Donald E.

Board of Control, Fort Wayne
TEACHER
Bultemeyer, Richard L.

Board of Control, Selma
PASTOR
Foard, Howard A.
LAYPERSON
Saunders, Nancy

He also reported that additional elections would be needed for the Board of Missions and the Commission on Theology and Church Relations. Ballots for the remaining positions to be filled were then distributed to the voting delegates.

Social Ministry

Before introducing the resolutions relating to social ministry, Chairman Arthur H. Ziegler of the Floor Committee on Social Ministry introduced Dr. Leslie Weber, Executive Secretary of the Board of Social

Ministry and World Relief, who addressed the delegates briefly. He introduced Rev. Melvin Witt, who is in charge of hunger and world-relief activities. Rev. Witt pointed out that God opens doors through people who put His love into action. He in turn introduced Rev. Gene Thiemann, who is now serving on the staff of World Relief, Inc. Rev. Thiemann reminded the delegates that for 450 million people the words "I am starved" are a literal fact of life, not a figure of speech, and asked for help in turning that literal fact into a figure of speech for many of these people. Chairman Ziegler of the Floor Committee on Social Ministry then introduced Res. 8-01 (*TB* 145), which called for consideration of the needs of older persons and asked the Executive Secretary of the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief to convene representatives of all of the Synod's program boards to devise and plan a comprehensive approach to the overall needs of older persons in the church and community and to report their findings to the Board of Directors with recommendations for implementation. Resolution 8-01 (*TB* 145) was adopted as presented. During discussion of Res. 8-02 (*TB* 145), calling for the continuation of sponsorship of refugee families, President Preus was called upon to address the group with regard to problems which are facing the refugees. In his remarks he pointed out that 28,000 Vietnamese refugees have been placed among Lutheran churches in this country. Dr. Preus introduced Mrs. Dawson, who has been involved in this work of placement and who in her remarks pointed out that the gift of love which is shown to the refugees is the gift of life itself. The delegates adopted an amendment which stated as an added resolved, *"Resolved,* That the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be requested to investigate ministry to Haitian refugees as well." They then adopted Res. 8-02 (*TB* 145) as amended. During the discussion of Res. 8-03 (*TB* 146), which was designed to commend and strengthen the work of the Commission on Ministerial Health, the delegates agreed to place a period after the word "transition" in line 34 (*TB* 146) and to eliminate the last resolved. A call for the division of the house showed that the amendment had been adopted by a vote of 475 to 377. After agreeing to cease debate, the delegates, however, declined Res. 8-03 (*TB* 146) as amended. A call for a division of the house showed that the resolution had been defeated by a vote of 360 to 515.

Administration

Chairman Alvin Kollmann of the Floor Committee on Administration introduced Res. 4-09 (*TB* 110), which provided for adoption of Bylaws for the Commission on Black Ministry. The resolution was read in its entirety. After some discussion the words "not less than" in line 45 (*TB* 110) were deleted by common consent. An amendment calling for the placing of a period after the word "President" in line 52 (*TB* 110) and the deletion of the remainder of that line was declined. An effort to amend the amendment was declared out of order since an amendment to strike cannot be amended. After agreeing to cease debate, Res. 4-09 (*TB* 110) was adopted. Prior to introducing Res. 4-10A (*TB* 251) the committee revised the first whereas by substituting the words "its Black centennial" for the words "the centennial" and the deletion of the words "of its work among the Blacks" in line 50 (*TB* 251). During the discussion of the resolution the delegates declined to consider a substitute resolution which replaced the resolveds with the words, *"Resolved,* That the synodical President and District Presidents actively seek recommendations of members of minority groups from representatives of their respective minority groups (e.g., Blacks, Hispanics, native Americans, Asian, women, and so forth) for appointment to boards and commissions or for referral to nominating committees; and be it finally *Resolved,* That a goal be set to have one-third of the membership of all boards and commissions of the Synod filled by competent minority-group persons, and that District Presidents be encouraged to follow the example of the synodical President on this policy." Resolution 4-10A (*TB* 251) was then adopted.

Elections

The chairman of the Floor Committee on Elections, Henry Simon, reported that Gustav Schramm had been elected to the Board for Missions and John Korcok had been elected to the Commission on Theology and Church Relations. He reported that this completed the elections for boards and commissions. Following this report the convention approved a motion that all ballots be destroyed. This brought the work of the Committee on Elections to completion.

Closing Devotion

The chaplain for the convention, Dr. Nitz, led the delegates in a closing devotion which consisted of singing a hymn and speaking the evening prayer found on page 274 of *Today's Business.*

Session 9

July 11, Morning

Opening Devotion

Devotion for Session 9 of the convention was conducted by the chaplain for the convention, Dr. Gerhardt Nitz, who led the delegates in the singing of the hymn "Now the Shades of Night Are Gone." After hearing a meditation based on a portion of Psalm 51, the delegates were asked to join in praying the prayer from the psalm, "Create in me a clean heart, O God."

Announcements

President Preus announced the orders of the day, pointing out that Committee 12 would appear at 2:15 p.m. rather than the Committee on Constitutional Matters. Ninety-nine resolutions still remain to be acted on. He pointed out that at the afternoon session a decision would be made regarding a possible evening session.

Task Force

Chairman August Mennicke of the floor committee dealing with the report of the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure presented Res. 2-04A (*TB* 189) to the delegates. Discussion on this resolution, which called for the provision for continued study of the synodical organization, had been begun in a previous session. An amendment which called for the addition of a third point on line 58 (*TB* 189) which would ask the proposed Task Force "To study the possibility of more equitable one person-one vote lay representation by congregations at the District level and Circuits at the synodical level" was declined after the chair ruled that the delegates had agreed to cease debate on the amendment. A late call for a division of the house was permitted. The convention declared by a vote of 711 to 217 that it had agreed to terminate debate. When the amendment was voted on again, it was once more declined. Resolution 2-04A (*TB* 189) was then adopted. Resolution 2-05A (*TB* 190), which called for a restatement of Article VII of the Constitution, describing the relationship of the Synod and its member congregations, was read in its entirety because it involved constitutional changes. After considerable discussion this resolution was declined. Resolution 2-06 (*TB* 71), which also involved a constitutional revision, calling for a change in the title and revision of the provisions of Article XIII dealing with expulsion from the Synod, was read in its entirety. After a period of discussion the delegates asked that this resolution be recommitted to the floor committee for further consideration. Prior to introducing Res. 2-07, which called for Bylaw changes which would prescribe the role and relation of auxiliaries and of listed service organizations, the committee deleted lines 30—31 (*TB* 73) and lines 21—22 (*TB* 74). With the latter deletion No. 7 becomes No. 6 and No. 8 becomes No. 7. They also substituted the wording found in *Today's Business,* page 291, for b, 3 and b, 5 on page 75 of *Today's Business.* Although the resolution called for a change in the Bylaws, the delegates agreed to dispense with the reading of the resolution in its entirety. Resolution 2-07 (*TB* 73) was then adopted as amended by the floor committee. Resolution 2-08 (*TB* 76), which was adopted by the delegates, changed the title of Bylaw XVII of the *Handbook* to include auxiliary and listed service organizations. The convention agreed that the present method of nominating and electing the President, First Vice-President, and Secretary of the Synod has served well in allowing congregational participation, and therefore approved Res. 2-09 (*TB* 77), which declined overtures asking for the preparation and proposal of new Bylaw provisions for election of these officers. By adopting Res. 2-10 (*TB* 77) it also declined overtures asking for changes in the title and provisions of Article XIV of the Constitution, an article dealing with changes and amendments to the Constitution. Since the delegates agreed that Article V of the Constitution is clear in its intent with regard to membership and the franchise of the Synod, they adopted Res. 2-11 (*TB* 77), which proposed that the article be retained in its present form. Since the meaning of the term "valuable papers" has changed, the delegates adopted Res. 2-12 (*TB* 78) and agreed that in Article XI, E of the Constitution this term should be replaced by the words "records normally related to the office of the Treasurer" in specifying the duties of the Treasurer. They approved Res. 2-13 (*TB* 78) and thereby declined an overture which called for a division of the President's office into the offices of Bishop and Executive Director. This action was taken after declining a motion from the floor which called for referral of this matter to the new Task Force.

Point of Order

Responding to a question, the chairman informed the convention that when a motion is made by a member of a floor committee and that member is also a voting delegate, the motion need not be seconded according to *Robert's Rules of Order.* The convention agreed to follow this procedure.

Task Force

Since the President of the Synod, in the performance of his presidential duties, is responsible directly to the convention of the Synod, the delegates adopted Res. 2-14 (*TB* 79) and declined to introduce new procedures of adjudication with regard to the President of the Synod. The delegates agreed that the concerns expressed in Overtures 2-02—2-09C and 2-11—2-13 (*CW* 65—68) had been covered by other resolutions proposed by the floor committee and therefore adopted Res. 2-15 (*TB* 79), agreeing that no action needed to be taken on them.

Administration

Chairman Alvin Kollmann of the Floor Committee on Administration introduced Res. 4-11 (*TB* 111). The delegates adopted the resolution, reaffirming their intent to follow principles which would eliminate all vestiges of racism, separatism, and prejudice by encouraging fair employment and purchasing practices within the Synod, and encouraged the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief to continue its efforts in assisting congregations and Districts in combating racism. By adopting Res. 4-12 (*TB* 111) West Portal Lutheran Church, San Francisco, Calif., was transferred from the California-Nevada-Hawaii District to the English District; Trinity Lutheran Church, Burlingame, Calif., was transferred from the California-Nevada-Hawaii District to the English District; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Des Plaines, Ill., was transferred from the English District to the Northern Illinois District; First Lutheran Church, Lloydminster, Sask., was transferred from the Manitoba and Saskatchewan District to the Alberta and British Columbia District; and The Church of the Reformation—Lutheran, Affton, Mo., was transferred from the English District to the Missouri District.

Point of Order

Since, contrary to adopted convention procedures, the previous resolution had been read in its entirety, an objection was raised to this action. The chair indicated

that it would no longer be done unless requested by the convention.

Administration

Since First Lutheran Church of the Trinity, Chicago, Ill., has resigned from membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the delegates declined to take action on the request for a transfer to the English District by this congregation (Res. 4-13A, *TB* 252).

Bible Study

Dr. Hoffmann again led the delegates in a study of a section of the Book of the Acts of the Apostles. This included group discussion based on a study outline prepared by him.

Recognition

President Preus introduced Mr. Marshall Nelson, Executive Secretary of the Commission for Services to the Mentally Retarded, for the purpose of presenting the mental retardation award. Mr. Nelson introduced Mrs. Wilda Peters of Baltimore, who was instrumental in starting work among the retarded in her local Sunday school. Prior to the presentation Mr. Nelson also referred to several other pioneers in this work and asked the delegates to report the names of similar people to him. A plaque was then presented to Mrs. Peters recognizing her work in the area of mental retardation. In her remarks she pointed out that the honor belonged to God, not to her. As the delegates reached out their hands to her, she now asked them to reach out their hands to the mentally retarded.

Convention Logo

In response to several requests from the floor, Secretary Mueller was asked by President Preus to explain the convention logo. In his explanation he called attention to the two doors which are portrayed and pointed out that when doors confront us we are sometimes fearful of the darkness which may lie behind them. However, when God opens doors, there is always sunshine behind them, because Jesus is the Light of the world. This fact is symbolized by the sun in the logo. The color blue is used for the doors and the lettering because blue is the color of faithfulness. There is also a feeling of forcefulness in the thrusting open of the doors. The letters stating the theme are in italics, indicating movement. When God opens doors, that is only the beginning of a movement, and therefore the dots following the theme indicate that we must finish the sentence.

Parish Services

Delegates resumed the discussion of Res. 7-05 (*TB* 138), on which action had not been completed in a previous session. In originally presenting the resolution the committee had substituted the words "President in consultation with the Vice-Presidents" for the words "Board of Directors" in line 10 (*TB* 139). The delegates declined to consider a substitute resolution which asked, "That we encourage our brothers and sisters in the other major Lutheran churches along with ourselves to make the best translation of Luther's Small Catechism available at this time." They also asked that the proper boards and commissions of the Synod be instructed to make means available to prepare this translation and that it be presented to the Synod at large for review and then committed to the Synod in convention. After further discussion the delegates adopted Res. 7-05 (*TB* 138—139) as amended by the committee and deferred participation in a pan-Lutheran catechism, as well as provision for the approval of other projects of the Coordinating Committee for Cooperative Projects in Congregational Life. Before adopting Res. 7-10 (*TB* 141), calling for observance of the 110 years of Concordia Publishing House's service to the congregations of the Synod, the delegates adopted several amendments. The first, added as a fourth resolved with the necessary editorial changes, stated, *Resolved,* That Concordia Publishing House be encouraged to continue its movement toward multicultural emphases." The second amendment placed the words "all parishes be encouraged to offer" between the words "that" and "litanies" on line 28 (*TB* 141). The resolution was then adopted as amended.

Presentation

Mr. Harry Bernthal, book sales manager at CPH, introduced Mr. Max Middendorf, who had purchased the 31-millionth copy of Arch books from Concordia Publishing House. In recognition of this, Mr. Middendorf was given a complete set of Arch books, and an Arch book was presented to everyone in the convention hall.

Parish Services

By adopting Res. 7-06 (*TB* 139) the convention agreed that provision should be made for continuing education for older persons. They asked the Board of Parish Education to design short-term Sunday school/Bible class and other types of courses suitable to them, encouraged congregations to integrate the aging into the regular adult Sunday school/Bible classes of the congregations, and asked the Board for Higher Education and Board of Parish Education to explore the use of Lutheran high schools and synodical colleges and seminaries for continuing education for older persons. After changing the number "30" to "36" in line 69 (*TB* 139), the Floor Committee on Parish Services introduced Res. 7-07, which commended and encouraged work among the mentally retarded. The delegates adopted this resolution, which also encouraged congregations to sensitize their members and adults by offering religious programs for the mentally retarded, as well as to use the printed order of service available in bulk quantities from Bethesda Lutheran Home in order to offer thanks and prayers of interecession at a special service marking the 75th anniversary of the Synod's many-phased ministries to the mentally retarded people and their families. The congregations in the western part of the country were encouraged to use the materials prepared by Good Shepherd Lutheran Home of the West to celebrate the 25th anniversary of that residential faci-

lity. The convention next adopted Res. 7-08 (*TB* 140), which commended the Board of Parish Education and the Commission on Theology and Church Relations for the preparation of the study series "That We May Grow" and encouraged congregations to use these materials more fully. After adding the words "and the Board of Parish Education" after the words "Publishing House" in line 67 (*TB* 141), the committee introduced Res. 7-11 (*TB* 141), which asked for the identification of writers for preparation of religious materials and encouraged the development of such persons. The convention adopted the resolution as presented. Prior to considering the next resolution, the delegates were addressed by Richard Bimler, Executive Secretary of the Board of Youth Ministry. In his remarks he pointed out that the "B" in Board stands for Baptized, the "Y" in Youth for Yes, and the "M" in Ministry for Ministry. He concluded by saying that we are baptized, yes people in ministry. Following this presentation the convention adopted Res. 7-12 (*TB* 142), thereby designating the year 1983—84 as "The Year of Youth Ministry." They also asked that the 1983 convention emphasize youth ministry and that special materials and resources be developed to help parishes and Districts celebrate "The Year of Youth Ministry." By the adoption of Res. 7-13 (*TB* 142) Bylaws restructuring the Board of Youth Ministry were adopted. This action was taken by the convention after it declined to change the number "21" to "28" in line 59 (*TB* 142). Resolution 7-14 (*TB* 143), asking the Board of Directors and congregations of each District to consider ways and means of encouraging subscriptions to the *Lutheran Witness* was declared passed unanimously. By the adoption of Res. 7-15 (*TB* 143) the Board of Parish Education was commended for the preparation of the "New Life in Christ" materials and was encouraged to make available a curriculum for nursery and kindergarten, as well as a full day school curriculum of the same quality and Scriptural integrity. After adopting Res. 7-09 (*TB* 140), which encouraged the observance of the 200th anniversary of the Sunday school, the chairman reminded delegates that this resolution did not call so much for a remembrance of the past but rather for action in the future. The reports of the Commission on Church Literature, Board for Lutheran Radio, and Commission on Lay Higher Education were received with thanks by the convention (Res. 7-16, *TB* 143). Since Concordia Publishing House assists synodical students in securing textbooks by selling them to campus bookstores at discount prices, the delegates agreed to decline Overture 7-28 (*CW* 226) by the adoption of Res. 7-17 (*TB* 144). They also declined Overture 7-29 (*CW* 226), which requested written interviews for Concordia Publishing House board members. This was done by the adoption of Res. 7-18 (*TB* 144), bringing the work of the Committee on Parish Services to a close except for a presentation to be made in a later session.

Social Ministry

In a previous session the convention had declined Res. 8-03 (*TB* 146) after it had amended the resolution by dropping the last resolved. A delegate who had voted on the prevailing side moved that Res. 8-03 (*TB* 146) be reconsidered. Following the introduction of this motion, the delegate yielded to President Preus, who spoke of the great need for assistance in the area of ministerial health. He pointed out that the resolution as presented operates in the area of prevention rather than cure. After some discussion it was agreed that the delegate who made the motion for reconsideration was only requesting consideration of the resolution as amended. The convention then agreed to reconsideration. Dr. Frederick Niedner, a member of the Commission on Ministerial Health, informed the delegates of the cost to Districts and the Synod and to the Concordia Plans in the area of ministerial health, and pointed out the need for a program in this area throughout the country. He stated that we should not only be concerned with treatment but also with preventive and rehabilitative concerns. After further discussion the delegates agreed to cease debate and adopted Res. 8-03 (*TB* 146) as amended. By adoption of Res. 8-05 (*TB* 147) the convention urged Districts, Circuits, or groups of congregations who desire to involve their constituency in a broader aspect of social ministry concerns and activities to negotiate with the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief for information on cooperative planning and financing of one or more workshops in the area of social ministry. Through adoption of Res. 8-06 (*TB* 148) the Districts of the Synod were encouraged to make expertise and funding available for the promotion and conduct of Project Compassion workshops. Districts were also asked to strongly encourage parishes to continue their support of Project Compassion in various ways. Resolution 8-07 (*TB* 148), calling for the update of Bylaws regarding social concerns and welfare, was introduced. Time expired, however, before action could be completed on this resolution.

Devotion

The chaplain for the convention, Dr. Nitz, led the delegates in a closing devotion ending the morning session.

Session 10

July 11, Afternoon

Opening Devotion

The opening devotion was conducted by members of Holy Cross Lutheran Church for the Deaf of St. Louis. After presenting a number of songs in sign language, the delegates were led in prayer which was both audible and signed.

Recognition

President J. A. O. Preus introduced Dr. David Preus, president of The American Lutheran Church, to the convention. In his address to the delegates he brought greetings from The American Lutheran Church in the name of Christ and expressed his joy in the shared ministries of The American Lutheran Church and The

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. He stated that the two groups shared a common faith though not an identical history and that he was thankful for the signs of unity and maturity among The American Lutheran Church and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. While it is true that we can get along without each other, in a deeper sense we need each other since God has made us for each other and desires not sibling rivalry but family unity. God asks us to express our faith in oneness and in mission. In these days of uncertainty we need to stand up and say we believe in Christ in the midst of life and in the presence of death. God's kingdom does not depend on anything but God, and society has reached the point where we need new beginnings or perhaps a recapture of old beginnings. People need to be called to a rejection of the "me" generation and become aware that mindless self-justification has no virtue. Dr. Preus concluded his remarks by expressing appreciation for the opportunity of being present at the convention.

Announcements

The chairman announced that there would be no evening session and that there was a good possibility that the business of the convention could be completed by the end of Thursday's afternoon session.

Program Implementation

Chairman Griesse of the Floor Committee on Program Implementation introduced Res. 12-01A (*TB* 259), which called for a major fund-raising effort of $40 million, culminating in 1981, and for an ongoing stewardship effort. After declining an amendment to strike lines 47—48 (*TB* 259) and agreeing to cease debate, the resolution was adopted as presented. In adopting Res. 12-02 (*TB* 159) the Canadian Districts were asked to develop a mission and ministry statement, in cooperation with the steering committee and fund-raising consultants, which would address the challenges in Canada, as well as mission opportunities which are shared throughout the world. In order to avoid any confusion all Districts, institutions, and boards were asked to clear all calendars of special fund-raising efforts during the period of January through June 1981. This request was made in Res. 12-03 (*TB* 160), which was adopted by the convention. In response to a question from the floor the committee stated that clearing calendars is not a mandate. The request of the seminaries for special exemption for solicitation privileges throughout the Synod was denied, but delegates asked that the Synod do all in its power to increase growth in the grace of giving so that greater financial support might be granted to the institutions of higher education, with special consideration for the seminaries' financial needs. This action was taken through the adoption of Res. 12-08 (*TB* 166). In adopting Res. 12-09 (*TB* 166) an annual goal of $2 million for World Relief/World Hunger projects was established, and constituent congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod were encouraged to contribute a minimum of one dollar per year per communicant member toward these projects. After agreeing to cease debate, the convention adopted Res. 12-10 (*TB* 167), authorizing the Board of Stewardship to intensify the Keys for Christ fund-raising effort to attain an additional $250,000 for the revolving fund for housing for low-income families and the elderly. After adopting an amendment which would place the words "and for promised faculty salary increases" after the word "authorized" and before the word "shall" in line 17 of Res. 12-11 (*TB* 260), it clarified the policy of synodical spending by stating that resolutions which involved expenditure of funds in 1979—81, with the exclusion of capital expenditures for which borrowing may have been specifically authorized, and of promised faculty salary increases, were to be interpreted and carried out as being mandatory only to the extent that there are current revenues excluding borrowed funds available in those years for these purposes. Since the goal of $1,500,000 to support the work of Black ministry had not been reached, the convention agreed by adoption of Res. 12-12 (*TB* 292) that the Black Centennial Committee should continue its work for another biennium, and urged the congregations of the Synod to support this work with their prayers and offerings. With the adoption of this resolution the work of Committee 12 was declared to be completed.

Point of Privilege

Responding to a request by Dr. August Mennicke, in gratitude for the resolutions which had just been passed, the delegates were led in prayer by Dr. Preus and joined in the singing of the Common Doxology.

Administration

Chairman Alvin Kollmann of the Floor Committee on Administration introduced Res. 4-14 (*TB* 112), which directed the Board of Directors in concert with the Board for Higher Education to make funds available to fulfill a second salary adjustment for faculties. This resolution was adopted after amending it with a second resolved which stated, *"Resolved,* That the Board of Directors be directed to implement this resolution retroactive to Feb. 1, 1979." [However, see minutes of Session 11]. After substituting the words "synodical institutions are" for "college is" in line 19 (*TB* 254), the delegates adopted Res. 4-28 (*TB* 254), which directed the Board for Higher Education to elevate salaries to a level commensurate with the suggested salary scale and benefits as recommended for parish pastors in the respective Districts in which these institutions are located. After placing the word "the" between the words "and" and "secondary" in line 26 (*TB* 252) and capitalizing the word "congregation" in lines 38, 45, and 48 (*TB* 252), Res. 4-15A (*TB* 252) was adopted, commending Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Honolulu for its vision and encouraging it to appeal directly to the California-Nevada-Hawaii District Church Extension Fund for funds, and encouraged other Church Extension Funds throughout the Synod to assist the District and Redeemer Congregation by making special designated investments in the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod for this purpose. By adoption of Res. 4-16A (*TB* 252—253) the Treasurer of the Synod was



Deaf himself, Archie D. Marshall receives John of Beverly Award for service to the deaf. A man who stands tall!

directed to develop a procedure whereby institutions are credited with interest earnings based on the monthly average balance of funds on deposit, and that where advances have been made for operating needs a similar procedure for charging interest to such institutions would be developed. These procedures are to be submitted to the Board for Higher Education for approval and adoption retroactive to July 1, 1979, and are subject to the final approval of the Board of Directors. After placing a comma after the "i.e." in line 35 and changing the word "further" to "finally" in lines 35—36 (*TB* 253), the committee introduced Res. 4-18A (*TB* 253), which called for a study of the special needs of rural and small-town churches and the designation of a Rural Concerns Sunday throughout the Synod. This resolution was adopted as presented by the committee. Resolution 4-17 (*TB* 113) was adopted, giving high priority to youth ministry.

Recognition

Rev. Howard Schoenfeldt of the Lutheran Friends of the Deaf presented the John of Beverly Award to Mr. Archie D. Marshall for his service to the Lutheran Church in the area of deaf missions, including five years of service as editor of the *Deaf Lutheran.* In a signed response, which was interpreted to the delegates, Mr. Marshall, an artist by profession specializing in design, expressed his deep gratitude for this award and reviewed the ways in which the Lord has led him into service to the church.

Announcement

Dr. Norman Sell, Treasurer of the Synod, was granted time to explain checkout procedures from hotels to the delegates. In response to a question which had previously been asked from the floor, he also announced that through February 1979 the total offering for the Black Centennial amounted to $325,000.

Minutes

Before presenting the minutes of Sessions 5 and 6 for approval, a number of corrections were made. In line 22 (*TB* 302) the words "Res. 3-10" were changed to "Res. 10-3." The name of Gustav W. Wesch was deleted in line 56 (*TB* 302) since he had not been elected to the office. In line 51 the name "Propst" was changed to "Rost" and the word "Letters" was changed to "Laws" in line 52 (*TB* 304). Since there were no other substantive changes, the minutes of Sessions 5 and 6 were adopted as corrected.

Missions

Discussion of Res. 1-12A (*TB* 183—184), which had been begun in a previous session, was resumed. This resolution called for an increase in churches and membership. An amendment calling for the addition of a second resolved between the first and second resolveds presented by the committee stating, "That our congregations be encouraged to open doors through their worship services, Christian day schools, Sunday schools, and other parish activities to welcome and minister to all people in their area; and be it further" was introduced. The delegates approved this change and then adopted Res. 1-12 A (*TB* 183) as amended. By approval of Res. 1-07 (*TB* 48) they also agreed to the establishment of functioning Church Extension Fund programs in 10 partner churches/mission fields. At this point Mr. Fred Lietz, president of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod, presented a replica of the first note issued by the fund to President Preus. Following this the delegates viewed a film presentation related to the fund entitled "CEF . . . It Touches You." After viewing this film the convention adopted Res. 1-15 (*TB* 53), which encouraged participation by the Districts in the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod.

Presentation

Dr. Preus presented Rev. Paul Fynn, president of the Lutheran Church of Ghana, to the delegates. In his remarks Pastor Fynn described his experiences at previous conventions of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, after which he went home, prayed, and told his people that the Synod needed their prayers. In attendance at the present convention he has seen an answer to the prayers in the unity and peace which he observed. He described the problems which are faced in his country and pointed out that a door is opening for missionary work in Togo.

Missions

After hearing from Pastor Fynn, the delegates adopted Res. 1-18A (*TB* 185) and adopted the mission challenge for the 1980s to open 10 new mission fields overseas.

Presentation

President Preus next introduced President Chyu of the China Evangelical Lutheran Church, which has its headquarters in Taiwan. Missionary Henry Rowold, who interpreted for President Chyu, was also introduced. In his remarks President Chyu reviewed his background and training and indicated the broad scope of the work of the church in Taiwan. He pointed out that

there is a special need for the Gospel on the mainland of China and that this is a tremendous challenge since there are only 26 pastors presently in Taiwan. While manpower is limited, he expressed the hope that The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod would help with all forms of support in bringing the Gospel to mainland China.

Orders of the Day

The chairman announced that unless there would be objections from the floor, an additional 15 minutes would be granted to the Floor Committee on Missions for consideration of their resolutions. No objection was received.

Missions

Continuing to express its concern for the expansion of mission activity, the convention adopted Res. 1-19 (*TB* 54), which called for the beginning of literacy and Bible translation work in 10 spoken languages not yet reduced to writing. During discussion of the resolution, Missionary John Fajen described the passage of this resolution as one of the happiest moments in his life. Pastor Fajen, who has been involved in the translation of spoken languages in Nigeria, pointed out that 18 years ago, when he began his work, this type of action was opposed. By adoption of Res. 1-20 (*TB* 55) the convention adopted the mission challenge for the '80s of 600 new missionaries from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod serving partner churches/mission fields and asked that special attention and highest priority be given to the recruitment, training, and placement of qualified cross-cultural missionaries for work in and with partner churches/mission fields.

Theology and Church Relations

Chairman Richard Schlecht of the Floor Committee on Church Relations introduced Res. 3-08 (*TB* 99), which called for accepting the report of the Board of Directors on the SELC and LCMS merger. The delegates adopted this resolution and agreed to the postponement of the date for this merger since the reasons for it were primarily financial and administrative. In adopting Res. 3-09 (*TB* 100) they directed the President of the Synod, in consultation with the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, to invite the Lutheran Church in America to reconsider its decision not to hold discussions with the LCMS on issues that separate the two church bodies and requested a report to the Synod on progress which has been made as a result of this renewed invitation. During the discussion of Res. 3-10 (*TB* 100) the delegates declined to accept an amendment which would add to the third resolved the words "and that the implementation of this resolution be in accordance with the preamble of the LCMS Constitution, where it states that one of the two reasons for forming a synodical union relates to 'our Lord's will that the diversities of gifts should be for the common profit' (1 Cor. 12:4-31)." Because of an obvious editorial error, the word "objectives" in line 46 (*TB* 100) was changed to the singular. After agreeing to cease debate, the delegates adopted Res. 3-10 (*TB* 100) as presented by the floor committee. Since the Synod has always exercised its right and responsibility to state what it believes, since the adopted and ratified doctrinal statements are to be regarded as the corporate position of the Synod and are to be honored and upheld until such time as they are amended or repealed, and since the *Handbook* provides for the right of dissent to doctrinal statements, the convention declined to amend Dallas Res. 3-07, dealing with the formation and adoption of doctrinal statements. This action was taken by approval of Res. 3-11 (*TB* 101). It also agreed to decline Overture 3-44 (*CW* 104—105), which asked for reconsideration of New Orleans Res. 3-01 and 3-09. After adopting Res. 3-12 (*TB* 101) and changing the title to read, "To Decline Again to Act on New Orleans Resolutions 3-01 and 3-09," the convention agreed by common consent to change the title once more to read, "To Decline Overture 3-44 on New Orleans Resolutions 3-01 and 3-09" because the title was subject to misunderstanding. By the adoption of Res. 3-13 (*TB* 101) the delegates declined to change the doctrinal review process since it has served the Synod well and since an ongoing system of auditing the process is in effect. Because Dallas Res. 3-25 expresses the intent of Article VI, 2, b, of the Constitution of the Synod, because there is no compelling reason to revise the resolution, and because the Commission on Theology and Church Relations is in the process of preparing a comprehensive report on the nature and implications of the concept of fellowship, the convention adopted Res. 3-14 (*TB* 102) and declined overtures calling for the adoption of guidelines for participating in ecumenical worship services, weddings, and other Lutheran/non-Lutheran observances. After agreeing to extend the session time by 15 minutes and after brief discussion, the delegates adopted Res. 3-15 (*TB* 102), which asked that congregations, Circuit Counselors, and District Presidents be diligent and pastoral in their ministry to congregations and their pastors when these pastors attack the Synod's doctrinal position and in various ways work at cross purposes to it. As its final resolution the Floor Committee on Theology and Church Relations asked that Overture L3-66 (*TB* 209), dealing with worship help for refugees, be included in Resolution A (with reference to the Commission on Worship) adopted earlier in the convention. With the adoption of this resolution the work of the Floor Committee on Theology and Church Relations was declared completed.

Closing Devotion

Closing devotion for the session was conducted by Dr. Andrew Chiu, president of the Lutheran Church—Hong Kong Synod. During the devotion he listed a number of occurrences which indicate that God may be opening the doors in mainland China for the spread of the Gospel. The devotion closed with a prayer led by Dr. Chiu.

Session 11

July 12, Morning

Opening Devotion

In the opening devotion for the session the chaplain for the convention, Dr. Nitz, led the delegates in the singing of a hymn on the theme of the convention, "God Opens Doors," written by Carl E. Zahrte, found on page 314 of *Today's Business,* and in the morning prayer on that same page. The devotion was closed with a brief meditation.

Higher Education

Chairman John Zimmermann of the Floor Committee on Higher Education presented Res. 6-11 (*TB* 129) to the delegates, calling for the provision of graduate school fellowships for potential faculty members. An amendment to substitute the words, "WHEREAS, Our Synod maintains graduate schools at St. Louis, Fort Wayne, River Forest, and Seward which offer accredited advanced degrees" for the third whereas, and to change "school" to "schools" in line 55 (*TB* 129) was declined. The resolution was then adopted as presented. After hearing from President Glenn O'Shoney of the Texas District, who stated reasons for the expansion, and after some further discussion, Res. 6-12A (*TB* 195) was adopted, granting Concordia College, Austin, Texas, authorization to move to four-year status under the guidance and direction of the Board for Higher Education and the Board of Control of the college. The junior year of the program at Austin is to be begun no earlier than the fall term of 1980.

Reconsideration

A delegate who had voted on the prevailing side during the passage of Res. 4-14 (*TB* 112) as amended made a motion for reconsideration of the resolution with particular reference to the amendment which required the Board of Directors to implement a second faculty salary adjustment retroactive to Feb. 1, 1979. A call for a division of the house showed that the delegates by a vote of 503 to 429 expressed their desire to do so. After discussion and after agreeing to cease debate on the amendment, they then declined it. Resolution 4-14 (*TB* 112) was then adopted as originally presented by the committee.

Point of Privilege

The delegate who had moved for reconsideration requested the privilege of making a motion which he felt would deal adequately with similar situations in the future. He was asked to refer his proposed resolution to a committee for consideration before it was presented.

Higher Education

Resolution 6-13 (*TB* 130), calling for recognition and encouragement of creative programs for church ministry, was adopted. In this resolution the colleges were thanked for designing and establishing creative programs for special ministries, and the Board for Higher Education in consultation with the Commission on Theology and Church Relations was asked to study the various emerging ministries of the church in order to define and standardize their program of preparation. Congregations of the Synod are to be alerted to the various kinds of special ministries available to the church and were encouraged to utilize these ministries wherever possible for the proclamation of the Gospel. By adopting Res. 6-14A (*TB* 195) the convention directed the Board of Assignments to return to the placement procedures for teacher candidates which were in effect prior to May 1977 and requested it to review its placement procedures for teacher candidates and report to the 1981 convention. A call for a division of the house showed that this resolution had been adopted by a vote of 530 to 296.

Point of Privilege

Dr. Ralph Bohlmann, president of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, was granted a point of privilege to address the convention, expressing his concern about the action taken by the convention in its reconsideration of Res. 4-14 (*TB* 112). He stated that it was his view, as well as that of other presidents of higher educational institutions of the Synod, that the problem of faculty salaries still remained unsolved. A proposed resolution which was offered by a delegate at this point was referred to Committee 12 after brief discussion.

Higher Education

Following this action the delegates adopted Res. 6-15 (*TB* 131), which asked the Districts concerned with urban ministry to secure appropriate funds for the establishment of vicarages and teaching internships in urban parishes and schools. An amendment offered after this resolution was adopted, calling for the funding of 10 such vicarages, was declined. Since the director of Christian education is an approved ministry of the Synod and it is therefore appropriate to include colloquy procedures towards becoming directors of Christian education, the responsibility of implementing and supervising the colloquy program for this office was assigned to the Colloquy Board for the Teaching Ministry, and the necessary Bylaws were adopted (Res. 6-17A, *TB* 196). By adopting Res. 6-18A (*TB* 197) Bylaw 6.53 b of the *Handbook* was changed to allow for the development of a list of approved potential faculty members for initial appointment at institutions of higher education of the Synod. After inserting the word "continued" between the words "the" and "provision" on line 37 (*TB* 134), the Floor Committee on Higher Education introduced Res. 6-20 (*TB* 134), calling for an intensification of recruitment efforts for church vocations. This resolution was adopted as presented. By adopting it the convention asked that each pastor, teacher, parish worker, and parishioner pray for the success of recruitment efforts as well as carry on intensified personal efforts for enlisting capable, dedicated people into church vocations. It also urged the Board for Higher Education to assign a high priority to

the continued provision of materials and programs to assist in recruitment, and it challenged congregations and Districts to increase their financial support to underwrite the synodical share of training expense for church workers. Since the concerns expressed in Overture 6-31 (*CW* 191) are covered by the Bylaws of the Synod, the delegates adopted Res. 6-22 (*TB* 135), declining the request for uniform evaluation of all theological professors. As their final resolution, the Floor Committee on Higher Education presented an unprinted resolution which stated:

> WHEREAS, Dr. Arthur Ahlschwede has spent his active and public life in the teaching ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and
>
> WHEREAS, He has served the Synod for 23 years as an executive secretary for the Board for Higher Education; and
>
> WHEREAS, He will be retiring from this position at the close of 1979; therefore be it
>
> *Resolved,* That the Synod in convention thank God for all of the blessings God has given to Dr. Ahlschwede and through his leadership to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod these many years; and be it further
>
> *Resolved,* That the Synod in convention wish him the Lord's continued rich blessing in the years ahead.

Following this Dr. Erhardt P. Weber, president of Concordia College, Portland, Oreg., read a citation which recognized the dedicated and faithful work of Dr. Arthur Ahlschwede, Executive Secretary of the Board for Higher Education. Dr. Ahlschwede responded briefly with thanks, and the rising ovation which was given him was declared to be a passage of the resolution. In response to a question from the floor, asking why Res. 6-16 (*TB* 132) had been withdrawn from consideration, the chairman of the floor committee stated that this had been done because the present wording of Bylaw 4.51 is adequate and no change in wording is necessary.

Bible Study

Dr. Hoffmann, Bible study leader for the convention, again led the delegates in a study of sections of the Book of Acts. At the conclusion of the study session the delegates expressed their appreciation for Dr. Hoffmann and his excellent leadership by their applause. President Preus also expressed his appreciation to Dr. Hoffmann for providing the inspirational study.

Guests

President Preus introduced Rev. Ervin Dobberstein, president of the Evangelical Lutheran Federation. He brought greetings from that church body and from Faith Evangelical Lutheran Seminary of Tacoma, Wash. President Dobberstein expressed his desire to work closely with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in the work which God has placed before all of us. Dr. James Crumley, president of the Lutheran Church in America, the largest and oldest Lutheran denomination in the United States, was introduced to the convention. In his remarks he pointed out that he had not seen much news about the convention but that this was not surprising because when we are busy about the Lord's business the actions are often not recognized by the news media. He brought greetings from the Lutheran Church in America and spoke of his family ties with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, which included membership as a child in a church served by Dr. William Arndt. He pointed out that there are two basic concerns which the Lutheran Church in America and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod share. The first is that of a primary theology based on the revelation of the Scriptures. The Lutheran Church in America wants to be counted in the company of confessors and has adopted as a theme for its biennium, "Confessing Christ Today." The second concern to which he referred is that the style in which the church must operate is pastoral in nature. This is true of both the Lutheran Church in America and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. He concluded his remarks by asking that God would bless the convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the work to which it has committed itself.

Announcements

President Preus announced that from a slate of approximately 50 people, the Board of Directors had chosen Dr. Gerhardt Hyatt, president of Concordia College, St. Paul, Minn., to lead the Synod in its $40-million fund effort. Addressing the delegates, Dr. Hyatt stated that he was humbled because of his awareness of the assignment but also greatly encouraged because of the attitude of the delegates. He stated that if this reflects the attitudes of the congregations, he had no fear that the funding effort would be successful. Dr. Hyatt stated that he felt we needed a higher self-perception as a church. It is our Synod and we are proud of it. He concluded by saying that we will not be raising funds for the Synod but for the Lord and will not be talking about the size of the offering but about the depth of the love of our Savior, who did not shun the cross, and asked the delegates to join him in this venture of faith.

Missions

Chairman Happel of the Floor Committee on Missions introduced Res. 1-21 (*TB* 55—56), which called for the fostering of the development of mission emphases in synodical schools through the offering of necessary mission courses in the curriculum of each synodical terminal school in cooperation with the Board for Missions. This resolution was adopted as presented. Prior to the introduction of the next resolution the delegates were addressed by Missionary Allen Konrad, who has begun missionary work in Liberia. He described the progress which is being made there in this first mission outreach of the Synod since 1964. Resolution 1-22 (*TB* 56) was adopted, amending Bylaw 1.61d to provide for adequate missionary representatives at synodical conventions. President Preus next introduced Dr. Won Sang Ji and Missionary Hilbert Riemer from Korea. Dr. Ji's remarks, interpreted by Missionary Riemer, pointed out that there is a non-Christian majority of 85 percent in South Korea. In addition there are 16 million people in North Korea who need to hear the



Our partner church presidents, our overseas missionaries, and our Board for Missions

Gospel, as well as two million people of Korean ethnic background in mainland China. As he concluded his statements, he presented a set of liturgical stoles to Dr. Edward Westcott to be given to a new mission to be begun in the United States. Dr. Westcott thanked him for the gift and accepted the responsibility of assigning the stoles. After declining an amendment which would have required all special foreign-language individuals in this country to become proficient in the English language, the delegates adopted Res. 1-23A (*TB* 185), which called for the recruitment of workers for ethnic and special ministries. The adoption of this resolution included the adoption of the goal of recruiting 100 Hispanics, 150 Blacks, 50 native Americans, 20 Asian Americans, 50 workers for deaf ministry, 20 of whom were deaf, and a sufficient number of campus pastors for full-time church service in these several ministries. The delegates also requested that the Board for Missions report on the progress in the training of cross-cultural workers for these fields at the next convention. Before the passage of the resolution the word "sensitive" had been added at the end of line 54 (*TB* 185). After changing the wording of the last resolved by common consent so that it read, *"Resolved,* That all synodical delegates prayerfully commit themselves to the task of working to implement this challenge within their Circuits and congregations as begun in this convention" (line 32—33, *TB* 186), the delegates adopted Res. 1-24A (*TB* 186), which asked for the preparation and distribution of at least five mission Bible studies which promote mission awareness to the congregations of the Synod, who were challenged to complete these mission Bible studies during the 1980s, so that a mission awareness might be developed within the congregations. President Preus next introduced President Arnulfo Dominguez of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico to the convention. Missionary Garry McClure interpreted his remarks to the delegates. President Dominguez brought greetings in the name of the Savior to the members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and described the scope of the work in Mexico, which is primarily a Roman Catholic country. By adopting Res. 1-25A (*TB* 186) the convention asked the President of the Synod, in consultation with the Executive Secretary of the Board for Missions and the Stewardship Counselor, to appoint a committee of five to prepare practical guidelines and materials for distribution to the congregations of the Synod by Jan. 15, 1980, for the establishment of mission committees/boards in local congregations, and asked each congregation to give serious study and consideration to the establishment of a local mission committee/board. The delegates amended Res. 1-26 (*TB* 59) by adding a last resolved which stated, *"Resolved,* That the Board for Missions study the feasibility of a volunteer mission program as described in Overture 1-12 (*CW* 49) and report findings and recommendations to the 1981 synodical convention. One aspect of this study shall be the identification of lay members who will willingly become self-supporting missionaries. Congregations are encouraged to help the board identify such

members as are professional workers at the congregation and District level." The delegates adopted this resolution, encouraging the identification and training of lay expatriates for effective witness. The convention next adopted Res. 1-27A (*TB* 187) and thereby adopted the mission challenge for the 1980s of a 100% increase plus inflation in the mission budget of the Synod and asked the Board of Stewardship, working with the Board for Missions, to see to it that this challenge for the 1980s is met to the glory of God and the expansion of His kingdom. Prior to considering the next resolution, Dr. G. Thomas Edward, president of the India Evangelical Lutheran Church, was introduced to the delegates. He described the challenges which lie before the church in India and stated its intention to become self-reliant in pastoral ministry by 1985. He concluded his remarks by asking the delegates to remember the India Evangelical Lutheran Church in their prayers. The delegates expressed their thanks to all agencies, auxiliary organizations, and fraternal benevolent societies for their contributions by adopting Res. 1-31 (*TB* 62). After declining to consider an amendment which was ruled a substitute motion calling for withdrawal from comity arrangements, Res. 1-32A (*TB* 187) was adopted as presented. The resolution called for a review and evaluation of the guidelines governing comity arrangements and their implementation in the light of our mission and church planning strategy and for a report of the findings at the next convention of the Synod. Since campus ministry is under the jurisdiction of the Districts of the Synod, it was resolved that the concerns expressed in Overture 1-14 (*CW* 49) be addressed to the proper Districts so that they might be met there (Res. 1-33, *TB* 62). The convention agreed that the present administration of blind and deaf ministries should be continued and declined to separate the administration of these two ministries or to establish a separate Commission to the Deaf at this time (Res. 1-34, *TB* 63). Having brought the work of the Floor Committee on Missions to completion, Chairman Happel expressed thanks on behalf of the committee to the staff of the Board for Missions and to the members of that board, without whom it would have been impossible to prepare the resolutions and complete the work.

Devotion

After all missionaries and representatives of partner churches had gathered on the podium at the invitation of Rev. Wilbert Sohns, chairman of the Board for Missions, President Preus led the delegates in a prayer of dedication and commitment to the work of missions, asking for wisdom and power to accomplish the goals which had been established at this convention. The entire convention then joined in the singing of the hymn "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing."

Session 12

July 12, Afternoon

Opening Devotion

After the singing of a hymn the chaplain for the convention, Dr. Nitz, introduced Rev. Nelson Unwene, vice-president of The Lutheran Church of Nigeria, who provided the meditation for the last session of the convention. Basing his remarks on Phil. 4:19, he reviewed the actions of the convention and pointed out that God often opens doors but that we are afraid to enter. Yet, as He did for St. Paul, God will supply our every need. The devotion was closed with prayer.

Minutes

The minutes of Sessions 7, 8, and 9 were approved as submitted.

Point of Privilege

Dr. Willis Wright, president of Alabama Lutheran Academy and College, thanked the delegates for implementing the resolution adopted at Dallas calling for the building of a library at Selma. The library is scheduled for completion in September. The date for dedication of the building has been set for Feb. 10, 1980, when the Council of Presidents will be meeting on the campus.

Announcements

It was announced that a delegate attending the convention had had his van stolen with all of his camping gear. Delegates who wished to assist him in meeting the needs which he faced were asked to deposit any funds which they wished to donate with the Vice-President of the Northwest District. President Preus reported that there were 24 resolutions still pending requiring action before the end of the convention.

Point of Privilege

After being granted a point of privilege, a delegate made a motion that "we covenant with one another that this become the last convention at which a list of preferred candidates is provided to the delegates or any part of them." After some discussion, this motion was declined. [See also Minutes, Session 1]



Two thousand miles on a motorcycle? To a synodical convention?!?

Administration

Chairman Alvin Kollmann of the Floor Committee on Administration introduced Res. 4-19 (*TB* 114) to the convention after changing the title of the resolution to read, "To Decline Overture on Investments in Mission Properties." Since they agreed that the supervision of mission congregations, subsidies, loans, and loan repayments are generally under the jurisdiction of District Boards of Directors and that business and legal involvements in such matters should generally not be dealt with at the synodical level, the delegates agreed that Overture 4-44 (*CW* 149) should be declined and adopted the resolution. After adding the words "and District" in lines 28 and 33 after the word "synodical," the convention adopted Res. 4-20 (*TB* 114) and resolved that the salary grid scale of all synodical and District officials, staff, and faculty members should be made available upon request from the Administrative Officer of the synodical Board of Directors. It adopted Res. 4-21 (*TB* 114), which recommended that action on auxiliary status for Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ be postponed until the Task Force recommendations have been considered. After considering Res. 4-22 (*TB* 114), which asked that future funding for "Effectiveness Training for Lutherans" (ETL) for parents, teachers, and pastors be provided, the delegates resolved instead, "That we refer this resolution to the CTCR for doctrinal review of the theological philosophy of ETL and then require the Board of Parish Education to ask the Board of Directors for their approval before any moneys are appropriated by the Board of Parish Education." Since the publication of a journal by a synodical seminary does not have official synodical status or supervision and is the fiscal responsibility of the school and not a separate budget responsibility of the Board of Directors, they agreed that Overture 4-46 (*CW* 149), calling for the subsidizing of theological journals, should be declined (Res. 4-23, *TB* 115). By adoption of Res. 4-24 (*TB* 115) they also declined an overture which asked that mailing of the *Concordia Theological Quarterly* to overseas missionaries be subsidized. After changing the title of Res. 4-25 (*TB* 115) to read, "To Ratify Action re Full-Time Position for Treasurer," the committee introduced the resolution for discussion. By adoption of this resolution the convention ratified the action of the Board of Directors which recognized the office of the Treasurer of the Synod as a full-time salaried position. After adding the report of the synodical President found in *Today's Business,* pages 211—220 to its list of reports to be received, the committee introduced Res. 4-27 (*TB* 116). By adoption of the resolution the convention agreed to receive these reports. In adopting Res. 4-26A (*TB* 253) it agreed that because of some lack of clarity regarding the need for executive committees of synodical boards and because the Board of Directors has referred the question of executive committees to the Task Force, no formal executive committees should be established through the Bylaws until the Task Force recommendations are dealt with, and that until this has occurred each board and commission may designate a committee consisting of two or more members of that board or commission to have and exercise its authority when necessary. In adopting Res. 4-29 (*TB* 254) the delegates agreed that because of confusion generated by the name of the "Concordia Welfare Plan" the Board of Managers—Worker Benefit Plans should be authorized to study, recommend, and/or implement plans to rename this Plan and report its findings and actions to the 1981 convention of the Synod. With the adoption of this resolution the work of the Floor Committee on Administration was declared completed.

Parish Services

Dr. Victor Constien, Executive Secretary of the Board of Parish Education, reminded the delegates that this is the "Year of the Child." He introduced Joanne Eisenberg, who has been spearheading the work related to a proper observance of it. She in turn introduced the Christ Community Choir, consisting of kindergarten children under the direction of Margaret Glasgow. The choir sang several numbers, one of them in four different langauges. John Speckhard, curriculum publishing planner at Concordia Publishing House, informed the delegates of a survey which had been conducted during the past year for the purpose of identifying the outstanding vacation Bible school. From a number of possibilities St. Michael Lutheran Church of Tallahassee, Fla., had been selected. This is a church of 56 communicant members, with 110 enrolled in its vacation Bible school, 80 of whom are from unchurched homes. Arlon Rueter, editor of vacation Bible school materials, presented a citation to Dr. Ben Eggers, education executive of the Florida-Georgia District, recognizing St. Michael Lutheran Church. A painting depicting the art theme for the 1978 vacation Bible school materials was also presented to President L. Lloyd Behnken of the Florida-Georgia District. These presentations brought the work of the Floor Committee on Parish Services to completion.

Awards

Mr. Wilbur Tewes, president of the Lutheran Education Association, was introduced to the delegates. In his remarks he described the practice of the association in presenting an annual award to one or more outstanding teachers. The "Christus Magister" award was then presented to Walter Bleke, of St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth, Mich., for his outstanding work and to Dr. Arthur Ahlschwede, Executive Secretary of the Board for Higher Education, who was described as "Mr. Higher Education." Both men responded briefly, expressing their thanks for the opportunity to serve their Lord together with many faithful and dedicated colleagues.

Recognition

President Preus gave special recognition to Carl Muhlenbruch, a retiring member of the Board of Directors of the Synod, who unfortunately was absent because of his wife's illness, for his work and recognized the contributions which had been made by other past

members of the board who had served faithfully and well.

Task Force

Because of the matter of excommunication referred to in the Constitution article proposed by Res. 2-06 (*TB* 71—72) and the lack of clarity associated with the wording of the proposed article, the delegates agreed with the committee through the adoption of Res. 2-06A (*TB* 315) to refer this matter to the new Task Force for study in consultation with the Commission on Constitutional Matters and the Commission of Adjudication. By adopting Res. 2-16 (*TB* 315) the delegates joined the floor committee in expressing their gratitude to the Task Force for the work which had been done. With the adoption of this resolution the work of the floor committee was declared to be complete

Program Implementation

Responding to action taken in the previous session, the Floor Committee on Program Implementation presented a resolution to the delegates calling for the funding of faculty salary increases. After agreeing to add the words "and directed" after the words "authorized" in the first resolved, the convention adopted the following resolution (Res. 12-13) as amended:

> *Resolved,* That the Board of Directors be authorized and directed to allocate $700,000 to the Board for Higher Education specifically for faculty salaries (Dallas 6-02), effective July 1, 1979; and be it further
>
> *Resolved,* That we ask congregations to increase contributions for this purpose; and be it further
>
> *Resolved,* That we ask colleges and seminaries to review their fiscal practices to help support this need; and be it further
>
> *Resolved,* That this convention authorize the Board of Directors to borrow funds for this purpose if necessary; and be it finally
>
> *Resolved,* That borrowing for this resolution be excluded from the Dallas resolution limiting deficit spending for calendar 1979.

Announcement

At this point it was announced that an offering received for the delegate whose van had been stolen reached a total of $2,047.08. The delegate, James Puttler, thanked the delegates for this offering and stated that any funds remaining after needs had been met would be used for seed money for a preschool and kindergarten in his congregation.

Social Ministry

Discussion of Res. 8-07 (*TB* 148), which had been begun in a previous session, was resumed. This resolution, which called for updating the Bylaws regarding social concerns and welfare to include contemporary terminology in this area, was adopted as presented by the committee. After adding the words "or engage pastoral counselors" between the words "services" and "in" in line 27 (Res. 8-08, *TB* 149) and after brief discussion, the resolution was adopted, changing Bylaw 13.02 to include the functions and duties of pastoral counselors. Strong support for the establishment of social ministry boards in Districts and in the parishes was reaffirmed in the adoption by the delegates of Res. 8-10 (*TB* 150), and parishes were urged to utilize the brochure "Christ and Social Ministry," prepared by the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief, in any way which would inform and inspire them to be better equipped for service to Christ and His people (Res. 8-11, *TB* 151). After agreeing by common consent to change the word "humanizing" to "reforming" in line 24 (*TB* 256) and declining an amendment which would have added lines 3—26 (*TB* 147) as two additional resolveds, as well as an amendment which would have added as point 9 in one of these resolveds the words "abolish capital punishment," the delegates adopted Res. 8-04A (*TB* 256). This resolution encouraged a concern for criminal justice and asked the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief, with the assistance of other program boards, to design activities which would be helpful in the American criminal justice system, incorporating concerns for this matter from a Biblical point of view in informational brochures prepared jointly by that board and the Board of Parish Education. After agreeing to add as a third resolved the words, *"Resolved,* That the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief also provide materials and guidance to Districts and congregations concerning other ways in which consumers themselves can help hold down the rate of increase in hospital costs," the delegates adopted Res. 8-09A (*TB* 256). This resolution, which dealt with the high costs of medical care, asked the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief to express this concern to appropriate medical and hospital associations appealing for continued restraint in cost increases, and to provide materials and guidance to the congregations on ways in which members may effectively evaluate and influence legislation in Federal and State governments to counteract excessive increases in the cost of health services. Adoption of this resolution completed the work of the Floor Committee on Social Ministry.

Special and Sundry Matters

The convention resumed discussion of Res. 9-07 (*TB* 157), which had been begun in an earlier session. At that time an amendment calling for the addition of the words



A quick response to an urgent need

"to remind congregations" between the words "presidents" and "to" on line 64 (*TB* 157) was under consideration. After brief discussion the delegates declined the amendment and adopted Res. 9-07 (*TB* 157) as presented by the committee.This resolution asked District Presidents to see to it that church workers, in their first placement, were provided with fair living conditions and remuneration. By the adoption of Res. 9-08 (*TB* 158) the delegates agreed to add the 75th anniversary of the Texas District to the list of significant anniversaries to be observed during the next biennium. By a rising vote they also accepted Res. 9-09 (*TB* 158), thanking God for lay people who have actively supported, protected, and promoted the orthodox teachings of our church down through the years. The report of the Commission of Adjudication, which showed that the commission had reviewed and disposed of all disputes and controversies brought before it, was received with the adoption of Res. 9-10 (*TB* 158). This completed the work of the Floor Committee on Special and Sundry Matters.

Registration and Credentials

The final report of the Floor Committee on Registrations and Credentials was presented to the convention. The report after audit showed a total registration of 1,727 persons in the following categories: voting pastors, 558; voting laymen, 558; advisory pastors, 64; advisory teachers, 140; official representatives, 312; ad hoc committees, 6; youth, 43; special invited guests, 32; convention committee, 8; *Today's Business*, 6.

Point of Privilege

Responding to a point of privilege which was granted, a delegate made the motion to commend President Preus for the manner in which the convention had been handled. The delegates expressed their agreement with a standing ovation.

Announcements

President Preus called on Dr. Norman Sell, Treasurer of the Synod, for several important announcements. In his brief report, Dr. Sell informed the delegates that a number of conversations had been held with Mr. Fred Rutz, a member of one of the congregations of the Synod, who had questioned the Synod's financial reports. The Treasurer stated that all matters of concern had been dealt with and that he had been authorized to state that the pending lawsuit instituted by Mr. Rutz would be dropped. He also reported that a contract had been entered into on a deferred-payment basis for the sale of 16.58 acres of the Springfield campus. A written report on this matter would be prepared soon and would be presented to the Synod. Dr. Sell expressed his particular thanks to Walter Campbell and Harold Olsen, who had been very helpful in working out the details of the contract. Of the Springfield campus, 10 lots, 23 houses, a small church, a parking lot, and land on which the Central Illinois District Office is located, are still in the possession of the Synod.

Points of Privilege

A delegate asked that the hymn which had been prepared on the theme of the convention to the setting of "How Great Thou Art" be included in the new hymnal. This request is to be referred to the Commission on Worship. Responding to another point of privilege which had been granted, a delegate called the attention of the convention to Overture 5-25 (*CW* 161), which had been declined as a substitute resolution earlier in the convention. The overture called for the granting of the vote to lay ministers. After brief discussion of the motion for reconsideration, the delegates adopted a resolution remanding the matter to the new Task Force for further study.

Installation of Officers

Members of boards and commissions who had been elected during the convention and who were present were installed into office by President Preus.

Convention Closing

In his closing remarks President Preus stated that not only *does* God open doors, He *has* opened them. He reviewed the actions of the convention and expressed his thanks to God and to all of the people who were involved in preparations for the convention and in the work during it which had made the convention a success. He expressed his special thanks to the delegates and his pleasure in having had the privilege of chairing the present convention. The delegates were commended to God as they returned to their homes and were dismissed with the benediction. The convention was then brought to a close, as it had been begun, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Walter Rosin, *Assistant Secretary*



The final gavel

Election Results

The following are the results of balloting for boards and commissions of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Those individuals who were elected are indicated by means of an asterisk (*) to the left of the candidate's name:

Board of Directors

	Vote (1)	(2)	(3)
PASTORS			
*Lemke, Ervin R. (SW)	713		
Quill, Grant C. J. (IW)	327		
LAYPERSONS			
Bettin, Roger R. (FG)	392		
Bosma, Charles E. (In)	447		
*Goertz, David H. (On)	604		
Guebert, Kenneth E. (Mo)	392		
*Melde, Gus (Tx)	648		
*Mohr, George H. (SW)	601		
Moser, Marvin O. (Mc)	366		
*Scott, Edward S. (Co)	638		

Commission of Adjudication

	Vote
PASTORS	
Aurich, Leonard A. (Mo)	371
*Elowsky, Earl W. (Mc)	591
*Humann, Roger J. (On)	598
Mueller, Paul C. (IW)	439
LAYPERSONS	
*Doggett, Robert I. (Oh)	635
Garber, Edward H. (SE)	231
Vogt, Kenneth J. (Oh)	144

Board of Appeals

	Vote
PASTORS	
Leege, Robert J. (IW)	416
*Martens, Elden E. (Mt)	644
*Mueller, Bernhard G. (In)	575
Werth, Gerald M. (Co)	396
LAYPERSONS	
Linn, Alton A., Jr. (FG)	453
*Theis, Elmer H. (Tx)	583
*Wahl, Robert L. (IE)	668
Wiening, John T. (Co)	289

Board for Church Extension

	Vote
PASTORS	
*Rusch, Lowell H. (Mc)	535
Schuth, Louis W. (NI)	492
TEACHERS	
Dietrich, Brian R. (FG)	409
*Graebner, Winfried M. (Mc)	630
LAYPERSONS	
*Claussen, Donovan D. (MnS)	704
Morrow, James (NW)	298
*Peterson, Orville E. (Ne)	568
Kurth, Ervin F. (MnS)	407

CPH Board of Directors

	Vote (1)	(2)	(3)
TEACHERS			
Bergt, Harold (Ne)	299		
*Laesch, Roger C. (SW)	363	522	
Linnemann, Arthur L. (Nw)	378	451	
LAYPERSONS			
Brashear, Kermit, II (Ne)	481		
*Kemmerle, Arnold (CN)	553		
*Krueger, Paul W. (CI)	609		
Schemm, Elmer (Mc)	351		

Committee for Convention Nominations

	Vote
PASTORS	
Braem, Theo. A. (MnS)	388
*Bahr, Albert W. (Ea)	659
Happel, Edmund H. (NI)	468
Jung, Donald F. (En)	383
*Korte, Carl (SD)	677
*Krengel, George A. (IW)	569
*Krueger, Willard (NW)	602
*Melchior, Edward F. (SI)	505
*Meyer, Eldor W. (Ne)	682
Pebler, William C. (SC)	275
*Stanfel, Albin J. (On)	632
Tassler, Melvin J. (En)	319
Uhrinak, James S. (MnN)	400
Zeile, Walter L. (NJ)	402
TEACHERS	
*Doehrmann, Loren (In)	640
Gehrs, Martin C. (Mc)	617
Janssen, Gerald (CN)	336
*Krause, Roy C. (Ne)	643
*Laesch, Roger C. (SW)	698
Wesch, Gustav W. (Co)	344
LAYPERSONS	
Brackebusch, Arthur (Mt)	421
*Brown, Laurence (Mc)	525
*Burmeister, Charles (Mo)	674
Busacker, August (SW)	336
*Duewer, Marvin J. (CI)	527
*Farley, Hilton A. (Oh)	552
*Kaylor, Joe W. (SE)	559
Knoepfel, Alvernon L. (Ne)	376
Wackenhuth, Erwin G. (NJ)	404
Wright, Willis (So)	451

Board for Evangelism

	Vote
PASTORS	
Maclachlan, Neal (MnN)	493
*Otto, Edgar J. H. (CI)	530
LAYPERSONS	
Aalbersberg, Ted C. (Mc)	442
*Koehlinger, Gerhard E. (In)	577

Board for Higher Education

	Vote
PASTORS	
*Halm, Dennis Ray (MnS)	554
Taddey, Martin (CN)	480
TEACHERS	
Saeger, Lyle W. (SW)	333
*Straub, Carl (Mc)	668
LAYPERSONS	
*Kercher, Conrad J. (Wy)	640
Ungrodt, Richard (SW)	361

Board for Missions

	Vote (1)	(2)	(3)
PASTORS			
Meier, Robert E. (In)	205		
Nauss, Milton (En)	388	299	363
Rehwinkel, Eugene (NJ)	335	232	
*Schramm, Gustav C. (SC)	478	439	537
*Suelflow, Roy A. (Mo)	627		
TEACHERS			
Koschmann, Paul H. (Ks)	315		
*Wingfield, Albert B. (NI)	674		

LAYPERSONS	Vote		
*Balke, Ernest W. (Tx)	593		
*Dennis, Benjamin G. (Mc)	609		
*Marten, Ralph H. (IW)	634		
Rivers, Ronnie (Ok)	380		
Valdes, Evelio (FG)	427		
Wiese, Mervin (SD)	242		

Board of Parish Education

PASTORS			
Dissen, David V. (FG)	453		
*Schumpe, Wayne E. (In)	493		
TEACHERS			
*Hintz, Dennis (Ks)	649		
Krafft, Arthur (SW)	363		
Piepenbrink, Willis (SW)	287		
*Wildauer, Charles F. (In)	667		
LAYPERSONS			
*McCants, John H. (In)	532		
Williams, Judy E. (Mt)	472		

Board of Stewardship

PASTORS			
Koehneke, Paul A. (Mc)	446		
*Reiss, Harold H. (Co)	568		
*Simcak, Andrew, Jr. (Tx)	629		
Werth, Luther A. (Ks)	327		
LAYPERSONS			
*La Haine, Gilbert E. (Mc)	607		
Watson, Sylvester P. (NI)	378		

Board of Youth Ministry

PASTORS			
*Baumgarn, Jack R. (MnS)	680		
Boche, Richard O. (Wy)	324		
LAYPERSONS			
*Krueger, Rick (Co)	351	533	
Peeks, Gordon (Ne)	302		
Schultz, William E., Jr. (MnN)	314	408	
YOUNG PEOPLE			
*Brauer, Kurt (CI)	596		
Darkow, Jennifer L. (Tx)	442		
*Gergens, Lynn R. (On)	644		
Herbst, Lisa Beth (CI)	285		
*Hofman, Karen E. (Co)	520		
Holtz, Robert E. (SW)	423		
*Hoyer, Jan (Ne)	577		
Koenen, Susan L. (IE)	301		
Synatschk, Patricia (Tx)	341		
*Wiseman, Le Anne (Ne)	616		

Commission on Theology & Church Relations

PASTORS			
Barnes, Bob A. (NW)	321	202	
Fritz, John D. (Tx)	427	348	409
*Korcok, John (On)	472	422	491
Steiner, Luther P. J. (SC)	146		
*Wenthe, Dean O. (IW)	661		
LAYPERSONS			
Hauptmann, Jerzy (Mo)	381		
*Ridgeway, Don (SE)	627		

Board of Control—Ann Arbor

PASTORS			
Hasshold, William J. (FG)	159		
*Nickel, James T. (In)	542		
Schinnerer, Carl F. (Mc)	287		
TEACHERS			
Kinas, Harold (In)	280		
*Schwartz, Justin (Mc)	669		

LAYPERSONS	Vote		
Driessnack, Richard H. (Mc)	345		
Frederick, Herbert C. (Mc)	339		
*Korthals, Richard (Mc)	608		
*Schoenherr, Robert O. (Mc)	582		

Board of Control—Austin

PASTORS			
*Lehnhardt, Marvin H. (So)	329	487	
Pabor, Louis (Tx)	360	455	
Reinhardt, Ronald A. (So)	283		
TEACHERS			
Bolland, Katherine H. (Tx)	266		
Riske, Curtis (Tx)	270	340	
*Schmidt, Donald E. (Tx)	423	588	
LAYPERSONS			
Bauer, Robert (Tx)	468		
*Cadra, Godfrey J. (Tx)	489		
Kracke, Arthur K. (Tx)	340		
*Schroeder, Leonard F. (Tx)	560		

Board of Control—Bronxville

PASTORS			
*Mather, Elwood E., Jr. (At)	536		
Muller, Donald M. (Ea)	202		
Napier, Carl H., Jr. (SE)	228		
TEACHERS			
*Beckman, Robert T. (NE)	637		
Zielske, Edwin E. (SE)	328		
LAYPERSONS			
*Appel, Henry G., Sr. (NJ)	694		
Baal, Robert G. (FG)	133		
Duda, Elizabeth A. (FG)	305		
Foelsch, Clifford L. (Ea)	246		
*Weber, Arnold K. (En)	538		

Board of Control—Concordia, Mo.

TEACHERS			
*Golz, Lester P. (Mo)	620		
Sandfort, Neil (Mo)	320		
LAYPERSONS			
*Eichler, Roger M. (Mo)	516		
Keseman, Charles E. (Mo)	400		
Lottes, John W. (Mo)	390		
*Walquist, Wayne R. (Mo)	548		

Board of Control—Fort Wayne

PASTORS			
Blankenbuehler, Lorenz (Ea)	339		
*Fehl, William H. B. (Mo)	595		
Krueger, R. Robert (Mo)	325		
*Niederbrach, Willard H. (SC)	618		
TEACHERS			
*Bultemeyer, Richard L. (In)	444	565	
Herbst, H. Allen (CI)	256	359	
Kromphardt, Wilbur F. (FG)	253		
LAYPERSONS			
*Biesemeier, John D. (CI)	543		
*Joeckel, Raymond N. (Co)	588		
Lund, Gregor S. (On)	208		
Nordsieck, Herbert H. (Oh)	313		
Vogt, Kenneth J. (Oh)	226		

Board of Control—Irvine
2-Year Term

PASTORS			
Dannenbring, Richard A. (SC)	465		
*Suhr, Marvin E. (SC)	493		

LAYPERSONS	Vote
*Antonovich, Mike D. (SC)	618
*Fickenscher, Edgar H. (SC)	612
Kaden, Harold (CN)	320
Place, William M. (Co)	318

Board of Control—Irvine
4-Year-Term

PASTORS	
Dierker, Eldred W. (SC)	399
*Huscher, Frederick J. (SC)	546
TEACHERS	
*Bergman, Fred E. (SC)	542
Hilst, Helen M. (CN)	401
LAYPERSONS	
Consoer, Leslie (SC)	282
*Molyneaux, Glenn (CN)	635

Board of Control—Milwaukee

PASTORS	
Goodsman, Ronald H. (IW)	320
*Sedory, Elmer J. (NI)	625
TEACHERS	
*Maas, Richard E. (SW)	651
Schaeffer, Orville G. (SW)	274
LAYPERSONS	
Behring, Carl O. (SW)	246
Koepke, Ellis (SW)	312
*Korth, Dale W. (SW)	627
*Matzger, George (SW)	614

Board of Control—Portland

TEACHERS	
*Brosz, Keith E. (Nw)	508
Hartkopf, Walter H. (CN)	454
LAYPERSONS	
*Culley, Roy J. (Nw)	622
Matson, O. Dean (Nw)	327
Meranda, Zane (Nw)	289
*Wisman, Jay F. (Nw)	587

Board of Control—River Forest

PASTORS	
Rossow, Edwin J. (NI)	421
*Wians, Herbert T. (En)	518
TEACHERS	
Busch, Arthur H. (NI)	362
*Carpenter, Robert M. (SW)	555
LAYPERSONS	
*Koeneman, Henry O. (NI)	617
Lusthoff, William G. (NI)	312

Board of Control—St. Louis

PASTORS	
Halboth, Victor F. (En)	358
Hoffmann, Walter J. (Mo)	316
*Rehwaldt, Edgar F. (MnS)	590
*Schmidt, Neil R. (Mo)	627
TEACHERS	
*Bergman, Henry (Mc)	566
Rusch, Wilbert, Jr. (Oh)	339
LAYPERSONS	
*Dissen, Walter C. (En)	575
Moellenhoff, Fred C. (Mo)	372

Board of Control—St. Paul—
4-Year Term

TEACHERS	
*Lohse, Arnold W. (MnS)	660
Meyer, Walter A. (Mo)	262

LAYPERSONS	Vote
*Bartz, Harold W. (MnN)	588
*Degner, Lorenz L (MnS)	617
Keaton, Paul N. (SW)	246
Seltz, Paul H. (IW)	332

Board of Control—St. Paul—
2-Year Term

TEACHERS	
Baganz, Mark (SW)	332
*Golnitz, Robert (MnN)	545
LAYPERSONS	
Nuernberg, Charles (MnS)	389
*Overn, Robert (MnS)	462

Board of Control—Selma

PASTORS		
Bodley, Simon, Jr. (NI)	273	
*Foard, Howard A. (NI)	344	527
Marshall, Frank T. (SE)	316	419
TEACHERS		
Dosien, Robert P. (CI)	351	
*McBride, Mary A. (So)	590	
LAYPERSONS		
Holmes, Willie L. (FG)	318	451
Royal, George (SE)	262	
*Saunders, Nancy (FG)	350	488

Board of Control—Seward

TEACHERS	
*Chandler, F. William (Ne)	622
Koosman, Howard E. (SD)	303
LAYPERSONS	
Hencey, Robert R. (Co)	210
*Herpolsheimer, Robert W. (Ne)	597
*Hokamp, Albert (Ne)	444
Horn, Robert G. (SC)	232
*Krohn, David C. (Ne)	603
Schramm, Ralph W. (IW)	278
Vortman, Gerald (Ne)	297

Board of Control—Winfield

LAYPERSONS	
*Beltz, Sidney (Ks)	485
Meier, Ewald (Ks)	452
*Perry, Robert L., Jr. (Ok)	518
Spitsnogle, Marvin D. (Ne)	360

Special Standing Rules

(These rules were adopted in the first session.)

1. The President shall present in *Today's Business* the agenda of business to come before the convention in the sessions of that day, and the approximate time slots. The chair shall see that this agenda is followed as closely as possible.
2. Resolutions of each floor committee shall be prioritized by number and shall normally be presented in the numerical sequence published in *Today's Business.*
3. Each member of the convention, when recognized by the chair, shall state his name. He shall also state the name of his District or of the administrative unit (board, faculty) he represents.
4. The 2-minute rule shall apply for all who speak from the floor.

5. While any voting delegate may call the question at any time, after every 30 minutes of debate on any one motion there shall be an automatic call of the question by the chair.
6. Instead of only a voice vote on motions before the convention, the chair shall ordinarily also call for the raising of the right hand.
7. If a substitute motion is offered, the convention shall first decide by majority vote whether or not to consider the substitute. If the decision is in the affirmative and the substitute motion is adopted, the original motion falls; if the substitute motion does not receive favorable action either to consider or to adopt, the original motion is again before the house. (This is the so-called "Behnken rule" for dealing with substitute motions.)
8. Questions of privilege shall be addressed in writing to the chair, or its appointee, instead of consuming convention time.
9. In the sessions of the last two days the President shall have the privilege of calling up for action resolutions which in his judgment must be acted upon by the convention before adjournment.
10. Resolutions prepared by the floor committee which are not acted upon by the convention before adjournment die. The subject matter may be reintroduced at the next convention by means of an overture.
11. Minutes shall be distributed every morning in *Today's Business.* The first item of business in the afternoon session shall be the formal approval of these minutes. However, at that time only corrections involving convention action shall be offered from the floor for consideration. Simple editorial corrections involving, for example, misspelling of names and faulty titles and references shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary for incorporation in the minutes after verification. (This standing rule was introduced during the Milwaukee convention and has been in use since.)
12. The preface, preambles, and whereas sections shall be considered an integral part of the resolution, overture, and/or memorial, and as such subject to the same serious consideration and adoption in all its parts as the main motion itself.
13. Unless covered by these standing rules of the convention, parliamentary procedure shall be governed by *Robert's Rules of Order,* newly revised (1970 edition).

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Part I)

(Part I was read to the joint meeting of the floor committees; Part II, to the convention.)

Introduction

In the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, a sincere welcome to you as members of the floor committees of the 53rd regular convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Let me say at the outset that I deeply appreciate your willingness to serve your Lord and His church in this important capacity. Your sacrifice of these days during which you will prepare recommendations to guide the members of over 6,000 congregations in their mission and ministry is truly appreciated.

Floor committees have a great responsibility toward the convention and the Synod. Your proposals weigh heavily on the thinking and decisions of the convention. Therefore it is incumbent upon you to ask hard questions, to gather all possible information, and to frame resolutions which will help the convention to make informed and intelligent decisions regarding our life and our walking together. May God's Holy Spirit give you wisdom and understanding.

Dr. Herbert Mueller, Secretary of the Synod, will be reviewing with you the precise duties of floor committees and the manner in which they are to function. But before he does, I would like to bring certain matters before you which I believe deserve special attention. While action on all reports and overtures is to be taken, certain priority matters must be dealt with. I would like to comment on some of the major issues coming before each floor committee.

I. Missions

This convention is to be a mission convention, as the theme indicates: "God Opens Doors . . ." We have been so fortunate in gaining the services of Dr. Oswald Hoffmann to act as our convention essayist. He has traveled widely, visited most of the mission fields of the Synod, and as speaker for the Lutheran Hour has been engaged in many different ways in "Bringing Christ to the Nations" over a long and distinguished career.

We will also be blessed in having among us national representatives and missionaries of nearly all of the churches which are affiliated in one way or another with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod throughout the world. We will be meeting with and hearing from them every day of the convention. They can tell us better than anyone about the challenges and the problems they encounter as the saving Gospel of Christ spreads from place to place through the doors God opens.

In this connection I want to report that during my 10 years as president I have had the opportunity to visit every church affiliated with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod throughout the world except the work in Sri Lanka (Ceylon) and the Synod of Mexico, which has



Dr. J. A. O. Preus, President

invited me to their convention in August. So I will welcome these overseas people with very great personal warmth. I consider them not only Lutherans from far-off lands, but I consider them good friends, colleagues, and I know them to be dedicated and talented people.

In my travels to these various areas I have had occasion to meet countless pastors and workers and lay people; to see hundreds of churches, schools, hospitals, and other installations; to see the countries in which the work is going on; and to form some rather firm opinions. My overall impressions have been enormously positive. Some very fine work is going on under both missionaries and over 600 national workers.

Various executives and I have had occasion, through the meetings of the International Lutheran Conference, which we have attended in Madras, India; Porto Alegre, Brazil; and Papua New Guinea, to recognize that the theological position of these churches is soundly Biblical and Lutheran. We need to remember that we ourselves, as people of European ancestry largely, come out of a heritage of nearly 2,000 years of Christianity and 450 years of Lutheranism. Many of these churches are carrying on their work under the leadership of first-generation Christians. In some cases the work is being carried on under unbelievably difficult circumstances in which these church workers are facing secularism, humanism, poverty, nationalism, atheism, a multitude of non-Christian—and in some instances agressively anti-Christian—religions, cultures which are vastly different from our Western culture, and many other factors in comparison with what we often think of as normative Christian Missouri Synod Lutheranism.

I also am very frank to state to you that I believe that in the creation of the concept of sister or partner churches during the 1960s the administration of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod was to some degree remiss. In working with young churches, many of them only about 25 years old, we did not do sufficient consulting together relative to financial controls, to constitutional questions, and to matters of general church administration. There were certain theological questions left unanswered, and some of these have been productive of controversies which produced more heat than light. We did not agree sufficiently on guidelines for the carrying out of church fellowship. We talked at great length about autonomy of partner churches, but we did not draw up sufficiently carefully prepared documents to answer the kinds of questions that continue to arise as to the exercise of responsible autonomy. These matters have been productive of some misunderstanding, particularly back in 1974, and at the time the majority of the mission staff of the Synod walked out. I can only say that I believe the attitude of the partner churches, particularly those in Asia and Africa, was most commendable. Europe and Brazil and Argentina were not nearly so affected by these matters because as Europeans they had as long a Lutheran heritage as we do. But in the areas where we were dealing with young churches in nations which had little acquaintance with Lutheranism, and with people who were first-generation Lutheran Christians, the response to all of our internal difficulties, particularly in view of the lack of a comprehensive preparation which we had given them from the status of being sister or partner churches, was astoundingly positive. It is amazing that we did not have more difficulty than we did.

I am reporting these matters to you at this point not to alarm you, because actually the majority of the problems have been solved, thanks to people both in our Missions Department and to the missionaries and overseas church leaders, but simply to refer to these facts as reasons for some of the unrest and as reasons for some of the resolutions and activities that still need to be taken in order to straighten out what was a bad situation, what could continue to cause us some difficulties, and what can impede the growth and forward progress in the partner churches. I can only say that my overall relationship with these leaders has been extremely positive. I treasure their affection and friendship and want the entire Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to have an opportunity to take these people to your hearts, as I know the Missouri Synod has been taken to the hearts of our overseas brethren. I can only say that I wish every member of the Synod could have had the opportunities that I have had to go to such places as Nigeria, New Guinea, Brazil, Europe, and many other places to rejoice in the fellowship we have with our beloved brethren and to see the work and the circumstances under which they labor. I am convinced that if more of our people had this opportunity we would never have to ask for mission gifts again. The money would literally roll in, together with the prayers and the love of our people.

Now about the work assigned to Committee 1: Missions. While all of us should study the rather lengthy and most informative Report of the Board for Missions, please note certain facts that should be kept in mind.

The board has prepared 28 "challenges for the '80s" which involve virtually all levels of our structure, including congregations, our colleges and seminaries, and others. Please study them carefully. Also, the report includes valuable information about the area, population, economy, politics, and religion of all parts of the world where work is, or should be, carried out.

While we will not cite the many statistics presented, a few should be kept in mind by every concerned Christian. The present population of the world is 4 billion. One billion claim the name of Christian. World population at the time of Christ is estimated to be only 250 million. Between 1910 and 1978, in one full lifetime, the population of the world doubled, from 2 billion to 4.2 billion, and it is expected to reach 6 or 7 billion in the next 20 years.

Yet the report indicates that we are poorly equipped to handle the obvious challenge of fields white unto harvest. While 34% of the Synod's 28-million-dollar budget is assigned to missions, the purchasing power of the mission dollar has decreased substantially. Somehow we must alert our people to the many doors God has opened for us.

The term "missions" also refers to the work which remains to be done in North America. Despite what we may think, over half of our 50 United States have an unchurched population of over 50%. The same applies to Canada. The report also calls attention to the great challenge among Hispanics, who presently number close to 20 million in the United States. The 40 Hispanic congregations in the Synod are but a small beginning of what must be done. Then there are countless challenges among Black people; Indians, or native American groups; the deaf; and other ethnic groups which continue to grow in our midst. I pray that the Synod will adopt these 28 challenges for the 1980s and then proceed to implement them in the next decade. They can be met. Let us lift up our eyes and rise up to build.

I would finally call to the attention of Committee 1 the reports and overtures on evangelism. The "goals," "open house," and open doors surround us on every side.

II. Task Force on Structure

Floor Committee 2, of which Committee 4 and 5 are also members, will be dealing with the proposals of the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure. This committee met with representatives of the Task Force at the end of April. It will now formulate resolutions based on their findings. This may well be the most important item to come before the convention and will generate probably the most discussion.

Since the Task Force will be reporting to you on how it came into being, its composition, and its meetings and activities, I will not reiterate any of that material. I have deliberately avoided trying to impose any of my ideas on the Task Force and in the past biennium have had

only one meeting with the plenary, in which I stated my own concerns and answered questions as raised by members of the Task Force. I did not want anyone to say that this committee was working at the behest of the synodical President.

May I also say at the very beginning that the Task Force has not done everything that I think needs to be done relative to the reorganization of the Synod. I would strongly urge that the convention ask this Task Force, or a successor group, to continue its work for at least another biennium in order that certain other things can be dealt with. For example, the Task Force did not address itself to the question of 35 U.S.A. Districts. I think a great case could be made for reducing the number of Districts. The American Lutheran Church, which has about two or three hundred thousand members less than we do, functions with 16 U.S.A. Districts and seemingly is getting along as well as we are. A great deal of thought could go into the subject of amalgamation of some of our Districts so that administrative expense could be saved.

Study ought also to be made regarding the sharing of executives at the District level. Perhaps two or more Districts might share certain kinds of executives. There are other items that ought to receive serious consideration by a committee on organization. If the convention prefers, perhaps rather than retain the present Task Force, a continuing committee on synodical structure ought to be created which would give constant study to the matter of the revision of our Bylaws and our overall structure. We are living in an age of rapid change, and we need constantly to be asking ourselves the question if our present structure is adequate to meet the challenges facing us.

Furthermore, I want to say that in my 10 years as President of the church I have learned to live with the present structure. At first I was very frustrated with it, particularly after having spent the previous seven years working under what I still consider to be the best organized part of our entire synodical structure, namely, that dealing with the higher education work of the Synod. So in talking about the report of the Task Force, I am not coming to you today suggesting that these changes are proposed at my request. I have learned to live with the structure, even though I suffer from great frustration and consider it extremely cumbersome. For example, in what other organization in the world does it take at least six months to get a new executive on board? No provision is made really for handling the work of the board or committee until an executive is in office. Our method of nomination, screening and election, together with the schedule of meetings, means that when an executive leaves his position we can assume at least a six-months vacancy, and in the event the man called declines, then we usually have to wait another two or three months.

I could go on and on describing the cumbersomeness of the present structure but hasten to say that it is possible to work under it, and if the Synod did nothing, the present officers could continue to work. But if you find yourself frustrated with the synodical structure, let me assure you that those who work under it every day of their lives not only share your frustration but could give you about a hundred more reasons for being frustrated. It is not the best way of developing efficiency and high morale among our staff people or in getting the Lord's work accomplished.

My main concern about the present structure is that it tends to produce a political and oftentimes manipulative situation in the interest of making some progress and in getting some things done. Quite frankly, the office of synodical President, as stipulated in the 11th article of the Constitution, is a perfect illustration of what I'm talking about. On the one hand, if you read the first portion of the article, you would conclude that the President is pope. If you read the second half of the description, you would conclude that he is totally impotent and has to refer all serious decisions to a convention of the Synod meeting every two years. The result is that the President, as for example in the matter of the fact-finding endeavor at Concordia Seminary and in the matter of removal of District Presidents from office, in order to be constitutionally correct not only causes consternation at conventions but asks people who are neither psychologically nor theologically nor procedurally in tune with the actual problems to make decisions under time pressures which they are extremely reluctant to make. And then once the decision is made, it is set in such cement that no opportunity is provided for any kind of reconsideration of the matter brought about by further developments among any decisionmaking group.

Basically we have a situation that between conventions nobody is in charge, and yet between conventions some extremely important decisions need to be made which cannot be delayed until the next convention of the Synod. Likewise, this situation produces a lack of decisiveness on the part of the leadership of the church, which is oftentimes confused with vacillation or uncertainty.

Another illustration is that occasionally we get a person elected to a synodical board who turns out to be utterly incompetent to do the job assigned to that particular board. In some instances a person may actually be such a detriment to the work of that board that he ought to be removed. Yet there is no provision for removing anyone from office other than by the electoral process, and if a person is able to keep his political fences mended, he can continue for a span of up to 12 years, virtually to paralyze and in some cases possibly destroy a valuable institution or agency of the Synod. The result is that a president and others who recognize this are reduced to all kinds of subterfuges and jawboning in order to obviate a catastrophe.

Some years ago the synodical leadership, in recognition of this difficulty of no one being in charge between conventions, proposed a reduction of the time between conventions of three years to two years. However, the converse of this is that we now have so many conventions that the synodical staff spends one year recovering from the last convention and the next year in preparing for the next, with insufficient time in between

to do the kind of forward planning and working which they ought to be doing. It also has, of course, increased the political activity and made it possible for everyone to gear for action every two years rather than saving their powder for every three years.

A final factor regarding the two-year convention cycle is the enormous cost of conventions, of bringing such a huge multitude of people together every two years, often at some distance from the population center of the church, in order to do a great many things which either should be done without convention action by the respective boards and committees of the Synod or to discuss that which is so self-evident that any group of people who had any sense about them at all would have said, "Why haven't you done this before? You don't need our permission to do the kinds of things you are now asking us to endorse." For example, I do not believe that we should open a college without convention action. But I see no reason why many of the things that the Board for Higher Education reports to the convention for approval need synodical approval. They ought to be self-evident as proper work of the Board for Higher Education.

I see no reason why the Mission Board needs synodical approval to open a new mission field. If the money is available, they should be encouraged to do this and not wait for two or three years until the next convention. Many more examples of this could be brought.

But we must remember that structure exists only to facilitate action. What we need is an active forward thrust in spiritual life, in stewardship of the Lord's gifts in missions, evangelism, social ministry, parish renewal, and love and charity among us. If structural reorganization will help, then let's have it. If it does not help, then let's not waste time. David Preus's remarks about "tinkering with the machinery" apply in intrachurch planning as well as interchurch. The important thing is the mission of the church—not the machinery. This must be our basic concern—not even the matter of centralization or decentralization. How do we get the Word out? How do we bring the Gospel of Christ most effectively to a world lost in sin?

For wise stewardship, for the development of our synodical program, for expansion of Christ's mission and ministry, and for sound fiscal responsibility toward all people and all aspects of our work we need:

1. Coordinated planning and goal setting between the Synod and Districts and, to the greatest degree, congregations.
2. The ability to fill the decisionmaking void between conventions, as our Districts already have developed.
3. Our boards need to be policymakers and not administrative. We have competent staffs. Let's use them.
4. The boards, through their staffs, should have day-by-day reporting responsibility to the synodical President under his duties as set forth in Article XI of the Constitution.
5. We must avoid a federation-of-Districts concept of church government, as the Task Force has wisely advised.

Which leaves me then to say some further positive things about the report of the Task Force on Constitution, Structure, and Bylaws. They have segmented their report in such a way that the church can consider each of the items separately, can take separate action, and thus can adopt portions, if not the entire report. I ask that the committee give serious consideration to each portion, recognizing the fact that they are not necessarily an integrated whole in that all needs to be adopted if certain portions of it are not acceptable. So please consider each item on its own merits.

I believe the idea of moving to a three- or four-year convention cycle instead of a two-year is excellent, although this is somewhat contingent on the adoption of the idea of an assembly. Likewise, we could cut the size of the convention in half and accomplish the same amount of work.

The proposal on the relationship between the Synod and its auxiliaries and synodically related service agencies is an excellent item and should be adopted. I certainly hope that the proposed Bylaws entitled "Auxiliary and Listed Service Organizations" with a few alterations will be approved. In view of the challenges we face throughout the world, there is no room for overlap and unnecessary duplication.

Meetings have been held in the past biennium involving auxiliaries and agencies related in one way or another to the Synod, to see if we can't do a better job of communicating and coordinating and cooperating in our mutual efforts to carry out the mission which Christ has given to all of us as His church.

I could go on at great lengths citing the need for greater coordination of efforts and communication and cooperation. It seems to me that the Synod ought to stress to the Districts, our schools, and our auxiliaries and agencies our willingness to cooperate in every way, to open up the avenues of communication, and to assure our desire to coordinate. I am confident that such an expression on the part of the Synod would be met with equally enthusiastic response on the part of all.

So much for the work of Floor Committee 2.

III. Theology and Church Relations

As usual, Floor Committee 3 will deal with the largest number of reports and overtures. I hope that the members of this committee have thoroughly acquainted themselves with the *Workbook* Report of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations. The issue of fellowship with The American Lutheran Church is always before us. The 1977 resolution declared "A State of 'Fellowship in Protest' with the ALC." Perhaps a more felicitous term might be used to describe a situation in which we continue in fellowship but in protest against certain positions and actions of The American Lutheran Church, notably the ordination of women and certain positions regarding the doctrine of Scriptures. In keeping with our resolution of Dallas that the

discussions take place not only within the confines of the two committees which came into being at the action of the Denver convention of 1969 but also at the grassroots level, a meeting was held that included professors of all of the seminaries of the two church bodies. The report of this meeting also is included in the Report of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations. While I would be guilty of utopianism if I were to say that much progress has been made in reaching a closer meeting of minds, I want to refer also to the resolution of Dallas which calls for a study on our part of the whole doctrine of church fellowship. It might interest you to know that we have requests both from the Evangelical Lutheran Synod as well as from The American Lutheran Church to carry on these studies in consultation with representatives from their churches.

I believe I speak not only personally but for our committee on fellowship with The American Lutheran Church as well as the Commission on Theology and Church Relations in suggesting that the Synod at this convention not take any action relative to the ALC fellowship but rather await the outcome of these synodwide studies of the whole subject of church fellowship. It was interesting that in discussion with the Evangelical Lutheran Synod we felt that we were agreed on the subject in principle, but certain positions, such as fellowship with The American Lutheran Church, indicated a difference in application of these principles. We have not had opportunity to discuss this matter in sufficient depth with The American Lutheran Church, but you will remember that some years ago The American Lutheran Church accused us of changing our basis of fellowship with them. This our commissioners steadfastly rejected, but I do believe, in view of the vast spectrum of opinion in our church on the subject of what constitutes fellowship, the problems relating to pulpit and altar fellowship, the question of altar fellowship as a separate item, the whole matter of unionism, our relationship to the Lutheran Council, the new statement of the ALC on Communion practices, and other factors, we should not take action at this convention but hold off on this until the subject of fellowship has been thoroughly studied and discussed at all levels in our church, including congregations, pastoral conferences, and other groups within our church body. I would hate very much to see us fragment ourselves over this subject. One of our leaders at one point suggested that we ought to get out of the "pulpit-and-altar-fellowship business," and this is a subject which needs a great deal of study.

We still have before us a 1969 resolution relative to establishing fellowship with the Lutheran Church in Australia. We are discussing in the International Lutheran Conference the question of whether partner churches affiliated with Missouri are in fellowship with one another. We also have the matter of Lutheran World Federation membership on the part of some of these churches. It is a vast subject, one which ramifies not only all over our own North American Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod but into the partner churches, into the possible reestablishment of fellowship with certain groups, as well as the continuation of fellowship with The American Lutheran Church. We ought to move very patiently and cautiously and carefully on this matter, so that we arrive at the greatest possible degree of agreement by the greatest possible number of people.

On a related matter, there are some areas of our church practice which I think are somewhat getting out of hand. I hear repeated reports about open Communion in some of our congregations. It seems to me that we ought very respectfully and lovingly to ask such congregations to cease and desist from this practice *as a matter of congregational polity.* That Communion is given to a non-Lutheran under certain circumstances or to a Lutheran of a church body not in fellowship with us at the present time is a matter of pastoral practice rather than of congregational or synodical polity or policy.

I would also call your attention to the Report of the Commission on Worship, and those of the Special Hymnal Review Committee which was created to study the contents of the *Lutheran Book of Worship* at the Dallas convention and subsequently advise the Synod as to what action should be taken.

Their recommendation to publish a modified version seems to be a wise choice. The deletion of portions which have not been approved by our doctrinal reviewers and the Special Hymnal Review Committee, and the inclusion of such longstanding favorites as the Common Service and a number of hymns, ought to satisfy those in our church who want a book with "something old, something new." The suggestion to include the six chief parts and the Christian Questions and Answers of Luther's Small Catechism is well taken.

The Special Hymnal Review Committee is to be commended for its painstaking work, and the present Commission on Worship has made the refinements called for.

I hope that the delegates, after studying these reports, would act favorably in this matter, so that we will have a new hymnal next year. By this time sufficient circulation and testing of the materials to be included will have taken place. Delays would only promote the use of the present *Lutheran Book of Worship* in our congregations and divide us further.

Another proposal before Committee 3 is the request of the Brazil District that it be given partner-church status. I recommend that this resolution be adopted. This is the greatest mission field the Missouri Synod has ever worked in in its history—180,000 Missouri Synod Lutherans, in 1,500 congregations, and growing daily. The church is now entirely indigenous. There is not a single North American missionary there. The decision to become a partner church has been made by the Brazilians themselves, without prompting or hindrance on the part of anybody in North America. I think that in order to guarantee that partner-church status is properly established as to constitution, financial controls, higher education, legal matters, and general operations, it would be wise to adopt an enabling resolution authorizing the action and endorsing it, but putting it into the hands of the Board of Directors of the Synod for final implementation. As mentioned previously, we have made too many mistakes in the past in

the rather careless and ill-considered establishment of partner-church status without giving due thought to all of the details and ramifications. In the case of a church body as large as this one, with the tremendous opportunities that lie before it not only in the great country of Brazil but throughout all of Latin America, we cannot afford to be careless or lackadaisical. We need to do this properly, carefully, and with much consultation from both sides. I say this, having said the same to our dear brethren in Brazil. I think the Brazil District has set an example for the entire church, including all of the other partner churches. They have done a fantastic job, and I believe they should have this status if this is their desire. On the other hand, in establishing a new church we do not want to make mistakes, and therefore we must proceed with very great care.

Related to this are resolutions pertaining to the establishment of partner-church status for our brothers and sisters in Canada. A report has been given to you. The fact of the matter is that virtually all of the enabling resolutions permitting the Canadians to proceed have long since been passed in previous conventions of the Synod. But I do believe that the Canadians, like the Brazilians, should be encouraged to establish their own identity as a Canadian Lutheran Church.

Relations between our two countries, the increase of nationalism in Canada, the great future which stretches before that great country, as well as the fact that the Canadian work has always been considered rather secondary on the part of this predominantly U.S.A.-oriented church—all seem to me to argue for the fact that we should encourage our Canadian brethren to proceed in studying and planning for the development of an indigenous Lutheran Church—Canada, comprising our three Canadian Districts, together with those members of the Minnesota North District, the SELC, and the English District that are located in Canada. This is not a matter for immediate action at this convention, but there are certain directions to be set, and it appears to me, after consultation with the President and the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Church—Canada and the Presidents of our three Districts, as well as in view of the resolution by those Districts, that this is the direction that our Canadian brethren wish to go. We have always encouraged this Stateside, and it would appear that this is the direction it ought to take.

IV. Administration

The members of Committee 4, who also serve on Committee 2, will be considering a number of overtures on the Synod's retirement plan and related matters. The committee would be well advised to seek information and assistance from the Board of Managers of the Worker Benefit Plans in dealing with these concerns. Mr. Earl Haake, Administrator of the Plans, stands ready to assist them.

Various requests for subsidies, increasing faculty salaries, are also on their agenda. Committee 4 will also review the report of the Board of Directors.

V. Constitution

Committee 5, which is a part of Committee 2, has before it a number of overtures having to do with elections, voting rights, and limiting terms of office. This committee will review the work of the Commission on Constitutional Matters. I think that the Special Committee on Synodical Membership which was created at the Dallas convention to deal with dual membership deserves commendation, and I would request that Committee 5 draft the appropriate resolution. In connection with this it might interest you to know that the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, a group which was formed as a result of the recent controversy, attracted 182 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregations and 46 smaller segments from Missouri congregations. In addition, 19 declared themselves independent of the Synod, 11 joined The American Lutheran Church, and 5 joined the Lutheran Church in America. The defections seem to have come to a halt.

VI. Higher Education

We now turn to the assignment given to Committee 6. Higher Education has always been given prominence throughout the history of our church body. The philosophy and structure called "the system" has undergone little change. The intention at the very beginning of the Synod was to utilize fully the schools for general and Christian education. It was never to limit enrollment only to potential full-time church workers. Presently 41% of the students at the college level are in the general education programs. (This would be 35% if the seminary students are excluded.) We face a serious question here. Should the colleges, while maintaining their role as primarily preprofessional, move toward more general education? It is my opinion that by maintaining synodical ownership, the present method of electing boards of control members and faculties, the prescribed course in religion, regular chapel services, and predominantly Lutheran faculties, and by continuing synodical subsidy at the highest possible level, particularly for preprofessional work, we can do both. These schools are valuable gifts of God; so are dedicated Lutheran faculties. I think we should try to retain all of our schools, allowing them if possible to attain four-year status. We should talk of closing them only when the local constituents fail to use them.

For more detailed information I would call your attention to the Report of the Board for Higher Education. The portions entitled "History," "Realities," and "Postulates" are especially enlightening. A few facts stand out. Studies indicate that a reasonable estimate of total school capacity is 9,500 students, excluding Edmonton. The enrollment on the 14 campuses for the past school year was roughly 6,500. Studies also show that a minimum enrollment of 500—600 is needed if an institution is to operate efficiently.

While we are most grateful to almighty God for granting us the marked increase in students studying for the holy ministry, particularly at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and at St. Catharines, Ontario, we are

still confronted with a large number of congregations without pastors. A number of overtures call for more intensified recruitment efforts. Once again, these efforts must be implemented at the grassroots level and simply cannot only be referred to a board or committee. Active recruitment efforts by all constituents are needed at once and in force.

We note with satisfaction that the first joint visit to higher education schools of the Synod by the two seminaries will take place this fall. This cooperative approach should make an excellent impression on the students and will remind us all of another important facet of "walking together."

Another matter which this committee needs to consider pertains to adjustments in the Colloquy Board regulations, so that this rapidly growing program can be carried out in a more workable fashion.

Because of the great influx of applications, the fear has been expressed that standards will be lowered. I think that we can rely on the good judgment of the seminary presidents and others who are involved in this program to see to it that candidates for the ministry in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod are "in every respect qualified" for their high calling in the church. A goodly number of Seminex men are also in the colloquy program.

There is an overture requesting that the Boards of Control in Argentina and Brazil be elected by those Districts. I would hope that this be given favorable treatment by the committee. These Districts have a long and steady confessional Lutheran background and after all these years deserve to be given this privilege and responsibility.

VII. Parish Services

The committee on Parish Services deals with a great many and diversified subjects relating to parish life. These include educational materials for Sunday and parochial schools, vacation Bible schools, and marriage-enrichment programs.

Along with the request for more recruitment efforts of future pastors is a similar call for recruitment of future teachers. The report notes that during the past school year available candidates from the Synod's teachers colleges decreased. The committee will want to give attention to this matter.

Significantly, our elementary and secondary schools have enrolled 23,000 students from ethnic groups. This represents 15 percent of the national enrollment. Over 130 nonwhite teachers are serving in Lutheran schools. Bilingual instruction is on the increase. Resolutions call for provision of more Spanish education materials, and this important matter needs study and subsequent decision.

The Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF) program is making progress. Over 4,000 youth are expected to attend the August 1980 gathering at Fort Collins, Colo. This will be the first synodical youth gathering since 1968. These call for appropriate resolutions to be considered at the convention.

VIII. Social Ministry

One of the special items for Committee 8, Social Ministry, will be the continuing need for sponsoring refugee families. During the past four years Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services of the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A. has assisted in the resettlement of more than 25,000 people from southeast Asia. The committee will want to devote itself to this issue. Several overtures deal with considering the needs of older persons. They represent the fastest-growing group within our population, and the problems of the aged cry for resolution not only by the national and local government programs but by a concerned church as well.

IX. Special and Sundry

Members of Committee 9, Special and Sundry, have several related and unrelated overtures to consider. However, there is one matter which is not explicitly spelled out in several reports and overtures but is touched upon one way or another in several other items which appear in the *Workbook*. I am referring to the matter of certain unofficial publications.

Every year close to one-half million dollars are spent for publishing unofficial newspapers which are distributed throughout our church body. One of these supports the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A., and two others support our seminaries. In view of the fact that our doctrinal and constitutional problems have for the most been resolved, and a positive program for our inter-Lutheran cooperation is needed and desired, it would seem wise to ask the publishers of these journals to discontinue printing and encourage support by all of their contributors for our seminaries and the Lutheran Council. They should be urged to make use of existing channels for "brotherly dissent" spelled out in the synodical *Handbook*.

XII. Program Implementation

We come at last to the committee which was given the greatest amount of material and attention at the last convention, namely, Program Implementation. We took great care in selecting one knowledgeable person from each District for the committee, this year, maintaining an equal layman-pastor representation.

The very first resolution which was formulated by the 1977 committee and subsequently adopted by the convention pointed out that since the mid-sixties the percentage division of "mission dollars" remitted by congregations through their Districts had decreased steadily from 18% in 1965 to 12% in 1976, and that District sharing with the Synod had decreased from 60% in 1965 to 46% in 1976.

The same resolution called for congregations, Districts, and the Synod to prioritize current and future budgets.

What has happened since then?

I am sorry to say, not a great deal. There has been some increase in synodical giving, but the main problems persist. All of us, not just Committee 12, should study with great care the charts on pages 250 and 253 in

the *Workbook*. Among other things, we will see that per-capita giving as a percentage of disposable income by the person in the pew was 3.4 in 1961 but that, despite increases in personal income in North America, that percent plummeted to 2.1 in 1977. Unless there is a radical change in this giving pattern, some other plan must be developed by the Synod to implement our program. Some suggest that the Synod's Board of Directors plan together with District boards the budgets by the Synod and the Districts. If just so much money is available and it does not cover projected work, both the Synod and District leaders will have to prioritize the work to be done.

So, for example, if one District wants to open four new missions next year, that District should measure the need as compared with, for example, four new missions in Washington, D.C., San Francisco, The Philippines, and Nigeria.

I do not expect this committee to come up with miracles, but I would hope that because of the District representation some workable plans be developed for consolidated planning and budgeting.

At its meeting which ended this afternoon, the Board of Directors, after studying the results of a feasibility study that included visits in every District in Canada and the United States, recommended a large mission ingathering, like those conducted in the ALC and LCA, which brought in $38 and $40 million, respectively. I strongly endorse this project and hope that Committee 12 will also recommend this important effort to our convention and our people. God truly is opening doors.

In closing, let me say that the difficulties we have are, in the last analysis, challenges. The Lord of the church never said we'd have an easy time of it; in fact, He kept underlining the tribulations, the crosses, the power of the opposition. Yet, as the apostle puts it in several places, we do not lose heart.

May He who selected us to the most important task on earth find us to be willing servants, eager to work while it is day that many may reach eternal life through faith in our risen and blessed Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

God Opens Doors!

(Part II)

Words of Welcome

To all who are gathered here, it is a great privilege to welcome you and to express thanks to God for bringing you safely to this place. The church owes a deep debt of gratitude to all who are willing to sacrifice a week or more of their time in order to help make wise and good decisions relative to important aspects of our church's life and work at this convention.

Also words of special thanks should be expressed to all of our synodical officers, our District Presidents, our Board of Directors, and all of the other boards and commissions and committees of the Synod, our missionaries, our pastors, teachers, and congregations, and all who have contributed so much toward carrying out the ministry and mission of our Lord Jesus Christ in our midst during the past biennium.

I can never express in sufficiently glowing terms the gratitude that all of us feel toward God for the way in which our people have worked together and the improvement in morale and tone which has taken place in the last biennium. I also want to take special opportunity to thank Vice-Presidents E. C. Weber and Robert C. Sauer, my secretaries, Miss Elizabeth Kops and Miss Jean Buettner, also Secretary Herbert Mueller, Administrative Officer John Schuelke, Treasurer Norman Sell, and all of the wonderful people at 500 North Broadway who daily perform their duties on behalf of every congregation and individual in the Synod in helping to carry out the mission which Christ has given to all of us.

You will be pleased to learn that Dr. E. C. Weber, who suffered a serious stroke on the way home from the Dallas convention, is working every day and is much recovered. As a symbol of his life of service to God and his community, the City of Fraser, Mich., where Doctor Weber served as pastor for 29 years, is naming the public library after him. Congratulations, Doctor Weber.

Floor Committees

All of the delegates are aware of the fact that as a result of changes in our procedure for holding floor committee meetings, the President's Report really is divided into two parts, with Part I being delivered during the Memorial Day weekend meeting with the floor committees and Part II being delivered at this convention. In the first report I made a large number of recommendations and will repeat only a very few of them at this convention. I want to give special thanks and commendation to the floor committees for the excellent work that they did. In general I would urge the passage of the proposals made by the floor committees and will not devote additional time to them now except to highlight a very few items.

Report of Activities During the 1977—79 Biennium and Recommendations

It is a great pleasure to report to you that the state of the church has dramatically improved since I last had occasion to report to the Synod at the Dallas convention in 1977.

It is a sad and tragic fact that we have as a church body encountered some losses due to the doctrinal conflict which raged in our Synod for the past several years. The actual number of losses of congregations is 217, while that of pastors is 326, with another 20 or so joining ALC, LCA, or going independent.

Needless to say, we regret very much the loss of those

who have walked with us for so long a period, and we certainly bear them no malice. In the case of many, they were people who were considerably at variance with the doctrine and/or the polity of the Synod. While certainly we ask no one to walk with us who is in doctrinal disagreement with our position, we also know that many of these people were carried away by emotion and partisanship and that the cleavage is not only one of doctrine. This is most regrettable.

On the other side, I think it has to be said very clearly that for that limited number who chose to leave the Synod, over 6,000 congregations implicitly or explicitly made decisions to remain with the Synod, and for all of this we thank God. It was a period during which time the autonomy of the congregations to come and go as they please was something that was in the mind of many people. The fact that such an enormous percentage elected to remain is one of the greatest sources of comfort we can have. And this is demonstrating itself in a change of mood and tone which is most encouraging. One senses a great desire as we move into the '80s to work together, to confess together, and together to carry out the mission which Christ has given to His church. I have never in my years in the Synod as President seen so positive a mood in the Synod as presently exists.

One cause for this situation, I believe, is the 55 conferences held by the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, which were attended by over half of the pastors in the church. I believe the various convocations that have been held under the leadership of our District Presidents and our CTCR have also been extremely helpful. Efforts have been made to talk over differences, to reexamine our confession of faith, our position on church fellowship, and the whole matter of whether the Missouri Synod really had a confessional reason to exist as a church. I believe that we have concluded that we do have such a reason and that we must be about the work of spreading the Gospel of Christ and testifying to the faith as expressed so beautifully in our Lutheran Confessions.

Another factor which has played a major role was the 1978 series of District conventions. These conventions in many cases were almost 180-degree turns from the conventions of 1972, 1974, 1976. I am so pleased at the makeup and caliber of the Council of District Presidents. We have a very fine group of men who are positive in their thinking, who want to work together, and who are supportive of the mission of the church of Jesus Christ. I want to say a sincere word of thanks to our District Presidents and to their boards of directors. This has resulted in an improvement in increased evangelism, in the establishment of new congregations, in the finances, and in a general improvement in the morale both of the Council of Presidents and of the church at large.

Particularly and above all I believe that the people of Missouri have clearly and decisively said that they want to remain firmly standing on the old foundations of Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions. They have determined that no amount of conflict or political activity is going to move them from our historic position. We spent many years getting into the condition we were in, and it has taken ten years to get out of it, but we have emerged more united, stronger in our conviction and firmer in our determination to be a Biblical and confessional church. May God, who has blessed us hitherto, be with us that we continue in our faith and never deviate from it. We are ready to move into the '80s with unity, determination, and renewed dedication and vigor.

Missions

This convention is a missions convention, and the purpose of such a convention is not just to talk about missions, pass pious resolutions, and then go home and forget about it. We have invited some wonderful people from overseas to come and tell us about their work, but even all of that is beside the point if we as a church body do not get genuinely excited about the whole matter of the doors which God has opened to us. This excitement needs to be transmitted to every pastor, teacher, and every congregation in the Synod. The whole idea of personal evangelism, establishment of new mission stations, support of existing mission opportunities both here and abroad ought to receive the very highest priority in our planning on the Synod, District, and congregational level, and in the hearts and minds of all of our people.

I wish to compliment the Board for Missions for their 29 "Challenges for the '80s" appearing in the *Convention Workbook*. Some are saying these are "pie in the sky" goals impossible to achieve. I support those goals and ask all boards, commissions, officers, and staffs of the Synod and its Districts, as well as all congregations, to work toward achieving them.

If we really believe that the Lord Jesus Christ came into the world to seek and to save that which was lost, and if we really believe that the doors are open, as they have been ever since the time of the apostles, then it is time that we really rise to meet these challenges and get on with the job. The time is short.

So I hope that every delegate will attend the Mission Fair and attempt to meet the presidents of the overseas partner churches, talk with missionaries and mission board personnel, and really get acquainted with and excited about the open doors which stand before us ready to be entered.

In this connection we are all aware of the fact that it costs money. I strongly urge that the Synod also go on record as approving the proposals of the Board of Directors regarding a collection of $40,000,000 which could be used for missions and for the education of church workers. We are constantly falling behind in meeting the challenges which daily face us. I am constantly amazed at the number of requests that come to us for opening new fields, opening new mission stations throughout the world, the need for additional workers, and meeting opportunities. We do need to gird up our loins and get busy on this matter of really meeting the challenge of the '80s and of the rest of this century. We are on the verge of the greatest era in the history of our church.

Black Work

Another area of activity of the past biennium which is of great interest to all of us and is expressive of the forward mission of the Synod is that which has been done with reference to Black work. Many of you are aware that the 1977 convention gave great emphasis to one hundred years of Black Ministry, including a collection of $1,500,000 for an educational fund for the preparation of Black pastors, the renewed emphasis on Black Ministry, and a renewed interest in all of us in ministering to a segment of our population which now represents at least 20 million people. We have made a beginning toward the goal of $1,500,000. Much more needs to be done. We hope that every congregation in the Synod, on each Father's Day, or on another day selected by them, will participate in this collection. And if this fund can be established as a kind of endowment or ongoing fund, the interest of which can be used to educate Black pastors and workers at our colleges and seminaries, continuity would be established and impetus given for many years to come.

I'm very happy to report there has been a fine increase in the number of Black students at our seminaries, both as full-time and as colloquy students. I'm happy to report that the Commission on Black Ministry has been established in keeping with the Dallas resolution and that Dr. Richard Dickinson, one of our outstanding Black pastors, has been appointed executive of this commission. He is busily engaged in the work of recruitment and arranging for financing the educational program of Black students, in working with Districts and with Black pastors and leaders and congregations throughout the Synod to augment and increase the work of Black Ministry on the part of our church.

During the past biennium we have lost six Black pastors. We gained one through colloquy, three through reinstatement, and we now have 14 in colloquy and three in the regular program—a net of 15, plus 36 in college and 76 who have shown an interest in studying for the ministry. This has been a great step forward, and we hope that additional emphasis can be given to this at this convention.

Hispanic Work

Likewise, the Dallas convention and several preceding conventions spoke very strongly in regard to the expansion of our ministry among Hispanic people, a minority which is rapidly approaching the size of the Black minority in this country. The Hispanics have the additional handicap in that millions of them are not bilingual and still conduct their lives in a language which excludes them from many jobs, from the full advantages of our educational system in our country, and from economic advantages.

If we are going to carry on work among the Hispanic people in this country, a large portion of it is going to have to be done in the Spanish language. This calls not only for the preparation of Anglos to work among them but for massive recruitment of Hispanics—Mexicans, Chicanos, Cubans, Puerto Ricans, and South Americans. In keeping with these resolutions of Dallas, the Synod through its Mission Board has engaged the Reverend Carlos Puig of Racine, Wis., to serve as our executive in the field of the Hispanic ministry. His portfolio is not unlike that of Doctor Dickinson. He is to encourage the recruitment and education of Hispanic workers, the establishment of Hispanic congregations, to work with congregations and neighborhoods which are turning Hispanic, to help in urban ministry, social ministry, parish education, and the many areas which are related to carrying on a churchwide ministry to this important and valuable segment of our society.

I have been extremely impressed with the work of our Hispanic Advisory Council appointed by the Mission Board. These people are all Hispanic, representing a spectrum of the various groups within the Hispanic community, and they are dedicated, soundly Lutheran, and vitally interested in working within the framework of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in carrying out a ministry to their people.

Orientals, Filipinos, Native Americans

We also are discovering a large number of Oriental ethnic groups within our country. For example, there are about 300,000 Koreans living within a very small enclave in Los Angeles. In consultation with our brethren of the Lutheran Church in Korea, as well as Dr. Won Yong Ji, a Korean professor on our St. Louis faculty and a man of vast experience in international church work, efforts are being made to establish a meaningful and effective ministry among the Koreans living in this country.

Efforts are also being made in the state of Hawaii to open work among countless Filipinos living there. This work is being carried on in collaboration with the Lutheran Church of the Philippines.

We are only making a beginning in work among native Americans. The Board for Missions has a report on that subject too. Much more needs to be done in this area.

I mention these matters of missions, fully realizing that these items have been dealt with in depth in the report of the Board for Missions, but to highlight these matters, and also because, as your President, I have been very closely and intimately involved with them. I have the utmost respect for our mission staff and board and for the overseas partner churches and our missionaries, and want to commend them for the kind of thinking and actions they have been taking in the past year.

New Foreign Fields

Obviously also I should mention that a new mission field was opened in Liberia in West Africa, and we will enter Togo in 1979. And perhaps, most importantly, we should mention the work of each of our congregations, of the partner churches, and of all of our workers, both here and overseas, who have been going forward with the usual energy and dispatch. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod does not only have a Mission Board and

a group of missionaries, but we have literally thousands of dedicated workers, both professional and lay, who are busily engaged constantly in bearing witness to the cause of Christ and in telling the wonderful good news of His Gospel to people in almost every corner of the world. For all of these people we give sincere thanks.

Church Extension

Any synodical program that directly helps 85 percent of the congregations of our Synod is obviously serving an important function and meeting a significant need. The Church Extension program of our Synod has served that number of congregations in meeting the financing needs for sites or facilities or both.

This program is unique in all of Protestantism. There is no church body that has a fund the size of our total Church Extension Fund, consisting of 38 North American Districts and a synodical Fund. Total assets exceed $250 million.

While Church Extension Fund was initially established to provide the financing loan needs for the new established congregation, I am happy that loan services are being expanded to make loan-fund services available now also to the establishment of self-supporting congregations. This opens services to more congregations and people.

The Church Extension Fund has reached another milestone within the past year. Church Extension Fund notes have now been approved by all 50 state securities regulators. This is the first time that a major denomination has had its security instruments (Church Extension notes) approved in all 50 states. To facilitate these legal requirements, the new "Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod" has been separately incorporated, and the assets and liabilities of the old fund have been transferred to it. I urge you to ratify this action of the Board of Directors and to support the proposed structure of the new corporation so that Districts, too, can be part of it.

Not only has the fund been a blessing to our home mission program but also to our foreign mission effort. Church Extension funds have aided congregations in Central and South America, England, Africa, Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan, Korea, The Philippines, New Guinea, India, and Europe.

Social Ministry

We talk about social ministry to aid the aged and the sick and the imprisoned, and this is proper and good, but we need to carry on a social ministry to our entire society, and there is no better way we can do it than by setting the example that when "change and decay in all around I see" in regard to every social institution, at least the Christian church is going to be there bearing its witness and setting an example and helping a society which is rapidly coming to a point of no return. This is not only a challenge for groups like some of our synodical boards but a challenge for every congregation, every pastor, every school teacher, and every parent and individual Christian among us.

Youth

In reporting on general activities and operations of the Synod in the past biennium, I must not overlook the fact that the Lutheran Youth Fellowship, which is authorized by the Dallas convention, is well on the way to coming into being. The Board of Youth Ministry has reported on this in detail.

Parish Services

What a pleasure to hear that we have the highest number and highest percentage of our people in Bible classes in our synodical history! And what a pleasure that 85 percent of our congregations are using the New Life in Christ Sunday school material.

Concordia Publishing House

I would like to put in a very special word of support for Concordia Publishing House and Dr. Ralph Reinke, its president, and everyone else at CPH. Doctor Reinke and CPH have been unjustly vilified, in my opinion, by certain elements in the Synod, and I believe it is not only my duty but also my great pleasure to say that no church president could ever ask for better cooperation and help than Doctor Reinke has given to me during my years as President. When we had the difficulties regarding "Mission:Life," he was completely open and cooperative. He has helped us enormously with the new hymnbook, and I hope that the convention will take actions which will show appreciation to Concordia Publishing House and which will encourage this fine organization to go on serving the church as it has for over 100 years. Let us make special note of the 110th anniversary of CPH.

Stewardship and Finance and Planning

A special word of thanks needs to be said to our congregations, our pastors, our District officials, and the Board of Stewardship of the Synod for the increase in the financial efforts of our people. The people of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod during the last biennium laid not less than $400 million per year on the Lord's altar for all purposes, including about 80 percent for the local congregation, money for the work of the Districts, the Synod, Lutheran high schools, LLL, LWML, almost countless social ministry agencies, and other efforts carried on by various groups in the church to tell the story of Jesus Christ to all segments of our society and in all parts of the world, to minister to people in their old age, their illnesses, on the campuses, in prisons, in the military, among the mentally retarded, and to virtually all people in all walks of life and in all conditions of life. Total contributions for all these purposes have increased 105 percent since 1965, only 4 percent less than inflation. This is a most commendable record.

However, when we look at the distribution of these dollars, we find that the amount retained within the congregation has increased 124 percent since 1965 while the amount shared with District and the Synod for work at large has increased only 34 percent. In other

words, the increase retained in the congregation has exceeded inflation while the increase shared with District and the Synod has been about one-third of inflation. Thus work you have requested in your District and the Synod convention has been curtailed or not implemented at all.

To try to maintain current synodical programs, the 1977 Dallas convention authorized deficit spending up to 5 percent of the spending budgets for the years 1977 through 1979, with the hope that during that time receipts from congregations and Districts would increase at least as much as inflation. This didn't happen, and at the end of 1978 accumulated operating deficits totaled $2.9 million. The Board of Directors and Commmittee 12 propose ending deficit spending after 1979. I support this.

But in order to continue to do the work requested by past conventions and implement work authorized by this convention, we all will have to grow in the grace of giving, and we also will need to look at personal and congregational priorities, as well as District and Synod priorities. I would certainly urge each congregation to study its priorities and ask the question whether cushioned pews, new light fixtures, air-conditioning, and a host of other luxuries really ought to take priority over some of the pleas that are made to our congregations for money to help in spreading the Gospel, feeding the poor, educating church workers, and the many other needs of the overall church.

This is a good place in my report to speak of the work of Floor Committee 12. This committee noted that the challenges in the Board for Missions report, the Board for Higher Education proposals for a system-wide model of higher education, and the proposals of other boards and commissions had been developed independent of each other and of the Districts, and it recognized the need for coordinated planning.

I support the committee's request in Resolution 12-06 that the Synod assembled in convention commit itself to developing methods for joint planning of work of the Synod and its Districts, so that new work can begin on a priority basis, that present programs which may not meet the needs of the Synod can be revised or terminated, that duplication between the Synod and its Districts can be minimized, and that resources can be shared in such a way that cutbacks of needed programs will not be required and the challenge of the '80s can be met.

I support the committee's proposal in Resolution 12-04 that this convention authorize the development of a long-term (10-year) integrated master plan for the Synod and its Districts to define and describe the impact of the challenge for the '80s, including the program and resource requirements. I think it is essential to have this kind of master planning by the Board of Directors, the Council of Presidents, and the Council of Administrators if the actions you take at this convention are to bear fruit.

Higher Education

Work has been going forward at our synodical colleges and seminaries. We are extremely heartened by the record enrollment of our two seminaries at St. Louis and Fort Wayne. Particularly the almost miraculous recovery of the St. Louis seminary from the events of 1974 should be brought to your special attention. It is now the second-largest Lutheran seminary in the United States and soon should be the largest. Also I am happy to report that two of our colleges received a four-year status during the past biennium—Portland and Milwaukee. Christ College Irvine is progressing, and all of our colleges have good news to report on their activities in the past biennium.

However, the forgotten people seem to be the members of our college faculties. I hear of professors who are offered positions in secular colleges with considerable salary increases. For example, one professor whose present total salary is $14,000, including housing and utilities, has been offered $25,000 at a nonsynodical school. This is an increase of not just two to three thousand but of $11,000.

Parish pastors who are called to our colleges in virtually all cases take a cut in salary if they accept. In one instance a man with but few years of parish experience took a cut of $3,500 when he accepted a college position. Professors' wives are forced to take outside jobs, and their husbands must moonlight in order to make ends meet. If there are small children and the wives cannot work, the family lives on a poverty level.

Resolution 4-14 speaks to this matter, but there is little value in authorizing the Board of Directors and the Board for Higher Education to make salary adjustments when funds for this area are not available. I repeat: we must look at our priorities when congregation budgets are drawn up.

I wish to call particular attention to the proposed systemwide model suggested by the Board for Higher Education regarding our schools. The resolution proposed by Committee 6 is excellent, and I urge that it be passed. We need to support our schools with students, with our money, and with our prayers. We should not continually subject our schools to harassment and uncertainty as to whether they will stay open, as to whether they are doing an adequate job. Let's get behind them and support them and help them.

The Synod has an investment of over $100 million in its higher-education properties. The combined operating budgets of the Synod's 15 North American colleges and seminaries exceds $40 million. The schools, however, are operating at about two-thirds of their student capacity. This excess capacity requires some action. The Synod has only two alternatives to eliminate this costly excess capacity—it can close schools or it can fill schools.

The Board of Directors and the Board for Higher Education have tried for years to close schools. In most cases the Synod in convention has not agreed—in fact it has authorized opening additional schools. Where schools have been closed, it has been very difficult to sell the facilities. Years of negotiations on Oakland and Springfield still have not resulted in selling the proper-

ties. With the abundance of empty colleges on the market, it is doubtful that most of the other schools would be readily salable. And closed schools are still expensive to maintain, pay the taxes, and keep them in a marketable condition.

The better alternative is to try to fill the schools. The Board of Directors supports the attempts of the Board for Higher Education to change the system in order to fill the schools. It supports the principle that the system of higher education should "maximize the service each synodical school might contribute to fulfilling the objectives of the Synod (train full-time church workers) and to help each school serve its supporting constituency in that place."

450th Anniversary, Augsburg Confession 400th Anniversary, Book of Concord

1980 signals the celebration of the 450th anniversary of the Augsburg Confession and the 400th anniversary of the Book of Concord. Our Commission on Theology and Church Relations has already begun to prepare for studies, conferences, and other edifying ways in which these two great events in the history of Lutheranism and of the Christian church can be celebrated. I recommend that the congregations and pastors give this matter very serious study and support. The Aid Association for Lutherans has made a generous grant to the Synod and Districts for projects dealing with this important subject.

Hymnbook

I would like to highlight particularly the matter of the new hymnbook for our Synod and encourage the Synod convention to adopt this resolution (No. 3-01).

Inter-Lutheran Relationships

In the area of inter-Lutheran relationships I would strongly urge the passage of Resolution 3-03, dealing with the continuation of our fellowship with The American Lutheran Church; 3-05, dealing with the formation of an indigenous Lutheran Church—Canada; and 3-07, which proposes the continuation of membership in the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A. Full information on these matters will be covered when Committee 3 reports.

Discussions have also been held with groups that we have never had any contact with at any time in our past. I refer particularly to the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, headquartered in Minneapolis, and the Church of the Lutheran Brethren of America, headquartered in Fergus Falls, Minn., and the Evangelical Lutheran Federation of Tacoma, Wash.

I have come to have great respect for the theological stance of these groups. Representatives of the faculties of their schools have taken graduate work at our St. Louis seminary. The Association of Free Lutheran Congregations passed a beautiful resolution at their last convention supporting our doctrinal position, and I would hope that the Synod would encourage that further discussions take place with these groups that would lead, if not to fellowship, at least to a closer working together and association. I would encourage the pastoral conferences, particularly in Minnesota and the Dakotas, where these churches have the bulk of their membership, as well as elsewhere throughout the country, to invite their pastors and to try to draw closer together.

Meetings have also been carried on with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, both of which were in fellowship with us in the old Synodical Conference. These meetings have been helpful and far more cordial than meetings held several years ago. I hope and pray that it will be possible for us sometime to reestablish fellowship with these beloved brethren, and I urge the Synod to ask its officers and the Commission on Theology and Church Relations to continue its efforts in this direction.

Meetings have also been carried on with the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (AELC), the group of those who left us. The full report of this is in the Report of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations. This group has taken a position calling for merger of all Lutherans, and their request has also been given over to the consideration of our Commission on Theology and Church Relations.

It may be premature to talk about bringing back into our membership those parishes which resigned in order to become affiliated with the AELC. More time and patience may be needed, so that the process of understanding, healing, and improved relationships may develop between ourselves and those who have left our fellowship.

It now may be premature to find a possible way for reconciliation and the establishment of fellowship and acceptance. But we should not give up in these efforts. We have special concerns for the AELC congregations and schools and also for their pastors and teachers, knowing that they who were once with us are now separated by their own decisions. We certainly want them to know that, should they in any way find it desirable to return to us, we will do everything possible to restore good relationships.

Canada

This year we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the establishment of what was originally called the Canada District, an antecedent of the present Ontario District. Would not this be a very appropriate time to give serious encouragement to the creation of an indigenous church in Canada which would not only celebrate a centennial but celebrate a new beginning of expanded work in a great and exciting country? Please note the proposals of Committee 3 on this matter.

Brazil

I would strongly urge the convention to approve the resolution presented by Committee 1 relative to partner-church status for our Brazil District. Much was said on this at the time I reported at the Memorial Day weekend, so I will not repeat it except to say that I believe this would be a fine forward step on the part of our church for the sake of our brethren in Brazil.

New Lutheran Churches

I should report that during the past biennium two new Lutheran churches have come into being, the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church. Since a small number of our congregations have asked to be released from our membership in order to join these church bodies, which are basically ethnic in character, I believe we ought to wish these people Godspeed and to establish as close a relationship with the new church bodies as possible. I hope that in the case of the congregations which have left us in order to join these groups, we will continue to welcome their pastors to our conferences, since many of these pastors were members of our church, and to give them the kind of support and help which we can give to groups who have suffered so much through being driven out of their home countries, living as refugees, losing everything they had, seeing their countries taken over by the Russians, and enduring so many problems. These people deserve our love and our friendship. Especially at the grassroots level, dialog and discussions ought to take place with them.

Other Interchurch Activities

I also had the pleasure of attending a meeting of the International Lutheran Conference, meeting with the partner-church presidents in Papua New Guinea, in August of 1978. The meeting was positive and helpful.

I am happy to report that the action of the Dallas convention, in establishing fellowship with the *Selbstaendige Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche* in Germany, was personally reported by me to these brethren in October of 1978, when I had occasion to visit with representatives of all of the churches in Europe affiliated with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. I believe the brethren are most appreciative of this action, and I must report that relations between our respective churches are very good.

I also had occasion to journey into East Germany (the DDR), where the churches have not yet united into one body, but I was also very pleased to report to these brethren, living and working under such difficult circumstances, that Missouri loves them and has not forgotten them. The meetings were very faith-strengthening, and I came away with new appreciations for the difficulties under which they work and with new appreciation for their faith and their conviction.

During the past biennium the Hong Kong Mission became The Lutheran Church—Hong Kong Synod, a partner church. This was carried out in consultation with the Board for Missions and the Board of Directors, and I'm happy to report that virtually all of the difficulties which had existed in Hong Kong over such a long period have now been satisfactorily settled.

Support of Study of Fellowship

Finally I ask the support of every delegate, every District, pastor, and congregation for the forthcoming program of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (which will begin this fall) dealing with the study of church fellowship. This grows out of our relationship with The American Lutheran Church but is much broader. We really need to look at this subject, study the Scriptures, the Confessions, and the history of our Synod, and then ask some very hard questions. We need the input of every pastor and congregation. We need to look at the world in which we live today and try to determine how we as an orthodox and confessional church relate to other churches. We need to determine at every level what kind of a church, doctrinally and theologically speaking, we shall be as we move into the '80s and beyond. The questions are not simple. Neither are the answers.

Problems

We have some problems and they deserve attention. We have a continuing problem with some 70—80 uncertified Seminex graduates who are serving in congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, but again, our District Presidents are dealing with the matter, as they are with a very small number of dual-membership congregations. Little by little an increasing number of Seminex students are enrolling in the colloquy program. I believe that patience and evangelical treatment will ultimately solve this problem and the congregational problem also.

One of the perhaps unnoticed casualties of the controversy has been a gradual and almost imperceptible downgrading of the pastoral office in our Synod. I believe that now is the time to speak out on this matter and to say that, as President of the Synod, I support every one of our pastors in carrying out his ministry wherever he may be. Many of our men are suffering from lack of understanding and respect on the part of either their own people or others, and a constant harassment of some of them has been undertaken.

I would earnestly urge all of our lay people to deal with their pastors and with synodical and District officials in love and in compassion. Some very tragic stories could be told of events in the past several years where ministries have been destroyed, where pastors have been improperly dealt with. We have procedures, we have District Presidents and Circuit Counselors, and we have the Scriptural admonitions for dealing with problems between pastor and people. Let us use the procedures which God and the Synod have given us and not resort to unkindness, to public vilification, and to actions which ill befit Christian people. God has established the office of the ministry in order that Christ's people may be properly nurtured in faith, and this office is to be held in honor and high repute. I hope that the respect for the pastor can return to its former high state.

This is not to say that this is a general problem, but it is of sufficient importance to make it necessary for me to make these remarks. I hope that out of the controversy can come a better understanding between pastor and people as to their respective roles in the church in the light of the fact that all of us are forgiven through the blood of Christ and all of us are given His commission to be His witnesses.

I could also add a few words regarding our hard-

working and often neglected teachers who serve in modesty and humility, and who often make enormous financial and personal sacrifices in order to teach our children. Let us show them also the respect and honor which their work and their office entitle them to.

Governmental Relations

In the area of relations with government some problems have arisen.

A committee appointed under the auspices of the Board of Directors has been meeting several times with the Office of Governmental Affairs of the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A. regarding the many ways in which our respective churches (and other Lutheran churches also) are affected by actions of our government. Our legal counsel and Board of Directors are closely watching all of these matters.

The Family

On a much broader scale the church of the '80s faces the open doors of ministering to a society which is in the process of revolutionary and traumatic changes. Each of these doors presents problems but also great opportunities and challenges. One of these areas is the family.

We are living at a time of vast social upheaval. I heard a futurist speak recently who said that the world is probably in its most revolutionary phase in many centuries, and he even compared it to the discovery of the wheel and of fire in being revolutionary.

Among the greatest victims of this revolutionary age is the family. We face a situation in which divorces by the end of the next decade may outnumber marriages. We face the fact that an enormous percentage of the present generation of children may grow up in single-parent families or without any natural parents. We face not only the matter of absentee fathers but also an increased number of cases of total child abandonment, in which both mother and father walk off. Our papers scream with articles dealing with battered children, delinquency, the necessity to "socialize" the coming generation, meaning to make them in some way fit members of society, when they have neither mother, father, family, religion, nor any kind of training in what it means to be a helpful and productive member of society.

We hear all kinds of talk about gatherings of people into homosexual marriages, communes, the day care center serving as the family, and dozens of other ideas. We must remember that the same God who created Adam and out of Adam made Eve, also instituted the family. We are not talking here about something that merely comes under the heading of "options" but something that is basic to human society and civilization. If there is any place where the church ought to be on the ball and doing something positive, it is here.

The Future

About 70 members of our church, people from the administration, from among District and Synod executives, District Presidents, professors, lay leaders, and parish pastors, recently attended a very significant meeting in Houston, Tex., sponsored by the Lutheran Brotherhood Insurance Company. The meeting was interesting in that it brought together representatives of 10 Lutheran church bodies—something that in itself was unique.

But the great purpose of the meeting and the real significance of it lay in the fact that it was a colloquium on the future and particularly as the future unfolds for the church. While we heard many things with which none of us would agree, many things on which we disagreed with one another, and many things on which we all agreed, the fact of the matter is that the church needs to be about the work of planning for and thinking of the future. It should not accept the possible or probable future but rather should use its influence to create a preferable future. I'm not referring only to the future in eternity, on which we have very clear assurance from God's Word, but to the future of our world and the role of the church in it.

If one is looking for apocalyptic thinking and the idea that the world may come to an end before most of us finish our lifetime, there was some of that expressed also. One notable futurist told me that many of the people of his profession do not expect the world to last until the end of the century. He went on to say that he was an optimist and gave the world a fifty-fifty chance of not being totally destroyed by either a nuclear war or the leakage from nuclear wastes. Other experts at the meeting obviously disagreed with him and talked as if the world would go on forever.

Looming large was the matter of the depletion of our fuels, our petroleum, natural gas, coal, and other forms of energy, as well as the slow development of the things like solar energy and other methods of supplying energy for the machines and homes of our world.

I have already made reference to the gloomy predictions regarding the state of marriage, the family, and our children. Coupled with this, of course, were predictions regarding starvation in a world which by the end of the century, conservatively, will have at least six billion people on it. I am not here interested in getting into argument as to whether their predictions are correct or as to what the world's agriculture can produce, but the fact of the matter is, as we all know, that even in our day with four billion people in the world there is vast starvation, an enormous amount of sickness, the problem of the old, the already evident deterioration of the family, and political and social structures which are being strained far beyond the thinking of those who established them.

I could go on at great length viewing with alarm and expressing the concerns that were expressed by many people, both the futurists who were present as well as the church people who had an opportunity to express themselves, but suffice it to say that there needs to be on the part of all of us at every level in this church, beginning with the man, woman, and child in the pew, some serious and careful thinking about the future as we look at a shrinking dollar, soaring costs, and the ever-present need to do the work of presenting Christ, the incarnate Christ, to a world which really no longer

worships science as its god but is moving in the direction of secular humanism. We are hearing much more about the spirit world, about transcendence, about the fact that there has to be something behind all of this. It is a new religion. It is not Christian, but one cannot help but feel that perhaps we are standing today where St. Paul did at Mars' Hill when he said to those secular humanists of the first century, "I perceive that you are a very religious people."

Here is enormous opportunity, even if the world lasts only 20 more years, for bringing the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ (who in many ways was the most human of all people who ever walked the earth in that He was God made flesh) to a world which is so desperately crying out in its frustration and despair. I have never spent a week in which it was brought more forcibly to my attention that the church has the answers, that Christ is the Answer, that the world needs Him desperately, and that nobody is going to know about Him unless we tell them. You cannot count on the scientists or the secular humanists or the atheists or the communists or the economists or whoever it may be; but you have to count on the church. We have great resources, great talents, and unbelievable opportunities.

The Doors Are Open

As this convention opens, we have behind us a long and difficult controversy. We have before us a $40,000,000 appeal for funds, open doors all over the world for mission expansion and recruitment and preparation of church workers. We are entering what I believe can be a golden age for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as we enter into the decade of the '80s and look forward to the turn of the millennium in the year 2000. We must be doing some very forward thinking and planning. We must be dedicating ourselves as we never have before to being about our Father's business and entering the doors which He continually opens to us.

There are two ingredients for the achievement of this that are absolutely imperative, and the first is that we be reconciled among ourselves. A great deal of healing and reconciliation has taken place, but it needs to be brought to an even higher level. One of Luther's favorite Bible texts was the story of the paralyzed man who was brought to Jesus and let down through the roof lying on his pallet looking up into the face of Jesus. When Jesus looked down at him, He read his heart and He read the foremost prayer in his heart. The man did not ask for physical healing. But Jesus spoke to him the most healing words that can ever be spoken by anyone. He said to him, "Son, be of good cheer. Your sins are forgiven you." These are words that must come from the hearts and lips of all of us—toward one another, toward all who we feel have wronged us, and toward a world which needs to hear these words more than any other words that can ever be spoken. Likewise we must ask forgiveness of those we have hurt. The greatest need of



The cares of office

the world around us is the forgiveness of sins. The greatest need of every single one of us is the forgiveness of sins. And the joy that we can receive from hearing and pronouncing forgiveness to one another and meaning it from our hearts is the greatest joy that we can ever experience.

I don't say this in order to set the stage for a leap into the future. I say this because of the fact that when Christ forgives us we receive the power to rise and take up our beds and walk. And we know that the world will "marvel that such power has been given unto men." I say this because of the fact that when our Lord tells us that our joy will be full, this joy comes from hearing and pronouncing forgiveness. I don't think there is any moment in the life of the pastor that is higher and more sacred than when he announces absolution to a congregation or an individual. And I know that in personal life the greatest joy that we have as Christians is to live in Christ's forgiveness and to pronounce and bring that forgiveness to the whole world.

There is still too much recrimination, too much desire for revenge and punishment, too much desire to put people in their place. Now is the time for forgiveness, for reconciliation, for healing, for shedding all of these burdens which we unnecessarily carry through our lives because we either have never believed Christ's words of forgiveness to us or, like the unmerciful servant, are unwilling to pronounce these words to others. I pray God that not only will this convention show the spirit of forgiveness but that our congregations, our teachers, our pastors, our professors, all of our workers may see the spirit of forgiveness shining forth from our ministry and our living.

The second ingredient is rededication to our task and mission. It is time to quit jawing, quit carping and criticizing, and time to get to work. The doors are open all over the world. They will never be more open. We have God and His Word and Spirit, we have the people, we have the techiques, we have the material resources. The day is at hand. Let us be up and doing His work. God has forgiven and equipped us. May He give us forgiving, compassionate, and eager hearts to do our work which He has so graciously asked us to do for Him.

The doors are open.

Appendix A

Assignments to the Administration by the 1977 Dallas Convention

3-02A *To Declare a State of "Fellowship in Protest" with the ALC*

3-04A *To Deal with the Proposed Lutheran Book of Worship*

3-14 *To Appoint a Doctrinal Committee of LCMS for Canada*

3-20 *To Encourage Fellowship Discussions with All Lutheran Church Bodies*

5-01 *To Declare the Synod's Position on AELC, Especially Dual Membership in LCMS and AELC*

Actions of the President on Resolutions 3-02A, 3-04A, 3-14, and 3-20 are reported in the 1979 *Convention Workbook* and Report 3-01 of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, pp. 71—92. Action on Resolution 5-01 is reported under Report 5-02 of the Special Committee on Synodical Membership, p. 155.

6-20 *To Expand Continuing Education*

The President, as chairman of the Council of Administrators, has appointed the following to serve with him on a committee to implement this resolution: Dr. Arthur Ahlschwede, Mr. William Barge, Dr. Victor Constien. The committee is studying the issue of continuing professional education but has no final report to the Synod at this time.

Also implemented were Resolutions 9-01A (To Establish Theme for 1979 and 1981 Synodical Conventions) and 13-04A (To Promote Mission Education in Our Church.)

Appendix B

Entered into Rest

Pastors

Affeldt, Paul J.
Arndt, Reinhold R.
Baase, Carl F.
Badke, Robert G.
Bangert, Fred W.
Bartling, Victor A.
Becker, Robert W.
Beckmann, Roy A.
Beckmann, Samuel T.
Beversdorf, Arthur J.
Bielefeldt, Carl W.
Boerger, John F.
Bollefer, Francis W.
Bradac, John S.
Brauer, Fred E.
Breehne, Karl F.
Bregitzer, Louis F.
Breyer, Peter George
Broders, Edmund W.
Buelow, Donald W.
Bunkowske, Walter A.
Busch, John F. K.
Classick, Thomas D.
Claus, Enno G.
Dahms, Arthur C.
Deffner, Edward G.
Dewald, John
Dick, Herbert A.
Dierking, Walter J. A.
Drevlow, Adolph A.
Dunker, Egbert J.
Eberbach, Fred
Elicker, Evaldo
Engelhard, August
Fastenau, Emmet H.
Ferber, Hugo O. C.
Fischer, Theodore A.
Fitz, Arthur
Fleer, Edward H.
Fox, Eduard B.
Frank, Theodore G.
Friedrich, Walter H.
Hallman, Herbert H.
Gerth, Paul G.
Glock, Ernest
Gohlke, Theodore G.
Graebner, Martin L.
Griesse, August H.
Haerther, Martin J.
Hagemann, Harold D.
Harms, Herman A.
Hartfield, Herbert O.
Heidemann, Paul J.
Heins, John G.
Herzog, John L.
Hildner, George P.
Hilgendorf, Carl G.
Hillmer, Gerhardt H.
Hippe, Adolf
Hoemann, Albert L.
Hohengarten, John H.
Holsten, A. Willard
Hopka, Erich P. C.
Hueller, Marvin C.
Huth, Hilbert J.
Jacob, Edwin A.
Jacobs, Paul E.
Jacobsen, Julius G.
Jagow, Frederick W.
Jahn, Richard C.
Janke, Palmer L.
Janssen, Felix J. E.
Janzow, Carl C.
Jording, William A.
Kaija, Martin F. L.
Kampe, Karlis
Kellerman, Alvin T.
Kent, Samuel E.
Keyl, Rudolf J. S.
Kipp, Frederick E.
Klammer, Albert
Klich, Guido
Klinkenberg, Hubert E.
Knauft, Charles F.
Knobloch, Earl P.
Koppelmann, Herman H.
Kreft, Gustav G.
Krenzke, Theodore A.
Kritsch, Norman C.
Krueger, Gustav M. E.
Kuechenmeister, George C.
Lange, Ernst T.
Larson, Hugo W.
Leeland, Robert G.
Leimer, Karl
Lemke, Victor L.
Lippmann, William H.
Lohmann, Arthur M.
Lorberg, Frederick W.
Lorenz, Ewald F.
Ludwig, Daniel
Ludwig, Duane E.
Luttmann, Walter F.
Mach, Emil
Malotky, Richard P.
Malte, Reinhardt E.
Manning, Armin W.
Maring, Wilbur B.
Marth, Wallace D.
Marth, William A. O.
Meyer, Herman P.
Meyer, Lawrence Bernard
Miller, H. Earl
Moeller, Otto H.
Mueller, Theodore J.
Mutterer, Herman A.
Nagler, Richard H.
Nauss, John C.
Neitzel, Arthur E.
Nietzke, Carl E.
Norrgran, Bruce H.
Nuechterlein, Alvin C.
Nuernberg, Carl J.
Otten, Henry

Pies, Frank J., Sr.
Pomeroy, Ralph J.
Pritz, Carl J.
Rehwaldt, August C. F.
Rehwaldt, Walter C.
Reuter, Hans
Richert, Daniel
Ries, Karl G. M.
Riese, Rodney W.
Ripke, Edwin G.
Rippe, Robert W.
Romais, Bertilio
Rook, Waldemar A.
Rosenberg, Robert P.
Rottmann, Rufus W.
Rozak, John
Sattelmeier, Ferdinand J.
Sauer, Waldemar P.
Scaer, Carl E.
Schalow, Frederick M.
Scharlemann, Ernst K.
Scheibert, Ernest J.
Schmidt, John C. R.
Schnedler, Wilfred J.
Schramm, Eugene R.
Schroeder, Emil
Schulz, Karl P. J.
Schwalenberg, Guilherme
Seefeldt, Walter H.
Sefers, Viesturs
Stade, Robert C.
Steinke, Adolph L.
Stelling, William J.
Stelzer, Frederick J. H.
Stephan, Paul G.
Stock, William M.
Stohlmann, Paul F., Sr.
Succop, Walter E.
Sylvester, Ottomar
Taylor, George O.
Tervalon, Wilfred J.
Teske, Herbert J., Sr.
Tirmenstein, Arthur H.
Traugott, Henry A.
Trinklein, Oswald H.
Trost, Albert G.
Viehweg, Gotthold M.
Wagner, Eric E.
Walther, Richard L.
Wehrmann, Otto W.
Weller, Robert E.
Wendling, William H.
Wenger, Arnold E.
Westermann, Walter A.
Wetzstein, Christian T.
Wildgrube, Erich H., Sr.
Wismar, Adolph L.
Witthoeft, Robert
Wittig, Otto H.
Wittrock, Bernard W.
Wollslager, Clarence G.
Wottrich, Herbert F.
Wrede, Henry R.
Wuerffel, Carl T.
Wyppich, Carl F.

Teachers

Aufdemberge, Edgar H.
Bartels, John E.
Berndt, Walter C.
Bliese, Richard C.
Block, Gordon C.
Braun, Walter G.
Brott, Victor H.
Buehler, Louis C.
Buls, Erwin J.
Burger, Hugo F.
Busse, Karl L.
Deffner, Emil H.
Doering, Alfred E.
Grefe, G. G.
Gross, Arthur W.
Grotelueschen, Paul H.
Gutz, Carl F.
Haberbosch, David E.
Handrich, Eldor G.
Hellwege, Walter E.
Hilbig, Herman J.
Hitzemann, Alvin H.
Homeier, Edwin H.
Jabs, Gerhardt A.
Kieffer, Edwin G.
Kruse, Walter A.
Kuntz, Arnold G.
Leimer, Paul E.
Lorko, Julius
Meinke, Elmer E.
Meissner, Edward H.
Meyer, Martin E.
Moritz, Homer C.
Mossner, Ernst G.
Niemeier, Arthur
Obermann, Adolph W.
Peters, Paul H.
Rauschelbach, Hugo C.
Redeker, Walter
Roedel, Louis P.
Rommelmann, Henry C.
Rosel, Paul
Rosenau, Erwin P.
Scheele, Richard W.
Scheiwe, Theodore
Schmieding, Herman E.
Schroeder, Theodore C.
Schumacher, Bernhard H.
Senne, Clemens O.
Speckhard, Herman J.
Stahlecker, Helmuth A.
Suelter, Oscar F.
Timm, Walter F.
Weiss, Martin J.
Wendt, Walter L.
Wilde, Oscar H.
Zurstadt, Gerhardt A.

CONVENTION SERMON

Text: *Revelation 3:7-8*

How easy it is to forget that we are church, the church of the risen Lord who proclaims to us, "I am He that liveth and was dead; and behold, I am alive forevermore, amen; and have the keys of hell and death" (Rev. 1:18)! It is the peculiar temptation of the church assembled in convention to forget this word of our Lord and, instead of singing the songs of victory, to belabor one another for the problems which beset our church. Instead of confidently trusting this promise and relying upon His Word and the power of His Spirit, we try to solve our problems with new schemes and additional resolutions, which are often no more potent than the paper on which they are written. It is likewise a temptation to allow the statistics of evil, death, and terror to fill us with a sort of hopeless resignation, or to believe that we can solve the problems of the church by worshiping at the shrines of success and competing with the power brokers in the marketplaces of the world. It is easy to forget that our Lord once heard the tempter say: "To you I will give all this authority and their glory; "for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will" (Luke 4:6). How easy it is to live under the delusion that a long recital of the statistics of success is the evidence of the Spirit's power, or to believe that we can open the doors that seem to keep us from unity and success as a church by passing a few more rules and more stringent Bylaws, with the assumption that if we can coerce or manipulate the people of God in our congregations to accept and achieve the goals we set, the kingdom of God will come. The theme **"God Opens Doors,"** chosen for this convention, is no Madison Avenue adman's slogan to be glibly repeated. Instead this theme calls us to remember "the words of the Holy One, the True One, who has the key of David, who opens and on one shall shut, who shuts and on one opens" (Rev. 3:7). This theme proclaims to us that we are church, the church of the risen Lord, who has sent us to those who are still captive to the powers of sin, Satan, hell, and death, to open the doors of the prison house for all who are still captive to the powers of evil.

As we begin this 53rd convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, let us hear from the risen Lord:

"I Have Set Before You an Open Door"

I. Unless He Opens the Door, All Doors Remain Locked

Life Without Christ Is a Hopeless Captivity

For countless millions in our world today there is no open door. They are held captive by their past and live their lives under an oppressive burden of guilt. One of the most articulate descriptions of this is given by Franz Kafka in his play *The Trial.* In this play the principal character, a man by the name of Joseph K., is arrested one morning. In spite of all his efforts to get his day in court, he is never faced with his accusers or the charges



Dr. George Wollenburg, preacher, opening service

against him. Contrary to the normal fear that accused people have of being brought before the court, he eagerly seeks his day in court. He anxiously wants to prove his innocence, but the court seems to be impervious to any evidence. He is caught in a vise of guilt from which he cannot escape. In spite of his protests, "I am not guilty, it's all a mistake," he nevertheless has a painful sense of having somehow sinned against someone or something. Every effort to find an open door through which he might find acquittal before the court is doomed to failure. There is no advocate to plead his case. At last he submits to the execution ordered by the court. He dies like a dog in a ditch. This vague and undefined sense of "having sinned against something or someone" plagues modern 20th-century man no less than it troubled ancient people.

All Efforts to Free Men Lead to a Dead End

The efforts of men to find an open door have all been failures. Although religious movements and cults, superstition and magic attract people throughout the world, the door remains closed. The tools of psychiatry have only produced further enslavement of men by those who have acquired the means to use such tools for the control of others. Liberation movements and liberation theologies within the church have produced nothing but new forms of tyranny. Psychology and sociology have declared all moral standards to be relative. So 20th-century man has set himself free—free from morality, free from all rules, free from reason, free from logic, free to create the brave new world. But all such efforts have opened no door to freedom. Each key forged has merely brought people into another corridor of the prison house and filled our world with hopeless despair, with the

conviction that we are all victims of the absurd and meaningless existence which simply ends in the black abyss.

That mood of hopeless despair has been captured in the words of Jean Paul Friedrich Richter's poem "Dream of a World Without God": "And at this point a lofty noble form bearing the impress of eternal sorrow, came sinking down . . . and rested upon the altar; whereupon the dead cried out, 'Christ! Is there no God?' He answered: 'There is none.' . . . And Christ spake on, saying: 'I have traversed the worlds, I have risen on the suns . . . there is no God.' And I descended to whither the very shadow cast by being dies out and ends, and I gazed out into the gulf beyond and cried: 'Father, where art thou?' But answer came there none, save the eternal storm which rages on, controlled by none.

"Then he, sublime, loftiest of finite beings, raised his eyes toward the nothingness and boundless void, saying: 'Oh, dead, dumb nothingness!—Necessity endless and chill! O mad, unreasoning chance! When will ye dash this fabric into atoms, and me too . . . every soul in this great corpse trench of a universe is utterly alone!'"

Thus men are compelled to live their lives, forever cursed by their sins and guilt, forever cursed by their rebellion and self-willed disobedience, forever cursed by their separation from God; forever doing evil, forever imprisoned by the powers of Satan; forever bound to their sins, condemned to exist forever where "dead, dumb nothingness" and mad unreasoned chance rules. Cursed to live eternally beyond that gulf across which the souls of the damned cry, "Father, where are You?" Forever condemned to hear no answer except the sardonic laughter of the king of chaos, the lord of the absurd, the prince of darkness. There is no open door. There is no key. All the doors are forever closed, and apart from "the One who is holy and true, who holds the keys of hell and death," all men are forever doomed to be what they have made of themselves, imprisoned in that place where the rebel flag flies forever and where men grind their teeth in agony and despair.

II. Jesus Opens the Doors

He Has the Key of David

"Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut." The theme of our convention should bring us back to the One who is holy and true, who has the key of David. The despair and nightmare of our world would indeed be true if it were not for this One, who is holy and true. A door has been opened. It was opened on that absurd day we call "Good Friday." On a cross planted on a hill outside of Jerusalem, Jesus, the One who is holy and true, cried out across the gulf: "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" There He died, executed by God as the one great sinner. That death is no hero's death, no sublime and lofty death for a cause and high ideals. It is the death of a slave—He died like a dog in a ditch. The ancient Scriptures had spoken of His death: "He was taken from prison and from judgment. . . . He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He opened not His mouth" (Is. 53:7, 8). The verdict of the court of heaven had been spoken upon Him. "God made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Cor. 5:21). He went down into that dark prison from which there is no open door, into the darkness beyond, the grave and death.

He Has Loosed Us from the Bonds of Sin

But the senseless storm does not rage on, controlled by no one. An answer did come back to that cry of forsakenness. A voice that pierced the darkness and brought Him back from the grave and death. "The third day He rose again from the dead." What awesome words, these words which we recite so easily week after week! "He led to freedom all oppressed; and pardon won for sin-distressed. Oh, praise Him for His mercy!" The verdict of the court of heaven has been spoken, and that verdict for us is acquittal—forgiveness and pardon. No executioner waits for us to remove us from prison and from judgment. We are not led as sheep to the slaughter. We do not stand suppliant before the court of heaven with no advocate to plead our case. Jesus Christ is risen and ascended into heaven. There our great Advocate forever intercedes for us. He has opened the door. "Behold, I have set before you an open door, and no man can shut it."

He Has Destroyed the Gates of Death

"The words of the One who is holy, the One who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one shall shut, who shuts and no one opens." He who proclaims Himself as the Keeper of the key of David is the same Savior who began His ministry by reading from the ancient prophet: "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives and . . . liberty to those who are oppressed" (Luke 4:18). He broke the bonds of death and destroyed the gates of hell. He loosed us from our sins and makes us free with the glad and joyful freedom of the sons of God. He has opened the door of our prison and blown away all the dank stench of death. He has set us free to breathe the bright air of God's eternal world of light. No longer do men need to cry across the abyss to dead, dumb nothingness, no more die like a dog in a ditch. He has opened for us the door to the Father's heart and home and given us the prayer of the children of God. "For you have not received the Spirit of slavery to fear, but the Spirit of adoption by which we cry, 'Abba, Father'" (Rom. 8:15). We are not souls utterly alone in this vast corpse trench of a universe, abandoned orphans to live in hopeless despair, not bundles of atoms waiting for final disintegration of the universe by blind unreasoning chance. A door has been opened for us—the door to the bright light of God's eternal city, which "has no need of sun or moon to shine upon it, for the glory of the Lord God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb" (Rev. 21:23). Our future is not blind, unreasoned chance, necessity, endless and chill, but the sweet order of the Father's house, where our restless souls find

eternal peace. "Behold, I was dead and am alive and have the keys of hell and of death." Jesus Christ has gone down into the abyss, the prison house, and has opened for us the door: "The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered" (Rev. 5:5). "The power of death He brake in twain when He to life arose again. Oh! let us sing His praises."

III. Jesus Summons Us to a Triumphant Faith

He Summons Us to Be His Church Militant

We have gathered here as church. This is not the meeting of the stockholders of a religious corporation to develop new religious enterprises. We are church, the church of the Lion of the tribe of Judah. We have come here as the gathering of the tribes of God's new Israel. We are here not because we have power but because He "who holds the key of David, who opens and no man shuts," has summoned us here to sing the songs of victory. We are His church, His church militant, the victorious army of His terrible meek. His church knows that it struggles with an already defeated enemy. His church does not withdraw from the world and leave it once more in the power of already broken tyrants. The church of the risen Lord is not pacifist in its warfare against evil; it creates no alliance with the powers of hell and declares no truce with the prince of chaos and darkness. The church of the risen Lord makes no detente for peaceful coexistence with the tyranny of sin. The church of the One who is holy and true believes and trusts His promise: "I have set before you an open door which no man can shut," and therefore accepts the assignment of the risen Lord and undertakes its ministry with the same glad and joyful determination with which He began His own ministry. "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, He has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives . . . to set at liberty those who are oppressed" (Luke 4:18). With that song of the Servant of God upon its lips, the church of the risen Lord wields the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, and joyfully launches its attack upon the citadels of Satan. "I have set before you an open door"—thus He who has the key of David summons us to be what He has made us, His warriors, armed with the whole armor of God, delighting in the strength which His Spirit gives, raising the triumphant cry of the saints of the most high. We are summoned to battle as soldiers of Jesus Christ, soldiers who delight in the battle and who joyfully sniff the Easter air from which our Lord has swept away all the poisonous vapors of hell and death.

He Summons Us to Proclaim Liberty to the Captives

"I will give to you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you shall bind on earth will be bound in heaven, whatever you shall loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." With those words the One who is holy and true has given us our assignment and ministry. "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me. He has anointed Me to open the door of the prison house." We are church, His church, appointed to speak the words that open all the doors that are closed.

To say to those who are caught in the chains of their own past, held fast by their sin and guilt: In Jesus Christ you have a new life; He has set you free from your sins.

To those who can find no open door to escape their bondage to drugs, alcohol, and sex: Christ has opened the door and promises His Spirit to fill the emptiness of your life—He has set you free.

To proclaim to those who follow the false hope of liberation movements only to become slaves to their own passions and chaotic inner compulsions: Christ has opened the door for you to the true and ordered freedom of the children of God.

To proclaim to the young woman who contemplates abortion in her agony and shame: Christ has opened a door for you, for He has sanctified your life and that of your unborn child by His own holy obedience to God.

To say to the young who wander like lost souls looking for themselves that Christ has opened for them a way to find the very destiny for which they were created, their true self in Him.

To proclaim to those caught in the trap of their own ambitions, whose life has come apart and who cannot get it back together, that Christ has set them free from their self-serving bondage. He has opened the door for the true and glorious liberty of the servants of the Most High.

To proclaim to those whose sweet dreams of marriage have become a nightmare, trapped in a life of bitterness, anger, hostility, loneliness, that Christ has opened for them a door to a life that is completely new—new through the forgiveness of sins.

To announce to those whose bodies have been torn by war, maimed by disease, crippled by torture: Christ has risen, and He is the Promise of your resurrection when your bodies too will be free from the ravages of sin's curse.

To say to those who are the disinherited of the earth, who can find no open door to escape their poverty, that Christ has opened for them a door to the eternal treasures of God and has made them heirs of all that God has created and will yet create.

To announce to those who have despaired of the future, for whom there is no hope, that Jesus Christ has opened the door to the eternal future of a new world of life and light.

To say to those who sit lonely and oppressed and who find no justice before the courts of men that Jesus Christ has the key of David and that He has come to bring God's deliverance to the captive and justice to the oppressed.

To announce to those who are caught in the advancing years and who sit in dull listnessness waiting for death to come, that Christ has set before them an open door, the door to God's eternal world of life.

To declare to those whose tortured minds drive them to the borders of the abyss and who are locked in the prison of their own minds that Christ has purchased their freedom from all the dark powers that possess them.

To say to those who are caught in a web of loneliness

that a door has been opened for them into the household of God; they are no longer strangers and aliens but fellow citizens with the saints.

To declare to those who are caught in the satanic deception of the cults and false religions that Jesus Christ has opened for them a door, because He is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

To publish Good News to those who are imprisoned by the religions of the Law—that Christ has opened for them a door and has set them free from the curse of the Law, and that through His death and resurrection all things have become new for them.

Jesus Summons Us to Rejoice in Victory with Those Who Have Entered the Open Door

We are summoned again today by the words of our ancient liturgy to join our voices "with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven." To raise the glad triumphant shout of the redeemed: "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, hosanna in the highest." So in our celebration of the blessed victory feast of the new covenant, we are summoned to remember that great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us. Those men and women whom Martin Franzmann once called "God's grey army of mice who nibbled at the great mountain of the world in the hope that some day they would have tunneled through it to the light on the other side." We remember today the pastors and teachers who have already finished the fight and for whom the door of eternal light has been opened, who have entered into that bright and blessed world of God and who are among that great multitude who sing the eternal song of the redeemed. We join with them in their triumphant hymn of praise: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of armies, heaven and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord." We lift the cup of our terrible toast of victory. We have heard the voice of Him who speaks from the beginning and the end of days: "I have set before you an open door, and no man can shut it." Amen.

Vice-President George Wollenburg, D.D.

MISSION RALLY AND BIBLE STUDY

On Sunday evening, July 8, 1979, a Mission Rally was held in Kiel Auditorium attended by some 6,000 persons. Assorted Scripture lessons were read and short addresses given by the following overseas presidents: Andrew Chiu (Hong Kong), Nelson Unwene (Nigeria), Johannes Gedrat (Brazil), Paul Fynn (Ghana), G. Thomas Edward (India).

The principal address was given by Dr. Owald C. J. Hoffmann of St. Louis. Other brief talks were also given by Don Johnson (native American ministry), Paul Single (blind/deaf ministries), and Leticia Godoy (Hispanic ministry).

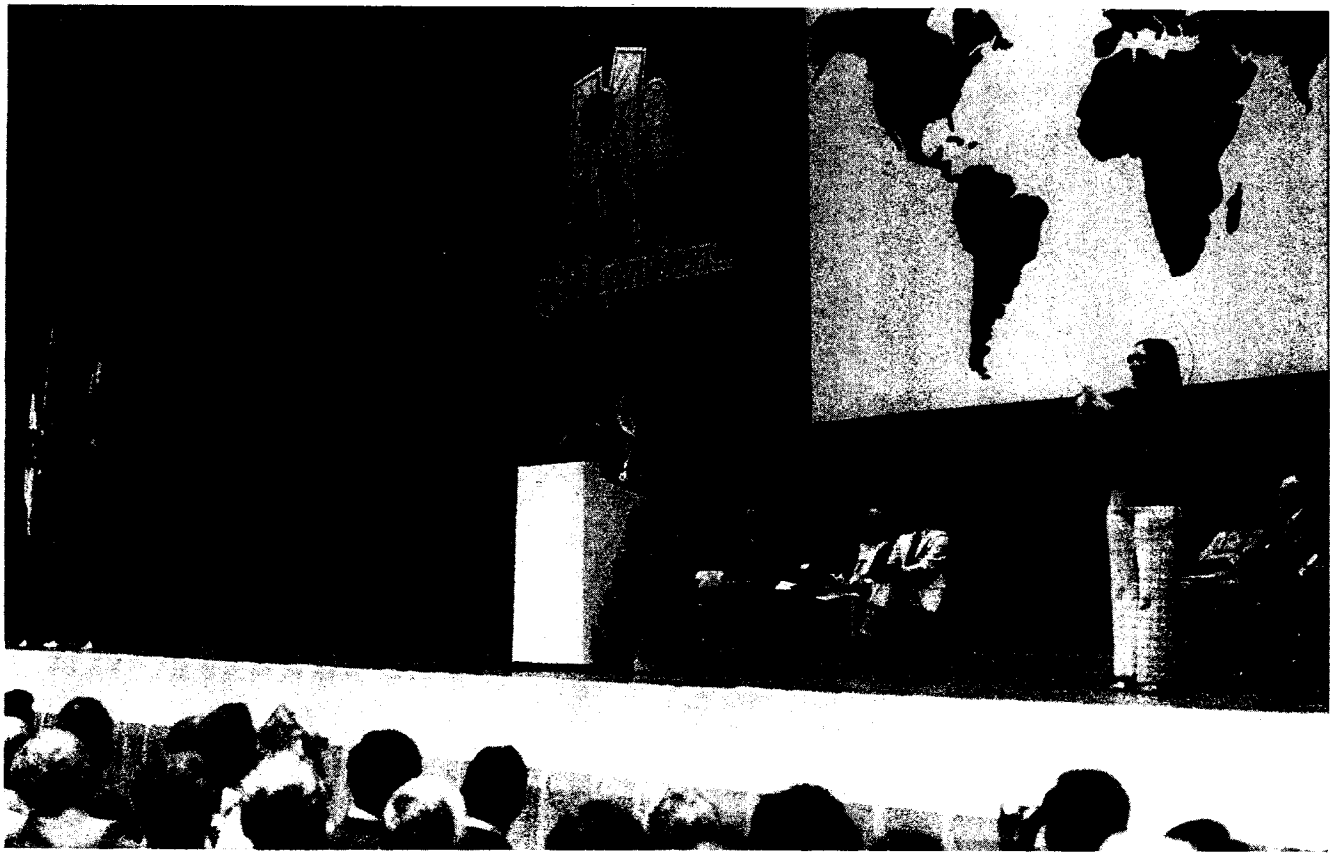
The delegates had been asked in advance to solicit, from the congregations they represented, gifts for the new ministry among Indochinese refugees in the camps in Hong Kong. It was reported later that in excess of $43,000 had been placed on the offering plate at the mission rally.

On four successive mornings during the convention Dr. Oswald Hoffmann also gave dynamic lectures on the mission book of the Scriptures, the Acts of the Apostles. Each session was concluded with a short time devoted to small-group discussions on the part of delegates and visitors wherever they happened to be seated.

A follow-up series of Bible studies will be made available to all congregations of the Synod.



Dr. Oswald Hoffmann, Bible study leader



. . . and speaker at the Mission Rally



At the Mission Rally in Kiel Auditorium



OTHER PRESENTATIONS

Greetings of the President of The American Lutheran Church

Needed—Believers

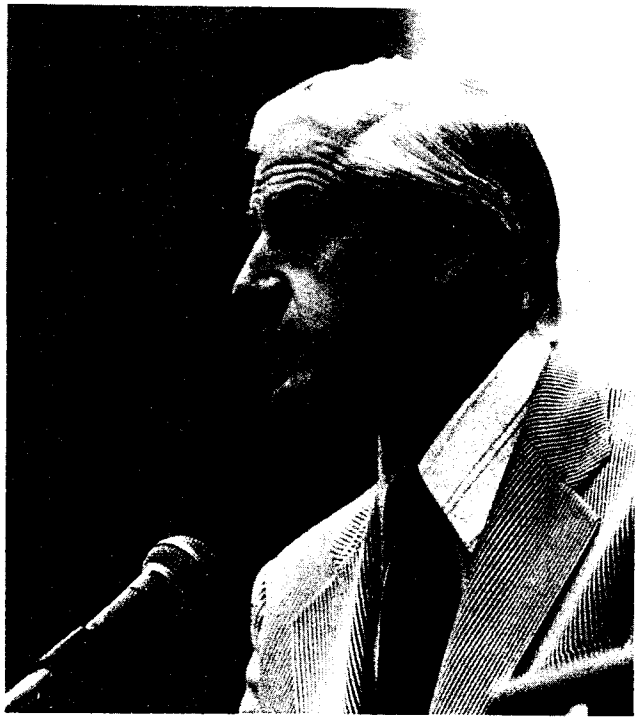
The American Lutheran Church greets The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we share in the hope of glory.

We are grateful for the many ways by which we share life in Christ and in His church. We rejoice in our shared ministries on campuses, in the military services, in social services, in mission planning, in world relief, in a great many congregations in this country and around the world. We rejoice in the fact that our people have no difficulty at all in forming new congregations that include members of our various Lutheran churches. The shared Scriptures, Confessions, catechisms, hymns, and prayers make them unidentifiable by synodical background. They share a common faith and a similar, though not identical, history. As a result there are thousands of congregations that include an undifferentiated race of people from our various Lutheran church bodies. We believe that is as it should be, a work of unity and maturity. So we thank God for the many works of unity and ministry in Christ that exist between and among us.

There is a sense in which The American Lutheran Church does not "need" the Missouri Synod. In the same sense you do not "need" us in the ALC. We are big churches, and we can get along all right going our separate ways.

There is a much deeper sense, however, in which we need each other very badly. God has made us for each other. He has called us and baptized us into His believing family. He makes us one in this and asks us to live as brothers and sisters. He asks us to display family unity, not sibling rivalry. We are not meant to keep each other at arm's length, quarrelsome and contentious. He has made us, the LCMS, the ALC, and the other Lutheran churches in this land, confessional siblings. We are of one mind in heartfelt commitment to the doctrine of the faith, in justification by grace through faith, in holding fast the inspiration of the Scriptures, and espousing the universal priesthood of believers. We are recognizably members of the Lutheran Christian family, and we need to express our shared family heritage. God *asks* us to express our oneness in faith and mission. That is "need" enough to impel us to do so.

At the end of the Gospel of John there is a passage: "These are written that you may believe. . . ." There is great need for believers today. There is great need for believers in God, the almighty God who through Jesus Christ has reached out to reclaim a lost and condemned human family. There is great need to believe that "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God." He invites us to share His life here and hereafter. There is great need for us to stand up and say, "We believe in God and in His Christ. We believe in Christ in the midst of life and in the presence of death, in good days and bad, in plenty and in want."



Dr. David Preus, President, The American Lutheran Church

There is need for believers in God's kingdom. The uncertainties of continued human existence have never been more obvious. The Buck Rogers visions of a soon-to-arrive scientific utopia have given way to apocalyptic visions of meaningless final destruction. This generation knows it could be the last generation, not as an item of faith but as a matter of grim fact. As a result there is a great deal of uncertainty, a sense that something is wrong, that a sense of direction is needed. That is not a totally new situation in human history, and our answers to it are not new. The Christian answer is the same today, yesterday, and forever. God's kingdom is not dependent on anything but God. We trust His promises that neither human hands nor satanic forces can damage His kingdom.

Belief in that kingdom enabled Paul to say, "To me to live is Christ and to die is gain." It enabled Dr. Martin Rinckart to bury thousands of parishioners and all the members of his own family as they succumbed to the black plague, and then sit down and write the hymn "Now Thank We All Our God." It enabled Dietrich Bonhoeffer to quietly go about sharing the Word of hope with his fellow prisoners though he knew the Nazi guards were on the way to take him to be shot. Belief in that kingdom has enabled millions of ordinary Christians to face the uncertainties of human existence with confidence.

The church is made up of believers in the kindom of our Lord Jesus Christ. The church gathers to share in Christ's victory over sin, death, and Satan and then joins efforts to create an earthly society that is just, humane, and compassionate, a reflection of the kingdom of God.

Gathered here today are believers in God, believers in Christ's kingdom. We are also called to be believers in and workers toward a free, responsible, just, moral society. For us in this country it means we start with a free, responsible, just, moral, American society. Our heritage is great. We do not start from zero. Obviously, however, our society has reached one of these points where we need new beginnings. Or perhaps old beginnings revisited.

Americans need to recapture some of the elements of moral greatness in American beginnings. We also need to add some, the need for which has become especially apparent in our day. I submit that Americans must recognize anew that freedom requires responsibility or it becomes chaos; that homely virtues must be reclaimed from ridicule; that the very word "virtue" must again become a word that evokes positive response. I speak of virtues such as honesty, industry, civility, kindness, marital fidelity, and neighborliness. Those are Biblical virtues that are part of our national as well as Christian heritage.

The people of God must take the lead in calling American people to a rejection of the "me" generation, with its selfish, self-indulgent, ever-increasing consumerism. It is time to laugh out of business the omnipresent advertising that promises instant happiness if you drive our newest car or our newest clothes; instant security if you buy insurance or deposit in our bank; instant beauty if you use our cosmetics; instant popularity if you use our deodorant. Mindless self-gratification has no virtue. It is self-destructive.

We Americans have made ourselves weak and dependent in our race for instant gratification. We have become accustomed to living beyond our needs, especially our energy needs. Now all kinds of people over whom we exercise little or no control can make us dance to their tune or the oil pumps go dry. The energy problem is mainly a problem of American energy appetites run amok. We will have to reclaim the virtue of frugality, of exercising discipline over our desires. Actually, frugality is too strong a word. Conservation is more appropriate.

We have been flirting with conservation for many years. Now it is time for deep seriousness. It is not just this moment's energy crisis that requires it. It is the underlying fact that the sustainability of the earth and its people requires a moral commitment to conservation of all the earth's resources. Our responsibility is not only to this generation, else we will deserve the ugly title "the un-generation." Our responsibility is to this generation and to our children's generation.

Last evening 10 Americans from church and synagog spent the evening with President Carter at Camp David. He did not tell us what he intends to do. He asked questions of us and invited us to share our perceptions of America's needs. I went to that meeting and returned with a conviction as to what will happen. President Carter will come down from that mountain one of these next days. He will bring no easy process for America or the world. Neither will he come down wringing his hands in despair. He will lay out before us a summons to be a people of principle, a people of discipline, willing to accept the challenge to meet the energy crisis or any other crisis that comes along. He will ask us to lay anew the foundations for a just, free, and responsible society for all the people.

If he does, I hope the people of the LCMS and of the ALC will say with words and deeds, with sturdy Lutheran confidence, "God has not changed. His kingdom is secure. He has equipped us for this hour. Let's get on with the job!"

And I hope we will say it together, LCMS brothers and sisters in Christ. Amen.

David W. Preus, D.D.

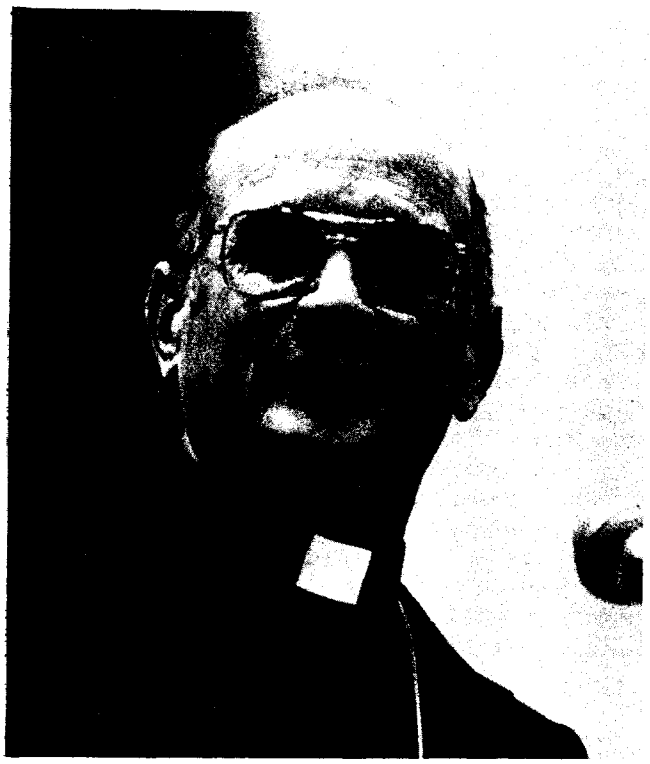
Greetings of the President of the Lutheran Church in America

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

It is a happy privilege which I have today to bring you greetings on behalf of the Lutheran Church in America. It is happy for me personally, for there are important family ties that I have with you. At one time our little congregation in east Tennessee was served by the Missouri Synod. One of our pastors was the late Dr. W. F. Arndt, who also was the schoolteacher in our little community. To the day that he died, my father considered Dr. Arndt as a personal friend and as one of the foremost spiritual leaders in his life. I have copies of sermons which he wrote and then gave the handwritten manuscript to my father. Furthermore, I have a brother who is now a member of one of your congregations in Bristol, Tennessee. So I grew up in a family and in a situation where there was high regard for the Missouri Synod as a church and for individual pastors in particular. I share that regard.

I also have valued highly for the last few years the associations with your officers as we have worked together in various settings. I have appreciated the friendships that we have shared as we have been together in official relationships.

Two particular ideas which we Lutherans value highly are important to us in the Lutheran Church in America just as they are to you in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. They are especially important to me as president of the LCA.



Dr. James Crumley, President, Lutheran Church in America

1. The first is the primary place of a theology based on God's revelation of Himself. The church is a community of faith, and as people gather around Word and sacrament, faith is born and nurtured. Important to us is our historical, confessional position by which we adore the triune God, whose acts are recorded for us in Holy Scripture and to whom generations of countless faithful people have borne witness. We too want to be counted in that glorious company of confessors.

We are anxious that our witness to God in Christ be expressed in a meaningful way as the Holy Spirit guides us in our lives today. For this biennium the Lutheran Church in America has chosen as its theme "Confessing Christ Today." I believe each word in that theme is crucial. To confess must always mean more than the mouthing of pious phrases or the concern over propositional truth. Just as the German princes of the 16th century were willing to put their lives in jeopardy in order to hold fast to their convictions, so our words and acts of confession must grow out of our deep-seated confidence in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Christ alone is at the center of our confession. We are made God's people as we are baptized into Him, and we become new creatures through His power. Our confession asserts that the glory belongs to Him alone and not to us.

Such a message of marvelous grace is especially needed in our world today. As modern humanity struggles with forces beyond our comprehension and certainly beyond our control, we must proclaim the word that is at one and the same time challenging and consoling: "Jesus Christ is Lord."

During this biennium and as we celebrate the 450th anniversary of the Augsburg Confession in 1980, we are anxious that this confessional position be emphasized.

2. The style in which the church must operate is always pastoral in nature. The Word of God portrays God as the Shepherd of the flock. He alone can "keep" Israel. He alone can provide all that is essential for the well-being of his people. He alone has loved the world enough to give his only-begotten Son. Thus our message is not theory, nor is it conceived in an ivory tower. Our concern is people, and our purpose is to apply the Gospel to the lives of people. We are not program-centered but people-centered, and every program must be justified on the basis of its effective service of people. We are not organization- nor institution-centered, and our organizations and institutions are always to be judged on the basis of their service to people. All that we are and all that we try to do as a church must foster that primary relationship which God intends to have with His people, and through the power of God's love we build relationships with one another. Thus we intend not to erect a triumphal institution but to serve all of God's created world as those who are called to be undershepherds of the great Shepherd.

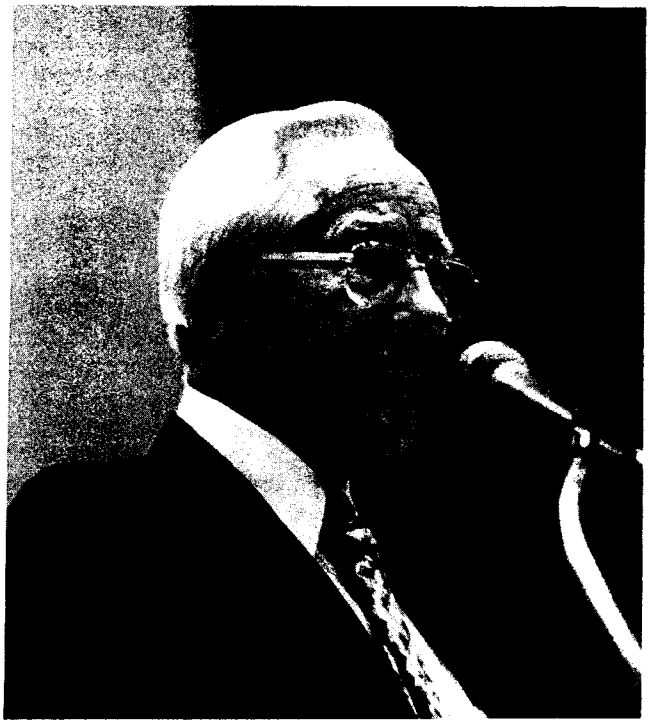
I greet you in the name of the Lutheran Church in America, confident that both churches share these two basic concerns. I pray God's blessings upon you and His strengthening and undergirding all that you as a church and as individuals undertake in His name.

James R. Crumley Jr., D.D.

Address of the Retiring General Secretary, Lutheran Council in the U.S.A.

First, I must express my great pleasure that you have resolved to continue your participation in the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A. Your support is, among other things, a tribute to your honored Secretary, Dr. Herbert Mueller, who was elected less than two months ago as the fifth president of the Lutheran Council. The second president was the Reverend Oswald C. J. Hoffmann. Doctor Mueller is indeed a worthy successor. It has been a great joy to work with him in council and other activities over the years, and we look forward to his continued energetic support for many years to come.

As your synodical President has observed more than once, if the council did not exist, we would have to invent it. We have been at this cooperative enterprise for a dozen years now, sometimes more harmoniously than others. But, happily, we have continued together, be-



Dr. George Harkins, retiring General Secretary, Lutheran Council in the U.S.A.

cause all the church bodies have discovered that the council assists them as they carry out God's call as they understand it, and as importantly, I trust, because they have perceived that cooperative work through the council is often the best way to further the mission of the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church in which we Lutherans are a confessional movement.

It has been almost five years that I have been part of your staff, as it were, as general secretary of the council. As many of you know, I officially retired from that post at the end of June. For this transitional month my successor, John Houck—who will bring you a few words of greeting shortly—and I are on the job together.

I won't spend my few minutes reviewing what you find printed in the report on pages 21 to 31 of Section A of *Today's Business*. I urge you to review that printed report, however, for it details a wide range of activity, much of which you may not have been aware of or may have taken for granted. Since most of the council's activities receive funding from the Synod, you should view what is reported there as an extension of your ministry.

A few council staff members are here during your convention: the Reverend Reuben C. Baerwald, the Reverend Charles V. Bergstrom, Mrs. Marion Dawson, Mr. Thomas H. Dorris, and the Reverend Clement W. K. Lee. I hope you will feel free to approach them during these days to exchange your opinions and ideas about anything that appears in the report. In areas you have chosen they also are extensions of your staff.

This being my valedictory address to a church body convention, I first considered reflecting on the five years we have been through together. Like all of life they have been a mixture of bad and good, failure and success, deep disappointment and pleasant surprise. But then I decided to take Moses on Mount Nebo as an inspiration, and look forward rather than backward. Of course, I wouldn't want to press that parallel too far. I don't mean that the past has been wilderness, or that the future is going to be the promised land, or even that my observations come divinely engraved on stone tablets.

But I would like to lift up three areas of our life together as Lutherans in North America which I think could and should be particularly worthy of note—not forgetting, of course, that many other cooperative areas—military chaplaincy; youth-agency-relations work; specialized pastoral care and clinical education; research, planning and development, to name but a few—continue to contribute importantly to our mission and ministry as Lutherans.

We seem these days to be flooded with Lutheran anniversaries. The catechisms are 450 years old this year; the Augustana is 450 years old next year. The whole Book of Concord reaches its 400th anniversary also in 1980. These are important opportunities for us Lutherans—not to thank God that we are not like others who do not have our confessional heritage, but rather to do two other things: first, to ask humbly His forgiveness that we have not been worthy of the grace given through our heritage; and second, to resolve to share what God has given us, even as we want also to share and learn from the ways in which God has blessed other Christian traditions.

Currently we are involved in four theological dialogs in this country—with United Methodists, Baptists, Episcopalians, and Roman Catholics. The first three are under the auspices of the council. The last is coordinated for Lutherans by Lutheran World Ministries. In all, you have provided vigorous representation. We have learned not only that people with a variety of styles and attitudes fall under the name Lutheran but also that not all officially designated LCMS representatives are identical in all respects. It is a healthy reminder of the Biblical truth that a shared confessional subscription does not presuppose uniformity at every turn.

Second, let me highlight the area of church-state relations. Earlier this year the council concluded a very fruitful series of consultations on the subject, in which many of your representatives played major parts. Let me mention especially your Secretary, your attorney, Philip Draheim, and the past president of Valparaiso University, the Reverend Albert G. Huegli, who proved an excellent choice to chair the process. As you probably know, the document was unanimously endorsed by the church body representatives at the council's annual meeting last May.

Now, however, comes the important followup phase, coordinated by the council's Office for Governmental Affairs. We must try to speak with a united voice in a society and to a government which in an age of increasing secularization seem less and less able to hear what Christians are saying. As Lutherans we have an important perspective related to our understanding of God's

two kingdoms, or areas of action, church and state. That heritage, together with the helpful insights it offers, is another area in which we can together contribute in a major way on an issue which is certain to be of importance in the years directly ahead.

Finally, let me lift up the continuing needs in refugee work. Reports in recent weeks remind us forcefully again of the plight of persons for whom, as for Jesus, there was and is no room. Thousands of LCMS congregations have joined congregations of the other church bodies in responding. Yet the need remains great. We must not grow weary in well-doing. Again, happily, we are able to carry out this monumental task through a common agency, the council's Department of Immigration and Refugee Services.

I would like to conclude with a challenge. The second principle for Lutheran ecumenism outlined in the report of your Commission on Theology and Church Relations of November 1974 affirms that Lutherans "will not omit doing anything, insofar as God and conscience allow, that may serve the cause of Christian concord."

Though we cooperate in much, in much we do not cooperate. And of course cooperation forbidden by God and/or conscience would not be appropriate. But the CTCR document puts before us a constant challenge as heirs of a confessional movement which never intended a divided Christianity as desirable or permanent. That challenge is to examine constantly all we do or choose not to do to see if our motivations are truly and only inspired by God or conscience. And if God or conscience has not clearly forbidden something which could become a step toward concord, harmony, or unity among us, or indeed between Lutherans and other Christians, then we must conclude that there is almost certainly no ultimately God-pleasing reason to continue separately in the particular matter concerned.

Jesus prayed that His followers might be one and that they would demonstrate it to the world, so that the world might believe. In the CTCR document you are committed to do everything possible to further Christian concord, restrained only by God or conscience. Who of us would be bold enough to say we have yet come anywhere near meeting that challenge? My prayer for you and your brothers and sisters in the other Lutheran bodies is that together with God's help you will resolve not to omit anything in this regard, mindful always of the reason for unity—that the world might believe.

And now, Mr. President, it is a distinct privilege and a high honor to present the recently elected General Secretary of the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A., the Reverend John R. Houck, who has long experience and tested competence in cooperative Lutheranism; what is more, he is highly skilled in that field. He came to his new position after previous experience in the Lutheran Council and, more recently, nine years as the administrator of the largest program unit in The American Lutheran Church. Dr. Houck.

George F. Harkins, D.D.

Remarks of Newly Elected General Secretary, Lutheran Council in the U.S.A.

In many ways I feel like I am returning home. It has been a real pleasure for me to see how many of you I know from my previous assignment with the Lutheran Council. It is therefore a great privilege for me to have as one of my first assignments assisting with the representation of the Lutheran Council at your convention.

These times in the world and the U.S. are calling for the church of Jesus Christ to be strong in mission. Just by way of example, we have and are still living through the longest period of inflation in American history. This has caused severe strain on budgets in all of the churches. Ultimately this kind of pressure may force us into some areas of cooperation as Lutheran church bodies for which we are not ready. It will be far better for all of us to think through and learn about cooperation out of good reasoning rather than be forced by economics.

There is much which can be done cooperatively. We are already doing much, but we can do more. The annual meeting of the council pointed up one area. Executives from the Control Data Corporation made a presentation on their work among the urban poor to better conditions, and it was rather an excellent array of programs. Out of that meeting the annual meeting



The Rev. John Houck, newly elected General Secretary of LCUSA

resolved to ask the Division of Mission and Ministry of the Lutheran Council to design a study process for the participating bodies to explore with industry possible ways of cooperation. There are so many problems among the poor people in America. It is good that we can resolve to cooperate in this kind of exploratory study.

I am personally excited by all that we can do together. I ask your continuing help and your fervent prayers for the council as I begin my term of office.

John R. Houck

Closing Address

(Excerpts from transcription)

I want to begin with the reiteration that not only does God Open Doors, but He has opened them. It is my very firm belief that God has been at work during this convention opening doors to us in many different ways, and for that, first of all, we thank Him, and secondly, we thank all of the people who have participated in this convention.

I've now had the responsibility of serving and chairing five conventions. I think of those conventions and then think of this one, the politeness and the kindness that you've shown to each other, and certainly to the chair, and also the thoughtfulness that has been expressed. There have been some excellent suggestions made. It's been a real pleasure to chair this convention, to see the way you have worked together to help open doors and to keep them open.

I want to say that we have had a few tense moments. The voting on Resolution 3-03 on fellowship was in my opinion almost a miracle of God. I didn't really like that resolution very much. In fact I went to one of the District Presidents who never says a word (that's one of the reasons I like him so well) and suggested to him, "Why don't you get that thing pulled off the floor and propose tabling it, since it really doesn't say a lot more than the Dallas resolution, and all we do is sit and hassle." He thought about it, then decided against it, and I think his judgment and the leading of God was better than mine. Because in a very remarkable way on a resolution that could have been terribly, terribly divisive on the most difficult subject to come before this convention, the most highly emotional, we got over 800 concerned, informed, intelligent, and certainly convinced delegates to come together and agree.

I think it is indicative of the spirit of the Missouri Synod, a church that I grew up in, and that I've known from the days when we were considered way over to the right, the old German church, to the present time. Yet I don't think the spirit of Missouri has changed a bit. On the one hand we have said, in resolution after resolution after resolution, that we want to be a Biblical and confessional Lutheran church.

On the other hand, we have said we don't want to act precipitously. We want to be patient. We want to reach out. We want to be in fellowship and to work with and cooperate with other churches and other Lutheran churches. It seems to me that the convergence that came between such an overwhelming majority of this convention on that very difficult and emotion-laden vote was something that I will always remember as representing Missouri.

We go at each other. We're concerned. We don't always agree, but we come together and we work together, and I know that we rejoice together. And for that I am very grateful!

I've said this in 200 to 300 congregations, that I wish you could have had the experiences I've had in visiting partner churches and in seeing the mission of this wonderful church of ours. I think these 1,700 people and the visitors have seen a glimpse with these partner-church presidents, the treasurers, the missionaries, the mission fair, and all the things that you have had an opportunity to experience. I hope that it has opened a door in every heart, and a door in every mind, to give us a little indication of the really wonderful work that the Lord has led this church into both here and abroad.

As said by General Hyatt, president of Concordia College, St. Paul, Minn., and I think he spoke a very great truth, the church needs to regain a sense of its self-esteem. We voted to collect $40 million. I know we can do it. I haven't the slightest doubt that we can do it.

We can do anything that we set our minds to with God giving us the grace and the blessing of His Word and His Spirit, and when we decide on His things, to do His mission and not our own.

I hope that message of General Hyatt came through loud and clear. I hope there's not one dime given in that collection that says I'm doing it for my Synod, or I'm doing it for those officials, or I'm doing it because I want to get ahead, or I'm doing it because somebody tells me to. You do it because the Lord Jesus Christ has opened a door in front of you and showered you with gifts to use so that more people may come to know Him. That's all. That's why we do it.

In closing I commend you all to God as you journey to your various homes. May He bless you, may He bless every pastor and teacher in His ministry, and every congregation. May we grow together, walk together, love Him, work for Him, and walk into those marvelous opportunities which He has put before us. God bless you and God bless our church.

J. A. O. Preus

RESOLUTIONS

1. MISSIONS

To Delete *Handbook* References to "Sister" Churches

RESOLUTION 1-01

Report 1-01, II (*CW*, p. 6)

WHEREAS, At the International Lutheran Theological Conference in Porto Alegre, Brazil, November 1975, the churches in attendance voted to change the official designation of their relationship with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod from "sister" to "partner"; therefore be it

Resolved, That all *Handbook* references be amended as follows:

PRESENT WORDING	*PROPOSED WORDING*
2.27 Powers and Duties of the President	**2.27 Powers and Duties of the President**
h. The President shall represent the Synod in official contacts with all sister churches by aiding, counseling, and advising them and strengthening the relations with and between them.	h. The President shall represent the Synod in official contacts with all partner churches by aiding, counseling, and advising them and strengthening the relations with and between them.
B. SISTER CHURCH FELLOWSHIP	**B. CHURCH FELLOWSHIP**
16.03 Procedure for Recognition	**16.03 Procedure for Recognition**
a. When a church body applies for formal recognition as a sister church, in altar and pulpit fellowship with the Synod, such recognition shall be proposed at a synodical convention only after the approval of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations.	a. When a church body applies for formal recognition of altar and pulpit fellowship with the Synod, such recognition shall be proposed at a synodical convention only after the approval of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations.
b. When a synodical mission applies for formal recognition as a self-governing sister church, such recognition shall be proposed at a synodical convention by the Board for Missions with the approval of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations.	b. When a synodical mission applies for formal recognition as a self-governing partner church, such recognition shall be proposed at a synodical convention by the Board for Missions with the approval of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations.

Action: *Adopted (1).*



Dr. Edward Westcott, Executive Secretary, Board for Missions

To Recognize Brazil District as Partner Church

RESOLUTION 1-02A

Reports 1-01, VI, Rec. 2; 3-01, 1; II, B, 1-1 (*CW*, pp. 6, 31, 76)

WHEREAS, God has blessed the more than 75 years of mission efforts of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Brazil and has gathered 180,000 of His people into 1,500 Christian congregations that have been organized in a District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, known as the Brazil District (Igreja Evangelica Luterana do Brasil); and

WHEREAS, The Brazil District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (IELB) has officially requested termination of District status and that it be recognized as a partner church; and

WHEREAS, A common confessional basis and commitment to God's mission would exist and would constitute a precious bond between The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the Igreja Evangelica Luterana do Brasil as a partner church; and

WHEREAS, The Board for Missions and the Commission on Theology and Church Relations have examined and approved the proposed constitution of the IELB

and heartily approve this step in harmony with Bylaw 16.03 b; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention joyfully recognize the Igreja Evangelica Luterana do Brasil as a partner church, effective Jan. 1, 1980; and be it further

Resolved, That the President, Board of Directors, and Board for Missions be authorized, in consultation with corresponding representatives of the Brazil District (IELB), to develop a protocol document for the full implementation of this partnership; and be it finally

Resolved, That Bylaws 4.71a, 4.87, 6.82h, as well as the action reflected in the footnote to Constitution Article XII, 13 (*Handbook,* page 23) be rescinded or amended, as the case may be, and that the Commission on Constitutional Matters be authorized to make any other necessary adjustments in the *Handbook* resulting from this action of the convention.

Action: *Adopted (1).*

(The words "or amended, as the case may be" were added by common consent.)

To Encourage and Assist African and European Partner Churches/Mission Fields to Increase Membership

RESOLUTION 1-03A

Report 1-01 (*CW,* pp. 12, 33)

WHEREAS, The risen Lord's commission to His disciples: "As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you" (John 20:21), includes the call to do mission work among the 916 million people in Africa and Europe; and

WHEREAS, God is pleased and His name glorified when His kingdom is expanded through the gathering of people into His kingdom through the proclamation of the Gospel and Baptism; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and its partner churches/mission fields in Africa and Europe have committed themselves to mutually assist one another in winning people to Jesus Christ and helping them to mature in faith (Heb. 6:1); and

WHEREAS, God has placed before us challenges and opportunities that can result in tremendous growth, both internally and externally; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod encourage its partner churches/mission fields in Africa and Europe to adopt goals of increase in baptized and communicant membership in the 1980s; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Missions be prepared to assist the partner churches/mission fields in Africa and Europe in developing necessary programs, Bible studies, strategies, and plans so that under the guidance of the Holy Spirit these goals of the 1980s will be met.

Action: *Adopted (1).*

(The words "the proclamation of the Gospel and" were added in Session 3 by common consent.)

To Encourage and Assist Asian Partner Churches/Mission Fields to Increase Membership

RESOLUTION 1-04A

Report 1-01 (*CW,* pp. 15, 33)

WHEREAS, The risen Lord's commission to His disciples: "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you" (John 20:21), includes the call to do mission work among the 2.4 billion people in Asia (over one-half the world's population); and

WHEREAS, God is pleased and His name is glorified when His kingdom is expanded through the gathering of people into His kingdom through the proclamation of the Gospel and Baptism; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and partner churches/mission fields in Asia have committed themselves mutually to assist one another in winning people to Jesus Christ and helping them to mature in faith (Heb. 6:1); and

WHEREAS, God has placed before us challenges and opportunities that can result in tremendous growth, both internally and externally; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod encourage its partner churches/mission fields in Asia to adopt goals of increase in baptized and communicant membership in the 1980s; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Missions be prepared to assist the partner churches/mission fields in Asia in developing necessary programs, Bible studies, strategies, and plans so that under the guidance of the Holy Spirit these goals of the 1980s will be met.

Action: *Adopted (3).*

(Added later in Session 3 by common consent: "the proclamation of the Gospel and.")

To Encourage and Assist Partner Churches/Mission Fields in Latin America to Increase Membership

RESOLUTION 1-05A

Report 1-01 (*CW,* pp. 13, 33)

WHEREAS, The risen Lord's commission to His disciples: "As the Father sent me, I am sending you" (John 20:21), includes the call to do mission work among the 344 million people in Latin America; and

WHEREAS, God is pleased and His name is glorified when His kingdom is expanded through the gathering of people into His kingdom through the proclamation of the Gospel and Baptism; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and its partner churches/mission fields have committed themselves to winning people to Jesus Christ and helping them to mature in faith (Heb. 6:1); and

WHEREAS, God has placed before us challenges and opportunities that can result in tremendous growth both internally and externally; therefore be it



One of the many booths at the Mission Fair

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod encourage its partner churches/mission fields in Latin America to adopt goals of increase in the baptized and communicant membership in the 1980s; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Missions be prepared to assist the partner churches/mission fields in Latin America in developing necessary programs, Bible studies, strategies and plans so that under the guidance of the Holy Spirit these goals of the 1980s will be met.

Action: *Adopted as amended (3).*

(The amendment inserted the words: "the proclamation of the Gospel and.")

To Encourage and Assist Partner Churches/Mission Fields to Increase Their Mission Outreach

RESOLUTION 1-06A

Report 1-01 (*CW,* p. 16)

WHEREAS, God has blessed the mission work of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod with the establishment of partner churches/mission fields throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, These partner churches/mission fields are in strategic positions culturally, linguistically, geographically, and sociologically to reach people still living in spiritual darkness and in need of the Light, Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, It is our mission to assist partner churches/mission fields as they continue to develop mission awareness and zeal within their churches that involve them in reaching people within and beyond their cultural and social sphere; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has God-given resources to enable it to assist partner churches/mission fields in developing and implementing plans for such outreach; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod adopt the mission challenge for the 1980s to assist partner churches/mission fields in developing and implementing comprehensive plans for outreach to people in their immediate areas; and be it further

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod adopt the mission challenge for the 1980s to assist partner churches/mission fields in establishing functioning mission boards where feasible, for strengthening the awareness and zeal for reaching people beyond their cultural tradition, social sphere, and geographic boundaries with the Gospel; and be it further

Resolved, That we pledge our resources and commit ourselves to such assistance for the joint extension of Christ's kingdom; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Missions, in consultation with the partner churches/mission fields, and

sharing each other's expertise, strive to see that these challenges are met; and be it finally

Resolved, That the membership of the Synod be kept informed.

Action: *Adopted (3).*

To Establish Functioning Church Extension Fund Programs in Ten Partner Churches/Mission Fields

RESOLUTION 1-07

Report 1-01, II (*CW*, p. 6)

WHEREAS, The existence of a Church Extension Fund program in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has served the church significantly in meeting the expansion opportunities for ministry and outreach in North America and throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, The need exists in overseas partner churches/mission fields for the availability of funds for capital expansion; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Chuch—Missouri Synod Church Extension Fund has made available to the Board for Missions $500,000 in interest-free funds for overseas capital expansion and has thereby provided incentive and seed money for the establishment of Church Extension Fund programs in overseas partner churches/mission fields; and

WHEREAS, The Board for Missions and the Board for Church Extension believe that a significant program for overseas capital expansion is one that incorporates use of the invested dollar as well as the contributed dollar; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod adopt the mission challenge for the 1980s that 10 partner churches/mission fields of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod have functioning Church Extension Fund programs; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Missions work closely with the Board for Church Extension, sharing each other's expertise for implementing this challenge for the 1980s.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

To Help Develop Sound Accounting Practices in Partner Churches/Mission Fields

RESOLUTION 1-08

Report 1-01, II (*CW*, p. 6)

WHEREAS, At the invitation of The Lutheran Church—Hong Kong Synod, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (a partner church with them) was able to provide them with financial management assistance; and

WHEREAS, Such consultative assistance is extremely important and helpful in planning and strategizing for effective ministry in this area of the world for the years ahead; and

WHEREAS, Such consultative assistance has proved helpful when provided for other fields (Venezuela and the Council of Lutheran Churches in Central America and Panama); and

WHEREAS, Such consultative assistance has been looked upon favorably by the partner churches/mission fields meeting recently in Papua New Guinea; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod adopt the mission challenge for the 1980s that all partner churches/mission fields of the Synod at their request be provided with professional financial management assistance; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Missions work closely with the Internal Auditing Department and the Treasurer's Department, sharing each other's expertise, to see to it that this challenge for the 1980s be dealt with and met for planning and maximizing resources for ministry throughout the world.

Action: *Adopted (7).*

(The Committee removed "10" from the heading and substituted "all" for "10" in the first resolve.)

To Support Great Commission Convocation, Nov. 6—9, 1980

RESOLUTION 1-09

Report 1-02 (*CW*, p. 46); Overture 1-29 (*CW*, p. 53)

WHEREAS, The Lord of the church has commissioned us to make disciples of all nations; and

WHEREAS, We need continuing encouragement and support in order that we give the Great Commission priority in all of our ministries; and

WHEREAS, Many congregations and individuals in the Missouri Synod are doing evangelism in ways from which others in the Synod can learn; and

WHEREAS, Some of our congregations and church workers use non-Lutheran materials and programs because they are unaware of the Lutheran programs available; and

WHEREAS, Various Districts of the Synod have demonstrated the value of large gatherings to motivate and equip people for evangelism; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in this convention endorse the plans for the Great Commission Convocation Nov. 6—9, 1980; and be it further

Resolved, That the Districts of the Synod be encouraged to support this convocation by cooperating with the steering committee and encouraging the participation of its congregations; and be it further

Resolved, That all congregations of the Synod be encouraged to support the convocation and when possible sponsor participants for attendance; and be it finally

Resolved, That we encourage Districts or regional combinations of Districts to hold similar convocations in their area after the 1980 synodical convocation.

Action: *Adopted as amended (5).*

(The final resolve was added by amendment.)

To Set Goals in Evangelism

RESOLUTION 1-10

Report 1-02 (*CW,* p. 39); Overture 1-33 (*CW,* p. 54)

WHEREAS, Good planning involves setting goals that are:

—relevant: related to the mission God has given us;
—measurable: it can be known whether they are achieved;
—significant: of sufficient challenge to be a statement of faith;
—manageable: realistic and attainable.
—flexible: if circumstances change or there was miscalculation, they can be changed;
—personal: involving people in their mission for God; and

WHEREAS, Goals in evangelism can serve as guides for planning strategies, a means of evaluation, and concerns for prayer; and

WHEREAS, Setting goals in evangelism can be done under the conviction that only the Holy Spirit motivates people and brings results; and

WHEREAS, We need to reach more people for the Lord and His church, thus raising the number of adults gained annually above the present 25,000—27,000 range; and we need to reduce the defections from our communicant membership rolls from the present 48,000—51,000 range; therefore be it

Resolved, That members of the Synod be urged to pray for and work toward the goal of increasing adults gained through the doors God is opening, and also reducing defections through stronger shepherding and inreach evangelism, so that by the end of 1981 gains exceed losses; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Evangelism establish evangelism goals in its work and provide materials for Districts and congregations to help them set goals in evangelism; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod adopt the following as evangelism goals:

1. In the next biennium all congregations of the Synod set evangelism goals.

2. In the next biennium all Districts set evangelism goals.

3. In 1980 all congregations of the Synod observe an evangelism festival under the theme "God Opens Doors . . ."

4. In 1980 and 1981 all Districts conduct District-wide open-house missions.

Action: *Adopted as amended (5).*

(An amendment to help congregations evaluate and correct losses failed. Also a motion to recommit for the purpose of avoiding percentages and figures. An amendment to change the percentages and figures (at least 80%, 80%, 90%, 30) in Points 1 to 4 was adopted.)



One of the mission breakfasts

To Set Open-House Mission Emphasis

RESOLUTION 1-11

Report 1-02 (*CW*, p. 43); Overture 1-25 (*CW*, p. 51)

WHEREAS, The mission of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is to "make disciples of all nations"; and

WHEREAS, Most people are won for Christ as the result of a personal invitation of family or friends to "come and see"; and

WHEREAS, The largest annual number of adults gained by Baptism or confirmation in the Missouri Synod was in the days of the original Preaching-Teaching-Reaching missions of the 1950s and 1960s; and

WHEREAS, Many congregations of the Synod established their first evangelism programs as a result of the PTRs; and

WHEREAS, Many Districts have demonstrated that the approach of the PTRs, now called "Open-House Missions," is still as productive today; therefore be it

Resolved, That this convention establish a synodical emphasis in evangelism in 1980 and 1981 based on the model of Open-House Missions; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Evangelism develop special materials for use by Districts and congregations in conducting Open-House Missions; and be it further

Resolved, That each District of the Synod be encouraged to conduct a Districtwide Open-House Mission during 1980 or 1981; and be it finally

Resolved, That each congregation in the Synod therefore be encouraged to conduct an Open-House Mission.

Action: *Adopted (5).*

(An amendment to insert "Open Doors" before all "Open-House" references failed, as well as an amendment that all other Lutheran bodies be invited to join in planning and participating in such missions.)

To Increase Churches and Membership

RESOLUTION 1-12A

Report 1-01 (*CW*, pp. 26, 33); Overture 1-17 (*CW*, p. 50)

WHEREAS, Approximately 50 percent of the population of North America is unchurched and living without Christ; and

WHEREAS, It is God's will that the kingdom of God grow (Luke 13:6-9); and

WHEREAS, God's command "to make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:19) includes the gathering of people into the church; and

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the Synod states as one of its objectives "the joint extension of the Kingdom of God" (Art. III, 2); and

WHEREAS, The growth of God's kingdom through the means of grace is extended through the planting of new churches among all cultures and ethnic groups in strategic locations throughout North America; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (its congregations and Districts) declare its intent to grow through the planting of new churches throughout America among all cultures and ethnic groups; and be it further

Resolved, That our congregations be encouraged to open doors through their worship services, Christian day schools, Sunday schools, and other parish activities to welcome and minister to all people in their area; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod adopt the mission challenge for the 1980s of a 30-percent growth in the number of new churches planted, 180 average per year, including Black, average of 10 per year; Hispanic, average of 5 per year; native American, average of 2 per year; and Asian-American, average of 2 per year; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod adopt the mission challenge for a 50-percent increase in the membership of the church including these cultural and ethnic groups; and be it further

Resolved, That the entire church (individuals, congregations, Districts, boards, and commissions), working closely with one another, sharing one another's expertise, see to it that these challenges for the 1980s are met to the glory of God and the extension of His kingdom; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board for Missions provide assistance as requested in implementing its plans with the long-term 10-year master plan for the Synod and its Districts developed by the Board of Directors, Council of Presidents, and Council of Administrators, pursuant to Res. 12-04 of this convention.

Action: *Adopted as amended (10).*

(This resolution was discussed also in Session 7. At that time an amendment failed, to have the Evangelism Department work with Districts to develop new and further current programs. In Session 10 the second resolve was added by amendment.)

To Encourage Growth of Special Ministries

RESOLUTION 1-13

Report 1-01, App. B (*CW*, p. 33)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has for many years committed itself to an aggressive campus ministry program; and

WHEREAS, The potential for outreach on our nation's college and university campuses is unlimited; and

WHEREAS, Our Lord Jesus Christ has instructed His church to "preach the Gospel to all mankind" (Mark 16:15) and by His example has indicated His loving concern for people who are deaf or hearing impaired (Mark 7:31 ff.); and

WHEREAS, Christ demonstrated His desire that people who are blind or visually impaired may recognize Him to be their Savior and Lord (Mark 10:46 ff.); therefore be it

Resolved, That the LCMS accept the mission challenge for the '80s to establish 20 new LCMS campus ministries; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS accept the mission challenge for the '80s to establish 20 new deaf ministries; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS accept the mission challenge for the '80s to effect a 300-percent increase in the number of blind people served by programs of its Board for Missions; and be it finally

Resolved, That all congregations, agencies, and auxiliaries be encouraged to increase their awareness of and response to the needs of the blind.

Action: *Adopted (7).*

To Establish an American Indian Advisory Council

RESOLUTION 1-14A

Report 1-01, App. F (*CW*, pp. 36—39); Overtures 1-19—1-21D, 1-23 (*CW*, pp. 50—51)

WHEREAS, The Board for Missions of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod desires to intensify its mission outreach programs among Indian people; and

WHEREAS, The Board for Missions supports the principle of self-determination for its indigenous mission programs, including mission efforts among native Americans; and

WHEREAS, The Board for Missions in 1977 established an American Indian Task Force with the mandate to provide guidance and direction in various aspects of Word and sacrament ministries among Indian people; and

WHEREAS, The American Indian Task Force Report offered to the Board for Missions a number of important recommendations for consideration; therefore be it

Resolved, That on the basis of the American Indian Task Force Report the Synod adopt as its American Indian ministry goal "more American Indian people believing in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior" through a meaningful proclamation of Jesus Christ complemented by a concern for and a ministry to the whole person; and be it further

Resolved, That to assist in achieving this goal, the Board for Missions in consultation with LCMS American Indians establish a five-member American Indian Advisory Council consisting of LCMS Indians, to be responsible to and provide counsel for the Board for Missions; and be it further

Resolved, That this American Indian Advisory Council while being responsible to the Board for Missions also be advisory to all other boards and commissions which may be involved in work among the Indians, including the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief, the Board for Higher Education, and the Board of Parish Education, and that all boards and commissions before approving Indian projects first obtain recommendations from the American Indian Advisory Council; and be it further

Resolved, That based on continued study and recommendation of the American Indian Advisory Council, the Board for Missions provide for a biennial national conference of Lutheran Indians; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Missions continue its consideration of other program suggestions included in the Task Force Report and that specific implementation be provided as God grants His blessings to the growth and development of Indian ministry; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Missions instruct the American Indian Advisory Council to study, determine, and recommend to the Board for Missions the nature and extent of the Synod's relationship with the Indian desk of LCUSA and the National Indian Lutheran Board; and be it finally

Resolved, That the study authorized shall include discussions with NILB and the LCUSA Indian desk concerning reestablishment of cooperative social ministries under such new rubrics and procedures as could result from those discussions and be approved by the Board of Directors.

Action: *Adopted (7).*

(The convention declined an amendment proposing a final resolve that the relationship with the NILB and the LCUSA Indian desk be continued to, and if necessary beyond, March 1, 1980, awaiting recommendations of the Advisory Council.)

To Encourage Participation in Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod

RESOLUTION 1-15

Report 1-03 (*CW*, pp. 46—47)

WHEREAS, The Board for Church Extension of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has gained approval of the Securities and Exchange Commissions of all 50 states by becoming a separate corporation under the name "Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod," in order to carry on its functions more effectively and efficiently; and

WHEREAS, It will be to the advantage of many Districts of the Synod to centralize deposits in the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod while retaining control of their investments; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention rejoice with the board for having gained this approval; and be it further

Resolved, That the participation of the Districts of the Synod be encouraged.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

To Support Council for Christian Medical Work

RESOLUTION 1-16

Report 1-04 (*CW*, pp. 47—48)

WHEREAS, The Council for Christian Medical Work has a mandate from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to serve in an advisory capacity on all matters relating to the health and healing ministry of the church; and

WHEREAS, There has been strong affirmation from the synodical staff for the continuation of the council; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod continue to support and encourage the Council for Christian Medical Work as it strives to sensitize all boards and commissions of the Synod and its Districts to the need for considering healing as a basic expression of ministry and to the need for communicating the concept of the Christian congregation as a healing community through the Synod's literature and programs, as it carries out other objectives as outlined in the synodical *Handbook.*

Action: *Adopted (7).*

To Encourage Support of Concordia Tract Mission

RESOLUTION 1-17

Overture 1-30 (*CW*, p. 53)

WHEREAS, The Lord of the church at the 1959 convention of the Synod called into existence Concordia Tract Mission; and

WHEREAS, This ministry by its association with Concordia Publishing House has been able to function effectively, proclaiming the message of salvation to many throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, This ministry has served the Synod, its member congregations and individuals, in helping to carry out the command of Christ to bring the Gospel message to the whole world; and

WHEREAS, This ministry has been blessed for the past 20 years as an effective producer of tracts for use in the United States and more than 80 other countries; therefore be it

Resolved, That we raise our hearts and voices in praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God for the 20 years of blessings that have come to the church and people around the world through the Concordia Tract Mission; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage a greater use of tracts in ministry by individuals and congregations; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage the support of the ministry of Concordia Tract Mission through our prayers, seeking God's richest blessings on its efforts and its outreach program; and be it further

Resolved, That in prayer we ask God to continue to use this tract ministry as a means of reaching others with the Bread of Life; and be it finally

Resolved, That we encourage individuals, organizations, and congregations to support the tract ministry with their gifts and sacrifices, so that more and more people will experience the joy of the Gospel message of the Good News in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Action: *Adopted (5).*

To Open Ten New Mission Fields Overseas in the 1980s

RESOLUTION 1-18A

Report 1-01 (*CW*, p. 17)

WHEREAS, Three-fourths of the world's population (approximately three billion people) live in the darkness of unbelief; and

WHEREAS, God has called us to be His "witnesses . . . to the ends of the earth"; and

WHEREAS, God continues to place before us and all Christians open doors through which we can, under the Spirit's guidance and blessing, serve as His instruments in bringing the Gospel to unreached people; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod adopt the mission challenge for the 1980s to open 10 new mission fields overseas; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Missions, in consultation with partner churches/mission fields and other Christian mission agencies and organizations, aware of each other's plans, programs, and projections, see to it that this challenge is met; and be it finally

Resolved, That the membership of the Synod be kept informed as new mission fields are opened.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

To Begin Literacy and Bible Translation Work on Ten Spoken Languages Not Yet Reduced to Writing

RESOLUTION 1-19

Report 1-01 (*CW*, pp. 17—18)

WHEREAS, Bible translation and literacy programs have contributed significantly to the numerical and spiritual growth of the church; and

WHEREAS, Some 4,000 languages have yet to be reduced to written form and have yet at least one book of the Bible to be produced in those languages and dialects; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has for many years been very much involved in Bible translation and literacy work; and

WHEREAS, The Lord has richly blessed the translation and literacy programs of the Synod and its partner churches/mission fields; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod express thanksgiving and gratitude to God for the printing and distribution of the Bokyi, Ukele, and Yala New Testament translations; and be it further

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod adopt the mission challenge for the 1980s to begin literacy and Bible translation work on 10 languages not yet reduced to writing; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board for Missions, in consultation with partner churches/mission fields, other Christian mission agencies, and Bible translation-literacy agencies, see to it that this challenge is met.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

To Expand the Kingdom Through Larger Number of Missionaries

RESOLUTION 1-20

Report 1-01, App. B, 17 (*CW,* pp. 20, 33)

WHEREAS, Seventy-five percent of the world's population still lives in darkness without faith in Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, God has called His people as instruments to become involved in every possible way in winning people to Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, One possible way we as a church can become involved in reaching the unreached for Christ is through our support of missionaries sent on our behalf; and

WHEREAS, The need exists for the recruitment, training, and placement of full-time missionaries in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod partner churches/mission fields and new outreach areas; and

WHEREAS, At least 600 new missionaries are needed to double our present mission personnel by 1990; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod adopt the mission challenge for the '80s of 600 new missionaries from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod serving partner churches/mission fields and new outreach areas; and be it further

Resolved, That special attention and highest priority be given to the recruitment, training, and placement of qualified cross-cultural missionaries for work in and with partner churches/mission fields in carefully planned ministries to unreached people; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Missions, in consultation with all of the Synod's colleges and seminaries, other synodical boards, auxiliaries, and agencies, sharing each other's expertise, do everything to identify as early as possible interested and qualified students for missionary service; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Missions make available to the congregations of the Synod information concerning manpower needs, soliciting from them the names of people interested in serving the church in mission work overseas; and be it further

Resolved, That we thank God for faithful missionaries of the Synod, who serve as messengers of the Gospel throughout the world; and be it finally

Resolved, That we ask God's continued blessings on their labors and pray that He uphold them with His grace and promised strength to His glory and the extension of the Kingdom.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

To Foster Development of Mission Emphases in Synodical Schools

RESOLUTION 1-21

Report 1-01, IV (*CW,* p. 21)

WHEREAS, The need exists for recruiting, training, and placing at least 600 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod missionaries including teachers, nurses, and social workers to serve in LCMS partner churches/mission fields in the decade of the '80s; and

WHEREAS, Meeting that challenge will require the recruiting and training of qualified candidates; and

WHEREAS, Full-time church workers (pastors and teachers) in the LCMS congregations can serve as key communicators to the people of their congregations in educating and motivating them to respond to the need to proclaim the Gospel to the unreached people of the world; therefore be it

Resolved, That the LCMS adopt the mission challenge for the 1980s to offer the necessary mission courses (e.g., cross-cultural evangelism, linguistics, cultural and social anthropology, church growth, comparative religions, mission history, theology of missions) in the curriculum of each synodical terminal school; and be it further

Resolved, That each synodical school in cooperation with the Board for Missions foster and nurture curricular and cocurricular mission activities in order to develop an all-pervasive mission vision and outreach; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board for Missions, in consultation with the Board for Higher Education and the Boards of Control, sharing each other's expertise, make every effort to meet this challenge "to prepare God's people for works of service" (Eph. 4:12).

Action: *Adopted (11).*

To Change Bylaw 1.61 d (Other Advisory Representatives)

RESOLUTION 1-22

Report 1-01, App. E (*CW,* pp. 22, 35)

WHEREAS, The Missions Floor Committee of the Dallas convention urged the Board for Missions to evaluate and make appropriate recommendations regarding missionary representation at synodical conventions, Bylaw 1.61 d; and

WHEREAS, This evaluation has been done in consultation with missionaries in the field; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 1.61 d be amended as follows:

PRESENT WORDING

1.61 Other Advisory Representatives

d. Each foreign mission area, as defined and established from time to time by the Board for Missions, may be represented at a synodical convention by advisory delegates from within the mission area who are on furlough at the time of the convention. They shall be elected at such times and in such manner as the board shall prescribe, at the rate of one delegate for each ten male missionaries (or major fraction thereof) within such mission area; provided, however, that each mission area shall be entitled to at least one delegate.

PROPOSED WORDING

1.61 Other Advisory Representatives

d. Each foreign mission area, as defined and established from time to time by the Board for Missions, may be represented at a synodical convention by advisory representatives from within the mission area who are on furlough at the time of the convention and will return to their mission area. They shall be elected by majority vote of all the missionaries in a given mission area from the total of those who are working in that area, including those on furlough, as of Oct. 15 of the year prior to the convention, at the rate of one representative for each ten missionaries (or major fraction thereof) salaried by the Board for Missions within such mission area; provided, however, that each mission area shall be entitled to at least one representative, even though there may be no other than terminating missionaries on furlough at convention time.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

To Recruit Workers for Ethnic and Special Ministries

RESOLUTION 1-23A

Report 1-01 (*CW,* pp. 28—30); Overtures 1-17, 1-22 (*CW,* pp. 50—51)

WHEREAS, The need for workers is great in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to minister among Hispanics, Blacks, Native Americans, Asian Americans, the deaf, and on our college campuses; and

WHEREAS, Each of these cultural/ethnic or special ministries requires individuals uniquely equipped for the task; therefore be it

Resolved, That during the 10-year period of the '80s we adopt a goal of recruiting 100 Hispanics, 150 Blacks, 50 native Americans, 20 Asian Americans, 50 workers for deaf ministry, 20 of whom shall be deaf, and a sufficient number of campus pastors for full-time church service in these several ministries; and be it further

Resolved, That training programs be developed for Hispanics, Blacks, native Americans, Asian Americans, and deaf which may be used in the field to train the laity to be church leaders among their own people, especially as Sunday school teachers and church officers, to equip them for equipping the saints; and be it further

Resolved, That the training of cross-cultural workers for these fields be intensified to provide personnel sensitive to the special needs of these people; and be it further

Resolved, That these programs be implemented or intensified as soon as possible by the Board for Missions in consultation with the other responsible boards of the Synod and our colleges and seminaries; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board for Missions report the progress of these programs to the next convention.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

(The convention declined an amendment urging foreign-language persons to learn the English language as quickly as possible.)

To Develop Mission Awareness Within Congregations

RESOLUTION 1-24A

Report 1-01 (*CW,* p. 7)

WHEREAS, God calls upon His people to grow in their faith through the study of His Word; and

WHEREAS, Such study of God's Word motivates His people to personal involvement in carrying out the Great Commission; and

WHEREAS, There are many examples of mission zeal in the Bible; and

WHEREAS, The preparation, distribution, and use of study materials on these mission examples will give us guides for our mission outreach; and

WHEREAS, The delegates have studied a mission theme in convention; and

WHEREAS, Such studies of God's Word will lead congregations to desire earnestly to share the Good News of salvation with their world; and

WHEREAS, The effective sharing of God's Word comes as a result of well-laid plans; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board for Missions initiate and coordinate the preparation and distribution of at least five mission Bible studies which promote mission awareness; and be it further

Resolved, That all congregations be challenged to complete these mission Bible studies during the 1980s; and be it finally

Resolved, That all synodical delegates prayerfully commit themselves to the task of working to implement this challenge within their Circuits and congregations as begun in this convention.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

To Establish Mission Committees/Boards in Congregations

RESOLUTION 1-25A

Report 1-01 (*CW*, p. 7)

WHEREAS, The need exists in the congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for increased communication and interpretation of the mission programs of the Synod and Districts carried on in behalf of the congregations; and

WHEREAS, The establishment of mission committees/boards on a local congregational level has proved to be extremely helpful in informing, educating, and motivating God's people concerning the mission programs of the church; and

WHEREAS, The establishment of mission committees/boards in local congregations would assist in moving The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod forward in missions in the '80s; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod adopt the mission challenge for the 1980s that 1,500 congregations of the Synod establish functioning mission committees/boards; and be it further

Resolved, That to meet this challenge the President of the Synod, in consultation with the Executive Secretary of the Board for Missions, and the Stewardship Counselor, appoint by Aug. 15, 1979, a committee of five to prepare for distribution to the congregations of the Synod by Jan. 15, 1980, practical guidelines and materials for use by congregations for the establishment of mission committees/boards in the local congregations; and be it further

Resolved, That this challenge be implemented through the existing channels of the Synod, its Districts, and their Circuits; and be it finally

Resolved, That the establishment of a mission committee/board in the local congregation be given serious study and consideration by the governing body of each congregation.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

To Encourage Identification and Training of Lay Expatriates for Effective Witness

RESOLUTION 1-26

Report 1-01, Rec. 3 (*CW*, p. 32); Overture 1-12 (*CW*, p. 49)

WHEREAS, Large numbers of Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod lay people serve as employees of various firms and agencies established in many countries around the world; and

WHEREAS, These people are provided with many opportunities to witness for their Lord and Savior; and

WHEREAS, These people might witness more effectively were they properly trained for this task; and

WHEREAS, The extension of God's kingdom on earth requires that all of the talent and resources that God has so richly bestowed on His church be effectively harnessed for this great task; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod regard this as an opportunity, i.e., a great "open door" provided by our heavenly Father; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Missions begin now to develop a program whereby expatriate lay members may be trained for effective witness; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Missions begin also to identify and/or develop material required for this training program; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Missions use the expertise of partner churches, missionaries, seminaries and colleges, other church bodies, and other Christian mission agencies in developing this training program; and be it further

Resolved, That the congregations, professional church workers, and District personnel assist the Board for Missions to begin to identify those lay members who would willingly serve as self-supporting missionaries overseas; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board for Missions study the feasibility of a volunteer mission program as described in Overture 1-12 and report findings and recommendations to the 1981 synodical convention. One aspect of this study shall be the identification of lay members who will willingly become self-supporting missionaries. Congregations are urged to help the board identify such members as are professional workers at the congregation and District level.

Action: *Adopted as amended (11).*

(Amendment: the final resolve.)

To Increase Mission Budget

RESOLUTION 1-27A

Report 1-01, VI (*CW*, p. 31)

WHEREAS, God's Word declares that the spiritual harvest of souls is ripe and large and exhorts His redeemed to "pray to the Owner of the harvest that He will send out workers to gather His harvest" (Matt. 9:38); and

WHEREAS, The mission work of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for the 1980s has been outlined in the challenge statements; and

WHEREAS, We commit ourselves to the formula of money and manpower following mission; and

WHEREAS, The Lord has richly blessed The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod with resources to meet the 29 mission challenges for the 1980s; and

WHEREAS, We are confident that the Lord will move the hearts of His people as He did with the Children of Israel; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod adopt the mission challenge for the 1980s of a

100-percent increase plus inflation in the mission budget of the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Stewardship, working with the Board for Missions, sharing each other's expertise, see to it that this challenge for the 1980s is met to the glory of God and the expansion of His kingdom.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

To Recommend Expansion of the Synod's Evangelism Staff

RESOLUTION 1-28

Report 1-02 (*CW,* p. 39); Overture 1-24 (*CW,* p. 51)

WHEREAS, Anaheim Res. 1-07 requested "the Board of Directors to authorize the calling of an additional staff person to the Board for Evangelism within the next fiscal year," but the third staff person has not been authorized; and

WHEREAS, Dallas Res. 2-20 urged the Board of Directors to consider this a high-priority need and to authorize and fund the calling of another Associate Secretary of Evangelism as soon as possible; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention again request the Board of Directors to expedite the expansion of the Synod's evangelism staff by adding a third member.

Action: *Adopted (5).*

To Clarify Relationships with Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ

RESOLUTION 1-29

Overture 1-31 (*CW,* p. 53)

WHEREAS, Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ, Inc., has been a blessing to many of our congregations and other ministries of the Synod in sensitizing and training young people in youth evangelism; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention urge OAFC to coordinate its planning and programming with the synodical and District Boards for Missions, Evangelism, and Youth Ministry; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod in convention ask the Board of Directors of the Synod to arrange a meeting with the Council of Administrators and the Board of OAFC, so that future relationships between OAFC and the Synod can be clarified.

Action: *Adopted (5).*

To Adopt "Statement of Jewish Lutheran Concerns"

RESOLUTION 1-30

Report 1-02 (*CW,* p. 44); Overtures 1-26—1-28 (*CW,* pp. 51—53)

WHEREAS, When the Board for Evangelism sought to carry out Dallas Res. 2-27, "To Encourage Evangelism Among the Jews," strong objections were received from various Jewish organizations and from some pastors and some congregations; and

WHEREAS, The position of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in its relationship to any group is one of love and concern patterned after the example of our Lord and is not based on personal opinions or prejudices; and

WHEREAS, The efforts to provide materials and workshops to understand the American Jew and to help find ways to share the Gospel with him was received by some Districts, pastors, and congregations with great interest and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, The truth of Scripture remains unchanged that there is no other way to salvation but through Jesus Christ (John 14:6; Acts 4:12); and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is committed to carrying out the Great Commission of "making disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:18-20); therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board for Evangelism and its Committee on Witnessing to Jewish People continue to carry out the various aspects of Dallas Res. 2-27; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Evangelism refer official requests for Jewish-Lutheran dialog to the Commission on Theology and Church Relations; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod adopt the "Statement of Jewish Lutheran Concerns," which reads as follows:

I. We Desire to be *Sensitive*—

1. To the priority place of the Jews as chosen people of God both in the past, wherein lie roots of our own religious beliefs and practices, and in the present, where God's plans for both the Jews and Gentiles continue to unfold.

2. To the unique history of the Jewish people, in which they have suffered much injustice and cruelty at the hands of the Christian church and non-Christian Gentiles. We deplore and repudiate this most unfortunate history and pray for a new understanding and spirit.

3. To the danger that witnessing to Jewish people can result in misunderstanding and potential nurturing of anti-Semitic attitudes.

II. We Plead for *Understanding*—

1. That we are not singling out the Jewish people as a special target for our evangelistic endeavors. We are committed to a parish approach in which the local congregation is committed to share the Gospel with all people in its community, Jew and Gentile alike. In the past we have often bypassed some segments of the community, such as the Jewish people.

2. That we are not mounting a campaign to convert Jewish people with techniques of evangelism involving manipulation, pressure, and disrespect of the individual. Unfortunately, most of our people are not aware of the past injustices.

Therefore we seek to help our congregations understand the contemporary Jewish people who live with them in the community and share their faith with them in a sensitive and respectful way. We need to provide special helps for this purpose just as we do for other groups of people, such as Blacks, Hispanics, Indians, cults, etc. We have full-time pastors to deaf, Estonians, and Puerto Ricans, etc.

III. We State our *Commitment*—

1. That Jesus of Nazareth is the promised Messiah, who fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament and by His life, death, and resurrection provided complete atonement for the sins of all people, Jew and Gentile alike.

2. That since the New Testament, as well as the Old Testament, is the verbally inspired Word of God, the words of Jesus remain true for us today: "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father but by Me" (John 14:6); as do the words of Peter: "There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name [than the name of Jesus] under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

3. That we are obligated to share the Gospel of Jesus as Lord and Savior with all people, Jew and Gentile alike (Matt. 28:18-20; Luke 24:46-49), and we seek to follow the example of our Lord and the early apostles with the zeal expressed by St. Paul when he said, "My heart's desire and prayer to God for them [Jews] is that they may be saved" (Rom. 10:1).

4. That we do love the Jewish people, that we stand with them in opposing all forms of anti-Semitism and injustice, that we join them in humanitarian concerns, and that we will continue to love them even when they choose not to accept our witness.

Action: *Adopted (7).*

(The convention declined to include several paragraphs of Overture 1-28.)

To Thank All Agencies, Auxiliary Organizations, and Fraternal Benevolent Societies

RESOLUTION 1-31

Report 1-01, App. A, Rec. 1 (*CW*, p. 31)

WHEREAS, Valuable resources for carrying the Gospel throughout the world are provided through the programs and activities of the various agencies, auxiliary organizations, and fraternal benevolent societies; and

WHEREAS, A key ingredient to the success of such programs and activities is the continued communication between the Board for Missions and the mission-related programs and activities of agencies, auxiliary organizations, and fraternal benevolent societies; therefore be it

Resolved, That we express deep appreciation for the contributions made by these agencies, auxiliary organizations, and fraternal benevolent societies; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge them to continue their strong mission emphasis and concern for the proclamation of the Gospel at home and abroad; and be it finally

Resolved, That we encourage greater communication between the Board for Missions and the agencies, auxiliary organizations, and fraternal benevolent societies in mission-related programs and activities.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

To Review Comity Arrangements

RESOLUTION 1-32A

Overture 1-11 (*CW*, p. 48)

WHEREAS, Comity arrangements are to further the programs of the Kingdom by utilizing the resources of the church most efficiently to bring the Gospel to the greatest number of people without undesirable duplication of efforts; and

WHEREAS, Such comity arrangements sometimes do not aid the prompt following of the leading of God to enter doors which He opens; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod urge its Board for Missions, in consultation with those involved in joint planning with other Lutheran church bodies through the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A., to review and evaluate the guidelines governing comity arrangements and their implementation, in the light of our mission and church planning strategy, so that the church can move forward in meeting the opportunities which God places before His people; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Missions be instructed to report its findings to the next convention of the Synod.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

(The convention declined to consider a substitute resolution to withdraw from comity arrangements with the Lutheran Council.)

To Convey Concern re Campus Pastors

RESOLUTION 1-33

Overture 1-14 (*CW*, p. 49)

WHEREAS, Campus ministry is under the jurisdiction of the Districts of the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That this concern be addressed to the proper District that the concerns expressed may be met there.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

To Continue Present Administration of Blind and Deaf Ministries

RESOLUTION 1-34

Overtures 1-15, 1-16 (*CW*, p. 49)

WHEREAS, The Synod in convention established the position of Secretary of Ministry to the Blind and Deaf; and

WHEREAS, This position has been filled for only a short time; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Friends of the Deaf have provided funds for a chair for ministry to the deaf; and

WHEREAS, These funds plus the active interest being shown by the Synod to recruit and train more pastors for ministry to the deaf will make a more effective outreach to the deaf possible; and

WHEREAS, The International Lutheran Deaf Association through its regional advisers has sufficient input for the needs and direction of deaf ministry; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention decline to separate the administration of blind and deaf ministries or to establish a separate Commission to the Deaf at this time.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

2. TASK FORCE

To Provide Common Foundation for Living and Working Together as Appendix to Synodical *Handbook*

RESOLUTION 2-01

Report 2-01, A (*CW*, pp. 56—58)

WHEREAS, The Constituting Principles enunciated by the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure of the Synod provide a clear and understandable description of our Synod's walking together; and

WHEREAS, Widely accepted and mutually understood principles serve to clarify and promote understanding among parties; and

WHEREAS, These principles provide a guide toward what is meant to "preserve the congregational polity of church government which has served our Synod in its history and avoid the centralization of power within the synodical structure"; therefore be it

Resolved, That the following Constituting Principles be placed as a salutary "Appendix" to the *Handbook* of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod with the following introductory paragraph:

> In response to its charge "to study and propose revisions of the Constitution, Bylaws, and the entire organizational structure of the Synod" (Anaheim 5-01A), the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure (1975—79) enunciated certain Constituting Principles as reflective of the philosophy of our synodical structure and operation. While these principles, as amended by the 1979 convention, might serve to illuminate the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod, they ought not to be used to determine the interpretation thereof.

THE CONSTITUTING PRINCIPLES

Definition

A constituting principle states an underlying premise on which relating members, mindful of a common purpose, desire to structure their relationships, preserve essential rights, define basic privileges and responsibilities, and give order to their common work.

A constituting principle is normally derived from Scriptural mandate or Scriptural example. A constituting principle may also emerge from sound judgments about what seems most beneficial to the relationship being constituted or from the best in historical tradition. Principles proceeding from these latter sources require testing.

A constituting principle influences the character and style of subsequent principles, namely, organizing and operating principles. The purpose of identifying constituting principles, therefore, is to establish a cohesiveness among the various sections of the Constitution and Bylaws, to provide a frame of reference for designing the resulting organization, and in general to facilitate the achievement of the stated purpose and objectives of the relationship being constituted.

I. On the Nature of a Christian Congregation

In structuring our relationships in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and in giving order to our common work, we recognize and affirm—

A. That a congregation, a community of believers gathered and organized for worship, nurture, witness, and service, comprises the primary fellowship to which God grants certain privileges, together with attendant rights and responsibilities.

B. That the God-given privileges of a congregation include: to call itself a gathering of God's people, not by merit but by virtue of God's forgiving grace; to gather around the study of God's Word; to proclaim the Gospel and to live by its power; to use and administer the sacraments as a means of God's grace; to exercise the Office of the Keys.

1. As a beneficiary of these privileges, a congregation humbly exercises certain God-given rights. A congregation has a right to govern itself[1] under the guidance of God's Word; to test under the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions the soundness, suitability, and adequacy of synodically adopted resolutions and render a judgment;[2] to cooperate with other Christian congregations when the opportunity exists to promote the glory of God and the upbuilding of the church; to select and call its own pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers.[3]

2. As a beneficiary of these privileges, a congregation is to fulfill faithfully certain God-given responsibilities. A congregation has a responsibility to proclaim God's Word, rightly dividing Law and Gospel; to witness in particular to the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ; to nurture and upbuild members in the faith; to care for the purity of doctrine and life in its midst; to celebrate God's goodness and worship Him; to share God's gifts in common; to serve people in need; to keep diligently the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

3. As a congregation covenanting with other congregations within the Synod, a congregation further agrees to accept certain additional responsibilities: to be considerate of other congregations within the Synod in the exercise of its rights; to unite with other congregations of the Synod in the exercise of their joint responsibilities; to undergird the work of the Synod through its service and support according to the criteria of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod; to use the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions as the base and norm from which it renders judgment on synodically adopted resolutions; and, according to the procedures which are set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod, to select and call pastors, teachers, and other professional workers who have been endorsed for such service by the Synod.

II. On the Nature of a Synod

In structuring our relationships in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and in giving order to our common work we recognize and affirm—

A. That a synod is a voluntary association of congregations covenanting together to preserve their confessional unity; to pursue commonly accepted objectives which are established to support these congregations in their God-given responsibilities; and to demonstrate their acceptance of the diversity of God's gifts and their willingness to share them for the common good.

B. That a synod makes possible a division of labor whereby congregations pledge their mutual assistance and support to the Synod, thereby endeavoring to carry out the objectives for which the Synod has been formed as identified in Article III of the Constitution; pledge themselves to one another in a commonly identified theological and confessional basis as enunciated in Article II; voluntarily comply with

all the conditions of membership as listed in Article VI.

C. That a synod, as guaranteed in Article VII of the Constitution, upholds the congregation's rights of self-government, which is understood to include—

1. Calling pastors, teachers, and professional workers after they have been endorsed by the Synod;

2. Owning congregational property and maintaining it;

3. Disciplining members of the parish;

4. Programming and supporting the congregation's mission and ministry.

III. On the Nature of Power and Authority

In structuring our relationships in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and in giving order to our common work we recognize and affirm—

A. That "Christ not only declares that He alone has the power in His church and exercises it by His Word, but He also expressly denies to all others any other power, any other rule, any other authority to command in His Church";[4]

B. That all elements of the synodical structure, rather than emphasizing levels of authority, should foster an attitude of interdependence and stress a relationship of mutual service among pastors, teachers, congregations, Districts, and all other components of the Synod;[5]

C. That we seek to provide for and foster the maximum involvement of people and congregations in the process of discussion, decisionmaking, and action.

IV. On the Nature of Confessional Unity Within a Synod

In structuring our relationships in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and in giving order to our common work we recognize and affirm—

A. That confessional unity is a treasure to be striven for, nourished, guarded, and preserved;

B. That membership and participation in the Synod are undertaken by unqualified subscription to the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the written Word of God and to the Lutheran Confessions;

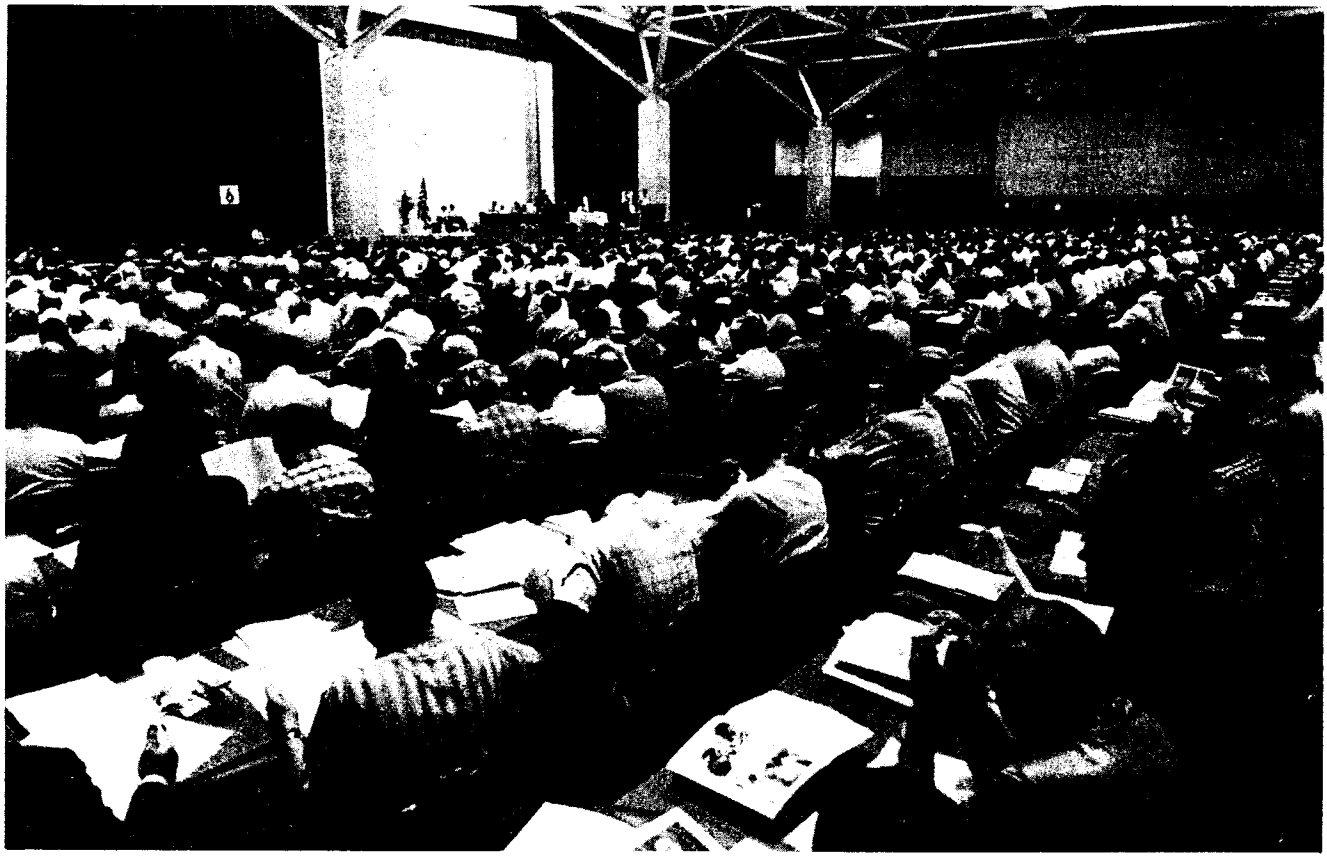
C. That all matters of doctrine and conscience shall be decided on the basis of the Holy Scriptures.[6] The validity of a synodical resolution on doctrine must be resident in the authority of the Holy Scriptures. Through such a resolution the Synod expresses its understanding of the Scriptures relative to the issues facing the church and articulates the judgment of the convention by majority vote of congregational delegates present.

D. That congregations have the right and duty to test every synodically adopted resolution against the testimony of Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.

V. On the Nature of Being Able to Work Together

In structuring our relationships in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and in giving order to our common work, we recognize and affirm—

That our ability to work together results from the power of the Holy Spirit and our common commitment to Jesus Christ. From His ministry among us we learn and declare that "none of [us] desires to be the ruler of the other, but everyone wants to be the other's servant."[7] We therefore commit ourselves to uphold what some would see as a contradiction, namely, the rights of the individual congregation *vis-a-vis* the common good of the Synod. We decline to see these in either-or terms. Rather, we confess in submission



Big crowds . . . on the floor

before Christ that living and working together is possible only through the recognition that "we have merely the power to *advise* one another, that we have only the *power of the Word,* and of *convincing.*"[8]

FOOTNOTES

[1] 1854 Constitution, *Moving Frontiers (MF),* p. 151; current Constitution, Art. VII.

[2] Acts 17:11; Walther's letter to J. A. Ernst, *MF,* p. 143; 1854 Constitution, *MF,* p. 151; Walther's 1848 presidential address, *MF,* p. 173; Pieper, *Christian Dogmatics,* Vol. III, pp. 428 ff.

[3] Acts 7 and 15; Walther's letter to J. A. Ernst, *MF,* p. 143; Walther's 1848 presidential address, *MF,* p. 172.

[4] Walther's 1848 presidential address, *MF,* p. 172.

[5] Pieper, *Christian Dogmatics,* Vol. III, p. 430.

[6] Current Constitution, Art. VIII, C.

[7] Martin Luther, as quoted by Franz Pieper, *Christian Dogmatics,* Vol. III, p. 430.

[8] Walther's 1848 presidential address, *MF,* p. 170.

Action: *Declined (5).*

(This resolution was introduced in Session 2. Further discussion was delayed to permit the printing in *Today's Business* of a lengthy amendment that was then taken up in Session 5 and edited to read as follows as a new paragraph for point I, A:

> A. That a congregation is a local and visible manifestation of "the assembly of all believers among whom the Gospel is preached in its purity and the holy sacraments are administered according to the Gospel" (AC VII), which is called together by the Holy Spirit through the means of grace, the Word and sacraments. As a community of believers it is gathered by the Holy Spirit and organizes itself under the Word of God for worship, nurture, witness, and service. It is furthermore a primary fellowship to which God grants certain privileges, together with attendant rights and responsibilities.

The convention declined to change "a community" to "the community" in the second sentence of the amendment and then declined the amendment itself. The word "endorsed" was substituted by amendment for "certified" in I, B, 3 and in II, C, 1. The delegates refused to add "but not be limited to" to II, C. The entire resolution as amended was declined. After the reading of the next resolution had begun, the privilege of a division of the house was requested. The result: for the resolution, 333; against, 541.)

To Change Preamble of the Synod's Constitution

RESOLUTION 2-02

Report 2-01, B, 1 (*CW,* p. 58)

WHEREAS, We believe that the first words of a constitution should call congregations to join together in God's mission and to support each other in that mission; and

WHEREAS, The Lord's life as servant forms the ideal model of leadership for the structure that congregations have developed and called "the Synod"; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod wishes to praise God for His grace in calling together congregations that give it being and direction; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Preamble to the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be the following:



. . . and in the gallery

PRESENT WORDING

PREAMBLE

Reason for the Forming of a Synodical Union

1. The example of the apostolic church. Acts 15:1-31.

2. Our Lord's will that the diversities of gifts should be for the common profit. 1 Cor. 12:4-31.

PROPOSED WORDING

PREAMBLE

+In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit+

Joyfully committing ourselves to unity in the pursuit of God's mission (Matt. 28:18-20; Luke 24:44-48) and holding in common the confession of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, to which we have been called by the Holy Spirit,

we, congregations, pastors, and teachers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, do covenant in the spirit of Christ (Phil. 2:5-11) to work with one another in the fellowship of a synodical bond

—to praise our God together, giving expression to His will for unity, and to provide a structure in which this unity may grow (John 17:11-23; Eph. 4:3-6);

—to encourage one another in the task of communicating the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world (Acts 1:8);

—to follow the apostolic example of speaking and hearing responsibly to achieve agreement, and to share the variety of God's gifts and resources for the common good (Acts 15:1-31; 1 Cor. 12:4-31).

Faithful to our purpose of carrying out God's mission of making disciples of all nations, we have voluntarily joined ourselves together in a servant structure, hereafter called "The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod."

Action: *Failed of required 2/3 vote (2).*

(Since this involved a constitutional amendment, a 2/3 majority vote was required. By common consent "Holy Ghost" wsa changed to "Holy Spirit." An amendment to place a period after "bond" and to delete the three infinitive paragraphs following, failed. A standing vote showed 508 in favor of the proposed constitutional amendment and 457 opposed. The proposal therefore fell short of the required 2/3 affirmative vote.)

To Revise Article III of Constitution (Objectives)

RESOLUTION 2-03

Report 2-01, B, 2 (*CW*, p. 58)

WHEREAS, The objectives of the Synod should reflect the mission of congregations organized to strengthen one another for service; and

WHEREAS, The objectives of the Synod should affirm the Synod's role as an organization designed to serve congregations as God uses them to extend His kingdom; and

WHEREAS, The objectives of the Synod should include the Synod's program of social ministry and its program of care for its full-time workers; and

WHEREAS, The objectives of the Synod should be stated in terms of action that reflect the urgency of the call to be in mission; therefore be it

Resolved, That the following objectives be adopted as Article III of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod:

PRESENT WORDING

Article III Objects

The objects of the Synod are:

1. The conservation and promotion of the unity of the true faith (Eph. 4:3-6; 1 Cor. 1:10) and a united defense against schism and sectarianism (Rom. 16:17);

2. The joint extension of the Kingdom of God;

3. The training of ministers and teachers for service in the Evangelical Lutheran Church;

6. The furtherance of Christian parochial schools and of a thorough instruction for Confirmation;

4. The publication and distribution of Bibles, church books, schoolbooks, religious periodicals, and other books and literature;

5. The endeavor to bring about the largest possible uniformity in church practice, church customs, and, in general, in congregational affairs;

PROPOSED WORDING

Article III Objectives

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;

2. 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;

3. Recruit and train pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers and provide opportunity for their continuing growth;

4. Provide opportunities through which its members may express their Christian concern, love, and compassion in meeting human needs;

5. Aid congregations to develop processes of thorough Christian education and nurture and to establish agencies of Christian education such as elementary and secondary schools;

6. Aid congregations by providing a variety of resources and opportunities for recognizing, promoting, expressing, conserving, and defending their confessional unity in the true faith;

7. Encourage congregations to strive for uniformity in church practice but also to develop an appreciation of a variety of responsible practices and

7. The supervision of the ministers and teachers of the Synod with regard to the performance of their official duties;

8. The protection of pastors, teachers, and congregations in the performance of their duties and the maintenance of their rights.

customs which are in harmony with our common profession of faith;

8. Provide evangelical supervision, counsel, and care for pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers of the Synod in the performance of their official duties;

9. Provide protection for congregations, pastors, teachers, and other church workers in the performance of their official duties and the maintenance of their rights;

10. Aid in providing for the welfare of pastors, teachers, and other church workers and their families in the event of illness, disability, retirement, special need, or death.

Action: *Adopted by required 2/3 vote (5).*

(Since this involved a constitutional amendment, a 2/3 affirmative vote was required. An amendment to reverse the order of the first and second proposed objectives failed as did a motion to insert "proclaiming the word of God and by" before "giving" in the second objective. The resolution was then adopted 663 to 272. The constitutional amendment must now be submitted to the congregations according to the requirements of Article XIV before this amendment becomes effective.)

To Provide for Continued Study of the Synodical Organization

RESOLUTION 2-04A

Report 2-01, B, 5, 6, 8; 2-01, D, 1; Add. B (*CW*, pp. 59—60; 63—65); Overtures 4-30A—4-31 (*CW*, p. 146)

WHEREAS, The interim report of the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and Its Districts was received by the synodical convention in Dallas in 1977; and

WHEREAS, The Task Force proposals merit further extended study; and

WHEREAS, Extending the time between conventions would require major changes in the Synod's decision-making processes; and

WHEREAS, The proposal of a synodical assembly is a radical change in the current structure of the Missouri Synod's church government; and

WHEREAS, The potential improvements and resultant problems have not been fully evaluated and the proposals on convention frequency and the synodical assembly need to be reviewed in relation to viable alternatives; and

WHEREAS, There is need for much additional work in defining roles of and clarifying relationships of decision-making groups; and

WHEREAS, Further study by the congregations of the Synod is both desirable and necessary; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Task Force on Constitution, Bylaws, and Structure and its assignment be continued and restructured as follows:

a. Eight members from the constituency of the Synod elected or appointed in the following manner with careful consideration given to an appropriate distribution of clergy, teachers, and lay persons, and the positions they may hold within the synodical structure:

1. Three members of the present Task Force elected by the Task Force;

2. Two members of Floor Committee 2 of this convention elected by the Floor Committee;

3. Three members to be appointed by the President of the Synod.

These elections and appointments are to be completed no later than September 1, 1979;

b. The Secretary of the Synod, who shall convene the initial meeting;

c. The Administrative Officer of the Board of Directors as advisory; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force have as its responsibilities:

1. To study and review the frequency of conventions and their effect;

2. To study possible alternatives to the assembly concept;

3. To determine the number of boards and committees required to perform the Synod's business;

4. To define (a) the roles (functions and responsibilities) of the boards and their executives, the Board of Directors, the President, the convention, and any other existing or proposed decision making groups and (b) the relationships between and among these several entities;

5. To develop a plan of implementation and schedule to phase in any new structural components with a minimum of disruption;

6. To facilitate and encourage the widest possible consideration by and response from congregations, Circuits, and Districts of the Task Force study;

7. To report its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the convention in 1981; and be it further

Resolved, That the current Task Force Project Coordinator be retained subject to reappointment by the continuing Task Force; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force be authorized to select and secure such professional and clerical personnel and to select consultants in order to be able to complete its work; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Directors of the Synod appropriate sufficient funds to enable the Task Force to complete its work; and be it finally

Resolved, That the members of the present Task Force be thanked for their dedicated and faithful service to the Synod.

Action: *Adopted (9).*

(When the committee introduced this resolution in Session 5, it changed "equitable" to "appropriate" in "a" of the first resolve. The convention declined to add after subpoint 3 of the first resolve a directive that an equal number of those who see serious problems in the Task Force proposals be included in the composition of the new Task Force. In Session 9, when discussion was resumed, an amendment was offered to add after point 2 of the second resolve: "3. To study the possibility of more equitable one person-one vote lay representation by congregations at the District level and by Circuits at the synodical level." This was declined after the chair ruled that the assembly had closed debate. A late call for a division of the house on closing debate was allowed. To close debate was sustained by a rising vote of 711 to 217. Thereupon the amendment was again submitted to vote and failed again. The resolution was then adopted.)

To Restate Article VII of the Constitution (Relationship of the Synod and Its Member Congregations)

RESOLUTION 2-05A

Report 2-01, B, 4 (*CW,* p. 59); Overture 2-10 (*CW,* p. 67)

WHEREAS, Article VII of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is designed to define a fundamental relationship between the Synod and its member congregations; and

WHEREAS, There is disagreement as to the meaning of the present Article VII; therefore be it

Resolved, That the present Article VII of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be deleted, and that in lieu thereof the following be adopted:

PRESENT WORDING

Article VII Relation of the Synod to Its Members

In its relation to its members the Synod is not an ecclesiastical government exercising legislative or coercive powers, and with respect to the individual congregation's right of self-government it is but an advisory body. Accordingly, no resolution of the Synod imposing anything upon the individual congregation is of binding force if it is not in accordance with the Word of God or if it appears to be inexpedient as far as the condition of a congregation is concerned.*

* Cp. Bylaws, 1.09 b.

PROPOSED WORDING

Article VII Relationship of the Synod and Its Member Congregations

The congregations of the Synod are self-governing. In relation to the congregations the Synod is an advisory body. However, by voluntarily subscribing to the Synod's confession and conditions of membership (Article II and Article VI of the Constitution) the congregations have covenanted together with other member congregations to fulfill the Synod's objectives (Article III). The congregations of the Synod joyfully assume the responsibilities of membership as they stand in a serving relationship to one another and in loving unity under the Scriptures and the Confessions, and as covenanted together in the Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Action: *Declined (9).*

To Change Title and Revise Provisions of Art. XIII (Expulsion from the Synod)

RESOLUTION 2-06

Report 2-01, B, 9 (*CW,* pp. 60—61)

WHEREAS, Human beings, as sinners, are prone to error and to difference in judgment; and

WHEREAS, Christians should find means to solve their differences amicably and in orderly ways; and

WHEREAS, The present Art. XIII of the Constitution places the emphasis on the punitive rather than on the resolution of differences and reconciliation; and

WHEREAS, The present Art. XIII limits access to the adjudicatory process to those who have been constitutionally designated as members but fails to extend the process to those who serve the Synod, its Districts, seminaries, colleges, faculty, boards, commissions, committees, and organizations owned and controlled by the Synod, who as nonmembers are officers, executives, administrators, faculty, board, commission, and committee members; and

WHEREAS, The present Art. V of the Bylaws expresses the intention of the Synod to have the processes of adjudication and appeal available for the resolution of all controversies, not only for members but for all who serve the Synod in the above-designated positions of responsibility and service; therefore be it

Resolved, That the present title of Art. XIII of the Constitution be changed from "Expulsion from the Synod" to "Reconciliation, Adjudication, and Appeal"; and be it further

Resolved, That the provisions of the present Article

XIII be deleted and in lieu thereof the following be adopted:

PRESENT WORDING

Article XIII Expulsion from the Synod

1. Members who act contrary to the confession laid down in Article II and to the conditions of membership laid down in Article VI or persist in an offensive conduct, shall, after previous futile admonition, be expelled from the Synod.

2. Expulsion shall be executed only after following such procedure as shall be set forth in the Bylaws of the Synod.

3. If the member expelled is a pastor or teacher in a congregation of the Synod, such congregation, unless it has already done so, is held to depose him from office and to deal with him in accordance with the Word of God, notwithstanding an appeal. If it persistently refuses to do so, the respective District is to deal with it. If all negotiations and admonitions fail of their purpose, such congregation forfeits its membership in the Synod.

4. Because of their expulsion those so expelled forfeit their membership and all share in the property of the Synod. The latter holds good also with respect to those who for any reason themselves sever their connection with the Synod.

PROPOSED WORDING

Article XIII Reconciliation, Adjudication, and Appeal

1. The provisions herein are established in order to provide a means consistent with the Word of God to find the truth, provide for justice, safeguard the welfare of the Synod, and wherever possible effect reconciliation (1) in all cases of excommunication and (2) in all cases of disagreement, accusation, or controversy in which all the parties are within the following: the Synod, a District of the Synod, organizations owned and controlled by the Synod; executives holding positions with any of the foregoing, or members of the Synod.

2. Covered by this article are (1) those who are defined as members of the Synod in Article V of the Constitution (congregations, clergymen, and teachers), (2) all who though not covered under the membership defined in Article V nevertheless serve as officers and administrators of the Synod or the Districts of the Synod, all who serve on boards and commissions of the Synod and its Districts as well as their respective executives and administrators, and faculty members, and (3) administrators, executives, and members of boards of directors of organizations owned and controlled by the Synod.

3. Members of the Synod as defined in Article V (congregations, pastors, and teachers) who act contrary to the confession laid down in Article II or to the conditions of membership as laid down in Article VI or who persist in immoral and offensive conduct shall, after futile admonition, be expelled from the Synod.

4. If the person expelled is a pastor or teacher in a congregation of the Synod, such congregation, unless it has already done so, shall depose him from office and deal with him in accordance with the Word of God, notwithstanding an appeal. If the congregation persistently refuses, the respective District shall deal with the congregation. If all negotiations and admonitions fail of their purpose, such congregation forfeits its membership in the Synod.

5. Those who are expelled or who forfeit or sever their membership in the Synod shall not share in the property of the Synod.

6. Those subject to the jurisdiction of the Synod or its Districts, as herein defined, whether or not they are members of the Synod, who act contrary to or refuse to abide by or comply with the Constitution, Bylaws, or the duly and regularly adopted resolutions of the Synod pertaining to their official duties and responsibilities, or who persist in immoral and offensive conduct, shall be subject to suspension and if the charges are sustained, shall be removed from any office or position which they hold in the Synod or in one of its controlled organizations.

7. All actions covered by this article shall be taken and determined in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Bylaws of the Synod.

Action: *Referred (12).*

(In session 9 this resolution was recommitted to Committee 2 because of the matter of excommunication and lack of clarity. In Session 12 Committee 2 offered Res. 2-06A, "Resolved, That, Res. 2-06 be referred to the continuing Task Force for study in consultation with the Commission on Constitutional Matters and the Commission of Adjudication." This was adopted.)

To Prescribe Role and Relationship of Auxiliaries and of Listed Service Organizations

RESOLUTION 2-07

Report 2-01, C, 2, 3 (*CW*, pp. 61—63); Overture 2-17 (*CW*, p. 69)

WHEREAS, The Lord has blessed The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod through the programs of its auxiliaries; and

WHEREAS, The *Handbook* of the Synod does not indicate how auxiliary status is obtained and/or retained; and

WHEREAS, An auxiliary is an arm of the Synod, and this carries with it both privileges and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is thankful to God for other service organizations that are also involved in program activities that extend the ministry and mission of the church; and

WHEREAS, Because of their identity with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, service organizations need to have a corporate responsibility to the Synod; and

WHEREAS, The avenues for expression of this responsibility vary among the service organizations, depending on the type of programs/activities; and

WHEREAS, Lines of responsibility should be developed in such a way that the service organizations retain their free-standing character and their independent initiative and creativity; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaws 17.01, 17.03, and 17.05 be replaced by the following proposed Bylaws 17.01 and 17.03:

PRESENT WORDING

A. INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE

17.01 Affiliation Advised

The Synod recognizes the International Lutheran Laymen's League as the men's organization within the Synod and advises all men's organizations within the Synod to affiliate with the International Lutheran Laymen's League.

B. LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

17.03 Affiliation Advised

The Synod recognizes the Lutheran Women's Missionary League as the women's organization within the Synod and advises all women's organizations within the Synod to affiliate with the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

C. LUTHERAN MEDICAL MISSION ASSOCIATION

17.05 Relationship to the Synod

The Lutheran Medical Mission Association is recognized as a service group within the Synod to cooperate with the Council for Christian Medical Work and with the staff person for medical work of the Board for Missions.

PROPOSED WORDING

17.01 Auxiliaries

a. Definition. An organization desiring auxiliary status may apply to the synodical convention, through the Board of Directors, if it satisfies the following requirements:

1. It is national in scope, voluntary in membership and participation;

2. It identifies itself with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod but is not a part of the Synod's constitutional structure;

3. It is independent in the establishment and evaluation of its own objectives, activities, and programs, in its organization and administration, and in financial matters;

4. It exists as an arm of the Synod and has as its primary function aiding the Synod, specifically in programs that extend the ministry and mission of the Synod;

5. It is classified by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501 c (3) corporation; and

6. Its membership is made up of persons who are baptized members of congregations that are members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

b. Responsibilities. A synodical auxiliary shall—

1. report annually, through its president, to the Synod's President and on request of the Synod's President to the convention;

2. cooperate with the appropriate division, board, commission, and/or staff member of the Synod and with other synodical auxiliaries;

3. provide the Synod with an annual program report and financial statements audited by an independent certified public accountant;

4. keep the Synod advised of any new program under consideration;

5. submit all material of a Biblical or theological nature to the Synod for doctrinal review;

6. be responsible for its own debts and liabilities and so indicate in agreements, promotional materials, and all other communications of a financial nature in accordance with criteria determined by the

synodical Board of Directors, so that it is clear that being an auxiliary is not a guarantee on the part of the Synod for the fiscal solvency of or any financial responsibility for the organization or for services expressly or impliedly offered; and

7. be consistent with the doctrine and practice of The Luthern Church—Missouri Synod as set forth in the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.

c. Privileges. Auxiliary status in the Synod provides for—

1. a listing of the organization and its officers in *The Lutheran Annual;*

2. recognition as an auxiliary in the *Handbook* of the Synod;

3. an opportunity to report to the Synod in convention; and

4. the opportunity to raise funds within the Synod to support the auxiliary program.

d. Recognition.

1. An organization is given auxiliary status through convention action. For continued recognition as an auxiliary an organization must meet and continue to meet the requirements given above. When it no longer meets these requirements, an organization loses its auxiliary status. This determination shall be made by a synodical convention after an evaluation by the synodical Board of Directors, based on consultation with the organization in question.

2. The listing in *The Lutheran Annual* shall provide a statement that such listing is not a guarantee on the part of the church body for the fiscal solvency of the organization or any financial responsibility for such organization or for services expressly or impliedly offered.

The following organizations are recognized as synodical auxiliaries:

1. International Lutheran Laymen's League

2. International Lutheran Women's Missionary League

17.03 Listed Service Organization

a. Definition. A service organization other than an auxiliary may apply to the synodical Board of Directors for listing in *The Lutheran Annual* if it satisfies the following requirements:

1. It identifies itself with the Synod but is not a part of the Synod's constitutional structure;

2. It operates with freedom and self-determination as a ministry within the Synod while complying with the responsibilities as outlined in Section 17.03 b;

3. It is involved in program activities that extend the mission and ministry of the church;

4. It is independent in the establishment and evaluation of its own objectives, activities, and programs, in its organization and administration, and in financial matters while complying with the responsibilities as outlined in Section 17.03 b;

5. It is classified by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501 c (3) corporation; and

6. It has the members of member congregations of the Synod as a source of voluntary financial support.

b. Responsibilities. Such an organization shall enter into a relationship with the Synod through the appropriate boards or commissions of the Synod as designated by the synodical Board of Directors through a letter of agreement or understanding as approved by the synodical Board of Directors. In addition to any special criteria required by the respective board or commission it shall be set forth in the letter of understanding that the organization shall—

1. coordinate, cooperate, and communicate its programs through its designated board or commission;

2. provide that board or commission and the synodical Board of Directors with an annual program report and financial statement audited by independent certified public accountants;

3. seek formal approval from the respective District Board of Directors for special intra-District fundraising efforts and through the Board of Stewardship from the synodical Board of Directors for any fundraising efforts that cross District lines (Bylaws 2.85 e, 2; 9.71; 9.73);

4. inform the appropriate board or commission of the Synod as designated by the synodical Board of Directors of the actual dollar amount raised and the percentage of costs involved in fundraising efforts;

5. be responsible for its own debts and liabilities and so indicate in all of its contractual agreements of a financial nature, statements of ownership, bylaws, financial offers, and other legal documents, agreements, promotional materials, and all other communications of a financial nature in accordance with criteria determined by the synodical Board of Directors, so that it is clear that listing in *The Lutheran Annual* is not a guarantee on the part of the Synod for the fiscal solvency of or any financial responsibility for the organization or for services expressly or impliedly offered (Bylaw 9.73); and

6. be consistent with the doctrine and practice of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as set forth in the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.

c. Privileges. Being a listed service organization carries with it the following privileges:

1. The privilege of soliciting funds upon approval by the synodical or District Board of Directors in conformity with regulating Bylaws, resolutions, and policies of the Synod or of a District;

2. Eligibility of clergymen and teachers serving such organizations to be placed or to remain on the clergy or teacher roster of the Synod if otherwise eligible;

3. Listing of the organization in *The Lutheran Annual;* and

4. The opportunity to report to synodical or District conventions through its designated board or commission.

d. Listing.

To be and remain a listed service organization, an organization must meet and continue to meet the requirements given above. Eligibility for continued listing shall be reviewed periodically by the synodical Board of Directors and the designated board or commission.

2. The list in *The Lutheran Annual* shall provide a statement that such listing is not a guarantee on the part of the church body for the fiscal solvency of the organization or any financial responsibility for such organization or for services expressly or impliedly offered.

Action: *Adopted (9).*

(In placing this resolution before the convention the floor committee made several changes:

1. It deleted the final whereas: "Whereas, The following wording has been reviewed and agreed upon by the Task Force subcommittee, the Board of Directors' subcommittee, and the Social Ministry staff."
2. It removed original point 6 of 17.01 b: "be subject to the provisions of Bylaws 2.85 e, 2; 9.71; 9.73."
4. It changed the first words of 17.03 b, 5 which had read: "be responsible for its own debts and liabilities and so indicate in agreements, promotional materials, and all other communications of a financial nature in accordance with criteria. . . ."
5. It added to that paragraph the reference to Bylaw 9.73.)

To Change Title and Provisions of Bylaw XVII to Include Auxiliaries and Service Organizations

RESOLUTION 2-08

Report 2-01, C, 1 (*CW*, p. 61); Overture 2-17 (*CW*, p. 69)

WHEREAS, The affiliation of supportive organizations of the Synod and its ministries has resulted in mutual blessings; and

WHEREAS, The present Bylaw XVII in its title limits the recognition of such organizations to auxiliaries; therefore be it

Resolved, That the title of Bylaw XVII be amended to read:

PRESENT WORDING

XVII. AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS

PROPOSED WORDING

XVII. AUXILIARY AND LISTED SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Action: *Adopted (9).*

To Decline to Prepare and Propose New Bylaw Provisions for Election of President, Vice-President, and Secretary

RESOLUTION 2-09

Report 2-01, D, 2, 3 (*CW*, p. 63)

WHEREAS, The present method of nominating the President, First Vice-President, and Secretary of the Synod provides for full participation on the part of all congregations of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, The proposed election process could put the pastor of a congregation in the position of being asked to offer opinions on the nominees while at the same time wishing to avoid the possibility of unduly influencing the election process; and

WHEREAS, The proposed method would introduce a separate system of franchise for election to these offices and another system of franchise for election to all other offices; and

WHEREAS, The present method of electing the President, First Vice-President, and Secretary of the Synod affords delegates the opportunity to speak personally with the candidates for these offices in order to review their qualifications and views on various issues; and

WHEREAS, The present method of nominating and electing the President, First Vice-President, and Secretary of the Synod has served us well in allowing congregational participation and in electing responsible, qualified individuals to these positions; therefore be it

Resolved, That this convention respectfully decline Overture 2-01, D, 2.

Action: *Adopted (9).*

To Decline Change in Title and Provisions of Art. XIV (Changes in, and Amendments to, the Constitution)

RESOLUTION 2-10

Report 2-01, B, 10 (*CW*, p. 61)

WHEREAS, The Constitution defines what it is to be a synod of congregations of the Church of Christ faithful to the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions, while the Bylaws are regulations intended to implement these articles in practice; and

WHEREAS, Such actions of the Synod as adoption of doctrinal statements and specific decisions of fellowship may not change the nature of the Synod but only regulate her expression in ways already implicit in her nature as church; and

WHEREAS, For one such action the Synod has, after much deliberation, reflected this principle of distinction between Constitution and Bylaws in making the adoption of doctrinal statements a matter of Bylaws; therefore be it

Resolved, That this overture be respectfully declined.

Action: *Adopted (9).*

To Retain Present Art. V of Constitution

RESOLUTION 2-11

Report 2-01, B, 3 (*CW*, p. 59)

WHEREAS, Article V of the Constitution is clear in its intent with regard to membership and the franchise in the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That Article V of the Constitution be retained in the present form at this time.

Action: *Adopted (9).*

To Amend Constitution Regarding Duties of Treasurer in Art. XI, E

RESOLUTION 2-12

Report 2-01, B, 7 (*CW*, p. 60)

WHEREAS, Article XI, E, which outlines the duties of the Treasurer, designates him to be the custodian of all moneys and "valuable papers"; and

WHEREAS, The definition of "valuable" was originally intended to include only financial records and papers; and

WHEREAS, The term "valuable" today has taken on the meaning of "valuable historical papers" in general terminology; therefore be it

Resolved, That the first paragraph under the "Duties of the Treasurer" be amended by substituting "records normally related to the office of Treasurer" for "valuable papers" in defining the custodianship of papers.

PRESENT WORDING

E. Duties of the Treasurer

The Treasurer is the custodian of all moneys and valuable papers of the Synod and shall—

1. Keep an exact record of all moneys received and expended by the Synod;

2. Administer the Synod's financial affairs according to its instruction;

3. At any time submit to an examination of his books and accounts by an auditing committee when so ordered by the Synod or its officers.

PROPOSED WORDING

E. Duties of the Treasurer

The Treasurer is the custodian of all moneys and records normally related to the Office of Treasurer of the Synod and shall—

1. Keep an exact record of all moneys received and expended by the Synod;

2. Administer the Synod's financial affairs according to its instruction;

3. At any time submit to an examination of his books and accounts by an auditing committee when so ordered by the Synod or its officers.

Action: *Adopted by 2/3 majority (9).*

(A constitutional amendment requires a 2/3 majority.)

To Decline to Divide President's Office into Offices of Bishop and Executive Director

RESOLUTION 2-13

Overture 2-14 (*CW*, p. 68)

WHEREAS, The duties assigned to the Office of President by the Constitution and Bylaws (Art. XI, B, 1—9; 2.27, et al.) are both spiritual and administrative in nature; and

WHEREAS, The use of the designation "President" has traditionally and adequately served our Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overture 2-14 be respectfully declined.

Action: *Adopted (9).*

(A motion to refer this matter to the new Task Force failed.)

To Decline to Introduce New Procedures of Adjudication with Regard to the President of the Synod

RESOLUTION 2-14

Overture 2-15 (*CW*, p. 68)

WHEREAS, The President of the Synod in the performance of his presidential duties is responsible directly to the convention of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, The President of the Synod in regard to matters of personal life and conduct is subject to the same disciplinary procedures as any other pastor of the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overture 2-15 be respectfully declined.

Action: *Adopted (9).*

To Take No Action on Certain Overtures

RESOLUTION 2-15

Overtures 2-02—2-09C, 2-11—2-13 (*CW*, pp. 65—68)

WHEREAS, The concerns expressed in the following overtures with regard to the Task Force report have been covered in other resolutions proposed by the floor committee; therefore be it

Resolved, That no action be taken on Overtures 2-02, 2-03, 2-04A—C, 2-05, 2-06A—E, 2-07A—D, 2-08, 2-09A—C, 2-11, 2-12A—B, and 2-13.

Action: *Adopted (9).*

3. THEOLOGY AND CHURCH RELATIONS

To Adopt *Lutheran Worship* as an Official Hymnal of the LCMS

RESOLUTION 3-01

Report 3-02—3-03 (*CW*, pp. 88—89); Overtures 3-111—3-121C (*CW*, pp. 121—124); Appendix IV (*CW*, pp. 273—283)

WHEREAS, "There has been a desire for an updated Lutheran hymnal by members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod" (Dallas Res. 3-04A); and

WHEREAS, The Special Hymnal Review Committee (SHRC), created by the Synod at its 1977 convention, has recommended that the *Lutheran Book of Worship* be adopted with revisions; and

WHEREAS, The synodically appointed Commission on Worship and its adjunct committees have prepared *Lutheran Worship*, based on the evaluation and recommendations of the SHRC, as well as numerous suggestions from the membership of the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in convention adopt *Lutheran Worship* as an official hymnal of the LCMS (the general contents of the book are appended to this resolution); and be it further

Resolved, That the congregations of the LCMS be encouraged to use *Lutheran Worship* as their service book and hymnal.

General Contents of Liturgical Section of Proposed Lutheran Worship:

1. The Calendar

a) The Sundays of the Church Year and the Principal Festivals.

b) The Lesser Festivals arranged according to the church year rather than the calendar year, thus beginning with St. Andrew (November 30). The Commemorations in *Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW)* are dropped.

2. The three-year Lectionary from *LBW* plus the revised Old Standard series.

3. Psalms for Daily Prayer from *LBW*.

4. The Order of Morning Service (pp. 5 ff.) and the Holy Communion (pp. 15 ff.) from *The Lutheran Hymnal (TLH)* will be structured into one service with text updated, music preserved in melody but improved in notation and harmony.

5. Holy Communion, Settings I and II, from *LBW*. The music will be intact, but the texts will be altered to conform to the recommendations of the Special Hymnal Review Committee's report, chiefly with regard to the Confession and the Great Thanksgiving.

6. Matins and Vespers from *TLH* with updated texts and improved musical settings largely based on present settings.

7. The Litany with revisions.

8. Morning Prayer from *LBW* with slight alterations.



Vice-President Robert Sauer and Chairman Richard Schlecht of Committee 3 listening to the debate on the new hymnal

9. Evening Prayer from *LBW* with slight alterations.

10. Compline from *LBW* with slight alterations.

11. Propers for Daily Prayer from *LBW* with alterations.

12. Chorale Service of Holy Communion from *LBW* with slight revisions.

13. Responsive Prayer I and II from *LBW* with some textual changes.

14. Updated Morning and Evening Suffrages from *TLH*, to be called Responsive Prayer III and IV respectively, to be used as alternates to Responsive Prayers I and II.

15. The Psalms (or Psalter) from NIV [New International Version] will be included, but the number largely restricted to those appointed for use in the Lectionary during the church year. In addition the Commission on Worship is providing a series of Introits pointed to melodic formulae devised by the Liturgical Texts and Music Committee of the commission.

16. The Canticles from *LBW* with the exception of No. 17 (the Beatitudes).

17. A series of traditional, updated Collects for the Day to replace those in *LBW*.

18. The inclusion of the Six Chief Parts and the Christian Questions and Answers of *Luther's Small Catechism* (1943 version).

General Content of the Hymn Section of Proposed Lutheran Worship:

A	*LBW*	*TLH*	*WS*
A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!	157	212	
A Lamb Alone Bears Willingly (A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth)	105	142	
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God	228 & 229	262	
A Multitude Comes from East and West	313		
Abide with Me	272	552	

Abide with Us, Our Savior 263
(Abide, O Dearest Jesus) 53
Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed 98 154
All Creatures of Our God and King 527
All Depends on Our Possessing 447 425
All Glory Be to God on High 166 237
All Glory, Laud, and Honor 108 160
All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name 328 & 329 339
All People That on Earth Do Dwell 245 14
All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night 278 558
All Praise to You, O Lord 78
All Who Believe and Are Baptized 194
All Who Would Valiant Be 498
Alleluia! Sing to Jesus 158
Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast 234
(Almighty God, Thy Word Is Cast) 49
Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound 448
Amid the World's Bleak Wilderness 378
Angels, from the Realms of Glory 50 136
Angels We Have Heard on High 71 711
Arise, My Soul, Arise! 516
As Saints of Old 404
As with Gladness Men of Old 82 127
At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing 210 733
At the Name of Jesus 179 743
Awake, My Heart, with Gladness 129 192
Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun 269 536
Awake, O Spirit of the Watchmen 382

B

Baptized into Your Name Most Holy 192
(Baptized into Thy Name Most Holy) 298
Beautiful Savior 518 657
Before Jehovah's Awesome Throne 531
(Before Jehovah's Awe-full Throne) 13
Before You, Lord, We Bow 401
(Before the Lord We Bow) 575
Blessing and Honor 525
Blest Be the Tie That Binds 370 464
Bright and Glorious Is the Sky 75
Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning 84 128
Built on a Rock 365
(Built on the Rock) 467
By All Your Saints in Warfare 177 & 178
By Grace I'm Saved, Grace Free and
Boundless 373

C

Chief of Sinners Though I Be 306 342
Children of the Heavenly Father 474
Christ Is Arisen 136 187 741
Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation 367
(Christ, Thou Art the Sure Foundation) 466
Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands 134 195
Christ, the Life of All the Living 97 151
Christ, the Lord Is Risen Today! 130 193
Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia! 128 191
Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies 265 359
Christians, to the Paschal Victim 137 741
Christians, While on Earth Abiding 440
Come Down, O Love Divine 508 755
"Come, Follow Me," the Savior Spake 455 421
Come, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove 475
Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord 163 224
Come, Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire 472
Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs 254 344
Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life 513
Come, O Precious Ransom 24
(Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come) 55
Come, Oh, Come, O Quickening Spirit 478
(Come, Oh, Come, Thou Quickening
Spirit) 226
Come Rejoicing, Praises Voicing 66 82
Come, Thou Almighty King 522 239
Come, Thou Bright and Morning Star 539
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 499
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 30 705
Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain 301 149
Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain 132
(Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain) 204 738
Come, You Thankful People, Come 407
(Come, Ye Thankful People, Come) 574
Comfort, Comfort These My People 29
(Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People) 61
Cradling Children in His Arm 193
Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid 164 236
Creator Spirit, Heavenly Dove 284
Crown Him with Many Crowns 170 341
Cup of Blessing That We Share 204

D

Dear Christians, One and All 299 387
Dearest Jesus, at Your Word 248
Dearest Jesus, We Are Here 187 300
Deep Were His Wounds 100 726
Delay Not, Delay Not, O Sinner, Draw Near 278
Do Not Despair, O Little Flock 361
Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord 226
(Draw Nigh and Take the Body of the
Lord) 307
Draw Us to Thee 215

E

Earth and All Stars 558
Eternal Father, Strong to Save 467
Eternal Ruler of the Ceaseless Round 373
Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ 441
Even as We Live Each Day 350
Evening and Morning 465

F

Father, Most Holy 169 240
Father, We Praise You 267 788
Fight the Good Fight 461 447
Filled with the Spirit's Power 160
Fling Wide the Door, Unbar the Gate 32
For All the Saints 174 463
For All Your Saints, O Lord 176
(For All Thy Saints, O Lord) 468
For the Beauty of the Earth 561
For the Bread Which You Have Broken 200
For the Fruit of All Creation 563
Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive 307
Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness 792
Forth in Thy Name, O Lord, I Go 505
From All That Dwell Below the Skies 550 15
From East to West 64 709
From God Can Nothing Move Me 468
(From God Shall Naught Divide Me) 393
From God the Father, Virgin-Born 83
From Heaven Above 51 85
From Shepherding of Stars 63 713

G

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child 716
Give to Our God Immortal Praise 520
Glories of Your Name Are Spoken 358
(Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken) 469
Glory Be to God the Father 244
Glory Be to Jesus 95 158
Go Tell It on the Mountain 70
Go to Dark Gethsemane 109 159
God Bless Our Native Land 569 577
God Has Spoken by His Prophets 238
God Loved the World 292 245
God Moves in a Mysterious Way 483 514
God, My Lord, My Strength 484 783
God of Grace and God of Glory 415 778
God of Our Fathers 567
God of Our Fathers, God of Love Lettermann-Hillert
God of the Prophets, Bless the Prophets' Sons 483
God the Father, Be Our Stay 308 247
God the Omnipotent! 462
God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven 281
God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens 463
God, Whose Almighty Word 400
God's Word Is Our Great Heritage 239 283
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice 55
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing! 144
(Good Christian Men, Rejoice and Sing!) 736
Grant, Holy Ghost, that We Behold 293
Great God, a Blessing from Your Throne 185
Great God, Our Source 466
Greet Now the Swiftly Changing Year 181
(Greet, Man, the Swiftly Changing Year) 791
Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer 343
(Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah) 54

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Hail to the Lord's Anointed 87 59
Hail thee, Festival Day! 142
Hallelujah! Let Praises Ring! 23
Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding! 37 60 704
Hark, the Glad Sound! 35 66
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing 60 94
Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling 381 496
Have No Fear, Little Flock 476
He Is Arisen! Glorious Word! 138 189
He Whom Shepherds Once Came Praising 68
(He Whom Shepherd Men Came Praising) 718
Hear Us Now, Our God and Father 288
Herald, Sound the Note of Judgment 556
Here, O My Lord, I See Thee 211 765
Here Is the Tenfold Sure Command 287
Holy God, We Praise Your Name 535
(Holy God, We Praise Thy Name) 250
Holy, Holy, Holy 165 246
Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling 523 754
Holy Spirit, Light Divine 257
Hope of the World 493 749
Hosanna, Loud Hosanna 161
How Blessed Is This Place, O Lord 186
How Blest Are They Who Hear God's Word 227 48
How Can I Thank You, Lord 417
How Firm a Foundation 507 427
How Good, Lord, to Be Here! 89
How Great Thou Art 532
How Marvelous God's Greatness 515
How Precious Is the Book Divine 285
How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds 345 364

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I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus 460
(I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus) 428

I Bind unto Myself Today 188 746
I Come, O Savior, to Your Table 213
(I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table) 315
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say 497 277
I Know that My Redeemer Lives! 352 200
I Lay My Sins on Jesus 305 652
I Love Your Kingdom, Lord 368
(I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord) 462
I Trust, O Christ, in You Alone 395
I Will Sing My Maker's Praises 25
If God Himself Be for Me 454 528
If You But Trust in God to Guide You 453
(If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee) 518
Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 526 769
In Adam We Have All Been One 372 759
In God, My Faithful God 526
In Heaven Above 330
In His Temple Now Behold Him 184 139
In Peace and Joy I Now Depart 349
In the Cross of Christ I Glory 104 354
In the Quiet Consecration 223
In Thee Is Gladness 552 768
In Thee, Lord, Have I Put My Trust 524
Invited, Lord, by Boundless Grace 308
Isaiah in a Vision Did of Old 528
(Isaiah, Mighty Seer, in Days of Old) 249
It Came Upon a Midnight Clear 54
It Happened on That Fateful Night 127

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Jehovah, Let Me Now Adore Thee 21
Jerusalem, My Happy Home 331 618
Jerusalem the Golden 347 613
Jerusalem, O City Fair and High 348 619
Jesus Calls Us; O'er the Tumult 494 270
Jesus Christ Is Risen Today 151 199
Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior 311
Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense 340 206
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Action: *Adopted (3).*

(The committee substituted "NIV" for "from LBW, some in revised form" in Point 15 and added the reference to the 1943 version in Point 18. Considerable discussion followed. An amendment to commend both the *LBW* and *LW* to congregations was declared out of order on the grounds that the Dallas convention had called for the adoption of an official hymnal. When the amendment was revised to call for two official hymnals, this was declared to be a substitute resolution, one which the delegates declined to consider. After 30 minutes of debate the automatic call of the question was decided affirmatively by the required 2/3 vote. The resolution was then adopted after it had been stated by way of information that the resolution did not refer to occasional services that might be published separately and that suggestions for the addition of hymns could still be received and considered by the commission.)

To State Position on Abortion

RESOLUTION 3-02A

Overtures 3-20A—3-23 (*CW*, pp. 97—99)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod throughout its history has opposed abortion and since 1971 has spoken in convention to condemn "willful abortion as contrary to the will of God"; and

WHEREAS, We as members of Christian congregations have the obligation to protest this heinous crime against the will of God legally sanctioned in the United States and other lands; and

WHEREAS, The practice of abortion, its promotion, and legal acceptance are destructive of the moral consciousness and character of the people of any nation; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention urgently call upon Christians—

1. To hold firmly to the clear Biblical truths that (a) the living but unborn are persons in the sight of God from the time of conception (Job 10:9-11; Ps. 51:5; 139:13-17; Jer. 1:5; Luke 1:41-44); (b) as persons the unborn stand under the full protection of God's own prohibition against murder (Gen. 9:6; Ex. 20:13; Num. 35:33; Acts 7:19; 1 John 3:15); and (c) since abortion takes a human life, abortion is not a moral option, except as a tragically unavoidable byproduct of medical procedures necessary to prevent the death of another human being, viz., the mother; and

2. To speak and act as responsible citizens on behalf of the living but unborn in the civic and political arena to secure for these defenseless persons due protection under the law; and

3. To offer as an alternative to abortion supportive understanding, compassion, and help to the expectant parent(s) and family, and to foster concern for unwanted babies, encouraging Lutheran agencies and families to open hearts and homes to their need for life in a family; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod earnestly encourage its pastors, teachers, officers, and boards—

1. To warn publicly and privately (Prov. 31:8-9) against the sin of abortion;

2. To instruct the community of God that abortion is not in the realm of Christian liberty, private choice, personal opinion, or political preference;

3. To nurture a deep reverence and gratitude for God's gracious gift of human life;

4. To oppose in a responsible way attitudes and policies in congregations, schools, hospitals, Lutheran social service agencies, and other institutions within their sphere of influence and work which suggest that abortion is a matter of personal choice;

5. To support the efforts of responsible pro-life groups in their communities, e.g., "Lutherans for Life" (CTCR Report, *CW*, p. 74);

6. To promote clear instruction of Christian morality in homes, schools, and churches of the Synod, showing the blessings and safeguards inherent in God's will for sexual chastity before marriage and faithfulness in marriage;

7. To teach within our Lutheran schools and churches the biological, social, and parental functions of childbearing; and

8. To support the efforts to secure the human life amendment to the United States Constitution.

Action: *Adopted as amended (3).*

(Three amendments were approved: the addition of the reference to Proverbs in Point 1 of the second resolve, and Points 7 and 8. The word "Lutheran" was inserted in Point 7 by common consent. In Session 7 the convention changed the order of words as given above in Point 7. An amendment referring to rape at the end of Point 1 of the first resolve was declined.)

To Continue "Fellowship in Protest" with ALC

RESOLUTION 3-03

Report 3-01, II; App. 3-01B, App. 3-01C (*CW*, pp. 75—77, 81—82, 84—87); Overtures 3-71A—3-89B, 3-94A—F (*CW*, pp. 109—117)

Preamble

It is the will of our God that the members of His church be one in faith and walk together in love, striving always to express the unity that is theirs in Christ while holding faithfully to the doctrine committed to them. The apostle Paul has written: "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing and that there be no divisions among you, but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Cor. 1:10). In Ephesians he declares that God's people should "[endeavor] to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (4:3). And elsewhere he exhorts Titus to "[hold] fast the faithful Word as he hath been taught" (Titus 1:9).

Our Synod, endeavoring to follow God's will regarding concord in the church, in 1969 declared itself to be in pulpit and altar fellowship with The American Lutheran Church and stated its earnest desire to "seek a unified evangelical position and practice on the basis of our commitment to the Gospel" (Denver Res. 3-15). In the intervening decade blessings have resulted from our Synod's fellowship with the ALC. Some congregations have found a basis for joint work and worship and have grown in giving expression to their confessional unity.

Also on the national level areas of agreement are evident, e.g., in the confessional basis as stated in both our Synod's and the ALC's constitution; in the doctrine of the Trinity; in the doctrine of justification by faith alone. We rejoice over these areas of agreement and praise God for them.

However, in spite of these positive experiences, differences in doctrine and practice exist between our Synod and the ALC. In its report to the Synod at the 1977 convention the CTCR stated (*CW*, p. 43):

> After eight years and considerable discussion of doctrinal differences, the report of the LCMS representatives on the Commission of Fellowship make it painfully clear that positions and practices of the ALC . . . are not in agreement with the doctrinal position of the LCMS.

In response to this report the Synod passed Res. 3-02A at the 1977 convention declaring itself to be in a state of "fellowship in protest" with the ALC.

It is evident that real differences of doctrine and practice do exist between our Synod and the ALC. In its 1979 report to this convention the CTCR indicates that this situation, which called for a state of "fellowship in protest," has not improved. At the same time, however, it must be stated that there are a number of factors that have led the CTCR to recommend that the "fellowship in protest" should be continued at this time. Some of these factors are:

1. The "Formula of Concord" conferences held recently have revealed that in our Synod "there is considerable evidence of theological disagreement and confusion in understanding the nature and implications of fellowship."

2. Many of our own members are unaware of the serious differences at the church-body level.

3. The CTCR has not completed the comprehensive study on fellowship called for by Res. 3-02A of the 1977 convention.

Another factor that must be taken into consideration is that many of our brothers and sisters and congregations in the ALC are in doctrinal accord with us and need our fraternal support at this time.

Having carefully considered all these factors, we offer to the Synod in a spirit of love and brotherly concern for our brothers and sisters both in our own Synod and the ALC the following resolution with the fervent prayer that God, our heavenly Father, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit and in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, may yet give to us the confessional unity and concord we seek with the ALC.

WHEREAS, On the basis of the Scripture and the Confessions, the Synod held that agreement in doctrine and practice is necessary for the establishment and maintenance of altar and pulpit fellowship with another church body; and

WHEREAS, Our Synod entered into a state of "fellowship in protest" with the ALC in 1977 at the Dallas convention on account of doctrinal disagreements in the areas of:

a) inspiration, inerrancy, and authority of Scripture;

b) the ordination of women into the pastoral office;

c) the nature and basis of fellowship;

d) membership and participation in ecumenical organizations (unionism); and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations is in the process of preparing a comprehensive study and report on the nature and implications of the concept of fellowship; and

WHEREAS, The CTCR is to disseminate this report throughout the Synod for widespread study; and

WHEREAS, The CTCR's report to this convention states: "The report of LCMS representatives to the ALC-LCMS Commission on Fellowship indicates that the divergence in doctrine and practice between our church bodies is more evident now than it was two years ago. We mention three specifics:

"1. During the biennium the ALC adopted a significant document dealing with Communion practices. This document seems to abandon the so-called 'Galesburg Rule' traditionally accepted by the ALC, which restricts Lutheran altars to Lutheran communicants.

"2. Discussions between the faculty representatives of the two church bodies during the biennium have brought to even clearer focus the marked difference between their positions on the nature and authority of the Scriptures, confessional identity, the ordination of women, and the basis of fellowship.

"3. During the biennium the Division of Theological Studies of the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A. released its report of its Consultation on the Function of Doctrine and Theology in the Light of the Unity of the Church. This report, drafted by representatives of the three major Lutheran bodies in the U.S.A., points to sharp divergencies between the LCMS and other Lutheran bodies on such important topics as Biblical authority, confessional subscription, and the basis of fellowship"; therefore be it

Resolved, That the LCMS *remain* in a state of "fellowship in protest" with the ALC as that state is defined in Dallas Res. 3-02A; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod plead with all its members to participate in the Bible studies to be shared with the Synod by the CTCR on fellowship matters; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge the CTCR to complete its comprehensive study and report on the nature and implications of fellowship *and* to disseminate the report throughout the Synod for widespread study as soon as

possible, and that all pastors be urged to share this study with their congregations; and be it further

Resolved, That this completed study be offered to the representatives of the ALC and that they be asked to share this information with the pastors and congregations of the ALC; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS commissioners distribute to the Synod in the coming biennium a clear and documented statement on the existing areas of doctrinal disagreement between the two church bodies and that the ALC be encouraged to share this information with their membership also; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod reconsider its relationship to the ALC in the 1981 convention, mindful that "fellowship in protest," though not tantamount to the breaking of fellowship, does carry the clear implication that if the circumstances that called forth the protest are not corrected in due time, the protest will and must lead to the severance of fellowship relations; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod, in acting on this matter, join in prayer for the blessings of our gracious Father through the guidance of the Holy Spirit and in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on all our relationships with fellow Christians around the world and especially with those in the Lutheran family of believers.

Action: *Adopted (7).*

(This resolution was discussed already in Session 4. The delegates declined to consider a substitute resolution that called for the deletion of the two paragraphs preceding the first whereas and of the second-last resolved and for the following to be substituted for the first resolve: "*Resolved,* That the LCMS suspend fellowship with the ALC at the present time for the above-mentioned doctrinal reasons." A call for the question was voted down. Discussion was resumed in Session 7. The convention declined to consider a substitute resolution that would have removed Res. 3-03 from consideration at this convention and would have directed Committee 3 to propose a resolution either favoring or opposing fellowship with the ALC. Another substitute resolution was declared out of order since it proposed, in effect, suspension of fellowship, an action which had been previously rejected. This ruling of the chair was sustained. When a delegate who had voted on the prevailing side regarding suspension moved reconsideration, the delegates declined to reconsider, 352 to 632. An automatic call of the question after 30 minutes of debate was successful, and the resolution was adopted 861 to 147.)

To Celebrate 400th Anniversary of Book of Concord and 450th Anniversary of Augsburg Confession

RESOLUTION 3-04

Report 3-01, App. 3-01F (*CW,* p. 88)

WHEREAS, The Synod is preparing to remember with thanksgiving the 400th anniversary of *The Book of Concord,* as well as the 450th anniversary of the Augsburg Confession; therefore be it

Resolved, That we urge celebration of this historic occasion on the congregational, Circuit, District, and synodical levels; and be it further

Resolved, That our partner churches be invited to join the Synod's observance of this special event in our history as Lutheran Christians; and be it finally

Resolved, That the congregations of the Synod be encouraged to give special attention to the ongoing education of their members in the content of the confessional writings, to their use as tools for a Scriptural witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ to people everywhere, and to their value as a resource for daily Christian discipleship.

Action: *Adopted (7).*

(An amendment calling on Lutherans other than partner churches to join in the celebration was declined.)

To Encourage Lutheran Church—Canada to Proceed with the Formation of an Indigenous Lutheran Church—Canada

RESOLUTION 3-05

Reports 3-07—3-08 (*CW,* pp. 93—94); Overtures 3-51A—C (*CW,* p. 105)

WHEREAS, The report of the Task Force of Lutheran Church—Canada (the Alberta and British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and Ontario Districts, along with the Canadian portions of the SELC, English, and Minnesota North Districts) indicates that there is a strong support for the formation of a self-governing, indigenous Lutheran Church—Canada; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod encourage Lutheran Church—Canada to proceed with the formation of a self-governing, indigenous Lutheran Church—Canada according to the procedures adopted by the Lutheran Church—Canada.

Action: *Adopted (7).*

To Establish St. Catharines Extension as Separate Canadian Seminary

RESOLUTION 3-06A

Overture 3-52 (*CW,* p. 106)

WHEREAS, The original concerns of the Task Force on Higher Education (1975 *Convention Workbook*) for the establishing of a seminary extension at St. Catharines were met with Res. 6-08A, 9 (Anaheim convention); and

WHEREAS, This extension has shown good growth during its years of operation; and

WHEREAS, It is now evident that the Ontario District and others in eastern Canada prefer an autonomous seminary of their own; and

WHEREAS, The problems involved with record-keeping, relative fiscal responsibilities and accounting procedures, monetary exchange rates, and staffing concerns have now become evident; and

WHEREAS, The North Central Association, with whom the Fort Wayne seminary is seeking full accreditation, apparently feels uncomfortable in accrediting an institution in the United States with an extension in Canada (where North Central is not active); and

WHEREAS, An independent seminary at St. Catharines could still be provided with teaching manpower, where needed, from the Fort Wayne seminary on the basis of the Canadian seminary buying services from the American seminary, thus providing a truly balanced and highly respectable program in a manner in which total fiscal responsibility for the entire operation would be in place; therefore be it

Resolved, That the St. Catharines Extension of the Fort Wayne seminary be given independent status, serving directly under the Board for Higher Education; and be it further

Resolved, That the steps toward establishing the independent seminary be taken as follows:

1. At the end of the present fiscal year (1980) a separate budget apart from that of the Fort Wayne seminary be approved by the BHE and the Board of Directors;

2. At the 1981 convention provisions for the election of a Board of Control and the necessary Bylaw changes be presented by the Commission on Constitutional Matters following consultation with Ontario District legal counsel to avoid conflicts with Canadian law; and be it further

Resolved, That the St. Catharines seminary be urged and empowered to seek affiliation with Brock University or other Canadian university, if necessary, so that degrees can be conferred on its graduates and other advantages can be gained; and be it further

Resolved, That we thank God for the dedicated work of the men who have been serving the St. Catharines extension, including many from the Ontario District and the Fort Wayne seminary who nurtured theological education in this part of Canada; and be it finally

Resolved, That we continue to pray the Lord of the harvest that He will provide many more pastors to the field that is ripe unto harvest in Canada.

Action: *Adopted as amended (7).*

(Amendment: addition of "or other Canadian university, if necessary.")

To Continue Membership in Lutheran Council in the U.S.A.

RESOLUTION 3-07

Report 3-05 (*CW*, pp. 91—92); Overtures 3-61A—3-65 (*CW*, pp. 108—109)

WHEREAS, The doctrine and practice of the Missouri Synod has not been compromised by membership in the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A.; and

WHEREAS, Membership in the Council has permitted the Synod to avoid much duplication of effort and the introduction of work which the Synod otherwise would be compelled to undertake on its own; and

WHEREAS, Membership in the Council has given the Synod an opportunity to participate in an ongoing forum of theological study and discussion; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod continue its membership in the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A.; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod's Board of Directors continue to evaluate the programs of the Council according to its established evaluation criteria.

Action: *Adopted. (7).*

(Two amendments were proposed. One, "That we request the ALC and LCA to withdraw the National Lutheran Campus Ministry and the Lutheran Student Movement from under the LCUSA." The other called for an addition to the final resolve: "and that the decision from time to time to continue or not commitments to LCUSA beyond the Division of Administration and the Division of Theological Studies be left to the Synod's Board of Directors." Both amendments were defeated.)

To Accept Report of Board of Directors on SELC and LCMS Merger

RESOLUTION 3-08

Report 3-06 (*CW*, p. 92)

WHEREAS, On July 12, 1969, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (SELC) entered into a merger agreement; and

WHEREAS, The agreement stipulated that the merger date could be postponed by agreement of both parties and that other points in the agreement could also be adjusted by common consent; and

WHEREAS, The Advisory Commission appointed by the President of the Synod to expedite the merger plan acknowledged the joy which both parties have found in the closer relationship that has been established and indicated that a postponement of the merger date would be advisable; therefore be it

Resolved, That the 1979 convention in session approve the action of the Board of Directors in ratifying the action of the synodical President that increased the number of members on the Advisory Commission from six to eight; and be it further

Resolved, That the 1979 convention approve the Board of Directors decision in the postponing of the consummation date with the understanding that the question of setting a definite date may be raised at any time by either party; and be it finally

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod express its appreciation for the relationship of the last eight years and express its willingness to continue to work with the SELC District toward ultimately effecting the desired merger.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

To Encourage Theological Discussions with the LCA

RESOLUTION 3-09

Report 3-01, II, H, 3, a (*CW*, p. 78); Overtures 3-91A—3-92B (*CW*, pp. 116—117)

WHEREAS, Dr. Preus, in response to Dallas Res. 3-20, "To Encourage Fellowship Discussions with All Lutheran Church Bodies," invited the Lutheran Church in America to hold doctrinal discussions with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, but the LCA responded by saying it considered such discussions unnecessary; and

WHEREAS, The Consultation on the Function of Doctrine and Theology in the Light of the Unity of the Church held under the auspices of LCUSA recommended recently in its summary report "that inter-Lutheran study and discussion of Scripture, of the Confessions, and of theological issues crucial to the faith and life of the church today be encouraged among members of our churches" (Summary, FODT Report, p. 10); therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod direct its President, in consultation with the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, to invite the Lutheran Church in America to reconsider its decision not to hold discussions with the LCMS on the issues that separate our church bodies; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod request the President of the Synod and the CTCR to report to the Synod on the progress and results of this renewed invitation.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

To Reaffirm Position on Charismatic Movement

RESOLUTION 3-10

Overtures 3-17A—3-18, 3-95A—C (*CW*, pp. 96—97, 117)

WHEREAS, The Holy Scriptures teach and the Lutheran Symbols confess that the Holy Spirit carries out His work without ceasing until the Last Day through Word and sacrament (John 8:31-32; Eph. 2:19-22; 2 Cor. 2:14-17; 2 Tim. 3:15-16; Large Catechism, II, Tappert, pp. 417, 419; FC SD II, 56, Tappert, p. 532); and

WHEREAS, The Scriptures nowhere promise that God reveals His will to us as He did to the apostles and prophets, directly and immediately through visions and dreams; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Confessions clearly reject the view that God reveals Himself and bestows His spiritual gifts to us apart from the objective and external Word and sacraments:

> In short, enthusiasm clings to Adam and his descendants from the beginning to the end of the world. It is a poison implanted and inoculated in man by the old dragon, and it is the source, strength, and power of all heresy, including that of the papacy and Mohammedanism. Accordingly, we should and must constantly maintain that God will not deal with us except through the external Word and sacrament. Whatever is attributed to the Spirit apart from such Word and sacrament is of the devil. (SA III, viii, 9—10); and

WHEREAS, Dallas Res. 3-10A clearly states that the Scriptures teach that "the faith by which we accept God's forgiveness on account of Christ is the work of God's Spirit through the external means of grace, namely, the preaching (teaching) of the Gospel, Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution, and the Lord's Supper. Through these external means the Holy Spirit works faith in the heart when and where it pleases God. Through these external means of grace the Holy Spirit, together with all that is necessary for life and salvation, is given to those who believe"; and

WHEREAS, The rejection of the false teaching "that God gives guidance and leadership to the church today through visions and dreams of direct prophecy" (Dallas Res. 3-10A) in no such way calls into question the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit of preserving, leading, and guiding Christians until the end of time; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod reaffirm the position expressed in Dallas Res. 3-10A "To Clarify the Synod's Position Regarding Charismatic Teaching"; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod refer those who have questions regarding the charismatic movement to the Commission on Theology and Church Relation's 1972 report, "The Charismatic Movement and Lutheran Theology," and 1977 report, "The Lutheran Church and the Charismatic Movement"; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod urge that the members of all our congregations continue to give careful attention to what the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions teach concerning the work of the Holy Spirit.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

(An amendment to add to the final resolve a reference to the preamble to the Synod's Constitution was declined.)

To Decline to Amend Dallas Resolution 3-07 on Doctrinal Statements

RESOLUTION 3-11

Overture 3-47 (*CW*, p. 105)

WHEREAS, "The Synod guides itself solely by the norm of the inerrant Scriptures, and the Lutheran Confessions as a true and unadulterated exposition of the Word of God, and exercises discipline and settles controversies by that norm" (Denver Res. 2-27); and

WHEREAS, The Synod throughout its history has exercised the right and responsibility granted by the Lutheran Confessions (FC SD, Rule and Norm, 10) of stating what it believes by adopting doctrinal statements and resolutions on the basis of the Scriptures and Confessions in order to express conviction with respect to contemporary challenges, problems, and aberrations, and has repeatedly emphasized that such doctrinal

statements and resolutions are subordinate to the Lutheran Confessions; and

WHEREAS, The adopted and ratified doctrinal statements are to be regarded as the corporate position of the Synod and are to be honored and upheld until such time as the Synod amends or repeals them (Denver Res. 2-27; *Handbook*, I, A, 1.02 c, 7); and

WHEREAS, The *Handbook* (I, B, 1.09 e) provides for the right of dissent to doctrinal statements; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod decline to amend Dallas Res. 3-07.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

To Decline Overture 3-44 on New Orleans Resolutions 3-01 and 3-09

RESOLUTION 3-12

Overture 3-44 (*CW*, pp. 104—105)

WHEREAS, The present procedure for adopting doctrinal statements (Bylaw 1.02) was adopted four years after the adoption of New Orleans Res. 3-01 and 3-09; and

WHEREAS, The present procedure has no retroactive provision even though it might be desired by some that it be used in reconsidering or refining previously adopted doctrinal statements; and

WHEREAS, New Orleans Res. 3-09 does not meet the definition of a doctrinal statement given in Bylaw 1.02; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overture 3-44 be declined.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

(The title was changed by common consent.)

To Decline to Change Doctrinal Review Process

RESOLUTION 3-13

Report 3-09 (*CW*, p. 94); Overtures 3-37—3-38D (*CW*, p. 103)

WHEREAS, The present doctrinal review process has served the Synod well; and

WHEREAS, An ongoing system of auditing the process is in effect; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod decline to change our procedure for doctrinal review; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod urge all involved in the doctrinal review process to remain diligent in their duties, striving to eliminate errors inherent in any human system.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

To Decline to Adopt Guidelines for Participating in Ecumenical Worship Services, Weddings, and Other Lutheran/Non-Lutheran Observances

RESOLUTION 3-14

Overtures 3-99A—D (*CW*, p. 118)

WHEREAS, Dallas Res. 3-25 expresses the intent of Art. VI, 2 b of the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, There is no compelling reason to revise Res. 3-25; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations is already in the process of preparing a comprehensive report on the nature and implications of the concept of fellowship; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overtures 3-99A—D be declined; and be it further

Resolved, That the Commission on Theology and Church Relations be encouraged to give special attention to these issues of participation in ecumenical worship services, weddings, and other Lutheran/non-Lutheran observances, in its report on fellowship.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

To Counsel Congregations Whose Pastors Are Agitating Against the Synod

RESOLUTION 3-15

Overture 3-45 (*CW*, p. 105)

WHEREAS, There are congregations which are burdened by the activity of their pastors who attack the Synod's doctrinal position and in various ways work at cross-purposes to the Synod; and

WHEREAS, Dallas Res. 5-01 urges congregations in similar situations to counsel with their pastors; therefore be it

Resolved, That congregations, Circuit Counselors, and District Presidents be diligent and pastoral in their ministry both to congregations so burdened and to their pastors so involved; and be it further

Resolved, That all congregations continue to labor in peace and accord for the glory of God and with the joy of a congregation in mission for the Lord.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

4. ADMINISTRATION

To Provide for Separate Incorporation of Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod

RESOLUTION 4-01A

Report 1-03 (*CW*, p. 46); Overture 4-23 (*CW*, p. 141)

WHEREAS, On June 15, 1978, the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod was established as a separate corporation under the laws of the State of Missouri; and

WHEREAS, Such formation of said separate corporation was formed after consultation and advice of the Board of Directors of the Synod, the Commission on Constitutional Matters, the Council of Presidents, District Church Extension boards, the Synod's legal counsel, and District Church Extension representatives; and

WHEREAS, Borrowing and lending for Church Extension purposes, and administration of the advance-site program, as previously carried out by the Synod's Board for Church Extension, are now being conducted by the newly established Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, Supervision, coordination, and regulation of all District Church Extension programs will, to the same extent as in the past, be provided as long as necessary by the Synod's Board for Church Extension, operating under the Synod's Bylaws; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Missouri Synod in convention ratify the formation of a separate corporation, Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod, a Missouri corporation as formed June 15, 1978; and be it further

Resolved, That the following Bylaw changes be made and adopted:

PRESENT WORDING

2.87 Powers and Duties with Respect to the Property of the Synod

c. "property of the Synod" includes all property, real or personal, tangible or intangible, and wherever situated (whether in the United States or elsewhere), and regardless of whether title to such property is held in the name of the Synod or its nominee or one of its agencies, provided, however, that property held by an agency in a fiduciary capacity (including, for purposes of example, the pensions funds held by the Board of Trustees, the retirement and welfare funds administered by the Board of Managers, and certain funds held by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation) shall not be considered or treated as the property of the Synod.

8.51 Board for Church Extension

The Board for Church Extension shall consist of eight members—two pastors, two teachers, and four laymen—who shall be elected by the convention and shall have an understanding of the Church Extension program and/or demonstrate an expertise in fields and areas closely related to Church Extension activities, such as knowledge of real estate management and financial planning. The Treasurer of the synod shall be an ex-officio member of the board.

PROPOSED WORDING

2.87 Powers and Duties with Respect to the Property of the Synod

c. "property of the Synod" includes all property, real or personal, tangible or intangible, and wherever situated (whether in the United States or elsewhere), and regardless of whether title to such property is held in the name of the Synod or its nominee or one of its agencies, provided, however, such shall not include any assets of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod, and provided further that property held by an agency in a fiduciary capacity (including, for purposes of example, the pension funds held by the Board of Trustees, the retirement and welfare funds administered by the Board of Managers, and certain funds held by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation) shall not be considered or treated as the property of the Synod.

8.51 The Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod

a. The Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod as established on June 15, 1978, as a separate corporate entity under the laws of the State of Missouri is operated by its members and board of directors, in accordance with its articles of incorporation and corporate bylaws, to further the objectives and duties of the Church Extension Fund within the Synod.

b. Until such time that all Districts of the Synod conduct the Church Extension activities through Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod, there shall also be a Board for Church Extension of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the functions and duties of which are set forth in Section 8.57 ff. of these Bylaws.

c. The Board of Directors for Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod shall consist of nine individuals—two pastors, two teachers, and four laymen. Eight of the directors shall be elected by the members and shall have an understanding of the Church Extension program and/or demonstrate an expertise in fields and areas closely related to Church Extension activities, such as knowledge of real estate, management, and financial planning. The Treasurer of the Synod shall also be a member of the board and the treasurer of the fund. The results of such elections shall be ratified by the Synod at its next convention.

d. The individuals elected to the Board of Directors for Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod shall serve a maximum of three four-year terms and shall also serve as members of the Board for Church Extension of the Synod.

e. Any amendment to the articles of incorporation and the corporate bylaws of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod as heretofore adopted shall be made by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod as set forth in its articles of incorporation and bylaws and shall be reported to the next synodical convention.

f. In the event the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod is ever dissolved, its net assets shall be distributed to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod or its successor.

8.53 Objectives

Financing the acquisition of sites and the erection of facilities to aid expansion for effective programs of ministry, witness, outreach, and service.

8.53 Objectives

This corporation is formed for the purpose of financing the acquisition of sites and the erection of facilities to aid expansion for effective programs of ministry, witness, outreach, and service of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

8.55 Members and Board of Directors of Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod

Except to the extent expressly provided elsewhere in these Bylaws, specifically naming the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod, none of the provisions of these Bylaws shall be applicable to the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod or to the members and directors of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod, the same being subject only to the terms and conditions of the articles of incorporation and bylaws of that corporation.

The members of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod shall consist of the persons who constitute the Board for Church Extension of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and would continue in this capacity until July 1, 1981. The members of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod would then consist of representatives of each of the participating Districts, an individual designated by the President of the Synod, the Treasurer of the Synod, and such individuals as are appointed by the Board of Directors of the Synod in compliance with the terms and conditions of the Bylaws of that corporation.

8.55 Functions

The board shall—

a. provide funds to assist the Synod, Districts, and congregations with loans for sites and facilities in the church's program of expansion for the renovation and improvement of facilities, refinancing of existing capital indebtedness, and short-term loan assistance to Districts for mortgage and construction loan needs;

b. aid in motivating individuals, congregations, organizations, and Districts in acquiring investments for church extension in a systematic manner;

c. strive to coordinate and obtain uniformity in the church extension programs of the Synod and the Districts;

d. provide leadership in advance site acquisition for further expansion.

8.57 Functions of Synod Board for Church Extension

The board shall.—

a. aid Districts in motivating individuals, congregations, and organizations in acquiring investments from Districts for church extension in a systematic manner;

b. strive to coordinate and obtain uniformity in the church extension programs of the Districts; and

c. provide leadership in advance site acquisition for further expansion.

8.57 Duties of Board

The board shall—

a. administer the Synod's Church Extension

8.59 Duties of Synod Board for Church Extension

The board shall—

a. establish policies within which Districts are to

Fund;

b. promote and maintain an adequate fund to assist the Synod, synodical boards, Districts, and congregations with loans to provide sites and facilities for expansion;

c. establish policies with respect to the making of loans and the type of security required, taking into consideration the financial status of the organization to which the loan is being made and the circumstances of the loan;

d. expend funds in acquisition of sites for long-range planning and future use;

e. establish policies for loan repayments to maintain the program on a revolving basis;

f. establish policies and programs for maintaining, supervising, and enlarging the Church Extension Fund on a sound financial basis;

g. study and review the monthly financial statement to assure security and safety of the program;

h. periodically review financial statements of all District church extension funds;

i. through its Executive Secretary confer with Districts in cooperatively promoting church extension funds and seeking greater uniformity in the policies and programs of the Synod and the Districts;

j. include a complete financial statement in its report to the Synod, including money borrowed and received, the total amounts of loans outstanding, and the amounts delinquent in each District.

operate with respect to the making of loans and the type of security required, taking into consideration the financial status of the organization to which the loan is being made and the circumstances of the loan;

b. establish policies and programs for maintaining, supervising, and enlarging the District Church Extension Funds on a sound financial basis;

c. periodically review financial statements of all District Church Extension Funds;

d. confer with Districts in cooperatively promoting Church Extension Funds and seeking greater uniformity in the policies and programs of the Districts; and

e. include a complete financial statement of District funds in its report to the Synod, including money borrowed and received, the total amounts of loans outstanding, and the amounts delinquent in each District.

8.59 Executive Secretary

(delete)

a. The board shall appoint an Executive Secretary, subject to the approval of the President of the Synod. He shall perform such duties as are assigned to him by the board.

b. The board shall be empowered, subject to a resolution of a synodical convention or approval by the Synod's Board of Directors, to make such staff appointments as may be necessary for a proper administration and program. Staff appointments shall also be subject to the approval of the President of the Synod.

c. Salaries of personnel shall be paid from the income of the Church Extension Fund.

8.61 The Fund

(delete)

a. The Church Extension Fund is a permanent fund from which disbursements are made for loans and/or expenditures for the purpose of acquiring anticipated church sites and erecting parish facilities for expansion, for renovation and improvement of church facilities, refinancing of congregations' existing capital indebtedness, and short-term loan assistance to Districts for mortgage and construction loan needs.

b. The fund shall be increased—

1. through the synodical budget;

2. by special Synodwide offerings;

3. by gifts, bequests, and devises;

4. by commercial loans arranged by the Board of Directors of the Synod;

5. through promotional programs among the constituency.

8.63 Loans

(delete)

a. Loans may be made at the discretion of the board to synodical boards, Districts, and congregations in conformity with the objectives and functions of the Church Extension Department and authorization indicated in Section 8.57 a to f.

b. The amount of the loan shall be determined by

the needs of the applicant and the ability to repay. The needs shall be viewed in the light of the most promising and/or strategic mission fields. The Board for Church Extension shall work in close cooperation with the Board for Missions in this evaluation.

c. No loan shall be made without mutual agreement on a repayment schedule. In the event of a default on a payment, no further loan shall be made to a defaulting borrower until the default has been removed.

d. Interest shall be charged the borrower at a rate determined by the board.

e. Loans must be made in accordance with policies established by the board, and such policies shall be conformed to by those to whom the loans are made.

f. Districts shall make financial reports available to the board annually or whenever requested by the board. They shall have these acounts audited by the Synod's Auditor or submit an audit acceptable to him.

8.65 The District Church Extension Program

The District church extension boards or committees shall administer the District's church extension program in conformity with policies established by the Synod's Board for Church Extension and in accordance with District regulations.

8.61 The District Church Extension Program

The District Church Extension boards or committees shall administer the District's church extension program in conformity with policies established by the Synod's Board for Church Extension and in accordance with District regulations.

Action: *Adopted (4).*

To Assure Voluntary Nature of District Participation in Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod

RESOLUTION 4-02

Overture 4-24 (*CW*, p. 144)

WHEREAS, The formation of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod is necessary for the Synod and some Districts of the Synod and commendable but not necessary for all Districts since the same needs do not exist; and

WHEREAS, Numerous concerns regarding the fund have surfaced, e.g., centralization, depersonalization of loans, imbalance of representation between Districts and the Synod, voting procedures, interest rates, and the like; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod assure Districts that District entry into the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod shall be voluntary and only on the basis of the decision of the individual District.

Action: *Adopted (4).*

(An amendment, eventually simplified to inserting "or withdrawal" after "entry," was declined. It was stated that provisions for withdrawal by Districts are included in the articles of incorporation of the fund.)

To Request Board of Managers to Review Survivor Plan Benefits

RESOLUTION 4-03A

Overtures 4-40, 4-42A—C (*CW*, p. 148)

WHEREAS, The interrelationship of benefits provided by all the Concordia Plans requires actuarial consideration so that proper cost/benefit effectiveness results in equitable treatment between the workers and the employing organization; and

WHEREAS, It is not possible to arbitrarily change back to former survivor benefits because of changes made in the Concordia Retirement Plan at the same time, changes made in the Social Security benefits and enrollment provisions, and because of the interrelationships of these programs and inequities that could result between various workers; and

WHEREAS, There is no accurate information about the number of LCMS workers who do not participate in Social Security; and

WHEREAS, There is a concern that some survivors may be left without adequate coverage because of a worker's decision to opt out of Social Security; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Managers as a part of their present 15-Year Retirement and Survivor Benefit Analysis review the potential of, and, if any possible equitable arrangement can be devised, provide a plan of additional survivor coverage for the workers not in Social Security; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Managers, who presently do not have information in the files about workers' participation in Social Security, survey all workers and secure accurate data about the numbers of participants in the Concordia Plans not presently in Social Security; and be it further

Resolved, That the Personal Statement of Benefits be changed to separately show the amount of Social Security benefits available to survivors of deceased

workers as is done in other areas of the statement where those benefits are included; and be it further

Resolved, That surviving widows and dependent children of deceased workers who are in need of financial assistance make application for such assistance from the Synod as same is provided for in Chapter X, Section C, of the *Handbook;* and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board of Managers—Workers Benefit Plans report their findings and decisions to the Synod during the next biennium as these matters are resolved.

Action: *Adopted as amended. (4)*

(The original third and fourth whereases were removed by amendment:

WHEREAS, There was action taken at the 1977 convention declining a request to restore previous Survivor Plan coverage and since that time it has been clarified that opting out of Social Security was possible only on the basis of religious principles or religious tenets of a church body; and

WHEREAS, During 1977 and 1978 it was possible for workers who previously opted out of Social Security to enter without paying for back years; and

The next whereas, before being amended to read as given above, had originally read:

WHEREAS, There is no accurate information available about the number of LCMS pastors and teachers who have opted out of Social Security, even though it appears that the numbers are a small percentage; and)

To Refer Retirement Matters to Board of Managers

RESOLUTION 4-04

Report 4-06 (*CW,* pp. 132—134); Overtures 4-34—4-38B, 4-41A—B (*CW,* pp. 146—148)

WHEREAS, The Board of Managers—Worker Benefit Plans, after 15 years of operation, is in the process of doing comprehensive studies and analyses; and

WHEREAS, Changes in retirement plans, inflation, and other factors demand such reviews; therefore be it

Resolved, That the concerns expressed in the above overtures be referred to the Board of Managers—Worker Benefit Plans for implementation as feasible; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Managers—Worker Benefit Plans report their findings and decisions to the Synod during the next biennium as these matters are resolved.

Action: *Adopted (4).*

To Review Retirement Requirements

RESOLUTION 4-05A

Overture 4-33 (*CW,* p. 146)

WHEREAS, The 1977 Dallas convention disapproved arbitrary retirement at age 65 and amended Bylaw 2.105 to provide for service up to age 70; and

WHEREAS, These revisions do not apply to colleges and seminaries; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board for Higher Education review the Bylaws applicable to colleges and seminaries and propose to the 1981 convention necessary Bylaw changes to meet the current personnel needs of the Synod's system of higher education keeping in mind Bylaw 2.105, Federal requirements, and general trends in higher education.

Action: *Adopted (7).*

To Increase Medical Assistance to Retirees

RESOLUTION 4-06

Overture 4-39 (*CW,* p. 148)

WHEREAS, The continuing spiral of costs in medical needs is working a hardship on those living on fixed incomes; and

WHEREAS, There is a problem of meeting those costs not allowed by Medicare and not covered by the Concordia Welfare Plan; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Managers—Concordia Welfare Plan give careful consideration to post-65 benefits to bring such benefits even with the objectives of full medical coverage including government Medicare for those on fixed incomes.

Action: *Adopted (7).*

To Authorize Synodical Headquarters Building

RESOLUTION 4-07

Report 4-04 III, App. 4-04B (*CW,* pp. 129—132)

WHEREAS, For many years there has been a recognized need for a permanent headquarters to house the scattered agencies of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors through an ad hoc committee has set certain criteria for such a building and site; and

WHEREAS, Certain funds have been made available toward this purpose; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention approve the construction or purchase of a synodical headquarters building; and be it further

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation be requested to make every effort to obtain sufficient gifts (the estimated need to be $4 to $5 million) so that the entire project might be debt free at its completion; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Treasurer of the Synod be authorized to obtain suitable financing for costs not covered by gifts.

Action: *Adopted (7).*

To Determine Headquarters Building Site

RESOLUTION 4-08B

Report 4-04 III, App. 4-04B (*CW*, pp. 129—132)

WHEREAS, An ad hoc committee appointed by the Board of Directors of the Synod has set certain criteria for the location of a synodical headquarters building and has reached specific conclusions on such sites; and

WHEREAS, The recommendation of the ad hoc committee is that the Board of Directors approve the Big Bend building site on the west boundary of Concordia Seminary campus, St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors has concurred in this site selection and recommends location of the synodical headquarters at the Big Bend site; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Control of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, is receptive to the location of the synodical headquarters on the seminary campus provided the following concerns are resolved to the satisfaction of the Board of Control:

I. Provision for the seminary's expansion needs as it grows in both numbers and services to the church.

II. Maintenance of the essential privacy and integrity of the seminary as an academic institution and community.

III. Preservation of the outstanding esthetic qualities of the present seminary campus.

IV. Determination of clear lines of authority, responsibility, and accountability that will recognize both the autonomy and the interdependence of the various entities sharing a common campus; therefore be it

Resolved, That this convention in assembly approve construction of the new synodical headquarters building on the campus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Directors work in close consultation with the Board of Control of Concordia Seminary in this building project to ensure that the concerns of the seminary as expressed above are adequately met; and be it finally

Resolved, That if for any reason the headquarters building cannot be constructed on the Concordia Seminary campus, the Board of Directors be empowered to select another location in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

Action: *Adopted (7).*

(Res. 4-08 stated that the work of the planning counselor of the seminary would first be available at convention time and that the convention would therefore make the determination as to site. Res. 4-08A was distributed in the Monday, July 9, issue of *Today's Business* and was in the form given above except for the final resolve, which was the only addition to Res. 4-08B which was distributed in the Tuesday issue of *TB*. After that resolution was adopted Tuesday afternoon, Mrs. Marcella Neimann, who had offered the seed money for the headquarters building, was introduced to the convention.)

To Adopt Bylaws for Commission on Black Ministry

RESOLUTION 4-09

Overture 4-26 (*CW*, p. 145)

WHEREAS, The Commission on Black Ministry has submitted to the Board of Directors proposed Bylaw additions in order that the commission can be recognized in the Bylaws of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors is of the opinion that the Commission on Black Ministry should have the same status as other boards and commissions; therefore be it

Resolved, That the following Bylaws be adopted:

E. BLACK MINISTRY

8.81 Commission on Black Ministry

a. *Membership.* Membership of the Commission on Black Ministry shall consist of nine members, with an equal distribution of clergy and laity, plus one teacher. Candidates may be proposed by any member of the Synod (congregation, pastor, teacher). The members of the commission shall be appointed by the President of the Synod, in consultation with the appropriate division chairman, from a list of at least three candidates for each vacant seat of the commission which the representatives of the Black congregations meeting in convocation will have reviewed, evaluated, and approved. After the initial appointments, the term of office shall be for four years. Vacancies on the commission shall be filled by appointment by the synodical President from remaining nominees on the same slate of candidates.

b. *Function.* The commission shall do the following:

1. Plan, coordinate, and expand Black ministry in the Synod in cooperation with the convocation of Black Lutheran congregations, the appropriate division chairman, and the President of the Synod.

2. Represent the concerns of Black ministry before the boards, commissions, committees, and judicatories of the Synod.

c. *Staff.* The commission shall engage any executive staff in accordance with the applicable Bylaws pertaining to personnel. Duties of the executive secretary shall be established by the commission in consultation with the synodical President and the appropriate division, whereupon the position description shall be submitted according to the Bylaws to the Board of Directors for approval.

Action: *Adopted as amended (8).*

(By common consent the resolution was amended by deleting "not less than" from the statement on the size of the commission. A proposed amendment to strike "from remaining nominees on the same slate of candidates" was declined.)

To Continue Process of Racial Integration

RESOLUTION 4-10A

Overture 4-28 (*CW*, p. 145)

WHEREAS, The Synod, while recently celebrating its Black centennial, has been in the process of integration; and

WHEREAS, The church recognizes the great gifts and abilities that are being offered by its Blacks and other minority groups; and

WHEREAS, Relatively few Black and other minority persons have been elected and/or appointed to the leadership and the administrative staffs of the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod encourage members of minority groups, minority congregations, and minority commissions and councils to seek out and nominate minority group church leaders for service on boards, commissions, committees, and staffs on both synodical and local levels; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod encourage each of its Districts to seek out and nominate Black and other minority group church leaders for service on both synodical and local levels.

Action: *Adopted (8).*

(The committee changed "the centennial of its work among the Blacks" in the first whereas to "its Black centennial." The convention declined to consider a substitute resolution to seek out candidates from all minority groups with a goal of having one-third of all board positions filled by members of minorities. It also declined to amend the first resolve to have the Synod "encourage all its members to seek out . . .")

To Reaffirm Efforts to Combat Racism

RESOLUTION 4-11

Overture 4-27 (*CW,* p. 145)

WHEREAS, Several synodical conventions have dealt with the subject of racism and prejudice; and

WHEREAS, The Dallas convention adopted a resolution to "eliminate racism," which called for an affirmative action program to insure equal opportunity for minority groups; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod reaffirm these principles which make possible a more positive effort to eliminate all vestiges of racism, separation, and prejudice by encouraging fair employment and purchasing practices in our church; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief continue its efforts in assisting congregations and Districts in combating racism and in promoting positive, wholesome, and Christian human relationships.

Action: *Adopted (9).*

To Grant Transfers of Congregations

RESOLUTION 4-12

Overtures 4-12—4-15 (*CW,* pp. 139—140); L4-16 (*TB,* p. 17)

WHEREAS, The following congregations have requested transfers of their membership from one District to another:

1. West Portal Lutheran Church, San Francisco, Calif., from the California-Nevada-Hawaii District to the English District;
2. Trinity Lutheran Church, Burlingame, Calif., from the California-Nevada-Hawaii District to the English District;
3. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Des Plaines, Ill., from the English District to the Northern Illinois District;
4. First Lutheran Church, Lloydminster, Sask., from the Manitoba and Saskatchewan District to the Alberta and British Columbia District;
5. The Church of the Reformation-Lutheran, Affton, Mo., from the English District to the Missouri District;

and

WHEREAS, such transfers have necessary approval and appear to be in the best interests of God's kingdom; therefore be it

Resolved, That the above requests for transfers be, and they are, hereby approved and granted.

Action: *Adopted (9).*

To Decline Action on Transfer of First Lutheran, Chicago

RESOLUTION 4-13A

Overture 4-11 (*CW,* p. 139; *TB,* p. 112)

WHEREAS, First Lutheran Church of the Trinity, Chicago, Ill., has resigned from membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod by congregational resolution on Jan. 22, 1978, and has affiliated with the AELC; therefore be it

Resolved, That we decline to act on its request for transfer to the English District.

Action: *Adopted (9).*

To Make Provisions for Faculty Salaries

RESOLUTION 4-14

Overture 4-29A—B (*CW,* pp. 145—146)

WHEREAS, The Synod has established centers of learning and training; and

WHEREAS, The faculties require compensation that compares favorably with salaries offered by the congregations; and

WHEREAS, The 1977 convention of the Synod adopted the resolution "To Provide for Adequate Faculty Salaries" (Dallas Res. 6-02), requesting the Board for Higher Education to develop a salary schedule and the Board of Directors to continue this as one of their top priorities; and

WHEREAS, Only one adjustment increase to bring salaries up to the BHE schedule has been forthcoming; and

WHEREAS, The second adjustment needs to be forthcoming immediately; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Directors in concert with the BHE make funds available to fulfill the second salary adjustment for our faculties.

Action: *Adopted (10, 11).*

(This resolution was adopted in Session 10 with an amendment as a final resolve: "That the Board of Directors be directed to implement this resolution retroactive to Feb. 1, 1979." In Session 11 the convention resolved 503 to 429 to reconsider the entire amended resolution. It then declined the amendment and adopted the resolution in its original form given above. However, on a point of privilege concern was expressed over the action just taken on faculty salaries. A delegate then offered a resolution, which was referred to Committee 12 after brief discussion. See Res. 12-13.)

To Encourage Support for High School in Honolulu

RESOLUTION 4-15A

Overture 4-50A—B (*CW*, p. 150)

WHEREAS, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Honolulu has had great success in its educational ventures both on the elementary and the secondary level; and

WHEREAS, We recognize the potential of this project for the local and area congregations; and

WHEREAS, We recognize this school as a unique mission opportunity for the entire Synod; and

WHEREAS, We recognize also the need for immediate funds to underwrite the new high school project; and

WHEREAS, It is not the policy of the Synod to assist in financing Lutheran high schools except to the extent they may qualify under District or the Synod Church Extension Funds; therefore be it

Resolved, That we commend Our Redeemer Lutheran Congregation for its vision and success; and be it further

Resolved, That Our Redeemer Lutheran Church appeal directly to the California-Nevada-Hawaii District Church Extension Fund for funds; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage the California-Nevada-Hawaii District Church Extension Fund to make a special appeal for loans to assist Redeemer Congregation in this project; and be it finally

Resolved, That we encourage other Church Extension Funds throughout the Synod to assist the California-Nevada-Hawaii Church Extension Fund and Redeemer Congregation by making special designated investments to the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod for this purpose.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

To Pay Interest on Funds Deposited by Colleges with the Synod

RESOLUTION 4-16A

Overture 4-43 (*CW*, pp. 148—149)

WHEREAS, Present synodical policy (Bylaw 6.153 c) requires that "all surplus institutional funds [of synodical colleges and seminaries] above an adequate working balance shall be deposited with the Treasurer of the Synod"; and

WHEREAS, Funds received for specific purposes should be invested to provide earnings that benefit the respective institution; and

WHEREAS, The Board for Higher Education has recognized such a process as proper (*CW*, p. 166 I, 6); therefore be it

Resolved, That the Treasurer of the Synod develop a procedure whereby institutions are credited with interest earnings based on the monthly average balance of funds on deposit and that where advances have been made for operating needs a similar procedure for charging interest to such institutions be developed; and be it further

Resolved, That such procedures be submitted to the Board for Higher Education for approval and adoption retroactive to July 1, 1979, subject to the final approval of the Board of Directors.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

To Give High Priority to Youth Ministry

RESOLUTION 4-17

Overture 4-49 (*CW*, p. 150)

WHEREAS, God is opening many doors for youth ministry in our Synod; and

WHEREAS, Present investment in youth will, under the blessing of God, bring rich dividends for our church for the future; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Directors of the Synod be encouraged to give high priority to youth ministry by increasing the youth ministry budget allocation beyond the amount presently designated for this Synodwide endeavor.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

To Study Relationship to Rural and Small-Town Churches

RESOLUTION 4-18A

Overture 4-32 (*CW*, p. 146)

WHEREAS, Our nation could not exist but for the rural, agrioriented sections of our country and the

contributions they make to the support of our country and the world, and the concerns and needs of these parts of the country are receiving increased attention, particularly with regard to farmers; and

WHEREAS, By the grace of God our Synod is blessed with a large number of congregations serving rural and semirural areas; and

WHEREAS, Many programs promoted by the Districts and the Synod relate to urban concerns and social issues but may not be applicable to rural churches; therefore be it

Resolved, That our Synod heartily support, promote, and commend its rural and semirural churches in their ministry; and be it further

Resolved, That our Synod, through the boards and commissions in its Parish Services, Missions, and Stewardship Divisions, respond with programs geared to the needs and concerns of these churches (i.e., rural and agrioriented stewardship programs, evangelism programs, youth programs, etc.); and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board of Directors of the Synod be asked to consider designating a Rural Concerns Sunday throughout the Synod.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

To Decline Overture on Investments in Mission Properties

RESOLUTION 4-19

Overture 4-44 (*CW*, p. 149)

WHEREAS, The supervision of mission congregations, subsidies, loans, and loan repayments is generally under the jurisdiction of District Boards of Directors; and

WHEREAS, The business and legal involvements in such matters should generally not be dealt with at the synodical level; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overture 4-44 be respectfully declined.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

(The committee changed the title.)

To Make Available Synodical Officials' Compensations

RESOLUTION 4-20

Overture 4-45 (*CW*, p. 149)

WHEREAS, Repeated requests have come to the synodical convention to make available compensation information of all synodical officials to members of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors has just recently completed a compensation study of synodical officials, staffs, and faculty members; and

WHEREAS, The salary grid scale has been shared and reviewed by the floor committee; therefore be it

Resolved, That the salary grid scale of all synodical and District officials, staff, and faculty members be made available on request from the Administrative Officer of the synodical Board of Directors.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

(The words "and District" were added by common consent.)

To Postpone Action to Recognize OAFC as Auxiliary

RESOLUTION 4-21

Overtures 4-51A—C (*CW*, pp. 150—151)

WHEREAS, Recommended Bylaw changes in respect to auxiliaries and service organizations are being prepared by the Synod's Task Force to be presented to the 1979 convention; and

WHEREAS, Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ, Inc., appears to fit the definition of a service organization; therefore be it

Resolved, That action on auxiliary status for OAFC be postponed until the Task Force recommendations have been considered.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

To Provide Future Funding for "Effectiveness Training for Lutherans" (ETL) for Parents, Teachers, and Pastors

RESOLUTION 4-22

Overture 4-48 (*CW*, pp. 149-150)

WHEREAS, The Synod has supported the ETL program as a project of the Board of Parish Education; and

WHEREAS, Though this has been accomplished with the generous support of Aid Association for Lutherans in the amount of $492,000 granted through December 1979, this direct funding will not be available in 1980; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention thank the Aid Association for Lutherans for their generous support, enabling this project to have a very successful beginning; and be it further

Resolved, That the future funding needs for ETL be considered by the Board of Parish Education, so that this project may be part of the synodical work program.

Action: *Referred (12).*

(Resolution adopted: "That we refer this resolution to the CTCR for doctrinal review of the theological philosophy of ETL and then require the BPE to ask the Board of Directors for their approval before any moneys are appropriated by the BPE.")

To Decline to Subsidize Theological Journals

RESOLUTION 4-23

Overture 4-46 (*CW*, p. 149)

WHEREAS, The publication of a theological journal on the part of a synodical seminary has neither official synodical status nor supervision; and

WHEREAS, The funding of theological journals is the fiscal responsibility of the school and not a separate budget responsibility of the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, Making separate funds available to a synodical school for the publication of a journal could necessitate the funding of journals for all synodical schools; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overture 4-46 be respectfully declined.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

To Decline Overture to Subsidize Mailing *C.T.Q.* to Overseas Missionaries

RESOLUTION 4-24

Overture 4-47 (*CW*, p. 149)

WHEREAS, The Board for Missions already has limited funds for its important worldwide mission and ministry responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, The providing of mission money for the purpose of sending to overseas missionaries the publication of only one of our synodical schools to the exclusion of the publications of our other colleges and seminaries would not be equitable; and

WHEREAS, The publication and distribution of journals and periodicals on the part of our 14 colleges and seminaries is a school obligation and not a Board for Missions responsibility; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overture 4-47 be respectfully declined.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

To Ratify Action re Full-Time Position for Treasurer

RESOLUTION 4-25

Report 4-04, III, P (*CW*, p. 128)

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors has recognized the office of the Treasurer of the Synod as a full-time, salaried position; and

WHEREAS, This has not resulted in additional full-time staff because of a rearrangement of work loads; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod ratify this action of the Board of Directors.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

(The title was changed by the committee.)

To Clarify Policies re Executive Committees

RESOLUTION 4-26A

Report 4-04, III, X (*CW*, p. 128)

WHEREAS, There is some lack of clarity regarding the need for executive committees of synodical boards (only the Board for Missions has *Handbook* provision for an executive committee, 8.13 b); and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors has referred the question of executive committees to the Task Force, with the opinion that such committees should not be permitted; therefore be it

Resolved, That until the Task Force recommendations are dealt with, no formal executive committees be established through the Bylaws; and be it further

Resolved, That each board and commission may by a resolution adopted by a majority of its members, as the same may be amended from time to time, designate a committee consisting of two or more members of that board or commission which to the extent provided in that resolution shall have and exercise the authority of that board or commission.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

To Receive Reports

RESOLUTION 4-27

Reports 4-01—4-07 (*TB*, pp. 33—40; *CW*, pp. 125—139)

Resolved, That the following reports be received:

4.01 The President's Report, Parts I and II
4-02 Report of First Vice-President
4-03 Report of Secretary of Synod
4-04 Report of Synod's Board of Directors
4-05 Report of Synodical Service Commission
4-06 Report of Board of Managers—Worker Benefit Plans
4-07 Report of Board of Trustees for Trust Funds

Action: *Adopted (12).*

(The committee added Part II of the President's Report.)

To Make Provisions for Future Faculty Salaries

RESOLUTION 4-28

Overture 4-29 A—B (*CW*, pp. 145—146)

WHEREAS, Faculty salaries at synodical institutions are notoriously low; and

WHEREAS, Salaries of faculty positions should be kept high enough to draw the finest and most capable candidates for these important positions; and

WHEREAS, The faculties require compensation that compares favorably with salaries offered by the congregations; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board for Higher Education be instructed to elevate salaries to a level commensurate with the suggested salary scale and benefits as recommended for parish pastors in the respective Districts in which the synodical institutions are located.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

("Synodical institutions" was substituted for "colleges." See also Res. 4-14 and Res. 12-13.)

To Seek New Name for Concordia Welfare Plan

RESOLUTION 4-29

WHEREAS, Confusion has been generated by the name of the "Concordia Welfare Plan"; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Managers—Worker Benefit Plans be authorized to study, recommend and/or implement plans to rename the "Concordia Welfare Plan" as the "Concordia Health Plan" or "Concordia Medical Plan" or "Concordia Assurance Plan" or some similar name to be chosen by that agency and report their findings and actions to the 1981 convention of the Synod.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

5. CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

To Receive Gloria Dei, Escondido, Calif., into Membership

RESOLUTION 5-01

Overture 5-04 (*CW*, p. 156)

WHEREAS, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Escondido, Calif., is a newly organized congregation and has been incorporated under the laws of the State of California; and

WHEREAS, The Constitution Committee of the Southern California District has reviewed and approved the constitution and bylaws of Gloria Dei; and

WHEREAS, Gloria Dei has requested membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod receive Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Escondido, Calif., into membership.

Action: *Adopted (1).*

To Receive Our Savior's Lutheran Church, St. Cloud, Minn., into Membership

RESOLUTION 5-02

Overture 5-05 (*CW*, p. 157)

WHEREAS, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, St. Cloud, Minn., is a newly organized congregation and has been incorporated under the laws of the State of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, The Constitution Committee of the Minnesota North District has reviewed the constitution and bylaws of the congregation and found them to be acceptable and in agreement with the confessional position of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, This congregation has passed a formal resolution requesting membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod receive Our Savior's Lutheran Church, St. Cloud, Minn., into membership in the Synod.

Action: *Adopted (1).*

To Receive Shepherd of the Desert, Page, Ariz., into Membership

RESOLUTION 5-03

Overture L5-08 (*TB*, p. 18)

WHEREAS, Shepherd of the Desert Lutheran Church, Page, Ariz., has requested membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as a congregation of the Colorado District; and

WHEREAS, The constitution of Shepherd of the Desert has been reviewed by the Constitution Committee of the Colorado District and found acceptable; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod receive Shepherd of the Desert, Page, Ariz., into membership.

Action: *Adopted (1).*

To Receive Zion Evangelical Lutheran, Whitehall, Mont., into Membership

RESOLUTION 5-04

Overture L5-09 (*TB*, p. 18)

WHEREAS, Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Whitehall, Mont., has requested membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Whitehall, Mont., has in fact for many years been listed as a member of the Synod and has been represented at conventions of the Montana District of the Synod, although no record of its acceptance can be found; and

WHEREAS, The constitution of the congregation has been submitted for approval and nothing in it has been found to be in disagreement with the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions, and it has been approved by the Board of Directors of the Montana District; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod receive Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Whitehall, Mont., into membership.

Action: *Adopted (1).*

To Receive St. James, Lynnwood, Wash., into Membership

RESOLUTION 5-05A

Overture 5-06, L5-07 (*CW*, p. 157; *TB*, pp. 17-18)

WHEREAS, St. James Lutheran Church of Lynnwood, Wash., has requested membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as a congregation of the Northwest District; and

WHEREAS, The constitution of St. James has been approved and membership has been recommended by the President of the Northwest District; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod receive St. James Lutheran Church of Lynnwood, Wash., into membership.

Action: *Adopted (4).*

(See also Res. 5-20.)

To Improve Implementation of Bylaw 1.53 re Election of Circuit Delegates

RESOLUTION 5-06

Overture 5-18 (*CW*, p. 159)

WHEREAS, Dallas Res. 5-08 amended Bylaw 1.53 in order to clarify the method for electing delegates; and

WHEREAS, The procedure outlined in Bylaw 1.53 b may not always provide sufficient time for the electors of the Circuit to acquaint themselves with the nominees; therefore be it

Resolved, That Districts encourage congregations to submit the names of all nominees to Circuit Counselors at least two weeks before the Circuit meeting at which synodical delegates are elected; and be it further

Resolved, That on receipt of the names of said nominees the Circuit Counselor shall distribute them to the electors.

Action: *Adopted (4).*

(The delegates declined to add "one week prior to the Circuit meeting" to the second resolve.)

To Continue Vice-Presidential Vacancies

RESOLUTION 5-07

Overture 5-30 (*CW*, pp. 161—162)

WHEREAS, The *Handbook* does not provide for a method of electing men to succeed Vice-Presidents who die or resign during their terms of office; and

WHEREAS, The present practice advances to Fifth Vice-President the candidate who received the largest number of votes of delegates after the election of the Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Vice-Presidents; and

WHEREAS, A person so advanced to one of the highest offices in the Synod may actually have received only a small minority of the votes cast in an election; therefore be it

Resolved, That in the event of a vacancy in the office of the Presidency or a Vice-Presidency of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod between conventions, the remaining officers be advanced in order to fill such vacancy or vacancies and the resulting vacancy or vacancies be filled by election at the next convention of the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be implemented by the following Bylaw change:

PRESENT WORDING

2.38 Vacancies

A vacancy in any Vice-Presidency shall be filled by advancing the lower-ranking Vice-Presidents. The remaining vacancy shall then be filled by the President from the reserve list of nominations, that is, from the nominees left after the previous election, acccording to the number of votes received.

PROPOSED WORDING

2.38 Vacancies

A vacancy in any Vice-Presidency shall be filled by advancing the lower-ranking Vice-Presidents. The resulting vacancy shall remain vacant until filled by election at the next convention of the Synod.

Action: *Adopted (4).*

To Affirm Application of Dallas Res. 5-01 to Be Appropriate and in Keeping with Constitutional Procedure

RESOLUTION 5-08

Overture 5-11 (*CW*, p. 157)

WHEREAS, Dallas Res. 5-01 provides a solution to the problem of dual membership of members of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, This problem of dual membership is being resolved in a loving and evangelical manner by District Presidents and by the Special Committee on Synodical Membership; therefore be it

Resolved, That we thank God for the fine, loving, and evangelical spirit of the District Presidents and the Special Committee on Synodical Membership in dealing with the problem of dual membership; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod in convention affirm the constitutionality of Dallas Res. 5-01.

Action: *Adopted (4).*

To Defer Action on Proposed Synodical Membership of Directors of Christian Education

RESOLUTION 5-09

Overture 5-17A—B (*CW*, p. 159)

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) is studying the matter of membership in the Synod by those other than congregations, pastors, and teachers; therefore be it

Resolved, That action be deferred until the study of the CTCR on synodical membership is complete.

Action: *Adopted (4).*

To Defer Action on Establishing Office of Evangelist

RESOLUTION 5-10A

Overture 5-31 (*CW*, p. 162)

WHEREAS, Evangelism is a vital part of the church's work and is a directive of our Lord to His church in Matthew 28; and

WHEREAS, The office of evangelist, as well as the office of teacher, director of Christian education, and others, is presently under study; therefore be it

Resolved, That action on this matter be deferred until the study is completed.

Action: *Adopted (4).*

To Decline to Seat Uncertified Pastors at Conventions

RESOLUTION 5-11

Overture 5-20 (*CW*, p. 159)

WHEREAS, The Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) has ruled that only properly certified pastors may be seated at District conventions, as per *Handbook* provisions; therefore be it

Resolved, That the ruling of the CCM be herewith upheld.

Action: *Adopted (4).*

To Decline to Grant Voting Privileges to Retired Pastors

RESOLUTION 5-12

Overture 5-23 (*CW*, p. 160)

WHEREAS, For purposes of the clergy roster, pastors are either retired or not retired; and

WHEREAS, If a pastor accepts a call to serve a congregation, he is no longer retired; therefore be it

Resolved, That we decline to grant voting privileges to retired pastors; and be it further

Resolved, That we continue to utilize and thank God for the able service and expertise of these consecrated men of God.

Action: *Adopted (4).*

(The convention agreed to consider a substitute resolution which would have given voting rights to emeriti serving congregations. After discussion the substitute was defeated and Res. 5-12 adopted.)

To Defer the Granting of Voting Rights to Teachers

RESOLUTION 5-13

Report 2-01, D, 4 (*CW*, p. 63); Overture 5-24 (*CW*, p. 160)

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) is in the process of producing a document entitled "Call, Ordination, and Installation—Procedures and Nomenclature"; and

WHEREAS, The document may have a bearing on the theological implication of extending voting rights to teachers; therefore be it

Resolved, That action on this overture be deferred.

(Committee 2 concurred in this recommendation.)

Action: *Adopted (4).*

(The delegates declined to consider Overture 5-24 as a substitute resolution.)

To Decline Pastoral Vote to Lay Ministers

RESOLUTION 5-14

Overture 5-25 (*CW*, p. 161)

WHEREAS, Lay ministers are eligible to be elected and to vote as lay delegates at District and synodical conventions; and

WHEREAS, Granting lay ministers the right of pastoral vote as well as the right of lay vote would invest them with dual eligibility; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overture 5-25 be declined.

Action: *Adopted (6).*

(This resolution was introduced in Session 4. At that time the convention agreed to consider as a substitute Overture 5-25. At the beginning of Session 6 an amendment to that substitute was offered. After closing the debate, delegates rejected both the amendment and the substitute resolution and adopted Res. 5-14.)

To Continue to Give Only One Lay Vote to Dual Parish

RESOLUTION 5-15

Overtures 5-21A—5-22B (*CW*, pp. 159—160)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has successfully functioned with the philosophy of equal pastor and lay representation at District and synodical conventions; therefore be it

Resolved, That we respectfully decline Overtures 5-21A, 5-21B, 5-22A, and 5-22B; and be it further

Resolved, That we retain the present Bylaw 3.17.

Action: *Adopted (6).*

(The delegates agreed to consider as a substitute Overture 5-22A, with a change in the wording of the last sentence. They declined a motion to recommit both the resolution and the substitute to the committee for reconsideration. The delegates rejected the substitute and adopted Res. 5-15.)

To Decline to Change Method of Selecting Convention Delegates

RESOLUTION 5-16

Overture 5-19 (*CW*, p. 159)

WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of the Kingdom to elect qualified people as convention delegates; and

WHEREAS, A rotation system of delegate selection does not always serve this end; and

WHEREAS, The democratic process of election is to be safeguarded; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overture 5-19 be respectfully declined.

Action: *Adopted (6).*

To Decline to Limit Tenure of Elected Officers

RESOLUTION 5-17

Overture 5-27A—5-29 (*CW*, p. 161)

WHEREAS, Bylaw 2.07 provides: "The offices of the President, of the First Vice-President, and of the Secretary of the Synod shall be without limitation as to reelection"; and

WHEREAS, The Synod in adopting this regulation recognized the value of not limiting these offices as to tenure; and

WHEREAS, The Synod always has the option of limiting the tenure of these offices by not reelecting candidates thereto; therefore be it

Resolved, To decline Overtures 5-27A, 5-27B, 5-28, and 5-29.

Action: *Adopted (6).*

(The convention refused to consider as a substitute Overture 5-27A without its last resolve.)

To Expedite Intersynodical Transfer

RESOLUTION 5-18

Overture 7-11 (*CW*, p. 223)

WHEREAS, Some teachers, church musicians, and other ministers remained with the congregations to which they had been duly called when their respective congregations joined other Lutheran synods; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Districts prepare to expedite all existing processes by which congregations may call those teachers, church musicians, and other ministers receptive to a call from a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod parish.

Action: *Adopted (6).*

To Decline Overtures 5-26A, 5-26B, and 5-26C

RESOLUTION 5-19

Overtures 5-26A—C (*CW*, p. 161)

WHEREAS, It is incumbent on all elected officers of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) that they pledge themselves to adhere to the doctrine and practice of the LCMS as outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, All members of the Synod have pledged themselves to adhere to Art. II and Art. VI of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod decline Overtures 5-26A, 5-26B, and 5-26C.

Action: *Adopted (6).*

To Receive Beautiful Savior, Lees Summit, Mo., and Nativity, Parshallville, Mich., into Membership

RESOLUTION 5-20

Overture L5-10 (*TB*, p. 179), L5-20 (*TB*, p. 243)

WHEREAS, Beautiful Savior, Lees Summit, Mo., and Nativity, Parshallville, Mich., have requested membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as congregations of the English District; and

WHEREAS, The constitutions of Beautiful Savior and Nativity have been approved and membership has been recommended by the English District Board of Directors; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod receive Beautiful Savior, Lees Summit, Mo., and Nativity, Parshallville, Mich., into membership.

Action: *Adopted as amended (4).*

(Nativity's application was received after Res. 5-20 had been printed. However, the convention took affirmative action at this time also with reference to Nativity's application for membership.)

6. HIGHER EDUCATION

To Endorse Planning Principles of Higher Education

RESOLUTION 6-01A

Report 6-01 (*CW*, pp. 163—168); Overtures 6-21—6-24, 6-28—6-29 (*CW*, pp. 189—191)

Preamble

The Anaheim (Res. 6-08A) and Dallas (6-06A) conventions charged the Board for Higher Education with the responsibility of bringing improved organization and direction to the Synod's schools of higher education. The board responded to the assignment by involving professional consultants and educators from both inside and outside our church, including all of our college and seminary presidents, together with representatives from their Boards of Control. The result of that work constitutes the report of the Board for Higher Education (*CW*, pp. 163—168). The goal of the report is to keep the doors of our schools open so that these institutions may continue to be a source of blessing to our church. The report is complex, as are the issues it faces.

The convention is being asked to endorse a set of planning principles by which decisions facing our church in higher education can be made. These principles would apply uniformly to all schools.

In summary, the principles include the following:

1. The determination to use all of our existing schools to the fullest extent feasible.

2. The determination to advise and assist each school in the development of creative programs primarily for professional church workers and secondarily for consecrated laity.

3. The determination to give high priority in terms of financial support for full-time church-work students.

4. The determination to finance non-church-work programs primarily from sources other than synodical subsidy.

5. The determination to coordinate the system in accord with the synodically prescribed responsibilities of the Boards of Control and the Board for Higher Education, as contained in the Bylaws of the Synod.

6. The determination *not* to "turn schools loose" to pursue their independent interests.

7. The determination to utilize full and appropriate data in making decisions that affect the individual schools and the total system.

8. The determination to operate our system of schools according to sound principles of fiscal management.

9. The determination to consolidate schools if the data dictate that such action is appropriate.

Resolved, That we commend the Board for Higher Education for its report, "God Opens Doors Through Higher Education"; and be it further



A question from the floor

Resolved, That the Board for Higher Education, in accordance with the Bylaws of the Synod, act immediately on the principles articulated in its report as summarized above; and be it further

Resolved, That synodical subsidies be granted to colleges and seminaries primarily for the support of church-work students according to a formula established and implemented by the Board for Higher Education on approval of the Board of Directors, with support increasing as students progress through the class levels of each church-worker program, and with priority being given to students preparing for the pastoral and teaching ministries; and be it further

Resolved, That the support for general-education students be derived from sources as outlined in the report and where possible in consultation with the Stewardship Department; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Higher Education especially be sensitive to any ambiguities, tensions, and overlapping of responsibilities that might arise, e.g., between the Board for Higher Education and Boards of Control in acting on the planning principles; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Higher Education maintain close communication and consultation with the Board of Directors, the Council of Administrators, and the Advisory Council as it acts on these planning principles; and be it further

Resolved, That at the 1981 synodical convention the Board for Higher Education give a school-by-school progress report on present and new programs and their interrelationship within the system and on the overall status of higher education of the Synod; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod enter with joy the doors God opens in higher education by redoubling its efforts to recruit for church ministries and by providing increased support for its colleges and seminaries in order

that the proclamation of the Gospel of Christ may grow and flourish among us and in all the world.

Action: *Adopted (6).*

(A shorter version, which did not include the 9 principles, was submitted as Res. 6-01 in Session 2. After declining both a motion to table and an amendment, the resolution was referred back to the committee for clarification. It presented Res. 6-01A for discussion in Session 6. The assembly declined an amendment that would have removed priority consideration for those preparing for pastoral and teaching ministries. Res. 6-01 A was adopted. See Minutes for Sessions 2 and 6.)

To Change Election Procedures for Brazil Boards of Control

RESOLUTION 6-02

Overture 6-26 (*CW*, p. 190)

WHEREAS, Partner-church status has been requested by the Brazil District; and

WHEREAS, Such status is being contemplated; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod conduct no further elections for members of the Boards of Control of Seminario Concordia, Porto Alegre, Brazil, and Instituto Concordia, Sao Leopoldo, Brazil; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod delegate the responsibility for further elections to these Boards of Control to our partner church in Brazil; and be it finally

Resolved, That the incumbents continue to serve on the Boards of Control until elections can be held.

Action: *Adopted (1).*

To Hold No Election for Board of Control, Seminario Concordia, Argentina

RESOLUTION 6-03

Overture 6-27 (*CW*, p. 190)

WHEREAS, No nominations have been received for members of the Board of Control of Seminario Concordia, Argentina; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention in 1979 conduct no election for the Board of Control of Seminario Concordia, Argentina; and be it further

Resolved, That present members of the Board of Control of Seminario Concordia, Argentina, continue to serve until an election can be held.

Action: *Adopted (1).*

To Continue Saskatoon Arrangements on Temporary Basis

RESOLUTION 6-04A

Overtures 3-53A—3-59C, 6-37 (*CW*, pp. 106—108, 193)

WHEREAS, There is need for theological training for pastoral candidates in western Canada; and

WHEREAS, It is at present beyond our means to provide this education by establishing a seminary in western Canada; and

WHEREAS, The Dallas convention adopted Res. 6-04B defining a "Canadian Theological Program at Saskatoon" as follows:

1. The Board for Higher Education shall appoint a person to the faculty of Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon, Sask., Canada, to serve as a professor of theology and adviser to students who desire to enter the pastoral ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod;

2. This appointment shall require the approval of the president of the seminary;

3. The term of the appointment and the conditions of service, including compensation, shall be established by the Board for Higher Education in consultation with the president of the seminary;

4. The ranking and academic assignments of the faculty member shall be determined by the governing board of the seminary in consultation with the Board for Higher Education;

5. Students enrolled at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Saskatoon, Sask., Canada, who desire to enter the pastoral ministry of the Synod shall from the time of enrollment seek the guidance of the faculty adviser appointed by the Board for Higher Education;

6. To receive an internship (vicarage) assignment in the LCMS, a student at this seminary shall:

a. be endorsed by the faculty of the seminary as academically qualified;
b. be examined and endorsed for internship placement in a LCMS congregation by a board of examiners consisting of the Presidents of the Canadian Districts of the Synod, the designated synodical member of the faculty, and a member of the Colloquy Board for the Pastoral Office of the Synod; and
c. be recommended by the synodical professor to the Council of Presidents acting as the Board of Assignments;

7. To be accepted into the pastoral ministry of the Synod and to receive placement, a candidate shall;

a. be endorsed by the faculty of the seminary as academically qualified;
b. be examined and endorsed by a board of examiners consisting of the Presidents of the Canadian Districts of the Synod, the designated synodical member of the faculty, and a member of the Colloquy Board for the Pastoral Office of the Synod; and
c. be recommended by the synodical professor to the Council of Presidents acting as the Board of Assignments;

and

WHEREAS, The following concerns expressed at the New Orleans convention (referred under omnibus Res. 4-47 to the Board of Directors) are still real concerns of members of our Synod in Canada:

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Seminary at Saskatoon is jointly owned and operated by The Lutheran Church in America—Canada Section and by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS is not in fellowship with the LCA— Canada Section; and

WHEREAS, The mere establishment of a theological chair (one man on a theological faculty) gives no control over the doctrine taught at the aforementioned seminary; and

WHEREAS, Many of the Canadian brethren in the LCMS have expressed grave concern over this arrangement; and

WHEREAS, This arrangement constitutes a dangerous precedent for the LCMS in terms of delegating away the

theological training of its future ministers to others and thereby surrendering effective control;

and

WHEREAS, Further concerns have been raised about the positions of individual Saskatoon faculty members on Biblical studies and women's ordination; and

WHEREAS, A satisfactory permanent solution to the problem is not evident at present; and

WHEREAS, The Saskatoon arrangement, though not satisfactory as a permanent arrangement, is seen by those involved as at least a workable temporary arrangement; therefore be it

Resolved, That the "temporary" and "unusual" nature of this arrangement be emphasized to our Canadian brothers and sisters; and be it further

Resolved, That enrollment in the Saskatoon arrangement be continued only through the 1980—81 academic year; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Higher Education in consultation with the Canadian Districts implement a definite plan for transition to a satisfactory permanent arrangement for education of pastoral candidates in western Canada prior to the 1981 convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and be it finally

Resolved, That the first class in this new education program be enrolled in the 1981—82 academic year, and that an additional class be added each year as the Saskatoon arrangement is phased out.

(Committee 3 concurred in the above resolution.)

Action: *Adopted (6).*

To Expand Deaconess Program

RESOLUTION 6-05

Overtures 6-46—6-51D (*CW*, pp. 195—197)

WHEREAS, The varied ministry of the church can well use the services of dedicated deaconesses; and

WHEREAS, The schools of the Synod have long prepared deaconesses at the freshman and sophomore college level; and

WHEREAS, The full deaconess program can be offered at Concordia College, River Forest, Ill., without adding curriculum or academic staff; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago metropolitan area offers an ideal setting for fieldwork and internship training; and

WHEREAS, The Board for Higher Education has encouraged schools of the Synod to broaden their areas of service; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod authorize the Board for Higher Education to direct Concordia College, River Forest, Ill., to establish a full deaconess training program on its campus by the fall of 1980.

Action: *Adopted (2).*

(The convention declined to consider a substitute motion to refer the resolution to the BHE for further study and report to the next convention as well as a motion to table Res. 6-05.)

To Reaffirm Colloquy Procedures for Seminex Graduates

RESOLUTION 6-06

Overtures 6-63A—6-66 (*CW*, pp. 200—201)

WHEREAS, The Colloquy Board has reported that a number of Seminex graduates have successfully completed the colloquy procedure and have been certified for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod ministry; and

WHEREAS, District Presidents also have reported success through following synodically adopted procedures; and

WHEREAS, Additional procedures are unnecessary; therefore be it

Resolved, That uncertified Seminex graduates pursue synodically approved procedures for certification; and be it further

Resolved, That District Presidents continue to encourage uncertified Seminex graduates within their jurisdiction to seek certification.

Action: *Adopted (6).*

(The delegates declined to consider Overture 6-65 as a substitute.)

To Advise Herman Otten Regarding Certification for Pastoral Ministry

RESOLUTION 6-07

Overture 6-62A—B (*CW*, p. 200)

WHEREAS, The Bylaws of the Synod (4.15) provide specific procedures for certification into the pastoral ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, For the sake of peace and harmony in the Synod and of justice to all it is imperative that the problem concerning Herman Otten's certification be solved; and

WHEREAS, The Anaheim Res. 9-10 advised the Rev. Herman Otten to reapply to the faculty of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, for certification; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Constitutional Matters has ruled that he is eligible to apply also for colloquy (*Handbook* 4.57, 4); therefore be it

Resolved, That the Rev. Herman Otten be advised either to reapply to the faculty of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, for certification, if he so desires, or to seek certification by way of colloquy; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod reaffirm its willingness to welcome into the pastoral ministry all who have met the requirements for certification.

Action: *Adopted (6).*

To Change Bylaw 6.54 re Permanent Tenure

RESOLUTION 6-08A

Overture 6-32 (*CW*, pp. 191—192)

WHEREAS, The question of tenure for faculty members is being given much consideration not only within The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod but in all areas of higher education including accreditation associations; and

WHEREAS, The present procedure in the Synod requires that tenure must be granted after five years of creditable service or that the faculty member must be dismissed; and

WHEREAS, This procedure has placed unnecessary pressure both on Boards of Control and on faculty members; and

WHEREAS, A very high percentage of tenured faculty creates a problem of immobility and no tenure may create problems of instability and insecurity; and

WHEREAS, Tenure should not be considered an automatic result of five years of service but should be awarded on other qualifications of merit, achievement, and ability; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod adopt the following amendment to Bylaw 6.54 (*Handbook,* pp. 143—144):

PRESENT WORDING

6.54 Permanent Tenure

a. The Board of Control may grant permanent tenure at any time to any member of the faculty, regardless of rank, upon the recommendation of the president and with the prior consent of the electors of the institution. Proposals for granting permanent tenure shall be submitted for prior review and recommendation to the Board for Higher Education. The Board for Higher Education at its discretion may offer a report in person prior to the taking of action by the Board of Control. The electors may then grant such consent by any procedure which they deem appropriate. Such action shall be taken no earlier than 6 weeks after a notice of the intent to grant tenure has been published in the official periodical of the Synod. The Board of Control shall give the faculty member the opportunity to respond to any negative comments prior to the Board's final action.

b. If a faculty member has completed 5 years of creditable service (periods of leave are not included) as a member of the faculty of one or more educational institutions of the Synod of collegiate or seminary level, at least the last 2 years of which shall have been in the institution he is currently serving, and has not been granted permanent tenure, the president is obligated to take up the question of permanent tenure with the Board of Control. The Board of Control shall either carry forward the procedure for granting permanent tenure or inform the faculty member of its decision not to grant tenure and thus terminate his contract. In cases in which the decision is made to terminate the individual's contract, the contract shall be extended for one year beyond the time at which notice is given. If the Board of Control does not take up the question of permanent tenure at least 9 months prior to the end of the sixth year of service, the faculty member shall petition the Board of Control to take up the question of permanent tenure. Tenure may be granted only by direct action of the Board of Control.

PROPOSED WORDING

6.54 Permanent Tenure

Each educational institution of the Synod shall normally award tenure to a minimum of 40 percent and a maximum of 60 percent of its faculty.

a. Standards or qualifications for granting tenure shall be:

1. The faculty member shall have completed 5 years of creditable service (periods of leave are not included) as a member of the faculty of one or more educational institutions of the Synod at collegiate or seminary level, at least the last 2 years of which shall have been in the institution he is currently serving.

2. The faculty member shall have demonstrated scholarly achievement by earning advanced academic degrees.

3. The faculty member's reputation, character, concern for students, and ability to honor leaders shall present a good reflection on the institution and the church.

4. The faculty member's aptness to teach has been demonstrated by effective communication in the classroom.

b. Steps toward granting tenure shall be:

1. If the Board of Control, on recommendation of the president of the institution, determines that a faculty member meets the above requirements and has not been granted permanent tenure, it shall either carry forward the procedure for granting permanent tenure or inform the faculty member of its decision not to grant tenure, in which case his contract may either be renewed or terminated. In cases in which the decision is made to terminate the individual's contract, the contract shall be extended for at least 6 months beyond the time at which notice is given. If the Board of Control does not take up the question of permanent tenure at least 9 months prior to the end of the sixth year of service, the faculty member may petition the Board of Control to take up the question of permanent tenure.

2. The Board for Higher Education shall review the candidate's qualifications and make its recommendation. At its discretion it may offer a report in person.

3. Notice of intent to grant tenure shall be announced in the official periodical of the Synod.

4. The faculty member shall be given the opportunity to respond to any comments or concerns that may have been raised relative to his tenure.

5. At least 6 weeks after the notice is published, consent of the electors of the institution shall be given.

c. The granting of permanent tenure shall in no case be construed as requiring or indicating advancement in rank.

6. If the above steps have all been met, after final review, the Board of Control may grant tenure.

c. The granting of permanent tenure shall in no case be construed as requiring or indicating advancement in rank or increase in salary.

Action: *Adopted (6).*

(The convention declined to reinsert from Res. 6-08 the requirement that faculty members must have at least 2 year's experience in a parish or another institution. Assurance was given that the electors would have the right to decline consent (b, 5).)

To Certify Social Service Programs

RESOLUTION 6-09

Overture 6-59A—B (*CW*, p. 199)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is committed to social ministry and is involved in it through its member congregations; and

WHEREAS, There is a growing interest among students to become involved in social service professions; and

WHEREAS, Academic programs in these areas have been developed by our schools; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod direct the Board for Higher Education to evaluate social service programs at synodical schools and certify those that are acceptable.

Action: *Adopted (6).*

To Implement Training of Workers for Hispanic Pastoral Ministry

RESOLUTION 6-10A

Overture 6-45 (*CW*, p. 195)

WHEREAS, For many years the Synod has called for the development of a program for the training of workers for Hispanic pastoral ministry, and it has not been implemented; and

WHEREAS, The need for Hispanic ministries out in the field is just as great as it ever was and is increasing; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors has provided financial support for this program under the Division of Higher Education; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod require the synodical President, with the chairman of the Division of Higher Education, in consultation with the Hispanic Advisory Council, the Board for Higher Education, the Board for Missions, and the Colloquy Board, to assume responsibility for the implementation of Dallas Res. 10-03, calling for preparation and training of workers for Hispanic pastoral ministries; and be it further

Resolved, That this be done as quickly as possible, and that a written progress report be given every six months to the President of the Synod and to the 1981 convention of the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That regular reports be made to the church in the *Reporter* on the progress of this matter; and be it finally

Resolved, That the President and the chairman of the Division of Higher Education be empowered to direct the seminaries and colleges and boards to carry out, without delay, assignments given them in the area of a Hispanic program.

Action: *Adopted as amended (6).*

(The first and fourth resolves were amended as given above.)

To Provide Graduate School Fellowships for Potential Faculty Members

RESOLUTION 6-11

Overture 6-52 (*CW*, p. 197)

WHEREAS, The need for faculty members in the Synod's higher educational institutions is great; and

WHEREAS, Future faculty members should receive bona fide synodical training; and

WHEREAS, The school for graduate studies at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, offers S.T.M. and Th.D. degrees; and

WHEREAS, It is desirable that synodical faculty have parish ministry experience; and

WHEREAS, Parish pastors find it financially difficult to pursue full-time graduate work; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod direct the Board for Higher Education to secure funds, if necessary, from nonsynodical sources (e.g., Aid Association for Lutherans, Lutheran Brotherhood, foundations, etc.), to establish at least two new graduate fellowships each year to be made available to parish pastors to pursue theological studies in the above graduate school; and be it further

Resolved, That these fellowships be awarded by a committee selected from the BHE and equally from the faculties of the Synod's seminaries.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

(The convention declined an amendment to include Fort Wayne, River Forest, and Seward in the resolution.)

To Expand Concordia College, Austin, Texas, to Four-Year College

RESOLUTION 6-12A

Report 6-01 (*CW*, p. 165); Overture 6-30 (*CW*, p. 191)

WHEREAS, Concordia College, Austin, Texas, has been identified as one of the schools to become a four-year college; and

WHEREAS, The educational services of the Synod would be valuable to young men and women of the South and Southwest were the program at Austin extended to a four-year status; and

WHEREAS, Adequate financing according to the systemwide model has been projected; and

WHEREAS, The faculty and Board of Control have prepared the necessary courses of study and are ready to implement the curriculum as a four-year college; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod authorize Concordia College, Austin, Texas, to move to four-year status under the guidance and direction of the Board for Higher Education and the Board of Control as specified in the policies and procedures documents presently governing the operation of synodical colleges and seminaries; and be it further

Resolved, That the junior year of the program at Austin be begun no earlier than the fall term of 1980.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

To Recognize and Encourage Creative Programs for Church Ministry

RESOLUTION 6-13

Reports 6-07—6-18 (*CW*, pp. 176—189); Overtures 6-60, L6-19 (*CW*, 199, 285)

WHEREAS, Synodical colleges have instituted a variety of programs leading to church ministries other than traditional pastor and teacher programs, such as director of Christian education, parish worker, lay worker, parish assistant, social worker, etc.; and

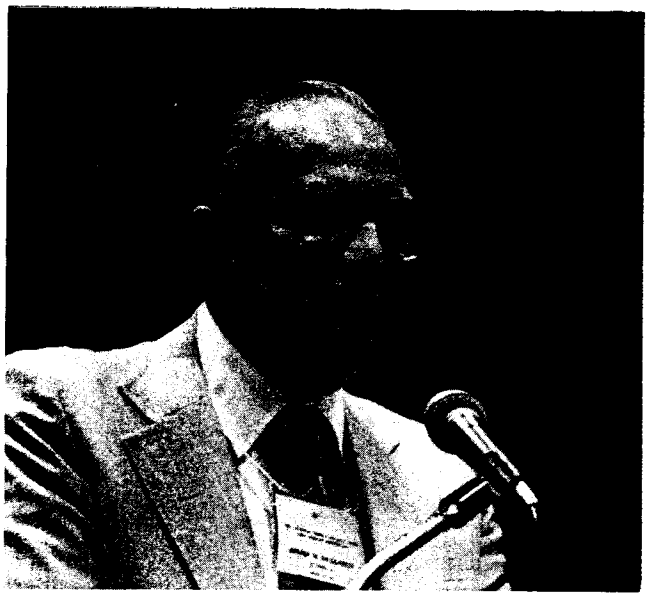
WHEREAS, Many persons of the Synod are enrolled in these programs and desire to enter the service of the church; and

WHEREAS, This trend toward special ministries is expected to continue; therefore be it

Resolved, That we thank God for the creative programs designed and established at synodical colleges to prepare for various special ministries of the church; and be it further

Resolved, That we express our gratitude to God also for motivating men and women of the church to prepare for such ministry of the church; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Higher Education in consultation with the Commission on Theology and Church Relations study the various emerging ministries



Dr. Arthur Ahlschwede, Mr. Higher Education

of the church in order to define and standardize their program of preparation, the certification and placement of workers, and to determine their status in the church; and be it further

Resolved, That all programs for ministry continue to be monitored by the BHE in order that standards of academic and professional excellence be maintained; and be it finally

Resolved, That all congregations of the Synod be alerted to the various kinds of special ministries available to the church and that they be encouraged to utilize these ministries wherever possible for the proclamation of the Gospel, the extension of the church, and the glory of God.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

To Reconsider Placement Procedures for Teacher Candidates

RESOLUTION 6-14A

Overture 6-33 (*CW*, p. 192)

WHEREAS, The procedure in our Synod regarding the calling of candidates into the teaching ministry has been for congregations to make formal written application through their respective District office to the Placement Committee; and

WHEREAS, The superintendents (District executives) of the various Districts (who are familiar with the needs of their respective parishes and who advise the Placement Committee) together with the Placement Directors of our teachers colleges with the guidance of the Holy Spirit attempt to place candidates according to the needs of the parishes and the abilities of the candidates; and

WHEREAS, According to the synodical procedure no candidate is to be interviewed or offered a position by a representative of a congregation; and

WHEREAS, The Council of Presidents in its capacity as the Board of Assignments in May 1977 resolved to adopt a new procedure whereby personal interviews may be conducted and positions discussed with respective teacher candidates by congregational representatives prior to their placement; and

WHEREAS, This new procedure creates a definite distinction between the manner of calling teacher candidates and pastoral candidates; and

WHEREAS, This procedure places at a disadvantage certain schools and those parishes located at a distance from the teachers colleges; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention direct the Board of Assignments to return to its placement procedures for teacher candidates in effect prior to May 1977 and to request this Board to reviews its placement procedures of teacher candidates and to report to the 1981 convention.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

(Standing vote of 530 to 296.)

To Provide for Urban Ministry Vicarages and Internships

RESOLUTION 6-15

Overtures 6-55A—C (*CW*, p. 198)

WHEREAS, Large urban areas of our country uniquely challenge our Synod to proclaim the Gospel; and

WHEREAS, Our Synod is committed to these urban areas; and

WHEREAS, Exposure to urban ministry is critical to the recruitment and training of urban ministers; and

WHEREAS, The financial resources of many urban congregations are extremely burdened and limited; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Districts concerned with urban ministry secure appropriate funds to establish vicarages and teaching internships in urban parishes and schools; and be it further

Resolved, That selection of vicarage and internship sites be made by the synodical Board for Missions in consultation with District Presidents and interested parishes; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board for Missions establish a communication channel among all parties concerned.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

(An amendment calling for the funding of 10 such vicarages was declined.)

To Change Bylaw 4.51 (Colloquy Board)

RESOLUTION 6-16

Report 6-02 (*CW*, pp. 169—170)

WHEREAS, The number of applications to the Colloquy Board for the Pastoral Office has more than doubled in the last biennium; and

WHEREAS, To give proper attention to these applications will take more time than is reasonably available to the Colloquy Board as described in Bylaw 4.51; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod adopt the following change to Bylaw 4.51:

PRESENT WORDING

4.51 Colloquy Board

The Colloquy Board for the Pastoral Office shall consist of a Vice-President of the Synod, appointed by the President of the Synod, and the presidents of the theological seminaries at St. Louis and Fort Wayne. The Vice-President shall be chairman of the committee.

PROPOSED WORDING

4.51 Colloquy Board

The Colloquy Board for the Pastoral Office shall consist of a Vice-President of the Synod, appointed by the President of the Synod, and the presidents of the theological seminaries at St. Louis and Fort Wayne. When special circumstances demand, the synodical Vice-President may appoint another synodical Vice-President to represent him, and the seminary presidents may each appoint a member of their respective faculties to represent them in handling some interviews. The Vice-President shall be chairman of the committee; his appointee shall chair in his absence.

Action: *Withdrawn by the committee.*

(See *Today's Business,* p. 196; also Minutes of Session 11.)

To Clarify Colloquy Procedures to Become DCE

RESOLUTION 6-17A

Overtures 6-38A—C (*CW*, p. 194)

WHEREAS, The director of Christian education is an approved ministry of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate to include colloquy procedures towards becoming directors of Christian education in the synodical *Handbook;* therefore be it

Resolved, That the Colloquy Board for the Teaching Ministry be assigned the responsibility of implementing and supervising the colloquy program toward becoming directors of Christian education with requirements and procedures similar to 4.77 and 4.79 of the *Handbook;* and be it further

Resolved, That the *Handbook* be revised as follows:

PRESENT WORDING

F. ADMISSION TO THE TEACHING MINISTRY BY COLLOQUY

PROPOSED WORDING

F. ADMISSION TO THE TEACHING MINISTRY (INCLUDING DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION) BY COLLOQUY

4.84 Directors of Christian Education

The foregoing Bylaws 4.75 to 4.83 shall also apply

to application for recognition as a director of Christian education through the colloquy process. The requirement of Bylaw 4.77 c shall be construed as including also alternative service in the position of director of Christian education.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

To Develop List of Approved Potential Faculty Members

RESOLUTION 6-18A

Overture 6-53 (*CW*, p. 197)

WHEREAS, Bylaw 6.53 b provides that "the initial appointment to the faculty shall require the prior consent of the Board for Higher Education"; and

WHEREAS, This Bylaw has been interpreted as requiring that prior consent be limited to a single individual for a given faculty position; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of the Bylaw can be accomplished by having approval by the BHE of a list of potential faculty members; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 6.53 b be amended to read:

PRESENT WORDING

b. The initial appointment to the faculty shall require the prior consent of the Board for Higher Education, and in the case of initial appointment to a theological seminary also the prior approval of its electors. Appointments shall ordinarily be for terms of one to 4 years and may be extended, but not beyond a total service period of 6 years in the respective college or seminary, at the end of which time the contract shall expire and the question of tenure under Section 6.54 b shall be considered.

PROPOSED WORDING

b. The initial appointment to the faculty shall be from a list of potential faculty members for a specific position recommended by the Board of Control and approved in advance by the Board for Higher Education, and in the case of initial appointments to a theological seminary shall also require the prior approval of its electors. Appointments shall ordinarily be for terms of one to 4 years and may be extended, but not beyond the total service period prescribed in Bylaw 6.54.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

To Increase Size of Board of Control at Concordia College, St. Paul

RESOLUTION 6-19

Overture 6-25 (*CW*, p. 190)

WHEREAS, The *Handbook* specifies that the Board of Control of each synodical institution shall include at least five and no more than nine members (6.23 a, 2); and

WHEREAS, Concordia College, St. Paul, Minn., is a four-year school with multiple programs and has a relatively large enrollment; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Concordia College, St. Paul, Minn., Board of Control be increased to seven members (by adding one teacher and one layman) effective with the 1979 synodical convention, and that a slate be presented to delegates to implement this change.

Action: *Adopted (1).*

To Intensify Recruitment Efforts for Church Vocations

RESOLUTION 6-20

Overtures 6-40—6-44 (*CW*, pp. 194—195)

WHEREAS, Our Lord Jesus Christ has challenged His church to preach, teach, and in many other ways minister to people; and

WHEREAS, The performance of these tasks may be greatly facilitated by the efforts of full-time professional church workers; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is currently experiencing a serious shortage of candidates to render such service; and

WHEREAS, There is a significant need for additional full-time professional church workers from among minority groups; and

WHEREAS, Projections of the future indicate that expanding opportunities for ministry, coupled with declining population among young people and increasing competition for those who are dedicated and capable, will compound the shortfall; and

WHEREAS, The training of full-time professional church workers requires adequate synodical funding; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod hereby implores each pastor, teacher, parish worker, and parishioner to pray for the success of such recruitment and to intensify personal efforts for enlisting capable, dedicated people into church vocations; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod hereby challenges each baptized member to increase appreciably his or her financial support of the Synod through congregations and Districts to underwrite the synodical share of training expense; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod hereby urges the Board for Higher Education to assign a high priority to the continued provision of materials and programs to assist in such recruitment.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

To Change Bylaw 4.57 (Eligibility for Colloquy)

RESOLUTION 6-21

Report 6-02 (*CW*, pp. 168—170)

WHEREAS, Experience of the Colloquy Board for the Pastoral Office indicates that applicants from the Synod's teaching ministry with the minimum five years' experience as Lutheran school teachers encoun-

ter difficulties in ministry more often than do those with more experience; and

WHEREAS, The five-year minimum experience as a Lutheran school teacher is a period not significantly longer than the usual seminary program; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod adopt the following change to Bylaw 4.57 (*Handbook,* p. 105):

PRESENT WORDING

4.57 Eligibility

2. graduates of the Synod's teachers colleges whose names appear on the roster of the Synod and who have had at least 5 years of successful experience as a Lutheran school teacher or director of Christian education and are in good standing in a congregation of the Synod.

PROPOSED WORDING

4.57 Eligibility

2. graduates of the Synod's teachers colleges whose names appear on the roster of the Synod and who have had at least 8 years of successful experience as a Lutheran school teacher or director of Christian education and are in good standing in a congregation of the Synod.

Action: *Withdrawn by the committee.*

(See *Today's Business,* p. 197.)

To Evaluate Uniformly All Theological Professors

RESOLUTION 6-22

Overture 6-31 (*CW,* p. 191)

WHEREAS, The concerns of Trinity Lutheran Church of Alma, Mo., are covered by the Bylaws of the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overture 6-31 be respectfully declined.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

(After this final action on the work of Committee 6 a special resolution was offered honoring Dr. Arthur Ahlschwede. See Minutes, Session 11.)

To Request CCM Opinion re Deaconess Placement

RESOLUTION 6-23

Overture 6-46 (*CW,* pp. 195—196)

WHEREAS, There appear to be problems of a constitutional nature in the present procedure of deaconess placement by the Council of Presidents (Bylaws 4.09 a, 4.91—4.97, 6.163); therefore be it

Resolved, That an opinion be requested of the Commission on Constitutional Matters relative to the constitutionality of the placement of deaconess graduates by the Council of Presidents.

Action: *Withdrawn by permission of the assembly (6).*

(Discussion had begun in Session 2.)

To Remove Board of Control of Oakland from List of Boards of Control Elected by the Synod

RESOLUTION 6-24

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors is carrying out the Synod's instruction to dispose of the campus property at Oakland and is serving as trustees of the property; and

WHEREAS, No active program is being carried on at the Oakland campus; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Control of Oakland can be removed from the list of Boards of Control elected by the Synod.

Action: *Adopted (1).*

7. PARISH SERVICES

To Correlate Internal and External Communications of the Synod

RESOLUTION 7-01

Report 7-05 (*CW*, pp. 218—219)

WHEREAS, The 1973 convention of the Synod passed Res. 10-14A concerning the need for correlation of the internal and external communications of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has not yet been implemented; and

WHEREAS, The Board for Public Relations in its report to the 1979 convention of the Synod points out that the need for correlation of internal and external communications of the Synod continues; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Directors conduct a feasibility study as to the advisability of a means of correlating and coordinating the internal and external communications of the Synod and that this be done in consultation with and input from the various units of the Division of Communications, the departments of the Synod, and auxiliaries (as defined in the synodical *Handbook*); and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Directors report its findings at the next convention, and if the Board of Directors finds that such correlating and coordinating of communications is feasible, that it brings its recommendations for implementation to the next convention of the Synod.

Action: *Adopted (2).*

To Provide Christian Educational Materials in Spanish Language

RESOLUTION 7-02

Overtures 7-24, 7-25 (*CW*, p. 225)

WHEREAS, The Hispanic community needs educational materials in the Spanish language for all levels of Christian education and for the instruction of professional church workers; and

WHEREAS, Our supply of such materials is severely limited; and

WHEREAS, Most Christian educational materials that we use must come from non-Lutheran sources; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Parish Education, the Board for Missions, and Concordia Publishing House make materials available in the Spanish language; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod be requested to provide necessary funding for the publication of such Lutheran educational material in the Spanish language.

Action: *Adopted (2).*

To Support CAPE

RESOLUTION 7-03

Overture 7-23A—B (*CW*, p. 225)

WHEREAS, Participation in CAPE (Council for American Private Education) has been of substantial assistance to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in dealing with governmental pressures (e.g., unemployment compensation, Internal Revenue Service) confronting our schools; and

WHEREAS, We have experienced numerous other benefits from participation and membership in CAPE; and

WHEREAS, Membership in CAPE does not abridge our synodical identity; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod continue to furnish both moral and financial support to CAPE.

Action: *Adopted as amended (2).*

(Amendment: "does not abridge" replaced "permits us to maintain.")

To Deal with Concerns Regarding Translations of *Luther's Small Catechism*

RESOLUTION 7-04A

Overture 7-12 (*CW*, p. 223)

WHEREAS, *The Small Catechism in Contemporary English* is published by Concordia Publishing House for use in the Synod; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations has stated in its report (1979 *Convention Workbook*, p. 74, Section C, 3,2): "*The Small Catechism by Martin Luther in Contemporary English* (copyright 1960) is not an accurate translation of Luther's German Catechism. There are numerous omissions, deletions, rewritings, changes, and additions that preclude considering this version as a translation. It is essentially a paraphrase, which at times does not correctly present the meaning of Luther's German Catechism"; and

WHEREAS, The Synod in convention (Res. 7-04, New York 1967) authorized the use of the revised intersynodical translation in its materials *(The Small Catechism in Contemporary English)*; and

WHEREAS, Congregations, pastors, and teachers of the Synod are presently using *The Small Catechism in Contemporary English;* therefore be it

Resolved, That the CTCR make available to all congregations and schools by July 1980 a brief critique of *The Small Catechism in Contemporary English* and any cautionary notes as to its use.

Action: *Adopted as amended (2).*

(The delegates amended the resolve by adding "by July 1980 a brief" and "any cautionary notes as to its use." They also removed a second resolve which encouraged the BPE to study the need for a revised translation of *Luther's Small Catechism* as soon as possible. They also declined to consider the committee's original Res. 7-04 as a substitute for Res. 7-04A. During the discussion it was pointed out that it has been traditional for the Synod to adopt a new catechism translation before it is used officially. This had been done both in 1941 and in 1967.)

To Defer Participation in Pan-Lutheran Catechism and to Provide for Approval of Other Projects of Coordinating Committee for Cooperative Projects in Congregational Life

RESOLUTION 7-05

Overture 7-13 (*CW*, p. 223)

Preamble:

For more than 40 years The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, The American Lutheran Church, and the Lutheran Church in America (and the predecessor bodies of the latter two) have cooperated in a variety of projects in the parish education field. Originally the agency for cooperation was the Inter-Synodical Committee on Parish Education. In more recent years this group has been called the Coordinating Committee for Cooperative Parish Education Projects (CCCPEP).

In 1977 some saw a need for a continuation of inter-Lutheran cooperation in the field of worship when the Inter-Lutheran Commission on Worship (ILCW) would complete its work on the *Lutheran Book of Worship* at the end of 1978.

The presidents of the LCMS, the ALC, and the LCA then approved the formation of the Coordinating Committee for Cooperative Projects in Congregational Life (CCCPCL). The expanded responsibilities of this group were to include cooperative programs in parish education, worship, evangelism, youth ministry, social ministry, and stewardship.

Several projects of various kinds have been undertaken by LCMS units working under CCCPCL with the ALC Division of Life and Mission in the Congregation (DLMC) and the LCA Division for Parish Services (DPS). Funding for some of these projects has been sought from Aid Association for Lutherans.

WHEREAS, A proposal to develop and publish a pan-Lutheran catechism by 1984 has been made by the Catechism Revision Committee of the Coordinating Committee for Cooperative Projects in Congregational Life (CCCPCL); and

WHEREAS, The development of such a pan-Lutheran catechism has not been authorized by the LCMS in convention; and

WHEREAS, Desire by LCMS members for a pan-Lutheran catechism has not been demonstrated; and

WHEREAS, Joint publication of material with the ALC and the LCA may give the impression to some members that we are in full church fellowship and doctrinal agreement with these bodies; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod defer participation in the joint publication of a pan-Lutheran catechism; and be it further

Resolved, That all programmatic boards of the Synod carefully evaluate their participation in any proposed CCCPCL project; and be it finally

Resolved, That any projects proposed in the future by the CCCPCL be publicized in the LCMS via its official periodicals and be engaged in only after approval by the synodical President in consultation with the Vice-Presidents.

Action: *Adopted (9).*

(In presenting this resolution in Session 2 the committee substituted the final words for "by the synodical Board of Directors." In session 9 the convention declined to consider a substitute resolution to ask other Lutherans to join us in making the best translation of the catechism available at this time.)

To Provide Continuing Education for Older Persons

RESOLUTION 7-06

Overture 7-18 (*CW*, p. 224)

WHEREAS, The goal of religious education for older persons is much the same as it is for all age groups—to assist the elderly in strengthening their relationship to the Lord, to assist them in discovering more fully the Lord's will for their life and activity, and to help them in letting His kingdom come; and

WHEREAS, There is no time in the aging process when growth in wisdom and knowledge is impossible; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Parish Education design short-term Sunday school/Bible class and other types of courses in a suitable format for the continuing education of the elderly, including those that are shut in or handicapped; and be it further

Resolved, That a substantial effort be made by all our congregations to integrate the aging into the regular adult Sunday school/Bible classes of the congregations; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board for Higher Education and Board of Parish Education explore the use of our Lutheran high schools and synodical colleges and seminaries for continuing education of older persons in our churches and communities to help them achieve a greater sense of self-worth and a more satisfying retirement.

Action: *Adopted (9).*

10) to experience an increase in Sunday school enrollment and attendance;

11) to expand our outreach in all areas of Christian education for people of all ages and of every race, culture, and socioeconomic level; and

12) to join with sister congregations in celebrative and teacher-training events to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Sunday school movement.

Action: *Adopted (9).*

To Observe the 110 Years of Concordia Publishing House's Service to Congregations of the Synod

RESOLUTION 7-10

Report 7-06 (*CW*, pp. 219—220); Overture 7-30 (*CW*, p. 226)

WHEREAS, Concordia Publishing House in 1979 will celebrate 110 years of service to the congregations of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, Through Concordia Publishing House's 110 years of uninterrupted publication of the Word, millions of children, youth, and adults have been nurtured and strengthened in their Christian faith; and

WHEREAS, The Lord has blessed Concordia Publishing House by providing faithful leadership and dedicated employees; and

WHEREAS, Concordia Publishing House through sound management has continued to be self-supporting; and

WHEREAS, Concordia Publishing House continues to provide for the Synod, other Christians, and the world an abundance of Christ-centered materials—books, curricula, periodicals, music, church goods, audiovisuals, tracts, ecclesiastical arts materials, and items for Christian witness; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod declare Sunday, Sept. 9, 1979, "Concordia Publishing House Sunday" to give praise and thanks to God for this great blessing; and be it further

Resolved, That all parishes be encouraged to offer litanies and prayers of thanksgiving in the services on Sept. 9, 1979; and be it further

Resolved, That all parishes, their boards, auxiliaries, and members continue to make use of the many and varied items of inspiration, nurture, and ministry provided by the publishing arm of their church; and be it further

Resolved, That Concordia Publishing House be encouraged to continue its movement toward multicultural emphases; and be it finally

Resolved, That we implore the Lord to continue to bless Concordia Publishing House in the years ahead.

Action: *Adopted as amended (9).*

(Amendments: the fourth resolve and the addition of encouragement in the second resolve.)

To Encourage Development of Writers

RESOLUTION 7-11

Overture 7-32 (*CW*, p. 227)

WHEREAS, In response to God's divine love and Great



CPH does a booming business

Commission, His people are emboldened to proclaim His works and mercy; and

WHEREAS, The written word has proven to be an effective and enlivening form of such proclamation; and

WHEREAS, God entrusts to each generation sons and daughters that possess the necessary talents to so communicate; and

WHEREAS, Such persons must be identified, encouraged, trained, and utilized in His saving mission; therefore be it

Resolved, That we thank God for the clear proclamation of His written and living Word in Jesus Christ; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod in its parishes, schools, Districts, and institutions of higher learning emphasize the importance of the written expression of His Word, identify and train persons exhibiting talent in written communications, and encourage the use of such talents at all levels of the church's ministry; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod encourage its members, as they become aware of those having special talents for writing, to commend the writers to the attention of Concordia Publishing House and the Board of Parish Education and to recommend their participation in the various workshops sponsored by the Board of Parish Education.

Action: *Adopted (9).*

(The committee added the reference to the BPE immediately after CPH in the final resolve.)

To Emphasize Youth Ministry

RESOLUTION 7-12

Report 7-02 (*CW*, p. 216)

WHEREAS, Youth ministry in the Synod is continuing to grow and develop; and

WHEREAS, The Synod is beginning a new youth organization, Lutheran Youth Fellowship, in 1979; and

WHEREAS, A synodical youth gathering is being planned for August 1980; therefore be it

Resolved, That the year 1983—84 be proclaimed "The Year of Youth Ministry"; and be it further

Resolved, That the 1983 convention emphasize youth ministry; and be it finally

Resolved, That special materials and resources be developed to help parishes and Districts celebrate "The Year of Youth Ministry."

Action: *Adopted (9).*

To Restructure Board of Youth Ministry

RESOLUTION 7-13

Report 7-02 (*CW*, p. 214)

WHEREAS, Lutheran Youth Fellowship will provide a network whereby youth can elect their own leaders through proper channels; and

WHEREAS, Lutheran Youth Fellowship continues to serve the youth of the Synod in this specific way; and

WHEREAS, Lutheran Youth Fellowship is one part of the total thrust of youth ministry within our Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Youth Ministry be encouraged to appoint two young people to this board as advisory members on the recommendation of Lutheran Youth Fellowship; and be it further

Resolved, That Bylaw 7.71 a of the *Handbook* be changed to read:

PRESENT WORDING

7.71 Membership

a. The Board of Youth Ministry, consisting of one pastor, one teacher, one representative of one of our synodical schools, two laymen, and five young people, shall be elected by the Synod.

b. The young people shall be chosen for a 2-year term and shall represent the diverse interests and background of our church, conscious of age and ethnic groups.

PROPOSED WORDING

7.71 Membership

a. (same)

b. The young people shall be chosen for a 2-year term and shall represent the diverse interests and background of our church, conscious of age and ethnic groups. They shall not be elected before the age of 16 or after the age of 21.

c. Two additional young people at least 16 years of age may be appointed by the Board of Youth Ministry as advisory members on the recommendation of the Lutheran Youth Fellowship.

Action: *Adopted (9).*

(The convention declined to raise the age from 21 to 28).

To Encourage Subscription to *Lutheran Witness*

RESOLUTION 7-14

Report 7-07 (*CW*, pp. 220—221)

WHEREAS, The purpose of the *Lutheran Witness* is to inform the members of the Synod about the work of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, The *Lutheran Witness* continues to be the communication vehicle that serves more homes (431,000) in the Synod than any other; and

WHEREAS, For many Lutherans the *Lutheran Witness* and the District editions are the only ongoing and regular contacts that they have with synodical and District affairs; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention appeal to the Board of Directors and congregations of each District, especially those where the percentage of homes receiving the *Lutheran Witness* and the District edition is low, to consider ways and means of encouraging subscriptions to our official synodical periodical so that the members of the Synod are informed about and motivated to participate more fully in the work of the Synod.

Action: *Adopted (9).*

To Commend Board of Parish Education for New Life in Christ Materials

RESOLUTION 7-15

Overture 7-14 (*CW*, p. 223)

WHEREAS, The Synod, through the Board of Parish Education, in an effort to offer an alternative for Christian Sunday school education, produced and released the series New Life in Christ in 1976; and

WHEREAS, The New Life in Christ series has been successful in combining high-quality material, in format, technique, artwork, and practical application, with Biblically and confessionally sound theology; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod, with humble thanks to the Lord's Spirit for equipping His church with gifts and keeping her in the truth of Scripture and the centrality of the Gospel of Jesus, recognize and commend the Board of Parish Education and those responsible for the production of the New Life in Christ series; and be it further

Resolved, That the board be encouraged to make available a curriculum for nursery and kindergarten, as well as a full day-school curriculum of the same quality and Scriptural integrity, and give consideration to overall consistency and complementary value.

Action: *Adopted (9).*

To Receive Reports of Commission on Church Literature, Board for Lutheran Radio, and Commission on Lay Higher Education

RESOLUTION 7-16

Report 7-03, 7-08, 7-09, (*CW*, pp. 216—217, 221—223)

Resolved, That the convention receive the reports of the Commission on Church Literature, the Board for Lutheran Radio, and the Commission on Lay Higher Education with thanks for services and blessings received.

Action: *Adopted (9).*

To Decline Overture 7-28 (To Permit Synodical Students to Purchase Concordia Publishing House Textbooks at Cost)

RESOLUTION 7-17

Overture 7-28 (*CW*, p. 226)

WHEREAS, Concordia Publishing House has followed the practice of assisting synodical students in securing textbooks by selling them to campus bookstores at discount prices that are essentially cost prices; and

WHEREAS, Any increase of this price by the campus bookstore is only that which assures a marginal profit for overhead expenses; therefore be it

Resolved, That we decline Overture 7-28.

Action: *Adopted (9)*

To Decline Overture 7-29 (To Request Written Interviews for Concordia Publishing House Board Members)

RESOLUTION 7-18

Overture 7-29 (*CW*, p. 226)

WHEREAS, Concordia Publishing House Board of Directors are elected by the delegates to a synodical convention; and

WHEREAS, Said delegates have for their perusal written statements by the nominees secured for them by the Committee for Convention Nominations; and

WHEREAS, The elected members of CPH's Board of Directors are primarily chosen for the purpose of promoting a business venture and not a doctrinal review, which is the responsibility of the Doctrinal Review Board; therefore be it

Resolved, That we decline Overture 7-29.

Action: *Adopted (9).*

8. SOCIAL MINISTRY

To Consider Needs of Older Persons

RESOLUTION 8-01

Overture 8-08 (*CW*, p. 235) Report 8-01 (*CW*, p. 232)

WHEREAS, Older persons form the fastest-growing group within our population as indicated by the prediction of the Bureau of Census that within 20 years 16 percent will be 60 or over, 12 percent will be past 65, 5½ percent will be 75 and older, and 1.4 percent will be 85 and older; and

WHEREAS, Older people must be a concern of the church if it is to fulfill its ministry "to every creature" in the years that lie ahead; and

WHEREAS, All of the elderly, including the "frail elderly," who are able to maintain varying degrees of independent living in the community, can benefit by the ministry of the church, even as they can participate in advancing that ministry; and

WHEREAS, The concern for older persons is so important that it must be shared by all of the program boards of our church as well as the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Executive Secretary of the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief convene representatives of all the Synod's program boards to devise and plan a comprehensive approach to the overall needs of older persons in the church and community; and be it further

Resolved, That the results of the meeting(s) be reported to the Board of Directors with recommendations for implementation.

Action: *Adopted (8).*

To Continue Sponsorship of Refugee Families

RESOLUTION 8-02

Overture 8-11 (*CW*, p. 235) Report 8-01 (*CW*, p. 232)

WHEREAS, The Lord identifies a ministry to refugees and strangers as a legitimate concern and activity for His people (Matt. 7:21; 25:35; Luke 10:37); and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran response to refugee needs dates back over several decades (*Lutheran Witness*, September 1978); and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) is assisting in the resettlement of refugees from Vietnam and other countries; and

WHEREAS, The nature of refugee problems makes it impossible to predict the number of sponsors needed at any particular time; however, at the present time 200,000 refugees are in camps in Thailand and Malaysia, and hundreds of "boat people," facing uncertain futures, still are leaving their homes because of oppression and persecution; therefore be it

Resolved, That our love for our Lord move us to share His good gifts by sponsoring, singularly or in cooperation with neighboring Lutheran parishes, families who must flee their homeland because of oppression and persecution; and be it further

Resolved, That we commend those congregations who have sponsored a refugee family that they might give consideration to sponsoring a second, third, or fourth family; and be it further

Resolved, That District boards of social ministry in concert with the district LWML and LLL groups develop in each District a "bank of congregations" willing to sponsor refugee families to meet the needs of current and future crisis situations; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief continue to support Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services and to regularly communicate these concerns to the congregations of the Synod; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief be requested to investigate ministry to Haitian refugees as well.

Action: *Adopted as amended (8).*

(Amendment: the final resolve was added.)

To Commend and Strengthen Work of Commission on Ministerial Health

RESOLUTION 8-03

Report 8-02 (*CW*, p. 233)

WHEREAS, Physical, mental, and emotional health are gifts of God, even as spiritual rebirth and growth are His gifts; and

WHEREAS, Professional church workers need to be physically, mentally, and emotionally healthy and stable if they are to serve effectively in the church; and

WHEREAS, There is evidence that among the 12,000-plus professionals and their families in our Synod an increasing number for a variety of reasons need to be ministered to and provided with some form of health care; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod commend the Commission on Ministerial Health for its continuing concern and effort in providing resources for consultation and care for professionals and their families; and be it further

Resolved, That because the sources of mental and emotional deficiencies are many, necessitating a wide variety of skilled evaluations, treatment, and follow-up care, the Synod endorse the request of the commission that a full-time, qualified staff person be authorized, and urge the Board of Directors to engage such a

qualified person no later than at the beginning of the 1981 fiscal year; and be it further

Resolved, That through the initiative of a full-time staff person concerted efforts be made to achieve the appointment of ministerial health committees in all Districts of the Synod; he would supervise the training of the District ministerial health committees and provide resources for preventive as well as remedial health care in the Districts, supplementing such care whenever necessary through the services of the Lutheran Medical Center, St. Louis; and be it finally

Resolved, That the commission in cooperation with District ministerial health committees offer counsel and assistance to professional church workers who may need to make a vocational transition.

Action: *Adopted as amended (9).*

(By a vote of 475 to 377 the convention in Session 8 amended the resolution by deleting the final resolve, which had read:

Resolved, That out of concern for future professional workers and the people among whom they work, the Synod's Commission on Ministerial Health be encouraged to speed up the development of practical guidelines for evaluating the mental and emotional health of all applicants who apply for admission at synodical schools as church-work students. These guidelines and evaluations shall be used by the admissions departments of our schools in determining whether a student should be admitted to the program for a church profession. Such an evaluation shall be repeated prior to the placement of students into vicarages or internships in the Synod, and again prior to certification for placement into ministry.

The amended resolution was thereupon declined, 360 to 515. However, in Session 9 the convention resolved to reconsider the resolution as amended. It then adopted the resolution as amended in the earlier session.)

To Encourage Concern for Criminal Justice

RESOLUTION 8-04A

Report 8-01 (*CW*, pp. 231—232); Overture 8-14 (*CW*, p. 236)

WHEREAS, The Synod in convention in New Orleans and Dallas supported and encouraged concern for criminal justice and prisoner rehabilitation; therefore be it

Resolved, That our concern for the criminal justice system continue to be more than a ministry through chaplains and their associates; and be it further

Resolved, That Christians be encouraged to support educational and legislative efforts that foster aid to persons and families who are the victims of crime; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief with the assistance of other program boards design activities (chaplaincy, volunteer visitation, seminars, workshops, etc.) that might be helpful in reforming the American criminal justice system; and be it finally

Resolved, That the above concerns be incorporated from a Biblical point of view in informational brochures prepared jointly by the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief and the Board of Parish Education.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

("Reforming" was substituted by common consent for "humanizing" in the third resolve. The delegates declined to insert two resolves from the original Res. 8-04 as well as a reference to abolishing capital punishment.)

To Conduct Social-Ministry Workshops

RESOLUTION 8-05

Overture 8-12 (*CW*, p. 236)

WHEREAS, The Board of Social Ministry and World Relief on the basis of its experiences and evaluations from the field is convinced that workshops and seminars are excellent platforms from which to further the cause of Christ through social ministry; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Social Ministry and World Relief has developed and presented workshops dealing with a variety of social-ministry concerns; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Social Ministry and World Relief continues to offer such workshops to Districts, Circuits, and clusters of congregations on a cost-sharing basis; therefore be it

Resolved, That Districts, Circuits, or groups of congregations who desire to involve their constituency in the broader aspects of social ministry concerns and activities are urged to negotiate with the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief for information on cooperative planning and financing of one or more workshops on the following subjects: Project Compassion, Developing Parish Boards of Social Ministry, Alcohol and Drug Dependency, Serve Your Neighborhood, Issues of Injustice and Oppression, Helping Older Persons to Maintain an Independent Life-Style, and World Hunger.

Action: *Adopted (9).*

To Promote Participation in Project Compassion

RESOLUTION 8-06

Overture 8-09 (*CW*, p. 235) Report 8-01 (*CW*, p. 232)

WHEREAS, Information from Districts, agencies, and the Lutheran Women's Missionary League indicates that by the end of 1979 the Synod will have reached its stated goal of 25,000 trained Project Compassion volunteers; and

WHEREAS, The majority of our Districts have appointed District Project Compassion coordinators, responsible for the training of additional trainers of Project Compassion volunteers in their area; and

WHEREAS, Requests for Project Compassion kits continue to reach us from many parts of the world and from many mainline churches in Christendom; and

WHEREAS, Project Compassion has given an opportunity to Christians to share Christ and themselves with troubled people; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of hurting people have been made aware of Christ's love through word and deed by Project Compassion volunteers; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Districts of The Lutheran Church —Missouri Synod be encouraged to make available in their Districts the expertise and funding necessary to promote and conduct Project Compassion workshops; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod through its Board of Social Ministry and World Relief and in cooperation with Project Compassion coordinators continue to strive to increase the number of volunteers, who by word and deed will share Christ and themselves with the hurting peoples; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod, through its Districts, strongly encourage parishes to continue their support of Project Compassion with prayer, funding, and ongoing recruitment for Project Compassion volunteers.

Action: *Adopted (9).*

To Update Bylaws re Social Concerns and Welfare

RESOLUTION 8-07

Overture 8-03 (*CW*, p. 233)

WHEREAS, Terminology and programs have changed in the field of social-ministry agencies and institutions; and

WHEREAS, The wording of Bylaw 13.02, "Duties and Functions," a, 1 and 2, should be updated to reflect these changes; therefore be it

Resolved, That the wording of Bylaw 13.02 a, 1 and 2, be changed as follows:

PRESENT WORDING

13.02 Duties and Functions

a, 1, lines 8-9: ". . . prior to the establishment of health and welfare agencies and programs . . ."

2. The board shall accredit health, social service, and chaplaincy agencies, upon the recommendation of the staff, as an assurance that the agencies meet and maintain acceptable standards of performance in meeting demonstrated needs and have achieved a responsible relationship with the Synod and its jurisdictional units according to the approved Polity Statement.

PROPOSED WORDING

13.02 Duties and Functions

a, 1, lines 8-9: ". . . prior to the establishment of health and social-ministry agencies and institutions . . ."

2. The board shall grant church-affiliate status to health, chaplaincy, and social ministry agencies and institutions to validate their merit for use and support with assurance that they meet acceptable standards in purpose and ministry, scope and quality, fiscal responsibility and accountability, sponsorship and organizational structure, equal-opportunity policy and nondiscriminatory practices, and that they have achieved responsible relationships with the Synod and its jurisdictional units, in accordance with policies and procedures approved by the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief and the Board of Directors.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

(This was presented in Session 9, but time ran out before action could be taken.)

To Provide for Pastoral Counselors in Bylaw 13.02

RESOLUTION 8-08

Overture 8-04 (*CW*, p. 234) Report 8-01 (*CW*, p. 231—232)

WHEREAS, The position of the trained pastoral counselor has been growing in interest as well as in numbers in our church; and

WHEREAS, The present *Handbook* describing eligibility for calls, appointments, and training omits the designation pastoral counselor; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 13.02 be changed to read:

PRESENT WORDING

13.02 Duties and Functions

a. Within the United States

3. The board shall give guidance to and coordinate the efforts of Districts and agencies within the Districts that plan or conduct institutional chaplaincy services in the following areas:

aa. arrange for studies regarding new or existing programs;

PROPOSED WORDING

13.02 Duties and Functions

a. Within the United States

3. The board shall give guidance to and coordinate the efforts of Districts and agencies within the Districts that plan or conduct institutional chaplaincy services or engage pastoral counselors in the following areas:

aa. (no change)

bb. encourage adherence to approved standards and procedures for institutional chaplaincy programs;

cc. give counsel regarding calls, appointments, and training of chaplains;

dd. provide for regular liaison with institutional chaplains to maintain a responsible relationship of the chaplain with the church and of the church with the chaplain;

ee. stimulate concern within congregations and Districts for increased volunteer involvement of pastors and lay people in the ministry to institutionalized people.

4. The board shall administer scholarships for social workers, administrative personnel in agencies, and institutional chaplains.

bb. encourage adherence to approved standards and procedures for institutional chaplaincy and pastoral counseling programs;

cc. give counsel regarding calls, appointments, and training of chaplains and pastoral counselors;

dd. provide for regular liaison with institutional chaplains and pastoral counselors to maintain a responsible relationship of the chaplain and pastoral counselor with the church and of the church with the chaplain and pastoral counselor;

ee. (no change)

4. The board shall administer scholarships for social workers, administrative personnel in agencies, pastoral counselors, and institutional chaplains.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

(In presenting this resolution the committee added "or engage pastoral counselors" in Bylaw 13.02a, 3.)

To Deal with High Costs of Medical Care

RESOLUTION 8-09A

Report 8-01 (*CW*, p. 232); Overture 8-07 (*CW*, pp. 234—235)

WHEREAS, Spiraling costs for medical, surgical, and hospital services are extremely burdensome to many people and are often responsible for their failure to seek needed medical care; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief be encouraged to express this concern to appropriate medical and hospital associations, appealing for continued restraint in cost increases; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief provide materials and guidance to the congregations of the Synod and to District social ministry committees on how members may effectively evaluate and influence legislation in Federal and State governments in order to counteract excessive increases in the cost of health services; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief also provide materials and guidance to Districts and congregations concerning other ways in which consumers themselves can help to hold down the rate of increase in hospital costs.

Action: *Adopted as amended (12).*

(Amendment: addition of the final resolve.)

To Reaffirm Social Ministry in District and Parishes

RESOLUTION 8-10

Overture 8-05 (*CW*, p. 234); Report 8-01 (*CW*, p. 230)

WHEREAS, The Sacred Scriptures clearly teach that Christians are to be concerned with the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of all people (Luke 10:25-37; James 2:14-17; 1 John 3:16-18), and the example of the early church as a corporate group in gathering offerings for the poor at Jerusalem gives evidence of this truth; and

WHEREAS, The Synod recognized the vital importance of this ministry to the whole person by the creation of the Board of Social Ministry in 1950 and has allocated funds for its budget ever since; and

WHEREAS, The Synod has passed 80 resolutions at national conventions recognizing social ministry and world relief to be an integral, valid, and essential part of the total ministry of the church; and

WHEREAS, Social ministry gives evidence of "faith that works by love" and has helped open doors for the proclamation of the Gospel; and

WHEREAS, Only token attention is given to this ministry in Districts and parishes that do not plan, or organize, and appropriately fund social-ministry concerns and activities; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod reaffirm strong support for the establishment of social-ministry boards in Districts and in the parishes.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

To Utilize "Christ and Social Ministry" in Our Church

RESOLUTION 8-11

Overture 8-13 (*CW*, p. 236); Report 8-01 (*CW*, p. 229)

WHEREAS, The brochure of the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief "Christ and Social Ministry in Our Lutheran Church" is an excellent informative piece depicting the many facets of the Synod's social-ministry program; and

WHEREAS, This brochure affirms throughout that

Christ and His cross are at the center of our church's social-ministry programs; and

WHEREAS, The brochure identifies the 12 points of emphasis of our own church as well as the 10 inter-Lutheran social-ministry programs in which we are involved; and

WHEREAS, The brochure can be helpful in acquainting and sensitizing our members to human needs and in motivating our faith to action in behalf of hurting people; therefore be it

Resolved, That our parishes be encouraged to utilize "Christ and Social Ministry in Our Lutheran Church" in adult Bible classes, youth Bible classes, confirmation classes, upper grades in our Christian day schools, topic studies for parish auxiliary organizations, upper classes of our LCMS terminal schools, inserts for parish bulletins, and in any other way that would inform and inspire the congregation to be better equipped for service to Christ and His people.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

9. SPECIAL AND SUNDRY MATTERS

To Express Opposition to Blasphemy and Pornography in Movies, in the Media, and in Literature

RESOLUTION 9-01

Overtures 9-07—9-08B (*CW*, p. 242)

WHEREAS, The use of blasphemy and pornography is becoming more pronounced in movies, in the media, and in literature; and

WHEREAS, We as a church body should take a stand against such blasphemy and pornography, and suggest ways and means to counteract the same; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention go on record as opposing all blasphemy and pornography in movies, in the media, and in literature; and be it further

Resolved, That the Public Relations Department of the Synod relay this stance to the producers of the public media and develop guidelines for helping our congregations, our schools, and our families in their efforts to protest and combat this evil trend.

Action: *Adopted (5).*

To Allow Concept of Special Creation to Be Taught in Public Schools

RESOLUTION 9-02A

Overture 9-09 (*CW*, p. 242)

WHEREAS, The concept of evolution is being taught in many public schools as the sole origin of the world and man; and

WHEREAS, Many accept the concept of a special creation as the origin of the world and man (Heb. 11:30; therefore be it

Resolved, That where the evolutionary concept is being taught in the public schools, we urge that a special creation concept should be permitted to be taught in the public schools; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Parish Education send a copy of this resolution to all state departments of education.

Action: *Adopted as amended (5).*

(The convention declined to consider Res. 9-02 as a substitute. References to the United States were deleted by common consent from the two whereases. The words "we urge that" were added by formal amendment.)

To Improve and Emphasize Conferences

RESOLUTION 9-03

Overture 9-05 (*CW*, p. 241)

WHEREAS, Our various pastoral conferences for Circuits, regions, and Districts were begun to promote fellowship, unity, mutual care, pastoral discussion of current topics, Bible study, worship, continuing education, etc., among our clergy; and

WHEREAS, Our Synod has in the past seen fit to require attendance by our pastors at conferences; and

WHEREAS, The purposes for which these conferences were begun are defeated when conference programs are not of reasonable value; and

WHEREAS, The purposes for which these conferences were begun are further defeated when pastors choose not to attend for other than valid reasons (regardless of program); and

WHEREAS, Most excuses offered for absences simply show the low priority many pastors place on such conferences; and

WHEREAS, Such priorities are in conflict with the priorities of the Synod in establishing such conferences; and

WHEREAS, It is agreed that implementation of the Synod's practices is the duty of the various District Presidents and Circuit Counselors; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod direct its District Presidents and Circuit Counselors to use their influence and authority to maintain our system of conferences to attain the purposes for which conferences are held; and be it further

Resolved, That this charge be carried out by careful attention to procedures and regulations already established; and be it further

Resolved, That District Presidents and Circuit Counselors exert influence to see that programs for spiritual and professional growth are offered; and be it further

Resolved, That District Presidents and Circuit Counselors, using brotherly admonition, contact those pastors who show disregard for these conferences; and be it finally

Resolved, That District Presidents and Circuit Counselors encourage congregations to accept the cost of such conferences for their pastors.

Action: *Adopted (8).*

To Amend Bylaw 15.51 (Archives)

RESOLUTION 9-04

Report 9-02 (*CW*, pp. 237—240)

The report of the Department of Archives and the Concordia Historical Institute as presented on pp. 237—240 of the *Convention Workbook* has been received, noting especially the dedication of the building addition Feb. 11, 1979, and also the significant anniversaries to be observed in the coming biennium. In addition to the

increased facilities, increased services are also noted in the report.

WHEREAS, God has blessed the Concordia Historical Institute with continued growth and expanded services to the church; and

WHEREAS, There is need to bring the *Handbook* of the Synod more in line with the current activities of the Concordia Historical Institute; and

WHEREAS, It is desirable that all historical records be centralized; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod give thanks to God for His blessing through the Concordia Historical Institute; and be it further

Resolved, That the following revision of Bylaw 15.51 of the *Handbook* dealing with the transfer of official records to the Institute be adopted:

PRESENT WORDING

15.51 Transfer

a. The President, the Vice-Presidents, the Board of Directors, and all other official boards, standing committees, and agencies serving the Synod shall transfer correspondence, records, and other papers from their respective offices to the archives when they are no longer of current operational value.

b. The protocols, records, correspondence, and other archives of officers, boards, committees, and departments of the Synod shall be transferred to the archives at the expiration of not more than 15 years, unless such records are still open.

c. Temporary committees of the Synod shall upon their dissolution transfer to the archives all records and material relating to their work.

d. Copies of official documents of the Districts, such as articles of incorporation, constitutions, bylaws, convention proceedings, and other official publications shall be filed in the archives of the Synod.

e. Institutions, congregations, and organizations that are disbanding permanently (not merging) are requested to transfer their records and other historical material to the archives for preservation and future reference.

PROPOSED WORDING

15.51 Transfer

a. The President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer; the Board of Directors and its officers and staff; the Council of Presidents; and all other synodical boards, commissions, committees, and other entities related to the Synod shall transfer correspondence, records, minutes, reports, and other files from their respective offices to the archives when they are no longer of current operational value.

b. Such minutes, files, records, and reports shall ordinarily be transferred to the archives at the expiration of not more than 15 years after their creation unless such records are still currently being used by the officer or board. If the latter is the case, this shall be reported to the archives.

c. Temporary committees, task forces, and other entities serving the Synod shall immediately on their dissolution transfer to the archives all of their files containing the correspondence, records, minutes, and reports relating to their work.

d. Copies of official documents of the Districts, such as articles of incorporation, constitutions, bylaws, convention proceedings, and other official publications, shall be filed in the archives of the Synod. Each District shall also establish the office of "Archivist-Historian" and pattern the responsibilities of the office after those of the synodical archives and encourage this officer to work in close relationship with the synodical archives.

e. Institutions, organizations, and agencies related to the Synod or to any of its structure or work that are disbanding permanently are urged to transfer their files, correspondence, records, reports, and other historical materials to the archives.

f. All auxiliary agencies and interchurch councils and structures related to the Synod or in which the Synod holds membership shall file copies of all official documents, including articles of incorporation, constitutions, bylaws, convention proceedings, official publications, minutes, and other materials, with the archives on a regular basis.

g. Synodical colleges and seminaries shall establish departments of archives and history for the preservation of their records and shall transfer bylaws, handbooks, minutes, and official publications to the archives of the Synod. The job description of the college or seminary archivist shall be patterned after that of the synodical archivist; such archivist shall also be directed to work in close cooperation with the synodical archives.

h. Congregations permanently disbanding (not merging) are urged to transfer all of their records, such as registers of official acts, minutes, and other historical materials, to the archives.

Action: *Adopted (8).*

To Urge Resolution of Overture 9-11

RESOLUTION 9-05

Overture 9-11 (*CW*, p. 243)

WHEREAS, Unresolved matters and misunderstanding at a high level can have an adverse effect on the Synod, particularly the laity; and

WHEREAS, The matter referred to in Overture 9-11 seems to be inadvisable for the convention to resolve; therefore be it

Resolved, That the convention urge the parties involved to expedite efforts toward a God-pleasing solution; and be it further

Resolved, That the convention implore God's blessings on these efforts.

Action: *Adopted (8).*

To Support Ministry of Armed Forces Commission

RESOLUTION 9-06

Report 9-01 (*CW*, p. 237)

WHEREAS, The mission of the Armed Forces Commission is to support the ministry to military personnel and their dependents wherever they are assigned; and

WHEREAS, The continuing need exists to serve the civilian members of our church serving the government and industry overseas; and

WHEREAS, The Armed Forces Commission is dependent largely on the home congregation to make the names and locations of these people known; and

WHEREAS, The Armed Forces Commission forwards the names and addresses of civilian/military personnel to sister or partner churches of our Synod in order for them to minister to their needs; and

WHEREAS, There is an increasing need to provide pastoral care and ministries to Lutheran patients in all Veterans Administration hospitals; therefore be it

Resolved,

1. That the church reaffirm its ministry to its members serving in the military and to overseas civilians;

2. That District Presidents encourage pastors and congregations to become aware of the service offered by the Armed Forces Commission and of the congregations' responsibility toward these members;

3. That pastors and congregations be encouraged to promptly notify the Armed Forces Commission of all members serving in the military wherever they are stationed, as well as those civilians overseas, and keep the commission informed of any change in status or location;

4. That all names and addresses be reported promptly to the Armed Forces Commission;

5. That all congregations be strongly encouraged to participate in the annual Mother's Day offering in support of this vital ministry of the Armed Forces Commission.

Action: *Adopted (8).*

To Provide Adequate Maintenance for Church Workers

RESOLUTION 9-07

Overture 9-06 (*CW*, p. 242)

WHEREAS, In a day when many of our church workers are well compensated for their services by their congregations, there are still situations in our Synod where other pastors, teachers, and parish workers are not cared for as well; and

WHEREAS, It is generally agreed that it is a part of the District President's office to see that all church workers are adequately compensated; and

WHEREAS, Inadequate remuneration is sometimes evident in the first placements of candidates where presumably the District President's office has the greatest influence and authority; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod give charge to the District Presidents to see to it that workers, after being recruited by the Synod, trained by the Synod, and placed by the Synod, be provided with fair living conditions and remuneration in keeping with our Lord's admonition to provide adequate care for "those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you" (1 Thess. 5:12 NIV).

Action: *Adopted (12).*

(Discussion was begun in Session 8. The convention declined an amendment to insert after "District Presidents" the words "to remind congregations.")

To Note Texas District Anniversary

RESOLUTION 9-08

Overture 9-10 (*CW*, pp. 242—243)

WHEREAS, Notice of the Texas District's 75th anniversary has been received; therefore be it

Resolved, That the date of the 75th anniversary of the Texas District be added to the list of significant anniversaries to be observed during the next biennium, Report 9-02 (*CW*, p. 240).

Action: *Adopted (12).*

To Thank God for Faithful Lay Persons

RESOLUTION 9-09

Overture 9-12 (*CW*, p. 243)

WHEREAS, God has blessed The Lutheran Church—

Missouri Synod with laymen and women who are faithful to His Word; therefore be it

Resolved, That we thank God for our lay people who have actively supported, protected, and promoted the orthodox teachings of our church down through the years. To Him be all glory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

To Receive Report of Commission of Adjudication

RESOLUTION 9-10

Report 9-03 (*CW*, p. 241)

WHEREAS, The Commission of Adjudication has reviewed and disposed of all disputes and controversies brought before it; therefore be it

Resolved, That Report 9-03 be received by the convention.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

10. NOMINATIONS

The report of the Committee for Convention Nominations was presented and adopted with several additions and changes. Other names were placed in nomination from the floor. See Minutes, Session 1.

11. ELECTIONS

The complete results of the elections held during the convention are appended to the Minutes.



Installation of newly elected board members

12. PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

To Conduct a Major Fundraising and Ongoing Stewardship Effort

RESOLUTION 12-01A

Report 4-04, III, 00 (*CW*, p. 129)

WHEREAS, The Lord has placed before us, His servants, challenging opportunities in mission and ministry for the 1980s; and

WHEREAS, Our responsibility under Christ, for meeting these challenges joyfully and positively belongs to every member of every congregation of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, The Lord has entrusted the members of the congregations of the Synod with the spiritual, human, and financial resources to enter through the open doors He has set before our Synod; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors and Floor Committee 12 have reviewed a feasibility study prepared by Community Counselling Service based on interviews with selected synodical staff, 37 District Presidents, District staffs, and representative pastors and laymen from these Districts; and

WHEREAS, Stewardship training enables mission; therefore be it

Resolved, That the 1979 convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod authorize that a major fundraising effort be conducted, culminating early in 1981, with a goal of $40,000,000 to be pledged by the time of the 1981 synodical convention; and be it further

Resolved, That this fundraising effort be conducted in such a manner that the ongoing stewardship life of the church be enhanced and elevated by:

a) using a strong spiritual emphasis according to basic Scriptural principles of stewardship;

b) enlisting the support of parish pastors and through them the support of teachers and lay people in its plan and organization;

c) making the effort a part of the ongoing program to assist church members to bring their first-fruit gifts and to grow in the grace of giving; and be it further

Resolved, That the lay people, pastors, teachers, and staffs of all congregations and the officers, boards, and staffs of the Synod and its Districts, colleges, and seminaries join their prayers, efforts, and gifts to respond to the mission and ministry challenges the Lord has placed before our Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Directors provide leadership, authorize resources, and engage professional counsel for the fundraising effort; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board of Directors after consultation with the appropriate boards bring to the 1981 synodical convention its proposal for a continued upgrading process to fund the mission of our church.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

(An amendment to remove professional counsel from the effort failed.)

To Define Canadian Districts' Role in Major Fundraising Effort

RESOLUTION 12-02

Report 4-04, III, OO (*CW*, p. 129)

WHEREAS, The Canadian Districts, while working toward partner-church status, desire to be part of the major fundraising effort in the Synod; and

WHEREAS, There are equally challenging opportunities for the Canadians to expand mission and ministry as well as higher education at home and abroad; therefore be it

Resolved, That a mission and ministry statement be developed by our Canadian brethren in cooperation with the steering committee and fundraising consultants that will address the challenges in Canada as well as the mission opportunities we share throughout the world.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

To Clear All Calendars for Major Fundraising Effort

RESOLUTION 12-03

Report 4-04, III, OO (*CW*, p. 129)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is conducting a major fundraising effort that will reach its culmination in the first half of 1981; and

WHEREAS, The proposed fundraising effort will aid all areas and phases of the Synod's working together in outreach and leadership development, both in the Synod and in the partner churches, as well as in recruiting and training future workers for the church; and

WHEREAS, Any special fundraising effort during the period of January through June 1981 would be a source of confusion as well as mutually detrimental to each effort; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention ask all LCMS Districts, institutions, boards, etc., as well as auxiliaries, affiliated agencies, and other groups that are not directly supported financially by the Synod to clear their calendar of special fundraising efforts during the period of January through June 1981, it being understood that continuing fundraising for normal operations is excluded from this resolution; and be it further

Resolved, That all such groups be asked to inform the Synod, through its Stewardship Counselor, of any fundraising plans before 1981 in order that these may be considered in the Synod's planning.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

(In response to a question, the committee stated that clearing calendars is not a mandate.)

To Develop Master Plan for Responding to Challenge for the '80s

RESOLUTION 12-04

Reports 1-01, 2-01, Add. A, 6-01, 7-01, 7-02, 12-03, 12-05 (*CW*, pp. 1—33, 63—64, 163—168, 203—216, 249—251, 253)

WHEREAS, We gratefully acknowledge that God opens doors; and

WHEREAS, Our complex society challenges the church to new emphases and new work in the fields of home and world missions, higher education, parish services, and other ministry concerns; and

WHEREAS, The Board for Missions report culminates in 29 challenges for growth in the 10-year period of the 1980s; and

WHEREAS, The Board for Higher Education report presents a systemwide model of higher education that calls for the continuing growth and development of synodical seminaries and colleges; and

WHEREAS, The reports in the area of Parish Services call us to perceive and then walk through the doors God opens for the expanded ministry of Christ's Gospel within all our parishes; and

WHEREAS, There is a need for a more effective process of bringing congregations, Districts, and the Synod into cooperative program planning of the church's mission at every level; and

WHEREAS, No comprehensive plan now exists that identifies long-term program and resource requirements; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention authorize the development of a long-term (10-year) integrated master plan for the Synod and its Districts to define and describe the impact of the Challenge for the '80s, including the program and resource requirements (priorities and resources such as people, locations, facilities, and finances) that shall be coordinated with, but not limited to, plans and programs of Districts, synodical boards and commissions, and that will result in the identification of the organizations responsible for and accountable for practical program implementation; and be it further

Resolved, That responsibility for developing the overall master plan be vested in a planning group composed of the Board of Directors, the Council of Presidents, and the Council of Administrators; and that an executive planning group consisting of three members each from the Council of Presidents, the Board of Directors, and the Council of Administrators (to be appointed by the chairmen of the respective groups) shall be responsible for facilitating this effort; they shall prepare background material, call meetings, prepare agenda, and conduct other activities necessary to assure the preparation and reporting of the master plan prior to the 54th convention; this planning group shall serve until the 54th convention; and be it finally

Resolved, That in the interim this group shall review the plans and projects formulated by the various boards and commissions of the Synod and by its Districts, shall endeavor to establish immediate priorities, and shall, particularly where areas of duplication or conflict are evident, address its findings and recommendations to the responsible boards, commissions, and Districts of the Synod.

Action: *Adopted (6).*

To Designate July 1 as Beginning of New Fiscal Year

RESOLUTION 12-05

Report L12-01 (*CW*, pp. 285—286)

WHEREAS, Certain problems are encountered with operating the synodical financial program with a fiscal year beginning February 1; and

WHEREAS, A fiscal year beginning later in the calendar year will give synodical officials, boards, and agencies adequate time to review, analyze, and react to the annual financial commitments and other information received from the Districts during December and January; and

WHEREAS, Colleges and seminaries are already on a fiscal year beginning July 1; and

WHEREAS, The current short time between District and synodical fiscal years makes sound budget development for the new fiscal year beginning February 1 extremely difficult; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention designate July 1 as the beginning of each fiscal year, effective July 1, 1980, to allow sufficient time for all budgeting procedure to be implemented more efficiently and effectively.

Action: *Adopted (6).*

To Establish New Method of Preparing Budgets and Work Programs

RESOLUTION 12-06

Report L12-02 (*CW*, pp. 287—323)

WHEREAS, The Districts of the Synod in many instances are unable to comply with the provisions of Bylaw 9.02, in that they presently are unable to provide meaningful estimates of funding support beyond one year; and

WHEREAS, Without reliable income estimates it is impossible to propose detailed program expenses for a balanced budget; and

WHEREAS, By authorization of the 1977 convention deficits had been budgeted for each of the years 1977—79 of five percent of the estimated spending budget, and such deficit spending can no longer continue; and

WHEREAS, Present sharing trends of congregations with Districts, and of Districts with the Synod, indicate

that increased pledges from Districts in 1980 and subsequent years should offset the present annual deficit but provide little toward inflation, causing current programs and future opportunities (such as the Challenges for the '80s mission expansion and our higher education program) to be seriously impacted; and

WHEREAS, The members of the member congregations have been blessed financially and should be able to support the total work of the church; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod assembled in convention instruct the Board of Directors to prepare balanced budgets (budget within the range of anticipated income) during the next biennium; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod assembled in convention receive the 1979 budget adopted by the Board of Directors and the statement of needs of the boards, commissions, and departments of the Synod as defined by them (and furnished to the floor committee) for the years 1980—83 in lieu of recommended spending budgets; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod assembled in convention commit itself to promoting programs to assist the members of member congregations in growing in the grace of giving; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod assembled in convention commit itself to developing improved methods of communicating budget and work program information between the Synod, Districts, congregations, and members of congregations; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod assembled in convention commit itself to developing new methods for joint planning of the work of the Synod and its Districts, so that new work can begin on a priority basis, that present programs that may not meet the needs of the Synod can be revised or terminated, that duplication between the Synod and its Districts can be minimized, and that resources can be shared in such a way that cutbacks of needed programs will not be required and the Challenges for the '80s can be met; and be it further

Resolved, That these commitments of the Synod be implemented under the direction of the Board of Directors in consultation with the Council of Administrators and District Presidents or their designated representatives; and be it finally

Resolved, That we thank the Lord for the abundant blessings He has poured on the members of the congregations of the Synod, and that we pray that the members grow in the grace of sharing these blessings with the Lord in order that His commission of going and teaching all nations can be carried out.

Action: *Adopted (6).*

To Change Bylaws 9.01—9.06 (Budget and Work Programs)

RESOLUTION 12-07

Report L12-01 (*CW*, pp. 285—286)

PRESENT WORDING

IX. FINANCES

A. BUDGET AND WORK PROGRAMS

9.01 General

Stewardship is the management of the total resources God has given His people individually and collectively to carry out His mission and ministry. Therefore it follows that the budgeting process and the spending budget itself shall be designed to capitalize on the opportunities for mission and ministry challenging the Synod. A spending budget for the two fiscal years beginning the February 1 following the synodical convention, together with a proposed work program for the following two fiscal years, shall be adopted by each convention. The Board of Directors of the Synod may adjust the adopted spending budget as hereinafter provided.

9.02 Budget Adoption Procedure

a. By November 30 of each year preceding the biennial delegate convention every board, commission, and operating department of the Synod shall submit to the Board of Directors through the Council of Administrators its proposed spending budget for the next fiscal biennium together with its proposed work program for the following biennium. The request shall be submitted on a current dollar basis in the format and under the timetable prescribed by the Board of Directors. All programs shall show total costs and each agency's total financial support,

PROPOSED WORDING

IX. FINANCES

A. BUDGET AND WORK PROGRAMS

9.01 General

Stewardship is the management of the total resources God has given His people individually and collectively to carry out His mission and ministry. Therefore it follows that the budgeting process and the spending budget itself shall be designed to capitalize on the opportunities for mission and ministry challenging the Synod.

9.02 Budget Adoption Procedure

a. By November 30 of each year every board, commission, and operating department of the Synod shall submit to the Board of Directors through the Council of Administrators its proposed spending budget for the next fiscal year together with its proposed work program for the following 3 years. The request shall be submitted on a current dollar basis in the format and under the timetable prescribed by the Board of Directors. All programs shall show total costs and each agency's total financial support, including local, synodical, and any other support.

including local, synodical, and any other suport. The Council of Administrators shall review the proposed spending budget and work program and make recommendations thereon to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall make adjustments for the effects of inflation and changes in the value of the U.S. dollar.

b. By January 31 of each year each District President or his designated representative shall confirm to the Synod the adjusted District commitment for the new fiscal year. He will also report the estimated total income from congregations and other sources to be available for District and synodical ministry for each of the next 4 years. At the same time each District will also inform the Synod of the amount and percent designated for ministry within the District and that which will be available for ministry at the synodical level for the same 4-year period. A report in which the District forecasts continuous and new work for the 4-year period is to be shared with the Synod in order that the Synod and District may coordinate and plan for a more effective program of ministry.

c. By February 15 of the year of each biennial delegate convention the Board of Directors shall review the estimated income and spending budget and work program information submitted; make such fiscal adjustments as it considers necessary; advise the respective boards, commissions, and operating departments of the proposed adjustments; solicit their support concerning such adjustments; and then propose to the synodical convention a total budget for the next biennium, reflecting the mission, ministry, and stewardship performance and potential of the Synod.

d. Any board, commission, or District that disagrees with the Board of Directors budget or work program proposals has the right to appeal such recommendations by March 31 to the Board of Directors. If the petitioning body and the Board of Directors are unable to resolve the differences, the appealing body shall submit its concern to the synodical convention.

e. The President of the Synod, after consultation with the respective District Presidents, shall appoint a floor committee on program implementation (hereafter called floor committee) consisting of a representative from each District, plus at least one board and one staff adviser from the synodical Board of Directors and Board of Stewardship. Prior to the convention the floor committee shall meet to review the current fiscal biennium and to review the recommended budget and work program as submitted by the Board of Directors, together with any proposed adjustments submitted by appealing bodies. The floor committee shall then prepare its recommendations to the convention based on the mission, ministry, and stewardship performance and potential of the Synod.

f. Prior to the convention, the individual member of the floor committee, in consultation with the District's stewardship department or its equivalent, will endeavor to inform the District's delegates of the synodical program, finances, and floor committee recommendations. The Department of Stewardship shall provide assistance in this process, including resource people, if requested.

g. Overtures and recommendations that will greatly affect the budget shall be accompanied by objectives and anticipated results, cost projections, and source of funding for the next four fiscal years. Each proposed resolution from other floor committees involving expenditures, prior to its consideration on the floor of the convention, shall be presented to the floor committee, which in consultation with the representatives of the Accounting Department and the Finance Committee of the Board of Directors shall attach to

The Council of Administrators shall review the proposed spending budget and work program and make recommendations thereon to the Board of Directors.

b. By February 15 of each year each District President or his designated representative shall confirm to the Synod the adjusted District commitment for the next District fiscal year. He will also report the estimated total income from congregations and other sources to be available for District and synodical ministry for each of the next 3 years. At the same time each District will also inform the Synod of the amount and percent designated for ministry within the District and that which will be available for ministry at the synodical level for the same 3-year period. A report in which the District forecasts continuous and new work for the 3-year period is to be shared with the Synod in order that the Synod and District may coordinate and plan for a more effective program of ministry.

c. By April 15 every year the Board of Directors shall review the estimated income and spending budget and work program information submitted; make such fiscal adjustments as it considers necessary; advise the respective boards, commissions, and operating departments of the proposed adjustments; and solicit their support concerning such adjustments. The Board of Directors shall report the budget to the Synod, reflecting the mission, ministry, and stewardship performance and potential of the Synod.

d. Any board, commission, or District that disagrees with the Board of Directors budget or work program has the right to appeal by May 15 to the Board of Directors.

e. The President of the Synod, after consultation with the respective District Presidents, shall appoint a floor committee on program implementation (hereafter called floor committee) consisting of a representative from each District, plus at least one board and one staff adviser from the synodical Board of Directors and Board of Stewardship. Prior to the convention the floor committee shall meet to review the current budget and work program as submitted by the Board of Directors, together with any proposed adjustments. The floor committee shall report to the convention on the mission, ministry, and stewardship performance and potential of the Synod.

f. (same)

g. (same)

the recommended resolution its observation regarding the estimated benefits and costs. All new work so proposed shall be considered on a priority basis in relation to existing programs and other proposed programs.

h. The biennial delegate convention of the Synod shall adopt a 2-year comprehensive spending budget for the next fiscal biennium beginning February 1 following the synodical convention which reflects the mission, ministry, and stewardship performance and potential of the Synod.

h. (delete)

i. Following the convention, delegates in cooperation with District stewardship departments and circuit officials are encouraged to visit each congregation in the electoral circuit to report and discuss the program of the Synod, emphasizing the congregational responsibility toward synodical and District programs. Materials to assist with the communication of the adopted spending budget and work program shall be provided by the stewardship department.

i. Following each convention, delegates in cooperation with District stewardship departments and Circuit officials shall endeavor to visit each congregation in the electoral circuit to report and discuss the program of the Synod, emphasizing the congregational responsibility toward synodical and District programs. Materials to assist with the communication of the programs of the Synod and Districts shall be provided by the stewardship department.

9.03 Budget Confirmation Procedure

9.03 Budget Confirmation Procedure

a. It is the responsibility of the District to provide information to its congregations concerning the spending budget and work program of the District and the Synod prior to the congregational budget-setting meeting. The congregations are encouraged to use synodical convention delegates, District convention delegates, and/or District staff personnel in this communication process. District and synodical stewardship boards shall provide materials to assist in the process of communicating the adopted spending budgets and work programs of the District and the Synod, as well as receive information and suggestions for consideration by the respective Boards of Directors and conventions. Such materials shall be coordinated with the provisions of Bylaw 15.07.

a. (same)

b. The spending budget adopted by the convention shall be changed only to reflect unanticipated circumstances. Necessary changes shall be proposed by November 30 of each year and submitted in the format and under the timetable prescribed by the Board of Directors. The Council of Administrators shall review the proposed changes and make recommendations thereon to the Board of Directors.

b. (delete)

c. By January 31 of each year the procedure outlined in 9.02 b will be followed.

c. By February 15 of each year the procedure outlined in 9.02 b will be followed.

d. By February 15 of each year the Board of Directors of the Synod shall review the commitments from Districts and any proposed changes to the spending budget together with the Council of Administrators recommendations thereon. The board shall then adopt a final budget for the next fiscal year provided such spending budget does not exceed the total amount authorized by convention as adjusted for inflation.

d. By April 15 of each year the Board of Directors of the Synod shall review the commitments from Districts and any proposed changes to the spending budget together with the Council of Administrators recommendations thereon. The board shall then adopt a final budget for the next fiscal year.

e. In the event commitments from Districts will not support the total spending authorized by the delegate convention as adjusted for inflation, the Board of Directors may convene a meeting of the floor committee and the District Presidents and Council of Administrators, who together with the board will review the synodical program and discuss the total ministry being affected by the Synod and its Districts so as to decide upon a course of action to resolve the imbalance.

e. In the event commitments from the Districts will not support the total spending budget, the Board of Directors may convene a meeting of the District Presidents and Council of Administrators and one person appointed by each District President, preferably the member of the floor committee, who together with the board will review the synodical program and discuss the total ministry being effected by the Synod and its Districts so as to decide on a course of action to resolve the imbalance.

9.04 Budget and Work Program Preparation

9.04 Budget and Work Program Preparation

a. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for coordinating the preparation of the budget and work program as defined in Bylaw 2.85.

a. (same)

b. In preparation of the annual District budget and/or work program, representatives of the Board of Directors and/or Board of Stewardship of the Synod shall meet with the appropriate officials in each

b. (same)

District, including the representative on the floor committee, to share information and plans concerning the total ministry of the District and the Synod.

9.06 District Conventions

a. Each District shall arrange for adequate time at its convention for a report on the budget and work program of the Synod. Such report shall be made by the District representatives on the floor committee at the prior year's convention and a representative of the Synod's Board of Directors and/or Board of Stewardship in cooperation with the District Board of Stewardship.

b. The responsible District floor committees shall discuss the Synod and District spending budgets and work programs and provide suggestions for consideration by the respective boards of directors.

9.06 District Conventions

a. Each District shall arrange for adequate time at its convention for a report on the budget and work program of the Synod. Such report shall be made by a representative of the Synod.

b. (same)

Action: *Adopted (6).*

(The convention dispensed with the reading of these Bylaws since this resolution grew out of the previous resolution, which had been adopted.)

To Support Our Seminaries

RESOLUTION 12-08

Overtures 12-07—12-09 (*CW*, pp. 254—255)

WHEREAS, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, have served the entire Synod well; and

WHEREAS, The Boards of Control of our seminaries have expressed a need and have petitioned for increased financial support from the Synod; and

WHEREAS, The Synod has made provision for the coordination and approval of special fundraising efforts, as reflected in Bylaws 9.71 and 9.73; and

WHEREAS, Our seminaries, while a part of the system, have unusual and unique circumstances that govern their financial situations; therefore be it

Resolved, That the request for special exemption for solicitation privileges by our Concordia seminaries be declined; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod do all in its power to increase growth in the grace of giving, so that greater financial support might be granted to our institutions of higher education; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Higher Education and the Board of Directors be instructed to give special consideration to our seminaries' financial needs; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod give thanks to God for the blessings He has bestowed on our church through our seminaries and pray God's continued blessings on them.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

To Establish Minimum Dollar Support of World Relief/Hunger Programs

RESOLUTION 12-09

Overture 12-11 (*CW*, p. 255)

WHEREAS, Our Lord Jesus considered the poor His brothers and met their physical as well as spiritual needs in His ministry (Matt. 25:34-40; Matt. 14:15-21; etc.); and

WHEREAS, Daily more than 10,000 people—mostly infants under five and mothers—die of starvation or malnutrition complicated by disease; and

WHEREAS, Love moves the members of the Synod to set an annual goal of $2 million for World Relief/World Hunger projects administered for the most part by Lutheran missionaries and Christian agencies in 36 nations; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod encourage its constituent congregations to contribute a minimum of one dollar per year per communicant member to LCMS World Relief/World Hunger to help meet our Savior's mandate that our Christian love be expressed by feeding, clothing, housing, and caring for the needy.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

To Intensify Fundraising Effort for Housing for Low-Income Families and Elderly

RESOLUTION 12-10

Overture 12-10 (*CW*, p. 255)

WHEREAS, The Synod has empowered the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief to develop a program of education and action concerning housing for low- and moderate-income families, as well as for elderly persons; and

WHEREAS, The $325,000 gathered initially in 1969 for the Keys for Christ effort has generated dignified housing valued in excess of $50,000,000; and

WHEREAS, The funds gathered through the Keys for Christ effort have benefited approximately 10,000 people; and

WHEREAS, Congregations serving as sponsors of housing projects must provide a percentage of the

financing of the cost of new housing construction to be eligible under Program 202 of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

WHEREAS, There still is an acute need for appropriate housing for the poor and the elderly; and

WHEREAS, The present funding level of our Keys for Christ program intended to help congregations and groups to initiate steps to create new housing construction or to rehabilitate existing housing to make it livable is most inadequate; and

WHEREAS, Keys for Christ continues to witness to the "faith that works by love"; and

WHEREAS, Additional funds in the Keys for Christ account are badly needed; therefore be it

Resolved, That in the next biennium the Board of Social Ministry and World Relief in consultation with the Board of Stewardship be authorized to intensify the Keys for Christ fundraising effort to attain an additional $250,000 for the revolving fund as an evidence of thankfulness for the 10 years of help given to many through this program.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

To Clarify Policy of Synodical Spending

RESOLUTION 12-11

Report L12-01 (*CW*, pp. 285—286)

WHEREAS, Resolutions passed at this convention may authorize work involving the expenditure of funds in addition to budgeted work; and

WHEREAS, There may not be sufficient funds to implement the work requested by this and past conventions, as well as continue work authorized by past conventions; therefore be it

Resolved, That each resolution adopted at this or any previous convention that does or may involve the expenditure of funds in 1979, 1980, and 1981, excluding expenditures for capital purposes for which borrowing may have been specifically authorized and for promised faculty salary increases, shall be interpreted and carried out as being mandatory only to the extent that there are current revenues, excluding borrowed funds, available in those years for these purposes.

Action: *Adopted as amended (10).*

(By amendment the convention added "and for promised faculty salary increases" after the word "authorized" in the resolve. See also Res. 12-13.)

To Continue Work Begun by Black Centennial Committee

RESOLUTION 12-12

Report 4-04, II, M (*CW*, p. 127)

WHEREAS, The Black Centennial Committee has worked hard on recruitment and funding to achieve goals set by the Anaheim and Dallas conventions; and

WHEREAS, the goal of recruiting and educating 150 Black pastors in the decade beginning in 1977 and of $1,500,000 to support this effort has not been reached; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Black Centennial Committee continue its work for another biennium; and be it further

Resolved, That this convention urge the congregations of the Synod to support this work with their prayers and offerings.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

To Fund Faculty Salary Increases

RESOLUTION 12-13

Overture 4-29A—B (*CW*, pp. 145—146); Report L12-01 (*CW*, p. 305)

Resolved, That the Board of Directors be authorized and directed to allocate $700,000 to the Board for Higher Education specifically for faculty salaries (Dallas 6-02), effective July 1, 1979; and be it further

Resolved, That we ask congregations to increase contributions for this purpose; and be it further

Resolved, That we ask colleges and seminaries to review their fiscal practices to help support this need; and be it further

Resolved, That this convention authorize the Board of Directors to borrow funds for this purpose if necessary; and be it finally

Resolved, That borrowing for this resolution be excluded from the Dallas resolution limiting deficit spending for calendar 1979.

Action: *Adopted as amended (12).*

(By amendment the convention added "and directed" to the first resolve. See also Res. 4-14 and Res. 4-28.)



A gift from our partner church in Hong Kong to help meet the challenges of the '80s

13. REGISTRATION AND CREDENTIALS

See "Registered Delegates and Representatives" and "Tabular Survey," pages 7 and following, as well as Minutes, Sessions 1 and 10.

14. REFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

(Floor committees availed themselves of the opportunity to refer petitioners to certain boards and commissions before bringing their concerns to a convention of the Synod [Resolution A] or to refer them to actions already taken by previous conventions [Resolution B]. Both of these composite resolutions were considered by the convention as part of the agenda-setting process. At that time the convention had the opportunity of amending both resolutions by referring specific items back to a floor committee for their further consideration.)

RESOLUTION A

WHEREAS, The Synod has created many offices, boards, commissions, and departments; and

WHEREAS, It would seem proper that proposals involving such units should ordinarily be directed to them; therefore be it

Resolved, That in the following instances the petitioners direct their concern or proposal as indicated below before bringing them to a convention of the Synod:

Overture or Report	*Subject*	*Board or Commission*
Ov. 1-10	China Mission	Board for Missions
Ov. 1-13A—B	World Outreach	Board for Missions
Ov. 1-18	Evangelism in Communist Lands	Board for Missions
Ov. 2-16	"Church Worker" Definition	CTCR
Ov. 3-11A—B	Definition of Doctrine	CTCR
Ov. 3-12A—C	Confessional Statement	CTCR
Ov. 3-13	Sacramental Union	CTCR
Ov. 3-14A—B	Communion Practices	CTCR
Ov. 3-15—16	Unionism	CTCR
Ov. 3-19	Witness vs. Lodges	Com. on Organizations
Ov. 3-28A—3-29, 3-31A—B, App. 3-01E	Role of Women	CTCR—Social Concerns Com.
Ov. 3-33	Women's Caucus	CTCR—Social Concerns Com.
Ov. 3-34A—B	Marriage	CTCR
Ov. 3-36	Educational Material	BPE
Ov. 3-39—3-40C	Social Affirmations	CTCR—Social Concerns Com.
Ov. 3-41	Lay Ministry	CTCR
Ov. 3-42	Mission Affirmations	CTCR
Ov. 3-43	Cults	Com. on Organizations
Ov. 3-46	Appreciation	President of Synod
Ov. L3-66	Worship, Refugees	Com. on Worship
Ov. 3-90	Fellowship Definition	CTCR
Ov. 3-96A—B	Fellowship Growth	CTCR
Ov. 3-97	Lutheran Fellowship	CTCR
Ov. 3-103A—B	LWF Membership	Board for Missions
Ov. 3-108	Full Gospel Fellowship	CTCR, Com. on Organizations
Ov. 3-109	Council on Inerrancy	CTCR
Ov. 3-122	New Supplement	Com. on Worship
Ov. 4-25	Church Extension Loans to Colleges	Ch. Ext., BHE
Ov. 5-33	Hawaii Teachers Conf.	CNH District
Ov. 6-34	Ethnic Colloquy Problems	COP
Ov. 6-35	Temporary Licensing Colloquy Program (4.61 f, 2)	Colloquy Board
Ov. 6-39	Married Student Housing	BHE
Ov. 6-54	Biblical Languages	BHE
Ov. 6-56	Rural Vicars	COP
Ov. 6-58	Writing Skills	BHE
Ov. L6-67	Evangelism Training at Seminaries	BHE
Ov. 7-15	Mission:Life Materials	BPE, CPH
Ov. 7-17	Early Childhood Programs	BPE
Ov. 7-21—22	Enrichment Programs	BPE
Ov. 7-31	Book on Pastoral Practice	Com. on Ch. Lit.
Ov. 8-06	Needs of Disabled	BPE, B/D
Ov. 8-10	Volunteer Workers	Soc. Min. & W.R.
Ov. 9-04	Landmarks	CHI
Ov. 12-06	Special Mission Contrib.	Board for Missions

Action: *Adopted as amended (1, 10).*

(Ov. 3-39—3-40 C was added in Session 1. Ov. L3-66 was added by amendment in Session 10.)

RESOLUTION B

WHEREAS, The Synod in convention has already spoken to certain proposals addressed to this convention; and

WHEREAS, There seems to be no compelling reason to amplify or to revise that previous convention action; therefore be it

Resolved, That in the following instances the petitioners be referred to previous convention action as indicated:

Overture or Report	*Subject*	*Convention & Res. No.*
Ov. 1-32	LAMP	Dallas, Res. 2-36
Ov. 3-24—25	Women's Ordination	Dallas, Res. 3-15
Ov. 3-26A—C 3-27A—B 3-30, 3-32	Women's Suffrage	Denver, Res. 2-17; New Orleans, CTCR Report I, E
Ov. 3-35	Antichrist	Const., Art. II
Ov. 3-93	AELC Fellowship	Dallas, Res. 3-16, 3-20
Ov. 3-98A—C	Intersynodical Discussions	Dallas, Res. 3-20
Ov. 3-100	Joint Services	Dallas, Res. 3-25; Const. VI; Bylaw 1.09
Ov. 3-101—102	Membership WCC & NCC	Detroit, Res. 3-03; Denver, Res. 3-04
Ov. 3-104	Alternate LWF	CTCR Report
Ov. 3-105	ELIM	Anaheim, Res. 3-06
Ov. 3-106	Reaffirm Anaheim Res. 3-06	Anaheim, Res. 3-06
Ov. 3-107	ELIM	Anaheim, Res. 3-06
Ov. 4-21—22	English District	Anaheim, Res. 4-02A
Ov. 4-52	OAFC	Dallas, 7-06
Ov. 5-12—13	Dual Membership	Dallas, Res. 5-01
Ov. 5-14	Roster Maintenance	Dallas, Res. 5-05A
Ov. 5-15	Seminex Graduates	Anaheim, Res. 5-05, 6-05
Ov. 5-16	Upholding Constitution	Anaheim, Res. 5-02A
Ov. 5-32	Dissent	Anaheim, Res. 3-01
Ov. 6-36	Strong Colloquy Program	Const. and Bylaw 4.61
Ov. 6-57A—B	Stewardship Training	Dallas, Res. 13-14A
Ov. 6-61	Right to Call and Ordain	CCM Opinion—Dallas
Ov. 7-19	Augment Bible Study	Dallas, Res. 7-11
Ov. 7-26	"From Out of the Desert"	Anaheim, Res. A; Dallas, Res. B
Ov. 7-27A—B	Doctrinally Pure Teaching Materials	Anaheim, Res. 7-14; Dallas, Res. B
Ov. 7-33A—D	"An American Translation"	Anaheim, Res. 7-20
Ov. 7-34A—B	Valparaiso University	Dallas, Res. 6-27

Action: *Adopted (1).*

LATE REPORTS AND OVERTURES ACCEPTED FOR CONSIDERATION

(Bylaw 1.27 b)

L3-66

To Prepare Worship Helps for Refugees

WHEREAS, During the last several years many congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod have sponsored refugee families from Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia; and

WHEREAS, Many congregations try to involve these refugees in the life and worship of the congregation; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod request that the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) prepare an interlinear-type translation of the worship services in *The Lutheran Hymnal,* the *Lutheran Book of Worship,* and the proposed *Lutheran Worship.*

Zion Lutheran Church
Hinsdale, Ill.
George C. Mueller, *Chairman*
Richard K. Lubeck, *Secretary*
Robert D. Koeppen, *Pastor*

L4-16

To Transfer Reformation, Affton, Mo., from English to Missouri District

WHEREAS, In a meeting of the general assembly of The Church of the Reformation—Lutheran, Affton, Mo., held Feb. 19, 1978, a decision was made by a unanimous vote to request a transfer to the Missouri District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod transfer The Church of the Reformation—Lutheran, Affton, Mo., from the English District to the Missouri District.

The Church of the Reformation—Lutheran
Affton, Mo.
Donald R. Eckert, *President*
Luann Liefer, *Secretary*
Gustav E. Sittmann, *Pastor*

L5-07

To Receive St. James Lutheran Church, Lynnwood, Wash., into Membership

WHEREAS, On April 16, 1978, St. James Lutheran Church of Lynnwood, Wash., was organized and incorporated under the laws of the State of Washington; and

WHEREAS, The constitution of St. James Lutheran Church of Lynnwood, Wash., was sent to the District President two months prior to the convention of the Synod, in accord with the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and we have received no negative comment to the effect that the constitution is contrary to the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions (*Handbook,* pp. 30—31); therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention at St. Louis accept St. James Lutheran Church of Lynnwood, Wash., into membership.

St. James Lutheran Church
Lynnwood, Wash.
Dale J. Christoferson, *President*
Melvin E. Ebert, *Secretary*

L5-08

To Accept Shepherd of the Desert, Page, Ariz., as Member of the Synod

WHEREAS, Shepherd of the Desert Lutheran Church, Page, Ariz., has requested membership in the Colorado District and in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, The constitution of this congregation has been reviewed by the Constitution Committee of the Colorado District and found acceptable; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention in St. Louis in July 1979 accept Shepherd of the Desert Lutheran Church, Page, Ariz., as a member congregation of the Synod and of the Colorado District.

Colorado District
Ralph A. Phipps, *President*

L5-09

To Receive Zion Ev. Lutheran, Whitehall, Mont.

WHEREAS, Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Whitehall, Mont., has applied for membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Whitehall, Mont., has in fact for many years been listed as a member of the Synod and has been represented at conventions of the Montana District of the Synod, although no record of its acceptance can be found; and

WHEREAS, The constitution of the congregation has been submitted for approval and nothing in it has been found to be in disagreement with the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions, and has been approved by the

Board of Directors of the Montana District; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in St. Louis, Mo., July 1979, receive Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Whitehall, Mont., into membership.

Board of Directors
Montana District
David A. Boehnke, *Secretary*

L5-10

To Receive Beautiful Savior Lutheran, Lees Summit, Mo.

We request to be received into membership of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod at the 1979 convention.

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church
Lees Summit, Mo.
Robert C. Terry, *Chairman*

(The Board of Directors of the English District has approved this congregation's constitution and recommends acceptance into membership.)

L5-20

To Receive Nativity Ev. Lutheran, Parshallville, Mich.

The voters of Nativity passed a resolution in assembly on May 2, 1978, to join The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Nativity Lutheran Church
Parshallville, Mich.
Rev. F. J. Pies Jr., *Pastor*

(The English District Board of Directors has approved the congregation's constitution.)

L6-67

To Intensify Training in Evangelism at Seminaries

WHEREAS, Our seminaries, teacher-training colleges, and terminal schools were established to meet the needs of the church; and

WHEREAS, The church, and the church growth is desperately in need of more and stronger leadership in evangelism; and

WHEREAS, Congregations are pleading for men who have this gift and have been adequately trained to use it in equipping the saints; and

WHEREAS, The primary mission of the church is to "go and make disciples" (Matt. 28:19); therefore be it

Resolved, That the previously named institutions be required to adjust their curriculum to meet these needs of the church; and be it further

Resolved, That they intensify their efforts to discover and develop those students who have been given the "gift of evangelist"; and be it finally

Resolved, That they move with haste to make these gifts of God available to the church.

Peace Lutheran Church
Sandusky, Mich.
Arno Hasslu, *President*
J. Frederich Walton, *Secretary*

L6-19

Report of Seminario Concordia, Porto Alegre, RS, Brasil

The Board of Control of Seminario Concordia, Porto Alegre, RS, Brasil, submits the following report, which marks the seminary's 75th year of service to the Lord.

Mission and Educational Philosophy

Seminario Concordia is dedicated to the purpose of recruiting and preparing men for the holy ministry in Brasil and other Portuguese-speaking countries. Successful completion of the seminary curriculum with conferral of the bachelor of divinity degree does not guarantee eligibility for ordination nor placement into the ministerium of the church. The graduates have to be recommended by the faculty for the holy ministry, which is done by a theological diploma.

The seminary also offers courses in continuing education for pastors and is preparing for advanced-degrees programs. In addition to the effort of continuing the education of the clergy the seminary started in 1978 a program for intermediate education. Those students coming from the Instituto Concordia, Sao Leopoldo, which offers a fine education on the high school level, enroll at the seminary in the "basic course," a year of college level education prior to the theological studies. This "basic course" may later develop into a regular college and may be located at some other place. The proper theological education is given in four years, three of which are dedicated to academic preparation and one year to vicarage. For some years the vicarage was reduced to a half-year at the end of the academic studies. Since 1979 the seminary has returned to the one-year vicarage.

Board of Control

Members of the Board of Control of Seminario Concordia are Mr. Haroldo O. Schelp, chairman; Rev. Harry Milton Kelm, secretary; Dr. Emilio O. Kaminski; Mr. Antonio de Oliveira; Mr. Johannes Engel; Rev. Ruben Eugen Becker; and Rev. Johannes Gedrat (ex officio). The board met once a month, except during the months of recess. They dedicated their efforts in helping the administration to introduce improvements in the area of the academic standards, the curriculum, the faculty, and the property. They had to develop a new system of meetings, since the whole issue of scholarship grants was in 1977 transferred by the church from a special committee to the Board of Control.

The District Board for Education established new policies and received a full-time executive secretary when Dr. Nestor L. Beck was appointed for that position during 1978. This brought also changes in the administration of the seminary, and the Board of Control made every effort to adjust to the new policies.

Enrollment

The academic year in Brasil starts in March and ends in December. There are two semesters, but until now the seminary enrolled new students only at the beginning of the academic year. The following numbers of students were registered during these academic years. For the first time we will have close to a hundred students enrolled in the theological courses of the seminary.

	1977	1978	1979
Basic course	—	31	33
1st Theology	22	—	27
2nd Theology	20	22	—
3rd Theology	18	20	21
4th Theology	21	16	17
Colloquy	—	1	1
Total	81	90	99

The classes start to become larger for two reasons: (1) the enrollment at the Instituto Concordia, Sao Leopoldo, is becoming larger; (2) the seminary is accepting students from other high schools and colleges through a special entrance examination, through which candidates are tested especially in their knowledge of Christian doctrine and the Bible. All need a recommendation from their pastor to enroll at the seminary.

During the biennium the seminary placed in the pastoral office a total of 34 candidates. There were 19 of the 1977 class and 15 of the 1978 class. One-third of these candidates were sent to the mission fields in northern and central Brasil.

The student association developed a great activity during the biennium. One of the major achievements was the return of the student publication *Nostra Vita,* which had been silent for more than 15 years.

At the end of 1978 the students received a helping hand through the organization of the seminary guild (ASAS) by a group of ladies from the parishes of Greater Porto Alegre.

During the second semester of 1978 the Board of Control authorized the introduction of physical education. The students organized their teams and took advantage of the facilities with new joy.

Faculty

As of Feb. 1, 1979, the faculty consists of 10 members, since Prof. Arnaldo Schueler started his contract on that date. During the years 1977 and 1978 there was no change in the faculty except change of positions. Prof. Dr. Martim C. Warth replaced Prof. Arnaldo J. Schmidt as president on May 31, 1977. From November 1976 to May 1977 Dr. Martim C. Warth was a guest professor at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, during his sabbatical year. Most members of the faculty are full-time professors. Only professors Mario L. Rehfeldt (church history), Dr. Donaldo Schueler (New Testament), and Hans Gerhard F. Rottmann (church music, liturgics) decided to work only part-time for the seminary. During the biennium 1977/78 Dr. Martim C. Warth (systematics) was acting president, and academic dean. Prof. Walter O. Steyer (missions) is vice-president and dean of students. Prof. Acir Raymann (Old Testament) is dean of admissions and records and served as secretary to the faculty. Prof. Arnaldo J. Schmidt (homiletics, pastoral theology) serves as director of studies. Dr. Johannes H. Rottmann (New Testament) is librarian. Dr. Otto A. Goerl (homiletics, symbolics) serves as director of research. Prof. Arnaldo Schueler (symbolics, philosophy) serves as director of literary production. Prof. Hans G. F. Rottmann served as dean of the chapel.

Prof. Elmer N. Flor (Old Testament), of the Instituto Concordia, served as guest professor during 1978. Rev. Hans Horsch (New Testament) was guest lecturer in 1977. Rev. Vilson Scholz (New Testament, librarian) and Rev. Paulo W. Buss (church history) were engaged during 1978 to substitute for professors on leave. Part-time instructors were Mr. Eli D. Thome (physical education), Rev. Mario Lehenbauer (English), Rev. Valerio Huwer (music), Rev. Carlos L. Feldmann (counseling), and in 1979 Rev. Norberto E. Heine (counseling). Dr. Walter G. Kunstmann is the only professor emeritus. The Rev. G. Grasel will prepare a course in institutional mission.

Since 1977 there are 25 pastors of the Greater Porto Alegre area who serve as instructors of the fieldwork program started with the second semester of 1977.

On sabbatical leave during the biennium were professors Dr. Martim C. Warth, Dr. Donaldo Schueler, Dr. Otto A. Goerl, and Mario L. Rehfeldt.

Academic Program

At the beginning of 1978, the 75th year of service to the church, Seminario Concordia published its first catalog. Until the middle of 1977 the seminary followed a prescribed program for the classes, without much choice for the students. Since the second semester of 1977 the seminary adopted the credit system, with some flexibility and choice for the students. In view of the small number of regular professors and the small number of students, the options are not very great, but they exist. This brought much change and many difficulties at the beginning, but the faculty and the students are getting accustomed to it.

At the same time the fieldwork was also organized in such a way that all students are engaged each week in one of the 25 parishes of Greater Porto Alegre. The students are accepted in the parishes by a special introduction ceremony. There are also special services at the seminary for the students who complete their first homiletics course and their worship course, to remind them of the seriousness of the sermon and the distribution of the Lord's Supper. Since 1977 there is also a special service for those who are assigned for vicarage and those who receive their first call.

There are still too many credits required if one compares with other college standards. But the faculty decided to have students for more time in the classroom

To Commend and Encourage Work Among Mentally Retarded

RESOLUTION 7-07

Report 7-04 (*CW*, pp. 217—218)

WHEREAS, Holy Scripture holds before us our Savior's command to preach the Gospel to everyone and reminds us that under our Head, the Lord Jesus, we as members of Christ's body all need one another and that we are to edify each other in the faith; and

WHEREAS, This year, A.D. 1979, marks the 75th anniversary of our Synod's ministry to mentally retarded persons and their families; therefore be it

Resolved, That we commend those in residential facilities affiliated with our Synod (Bethesda Lutheran Home, Watertown, Wis.; Good Shepherd Lutheran Home of the West, Terra Bella, Calif.; Good Samaritan Lutheran Home, Cypress, Tex.; and Cedar Lake Lodge, La Grange, Ky.) as well as those congregations and individuals who are ministering to mentally retarded individuals and their families; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage other congregations to sensitize their members and adults by offering religious education programs either by including them in already organized classes or by starting special classes and by other caring activities, such as parish advocacy programs, alternative living situations (e.g., group homes), etc.; and be it finally

Resolved, That we encourage congregations in those 36 states east of the Rocky Mountains served by Bethesda Lutheran Home, Watertown, Wis., to use the printed order of service available in bulk quantities and other worship aids offered free of charge by the Bethesda Lutheran Home to offer thanks and prayers of intercession at a special service marking the 75th anniversary of our Synod's many-phased ministries to mentally retarded people and their families, while also encouraging congregations in the West to use materials being prepared by Good Shepherd Lutheran Home of the West to celebrate the 25th anniversary of that residential facility.

Action: *Adopted (9).*

(The committee changed "30" to "36.")

To Encourage Continued Use of "That We May Grow" Materials

RESOLUTION 7-08

Overture 7-20 (*CW*, pp. 224—225)

WHEREAS, The Synod, through the Board of Parish Education and in cooperation with the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, produced and released an effective Christian education series, "That We May Grow," especially in the study of the Lutheran Confessions; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod, with humble thanks to the Lord's Spirit for equipping His church with gifts and keeping her in the truth of Scripture and the centrality of the Gospel of Jesus, recognize and commend the Board of Parish Education, the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, and those responsible for the production of the series "That We May Grow"; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations of the Synod be encouraged to use these materials more fully.

Action: *Adopted (9).*

To Encourage Observance of 200th Anniversary of the Sunday School

RESOLUTION 7-09

Report 7-01 (*CW*, p. 212); Overture 7-16 (*CW*, p. 224)

WHEREAS, 1980 marks the 200th anniversary of the organized Sunday school movement in the world; and

WHEREAS, The Sunday school has developed to be the major agency in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for the formal Christian education of adults, youth, and children; and

WHEREAS, The Sunday school promises to continue to be the most widely used agency for the Christian education of members and for evangelism outreach to the unchurched; therefore be it

Resolved, That every congregation be encouraged to observe in 1980 the 200th anniversary of the Sunday school—

1) to celebrate God's grace upon Sunday schools for 200 years;

2) to strengthen its ministry of Sunday school staff selection, training, and support;

3) to strengthen the administration and supervision of its Sunday school;

4) to evaluate its Sunday school curriculum and seek improvements that will more effectively meet the needs of its people;

5) to evaluate and strengthen its ministry with parents and families;

6) to study and improve the teaching-learning process in its Sunday school;

7) to explore creatively and implement changes that will make its Sunday school as effective and interesting as possible in accordance with its own individual situation and resources;

8) to consider ways to involve people often neglected in Sunday morning learning experiences, such as youth, adults, and people with learning difficulties;

9) to expand the Sunday morning ministry of Christian education by establishing and continuing to conduct weekday programs of Christian education, vacation Bible schools, and where feasible, Lutheran elementary and secondary schools;

to compensate the missing years of college education.

Some of the projects in the academic area are these: the improvement of the continuing education and postgraduate work, the establishment of extensions in northern Brasil during the summer recess, the development of the basic course into a regular college, improvement in the preparation for institutional mission.

Administration

The biennium brought many changes in the administration. After 15 years Prof. Arnaldo J. Schmidt asked to be relieved of the duties of the presidency. Dr. Martim C. Warth was appointed for two years while the issue of relocation of the seminary should be decided. In January 1979 Dr. Warth was appointed for another two years while the issue of administrative independence of the Brasil District should be decided. During his administration Prof. Schmidt always had the help of members of his family in the seminary office. The last fine worker, who was in charge of the secretarial work, of the business office, and of the personnel, left the day the presidency changed. So it was necessary to restructure almost every section. Some people engaged could not adapt and left after some time of service. Much time was spent in teaching new members of the personnel. Finally the Board of Control granted an administrator, a secretary, and at the end of 1978 an accountant, who help the president cope with the administration. The different deans and directors who started their activity during the biennium are of great help in the administration. The change to the credit system, the administration of the scholarship grants, the change in the accounting system, the change in fieldwork, the change of dining hall admission (from a global monthly payment to meal tickets), the semester registration, and the student's choices in the credit system—all this made the biennium a time of hard work, where not all battles could be won.

One of the major problems was the shortage of funds, especially in view of the fact that for some years almost nothing was spent for repair. This happened because the District discussed the question of relocation. Fortunately the Seminary Guild, created in 1978, is trying to be helpful. The ladies organized a kitchen for the students where they may prepare meals when the dining hall is closed. The ladies also equipped the commons for the students and will engage in the repair of other facilities.

The library is still very small, if compared with those in other countries. But the 22,000 volumes already represent a great asset in Brasil, where the library of the seminary is being considered one of the best in theology. Dr. Johannes H. Rottmann has been the librarian for many years and is now helped by younger men. His plea is to have a substantially increased budget for new books, especially in view of the postgraduate program.

Conclusion

The board, faculty, staff, and students are grateful that God has blessed their efforts to serve Him and the church through Seminario Concordia. They are especially grateful to the District Board of Directors and Board for Education, and sincerely appreciative of the support received from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod through its Board for Higher Education. May the Lord continue to make this seminary a blessing to the church also after the first 75 years of service in His name.

Board of Control
Martim C. Warth, *Executive Officer*

LX-02

Report of Lutheran Women's Missionary League

It is a privilege for the International Lutheran Women's Missionary League to bring you greetings from all its officers and members. May the Holy Spirit guide and direct you as you deliberate and take action on the agenda before you, so that our Lord is honored and glorified in all the deliberations.

We also take this opportunity to thank the officials of the Synod for the support given the league—and a very special thank-you to the congregational pastors who have given encouragement and direction to the leaguers in their midst. Counselors to the LWML are very special people, and we publicly thank you for your assistance in the advancement of the league program.

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League, better known as the LWML, is the official women's auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The League has an estimated membership of over 190,000 members in its 43 districts. There were 86 new societies added to the membership list during the past biennium.

The league was organized 37 years ago at St. Stephen's Church in Chicago; this marked the culmination of many years of waiting. As from the beginning, the motto "Serve the Lord with Gladness" in mission education, mission inspiration, and mission service continues to be the goal of each and every member.

The program of the league is directed by the board of directors, which includes the elected officers, LWML district presidents, committee chairmen, and advisory members, which totals 64 board members. The board of directors meet annually plus a preconvention meeting. The executive committee administers the league business between board meetings; 10 meetings were held during the biennium.

Evangelism, mission service, and Bible study (deeper into the Word) make up the three-cycle program of the league. Special emphasis is given one cycle each year in new programs and materials developed by resource people and drawing on the talents of the league members.

Innovative ideas are constantly being studied to be used in the league programs. One such idea will soon become a reality. 1980 seminars, "You Are God's Gift," are being planned for the 43 districts of the LWML. These seminars will affirm our faith in our almighty God (all that we are and have are God's gifts) and affirm

our role in the church, the community, and the world. All departments of the LWML will be involved in the meetings.

The seminars will be held on the district level and will be offered to all members of the league. This will be an inspirational and learning experience for all the participants as they once again affirm their faith in Jesus Christ: "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

A pilot seminar will be held Sept. 24—25, 1979, at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, with one participant from each of the 43 districts.

Materials made available for societies during this biennium were:

1977 convention filmstrip
Annual Bible studies—"Your Faith Is Showing"; "Jesus Speaks to Me in Parables"
Mustard Seeds—mini Bible studies—"Lift Me Up, Lord"
Annual prayer service
Lutheran Woman's Quarterly (300,000 copies sold each quarter)
Resource folder
Leadership training material
LWML Sunday (first Sunday in October)
Manuscripts, skits, and devotional material
Loan library—leadership and other program materials

Mission Projects for the 1977-1979 Biennium:

Lutheran Seminary, Obot Idim, Nigeria (TEE & library)	$75,000
Lutheran Hour, Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru	30,000
Lutheran Association of Missionaries & Pilots	50,000
Wabag Lutheran Church, Papua New Guina (radios)	20,000
Concordia Tract Mission	40,000
Lutheran Television—Family Special	70,000
Community Health Program, Guatemala	50,000
Alabama Lutheran College, Selma, Ala. (library)	40,000
Tacoma Seamen's Center, Tacoma, Wash.	35,000

The total mission goal for the international league in 1977—1979 was $560,000. (Districts retain 75% of the mite-box offerings; 25% is designated for the international mission goal).

The contributions given for the 35th anniversary of the LWML totaled $100,000. Lutheran Television received $49,349.71, and the Concordia School for the Deaf, Brazil, received $49,349.71. Printing of envelopes and postage was deducted from the total gifts.

The $14,000 in the bequest fund was given to Bethany Lutheran Church, Chinese Ministry, Elmhurst, N.Y.

The board of directors also voted to set aside $100,000 for the disaster fund of World Relief, LCMS. This will be given in four annual payments beginning March 1, 1979.

There was official representation at the annual meeting of the Lutheran Women's Cooperating Committee (LWCC). Members and staff present current materials used by their respective auxiliary (American Lutheran Church Women and Lutheran Church Women). Through the exchange of information we strengthen and encourage one another.

1980—400th Anniversary of the Book of Concord—We will celebrate our common Lutheran heritage and develop an appreciation of our faith together. The LWML Christian Growth Committee has participated in the planning and preparation of special celebration materials.

The 1979 International Lutheran Women's Missionary League convention will be held in Omaha, Nebr., July 16—19, under the theme "Sow the Seed."

This report has given us the opportunity to share with you the means by which the LWML through the help of the Holy Spirit equips the leaguers to better serve their Lord wherever and whenever He "hath need of them."

May His blessings of peace, love, and joy be with you throughout these convention days and always.

Helen Morris, *President*

LX-03

Report of Lutheran Council in the U.S.A.

A banner decorating the hall in which the 12th annual meeting of the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A. took place in March 1978 in St. Louis proclaimed, "Rejoice in the Lord." For the most part that was the spirit of the meeting, which accepted the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches as a council partner with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, The American Lutheran Church, and the Lutheran Church in America. As one of the speakers said in the debate on the membership application, "This is a great step in bringing us together in the fundamental tasks to which our Lord has called us."

The same meeting inaugurated a decisionmaking process intended to improve the efficiency of the council and its usefulness to the church bodies. In the new structure the largest number of representatives to council meetings are the church-body presidents and members of the council's standing committees, who in turn represent the cognate units within the churches. Therefore, according to LCUSA President George S. Schultz, "You have less potential of the council saying, 'This is our strategy in mission work,' only to find that it is not the strategy within the churches." He also comments: "There will always be inefficiencies in a conciliar arrangement. I go there, my counterpart from the LCMS goes there, our counterparts from the LCA and AELC go there, and we agree, for example, on the budget. Then we go back home, and, by golly, we still make independent decisions as to what we like, what we don't like, and how far we will go."

A major action for the 13th annual meeting of the council this May in Minneapolis was to be the election of a new general secretary to replace George F. Harkins, in office since October 1974. He plans to retire this summer. His successor was proposed by a committee made up of the church-body presidents and the council's president.

Division of Theological Studies

The Division of Theological Studies provides a theological forum through which pastors, teachers, lay persons and church officials can meet to discuss topics of special concern within the Lutheran family, as well

as topics of interest in Christendom generally. The division uses both "official" and "free" conferences, a number of other study procedures, reports, and publications in exploring these topics in a systematic and continuing way. The division is also responsible for arranging interconfessional and interreligious discussions involving Lutherans.

Leadership of the division is currently undergoing a complete change. William G. Rusch, associate executive director since 1971, left in December 1978 to become director of Fortress Press, Philadelphia. Paul D. Opsahl, who became associate executive director with the start of the Lutheran Council in 1967 and executive director in 1971, has decided not to serve beyond the expiration of his present term this July. For the foreseeable future the division will be a one-executive unit.

Studies Relevant for Lutheran Consensus

"The Function of Doctrine and Theology in Light of the Unity of the Church" was the subject of a major study involving eight conferences held between 1972 and 1977. Participants, who were named by the LCMS, ALC, and LCA presidents, examined how their denominations understand consensus in the Gospel as the basis for fellowship, how they interpret the Gospel, how much theological diversity is acceptable, and possible ways to manifest unity despite differences. The official report of the study, plus papers given at the conferences, was published in the division's "Studies" series and widely circulated in the three church bodies. All LCMS pastors received copies of the report, which the *Lutheran Witness* called "helpful because it shows where we are, both where agreement is a reality and where agreement has yet to be achieved under the Spirit's guidance. This report, then, becomes an instrument for prayer, for study, and for further work on the long road to consensus."

A practical study of "The Ministry of the Church—A Lutheran Understanding," which went on from 1967 to 1974, has had two spin-offs: an in-depth look at the relationship between the ordained ministry and pastoral counseling as a specialized ministry and a similar look at the relationship between the ordained ministry and institutional chaplaincies. Out of the first came a helpful statement published in the fall of 1978, spelling out the lines of accountability and giving guidance to pastors interested in becoming professional counselors. The examination of chaplaincies is in progress.

A major study on how Lutherans understand and use Scripture came to a conclusion in the spring of 1977, and essays given at the related conferences are being published this August by Fortress Press in a book entitled *Studies in Lutheran Hermeneutics*. Executive Secretary Samuel H. Nafzger of the Synod's Commission on Theology and Church Relations served as one of the editors.

The 450th anniversary of the Augsburg Confession in 1980 has prompted the division to prepare a document on "The Augsburg Confession in the Context of the USA" to be shared at an international consultation in Strasbourg, France, this October. President Ralph A. Bohlmann of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, is participating as the division's representative. Also being planned is a scholarly inter-Lutheran colloquium next year to commemorate the Augsburg Confession anniversary and the 400th anniversary of *The Book of Concord.*

Studies of Concern in Contemporary Christendom

Launched in 1974, an extensive study of "The Holy Spirit and His Manifestations in the World Today" has now moved into its third phase. The first centered on the doctrine of the Holy Spirit and its relevance for contemporary theology. Eight papers given at four conferences were published last year by Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis, in the volume *The Holy Spirit in the Life of the Church: From Biblical Times to the Present.* The second phase examined the theme "New Life." It involved three conferences held during 1977-78. The third phase repeated the three-conference format this past winter and spring and dealt with evangelism.

At the division's standing committee meeting last March, Professor Gilbert Meilaender Jr. of Oberlin College in Ohio, a member of the Synod's Social Concerns Committee, presented a paper on biomedical ethics. This was part of a process expected to lead to a major new study of a significant contemporary issue.

Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogs

Following an initial Lutheran-Episcopal dialog carried out during 1969-72, a second series began in January 1976 and is expected to continue through next year. The first series noted significant agreement on the Holy Scriptures, Christian worship and the centrality of preaching, and the Eucharist, Baptism, and confirmation; affirmed each other's ordained ministry; and recommended limited forms of intercommunion between Lutheran congregations and Episcopal parishes. The intention of the second series has been "to expand, clarify, and contextualize for the churches" the above conclusions. To date this has meant producing a common statement on justification and discussing apostolicity and the authority of Scripture.

A round of talks bringing together for the first time Lutherans and Methodists began in May 1977. This three-year series is centering on Baptism. To date a common statement has been drafted and is being refined. It deals with agreements and disagreements on how the two traditions understand Baptism and the implications of these agreements and disagreements for church life.

First talks in a Lutheran-Baptist dialog took place last April at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. This get-acquainted session concentrated on the plans for the dialog, which is expected to extend over three years and will seek to remove erroneous stereotypes.

After several planning meetings a Lutheran-Conservative/Evangelical dialog is to begin in the fall of 1979. Its format is four meetings extended over two years, at which faculty members from a group of

Lutheran and Conservative/Evangelical schools in the Midwest will consider initially "new birth and Baptism."

Explorations regarding a Lutheran-Pentecostal dialog have revealed little interest on the part of representatives of classical Pentecostal church bodies, and such a dialog does not seem possible in the near future.

A Lutheran-Jewish colloquium on mission and evangelism was sponsored by the division and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai Brith in May 1978 in Philadelphia. The event, along the lines of four Lutheran-Jewish colloquia held during 1969-74, indicated a significant change for the better in atmosphere and relationships. Many of the same participants gathered again this May in Philadelphia to talk about the concept of "covenant" from both Biblical and contemporary perspectives. Slated for the fall of 1979 is what is hoped will be a model for a local Lutheran-Jewish conversation. It will deal with the theme "The Sources of Religious Authority."

Division of Service to Military Personnel

The Division of Service to Military Personnel provides a means for the church bodies participating in the Lutheran Council to offer a viable ministry of Word and sacrament to Lutheran men and women in the armed forces, paramilitary persons, and their dependents. This support ministry includes assisting the church bodies in filling the authorized spaces for Lutheran chaplains, providing the chaplains with in-service training and counseling, arranging for the help of civilian clergy in communities adjacent to military installations, supervising several field ministries, and furnishing congregations with materials to help them keep in touch with their members in the military.

The division's staffing arrangement is unique among units of the council. Three assistant executive directors handle responsibilities related to both the division's common work and particular concerns of their church bodies. For example, the Missouri Synod representative on the staff, Milton S. Ernstmeyer, doubles as executive secretary of the Synod's Armed Forces Commission. Currently he also holds the honorary position of president of the Military Chaplains Association, which is made up of active duty and reserve chaplains of all denominations.

Support for Chaplains

At the start of 1979 the number of Lutheran chaplains on extended active duty in the Army, Navy, and Air Force numbered 286, including 100 Missouri Synod clergy. The number serving civilian parishes but on reserve with military units was 384, of whom 124 were LCMS clergy. The number with the Civil Air Patrol was 60, 20 of whom were Synod clergy. Participants in the military seminarian programs numbered 26, of whom 3 were Missouri seminarians.

In addition to an ongoing visitation and counseling schedule involving the division's staff, the chaplains, and their immediate military commanders, support was provided through an annual series of seminar-retreats aimed at the professional development of the chaplains. The 1978 series took a look at the Lutheran ways of doing evangelism and sought to equip the chaplains to help the lay personnel to be witnesses. One of the leaders was Executive Secretary Erwin J. Kolb of the LCMS's Board for Evangelism. Topic for the 1979 series was "Lutheran Theology Confronts Scientific Realities of Today," and the Synod participant was Paul L. Maier, professor of ancient history at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, and also Lutheran campus chaplain there.

A grant from the Aid Association for Lutherans made possible in May 1978 a once-in-a-lifetime chance for 39 Lutheran military chaplains to travel to the German Democratic Republic and walk where their denominational roots were planted. They were led by Oswald C. J. Hoffmann, Lutheran Hour speaker and history buff. He reported that the faith is alive there "because Jesus Christ is alive, and nobody is going to be able to change that."

Field Ministries

As of the beginning of 1979, the division's network of civilian clergy who serve as military contact pastors numbered 261, of whom 132 were with Missouri Synod congregations. These pastors were available to help Lutherans stationed in the area, to get their churches to sponsor military-related ministries, and if Lutheran military chaplains were nearby, to coordinate their efforts.

Through its Community Lutheran Armed Services Program (CLASP), the division has made grants to congregations near military installations to help them serve Lutherans on duty there. This program is now down to four grants, and all congregations near bases are being encouraged to support their own military-related work.

Overseas the devaluation of the dollar, a reduced U.S. military presence in some places, and political turmoil have caused grave difficulties for the division's field ministries. These now consist of four independent Lutheran congregations on Guam and Okinawa and in Frankfurt, Germany, and Seoul, Korea, and one service center at Olongapo, The Philippines. The independent congregations have a combined baptized membership of 653. The church on Guam is served by an LCMS pastor, John G. Fischer.

Organized in June 1975 by the growing number of U.S. Lutherans in Iran, St. Thaddaeus Lutheran Church, Teheran, held its final service on Christmas Day 1978. During its brief flowering the congregation became a loving fellowship of Christians who made the church the center of their lives. Also at the end of last year International Lutheran Church in Seoul absorbed the separate service center. The pastor of the Frankfurt church, Theol S. Hoiland, has the dual responsibility of arranging pastoral service for Lutheran military personnel throughout Europe and the Near East. This gives him the largest Lutheran parish in the world.

Keeping-in-Touch Materials

A new poster was produced last year and sent to all congregations. It carries the message "The love of God reaches out to his people in military service . . . and so does yours."

Every other month 35,000 copies of the publication *Lutherans in Step* continue to be made available to the LCMS Armed Forces Commission for mailing to the Synod's service personnel and to AELC, ALC, and LCA congregations for mailing to their service members. The publication carries brief items about what is happening in U.S. Lutheranism and lots of inspirational touches. Each issue also carries an updated roster intended as a referral tool. It lists all active-duty chaplains and military contact pastors, plus the places and times of Lutheran worship and Communion services on military installations Stateside and overseas.

Among the tracts, pamphlets, prayer books, and other devotional materials supplied by the division to congregations and military personnel, its most widely circulated item is a calendar card. A total of 211,092 cards were distributed in 1978.

Division of Mission and Ministry

The basic bylaw mandate for the Division of Mission and Ministry states that it is "to assist the participating church bodies by providing means for furthering cooperation in study, planning and program development in their mission activities and in their activities addressed to the social needs of individuals and groups." Its current programs concentrate on national mission planning, regional mission planning, social ministry planning, specialized pastoral care and clinical education, immigration and refugee services, national youth agency relationships, and American Indian services. Administrative support is given to a self-governing unit, the Lutheran Housing Coalition.

A recent change involved another related unit, the National Hispanic Lutheran Assembly. It was organized in November 1972 and ceased operations the end of February 1978 primarily because of the development of separate Hispanic caucuses in the LCMS, ALC, and LCA. Desired cooperation is now being handled by a Consulting Committee on Hispanic Ministry made up of representatives from these caucuses.

Harold Haas left the position of DMM executive director the end of May 1977 to become president of Tressler-Lutheran Service Associates in Harrisburg, Pa. Donald H. Larsen became executive director the following July, returning to the division after four years as head of the Office of Research, Planning, and Development. The social ministry planning desk, vacant since early 1977, was filled last summer by Richard W. Rhyne, formerly an administrative assistant to the president of the LCA's North Carolina Synod. In a restructuring of the Department of Immigration and Refugee Services to meet its growing program, Kenneth J. Stumpf, an LCMS pastor who has been with the department since June 1977, became associate director for administration, and an associate director for church and agency relationships is being sought.

National Mission Planning

Understandings of and emphases for carrying out the mission mandate, "go and make disciples," in the U.S. were shared by mission specialists and national and regional leaders of the LCMS, ALC, and LCA at a major conference in September 1977 in Overland Park, Kans. The 175 participants listened to each other, tried to reexamine their own mission priorities on the basis of what was heard, and pledged to seek ways to augment and complement each other's mission strategies. Roger W. Leenerts of the LCMS's Board for Missions presented the Synod's mission mandate, citing revitalizing existing churches, planting new churches, reaching minority groups, intensifying urban ministry, responding to social concerns, expanding blind and deaf ministry, and equipping the laity as areas of concentration.

Some of the "theses" that emerged from the mission conference have been on the agenda of the sessions each January, April, and September of the church bodies' national mission and ministry executives. Other items of current concern are publishing a Hispanic hymnal, holding a study seminar on "Black Theology—A World Perspective," and Lutheran involvement in and financing of the Joint Strategy and Action Committee, which brings together the national mission agencies of the major Protestant denominations in a group of task forces.

A limited consultation on Lutheran approaches to ministry among Asian persons living in the U.S. took place in June 1978 in Chicago. The 14 participants called for the formation of an Inter-Lutheran Consulting Committee on Asian-American Ministry, which was to take place this May in San Francisco. Principles of coordination and strategies for ministry were to be spelled out and the city's Japanese, Chinese, and Philippine communities visited.

After a four-year experiment in having seven theologically trained persons as managers of apartment projects, the Inter-Lutheran Apartment Ministry Task Force evaluated this effort and voted to end it. A second model under development since 1975 has endeavored to strengthen congregationally based ministries to apartment residents through one-day workshops for pastors and lay leaders in Overland Park, Kans.; Washington, D.C.; Seattle; Atlanta; Rockford, Ill.; and Santa Monica, Calif. The yet-to-be-completed evaluation looks "very positive" and shows an enthusiastic response to this approach.

Lutheran involvement in the National Farm Worker Ministry faces expansion. The workers have struggled in California to overcome powerlessness and to achieve a life of self-determination and new hope by organizing the United Farm Workers of America. This struggle is now spreading to Texas, Florida, and several states in the Midwest—and the ministry is accompanying it.

One aspect of inter-Lutheran nonmetro ministry is

getting pastors and the laity to participate in the annual series of two-week church leadership schools held at land-grant institutions. The 1979 schools were held at Colorado State University, West Virginia University, Michigan State University, and the University of Idaho.

Regional Mission Planning

Newly revised guidelines followed by the 21 regional planning consultations that meet each spring and fall are to be put into effect this year. They indicate how to deal with congregationally initiated ministries and other developments in this means of sharing plans for ministry and carrying them out. A consideration of the theology of mission was included on the agenda of the 1978-79 consultations, while the year before the special consideration was a study, "Church Membership and Community Statistics for Lutherans."

A three-day subconsultation held in November 1977 to inspect the needs of the 15-county "black belt" in south-central Alabama has had far-reaching effects benefiting one of the poorest areas of the country. The LCMS, ALC, LCA, and Wheat Ridge Foundation have given grants totaling $165,000 used to form the Alabama Rural Council, representing 25 institutions in the area. The council has received a $40,000 grant from the Farmers Home Administration, and additional federal funding totaling $3.5 million is in the picture. It has begun a major project in black rural church revitalization. Last January JSAC held a two-day conference in Alabama so that leaders of nine other denominations could study this model for possible duplication elsewhere.

Another highlight related to the planning consultations is the inter-Lutheran ministry to the "captive" audience of athletes, spectators, and technicians at the 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, N.Y. Planning began in 1977, the pastor in charge began work last March, and he will conclude the ministry two weeks after the end of the games next March.

Last summer the six regional planning directors studied during on-site visits 29 new Lutheran congregations started through the church extension programs of Lutheran Brotherhood and then shared their assessments that the programs are "very beneficial" with the church-body executives in church development. This help has allowed the churches to initiate more congregations than they projected.

Social Ministry Planning

The implications and effects of California's Proposition 13 on human services and related trends in other locales has been the subject of a major study by this desk. The resulting report comments that "complicity is the trademark of the tax revolt. The symbolic issue with all its facets is like a large domino game. Each action or interaction has serious implications elsewhere. Budget reductions cause cuts in staff, which cause increased caseloads, which in turn cause reduction in services, leading to inadequate response during a crisis. . . . Does anyone know, can anyone believe, that it often costs more to ruin a life than to nurture it?"

Assistance to the Lutheran Domestic Disaster Response Board has centered on training resource persons to coordinate the churches' efforts in meeting needs created by disasters such as the flood that devastated parts of Rochester, Minn., in July 1978 and holding a pilot workshop in disaster preparedness for district-synod and social-service-agency leaders in southern California.

Other work of this desk has centered on clarifying relationships with the Lutheran Social Service System in order to avoid duplication of efforts, a registration of sensory-impaired Lutherans under the auspices of the Inter-Lutheran Committee on the Sensory Impaired, and arranging a study conference on "Women, Work and Vocation" and a consultation to explore the feasibility and desirability of cooperation in ministry to mentally retarded persons.

Specialized Pastoral Care and Clinical Education

After almost two years of study by the Lutheran Council's Division of Theological Studies and in consultation with the Department of Specialized Pastoral Care and Clinical Education, a statement spelling out the relationship between pastoral counseling and the ordained ministry was released early in 1978. It was published in a brochure being circulated by the department. Among those especially interested in it were Lutherans attending the annual convention of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors, which considered the theme "Pastoral Counseling: Spiritual Quest and Professional Competence," and the convention of the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education. It was also on the agenda last July of a dialog between CPE supervisors and the faculty of Lutheran Theological Seminary, Gettysburg, Pa., one of several such dialogs the department seeks to arrange each year.

Another new brochure published by the department in 1978 contains revised guidelines for the work of the Lutheran consultation committees that assist the department and church bodies in being a "pastoral arm" to clergy contemplating preparing for or involved in specialized ministries. The work of these committees is being explained to the presidents and bishops of Lutheran districts and synods in a visitation effort aimed at reaching all of them by the end of 1979. The conveners of the committees, who met in December 1977 to revise the guidelines, convened again last December to work on a manual spelling out committee procedures.

Occasional communication with the 750 Lutheran clergy in specialized pastoral care was formalized in July 1977 with the introduction of a newsletter called *SPC*. It is part of a communication package that each year has three issues of the newsletter and an annual called the *SPC Journal*. The latter contains articles about issues of current concern in the field and in-depth presentations of creative programs.

Communication is being improved on a personal level through a growing number of regional conferences for clergy in specialized pastoral care. Over recent months these gatherings have taken place in Denver; Marathon, Wis.; Columbus, Ohio; Des Moines, Iowa;

and Seattle. Topics discussed have included "What Can We Do About Burn-Out?" "The Use of Dreams in Counseling," and "Grief Support Groups."

One of the articles included in the 1979 edition of the *SPC Journal* is "Hospice: A Call for Creative Care." The department is seeking to gather pertinent information on the concept of hospice care for terminally ill persons, with the intention of being a Lutheran resource regarding this subject. The first annual meeting of the National Hospice Organization was held in October 1978 in Washington, D.C. Three hundred people were expected, but 1,100 showed up. The person credited with starting the movement, Dr. Ceciley Saunders, was one of the speakers.

Ministry to the aging is the focus of two new departmental programs. One calls for the creation of a task force that will study the training and supervision of chaplains for institutions serving the aging, with the aim of improving the quality of such care. The other, funded by Lutheran Brotherhood, will seek to get pastors to come to grips with their own aging process so that they in turn can have a more effective ministry to the aging in their congregations. Ten seminars for 50 pastors each are to be held throughout the country starting this summer. The seminar leaders were trained at a three-day session in May at the University of Michigan's Institute of Gerontology.

Continuing education for those in specialized pastoral care, always a concern of the department, has been enhanced by $20,000 grants from Lutheran Brotherhood in 1977 and again in 1979 for individual scholarships. The fourth in a series of group experiences in continuing education will take place in January 1980, with costs met through a $19,500 grant from the Aid Association for Lutherans. The 150 persons expected to attend will consider the topic "Systems, Spirits, and Stories."

The department has a leadership role in two newly formed groups concerned about chaplaincy positions in institutions of the Federal Government. They are the Council on Pastoral Ministries in Correctional Institutions and the Endorsers' Conference for Veterans Administration Chaplaincy. Slated to be organized by next June by a number of church bodies and pastoral care associations is a formal Council for Ministries in Specialized Settings to replace the informal Interorganizational Consultation, which has existed for the past decade.

Immigration and Refugee Services

Resettling the constantly increasing flow of refugees from Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos continues to be a major concern of the Department of Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS). In 1978, 3,370 Indochinese refugees arrived in the U.S. under the department's auspices, bringing the total resettled since the Communist takeover of the three countries in 1975 to more than 23,000.

As of November 1978, 54,000 refugees who had escaped by boat and 122,000 who had come by land were waiting in various camps in southeast Asia for the chance to start new lives in other countries. In response to the plight of these refugees, the U.S. attorney general has continued to use his parole authority to authorize their admittance. Attempts are being made to change the basic immigration law to eliminate the need to rely continually on the attorney general, except in emergencies, and to increase the annual number admitted from 17,000 to 50,000—100,000.

Assistance in processing refugees overseas is being given by LIRS through a newly opened office in Hong Kong. The department is administering this office on behalf of several other refugee resettlement agencies, with costs covered by a contract with the U.S. State Department.

The response of Lutheran congregations to being involved in a resettlement ministry grew dramatically in 1978. The number of sponsors recruited went from 65 in January to 112 in December, and LIRS is working toward a goal of 200—250 sponsors per month. Assisting in this work is a staff person related to each church body. Alfred Bieber, formerly with the Synod's Board of Stewardship, is the LCMS representative.

One of the ways the department focused on refugee resettlement last year was through a national Lutheran conference on Indochinese refugees held in August in Madison, Wis. Chairman Leo Cherne of the Citizens Commission on Indochinese Refugees told the conference that "caring is less and less a spontaneous fact of American community life. But those who care, care deeply. And it is they who must be stimulated anew. Why? Because the lives and future of others who have suffered most is at stake. But perhaps more fundamentally because it is our own humanity which is at issue. Need denied and help withheld diminishes all of us who are unresponsive."

LIRS arranged for Missouri Synod President J. A. O. Preus and his fellow church-body presidents to meet in November 1978 with the newly named United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Poul Hartling, a Danish Lutheran. "I have found that one of our very best cooperating groups taking care of refugees is Lutherans," he said. "So I'd like to pay tribute to your churches, your people, and this work you are doing all over the world, not least in the United States."

The church-body presidents are featured in a newly produced LIRS film, "Room for a Stranger," which uses a documentary style to answer many of the questions congregations ask when considering a sponsorship. A handsome calendar related to the International Year of the Child in 1979 and bearing the message, "'Let the Children Come . . .!' Sponsor a Refugee Family," was among printed materials produced by the department.

Details have been worked out with Lutheran social service agencies licensed for foster care to resettle 250 unaccompanied children. At the same time the adjustments of refugee children who arrived alone during 1975—76 have been the subject of a study which was to be shared at a seminar this May in Geneva, Switzerland, sponsored by the Intergovernmental Committee on European Migration.

Other LIRS resettlement programs have centered on

Iraqi Kurds and Latin Americans. The Kurdish effort was completed in October 1977 with the arrival of the 29 families having 72 members who were assigned to the agency. In 1977, 21 Lutheran-sponsored families having 77 members arrived from Latin America, and in '78, 57 families arrived. Sponsors are being sought for an additional 100 Latin American families, part of a recently approved program admitting 500.

With the assistance of a grant from the Aid Association for Lutherans, LIRS convened a national conference on undocumented aliens in November 1978 in Burbank, Calif. The material presented to the 90 participants and the communication process that evolved will be utilized to shape a Lutheran outreach ministry related to this critical issue, including study materials a local congregation can use.

National Youth Agency Relationships

"Side by side" expresses a current emphasis of the Department of National Youth Agency Relationships aimed at increased understanding of how Lutheran congregations and Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Camp Fire, 4-H, and similar agencies can work together in a ministry with, by, for, and to youth. The emphasis has been carried out at a conference held in the summer of 1977 involving national Lutheran leaders, and in November 1978 a second conference focused on the district-synodical level. Local workshops will complete this emphasis.

"Side by side" was also the theme of a common bulletin insert produced by the department for Sundays in 1979 set aside to recognize Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Camp Fire, and 4-H. The insert promoted the three religious-growth programs offered by the department for Lutheran youth who belong to these agencies: Pro Deo et Patria, which has existed since 1944; God-Home-Country, started in 1951; and God and Family, introduced in 1977.

Because in 1978 the number of Pro Deo emblems granted fell to a new low of 299, this and the God-Home-Country program were recently reviewed by the department's standing committee with assistance from a task force of Christian educators and writers of Christian education materials. The decision expected was to develop a single new program called "Life with Christ." In 1977, 446 Pro Deo emblems were granted. Statistics on the other programs for the two years were: God-Home-Country, 78 and 97; God and Family, 72 and 373.

Something of a first related to religious-growth programs took place in October 1978 just prior to the 41st national convention of the Girl Scouts in Denver. Nearly 500 delegates and guests attended a panel presentation of all such activities available to Girl Scouts, and afterwards a group of 70 Lutherans met separately to be led in devotions by an LCMS campus pastor, Willard Rinnert, who serves at the University of Denver.

Efforts to get Boy Scout camps to employ full-time chaplains at their summer camps, carried out through the Church Commission on Civic Youth-Serving Agencies, have been enlarged to include placing spiritual counselors and catalysts of worship experiences at Girl Scout, Camp Fire, and 4-H camps. The commission's chaplaincy committee is also responsible for securing the two Protestant chaplains who serve throughout the summer at Philmont Scout Ranch, a national high adventure camp in New Mexico. In 1978 and again in '79 both were Lutherans. The committee had arranged for two chaplains—one being a Lutheran—to go to Boy Scouting's World Jamboree this summer in Iran. This event was canceled because of the country's revolution, and an international camping experience is being rescheduled for 1980, probably in Sweden, with the same two chaplains again available.

Sixty-eight representatives of 20 Lutheran Associations of Scouters and Committees on Scouting in 17 states attended the first national forum for such groups in May 1978 in Des Plaines, Ill. Their decision to establish a National Lutheran Association of Scouters is expected to be carried out at the second forum in April 1980 at the headquarters building of the International Lutheran Laymen's League, St. Louis. The new association would promote the sharing of ideas and resources among the local associations and committees, which now number 50, and help promote the programs of the Department of National Youth Agency Relationships.

A Lutheran section in a general conference at Philmont Scout Ranch on "Scouting in the Church's Ministry" this July continues the tradition of a training event for Lutherans held there each summer since 1961. Fifty Scouters were to attend, the same number that participated in a separate Lutheran workshop on Scouting last summer at Philmont. One highlight was a day spent observing Scouts engaged in outdoor experiences and considering the spiritual implications of such experiences.

Among developments in relationships with 4-H is Lutheran participation in an ad hoc committee seeking to renew an emphasis on the moral and spiritual values of this government-related program. The committee is preparing a basic document highlighting the "heart" H (the others are "head," "hands," and "health").

For their distinguished service to Lutheran youth through the various civic agencies, 15 members of Missouri Synod congregations received the department's Lamb award in 1977 and 12 in 1978. The total number of awards given Lutherans each of those years was 59. Synod recipients included Donald J. Hoeppner of Milwaukee, whose father Arnold had received the same honor in 1961.

American Indian Services

Assisting 41 American Indian tribes not yet Federally recognized to obtain such recognition received attention at the 1979 annual meeting last February of the National Indian Lutheran Board, which is administered by the division's Indian services desk and since 1970 has been the official channel of communication between "Indian country" and the Lutheran community. Plans were made to hold workshops in Boston, Atlanta, Seattle, Sacramento, and New Orleans, aimed at generating broad Lutheran and

ecumenical support for recognition of these tribes.

The annual meeting plus the central, eastern, southwest, and northwest NILB regional conferences held last year also concentrated on legislative efforts to abrogate Indian treaty rights, attempts to limit Indian fishing and water rights, other expressions of so-called "white backlash," and the importance of counting Indians in the 1980 census.

The February 1978 annual meeting of the board created a theological consultation task force with Sol Bird Mockicin, a Cherokee from Rapid City, S. Dak., as chairman. Its purposes include: ". . . provide American Indian Lutheran congregations and individuals with the encouragement and opportunity to assess and define their leadership development and ministerial needs in ways consistent with Christian theology and American Indian integrity; also to facilitate in specific instances the most resourceful and mutually acceptable provisions possible for satisfying such needs under existing and changing circumstances."

Lutheran congregations were urged to help support the NILB grants program for Indian self-help projects on Indian Concerns Sunday each April. The '78 theme, "Point of Partnership—Promise," stressed the opportunities for the NILB and Lutheran congregations to be partners in responding to critical issues and needs as identified by Indian leadership and to explore mutual ministries, and the '79 theme, "Point of Partnership—Perseverance," emphasized the words of Hebrews 12:1: "Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us."

In the most recent funding of Indian projects a total of $193,400 was distributed, including $70,500 from the LCMS. In most instances these modest grants provided seed money that generated other funding to improve the level of services for Indian people. They remain among the country's "poorest of the poor," plagued by high infant mortality, low life expectancy, low levels of education, high unemployment, and extremely low per-capita income.

Advocacy work during the past two years has included getting Congress to pass the following measures considered beneficial to the welfare of the tribes: the Indian Child Welfare Act, which provides jurisdiction for tribal courts in the foster and adoptive placement of Indian children and authorizes funds for a variety of programs aimed at strengthening Indian families; a joint resolution setting forth a clear policy of religious freedom for American Indians; and authorization of funds to operate tribally controlled community colleges.

Lutheran Housing Coalition

August 1, 1977, marked the fifth anniversary of the Lutheran Housing Coalition, which is governed by a three-member policy committee including Executive Secretary Leslie F. Weber of the LCMS Board of Social Ministry and World Relief.

Last year consultation services were given to 59 newly proposed housing projects, almost all of which are intended for the elderly, and consultation continued for 150 previous referrals. Sponsors are individual congregations, clusters of congregations, and social service agencies.

In 1977 Lutheran sponsors secured funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for 1,005 units costing $29.9 million and in 1978, 779 units costing $26.8 million. These include a 150-apartment building sponsored by Wollaston Lutheran Church, an LCMS congregation in Quincy, Mass.

Advocacy work over the past two years, carried out primarily through the Interreligious Coalition for Housing and the Ad Hoc Elderly Coalition, has concentrated on sustaining in the Federal budget enough money for no less than 300 subsidized units of housing annually (the projected minimum needed is 600,000) and getting money for a five-year demonstration program whereby residents of elderly housing projects would receive limited personal care and nutritional services.

Division of Campus Ministry and Educational Services

The Division of Campus Ministry and Educational Services is mandated to provide the church bodies with the means for consultation and coordination in campus ministry, church college education, and theological education; to undertake requested programs to accomplish this; and to conduct campus ministry on behalf of one or more of the churches.

The LCMS supports two of the division's units resulting from this mandate: campus ministry "common work" and the separately funded Campus Ministry Communications (CMC). It does not support the division's services to Lutheran colleges and universities, to national Lutheran student organizations, and in theological education. On behalf of the ALC, LCA, and AELC the division conducts campus ministry under the name of National Lutheran Campus Ministry (NLCM).

Personnel changes include the addition in September 1978 of an assistant to the executive director. He is Philip Schroeder, an LCMS pastor who was for five years director of the Center for the Study of Campus Ministry at Valparaiso (Ind.) University and as part of his new job spends one day a week continuing to guide the center's training and study programs. The CMC editor since its beginning in 1969 and a veteran of 25 years in campus ministry, Tecla Sund Reklau, was succeeded in January 1979 by Audrey Neff Hiney, a campus minister at the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, for the past decade.

Common Work

Sixteen campus ministry agencies serving 32 campuses are now fully coordinated. They have received consultative and advisory staff services, including the election of new staff members and term renewals, and districts and synods have received help in organizing new coordinated ministries.

"What is 'metropolitan campus ministry' anyway?" was the question addressed at a four-day conference held in Milwaukee, Wis., in November 1978 and made

possible by a grant from the Aid Association for Lutherans. The participants examined the radical changes that have taken place in urban higher education since the early 1960s, such as the campus as a place of learning being replaced by learning in a community context with many commuting students, and they then sought to spell out goals for ministry in such a setting.

This conference resulted from the work of a task force on metropolitan campus ministry. Other task forces have continued their efforts in preparing materials and developing model programs regarding issues of concern to the world community, such as hunger, and community college ministry, especially how to get nearby congregations involved. Plans were made for a new study centered on the lay staff in campus ministry and dealing with such questions as self-image and professional standards.

The eighth and ninth conferences for all full-time LCMS and NLCM campus ministers were held in 1977 in De Kalb, Ill., and in 1978 in Valparaiso, Ind. An orientation week for 15 newly appointed campus ministers took place late in 1977 in Madison, Wis., but last year this activity was carried out separately by the LCMS and NLCM.

Regular meetings of the church bodies' national campus ministry executives have taken place for the exchange of information and to plan new developments in common work.

Campus Ministry Communications

Circle, the packet of campus ministry news and resources issued eight times a year by CMC, has added new supplements dealing with contemporary spirituality, theology, and metropolitan campus ministry. Recent issues of the newsletter *Upkeep* have focused on a local congregation's ministry to students, religious illiteracy, and married-student ministry.

The CMC calendar distributed widely for the 1977—78 school year was designed by artist Richard Caemmerer and featured quotations from Sunday Epistle readings. The 1978—79 calendar was designed by Campus Pastor Paul Bosch and featured Sunday Gospel readings.

Newly produced materials have included a 16-page Bible study booklet on Daniel by LCMS Campus Pastor Michael L. Meier of Corvallis, Oreg., and a similar booklet on Micah by LCMS Campus Pastor Norman P. J. Metzler of Eugene, Oreg.; a four-page resource called "Questions for Christian Scholars" designed to stimulate thinking about the relationship of faith and academe; and a 1978—79 edition of *Idea Bank,* which lists over 1,500 films, books, games, ideas, and other resources on 64 pages.

Over 2,000 packets containing articles and other materials on today's cults have been sold, and an updated edition is in the works. A new packet called "Student-to-Student Ministry" presents a variety of models describing how students can minister to one another.

The unit has arranged for many showings of a filmstrip, "Campus Ministry Today: A Report," and has sent banners and materials about campus ministry to numerous district-synodical and national conventions.

Other Programs

The college and university services desk in Washington, D.C., provides full staff support for the Lutheran Educational Conference of North America (LECNA), including arranging for its annual meetings and helping with its current Curriculum Consultation Project. The desk monitors Federal legislative, regulatory, and judicial developments having an impact on Lutheran higher education and shares this information through a newsletter, *Description,* and occasional memoranda. The desk also coordinates an annual series of Lutheran College Days at which admissions officers are available to meet with prospective students and their parents.

The Lutheran Student Movement receives assistance in general administration, publishing newsletters and resources, supervising field secretaries, and holding annual assemblies. Attendance by 302 students at the assembly in August 1978 at Wittenberg University, Springfield, Ohio, was the largest in the movement's 10-year life and included 22 students from overseas. The assembly adopted a position paper on homosexuality calling for "the church to reassess its attitudes toward homosexuality in the larger context of the full range of issues related to human sexuality."

In theological education supervision is given to the intern cluster program, currently involving 11 seminaries and 450 interns-vicars who get together with their supervisors in 60 clusters for discussion and educational programs related to parish ministry. Assistance is also given to the annual meetings of Lutheran seminary presidents and deans and of internship and field education directors. Lists, surveys, and reports are prepared dealing with transferred theological students, Lutheran students and faculty at non-Lutheran theological schools, Lutheran doctoral candidates in theology, and staff salaries at Lutheran seminaries. Material collected in a study of Lutheran seminarians is being published by Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis, in a book entitled *Ten Faces of Ministry: Perspectives on Pastoral and Congregational Effectiveness Based on a Survey of 5,000 Lutherans.*

Included among the many activities of NLCM is the giving of research and program development grants. These have included a conference on the Christian faith and recent developments in technology at Penn State University, a series of training seminars in lay leadership for campus ministry in Ohio, a study of the role of women in the church today at Portland State University, and an international seminar on the Middle East held at Columbia University in New York City.

Office for Governmental Affairs

The Office for Governmental Affairs monitors governmental activities that would affect the life and ministry of the church; communicates the information gathered to interested Lutherans through a monthly publication called *Focus on Governmental Affairs,*

occasional research memoranda, and other ways; provides a common channel for the council and church bodies to express their concerns about public issues to Congressional committees and regulatory agencies and to inform governmental officials of Lutheran positions; serves as an ombudsman for Lutherans in solving church-state problems; and works with other church offices in Washington as well as nonreligious voluntary organizations in addressing legislative issues.

The 1977 LCMS convention voted that after two years of not supporting the OGA the Synod should renew participation with two provisions: "that the LCMS be allowed to exercise the option as to whether or not it shall participate with the other Lutheran bodies in any given response to, or communication with, the U.S. government; and that in this and other ways it make provision for the preservation of its position in both doctrine and practice." The convention resolution was implemented in November 1978.

Early this year the staff was enlarged from one to two assistant directors. Margaret Keller O'Bryon, a former legislative assistant in the U.S. House of Representatives, became the assistant director for program, replacing Allan C. Carlson, who was named a fellow with the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research. Lita Brusick Johnson, formerly an OGA staff assistant, became the assistant director for public issues.

An OGA-sponsored event expected to have both immediate and far-reaching impact on the ministries of the Lutheran churches in their relationships with the Federal government was a three-part consultation held early this year in Alexandria, Va., with most of the costs paid by the Aid Association for Lutherans. The consultation was prompted by repeated recent attempts by the government to define the limits of "church" and "church mission," such as a regulation promulgated by the Internal Revenue Service early in 1977 that narrowly defined the term "integrated auxiliary of a church" so as to exclude most church-related social service agencies, colleges, elementary schools, and hospitals. President Emeritus Albert G. Huegli of Valparaiso University served as chairman for the consultation, which was to produce documents giving guidelines for church-state relations today. Joining with the four Lutheran Council member churches in these discussions were representatives of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, Church of the Lutheran Brethren, and Church of the Lutheran Confession.

Recent Lutheran testimony in Congress has dealt with a proposed revenue procedure of the Internal Revenue Service dealing with alleged racial discrimination in church and private schools and a bill that would regulate the solicitation of charitable contributions by churches and other voluntary agencies through the mail.

The office has inaugurated a series of breakfast meetings for Congressional staff members as part of its "pastoral" work. At the first breakfast U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland stressed how his faith in God helps him make decisions that cannot be understood in "black and white" terms. Two Lutheran congressmen, Paul Simon of Illinois and Ron Marlenee of Montana, are cosponsors of the series.

The annual weekend seminar for Lutherans in government service dealt with the themes "Is the American Family Declining?" in 1977 and "Crime and Punishment: A Search for Justice" in 1978. Speakers felt the family was changing, not declining, and they urged churches to be open to those changes. If the criminal-justice system is ever to undergo needed change, speakers at that seminar emphasized, increased understanding is necessary. As one of them said, "Until we understand why prisons exist and what they're about, we can't begin to deal with causes and talk about alternatives and reform."

More than 500 church leaders, including 50 Lutherans, spent three days in Washington in March 1978 and again in March '79 for an in-depth briefing and discussion with members of Congress and government officials. These events were sponsored by two groups with which the Office for Governmental Affairs works closely: WISC, the Washington Interreligious Staff Council, and IMPACT, an ecumenical advocacy network. A relationship has been established with a new Interfaith Coalition on Energy, whose activities include getting church members to make a "covenant to conserve energy." Signers promise to lower thermostats in winter, turn off unnecessary lights, limit pleasure driving, and use public transportation or walk.

Since June 1978 at least one Lutheran college or seminary student has been in the office serving an internship. One of them, Rebekah Rintala of Burlington, Vt., a senior at Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, reported that "the best part of the whole experience was the warmth and support of the LC/USA staff, who by the example of their tender, loving care showed me how I can put my Christian faith into action. The Holy Spirit is alive and well in the Washington LCUSA office!"

Office of Research, Planning, and Development

The Office of Research, Planning, and Development maintains a library and a major collection of archival materials related to cooperative Lutheranism; gathers and compiles statistics; conducts research needed by the council and/or its participating churches; and plans, evaluates, and prioritizes the council's 28 programs through providing staff services to the Committee for Planning and Development.

The executive director of the office since its formation in 1973, Donald H. Larsen, became executive director of the Division of Mission and Ministry in July 1977. Responsibility for overseeing the inter-Lutheran planning consultations held twice a year in 21 regions of the USA was then transferred from the ORPD to the DMM. LCUSA General Secretary George F. Harkins has been acting executive director of the office, while Larsen has continued to provide help to the CPD.

Research and Information Center

An oral history project begun in 1976 has now grown

to include the memoirs of 57 leaders of cooperative Lutheranism. What they said in 88 interviews is contained in 4,500 pages of transcript. One of the 20 trained interviewers has observed that "through this project these conversations are going to last through the years as recorded, fascinating—and in some ways missed—history of Lutheranism in America. As one with historical interests, I envy the historians of the future for what they're going to have because this has been done." Former LCMS President Oliver R. Harms has served on a committee giving guidance to the project.

As part of an ecumenical consortium called Census Access for Planning in the Church, the office is gearing up for the analysis and expanded use of data gathered in the 1980 census.

Most recent statistics compiled on the size of the LCMS, ALC, and LCA showed that in 1977 these church bodies counted 8,018,595 members. This report rounded out a decade that started out with the three having 8,494,165 members. Ever since, they have experienced a decline, which started gradually, accelerated, and most recently decelerated.

Why persons who after a period of not belonging to a church rejoined was the subject of a special research project carried out last year in seven heavily unchurched areas of the country. Personal interviews showed that family responsibility, a crisis experience, the nonverbal witness of Christians, and organized evangelism were among the reasons church dropouts reverse themselves.

Statistics gathered about North American Lutheran high schools and primary schools for the 1978—79 school year showed that they are increasing in numbers and enrollments. The number of high schools went up by 8 to 84 and their enrollments by 3 percent to 21,919. The number of grade schools went up by 10 to 2,038, two-thirds of which are LCMS-related. Their enrollment increased by 4,038 to a total of 218,521 children.

The Advance Site Research Task Force coordinated by the office, with Executive Secretary Fred E. Lietz and Assistant Executive Secretary Arthur C. Haake of the LCMS Church Extension Board as members, has concentrated on the two counties of Riverside and San Bernardino in California. Thirty possible sites for new Lutheran churches were identified, and the LCMS, ALC, and LCA representatives have agreed on the purchase of five sites each.

Program Planning

At its semiannual meetings during 1977 and 1978 the Committee for Planning and Development emphasized evaluation and priority-setting through interviews with all of the council's executive directors; developed guidelines in consultation with the Committee for Administration and Finance, governing the committee's relationships with the CAF in the planning and budgeting process; and looked at current and future computer applications. In connection with the computer study the committee has requested consideration of "the feasibility of a common approach by the participating church bodies to program planning, financial accounting, planning and analysis, designing a common language, and suggesting new usefulness for the information being generated."

Office of Communication and Interpretation

The Office of Communication and Interpretation is directed to "publicize the objectives, scope of interest and activities of the council; supply information concerning the Christian faith and life as reflected by the Lutheran Church; assist the cooperating churches by providing a means for furthering cooperation among them in the work of public relations and communications; and supplement, at the request of the cooperating bodies, their activities in this field and interpret their faith, objectives and programs." OCI's four units carry out this mandate by working closely with religious and secular media and communication agencies; the council's various divisions, departments, offices, and related units; and the communication programs of the church bodies.

The Missouri Synod does not support OCI other than through an annual contribution from its Board for Public Relations. In 1977 this sum was $13,000 and in 1978 $13,500.

Consultation and Administration

The church body communication directors, including Victor W. Bryant, the Synod's director of public relations, and William B. Dingler, director of media programs for the International Lutheran Laymen's League, are convened quarterly to share developments in each of their offices and to plan cooperative endeavors. Currently going forward are a series of convocations for Lutherans in media and a Lutheran Media Mission project using print, radio, and television to "strengthen Lutheran presence in communities where such a presence is new or not well known."

Administrative services are provided to the separately incorporated unit, Lutheran Film Associates, which early this year completed a 90-minute TV special, "The Joy of Bach," celebrating the music and life of Johann Sebastian Bach. Its placement in prime time on a TV network in the U.S. is being arranged, as are showings in Switzerland, Holland, Ireland, West Germany, and other countries overseas. Meanwhile LFA has begun considering an appropriate sequel.

Broadcast and Film Relations

The continuing effort to place Lutheran spokespersons on radio and TV talk shows recently experienced a record with Director Edward A. Rauff of the council's Research and Information Center, who is an LCMS pastor, talking about "why church dropouts drop back in" on 54 programs.

A 20-minute filmstrip, "Who Are the Lutherans?" was released early last year, and to date 2,700 Lutheran congregations have purchased copies. Early this year a 20-minute 16mm film, "Room for a Stranger," was released to help in the recruitment of Lutheran congregations as sponsors of refugees. It has an opening section by LCMS President J. A. O. Preus.

News Bureau

In 1977, 67 news services incorporating a total of 280 stories and in 1978, 55 services with 264 stories were prepared and distributed to more than 500 newspapers, magazines, and other communication outlets. Added to the services last year were short items in a section called "More," plus commentaries on pertinent topics. Summaries of the stories were sent out semimonthly primarily to Lutheran leaders, and a growing number were adapted for the electronic media.

Press and broadcast assistance was provided for the 1977 convention of the LCMS and the 1978 conventions of the AELC, LCA, and ALC.

Early this year facsimile equipment was installed in the News Bureau in New York City and the LCMS and ALC communication offices in St. Louis and Minneapolis, respectively. This makes possible the transmission of the text of stories via the telephone. The hope is to add the LCA and AELC to the network.

Publications

A book-sized volume, *Mandate for Mission,* was among the many brochures, reports, directories, and posters edited, designed, and printed during the past two years. It contains addresses on mission in the U.S. given at a September 1977 conference of mission specialists and national and regional leaders of the LCMS, ALC, and LCA. A folder containing the report on a major council study, "The Function of Doctrine and Theology in Light of the Unity of the Church," was prepared for mailing to all LCMS pastors.

The newest addition to the council's newsletter "family," *SPC,* received a grand award for "overall excellence, appropriate design, typography, photographic quality and printing quality" at the annual conference of the Newsletter Association of America in May 1978. This is the fourth such award won by council newsletters since 1974.

George F. Harkins, *General Secretary*

Ap. 3-01B
Section A, 3
(Addendum)

Addendum to Report of LCMS Representatives on the LCMS-ALC Fellowship Commission, *Workbook,* pp. 82—84

(In the printing process the last page of the report containing observations 3—8 was lost. We are therefore printing it here and reprinting also Observations 1 and 2).

Concluding Observations

1. The ALC's adoption of the Statement on Communion Practices appears to abandon the historic Lutheran acceptance of the "Galesburg Rule." This has profound implications for the understanding of the nature and basis of fellowship.

2. Future discussions with The American Lutheran Church will need to deal very carefully with the question of how the ALC views the limits of diversity within a confessional church body.

3. Because of logistical and other problems, it appears unlikely that the ALC and the LCMS will find it feasible to carry on multilevel discussions on the doctrinal differences existing between the church bodies.

4. Although the ALC has failed to declare an unambiguous official position on abortion, it nevertheless appears that many members of the ALC hold to an essentially pro-life position.

5. Discussions within the commission and between the faculty representatives of the two church bodies during the past biennium have continued to reflect considerable difference between the two church bodies, not only on such particular points as Biblical authority, confessional identity, the ordination of women, and the basis of fellowship, but also on the very possibility of formulating doctrinal statements with finality.

6. Discussions between the two church bodies have remained cordial and helpful in clarifying various points of view. However, little if any progress has been made in reaching doctrinal agreement on the controverted issues.

7. There is considerable unclarity on the meaning of fellowship within Lutheranism in America. This can be resolved only through in-depth study and discussion.

8. We are grateful for the areas of agreement that exist between the ALC and the LCMS, and we welcome the opportunity to confront, under Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, the doctrinal differences that strain and threaten the relationship between our two church bodies.

LCMS Representatives to the Commission on Fellowship
J.A.O. Preus, *Chairman*
Karl Barth
Lloyd Behnken
Ralph Bohlmann
Kurt Marquart
Samuel Nafzger

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by Erich B. Allwardt

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