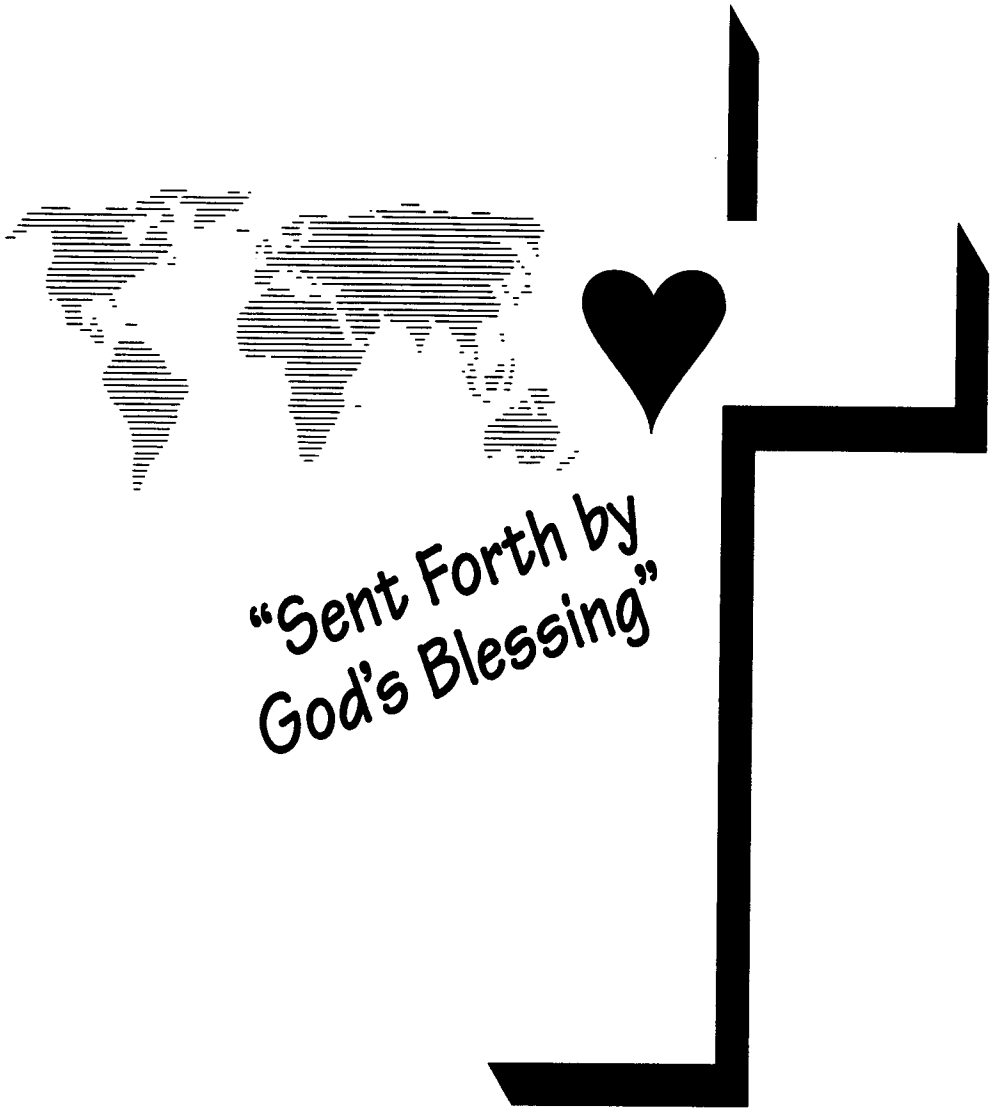


Convention Proceedings

59th Regular Convention

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
ST. LOUIS, MO • JULY 15–21, 1995

Convention Proceedings 1995

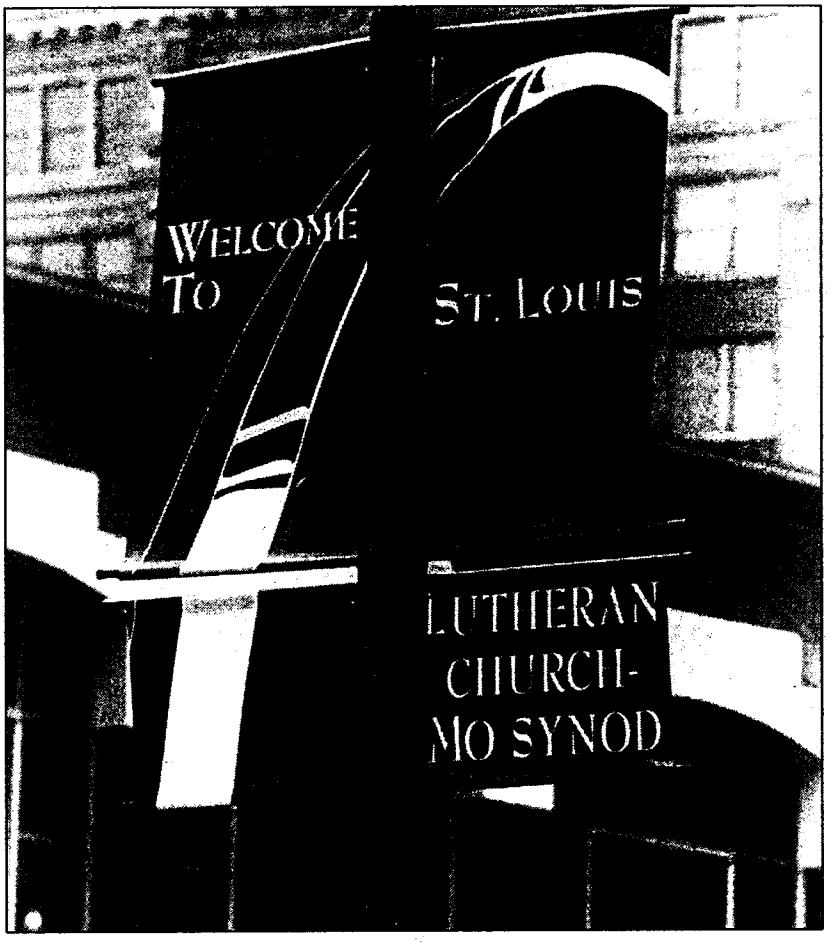


Convention Proceedings

59th Regular Convention

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

ST. LOUIS, MO • JULY 15–21, 1995


WELCOME
TO
ST. LOUIS
LUTHERAN
CHURCH-
MO SYNOD



CONTENTS

PAGE

Preface: "Sent Forth by God's Blessing" 5
Officers of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod 6
Convention Arrangements Staff 6
Today's Business Staff 6
Registered Delegates and Representatives 7
Tabular Survey 16
Convention Floor Committees 17
Convention Schedule 19
Minutes of the Convention 21
Election Results 47
Special Standing Rules 51
Miscellaneous Resolutions and Resolutions of Thanks 53
Special Recognition 55
Presidential Proclamation for Jubilee Years of Congregational Celebration 57
Report of the President—A. L. Barry 59
Convention Sermon—A. L. Barry 71
150th Anniversary Bible Study—Karl L. Barth 75
Convention Essays
1. Grow in the Word—Richard J. Shuta 83
2. Grow in Outreach—Paul M. Heerboth 87
3. Growth in Giving—Charles O. Smith 92
Convention Surveys 97
Other Presentations
1. Greetings of President Emeritus—Ralph A. Bohlmann 99
2. A Tribute to J. A. O. Preus—Robert C. Sauer 101
3. First Vice-President's Address to the Convention—August T. Mennicke 102
4. Greetings of the President of Lutheran Church—Canada—Edwin Lehman 104
Resolutions
1. Missions 105
2. Congregational Services 109
3. Theology and Church Relations 117
4. Program and Finance 129
5. Higher Education 133
6. Human Care 141
7. Structure, Planning, and Administration 147
Omnibus Resolutions 159
Late Reports and Overtures 161
Reports and Overtures Correlated with Resolutions 169
Entered into Rest 173
Index 175

Additional copies of 1995 *Convention Proceedings* are available through Concordia Publishing House Stock Number 09-2598




Fort
lessi

PREFACE

"Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

From its very beginning The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has had a double focus, that of its firm commitment to the Word of God with its message of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and its desire to share that message. Consequently, as it approaches the 150th anniversary of its founding on April 26, 1847, it is not surprising that the theme "Sent Forth by God's Blessing" was chosen both as the theme for the convention which marks the preparation for celebration, as well as the anniversary itself. The logo reflecting the theme, found on the cover of these *Proceedings* and other convention materials, was designed by a young woman of Vietnamese origin who had come to the United States and through the witness of a young man, now her husband, had come to know the love of God in Jesus Christ. The Presidential Proclamation found elsewhere in these *Proceedings* identifies the years 1995–98 as "Jubilee Years of Congregational Celebration."

The 59th Regular Convention of the Synod was in itself an anniversary celebration. It recognized the mission efforts of the Synod, observing the centennial of foreign mission work in India. It recalled the beginning of ministry to the deaf in 1894 and noted that for 75 years campus ministry has been an important ministry of the Synod. Added to these was the celebration of the 150th anniversary of Concordia Theological Seminary. Truly, the members of the Synod have been blessed and have been *sent forth by God's blessing* to be a blessing to others. As we approach the 21st century, the crucial need to proclaim and live the Gospel is more apparent than ever.

While it is true that much of the work of a convention involves legislation, other aspects are equally important. These provide opportunities for worship, fellowship, nurture, and celebration as the voting delegates representing the 6,000 plus congregations which form the Synod, the advisory delegates and representatives, and guests and fellow Christians gather together.

The 59th Regular Convention was no different as it began with an inspiring worship service which included the celebration of Holy Communion. It continued with a worship service on Sunday morning, especially recognizing ministry to the deaf and providing an opportunity for a special mission offering. Delegates were nurtured through special Bible studies led by Dr. Karl Barth, director of the 150th Anniversary Celebration, and through essays delivered by Dr. Richard Schuta, Dr. Paul Heerboth, and Rev. Charles Smith. All of this is in keeping with the Bylaw which states that in addition to legislation, "the national convention of the Synod shall afford an opportunity for worship, nurture, inspiration, fellowship, and the communication of vital information."

Several new features were added at the convention which had not been present previously. Another omnibus resolution, Resolution D, was added. A special standing rule governing major resolutions provided that a decision on a matter would be reached in no more than 90 minutes. During the convention, an additional standing rule, reflecting the use of advanced technology, banned all electronic communication devices from the delegate section. Quite likely this will become a permanent addition to the standing rules for future conventions.

Without the cooperation and assistance of many individuals and groups, it would have been impossible for the convention to operate smoothly. Included among these are the local convention committee, those responsible for the daily production of *Today's Business,* Dr. D. Ray Halm, assistant secretary, whose use of computer equipment continues to make the minutes quickly available and provides for the more efficient consideration of proposed amendments as well as other matters, Lynne Neuman for the convention and meeting planning, the hard-working floor committees and many, many others.

In order to enable readers to make fullest use of the *Proceedings,* the following explanation is offered.

Some resolutions have an A or B attached to their identifying number. This means that the resolution originally prepared by the floor committee was later revised by the committee, usually in response to reactions received before the opening of the convention. The number in parentheses below each resolution indicates the session in which final action, if any, was taken. In some instances it might be advisable to consult the minutes of that session for additional information. The comments in small type within parentheses below some resolutions provide still more information from the records of both secretaries and from the minutes.

References to page numbers which appear in the minutes are references to issues of *Today's Business,* a publication which contains the text of proposed resolutions prepared by the floor committees. The first issue of this publication was sent to all congregations and delegates prior to the convention and contained practically all resolutions. The daily issues distributed at the convention brought the revised versions to the attention of the delegates.

In one sense, the 1995 convention of the Synod is now history. In another sense, however, it is still to be lived as the resolutions adopted are implemented in the Districts, Circuits, congregations, and at the national level of the Synod. May the spirit of God guide all who are a part of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as, sent forth by God's blessing, they focus on continuing in the Word of God's love and grace in Christ Jesus and the sharing of that message of His love with the world which is in dire need of it.

OFFICERS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

President
Rev. Alvin L. Barry, MTh., D.D.

First Vice-President
Rev. August T. Mennicke, D.D., Litt.D., St. Louis, MO

Second Vice-President
Rev. Robert King, Ph.D., Jefferson City, MO

Third Vice-President
Rev. Eugene Bunkowske, Ph.D., Litt.D., Fort Wayne, IN

Fourth Vice-President
Rev. Robert Sauer, D.D., St. Charles, MO

Fifth Vice-President
Rev. Walter A. Maier, Th.D., Fort Wayne, IN

Secretary
Rev. Walter L. Rosin, Th.D., LH.D., Ballwin, MO

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

CONVENTION ARRANGEMENTS STAFF

Mr. John Whaley, *Convention Manager*
Ms. Lynne Neuman, *Assistant Convention Manager*
Rev. Ray Mirly, *Worship Coordinator*
Mr. Mark Bender, *Music Coordinator*
Rev. Paul Devantier, *Public Relations*

TODAY'S BUSINESS STAFF

Mary Renfer, *Managing Editor*
Dan Burroughs, *DEC System Specialist*
Bob Daugherty, *Computer Hardware Specialist*
Karen Schrader
Sandra Bossman
Pearl Houghton
Linh Milfelt
Diane Ricke
Fern Ruth
Marti Schlegel

REGISTERED DELEGATES AND REPRESENTATIVES

A. Voting and Advisory Delegates

Atlantic District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Witschy, Emil; 2322 Gurenson Ln., Niskayuna, NY 12309
2. Hempel, William; 4 Joseph Terr., Albany, NY 12203
3. Scheich, Jeffrey; 36 Longview Dr., Fishkill, NY 12524
4. Schonberg, Christian; 31 Milford St., Hawthorne, NY 10532
5. Meritt, Kelly-Ray; 2090 E. Tremont Ave. #10H, The Bronx, NY 10462
6. Theimer, Doyle J.; 197 Maujer St., Brooklyn, NY 11206
7. Schultheis, Vernon; 33-38 75th St., Jackson Heights, NY 11372
8. Li, John; 86-60 188th St., Jamaica Estates, NY 11423
9. Griffin, Marvin; 172-46 Brocher Rd., Jamaica, NY 11434
10. Berry, James W.; 453 Stewart Ave., Bethpage, NY 11714
11. Froehlich, Charles; 18 Candlewood Path, Dix Hills, NY 11746
12. Fleischmann, John G.; 119 Ocean Ave., Center Moriches, NY 11935

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Schenone, Leo; 10 Palmer Terr., Gansevoort, NY 12831
2. Greenman, Robert; 18 Sunset Drive, Delmar, NJ 12054
3. King, Alfred; Box 377, Twin Brooks Dr., Chester, NY 10918
4. Clark, Andrea; 383 Warburton Ave., Apt. 2E, Yonkers, NY 10701
5. Edwards, Emma; 95-117 Ravine Ave., #VCSD, Yonkers, NY 10701
6. Heming, William Jr.; 36 Egbert Ave., Staten Island, NY 10310
7. Forste, Henry; 64-22 - 80th Ave., Glendale, NY 11385
8. Howard, Elcyne; 144-63 35th Ave., Apt. 4M, Flushing, NY 11354
9. Friday, Anita; 100-24 205 Pl., Hollis, NY 11423
10. Meyer, Marie; 7 Devereux Pl., Garden City, NY 11530
11. Reuter, Gustov A.; 37 Thrush Dr., Brentwood, NY 11717
12. Koepchen, Louise; PO Box 2326, Setauket, NY 11733

C. Advisory Pastor

Eberle, William; Clifton Park, NY

D. Advisory Teachers

Mayer, Heidi; The Bronx, NY
Zuelsdorf, Tony; Albany, NY
Puls, Douglas; East Patchogue, NY

California-Nevada-Hawaii District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Stennfeld, Fred H.; 5505 Diamond Hts. Blvd., San Francisco, CA 94131
2. Mohr, Gary; 166 W. Harder Rd., Hayward, CA 94544
3. Krueger, Edward; 1635 Chester Dr., Tracy, CA 95376
4. Scherer, Henry A.; 625 W. Gibson Rd., Woodland, CA 95695-5197
5. Larsen, James F.; 2350 Drake St., Bakersfield, CA 93301
6. Bergstrom, Martin; 2075 Dover Ave., Fairfield, CA 94533
7. Koberg, Sergei; 7592 Interlachen Ave., San Ramon, CA 94583
8. Limmer, Harlan L.; 1320 Lincoln, Burlingame, CA 94010
9. Molnar, Christopher; 1010 Foothill Blvd., San Luis Obispo, CA 93405
10. Demel, Mark; 1840 Ivy St., Carson City, NV 89703
11. Gowen, Mitchell; 98-325 Koauka St., Aiea, HI 96701
12. St. Jean, Thomas; 1355 Hawthorne Ave., Chico, CA 95926
13. Slater, Tom; 3526 Nevada St., Eureka, CA 95503
14. Mueller, Theodore C.; 421 Denton Way, Santa Rosa, CA 94501-4810
15. Vernava, Michael N.; 9075 12th Ave., Hanford, CA 93230
16. Sorensen, James; 1230 Luther Way, Salinas, CA 93901
18. Padilla, Ben; 5326 Mango Blosson Ct., San Jose, CA 95123
19. Meyer, John-Paul; 4560 Topaz, Rocklin, CA 95677-2262

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Davis, Rufus; 1271 Palou Ave., San Francisco, CA 94124
2. McFarland, Becky; 1006 Fleetwater Dr., San Leandro, CA 94578
3. Okamoto, Rebecca; 2605 Hilverson, Modesto, CA 95356
4. Connick, Alana; 33 Monaghan Circle, Sacramento, CA 95823
5. Doyel, Ed; 26608 Avenue 80, Terra Bella, CA 93270
6. Riggert, Mel; 541 Wellington Way, Vacaville, CA 95688
7. Carr, Barbara A.; 4891 Geneva Ave., Concord, CA 94521
8. Hahn, Dan; 222 Spuraway Dr., San Mateo, CA 94403
9. Steinbeck, Harold; 5940 Union Rd., Paso Robles, CA 93446
10. Miller, Kenneth; 1521 Hussman, Gardnerville, NV 89410
11. Kaio, Kaala; 1271 Kawili Way, Makawao, HI 96768
12. Trotter, Mel; 6839 Sacramento Dr., Redding, CA 96001
14. de Fischer, Emanuel F.; PO Box 512, Kentfield, CA 94914-0512
15. Arnst, Al; 8150 E. Mt. View, Selma, CA 93662
16. Kieffer, William; 513 Navara, Scotts Valley, CA 95066
17. Teachenor, Agnelsa; 5905 Claremont Ave., Oakland, CA 94618
18. Much, Richard; 18830 Ansley Pl., Saratoga, CA 95070
19. Gary, Les; 10637 Audobon Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

C. Advisory Pastors

May, Wilbur T.; Chico, CA
Biberdorf, Richard W.; Woodbridge, CA

D. Advisory Teachers

Upton, Cheryl L.; Fremont, CA
Johnston, Julie; Sacramento, CA
Pelletier, Lorine L.; Honolulu, HI

Central Illinois District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Muenchow, Fred; 203 E. Division, Altamont, IL 62411-1299
2. Lakamp, Bruce; 595 W. 3 Rd., El Paso, IL 61738
3. Miller, Warren; PO Box 230, Sadorus, IL 61872
4. Berg, Henry; 205 Lincoln, Thomasboro, IL 61878
5. Weseloh, Melvin; 109 Fenway Dr., Decatur, IL 62521
6. Renken, Glenn; R.R. 1, Box 368, Wheeler, IL 62479
7. Eckman, Joseph V.; 114 N. Jackson St., Rushville, IL 62681
8. Bloch, James; 600 Leander St. W., Clinton, IL 61727
9. Miller, Ronald; 905 Baybrook Ct., Peoria, IL 61615
10. Buelmann, David; 1680 Maine, Quincy, IL 62301
11. Woods, Robert; 8894 N. 1900 Ave., Geneseo, IL 61254
12. Dahlke, David; PO Box 118, Shumway, IL 62461
13. Strong, Micheal; 1508 W. Whittier, Springfield, IL 62704
14. Duke, John; Box 167, Pleasant Plains, IL 62677
15. Miller, Mark; 1024 S. Fourth St., Pekin, IL 61554

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Yagow, Stuart; Route 1, Box 73A, St. Elmo, IL 62548
2. Kemnitz, William F.; PO Box 251, Varna, IL 63175-0251
3. Luth, Gary; R.R. 1, Box 33, Allerton, IL 61810
4. Judy, Deloris; 105 E. Unity, Claytonville, IL 60926
5. YaDeau, Ron; 111 White Pines Cir., Decatur, IL 62521
6. Garbe, Gilbert; R.R. 1, Deterich, IL 62424
7. Kleinschmidt, Norman; 412 Congress St., Chapin, IL 62628
8. Roos, Marlin; 429 Ottowa St., Lincoln, IL 62656
9. Stutz, Conley; 5809 N. Mackinac Dr., Peoria, IL 61614
10. Balzer, Don; 26 Wilmar Dr., Quincy, IL 62301
11. Schwarz, Calvin; 2929 44th St., Moline, IL 61265
12. Pfeiffer, Richard; R.R. 1, Box 302, Strasburg, IL 62465
13. Lynn, Bill; 25 Burning Tree, Chatham, IL 62629
14. Fyans, Leslie J.; 413 Natchez Trace, Springfield, IL 62707
15. Hoeft, Gerald; 103 Maple Ridge Dr., Morton, IL 61550

C. Advisory Pastor

Radtke, Thomas; Springfield, IL

D. Advisory Teachers

Frerking, Lois; Kewanee, IL
Kaaz, Raymond; Chapin, IL
Boyd, Robert; Lincoln, IL

Eastern District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Blackwell, Michael; 54 Paula Dr., Cheektowaga, NY 14225-4432
2. Blemaster, Richard; 271 Whitfield Ave., Buffalo, NY 14220
3. Krueger, Dennis; 42 S. Vernon St., Middleport, NY 14105
4. Oravec, Ronald; 2897 Lemke St., North Tonawanda, NY 14120
5. Kerstner, Sheldon; 207 8th St., Little Valley, NY 14755
6. Goodine, David; 20 Birchwood Dr., Fredonia, NY 14063
7. Vossler, Richard; 18 Hoffman Dr., Binghampton, NY 13901
8. Peterson, David A.; PO Box 239, Mendon, NY 14506-0239
9. Klug, Carl E.; 6605 Fourth Section Rd., Brockport, NY 14420
10. Grieves, Herbert; 506 Tamarack St., Utica, NY 13501
11. Maxfield, John; R.R. #2, Box 322, Morrisdale, PA 16858
12. Sound, John; 117 Manor Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15237-5209
13. Greenway, Berton; 2931 Universal Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15235
14. Steinke, Robert; 3112 Clermont Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15227
15. Bojens, Donald; 415 Swarthmore Ave., Folsom, PA 19033-1715
16. Grimm, Gerald; 1000 S. Main St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702-4028
17. Strussenberg, Daniel P.; 2993 E. Bayard St. Extn., Seneca Falls, NY 13148-9733

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Rigerman, David; 4749 Batavia-Elba Townline Rd., Batavia, NY 14020
2. Clinard, Kenneth; 3566 Bowen Rd., Lancaster, NY 14086
3. Riemer, Gerhardt; 6583 Wolcottsville Rd., Akron, NY 14001
4. Tiegerman, Eric; 410 Kenwood Dr., Lewiston, NY 14092
5. Lehman, George; 27 Clark St., Wellsville, NY 14895
6. Vossler, Robert; 13460 Schutt Rd., Chaffe, NY 14030
7. Forker, Olan D.; 13 Stormy View Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850
8. Zurell, Norman; 1683 Qualtrough Rd., Rochester, NY 14625
9. Strussenberg, Fred; 302 Hamlin Center Rd., Hilton, NY 14468
10. Dollase, Crome; 7816 Cheviot Ct., Fayetteville, NY 13066
11. Betts, Ross; 10982 Babcock Blvd., Gibsonia, PA 15044
12. Sohngen, Donald; 35 Montclair Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15229
13. Kolb, Clark; U.S. 219, Accident, MD 21520
14. Wible, Richard; 374 Winfred Manor Dr., Bethel Park, PA 15102
15. Buerger, Edgar; 1186 Rossiter Ln., Radnor, PA 19087
16. Murphy, Allen; 53 W. First St., Bloomsburg, PA 17815-1104
17. Bernard, Brent; 93 Maple Ave., Cohocton, NY 14826

C. Advisory Pastor

Evans, Jack; Danville, PA

D. Advisory Teacher

Hartman, Patricia; Hamburg, NY

English District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Bartholomew, Richard; 2546 Rockbridge Rd., Stone Mountain, GA 30087
2. Kraus, Thomas; 6112 Wallingford Way, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
5. Mirtschin, Neville; 2799 Old Washington Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15241
6. Schiemann, Arthur; 1971 Rossini Blvd., Windsor, ON N8W 4P6, Canada
8. Lentner, Charles D.; 3415 W. Market St., Akron, OH 44333
9. Fitzpatrick, Robert L., Jr.; 28081 Lorain Road, North Olmsted, OH 44070
10. Reckling, Roger; 22915 Greater Mack Ave., St. Clair Shores, MI 48080
11. Brindle, Murray; 491 S. Sandusky Rd., Sandusky, MI 48471
12. Lehmann, William H.; 8892 Tamarack Rd., Lakeview, MI 47850
13. Evanson, Charles J.; 202 W. Rudisill Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46807
14. Burke, Robert; 9627 S. Hamilton, Chicago, IL 60643
15. Ritt, David; 300 S. Andmore, Villa Park, IL 60181
16. Stein, David T.; 550 Clinton Pl., River Forest, IL 60305
17. Natzke, Royal; N78 W7064 Oak St., Cedarburg, WI 53012
18. Borcherding, Charles D.; 1802 Normandy Ln., Lincoln, NE 68512
19. Ermeling, Vern; 6718 N. 20th St., Phoenix, AZ 85016
20. Haase, Donald; 3925 E. 5th St., Tucson, AZ 85611
21. Knauft, Jess M.; 15937 Caras Ct., Ramona, CA 92065
22. Alsleben, Bob; 6591 Meridian St., Los Angeles, CA 90042

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Cooper, Robert; 31 Waters Pl., Valley Stream, NY 11581
2. Braun, Dick; PO Box 217, Gwynedd, PA 19436
4. Lynch, Mary, 3228 Holmes St., Erie, PA 16504
6. Buske, Susan; 112 Isabella St., Pembroke, Ontario K8A 5S7 Canada
8. Trace, David; 620 Yerrick Rd., Akron, OH 44312
9. Bushman, Joan; 45 Pinewood Dr., Medina, OH 44256
10. Ferworn, Roger; 928 Woods Ln., Gross Pointe Woods, MI 48236
11. Burch, James; 18761 San Quentin Dr., Lathrop Village, MI 48076
12. Voges, David; 1231 Chartwell Carriage Way N., East Lansing, MI 48823
13. Koehlinger, Stan; 6985 N. Lake Gage Dr., Angola, IN 46703
14. Oglesby, Virginia; 16250 Trumbull, Markham, IL 60426
15. Franz, Jean; 5655 S. Kolin, Chicago, IL 60629
16. Slupik, Patrick; 4848 N. Merrimac, Chicago, IL 60630
17. Schweiger, Robert T.; W147 N8355 Manchester Dr., Menomonee Falls, WI 53051
18. Arbeiter, Fremont; 11104 Cadigan Ln., St. Louis, MO 63138
19. Hatfield, Clayton; 703 Skyway, Payson, AZ 85541
20. Koosman, Henry; 1220 W. Magee Rd., Tucson, AZ 85704
21. Johnston, Ervin; 1904 Ventana Highway, El Cajon, CA 92020
22. Daman, Walter; 1061 Laurel Dr., Lafayette, CA 94549

C. Advisory Pastor

Lorenz, Dennis L.; Farmington, MI

D. Advisory Teachers

Kloha, Glenn E.; Chicago, IL
Wood, Janice M.; Florissant, MO

Florida-Georgia District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Murdaugh, George; 2897 Jenny Way, Lawrenceville, GA 38244
2. Marshall, Frank; 2730 W. Edgewood Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32209
3. Ludwig, David G.; 1515 S. Semoran Blvd., Orlando, FL 32807
4. Doctor, John; 1455 Victoria Blvd., Rockledge, FL 32955
5. Qualman, William; 1412 Avenue "D" NE, Winter Haven, FL 33881
6. Flohrs, Robert; 1901 E. Commercial Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33308
7. Gress, Scott; 1446-B #22 SW 25th Ave., Boynton Beach, FL 33426
8. Schuette, Ronald; 11060 SW 59th Terr., Miami, FL 22173
10. Hanus, Theodore; 722 W. Whiddon, Arcadia, FL 33821
11. Lidbom, Roy; 5551 Tennessee Ave., Newport Richey, FL 34619
12. Springer, Norman; 5621 Beech St., Zephyrhills, FL 33540
13. Schroeder, Don; 2507 Star Ct., Albany, GA 31707
14. Martin, Frank; 28 Engineer Ln., Cartersville, GA 30120

15. Schubert, Alfred III; 20500 SW 93rd Lane Rd., Dunnellon, FL 34431
16. Stoehr, Roger; 525 N. Collier Blvd., Marco Island, FL 33937
17. Etzel, Russell; 194 Highway 49 W C 5, Milledgeville, GA 31061
18. Schramm, Frederick; 1209 Winterspring Blvd., Winter Springs, FL 32708

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Krehmeyer, Marvin; 2273 Brookelake Dr., Dunwoody, GA 30338
2. Borcherding, George; 2054 Woodleigh Dr. W, Jacksonville, FL 32211
3. Barnett, Deborah; 4532 Banneka St., Orlando, FL 32811
4. Fiechtner, Terry; 1500 Thomas St., Titusville, FL 32780
5. Storli, Lyle; P.O. Box 947, Lake Placid, FL 33862
6. Reitsma, Ronald; 301 S. Fig Tree Ln., Plantation, FL 33317
7. Saunders, Nancy; 3453 Pine Haven Cir., Boca Raton, FL 33431
8. Kociuba, Joe; 1720 S. Treasure Dr., Miami, FL 33141
10. Traylor, Harry; 3403 46th St. W., Bradenton, FL 34209
11. Howard, Frederick; 2647 South Dr., Clearwater, FL 34619
12. Hanto, Donald; 13716 Chestersall Dr., Tampa, FL 33624
13. Hafner, Mary; 1107 Ivanhoe Rd., Tallahassee, FL 32312
14. Smith, Clarke; 1782 Old Rex Morrow Rd., Morrow, GA 30260
15. Wakeland, Robert; 3307 SE 6th St., Ocala, FL 34471
16. Roths, Ray; 1607-A S.E. 29th Terr. #43, Cape Coral, FL 33904
17. Jackson, Sam; 610 Clemson Dr., Warner Robins, GA 31093
18. Jarand, Roger; 594 Brookfield Loop, Lake Mary, FL 32746

C. Advisory Pastors

Gerken, Oscar; Eustis, FL
Hassold, William; Oviedo, FL

D. Advisory Teachers

Cruise, James; Eustis, FL
Prochnow, Ron; Orlando, FL
Klockzeim, Gloria; Hollywood, FL
Raschke, Leo; Lakeland, FL

Indiana District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Moore, John M.; 9010 W. 141 St., Cedar Lake, IN 46303-9313
2. Thoelke, Lothar; 763 Trenton St., Crown Point, IN 46307
3. Albers, John; 1206 Napoleon, Valparaiso, IN 46383
4. Schoop, David; 0388 E 650 S, LaPorte, IN 46350
5. Fiechtner, Gregory; 51610 Trowbridge Ln., South Bend, IN 46637-1361
6. Mommens, David; 2465 W. Keiser Rd., Columbia City, IN 46725-9787
7. Bush, David; 5424 Brookfarm Pl., Fort Wayne, IN 46835
8. Hartke, Gerald; 2416 L. Huntington Rd., Fort Wayne, IN 46809
9. Parks, Allen; 7710 E. State Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46815
10. Brege, Daniel J.; 4520 W. 750 N., Decatur, IN 46733
11. George, Gus III; 128 Condo, Monticello, IN 47960
12. Dunklau, Paul; 10055 E. 186th St., Noblesville, IN 46060
13. Whitecotton, Howard III; 1102 Indian Mound Dr., Anderson, IN 46013
14. Fiene, John W.; 11707 N. Michigan Rd., Zionsville, IN 46077
15. Kenny, Douglas G.; 80 N. 3rd, Zionsville, IN 46077
16. Stache, William; 2725 Wedgewood Dr., Columbus, IN 47203
17. Mildenburger, Frederick; 2202 S. CR 750 E., Seymour, IN 47274
18. Kacer, Daniel J., 401 Maple, Aurora, IN 47001
19. Witten, David; 839 Hilltop, Danville, KY 40422
20. Stuckwisch, Jeffrey L.; R.R. 1, Box 149, Evanston, IN 47531
21. Brondos, Joel; 305 Cherokee, Vincennes, IN 47591
22. Garvue, Donald R.; 1929 Meadowcreek Dr., Louisville, KY 40128-2401

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Anderson, Robert C.; 8722 Johnston Rd., Highland, IN 46322
2. Fackler, Clifford; 1116 Country Club Rd., Crown Point, IN 46307
3. Potratz, Roger; 123 Martin Dr., Michigan City, IN 46360
4. Brettin, Timothy; 7720 E. Toto Rd., Knox, IN 46534
5. Knepper, Daniel; 4063 N. County Rd. 250 E., Warsaw, IN 46580
6. Martin, Donald; 1004 Lakeview Dr., Auburn, IN 46706
7. Bredemeier, Melvin; 5807 Lassiter Mill Pl., Fort Wayne, IN 46835
8. Macke, Roger; 5311 Flatrock Rd., Hoagland, IN 46745
9. Franke, Mark; 1720 Potawatami Dr., Fort Wayne, IN 46815-7945
10. Krause, Kenneth; 752 W. 500 N., Decatur, IN 46733
11. Dodge, Harold; 100 Tecumseh Park Ct., West Lafayette, IN 47906
12. North, Paul; 103 Nansue Dr., Tipton, IN 46072
13. Woempner, Gerald; 9743 Chestnut Ln., Indianapolis, IN 46239
14. Krenzke, John; 7160 Hawthorne Dr., Plainfield, IN 46168
15. Christensen, Don; 1016 N. Drexel Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46201
16. McPike, David; 50 Massey Rd., Martinsville, IN 46151
17. Hoevner, Robert; 7795 E. CR 200 N., Seymour, IN 47274
18. Perdue, Homer; 10194 Front St., Dillsboro, IN 47018
19. Franke, George; 1208 Miami Trail, Frankfort, KY 40601
20. Krueger, Alan; Star Route Box 32, Branchville, IN 47514
21. Niles, Michael; 109 E. Michigan St., Evansville, IN 47711
22. Hussung, Orvil E., 7787 State Rd. 62, Lanesville, IN 47136

C. Advisory Pastors

Zimmermann, E. H.; Fort Wayne, IN
Hamer, John; Fort Wayne, IN

D. Advisory Teachers

Aumick, James T.; New Haven, IN
Hiegel, Thomas A.; Monroeville, IN
Kentel, Barbara; Winamac, IN
Peters, Phil L.; Brownstown, IN
Luedders, Larry A.; Cedar Lake, IN
Russell, James R.; Bremen, IN
Hubacek, Carol L.; Schererville, IN
Grewe, Ralph A.; Fort Wayne, IN

Iowa District East

A. Voting Pastors

1. Kaltwasser, Bruce J.; PO Box 144, Keystone, IA 52249
2. Eckhardt, Wilfred E.; 404 East Jefferson, Iowa City, IA 52245-2148
3. Ranbarger, John R.; 801 Washington, Lowden, IA 52255
4. Krueger, Daniel L.; 3605 N. Birchwood, Davenport, IA 52806
5. Schmid, Michael A.; 116 Guetzko Ct., Manchester, IA 52057-1325
6. Hoesch, Martin K.; 1643 Dorell Dr., Hampton, IA 50441
7. Johnson, Daniel S.; 1603 S. 2nd Ave., Marshalltown, IA 50158
8. Roepke, Christopher A.; 1306 Madison Ave., Burlington, IA 52601
9. Betke, Norman E.; 312 W. Fifth St., PO Box 429, St. Ansgar, IA 50472-0429
10. Eggers, Steven M.; 3706 E. Park Rd., Cedar Falls, IA 50613
11. Harrison, Matthew C.; PO Box 67, Westgate, IA 50681
12. Clausen, George; PO Box 66, Conroy, IA 52220

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Grovert, George; 2831 64th St., Shellsburg, IA 52332
2. Tiedt, Leonard P.; 1485 Cou Falls Rd., NW, Swisher, IA 52338
3. Scott, Sammi; 2323 200th Ave., Mechanicsville, IA 52306
4. Hanna, Duane R.; 110 W. 8th St., Tipton, IA 52772
5. McCorkle, John; 3115 St. Anne Dr., Dubuque, IA 52001
6. Lavrenz, Ray; 209 N. Walnut, Hubbard, IA 50122
7. Osborn, Keith; 102 S. Webster, Le Grand, IA 51042
8. Salemink, Ray; 810 Pine, Wilton, IA 52778
9. Althof, Louis; 1960 S. Carolina Terr., Mason City, IA 50401
10. Clark, Bruce; 1938 Harrow Rd., Waterloo, IA 50701
11. Leisinger, Kevin; 319 W. South St., Shell Rock, IA 50670
12. Holst, Dean; R.R. 4, Fairfield, IA 52556

C. Advisory Pastor

Landgraf, Paul D.; Davenport, IA

D. Advisory Teacher

Saeger, David R.; State Center, IA

Iowa District West

A. Voting Pastors

1. Pritchard, Donald F.; 3047 Union Ave., Adair, IA 50002
2. Henderson, Allen W.; 281 Spruce Ln., Boone, IA 50036-9803
3. Reinbolt, Raymond; PO Box 100, Lidderdale, IA 51452-0100
4. Kamprath, Stephen P.; 517 S. Cannon St., Box 509, Paullina, IA 51046
6. Lemke, Larry; Box 167, Dow City, IA 51528
7. Cole, Thomas O.; 4003 2nd Ave., Des Moines, IA 50313
8. Gerken, Mark; 1311 Pleasant St., Adel, IA 50003
9. Hansen, Lyle; PO Box 248, Whittemore, IA 50598
10. Van Nostrand, Carl W.; R.R. 1, Box 34, Vincent, IA 50594
11. Scharnitzke, Phil; PO Box 280, Pomeroy, IA 50575
12. Gruhn, Michael V.; 406 Main, PO Box 302, Kingsley, IA 51028
13. Adams, Charles; 506 Walnut St., Mapleton, IA 51034
14. Lamb, James I.; 860 State St., Garner, IA 50438
15. Jordan, Richard A.; 1307 Tanager Ave., Ocheyedan, IA 51354-7008
16. Asmus, Erland; 103 Circle Dr., Lake City, IA 51449
17. Pingel, Richard; 2000 Military Rd., Sioux City, IA 51103
18. Wheeler, Jay R.; 106 E. View Pl., Osceola, IA 50213-1321
19. Williams, Edwin; R.R. 1, Box 32, Hastings, IA 51540
20. Wagner, Robert W.; 310 N. State St., Box 98, Terril, IA 51364
21. Huss, Kevin; 301 W. 4th, Alta, IA 51002

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Richardson, Larry; 1408 Lincoln Dr., Atlantic, IA 50022
2. Beitz, Don; 2010 Indian Grass, Ames, IA 50014-7838
3. Toft, Marvin; 120 Hillcrest, Carroll, IA 51401
4. Carlson, Cliff; 509 N. Main, Aurelia, IA 51005
5. Brentlinger, Lee R.; 726 Willow Ave., Council Bluffs, IA 51503
6. Segebart, Michael; 2470 330 St., Denison, IA 51442
7. Sievers, Lloyd D.; 310 5th St. SE, Altoona, IA 50009
8. Newman, Marilyn; 1206 290th St., Adair, IA 50002
9. Lauck, Paul; 308 3rd Ave. SW, West Bend, IA 50597
10. Licht, Walter; PO Box 56, Badger, IA 50516
11. Meyer, Vic; 1001 6th Ave. N., Humboldt, IA 50548
13. Jensen, Herman; 704 Ellen St., Ida Grove, IA 51445
14. Drake, Tom; 318 N. Heckart, Algona, IA 50511
15. Tracy, Duane; 1258 9th Street, Box 404, Ocheyedan, IA 51354
16. Kreft, Dale; 3560 300th, Sac City, IA 50583
17. Schoon, Larry; 707 S. Glass St., Sioux City, IA 51106
18. Meints, Clifford; 716 W. Iowa Ave., Indianola, IA 50125
19. Jackson, Dale L.; 1013 9th St., Corning, IA 50841-1312
20. Christy, Tim; 4797 250th Ave., Webb, IA 51366
21. Hustedt, Lanny; PO Box 253, Sanborn, IA 51248

C. Advisory Pastor

Schmidt, Leland P.; Sioux City, IA

D. Advisory Teacher

Wooster, Larry; Fort Dodge, IA

Kansas District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Urbach, Donald E.; 401 Cheyene, Holton, KS 66436
2. Pfaff, Richard C.; 8640 Cleveland Ave., Kansas City, KS 66109
3. Flentgen, Ronald; 1102 Wabash Terr., Olathe, KS 66061
4. Marquardt, Clarence; 1348 Trail Ridge Rd., Emporia, KS 66801
5. Oldenettel, Ronnie; 210 S. Tenth, Independence, KS 67301
6. Emslie, John; 2305 SE Blair, Topeka, KS 66605
7. Holtorf, Gene; R.R. 1, Box 54, Palmer, KS 66962
8. Einem, John; 1504 Grandview, Wamego, KS 66547-1150
9. Stahlecker, Alan; 204 E. Sixth, PO Box 157, Lincolnville, KS 66858
10. Kohlmeier, Keith; 422 S. Prescott Ct., Wichita, KS 67209
11. Ostgren, Stan; 120 Boys, Box 205, Argonia, KS 67004
12. Haubein, Wendell L.; 405 Sunset Dr., Salina, KS 67401
13. Fricke, Ronald W.; 1015 W. Blunt, Downs, KS 67437
14. Wolff, Michael D.; 200 Massachusetts, Kinsley, KS 67547-1051
15. Hiesterman, Joel; 602 Seventh St., Phillipsburg, KS 67661-2124
16. Roberts, Robert R.; P.O. Box 461, Lakin, KS 67860

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Sellers, William J.; 511 N. 7th, Atchison, KS 66002
2. Whitmore, Eva M.; 3109 Farrow Ave., Kansas City, KS 66104
3. Clark, Frank; 6537 W. 49th St., Mission, KS 66202
4. Bauck, James; Box 5, Vassar, KS 66543
5. Stroup, Randy; 317 N. Main, Erie, KS 66733
6. Llewellyn, H.E. (Lew); 1700 Mississippi, Lawrence, KS 66044
7. Kolle, Elmer; 1641 10th Road, Linn, KS 66953-9205
8. Schultz, Ronald; R.R. 1, Box 90, Alma, KS 66401
9. Wendt, Mark; P.O. Box 285, Herington, KS 67449
10. Forrester, Wayne; 1207 Euclid, Augusta, KS 67010
11. Calloway, Pat; 3850 South Meridian #125, Wichita, KS 67217
12. Gerdes, Robert N.; 2126 Applewood, Salina, KS 67401
13. Obermueller, Delbert; Rt. 2, Box 97, Lincoln, KS 67455
14. Bitter, Harry; 82 NW 220 Rd., Hoisington, KS 67544
15. Niermeier, Rudy; 404 S. 5th, Atwood, KS 67730
16. Wegele, Paul; 216 N. Park, Ness City, KS 67560

C. Advisory Pastor

Schmidt, Eugene E.; Topeka, KS

D. Advisory Teacher

Brockman, Rebecca L.; Wichita, KS

Michigan District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Jones, Kevin; 470 W. Ontario, Rogers City, MI 49779
2. Sgambelluri, Carlo; 7706 Wolf Creek Rd., Herron, MI 49744-9752
3. Bening, Virgil; 2471 Melita Rd., Sterling, MI 48659
4. Graff, Warren; Box 623, Harrison, MI 48625
5. Zimmerman, Thomas; 1435 Highland, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
6. Theiss, Paul D.; 2704 Ziegler Rd., Bay City, MI 48706
7. Veitengruber, Donald P.; 244 N. Ridge St., PO Box 625, Port Sanilac, MI 48469
8. Mueller, John; PO Box 640, Caseville, MI 48725
9. Meckes, Daniel; 9880 North St., Reese, MI 48757
10. Heasler, William W.; 4235 Williamson Road, Box 242, Bridgeport, MI 48722-0242
11. Kostizen, Erwin; 509 Butler St., Clio, MI 48420
12. Wilber, James; G-2061 W. Maple Rd., Flint, MI 48507
13. Kaiser, John; 90 Millville Rd., Lapeer, MI 48446
14. Eichberger, Timothy; 2001 Jacktime Ln., Port Huron, MI 48060
15. Troup, Antonin; 30844 27 Mile Rd., New Haven, MI 48048
16. Black, George; 45160 Van Dyke, Utica, MI 48317
17. Kassen, John; 1450 Athlone, Oxford, MI 48371
18. Reith, Samuel; 1877 Franklin, Berkley, MI 48072
19. Allen, David A.; 22844 Liscomb, Eastpointe, MI 48021
20. Brammeier, Arnold; 4141 Audubon, Detroit, MI 48224
21. Eberhard, David; 1345 Gratiot Ave., Detroit, MI 48207

22. Danowski, William F.; 8680 Evergreen Rd., Detroit, MI 48228
23. Long, Stephen; 25005 Northline, Taylor, MI 48180
24. Steinborn, Robert; 6272 S. Albain Rd., Monroe, MI 48161
25. Jung, David A., 24544 Cherry Hill, Dearborn, MI 48124-1398
26. Vicker, Jon; 6790 Grassland, West Bloomfield Twp., MI 48324
27. Lubeck, Thomas; 475 Eaton Dr., Northville, MI 48167
28. Allmann, Bob; PO Box 274, New Boston, MI 48164
29. Malinsky, Michael; 2860 Dayton, Ann Arbor, MI 48108
30. Gatz, William; 1631 Duguid Rd., Jackson, MI 49203
31. McVey, Daniel J.; 224 E. State St., Mancelona, MI 49659
32. Mowry, Timothy; 5816 Joanne Ct., Traverse City, MI 49684-8650
33. Brunner, James; 1650 N. Jebavy Dr., Ludington, MI 49431
34. Baerwolf, Robert D.; 139 W. Church Ave., Reed City, MI 49677
35. Maier, David P. E.; 3307 Christine Dr., Lansing MI 48911
36. Clark, Paul; 331 N. Sorrell, Fowler, MI 48835
37. Fremer, Joseph; 424 N. Hudson St., Lowell, MI 49931
38. Kroll, Michael; 707 E. Alice, Whitehall, MI 49461
39. Haupt, Dieter E.; 521 Marion, Grand Haven, MI 49417
40. Blain, James; 400 Sligh Blvd. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505-3511
41. Otto, Rodney; 2072 Waterbury, Kentwood, MI 49508
42. Weis, Carl W.; 35284 51st Ave., Paw Paw, MI 49079
43. Hamilton, George; 10664 Kissman Dr., Union Pier, MI 49129
44. Hill, Mark; 30 Douglas Ave., Coldwater, MI 49036

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Hempel, Eldon R.; 8133 S. Rogers Rd., Hawks, MI 49743
2. Powers, Donald; 1098 Wayne Rd., Alpena, MI 49707
3. Viele, Michael; 7576 Teal Rd., Oscoda, MI 48750
4. Kohnke, Robert; 1078 Tanglewood, St. Helen, MI 48656
5. Filter, Harold; 110 Buchanan, Midland, MI 48642-3056
6. Wieck, Dale E.; 1453 Amelith Rd., Bay City, MI 48706
7. Arndt, Allen; 9807 E. Atwater, Harbor Beach, MI 48441
8. Balzer, Melvin; 6751 Center St., Unionville, MI 48767
9. Buchner, Larry; 1278 South Finn, Munger, MI 48747
10. Jakes, James W.; 4420 Hempstead Pl., Saginaw, MI 48603
11. Roethlisberger, Carla; 8300 S. Gera Rd., Birch Run, MI 48415
12. Tody, Terry; 5911 Sawmill Lk. Rd., Ortonville, MI 48462
13. Knox, Jeff; 2449 E. Castle Rd., North Branch, MI 48461
14. Miller, Wayne; 5845 Harrington, Croswell, MI 48422-9132
15. Klein, Wilbert; 17809 24 Mile Rd., Macomb, MI 48042
16. Awe, Arnold; 11200 29 Mile Rd., Washington, MI 48094
17. Kitzman, Orville; 3960 Beachtree, West Bloomfield, MI 48323
18. Hetrick, William; 3790 Kent Dr., Troy, MI 48084
19. Pouliot, Russell; 8323 Kaltz, Center Line, MI 48015
20. Buchanan, Judy; 19186 Kingsville, Detroit, MI 48225
21. Biar, Bill E.; 3904 S. Syracuse Way, Denver, CO 80237
22. Hay, Carol; 17212 Pinehurst, Detroit, MI 48221
23. Burks, Bill; 2087 Heatherhill, Trenton, MI 48183
24. Gorr, John; 256 Rose Rd., Petersburg, MI 49270
25. Becker, Shirley; 26622 Hass, Dearborn Hts., MI 48127
26. Okamoto, William; 7726 Darlene, Brighton, MI 48116
27. Ritterling, Orville; 44577 Midway, Novi, MI 48375
28. Johnson, Melvin; 8760 Nottingham Rd., Ypsilanti, MI 48198
29. Lentz, Donald; 2751 Maitland Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48105
30. Mahan, Ross; 2175 Pioneer, Jackson, MI 49201
31. Engel, Robert; 189 Vantage View, Petoskey, MI 49770
32. Ford, George; 3673 Apollo Dr., Traverse City, MI 49684
33. Gallert, Roger; 320 N. Clark St., Mesick, MI 49668-9215
34. Kayser, Walter; 11013 W. Royal Rd., Stanwood, MI 49346
35. Pangman, Robert; 1785 Birabeau, Okemos, MI 48864
36. Nobis, Carl; 1193 Sunview Dr., St. John, MI 48879
37. Baure, Dallas; Box 189, Sheridan, MI 48884
38. Worpel, Donald; 16214 Eighth Ave., Marne, MI 49435
39. Warber, Gwen; 17855 Brucker, Grand Haven, MI 49417
40. Iseler, Earl; 3000 E. Paris SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512
41. Gerke, Linda; 8392 Kraft, Caledonia, MI 49316
42. Scheck, Daniel; 7616 Muirfield Dr., Portage, MI 49002
43. Strefling, Allen; 18 South Elm, Three Oaks, MI 49128
44. Thrams, Vern; 411 Mechanic, Sturgis, MI 49091

C. Advisory Pastors

McCain, Paul B.; Saginaw, MI
Foust, Paul; Saline, MI

D. Advisory Teachers

Truog, David J.; Big Rapids, MI
Blomquist, Barry E.; Kentwood, MI
Krone, Walter K.; Detroit, MI
Krone, Shirley M.; Detroit, MI
Hartmann, Raymond R.; Shelby Township, MI
Wolfrom, Wayne D.; Sterling Heights, MI
Baginski, John C.; MaComb, MI
Koenig, David P.; Westland, MI
Wallace, Shirley M.; Trenton, MI
Schultz, Lloyd N.; Detroit, MI
Ebendick, Timothy J.; Detroit, MI
Brandt, John M.; Saginaw, MI
Pickelmann, Henry M.; Bay City, MI
Scheiwe, Warren A.; Bay City, MI
Grimpo, R. Dwain; Reese, MI

Mid-South District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Munch, Jan; 1812 Cherokee St., Athens, TN 37303
2. Schoolcraft, Roger; 2533 Lancer, Fayetteville, AR 72703
3. Burger, Mark; 680 Laurel Dr., Greenwood, AR 72936
4. Glass, Don; 5907 Wade Ln., Knoxville, TN 37912
5. Redmann, James C.; 1208 Pin Oak Dr., Hopkinsville, KY 42240-5116
7. Behling, Henry W.; 16 N. Badolona Dr., Hot Springs Village, AR 71909
8. Cox, Duncan; 8 Trafalgar Rd., Conway, AR 72032
9. Wiese, Ronald J.; 3276 N. Waynoka Cr., Memphis, TN 38103
12. Albers, Paul J.; 207 W. 7th St., Stuttgart, AR 72160

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Maddirala, James; 1658 Lillian Ct., Columbia, TN 38401
2. Kope, Bill; Rt. 9, Box 77, Harrison, AR 72601
3. Schultz, Richard; 10405 Braemar Cir., Fort Smith, AR 72903
4. Krieg, Raymond; 1320 Farrington Dr., Knoxville, TN 37923
5. Schaffner, Werner; 25 Tishimingo, Cherokee Village, AR 72529
7. Wood, Randy; 1108 D. Mills Pk. Rd., Bryant, AR 72022-3130
8. Filter, Mark; 214 Alan Brook Ave., Sherwood, AR 72116
9. Drake, Michael L.; 3090 Country Pl. E., Collierville, TN 38017
12. Weiser, Ralph; 1119 N. Washington, Magnolia, AR 71753

C. Advisory Pastor

Brumme, Carl A.; Bristol, TN

D. Advisory Teacher

Schmand, Mary Ann; Memphis, TN

Minnesota North District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Sherry, David, Box 477, Crookston, MN 56716
2. LaDassor, Larry; Box E, Bagley, MN 56621
3. Brustuen, Keith A.; R.R. 2, Box 273, Akeley, MN 56433
4. Keily, Kenneth G.; PO Box 98, Callaway, MN 56521-0098
5. Foreman, Curtis L.; PO Box 296, Bertha, MN 56437
6. Fish, Robin; HCR 3, Box O, Crosby, MN 56441
7. Anthony, James; PO Box 606, Deer River, MN 56636
8. Bell, Gary; 2335 Hughitt Ave., Superior, WI 54880
9. Sears, Gary; 2173 Hwy. 18, Box 6, Finlayson, MN 55735
10. Beck, John; 312 4th Ave. N., Sartell, MN 56377
11. Hans, Richard; 260 SE Third Ave., Milaca, MN 56353
12. Ferber, Ken; 2803 Island View Ct., St. Cloud, MN 56301
13. Ristvedt, Nathan; PO Box 36, Villard, MN 56385
14. O'Neill, Dennis; 615 Main, Breckenridge, MN 56520
15. Heck, Karl J.; PO Box 38, Grey Eagle, MN 56336-0038
16. Versemann, Matthew O.; 205 First St., Herman, MN 56248
17. Boehnke, Richard; 541 Stephens Ave., Ortonville, MN 56278
18. Petrich, David J.; 1000 10th Ave., Granite Falls, MN 56241-1229

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Gornowicz, Carl Jr.; Rt. 1, Warren, MN 56762
2. Krenz, Darold; R.R. 4, Box 314-F, Bemidji, MN 56601
3. Hetrick, Larry; R.R. 4, Box 403, Park Rapids, MN 56470
4. Meyer, William; Rt. 1, Perham, MN 56573
5. Rach, Ernest; Box 5, Bertha, MN 56437
6. Hall, Jeff; Rt. 1, Box 184, Aitken, MN 56431
7. Mowrey, David; 77 Vermillion Dr., Virginia, MN 55792
8. Warren, David; 130 W. Austin St., Duluth, MN 55803
9. Cross, William; Rt. 2, Box 109, Brook Park, MN 55007
10. McKenzie, Bruce; 1729 Woodland Rd., St. Cloud, MN 56304
11. Roth, Jerry; 9860 256th Ave., Zimmerman, MN 55398
12. Mockros, Brad; 55 Ben Nevis Ln., Waite Park, MN 56387
13. Zappe, Neal; 6332 Maple Ln. NE, Alexandria, MN 56308
14. Knutson, Nancy; 423 4th St. NE, Barnesville, MN 56514
15. Helle, Robert; Box 105, Clarissa, MN 56440
16. Timm, Gary; Rt. 1, Box 83, Wheaton, MN 56296
17. Gerber, Virgil; Rt. 1, Box 277A, Ortonville, MN 56278
18. Holst, Edwin; 8900 Long Lake Rd., Spicer, MN 56288

C. Advisory Pastor

Rehwaldt, Edgar; Nisswa, MN

D. Advisory Teacher

Rohlfing, Terrence; Fergus Falls, MN

Minnesota South District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Frederickson, Bruce G.; 7571 Brigadoon Pl. NE, Fridley, MN 55432
2. Wende, J. David; 849 Armstrong Ave., St. Paul, MN 55102
3. Vogel, Guy A.; 674 Johnson Pkwy., St. Paul, MN 55106
4. Hofmann, Ronald F.; 7573 Jeffrey Ave. S., Cottage Grove, MN 55016
5. Briel, Steven C.; 9145 County Rd. 101, Maple Grove, MN 55311
6. Holland, Roger A., 1708 E. Minnehaha Pkwy., Minneapolis, MN 55407-3640
7. Nadasdy, Dean W.; 6425 Mere Dr., Eden Prairie, MN 55346
8. Stier, Donald L.; 20200 Fairlawn Ave., Prior Lake, MN 55372-8811
9. Buuck, David P.; 5701 Eden Prairie Rd., Minnetonka, MN 55345
10. Dahl, Jack E.; PO Box 69, New Germany, MN 55367
11. Lehmkuhl, W. Kurt; PO Box 965, Arlington, MN 55307
12. Langhorst, Richard E.; 60929 110th St., Hutchinson, MN 55350
13. Queck, Thomas J.; 350 Chestnut St. E., Annandale, MN 55302
14. Frederickson, David; 45 W. Broadway, Plainview, MN 55964
15. James, Roger B.; Rt. 1, Box 71, Rushford, MN 55971-9622
16. Buchhop, William C.; Rt. 1, Box 83, Racine, MN 55967
17. Zimmer, Giles; Rt. 1, Box 179, Claremont, MN 55924
18. Rollefson, Stacy D.; Box 205, Hollandale, MN 56045
19. Chase, Eugene C.; P.O. Box 346, Morristown, MN 55052
20. Krueger, George A.; 205 N. Ramsey, Box 423, Blue Earth, MN 56013
21. Mackie, Roger L.; 301 Sherman, Box 36, Good Thunder, MN 56037-0036
22. Veland, Larry A.; 110 E. 4th St. N., Truman, MN 56088
23. Jones, Joseph A.; Box 895, Sherburn, MN 56171
24. Sestak, Peter J.; 409 Wall St. E., Jasper, MN 56144
25. Burdick, Michael H.; 604 Roosevelt St., Marshall, MN 56258
26. Menk, Gerald R.; 511 Chicago St., Lakefield, MN 56150

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Netland, Dan; 537 Ione Ave. NE, Spring Lake Park, MN 55432
2. Dotea, Harry; 2182 Ross Ave., St. Paul, MN 55119-3503
3. Johnson, Robert; 1474 Barclay, St. Paul, MN 55106
4. Meffert, Mark R.; 4634 Kingsbury Dr., Eagan, MN 55122
5. Preus, Christian; 16205 5th Ave. N., Plymouth, MN 55447
6. Brekke, Carol; 7408 Landau Dr., Bloomington, MN 55438
7. Fors, Donna; 7700 W. 84th St. Cir., Bloomington, MN 55438
8. Peterson, Richard; 2018 Bluestone Ln., Eagan, MN 55122
9. Mueller, David; 925 Kingsview Ln., Plymouth, MN 55447
10. Plagge, Lowell; 215 S. Central Ave., Young America, MN 55397
11. Schuft, Glenda; Rt. 1, Box 55, Arlington, MN 55307
12. Boller, Frank; 170 Airport Rd., Hutchinson, MN 55353
13. Norine, LeRoy; 1509-A NE 16 St., Buffalo, MN 55313
14. Stengel, Jon; 525 S. Sixth St., Lake City, MN 55041
15. Mueller, Everett; 471 Wayne St., Winona, MN 55987
16. Eickhoff, Virgil; R.R. 1, Box 135, Wykoff, MN 55990
17. Boldt, James; 530 Tyman Pl., Faribault, MN 55021
18. Hedin, Ron; 1328 Academy Ave., Albert Lea, MN 56007
19. Menk, Archie; 604 Youngerberg Ln., Janesville, MN 56048
20. Ripley, Steven; Rt. 3, Box 79, Blue Earth, MN 56013
21. Bode, Kenneth; 809 4th St., Nicollet, MN 56074
22. Niemeier, Clarence; Rt. 1, Box 62, St. James, MN 56081
23. Brammeier, John; R. R. #1, Ceylon, MN 56121
24. Johnson, Verland; 413 S. Fairview Dr., Luverne, MN 56156
25. Busch, Kenneth; 402 Davis St. E., Fulda, MN 56131
26. Kruse, Kenneth; Rt. 1, Box 42, Wabasso, MN 56293

C. Advisory Pastors

Carter, Richard E.; St. Paul, MN
Wessel, Loel A.; Maple Grove, MN

D. Advisory Teachers

Plath, Arthur M.; Blaine, MN
Spitzack, James R.; Richfield, MN
Freudenburg, Ernest F.; Rochester, MN
Eyerly, Richard A.; Fairmone, MN
Rehmer, Robert C.; Maple Grove, MN
Haack, James R.; Stewartville, MN

Missouri District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Patzwitz, Walter; Immanuel Lutheran Church, New Wells, MO 63768
2. Pfanstiel, Barry; 1063 Stewart Dr., Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
3. Scharff, Kim L.; 202 N. Pine, Norborne, MO 64668
4. Asburry, Randy; R. R. 2, Box 179a, Boonville, MO 65233
5. Wilkey, Mickey; 524 Jenkins, Slater, MO 65349
6. Lange, Peter; 406 Main, Concordia, MO 64020
7. Schmeisser, Kirk R.; 602 W. Main, Fredericktown, MO 63645
8. Kriete, Robert; 721 Allen Blvd., Sikeston, MO 63801
9. Scheperle, Gerald; 4409 St. John's Rd., Jefferson City, MO 65101
10. Mueller, James; 9245 Wedd, Overland Park, KS 66212
11. Beesley, Mark B.; 1803 Gates Dr., Platte City, MO 64079
12. Ratcliffe, Keith; 8816 Elm, Kansas City, MO 64138
13. Waddell, James; 115 Mary's Dr., Louisiana, MO 63353
14. Goddard, Paul E.; 229 W. James Blvd., St. James, MO 65559
15. Bolstad, Arthur; 4195 Gallatin Ln., Bridgeton, MO 63044
16. Snell, Jerry L.; PO Box 70, New Melle, MO 63365
17. Almstedt, Quentin; 1024 Magnolia, St. Joseph, MO 64505
18. Beck, Fred; 6950 Salzburger, St. Louis, MO 63116
19. Spomer, Charles; 513 Coachlight, Hazelwood, MO 63042
20. Dehnke, Gary; 4060 Toenges Ave., St. Louis, MO 63116
21. Koehlinger, Vernon D.; 2693 Blackforest Dr., St. Louis, MO 63129
22. Rogers, Jim; 15750 Baxter Rd., Chesterfield, MO 63017
23. Moore, Richard; 1516 Surf Side Dr., St. Louis, MO 63138

24. Mirly, Ray; 1618 Fahr Park Ct., St. Louis, MO 63146
25. Gundermann, Vernon; 34 Cedarbrook Ln., St. Louis, MO 63122
26. Hoehne, Ronald E.; 403 W. 20th, Sedalia, MO 65301
27. Boettcher, Mark; 708 Carol Ct., Aurora, MO 65605
28. Burge, David; HCR 1, Box 1380, Isabella, MO 65676
29. Akers, Barry; 424 W. Ninth St., Hermann, MO 65041

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Roth, Donald; R.R. 6, Box 150, Perryville, MO 63775
2. Kester, Dale; 1215 Dunklin, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
3. Walden, Joe; R.R. 2, Box 163, Glasgow, MO 65254
4. Potter, Howard; 1527 Arcadia, Mexico, MO 65265
5. Gault, John; 225 E. Porter, Marshall, MO 65340
6. Haase, Larry A.; 227 NE 51, Warrensburg, MO 64093
7. Edwards, Perry; 5627 Heads Creek Rd., House Springs, MO 63051
8. Seabaugh, Darrel; 649 County Rd. 366, Jackson, MO 63755
9. Putnam, Bill; HCR 71, Box 1730, Camdenton, MO 65020
10. Haesemeier, Harold; 16004 E. 38th St., Independence, MO 64055
11. Elliot, James R.; 802 Kingston Ct., Liberty, MO 64068
12. Forsbeck, Gary; 11930 Charlotte, Kansas City, MO 64146
13. Koch, Clemens; 904 Pocahontas, Palmyra, MO 63461
14. Roedemeier, Dennis; 602 S. Bond, Cuba, MO 65453
15. Baer, Wilbert; 2217 Campus Dr., St. Charles, MO 63301
16. Daehnke, Gustave T. (Ted); 65 Lake Valley Dr., Wright City, MO 63390
17. Heitman, Morris; 1605 Childers Dr., Mound City, MO 64470
18. Berger, Judith; 800 Berry Hill Dr., Olivette, MO 63132
19. Conde, Clarence; 3821 Virginia, St. Louis, MO 63118
20. Schnefke, Robert; 6401 Hurstgreen Ln., St. Louis, MO 63123
21. Spencer, David; 2540 River Winds Ct., St. Louis, MO 63129
22. Barnett, John; 5 Carriage Hill Ct., Cedar Hill, MO 63016
23. Woodson, Donald H. Sr.; 1170 Central Pkwy., Florissant, MO 63031
24. Wuenscher, Martin; 3205 Bristolhall Dr., Bridgeton, MO 63044
25. Gordon, Marcia; 13788 Clayton Rd., St. Louis, MO 63011
26. Meyer, John E.; R.R. 1, Box 52, Cole Camp, MO 65325
27. Rupp, Charles; R.R. 2, Purdy, MO 65734
28. Lehmberg, Roger; PO Box 101, Kimberling City, MO 65686
29. Otten, Tim; 3277 Boeuf Lutheran Rd., New Haven, MO 63068

C. Advisory Pastors

Hoyer, Martin; Barnett, MO
Rodewald, Alfred; Concordia, MO
Schkade, Landon; St. Louis, MO

D. Advisory Teachers

Loesel, Al; St. Charles, MO
Meyr, Dorothy; Cape Girardeau, MO
Buchholz, David; Alma, MO
Giesselmann, Duane; Doe Run, MO
Hartmann, Robert; Cape Girardeau, MO
Leckband, Virgil; Concordia, MO
Frank, John; St. Louis, MO
Hartmann, Esther; Cape Girardeau, MO
Meyr, Del; Jackson, MO
Schlimpert, Edgar; Concordia, MO

Montana District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Grunst, Mark P.; 4523 Robbie Ln., Billings, MT 59106
2. Delancy, Michael R.; 186 Pine Hollow Rd.; Stevensville, MT 59870
3. Oster, Kevin W.; 767 River, Box 1258, Forsyth, MT 59327
4. Brandt, Chris; 1000 11th Ave., Havre, MT 59501-4632
5. Klug, Timothy; PO Box 857, Three Forks, MT 59752
6. Sandersfeld, Vern; 830 Highland Drive, Whitefish, MT 59937

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Kober, Ted A.; 3601 Rosebed Dr., Billings, MT 59102
2. Garner, Pauline; 4710 Rattlesnake Dr., Missoula, MT 59802
3. Scheuffele, Victor R.; 221 E. Hughes, Glendive, MT 59330
4. Martin, Mitchell; 1236 8th Ave. NW, Great Falls, MT 59404
5. Koehler, Leonard; 123 Saddle Ln., Butte, MT 59701-7662
6. Schock, Walt; 2663 HiHiTah, St. Ignatius, MT 59865

D. Advisory Teacher

Gerlach-Pullmann, Karen L., Kalispell, MT

Nebraska District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Fusselman, Douglas; PO Box 302, Valentine, NE 69201
2. Eickhoff, Bert; Rt. 1, Box 160, Jansen, NE 68377-9800
3. Klatt, Michael; 3377 Mimick Ln., Columbus, NE 68601
4. Kuhlman, Brent; 220 Belmont Dr., Hebron, NE 68370
5. Awe, Michael; 1430 E St., Rt. 4, Box 49, Pawnee City, NE 68420-9315
6. Gierke, Tim; 2004 E. 19th, Fremont, NE 68025
7. Bremer, Daniel G.; 537 E. Memorial Dr., Grand Island, NE 68801-7854
8. Praeuner, Daniel; Box 451, Red Cloud, NE 68970
9. Maas, Mark; PO Box 214, Wilcox, NE 68982
10. Petri, Michael J.; PO Box 326, Shelton, NE 68876
11. Schultz, Craig; 5200 N. 25th St., Lincoln, NE 68521
12. Lucas, James; PO Box 278, Wauneta, NE 69045
13. Cage, Peter; Rt. 1, Box 250, Pierce, NE 68767
14. Besel, Gordon; 4216 N. 91st St., Omaha, NE 68134-4026
15. Friedmeyer, A. Norman; 1111 Earls Ct., Plattsmouth, NE 68048-1329
16. Linkugel, David; 21479 Brentwood Rd., Elkhorn, NE 68022
17. Eppen, Alan; PO Box 117, Orchard, NE 68764
18. Palomaki, David; 880 "M" St., David City, NE 68632
19. Brogaard, John C.; 825 Pine St., S. Sioux City, NE 68776
20. Tolzmann, Brion; PO Box 252, Walthill, NE 68067
21. Walther, John; Rt. 2, Box 97; Ogallala, NE 69153
22. Schauer, Arthur; 1604 E. 13th St., York, NE 68467

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Vogelsang, Brian; Rt. 1, Box 43, Ainsworth, NE 69210
2. Endorf, Ernest; Rt. 1, Daykin, NE 68338
3. Bergt, Ervin E.; Rt. 2, Box 138, Schuyler, NE 68661
4. Folkerts, Wessel; Rt. 1, Box 40A, Alexandria, NE 68303
5. Rathe, Larry; Rt. 2, Sterling, NE 68443
6. Prischie, Harlan; Rt. 2, Box 170, Scribner, NE 68057
7. Troester, Richard; 207 N. 5th, Doniphan, NE 68832
8. Knox, Tammy; Box 146, Campbell, NE 68932
9. Ehlers, James; 1605 Garfield Ave., Holdrege, NE 68949
10. Kuster, Clarence; Rt. 1, Box 188, Ravenna, NE 68869
11. Rockenbach, Dick; 19906 Holdrege, Eagle, NE 68347
12. Schaffert, Ervin; Rt. 1, Indianola, NE 69034
13. Freudenburg, Neal; 605 E. 2nd St., Madison, NE 68748
14. Werner, Donald; 609 S. 55th St., Omaha, NE 68106
15. Barrett, Frank; 1608 Lincoln Rd., Bellevue, NE 68005
16. Forke, Ralph; 12519 Poppleton Ave., Omaha, NE 68144-1306
17. Timm, Darrel; Rt. 2, Box 155, Neligh, NE 68756
18. Bek, Milton; Rt. 1, Box 20, Staplehurst, NE 68439
19. Meyer, Leon; 908 Windom, Wayne, NE 68787
20. Goeller, John; R. R. #1, Box 97A, Pilger, NE 68768
21. Gloy, Leonard; 2114 William Ave., North Platte, NE 69101
22. Staehr, Dennis; 322 East 1st, York, NE 68467

C. Advisory Pastor

Chinberg, Douglas; Kearney, NE

D. Advisory Teachers

Smith, Margaret; Kearney, NE
Mueller, Mary; Fremont, NE
Johnson, Arthur; Omaha, NE

New England District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Balfour, Ed; 150 Mitchell Rd., Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107
2. Neugebauer, Charles; 30 Pine Hill Rd., Lynnfield, MA 01940
3. Reiter, Gerald; PO Box 189, Troy, NH 03465
4. Batchelder, David; 14 Cape Dr., Mashpee, MA 02649
5. Taylor, Michael; 7 Clark St., Easthampton, MA 01027
6. Secker, Philip J.; 76 Willowbrook Rd., Storrs, CT 06268
7. Jerabek, Todd; 167 Park Ave., Naugatuck, CT 06770
8. Benken, F. Richard; 13 Stonewall Ln., PO Box 210, Madison, CT 06443
9. Kuehnert, Richard; 64 Garfield Ave., Danbury, CT 06810

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Gootee, Doug; 167 Wheelwright Rd., Hampstead, NH 03841
2. Burger, Christopher; 129 Granger St., Quincy, MA 02170
3. Guymon, Michael; R.R. 2, Box 1900, Fairfax, VT 05454
4. Giger, Robert; 24 W. Vaughn St., Lakeville, MA 02347
5. Jacobson, Wanda; 400 Wilbraham Rd., Springfield, MA 01109
6. Beineke, Tom; 496 Prospect Hill Rd., Windsor, CT 06905
7. Martin, Theodore A.; 15 Laurel Ln., Wolcott, CT 06716
8. Schettenhelm, Rachel; 780 Grassy Hill Rd., Orange, CT 06477
9. Bartel, Dan; 71 Country Club Rd., Trumbull, CT 06611

C. Advisory Pastor

Dienst, Martin; Williston, VT

D. Advisory Teacher

Schauer, Mary F.; Holyoke, MA

New Jersey District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Nelson, Andrew D.; 165 Linwood Ave., Ridgewood, NJ 07450
2. Ziegler, Eric; 510 Parker St., Newark, NJ 07104
3. Reiker, John; 70 River Rd., Montville, NJ 07045
4. Geary, Duane; 71 Farragut Pl., N. Plainfield, NJ 07060
5. Doring, Arthur; 28 Musconetcong Ave., Stanhope, NJ 07874
6. Johnston, Dale; Rt. 6, Box 715, Tiverstock Dr., Centerton, NJ 08318-9021
7. Pierce, James R.; 650 Aldrich Rd., Howell, NJ 07731

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Gibney, George; 154 LaRoche Ave., Harrington Park, NJ 07640
2. Gilligan-Wold, Leonard; 9 Blackburne Terr., West Orange, NJ 07052-3501
3. Blecker, La Marr; 87 Pinebrook Rd., Towaco, NJ 07082
4. Lee, Susan; 209 Village Dr., Somerset, NJ 08873
5. Vogt, Caren Meyer; R.R. 1, Box 525, Hamburg, NJ 07419
6. James, Thomas; 372 North Main, Woodstown, NJ 08098
7. Kreyling, Arthur; 140 Sanford Ave., N. Plainfield, NJ 07060

C. Advisory Pastor

Masaki, Naomichi; Ridgewood, NJ

D. Advisory Teacher

Carpenter, Shirley; Westfield, NJ

North Dakota District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Klemp, John; Box 216, Rock Lake, ND 58365
3. Scheblein, Adam; 403 Division St., Box 88, Cavalier, ND 58220
4. Gimbel, James; 1134 N. Elm St., Fargo, ND 58120
5. Martin, Terry; Box 89, Pettibone, ND 58475
6. Hill, John F.; PO Box 95, Forbes, ND 58439
7. Muehler, Gary; 155 W. Third, PO Box 1, Lidgerwood, ND 58053
8. Roth, Carlyle; 1151 Glacial Dr., Minot, ND 58701
9. Baneck, James A.; 1020 Boundary Rd., Mandan, ND 58554

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Erdman, Paul; R.R. 1, Box 155, Willow City, ND 58384
3. Puffe, Lyle; 208 1st Ave. NE, Grand Forks, ND 58201
4. Schober, Floyd; 238 10½ Ave. E., West Fargo, ND 58078
5. Buegel, H. F. (Fritz); 1005 8th Ave. NW, Jamestown, ND 58401
6. Kosel, Ron; Ellendale, ND 58436
7. Hubrig, Melvin; 17125 County Road 15, Hankinson, ND 58041
8. Schell, Dwane; 2619 1st Ave. SW, Minot, ND 58701
9. Bauer, Robert; 927 Elm Ave., Dickinson, ND 58601

C. Advisory Pastor

Reimnitz, Alwin M.; Bismarck, ND

North Wisconsin District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Zirzow, Wayne H.; E. 5104 Margaret St., Ironwood, MI 49938-1536
2. Neider, Howard; 303 S. 7th St., Ontonagon, MI 49953
3. Schoen, Mark; 219 Day Road, St. Croix Falls, WI 54024
4. Frusti, Todd; PO Box 144, Sheldon, WI 54766-0144
5. Last, David; 17 S. Baird Ave., Rhinelander, WI 54501
6. Kaarre, David; W. 2608 Hwy. P, Merrill, WI 54452
7. Sprengler, Donald; N. 2890 Cty. S., Antigo, WI 54409
8. Wiegert, Paul; 610 Keller Ave. S., Amery, WI 54001-1252
9. Schulz, Mark W.; 820 Pamela Pl., Eau Claire, WI 54701
10. Moldenhauer, Roger; W. 1145 Huckelberry St., Edgar, WI 54426
11. Wipperman, Stephen; 1300 Townline Rd., Wausau, WI 54403
12. Lodholz, Gary D.; PO Box 260, 304 Flint Ave., Mattoon, WI 54450-0260
13. Miller, David P.; R.R. 2, Box 162, Bonduel, WI 54107-9525
14. Peitsch, Peter M.; 14162 Church Rd., Box 12, Mountain, WI 54149-0012
15. Chellew, William; Box 156, Alma Center, WI 54611-9737
16. Arndt, Kevin; 8306 2nd St., Pittsville, WI 54466
17. Kinne, Timothy L.; 111 Eleventh St. N., Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
18. Schmidt, John; N. 7530 Church St., Manawa, WI 54949-9691
19. Heim, Vernon F.; 749 Silver Creek Dr., Oneida, WI 54155
20. Moe, Timothy; E 11775 County Road HH, Osseo, WI 54748

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Anderson, Mike; 1119 N. Hemlock, Ironwood, MI 49938
2. Marpe, Don; HC-1, Box 155, Eagle Harbor, MI 49950
3. Dennis, Donald; 1273 12th St., Barron, WI 54812
4. Roach, Robert; 442 S. 3rd Ave., Park Falls, WI 54552
5. Korth, Arno; 4251 Spruce Ln. #30, Eagle River, WI 54521
6. Bauman, Phyllis; 121 Cottage St., Merrill, WI 54452
7. Nielson, Jeff; 222 Gruber St., Antigo, WI 54409
8. Barnes, Allen; 434 River Hills Rd., River Falls, WI 54022
9. Skamfer, Mike; 2025 McKinley Rd., Eau Claire, WI 54703
10. Schuette, Orville; 304 E. Front St., Curtis, WI 54422
11. Hoelter, Mary; 5401 Rose Avenue, Wausau, WI 54401
12. Pockat, Steve; PO Box 244, Tigerton, WI 54486-0244
13. Meyer, James W.; 220 S. Hamlin, Shawano, WI 54166
14. Tuschy, Larry; PO Box 91, Suring, WI 54174-0091
15. Freitag, Kenneth; Rt. 2, Black River Falls, WI 54615
16. Zastrow, Thomas; W. 932 Chili Rd., Chili, WI 54420
17. Henry, William; 3920 Deer Rd., Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
18. Pahl, Fred; 1006 W. Taylor, Appleton, WI 54914
19. Zastrow, Miles P.; 7463 Mile Rd., Forestville, WI 54213
20. Weidner, Robert; 917 Auth St., Durand, WI 54736

C. Advisory Pastor

Emmel, Paul W.; Green Bay, WI

D. Advisory Teachers

Selmeyer, David; Antigo, WI
Westerfeld, Judy; Green Bay, WI

Northern Illinois District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Kellerman, James; 1649 W. Le Moyne St., Chicago, IL 60622-2240

Stephens, James; 3450 N. Panama, Chicago, IL 60634
Sobczenfuhs, Walter; 7901 W. Seminole, Chicago, IL 60631
Taubemann, Jerald; 1731 Deerfield Rd., Highland Park, IL 60035
Tuchter, Eldor; 111 W. Olive St., Arlington Heights, IL 60004
Schroeder, James; 2025 Valley Creek Dr., Elgin, IL 60123
Soltic, Galen; 730 North Vista, Algonquin, IL 60102
Balgeman, Donald; 12530 Lee Rd., Hinckley, IL 60520-6082
Acton, Thomas; 4206 W. Elm, McHenry, IL 60050
Gallup, Roger; 2640 Oak St., River Grove, IL 60171
Noland, Martin; 1100 S. East Ave., Oak Park, IL 60304
Bottorff, David; 7222 Cass Ave., Darien, IL 60561
Heimsoth, Elton; 1155 S. Church, Lombard, IL 60148
Anderson, Timothy; 30W170 Foxboro Ct., Warrenville, IL 60555
Gilbert, Dan; 700 Morgan St., Yorkville, IL 60560
Theiss, Terry; PO Box 480, Pecatonica, IL 61063
Schwichtenberg, Willis; 321 N. Holly Ave., Freeport, IL 61032
Brazeal, John; 1405 S. 12th Ave., Maywood, IL 60153
Collins, Robert; 17000 Greenwood Ave., South Holland, IL 60473
Frecks, Stephen; 5122 S. Archer Ave., Chicago, IL 60632
Gensch, Daniel; 9105 S. 87th Ave., Hickory Hills, IL 60453
Ruiz, John; 4251 183rd St., Country Club Hills, IL 60478
Thompson, Dennis; 3840 W. 216th, Matteson, IL 60443
Tany, Lee; 616 Apollo, Joliet, IL 60435
Haeger, Martin; 1055 S. Myrtle Ave., Kankakee, IL 60901
Kiefer, John; Rt. 1, Box 84, Bonfield, IL 60913

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Heinrich, Adeline; 5306 W. 23rd Pl., Cicero, IL 60650
2. Deutsch, Elizabeth; 2601 N. Meade, Chicago, IL 60639
3. Madsen, Harry; 805 N. Northwest Hwy., Park Ridge, IL 60068
4. Wypych, Laura; 2930 Pine, Waukegan, IL 60087
5. Linderman, Willis; 1012 Clark Ln., Des Plaines, IL 60016
6. Hansing, Roland; 1146 Indian Dr., Elgin, IL 60120-2358
7. Stemple, Paul; 227 Granada, Carpentersville, IL 60110
8. Elliott, Robert; 1072 Westview Dr., Rochelle, IL 61068
9. Charles, Joseph; 4706 Tile Line Rd., Crystal Lake, IL 60012
10. Ott, Richard; 5710 W. Maple Ave., Berkeley, IL 60163
11. Kuchta, Thomas; 1040 N. Lake Shore Dr., Chicago, IL 60610
12. Krueger, Howard; 187 Nutwood Ct., Bolingbrook, IL 60440-3014
13. Ochonicky, Robert; 117 W. Belmont Ave., Bensenville, IL 60106
14. Riggert, Linn; 819 Edgewater Dr., Naperville, IL 60540
15. Maron, Ed; 22 Fernwood Rd., Montgomery, IL 60538
16. Johns, Mark; 2420 Quincy Cir., Rockford, IL 61104
17. Uecker, Marvin; 502 N. Center St., Lena, IL 61048
18. David, Earl; 7703 S. Loomis, Chicago, IL 60620
19. Chayken, Leslie; 1750 W. Broadway, #4017, Blue Island, IL 60406
20. Szarafinski, Stanley; 5556 S. Normandy, Chicago, IL 60638
21. Verba, Laura; 7212 Oak Grove Ave., Justice, IL 60458
22. Tucker, Roland; 847 Luther Ln., Chicago Heights, IL 60411
23. Kobachuil, Ron; 4919 W. 156th St., Oak Forest, IL 60452
24. Ebberts, James; 1509 Caton Ave., Joliet, IL 60435
25. Thompson, Linda; 118 N. Pine, Momence, IL 60954
26. Balgeman, Gerhardt; 261 Maple St., Herscher, IL 60941

C. Advisory Pastor

Seiferth, Larry G.; Elgin, IL

D. Advisory Teachers

Boersma, Melody; Downers Grove, IL
Krohse, Ken; Lombard, IL
Laumann, Barbara; Belvidere, IL
Lisius, Charlotte; Oak Forest, IL
Piel, Paul; Norridge, IL
Prill, James; Machesney Park, IL
Schilling, Scott; Dyer, IN
Morgan, Lauren, Marengo, IL
Wilharm, Keith; Rolling Meadows, IL
Lisius, Carl; Tinley Park, IL

Northwest District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Dill, Terence M.; 257 Miller Ln., Myrtle Point, OR 97458
2. Griesse, Mark; 83655 S. Morning Star Rd., Creswell, OR 97426
3. Bickel, Timothy; 330 NE 12th St., Newport, OR 97365-2217
4. Koehneke, Dale; 2177 Joseph St. S., Salem, OR 97302
5. Sylwester, Roger; 904 State St., Hood River, OR 97031
6. Johnson, Sidney; 2435 Saddle Ct., West Linn, OR 97068-2517
7. Gilmore, Rozell; 3909 N. Overlook Terr., Portland, OR 97227-1052
8. Williams, Herman; 1037 E. 28th St., McMinnville, OR 97128-6129
9. Hrachovina, David; 5191 Cassia St., Boise, ID 83705
10. Pauls, Timothy; 1420 Aspen Valley Dr., Hailey, ID 83333-3345
11. Collin, Richard; 3009 Sandstone Dr., Idaho Falls, ID 83404-6825
12. Zirkle, James; 7809 Tieton Dr., Yakima, WA 98908
13. Wetfelmann, Arthur; 2704 W. Henry, Pasco, WA 99301
14. Goodfellow, Kendall; 8527 N. Pamela, Spokane, WA 99208-9656
15. Werfelmann, Theodore; 3405 Greenwich Rd., Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
16. Falk, John; 217 E. Nelson Rd., Moses Lake, WA 98837
17. Flath, Richard; 331 Union, Snohomish, WA 98290
18. Kasting, Michael D.; 602 Hogback Rd., Sequim, WA 98382
19. Lieske, Mark A.; 15704 63rd Ave. NE, Bothell, WA 98011
20. Allen, Richard; 5501 148th Ave. NE, Bellevue, WA 98007-3024
21. Burza, George; 16919 33rd Ave. S., Seattle, WA 98188
22. Peterson, Richard; 621 Third Ave., Aberdeen, WA 98520
23. Wildermuth, Daryl; 9122 - 118th St. E., Puyallup, WA 98373
24. Horn, David; 2500 Sunset Dr., Juneau, AK 99801

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Eberlein, Ron; 880 View St., Reedsport, OR 97467
2. Mullaley, Velma; 2010 Van Buren, Eugene, OR 97405
3. Schulze, Louis; 2813 Burkhart St. S., Albany, OR 97321
4. Brandhorst, L. Carl; 683 N. Craven St., Monmouth, OR 97361
5. Zimbelman, Gil; 22918 S. Langdon Ln., Estacada, OR 97023
6. Schwarz, William; 6624 N.E. Going St., Portland, OR 97218-3142
7. Dressler, Bob; 5341 NE Webster Ct., Portland, OR 97218
8. Ottemoeller, Armin; PO Box 145, Hillsboro, OR 97123
9. Miller, Leo E.; 585 E. 10th N., Mountain Home, ID 83647
10. Ruhter, Sharon; 263 E. 600 N., Jerome, ID 83338
11. Trail, David; 3890 E. 65th S., Idaho Falls, ID 83401
12. Waidman, Tricia; 100 Slade Rd., Selah, WA 98942
13. Kolke, Karen; 934 Bonnie Brae, Walla Walla, WA 99362
14. Hoover, Merlyn; 7407 N. Mahr Ct., Spokane, WA 99208
15. Johnson, Leonard; 1561 Randall Flat Rd., Troy, ID 83871
16. Bowes, Brian; Rt. 1, Box 462, Okanogan, WA 98840
17. Coerber, Carol; 9417 - 32nd St. SE, Everett, WA 98205
18. Seefeldt, Henry; 607 Times Ave., Bremerton, WA 98312
19. Pugh, Willie Jr.; 11327 8th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98125-6111
20. Fritz, John; 14627 SE 247th St., Kent, WA 98042
21. Tagge, Gordon; 8853 42nd Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98136
22. Heussman, John; 6844 Topaz Dr. SW, Tacoma, WA 98498
23. Peterson, Earl; 527 SW 320th Pl., Federal Way, WA 98023
24. Kosberg, Mary; PO Box 672051, Chugiak, AK 99567

C. Advisory Pastors

Gerken, Erwin A.; Puyallup, WA
Peterson, Howard; Shelton, WA

D. Advisory Teachers

Knittel, James L.; Seattle, WA
Halstead, Gail; Corvallis, OR
Endicott, Steven K.; Bothell, WA

Ohio District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Kleckner, Mark; 01018 Cicero Rd., Edgerton, OH 43517
2. Schmidt, Peter; Box 233, Ridgeville Corners, OH 43555
3. Anson, Fred; 5845 Elmer Dr., Toledo, OH 43615
4. Zachrich, David; 149 Parker Dr., Tallmadge, OH 44278
5. Vitello, John; 5754 Dunham Rd., Maple Heights, OH 44137
6. Vavroch, John; 26707 Normandy, Bay Village, OH 44140
7. Gross, Lloyd; 5901 Graydon Dr., Seven Hills, OH 44131
8. Huelsman, Dale; 126 Grand Ave., Wellington, OH 44090-1328
9. Woods, Powell; 7196 Sorn Center Rd., Solon, OH 44139
10. Tompkins, Donald; 7158 Village Dr., Concord, OH 44060
11. Fischer, Randy; 5915 Springdale, Cincinnati, OH 45247
12. Heimlich, Gerald; 5526 Cara Ct., Amlin, OH 43002-8728
13. Kloha, Mark; 1403 29th St., Ashland, KY 41101
14. Berlin, Von Eric; 80 E. Mason Rd., Sidney, OH 45365
15. Ahlersmeyer, Steven; 203 Washington Way, Mason, OH 45040

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Matthias, Ron; 5454 Mentzer Rd., Convoy, OH 45832
2. Brandt, Carl; Rt. 3, Defiance, OH 43512
3. Sansbury, James; 709 Indian Ave., Toledo, OH 43602
4. Tischler, Art; 4061 Redwing Trail; Stow, OH 44224
5. Robinson, Ferdinand; 3990 E. 151 St., Cleveland, OH 44128
6. Polzin, Mark; 7481 Hudson Park Dr., Hudson, OH 44236
7. Thompson, Norman; 3892 Evelyn Dr., North Olmsted, OH 44077
8. Chavalia, Howard; 2017 Grafton Rd., Elyria, OH 44035
9. Weaver, William; 10080 Hobby Horse Ln., Concord, OH 44060
10. Tuttle, Paul; 243 Ridgecrest Dr., Painesville, OH 44077
11. Walter, Richard; 5808 Leslie, Fairfield, OH 45014
12. Conner, Connie; 1373 Gilead Ct., Galloway, OH 43119
13. Diederich, Roger; 589 Tallwood Rd., Huntington, WV 25705
14. Phillippi, Bruce; 1892 Ravine View Ct., Centerville, OH 45459
15. Bachelder, Bob; 703 W. Levitt, Cincinnati, OH 45245

C. Advisory Pastor

Britton, Bill; Howard, OH

D. Advisory Teachers

Brieschke, Martin; Harrison, OH
Roth, Ronald; Napoleon, OH

Oklahoma District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Dorsch, Timothy D.; 1306 Oak Ave., Woodward, OK 73801
2. Wade, Kenneth D.; 1210 S. Hayes, Enid, OK 73703
4. Reese, David A.; 1008 Plato Rd., Duncan, OK 73533
5. Bohn, Daniel L.; PO Box 545, Blackwell, OK 74631-0545
6. Quoss, Al F.; 220 N. Seminole, Claremore, OK 74017-8425
7. Schwarz, Juergen W.; 428 E. Broadway, Muskogee, OK 74403
8. Henke, Barrie E.; 308 NW 164th St., Edmond, OK 73013

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Zum-Mallen, Arnold; Rt. 4, Box 83, Okarche, OK 73762
2. Pope, Gerald; 505 N. 4th, Covington, OK 73730
4. Miller, Larry; 19875 SE 25th St., Choctaw, OK 73020
5. Kahle, Marius; Rt. 5, Box 350, Ponca City, OK 74601
6. Bradley, Mike; 9832 N. 147th E. Ave., Owasso, OK 74055
7. Belton, Joe; 25950 E. Red Oak St., Broken Arrow, OK 74014
8. Niebuhr, Wilbert; 3217 Crown Feathers, Edmond, OK 73013

C. Advisory Pastor

Bode, Gerhard F.; Muskogee, OK

D. Advisory Teacher

Harms, Myron D.; Oklahoma City, OK

Pacific Southwest District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Hooper, Brian; 66 Lewis St., Ventura, CA 93001
2. Garcia, Jorge, Sr., Panorama City, CA 91402
3. Hentz, Robert D.; 1610 Vista Dr., Glendale, CA 91201
4. Perling, John R.; 1717 Ensley Ave., West Los Angeles, CA 90024
5. Gross, John; 17910 S. Prairie Ave., Torrance, CA 90504
6. Baumgartel, Allen; 310 W. 95th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90003
7. Sonnenberg, Roger R.; 531 Monte Vista Rd., Arcadia, CA 91007
8. Jones, Doug; 433 N. 18th St., Montebello, CA 90640
9. Stoppenhagen, Norman; 7821 Kingbee St., Downey, CA 90242-3419
10. Ramsey, Thomas G.; 1821 Amelia Ave., San Pedro, CA 90731-1106
11. Espinosa, Al; 435 W. Swanee Ln., Covina, CA 91723
12. Sipes, Philip; 306 E. Riverdale, Orange, CA 92665
13. Juengel, Ralph; 6441 Lincoln Ave., Buena Park, CA 90620-3644
14. Hodel, Ronald; 34381 Calle Portola, Capistrano Beach, CA 92624
15. Nelson, John E. Sr.; PO Box 94, Big Bear City, CA 92314
16. Wolff, Robert; 11869 Monte Vista, Chino, CA 91710
17. Weber, Glenn; 1811 S. Lincoln Ave., Corona, CA 91720
18. Nielsen, Richard J.; 56260 Long Way, PO Box 390668, Anza, CA 92539
19. Barckholtz, Steven A.; PO Box 7218, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546-7218
20. Droegemueller, Beryl; 700 E. Bobier Dr., Vista, CA 92084
21. Wyneken, Alan A.; 355 Canyon Ridge Dr., Bonita, CA 91902
22. Allsing, Richard; 1376 Felspar, San Diego, CA 92120
23. Schalm, Roger B.; 2281 E. 26th Way, Yuma, AZ 85365
24. Harding, Michael S.; 2340 W. Cactus Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85029
25. Morner, Dennis D.; 4881 Hobo Cir., Prescott Valley, AZ 86214
26. Teuscher, Hal; 9220 E. Fairway Blvd. #E-101, Sun Lakes, AZ 85248
27. Beuschlein, Carl; 7514 E. Cambridge, Scottsdale, AZ 85257
28. Jaster, John; 3958 N. Bank St., Kingman, AZ 86401

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Gregory, Marilyn; 1235 West Guava, Oxnard, CA 93033
2. Warnock, David; 12516 Melville Ave., Granada Hills, CA 91344
3. Garbe, Bruce; 65 Malcolm Dr., Pasadena, CA 91105
4. Boston, Harold; 1509 Hill St., Santa Monica, CA 90405
5. Tietjen, Donald; 5511 Corning, Los Angeles, CA 90056
6. Aldredge, Joyce; 4743 Don Porfirio Pl., Los Angeles, CA 90008
7. Martin, Dorothy; 3569 Lincoln Ave., Alta Dena, CA 91001
8. Winter, Herb; 662 Woodlake Dr., Brea, CA 92621
9. Klein, Richard; 7757 Dinsdale, Downey, CA 90240
10. Lueker, Clem; 2760 Cedar Ave., Long Beach, CA 90806
11. Evert, Wayne; 1525 E. Larkwood, West Covina, CA 91791
12. Miller, Thomas; 13242 Chestnut St., Westminster, CA 92683
13. Dannemeyer, William; 834 Grandview, Fullerton, CA 92632
14. Keller, Noel; 13072 Brittany Woods Dr., Tustin, CA 92680
15. Lorei, John H.; 27540 14th St., Highland, CA 92346
16. Holk, Richard; 9844 Hampshire St., Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730
17. Wood, Joel; 202 E. Jarvis #44, Perris, CA 92571
18. Kelly, Richard; 74619 Fairwat Dr., Palm Desert, CA 92260
19. Jacobson, Donald L.; 39666 Country Club Dr., Palmdale, CA 93551
20. Bytof, Clarence; 1847 Frella Ln., Cardif, CA 92007
21. Piete, Robert; 1705 Poinciana Dr., El Cajon, CA 92021
22. Schley, Bryan; 3764 Herbert, San Diego, CA 92103
23. Rausch, Randy R.; 10891 El Parque Dr., Blythe, CA 92225
24. Neary, Terry; 8410 N. 50th Dr., Glendale, AZ 85032

25. Hundt, Ed; 17436 105th Ave., Sun City, AZ 85351
26. McCoy, Michael; 800 W. Ray Rd., Chandler, AZ 85224
27. Treichler, Harvey; 1134 E. Loyola, Tempe, AZ 85282
28. Engh, Dennis K.; 7998 Red Barn Ln., Las Vegas, NV 89123

C. Advisory Pastors

Tornow, Lothar V.; Santa Anna, CA
Manske, Charles L.; Irvine, CA
Leber, Don; Rancho Cucamonga, CA

D. Advisory Teachers

Dieckhoff, Bill; Lakewood, CA
Stelling, G. Edmund; Huntington Beach, CA
Haack, Loren; Anaheim, CA
Ash, William; North Hills, CA
Massmann, Paul; Escondido, CA
Wittig, Ramon; Corona, CA
Rohmaller, Duane; Costa Mesa, CA
Waltersdorf, Judith; Phoenix, AZ
Meyer, Shirley; San Pedro, CA
Lang, Phil; San Pedro, CA

Rocky Mountain District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Cary, Bryan; 1821 Grand Ave., Monte Vista, CO 81144-1622
2. Evers, Timothy C.; PO Box 2282, Durango, CO 81302-2282
3. Matzke, Bruce R.; 12180 E. 48th Ave., Denver, CO 80239
4. Hellmers, Dwight; 1079 S. Johnson Way, Lakewood, CO 80226-4045
5. Fields, Thomas; 4949 E. Eastman Ave., Denver, CO 80222-7309
6. Henningfield, Craig; 7691 S. University Blvd., Littleton, CO 80122
7. Reiser, Gregg; 762 Date Ave., Akron, CO 80720
8. Runtsch, Timothy; 6630 Brittany Dr., Fort Collins, CO 80525
9. Blanco, Charles; 650 S. Park Ave., Ft. Lupton, CO 80621
10. Neuberger, Paul; 901 N. Halagueno, Carlsbad, NM 88220-5125
11. Mroch, Thomas; 4977 Harvest Rd., Colorado Springs, CO 80917
12. Walquist, Randy; 300 Gold Ave. SE, Albuquerque, NM 87102
13. Block, Harold; 222 E. 5600 South, Murray, UT 84107-6113
14. Puls, Timothy; 1235 Mountain View Dr., Aspen, CO 81611

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Rasmussen, Daniel; 9486 Co. Rd. HH1/2, Lamar, CO 81052
2. Brinkley, David; 3609 N. Dustin, Farmington, NM 87401
3. Hopkins, Alvin; 6428 W. 82nd Dr., Arvada, CO 80003
4. Krueger, Dan; 7632 Parfet Ct., Arvada, CO 80005-3447
5. Cook, David; 2653 S. Cook St., Denver, CO 80210-6235
6. Rodefeld, Robert; Littleton, CO 80122
7. Kruger, Russell; H. C. 81, Box 3, Amherst, CO 80721
8. Krueger, Gary; 430 W. 10th St., Apt. A, Loveland, CO 80537
9. Langhoff, Howard; 1238 Doris Cir., Erie, CO 80516
10. Roudebush, John; 15000 Ashford St. #41, Horizon City, TX 79927
11. Meythaler, Eric; 1301 J St., Salida, CO 81201
12. Lockwood, Joel; PO Box 1759, Moriarty, NM 87035
13. Bauer, Brian; 1117 E. Deborah Dr., Bountiful, UT 84010
14. Kerste, Ozzie; 35971 Colorado Hwy. 13, Craig, CO 81625

C. Advisory Pastor

Zehnder, Robert; Lakewood, CO

D. Advisory Teachers

Frank, David; Denver, CO
Palmreuter, Kenneth; Denver, CO
Senechal, John; Littleton, CO
Fangmann, Dennis; Midvale, UT

SELC District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Gaulke, Stephen; 223 W. 6th St., Hazleton, PA 18201
2. Eliason, Gilbert; 6063 Lake Ave., Elyria, OH 44035
3. Jameson, John; 3729 Cherry Hills Dr., Crown Point, IN 46307

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Sajban, John; 16 Santiago Dr. W., Toms River, NJ 08757
2. Martin, Richard; 3665 Meadow Gateway, Broadview Hts., OH 44147
3. Dunajcik, Mark; 6559 Murdoch Ave., St. Louis, MO 63109

C. Advisory Pastor

Bajus, Luther J.; Norridge, IL

South Dakota District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Friedrichs, Galen; Box 102, Columbia, SD 57433
2. Bolt, Randy; 706 S. First St., Milbank, SD 57252
3. Urbach, Brad; 714 N. Grand, Pierre, SD 57501
4. Sattgast, Dale; 642 Dakota Ave. S., Huron, SD 57350
5. Boeder, Charles; 401 First Ave. W., Flandreau, SD 57028
6. Anderson, Robert; 136 8th St. N., Custer, SD 57730
7. Boettcher, Lowell; 100 W. Kellam, Chamberlain, SD 57325
8. Gruber, James; R.R. 1, Box 62, Dimock, SD 57331
9. Gies, Clark; 201 High Ave. NW, Box 506, Wagner, SD 57380
10. Bauer, Perry R.; 425 Lakota Cir., Brandon, SD 57005

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Weisser, John; PO Box 52, Leola, SD 57456
2. Hackl, John; Rt. 1, Box 19, Corona, SD 57227
3. Brehe, Dale; HCR 2, Box 30, Agar, SD 57520
4. Borchard, Dale; 232 E. 1 St., Redfield, SD 57469
5. Stoddard, Leland K.; 830 N. Union Ave., Madison, SD 57042
6. Steinberg, Charles; 622 44th St., Rapid City, SD 57702
7. Ring, Lawrence; HC 75, Box 4, Norris, SD 57560
8. Fink, John; R.R. 1, Box 41, Delmont, SD 57330
9. Moeller, Robert E. Jr.; Box 158, Freeman, SD 57029
10. Anderson, Wendell; PO Box 128, Canistota, SD 57012

C. Advisory Pastor

Nix, Matthew; Sioux Falls, SD

D. Advisory Teacher

Boll, John V.; Rapid City, SD

South Wisconsin District

A. Voting Pastors

1. May, Timothy; 1126 S. Fifth St., Milwaukee, WI 53204-2449
2. Grime, Paul; 7821 W. Lincoln Ave., West Allis, WI 53219
3. Ahlborn, Marvin J.; 2811 N. 23rd St., Milwaukee, WI 53206
4. Senkbeil, Harold; 2680 El Rancho Dr., Brookfield, WI 53005-4543
5. Wangerin, Mark E.; 2532 N. 124th St., Apt. 253, Wauwatosa, WI 53226-1030
6. Herbolsheimer, James; 400 S. Madison, Waupun, WI 53963
7. Markworth, Richard; 8965 N. 86th St., Milwaukee, WI 53224-2105
8. Schultz, Randy; 11911 N. Granville Rd., Mequon, WI 53097
9. Eckert, Mark W.; N665 Highway S, Kewaskum, WI 53040
10. Hartman, James L.; 2215 N. 34th St., Sheboygan, WI 53083
11. Dowdy, Kenneth; 3234 Mishicot Rd., Two Rivers, WI 54241
12. Wurm, William C.; 226 Main St., Glenbeulah, WI 53023
13. Ahlemeyer, Terry; 1223 Lynrose Ln., Neenah, WI 54956-4277
14. Frye, Frank C.; Box 915, Wautoma, WI 54982-0915
15. Hesse, James; PO Box 337, 136 Honeyair, Lyndon Station, WI 53944
16. Fehlauer, Donald G.; 125 N. Iowa St., PO Box 555, Muscoda, WI 53573
17. McVey, Todd; 2914 Salem Dr., Madison, WI 53713
18. Frank, Robert; 1830 Cranston Rd., Beloit, WI 53511
19. Grieser, Wilfred J.; 207 E. High St., Edgerton, WI 53534-2111
20. Mortenson, Jeff; 3112 91st St., Sturtevant, WI 53177
21. Gundlach, Theodore; 2044 24th Ave., Kenosha, WI 53140
22. Gartzke, Daniel G.; 305 N. Main St., North Prairie, WI 53153-9728
23. Behling, David; N2274 Hwy. I, Reeseville, WI 53579
24. Timler, Theodore; 815 W. Wisconsin, Portage, WI 53901

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Markworth, Elmore; 5200 S. Tuckaway, 200A, Greenfield, WI 53221
2. Wolter, Donald; 9406 W. Oklahoma Ave., West Allis, WI 53227
3. Moore, Doretha; 11303 W. Appleton Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53225
4. Lorenz, Jonathan; 17385 Bard Ln., Brookfield, WI 53045
5. Manske, William; 3120 Menomonee River Pkwy., Milwaukee, WI 53222
6. Barnet, Joseph; W3889 Hull Road, Horicon, WI 53032
7. Post, Mark; 3007 N. Frederick Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53211
8. Halter, Don; W67 N867 Washington Ave., Cedarburg, WI 53012
9. Riemer, Ronald; 1519 Main St., West Bend, WI 53095
10. Stauss, John F.; W661 Orchard Beach Dr., Sheboygan, WI 53083
11. Kueter, Armond; 3314 Meadow Ln., Manitowoc, WI 54220
12. Matter, Merlin; 11328 Lax Cahpel Rd., Kiel, WI 53042
13. Ruhnke, Al; W7239 Winnebago Dr., Fond du Lac, WI 54935
14. Nickolai, Phillip; 520 6th Street, Menasha, WI 54952-2310
15. Pulley, Bob; Rt. 5, Box 105, Tomah, WI 54660
16. Gudenschwager, Orrlan; S3146 Lake Shore Rd., Reedsburg, WI 53959
17. Rieck, Charles E.; 7316 Voss Pkwy., Middleton, WI 53562
18. Weiss, Walter; 1929 Cleveland Ave., Beloit, WI 53511
19. Farmer, Bernie; 1802 Lois Ln., Edgerton, WI 53534
20. Glaess, Harvey E.; 4125 Farmington Ln., Racine, WI 53403
21. Hegland, Paul; 4528 Taft Rd., Kenosha, WI 53142
22. Zastrow, Dennis; 39447 Valley Rd., Oconomowoc, WI 53066
23. Scheid, Melvin; 1585 Eastgate Dr. #4, Watertown, WI 53094
24. Hill, John H.; Rt. 2, Box 46D, Montello, WI 53949-9802

C. Advisory Pastors

Bartelt, Victor; Elm Grove, WI
Seban, Calvin F. Jr.; Menomonee Falls, WI

D. Advisory Teachers

Bresemann, Perry; Brookfield, WI
Burger, Robert; Wauwatosa, WI
Gruetzmacher, Paul; Brookfield, WI
Mueller, John; Wauwatosa, WI
Dobberfuhl, Walter F.; Wauwatosa, WI
Haas, Walter; Milwaukee, WI
Emery, Glenn; Chilton, WI
Krubsack, David; West Allis, WI
Bellin, Willard; Racine, WI
Wallinger, Dennis; Milwaukee, WI

Southeastern District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Miller, Richard A.; 33 Windy Ct. Breezewood One, Newark, DE 19713-2820
2. Stano, Lester P.; 29 Linden Terr., Towson, MD 21286
3. Andersen, Neil E.; 4506 Springwood Ave., Baltimore, MD 21206
4. Clocker, Thomas R.; 500 Sylview Dr., Pasadena, MD 21122
5. Mordhorst, Robert; 4639 Briarclift Rd., Baltimore, MD 21229
6. Rogers, Ray; c/o St. Paul Church, PO Box 476, Hancock, MD 21750
7. Mentz, Stephen; 8401 Triple Crown Rd., Bowie, MD 20715
8. Kassouf, John F.; 4415 Bristol Dr., Chesapeake Beach, MD 20732
9. Krabbe, Don; 5816 Stonecreek Dr., Centreville, VA 22020
10. Naumann, Terrance A.; 10434 Rapidan Way, Ashland, VA 23005-3311
11. Diefenthaler, Jon; 608 S. Poplar Ave., Waynesboro, VA 22980-3620
12. Bloker, James; 745-R Candella Dr., Manteo, NC 27954
13. Kettner, Joel; 120 Epsworth Dr., Jacksonville, NC 28546
14. Sigmon, Stephen; 5025 Timbrook Ln., Winston-Salem, NC 27103
15. Wiggins, Stephen A. Sr.; 3001 Beatties Ford Rd., Charlotte, NC 28216
16. Todd, Gerald; 2741 Cedar St., Conover, NC 28613
17. Roth, Delbert R.; 3120 44th Ave. Dr. NE, Hickory, NC 28601
18. Kresken, Albert; 151 Cabana Rd., Myrtle Beach, SC 29577-7031
19. Foelber, J. Thomas; 1206 Deerfield Dr., Anderson, SC 29621

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Winker, Arthur; 37 Eagle Dr., Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971
2. Grayson, Neil; 3941 Street Rd., Street, MD 21154
3. Hawkins, S. Edward; 3410 Orlando Ave., Baltimore, MD 21234
4. Courtney, Penny; 942 Fall Circle Way, Gambrills, MD 21054
5. Henriksen, Randy; 4212 Maryland Pl., Baltimore, MD 21229
6. Cockrell, Dorothy; 1121 University Blvd. #108B, Silver Spring, MD 20902
7. Hymes, Morris Sr.; 3633 Tyrol Dr., Landover, MD 20785
8. Wells, Scott; 1327 Wilson Rd., Waldorf, MD 20602
9. Diaz, Alfonso; 4941 Stonehurst Dr., Woodbridge, VA 22192
10. Parker, Ernest; 2602 Seminary Ave., Richmond, VA 23220
11. Berndt, Gary; 408 Kings Way, Lynchburg, VA 24502
12. Rumsey, Richard E.; 3309 Derby Ln., Williamsburg, VA 23185
13. Norby, Paul; 223 Hardscrabble Dr., Hillsborough, NC 27278
14. McDaniels, Janis G.; 2008 Chelsea Ln., Greensboro, NC 27406-3211
15. Boyd, Bill; 49 Scalybark Trail, Concord, NC 28027
16. Frye, Bill; PO Box 124, Conover, NC 28613
17. Daniels, David; 654 W. Main Ave., Taylorsville, NC 28681
18. Beste, Greg; 40 Purple Martin Ln., Hilton Head Island, SC 29926
19. Haertling, Gene; 135 Wardlaw Lake Rd., Central, SC 29630

C. Advisory Pastors

Beck, Hubert F.; Durham, NC
Hartfield, Alan; Danville, VA

Southern District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Ertl, James; 1625 Annette St., New Orleans, LA 70116
2. Kruger, David F.; 1141 Constantinople St., New Orleans, LA 70115-2758
3. Ott, Gene; 320 Ridgelake Dr., Metairie, LA 70001
4. Manila, John K.; 3030 Congress Blvd., Apt. 172, Baton Rouge, LA 70808
5. Schmidt, Walter; 4809 Masonic Dr., Alexandria, LA 71301
6. Archbold, Gary; 800 Shirley St., De Ridder, LA 70634
7. Poppe, Leonard; 1211 18th Ave. N., Columbus, MS 39701
8. Doroh, David A.; 624 N. Poplar St., Florence, AL 35630
9. Hayman, Mark; 4416 Hillswood Ln. E., Tuscaloosa, AL 35404
10. Davis, Warren H.; 2801 N. Ninth Ave., Pensacola, FL 32503
11. Morales, Christian; 714 W. Orchid Ave., Foley, AL 36535
12. Washington, Steven; 1900 Range St., Selma, AL 36701-2933
14. Cooper, Adam; 1301 31st Ave., Gulfport, MS 39501-1888
15. Schuett, Wayne; 3916 E. 11th St. M-1, Panama City, FL 32404

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Bauer, Henry; 1813 Benjamin St., Arabi, LA 70032
2. Thalheim, Richard Jr.; PO Box 602, Thibodaux, LA 70302
3. Bailey, Phil; 8705 Jefferson Hwy., Apt. 325, River Ridge, LA 70123
4. Olson, Roderick P.; 1027 Ashland, Gonzales, LA 70737

5. Casamento, V. J.; 2103 Oakmont St., Monroe, LA 71201
6. Guillory, Mervin; 1009 Goos Blvd., Lake Charles, LA 70601
7. Mundinger, Gerhard; 4 Autumn Woods Rd., Madison, MS 39110
8. Saenger, Carol B.; 407 Carter Rd., Madison, AL 35758
9. Woods, William; 1522 Chevelle St., Birmingham, AL 35214
10. Webb, James J.; 2601 Wildelake Blvd., Pensacola, FL 32526
11. Engel, Mylan; 6409 Brindlewood Ct., Mobile, AL 36608
12. Taylor, Connie; 4475 Atlanta Hwy., Montgomery, AL 36109
14. Shave, Richard; 2102 Rose Ct., Gulfport, MS 39507-2155
15. Day, Alvin L.; 760 Rosemont Dr., Panama City, FL 32405-3825

C. Advisory Pastor

Schmieding, Scott A.; Baton Rouge, LA

D. Advisory Teacher

Wegener, Kenneth L.; New Orleans, LA

Southern Illinois District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Love, Mark W.; PO Box 19, 211 S. East St., Farmersville, IL 62533
2. Gude, George; 5221 Loop Rd., Dorsey, IL 62021
3. Laetsch, Leonard; 1022 Eighth St., Highland, IL 62249
4. Nicely, Douglas; 514 W. South St., Mascoutah, IL 62258
5. Gross, Jeff; 8250 Trinity Ln., Iuka, IL 62549
6. Eckert, Leroy; PO Box 162, 312 S. Fifth St., Baldwin, IL 62217-0162
7. Danner, Joel; #1 W. Frankfort Plaza, West Frankfort, IL 62896

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Benning, Ivan; R.R. 1, Box 89, Harvel, IL 62538
2. Quandt, David; 433 1st St., Carrollton, IL 62016
3. Meyer, Duane; 6223 Staunton Rd., Edwardsville, IL 62025
4. Buettner, Jean; 406 Walnut St., Waterloo, IL 62298
5. Meyer, George; R.R. 1, Box 92, Bluford, IL 62814
6. Wehrenberg, Ralph; 709 Westfield Dr., Red Bud, IL 62278
7. Cramer, Bryce; R.R. 4, Box 131, Murphysboro, IL 62966

C. Advisory Pastor

Kollmann, Alvin; Collinsville, IL

D. Advisory Teachers

Hausler, Eunice; Hoyleton, IL
Janssen, Richard; Chester, IL

Texas District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Tews, Mark; 512 Belmont, Dumas, TX 79029
2. Pase, Robert J.; 1004 N. 11th St., Lamesa, TX 79331-3638
3. Kelm, A. Dean; 3120 Deering Dr., Odessa, TX 79762
4. Rosenthal, Timothy; 1011 Briarwood, Abilene, TX 79603
5. Donley, Bruce; 505 Hall, Bowie, TX 76230
6. Houska, Charles; 4247 San Gabriel Dr., Dallas, TX 75229
7. Huebel, Glenn E.; 6513 Sunset, N. Richland Hills, TX 76180
8. Braun, Wayne; 4220 Olive St., Texarkana, TX 75503
9. Burkhard, Ronald E.; PO Box 1201, Crockett, TX 75835-1201
10. Finke, Norm; 301 Hwy. 287 Bypass W., Waxahachie, TX 75165
11. Clark, Blair; 1101 SW Wilshere Blvd., Burleson, TX 76028
12. Lentz, Kevin; PO Box 21, The Grove, TX 76576
13. Olson, Donald L. Jr.; 1417 White River, Waco, TX 76712
14. Doering, Martin; Box 72, Taylor, TX 76574-0072
15. Linderman, James R.; 4701 Indian Wells Dr., Austin, TX 78747
16. Schroder, David; 4008 Palomar Ln., Austin, TX 78727
17. Schumpe, Wayne; PO Box 247, Lexington, TX 78947
18. Kunkel, Lee; 1105 N. Llano, Fredericksburg, TX 78624
19. Barz, Mark D.; 1311 Summit Creek, San Antonio, TX 78258-1912
20. Sproul, John; 2829 Quebec Dr., Corpus Christi, TX 78414
21. Von Stroh, C. Dean; 602 Morgan Blvd., Harlingen, TX 78550
22. Leland, Dale; PO Box 815, Sealy, TX 77474
23. Bestian, Brian R.; 2709 Brothers Blvd., College Station, TX 77845
24. Snow, Michael; 3615 Cypresswood Dr., Spring, TX 77388-5725
25. Simonsen, Jay; 3169 Marianwood, Port Neches, TX 77651
26. Gonzalese, Jesus; 1810 11th Street, Galena Park, TX 77547
27. Misch, Steve; 326 Azalea, Lake Jackson, TX 77566
28. Mitschke, Ken; 1018 Sugar Mountain Ct., Sugar Land, TX 77578
29. Graumann, Wayne; 16020 Lutheran School Rd., Tomball, TX 77375
30. Fleischhauer, Harold; 1353 Witte Rd., Houston, TX 77055
31. Black, Donald G.; 7719 Meadowvale, Houston, TX 77063

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Sievers, Wayne; Rt. 9, Box 135, Amarillo, TX 79108
2. Hooper, Henry; Rt. 2, Box 125, Hale Center, TX 79041
3. Schooler, Bruce; 3200 Drexel, Big Spring, TX 79720
4. Fowler, Ross; 3210 Ridge Crest, San Angelo, TX 76904
5. Nelson, Jeffrey; 4834 Tortuga Trail, Wichita Falls, TX 76309
6. Bulls, Derrell; 1428 E. Windsor, Denton, TX 76201
7. Glover, Larry; 612 SW 15th Ave., Mineral Wells, TX 76067
8. Lacy, Wayne; 3606 Martha Ln., Rowlett, TX 75088
9. Waldow, Stan; 117 Southcastle, Longview, TX 75604-3529
10. Howell, Bob; 1507 Limetree Ln., Duncanville, TX 75137
11. Reinhardt, Al; 3953 Singleleaf Ln., Fort Worth, TX 76116
12. Schwausch, Eldor; Rt. 1, Box 45, Copperas Cove, TX 76522
13. Bode, Gene; Rt. 2, Box 381, Riesel, TX 76682
14. Hogwood, Keith; 14 Hopi Ln., Belton, TX 76513
15. Schumann, Ross; 2102 Upper Branch Cove, Dripping Springs, TX 78620
16. Miertschin, Elmo; 3606 Quiette Dr., Austin, TX 78754
17. Becker, Gary D.; Rt. 1, Box 73-B, Giddings, TX 78942
18. Wilson, Michael; 601 N. Austin, Seguin, TX 78155
19. Moerbe, W. O. Jr.; PO Box 597, Lapryor, TX 78872
20. Waterman, Bill; 6129 Pebble Beach, Corpus Christi, TX 78413
21. Buffo, John; 306 E. Rivera Ave., Raymondville, TX 78580
22. Burgess, Chuck; 2920 Myatt Ln., El Campo, TX 77437
23. Voelter, Donald; 2 Country Pl. W., Brenham, TX 77833
24. Orlowski, Marvin; 417 Northville, Houston, TX 77037
25. Fears, Gene; 13450 Rolling Hills, Beaumont, TX 77713
26. Jentho, David A.; PO Box 569, Baytown, TX 77522
27. Howard, Charles; 4114 Rolling Green, Seabrook, TX 77586
28. Niksch, William H.; 2523 McClendon St., Houston, TX 77030-1917
29. Heidt, Fred; 4610 Shawna St., Houston, TX 77082
30. Krueger, Wes; 4040 Watonga Blvd., Houston, TX 77092
31. Jones, Ted; 8351 Hinman, Houston, TX 77061

C. Advisory Pastors

Becker, E. George; Georgetown, TX

D. Advisory Teachers

Christian, Deborah; Houston, TX
Wehmiller, Mary; DeSoto, TX
Broyles, Bobby; DeSoto, TX
Baacke, Mark; Houston, TX
Fritsche, Ron; Houston, TX
Glienke, David; Austin, TX
Hilgendorf, Tom; Pflungeville, TX
Christian, Donald; Houston, TX
Riske, Curtis; Plano, TX

Wyoming District

A. Voting Pastors

1. Webster, James D.; 11991 RD 6, Sidney, NE 69162-4101
2. Rupert, Lee E.; PO Box 185, Morrill, NE 69358
3. Wisroth, Lee A.; 916 2nd St., Crawford, NE 69339
4. Meyer, John W.; 1910 Mariposa Blvd., Casper, WY 82604
6. Storrud, Donald; PO Box 148, Pinedale, WY 82941
7. Heinecke, Bradley; PO Box 674, Pine Bluffs, WY 82082

B. Voting Laypersons

1. Stahla, Mark; PO Box 433, Kimball, NE 69145
2. Lowman, John; 2725 East E, Torrington, WY 82240
3. Swanson, Jack L.; 801 Maple St., Chadron, NE 69337
5. Gernant, C. John; 2008 Circle Rd., Worland, WY 82401
6. Goetsch, David; 9 Warbonnet Rd., PO Box 2426, Rock Springs, WY 82901
7. Bourret, Ted; 1396 County Rd. 148, Burns, WY 82053

B. Synodical Representatives (Advisory)

OFFICERS OF THE SYNOD

President

Rev. A. L. Barry, M.Th. D.D., St. Louis, MO

First Vice-President

Rev. August T. Mennicke, D.D., Litt. D., St. Louis, MO

Second Vice-President

Rev. Robert H. King, Ph.D., Jefferson City, MO

Third Vice-President

Rev. Eugene W. Bunkowske, Ph.D., Litt.D., Fort Wayne, IN

Fourth Vice-President

Rev. Robert C. Sauer, D.D., St. Charles, MO

Fifth Vice-President

Rev. Walter A. Maier, Th.D., Fort Wayne, IN

Secretary

Rev. Walter L. Rosin, Th.D., St. Louis, MO

Vice President—Finance/Treasurer

Mr. Norman D. Sell, LLD, St. Louis, MO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

Thompson, Richard L., Watertown, WI, Chairman
Rosin, Walter L., St. Louis, MO, Secretary

Clergy Members

Barry, A. L., St. Louis, MO
Barth, Karl L., Elm Grove, WI
Kuntz, Arnold G., Garden Grove, CA

Lay Members

Daniel, John L., Allentown, PA
Garbe, Ernest E., Dieterich, IL
Brosz, Donald J., Laramie, WY
Hanson, Oscar H., Lafayette, CA
Hirsch, Robert, Yankton, SD
LaHaine, Gilbert E., Lansing, MI
Montz, Florence, Bismarck, ND
Snyder, Donald E., Henrietta, NY

Teacher Member

Dietrich, Clifford A., Ft. Wayne, IN

Non-Voting Members

Mennicke, August T., St. Louis, MO
Sell, Norman D., St. Louis, MO

Staff Officer

Schuelke, John P., St. Louis, MO

DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

Belasic, David S., Eastern
Benke, David H., Atlantic
Buegler, David D., Ohio
Callies, David W., Mid-South
Diekelman, William R., Oklahoma
Garwood, Ron M., Wyoming
Gierke, Eugene V., Nebraska
Guehna, Richard L., Minnesota North
Hartwig, Raymond L., South Dakota
Heins, John L., Michigan
Kalthoff, James W., Missouri
Kapfer, Richard G., Iowa District West
Kieschnick, Gerald B., Texas
Kramer, Loren T., Pacific Southwest
Krause, Roger, Rocky Mountain
Kuhn, Robert T., Central Illinois
Laesch, Theodore L., Northern Illinois
Lehenbauer, Osmar O., New England
Lutz, Arleigh L., North Wisconsin
Maack, Roy A., Southeastern
Marcis, Albert M., SELC
Meyer, Ronald E., South Wisconsin
Moermond, Curtis R., Iowa District East
Mueller, Herbert C. Jr., Southern Illinois
Mueller, Orval D., Southern
Patten, Howard J., Kansas
Pittelko, Roger D., English
Sandmann, Donald W., New Jersey
Schumacher, Warren W., Northwest
Seitz, Lane R., Minnesota South
Sims, Timothy E., Indiana
Sincebaugh, Norman C., North Dakota
Tietjen, Walter C., California-Nevada-Hawaii
Wollenburg, George F., Montana
Zehnder, Thomas R., Florida-Georgia

BOARDS OF REGENTS AND FACULTIES

Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne, IN

Board of Regents

Roetman, Orvil

Faculty

Newton, Robert
Schmiel, David G.

Concordia Seminary St. Louis, MO

Board of Regents

Oesch, Eugene A.

Faculty
Johnson, John F.
Preus, Jack III

Concordia College
Ann, Arbor, MI

Board of Regents
Hagenow, Martin J.

Faculty
Koerschen, James
Marschke, Paul

Concordia Lutheran College
Austin, TX

Board of Regents
Krueger, Puddin'

Faculty
Lacey, Howard
Zersen, David

Concordia College
Bronxville, NY

Board of Regents
Zwernemann, James C.

Faculty
Bodling, Kurt A.
Schultz, Ralph C.

St. Paul's High School
Concordia, MO

Board of Regents
Meyer, Jerry

Faculty
Gasau, William
Gove, Richard G.

Concordia University
Irvine, CA

Board of Regents
Gooding, Elmer R.

Faculty
Baden, Marian J.
Halm, D. Ray

Concordia University Wisconsin
Mequon, WI

Board of Regents
Schumacher, Jon R.

Faculty
Buuck, R. John
Garcia, Albert L.
Heck, Joel D.

Concordia College
Portland, OR

Board of Regents
Edward, Gloria

Faculty
Driessner, Johnnie
Schlimpert, Charles E.

Concordia University
River Forest, IL

Board of Regents
Rath, Gerald A.

Faculty
Krentz, Eugene L.
Sipe, D. Elaine
Wenzel, Gary E.

Concordia College
St. Paul, MN

Board of Regents
Scheibe, Donald W.

Faculty
Peter, Carroll E.

Concordia College
Selma, AL

Board of Regents
Lewis, Cleveland

Faculty
Jenkins, Julius

Concordia College
Seward, NE

Board of Regents
Hintz, Dennis

Faculty
Held, David
Serck, Leah
Walz, Orville C.

PROGRAM BOARDS

Conference of Congregational Services

Board
Bader, Marilyn

Staff
Muller, Lyle D.

Board for Evangelism Services

Board
Karsten, Darwin L.

Staff
Kosberg, Jerry M.

Board for Higher Education

Board
Meyer, John

Staff
Meyer, William F.

Board for Mission Services

Board
Johnson, James P.

Staff
O'Shoney, Glenn R.

Board for Parish Services

Board
Giles, Jack

Board for Youth Services

Board
Arnold, Steve

Staff
Wilke, LeRoy

SUPPORT SERVICES BOARDS

Board for Communication Services

Board
Frahm, John H.

Staff
Devantier, Paul

Board for Human Care Ministries

Board
Trapp, Edwin A. Jr.

Staff
Krenzke, Richard L.

COMMISSIONS

Commission on Appeals

Dissen, Walter C.

Commission on Black Ministry

Commission
Bodley, Simon Jr.

Staff
Clancy, Bryant C. Jr.

Commission on Constitutional Matters

Groh, James
Hopmann, Roland
Schlecht, Richard
Tesch, Walter

Commission on Doctrinal Review

Just, Arthur A.

Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support

Commission
Kirchhoff, W. James

Staff
Hartung, Bruce M.

Commission on Organizations

Winker, Eldon K.

Commission on Theology and Church Relations

Commission
Dargatz, Robert A.
Dolak, George
Gruell, Eugene
Hessler, Peter
Kapfer, Richard
Meyer, Richard H.
Storm, Robert
Weinrich, William

Staff
Joersz, Jerald C.
Lehenbauer, Joel C.
Nafzger, Samuel H.

Commission on Worship

Freese, James

OTHER SYNODICAL ENTITIES

Concordia Historical Institute

Board
Waltke, James J.

Staff
Preus, Daniel

Concordia Publishing House

Board
Brighton, Ruth

Staff
Gerber, John W.

Lutheran Church Extension Fund

Board
Puck, Warren C.

Staff
Bryant, Vic
Haake, Arthur C.

LCMS Foundation

Board
Paul Wiedenmann

Staff
Price, Wayne
Schmidt, David
Schoedel, John
Smith, Charles

Worker Benefit Plans

Board
Roberts, Roger W.

Staff
Leeman, Dan A.

OTHER SERVICE UNITS

President's Office
Barry, A. L.

First Vice-President's Office
Mennicke, August T.

Secretary's Office
Rosin, Walter L.

Treasurer's Office
Price, Wayne
Sell, Norman D.
Sticht, Fred

Legal Counsel
Pranschke, Len

Convention Management
Neuman, Lynne

UNITS REPORTING TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Accounting

Staff
Horensky, George

General Services

Staff
Whaley, John

Human Resources

Staff

Ryan, Barbara

Office of Information Systems

Staff

Criley, Ron L.

Internal Audit

Staff

Rhodes, Charles E.

Planning and Research

Staff

O'Hara, John

Council on Stewardship

Council

Pohl, Wayne

Staff

Meyer, John E.

OFFICIAL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

Atlantic District

Mau, Dwayne H., Flushing, NY

California-Nevada-Hawaii District

Beetz, Doris, El Sobrante, CA
Iverson, Theodore A., San Francisco, CA

Central Illinois District

Reimnitz, Wesley, Springfield, IL

Eastern District

Doellinger, Paul, Pittsburgh, PA

English District

Kavasch, Beth, Detroit, MI
Weinhold, Walter H., St. Louis, MO

Florida-Georgia District

Michael, Gerhard, Warner Robins, GA
Seaman, Gerald, Orlando, FL

Indiana District

Doenges, Paul, Fort Wayne, IN
Henrichs, Martin, Valparaiso, IN

Iowa District East

Knolhoff, Wayne, Marion, IA
Tarbox, Bruce, Cedar Rapids, IA

Iowa District West

Reinhardt, Larry L., Fort Dodge, IA

Kansas District

Gunderman, Alan D., Topeka, KS
Pera, Jeremy J., Clay Center, KS

Michigan District

Burow, E. Paul, Rochester, MI
Ruhl, Michael, Ann Arbor, MI

Mid-South District

Brabender, David, Murfreesboro, TN
Reaves, Paul, Memphis, TN

Minnesota North District

Biegner, Paul, Brainerd, MN
Rinke, Orrin V., Nisswa, MN

Minnesota South District

Krueger, George A., Blue Earth, MN
Taylor, Donald L., Shakopee, MN

Missouri District

Fanger, Gary, St. Louis, MO
Hingst, Duane, St. Louis, MO

Montana District

Poovey, David, Glendive, MT

Nebraska District

Pettit, Paul, Seward, NE
Rathe, Ron, Tecumseh, NE

New England District

Rumba, George, Mashpee, MA
Kuerulainen, James, Dedham, MA

New Jersey District

Fanslau, Ed, Mountainside, NJ

North Dakota District

Sharpe, William L., Fargo, ND

North Wisconsin District

Beyer, Gary, Wausau, WI
Maki, Robert, Crystal Falls, MI

Northern Illinois District

Halterman, Gene, Streamwood, IL
Hoover, David W., Lisle, IL

Northwest District

Freitag, Arthur, Bremerton, WA
Long, Gregory, Portland, OR

Ohio District

Gahl, Richard W., Olmsted Falls, OH
Reetz, Peter R., Reynoldsburg, OH

Oklahoma District

England, Brent, Owasso, OK
Hartman, Paul A., Moore, OK

Pacific Southwest District

Fiege, Calvin R., San Clemente, CA
Peters, Timothy C., Orange, CA

Rocky Mountain District

Herbst, Allen, Aurora, CO
Oberling, Vince, Alamogordo, NM

South Dakota District

Gayken, Randall, Sioux Falls, SD
Utecht, Robert, Norris, SD

South Wisconsin District

Little, Willie Jr., Milwaukee, WI
Schubert, Jeffery S., Milwaukee, WI

Southeastern District

Fratzke, Jean, Stafford, VA
Rueter, Fred, Derwood, MD

Southern District

Kieschnick, Harold C., New Orleans, LA

Southern Illinois District

Bramstedt, Paul, Steeleville, IL
Roth, Dan, Belleville, IL

Texas District

Loomans, Keith, Austin, TX
Wiederanders, J. A., Kingsville, TX

Wyoming District

Temme, Ken, Casper, WY
Temme, Marvin, Torrington, WY

CHAPLAINS/OVERSEAS MISSIONARIES

Chaplains

Shaw, Jonathan; Ft. Campbell, KY
Elbert, Thomas; Wright-Patterson AFB, OH
Muehler, Craig G., Navel Training Center, Great Lakes, IL

Overseas Missionaries

Brauer, Alice G., India
Brondos, David A., Mexico
Jennings, Robert, Ghana
Murphy, Michael, Russia
Nelson, Richard, Japan
Selle, Robert V., Venezuela
Talsma, Dale, Nigeria

C. Special Representatives

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

Central Illinois District

Bohl, Sean

Florida-Georgia District

Lanning, Lori
Michael, Gregory

Indiana District

Lessner, Abbie
Meyers, Breanne

Kansas District

Doris, Ed

Michigan District

Miles, Leon
Ollinger, Katie

Missouri District

Souza, Jamie

New England District

Williams, Vanessa
Wismar, Jessica

Oklahoma District

Amendt, Mark
Pendley, David

Pacific Southwest District

McGhen, Shaun

SELC District

Lee, Andrew

South Wisconsin District

Haynes, Brenda
Little, Tiffany

Southern Illinois District

Becker, Andrew

Texas District

Cook, Kevin
Hamilton, Morgan

COMMITTEE FOR CONVENTION NOMINATIONS

Andres, Prentice
Crago, Bill
Goehring, Philip A.
Groth, Terence
Lietz, Merle
Mohr, George
Pegosh, Donald
Reiss, Harold
Rueter, Gary D.
Rutter, Edward J.
Scheer, Larry
Schmiege, Donald
Waters, Jennie
Wolf, Orville

TABULAR SURVEY

Synodical District	Delegates Present							Delegates Absent					
	Voting			Advisory				Voting		Advisory			
	PASTORS	LAY MEN	TOTAL	PRESBYTERS.	BD. OF DIR.	PASTORS	TEACHERS	TOTAL	PASTORS	LAY MEN	PASTORS	TEACHERS	OTHERS	TOTAL
Atlantic	12	12	24	2	1	3	6		0	0	0	0	0	0
California-Nevada-Hawaii	18	18	36	3	2	3	8		0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastern	17	17	34	2	1	1	4		0	0	0	0	0	0
English	18	18	36	3	1	2	6		1	1	0	0	0	0
Florida-Georgia	16	17	33	3	2	4	9		1	0	0	0	0	0
Illinois, Central	15	15	30	2	1	3	6		0	0	0	0	0	0
Illinois, Northern	26	25	51	3	1	10	14		0	1	0	1	0	1
Illinois, Southern	7	7	14	3	1	2	6		0	0	0	0	0	0
Indiana	21	22	43	3	2	8	13		1	0	0	0	0	0
Iowa East	12	12	24	3	1	1	5		0	0	0	0	0	0
Iowa West	21	20	41	2	1	1	4		0	1	0	0	0	0
Kansas	16	16	32	3	1	1	5		0	0	0	0	0	0
Michigan	44	44	88	3	2	15	20		0	0	0	0	1	1
Mid-South	9	9	18	3	1	1	5		0	0	0	0	0	0
Minnesota North	18	18	36	3	1	1	5		0	0	0	0	0	0
Minnesota South	26	24	50	2	0	6	8		0	2	2	0	1	3
Missouri	29	29	58	3	3	10	16		0	0	0	0	0	0
Montana	6	6	12	2	0	1	3		0	0	0	0	1	1
Nebraska	21	22	43	3	1	2	6		1	0	0	1	0	1
New England	8	8	16	3	1	1	5		1	1	0	0	0	0
New Jersey	7	7	14	2	1	1	4		0	0	0	0	0	0
North Dakota	8	8	16	2	1	0	3		0	0	0	0	0	0
Northwest	24	24	48	3	2	3	8		0	0	0	0	0	0
Ohio	15	15	30	3	1	1	5		0	0	0	1	0	1
Oklahoma	7	7	14	3	1	1	5		0	0	0	1	0	1
Pacific Southwest	28	28	56	3	2	9	14		0	0	1	1	0	2
Rocky Mountain	14	14	28	3	1	3	7		0	0	0	1	0	1
SELC	3	3	6	1	1	0	2		0	0	0	0	0	0
South Dakota	10	10	20	2	1	1	4		0	0	0	0	1	1
Southeastern	19	19	38	3	2	5	10		0	0	0	5	0	5
Southern	14	14	28	2	1	1	4		0	0	0	0	0	0
Texas	31	30	61	3	1	5	9		0	1	0	4	0	4
Wisconsin, North	19	20	39	3	1	2	6		1	0	0	0	0	0
Wisconsin, South	24	24	48	3	2	10	15		0	0	0	0	0	0
Wyoming	6	6	12	2	0	0	2		0	0	0	0	1	1
Boards and Commissions							71						0	0
General Officials							7						0	0
Boards of Regents							12						1	1
Faculty Members							27						0	0
Overseas Missionaries & Military Chaplains							10						0	0
Totals	589	588	1177	92	42	118	379		6	7	3	15	6	24
Ad Hoc Committees							13							
District Youth Representatives							22							

Comparative Figures

	1973	1975	1977	1979	1981	1983	1986	1989	1992	1995
Voting Delegates Present	1,075	1,118	1,123	1,116	1,127	1,128	1,155	1,139	1,166	1,177
Advisory Delegates Present	500	492	496	516	495	360	372	363	361	379
Total Delegates Present	1,575	1,610	1,619	1,632	1,622	1,488	1,527	1,502	1,527	1,556

CONVENTION FLOOR COMMITTEES

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

C = Chairman; CM = Commissioned Minister; L = Layperson; O = Ordained Minister

District Abbreviations

AT = Atlantic; CNH = Cal.-Nev.-Hawaii; CI = Central Illinois; EA = Eastern; EN = English; FG = Florida-Georgia; IN = Indiana; IE = Iowa East; IW = Iowa West; KS = Kansas; MI = Michigan; MDS = Mid-South; MNN = Minnesota North; MNS = Minnesota South; MO = Missouri; MT = Montana; NEB = Nebraska; NE = New England; NJ = New Jersey; ND = North Dakota; NW = North Wisconsin; NI = Northern Illinois; NOW = Northwest; OH = Ohio; OK = Oklahoma; RM = Rocky Mountain; S = SELC; SD = South Dakota; SW = South Wisconsin; SE = Southeastern; SO = Southern; PSW = Pacific Southwest; SI = Southern Illinois; TX = Texas; WY = Wyoming

Committee 1

MISSIONS

C: O. Lehenbauer (NE)
O: D. Benke (AT); L. Eckert (SI); D. Geary (NJ); G. Huebel (TX); R. Kapfer (IW); C. Manske (PSW); A. Marcis (S); R. Meyer (SW); B. Padilla (CNH); P. Reetz (OH)
CM: J. Boll (SD)
L: W. Daman (EN); C. Gernant (WY); H. Langhoff (RM); J. Maddirala (MDS); L. Miller (OK); M. Newman (IW)

Committee 2

CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES

C: T. Laesch (NI)
O: C. Brandt (MT); J. Brondos (IN); D. Callies (MDS); D. Sattgast (SD); K. Scharff (MO); W. Schumacher (NOW); W. Schumpe (TX); H. Senkbeil (SW); T. Sims (IN)
CM: B. Blomquist (MI); D. Held (NEB)
L: D. Dennis (NW); J. Hall (MNN); T. Kober (MT); D. Meyer (SI); R. Stroup (KS)

Committee 3

THEOLOGY AND CHURCH RELATIONS

C: G. Wollenburg (MT)
O: R. Gallup (NI); J. Kalthoff (MO); H. Mueller (SI); E. Oesch (TX); R. Oldenettel (KS); E. Rehwaldt (MNN); D. Sandmann (NJ); J. Vieker (MI); W. Weinrich (IN)
CM: W. Haas (SW)
L: D. Brehe (SD); M. Engel (SO); B. Farmer (SW); R. Lavrenz (IE); C. Meints (IW); M. Wuenscher (MO)

Committee 4

PROGRAM AND FINANCE

C: R. Hartwig (SD)
O: G. Eliason (S); D. Hrachovina (NOW); T. Kraus (EN); G. Krueger (MNS); R. Maack (SE); C. Moermond (IE); E. Ott (SO); L. Seitz (MNS); S. Wipperman (NW)
CM: C. Riske (TX)
L: R. Bauer (ND); B. Cramer (SI); D. Hahn (CNH); C. Schwartz (CI); B. Tarbox (IE); R. Weiser (MDS)

Committee 5

HIGHER EDUCATION

C: R. Pittelko (EN)
O: R. Dargatz (PSW); P. Grime (SW); G. Holtoff (KS); M. Miller (CI); O. Mueller (SO); N. Sincebaugh (ND); W. Tietjen (CNH); M. Wangerin (SW); T. Zimmerman (MI)
CM: D. Meyr (MO)
L: P. Bailey (SO); V. Eickhoff (MNS); M. Johnson (MI); T. Knox (NEB); R. Tucker (NI); R. YaDeau (CI)

Committee 6

HUMAN CARE

C: W. Diekelman (OK)
O: C. Foreman (MNN); R. Gilmore (NOW); G. Kieschnick (TX); J. Klemp (ND); L. Kramer (PSW); A. Lutz (NW); J. Maxfield (EA); G. Menk (MNS); K. Puls (PSW)
CM: G. Klockziem (FG)
L: J. Berger (MO); G. Haertling (SE); H. Koosman (EN); D. Martin (PSW); V. Meyer (IW); R. Rathe (NEB)

Committee 7

STRUCTURE, PLANNING, AND ADMINISTRATION

C: R. Kuhn (CI)
O: N. Betke (IE); J. Foelber (SE); R. Garwood (WY); E. Gierke (NEB); G. Gude (SI); J. Hill (ND); S. Koberg (CNH); D. Sprengler (NW); L. Veland (MNS); M. Weseloh (IN); T. Zehnder (FG)
CM: D. Hintz (KS); V. Leckband (MO)
L: D. Borchard (SD); K. Krause (IN); R. Mahan (MI); J. McCorkle (IE); L. Plagge (MNS); V. Renner (OH); M. Roos (SI); M. Uecker (NI)

Committee 8

REGISTRATION, CREDENTIALS, AND ELECTIONS

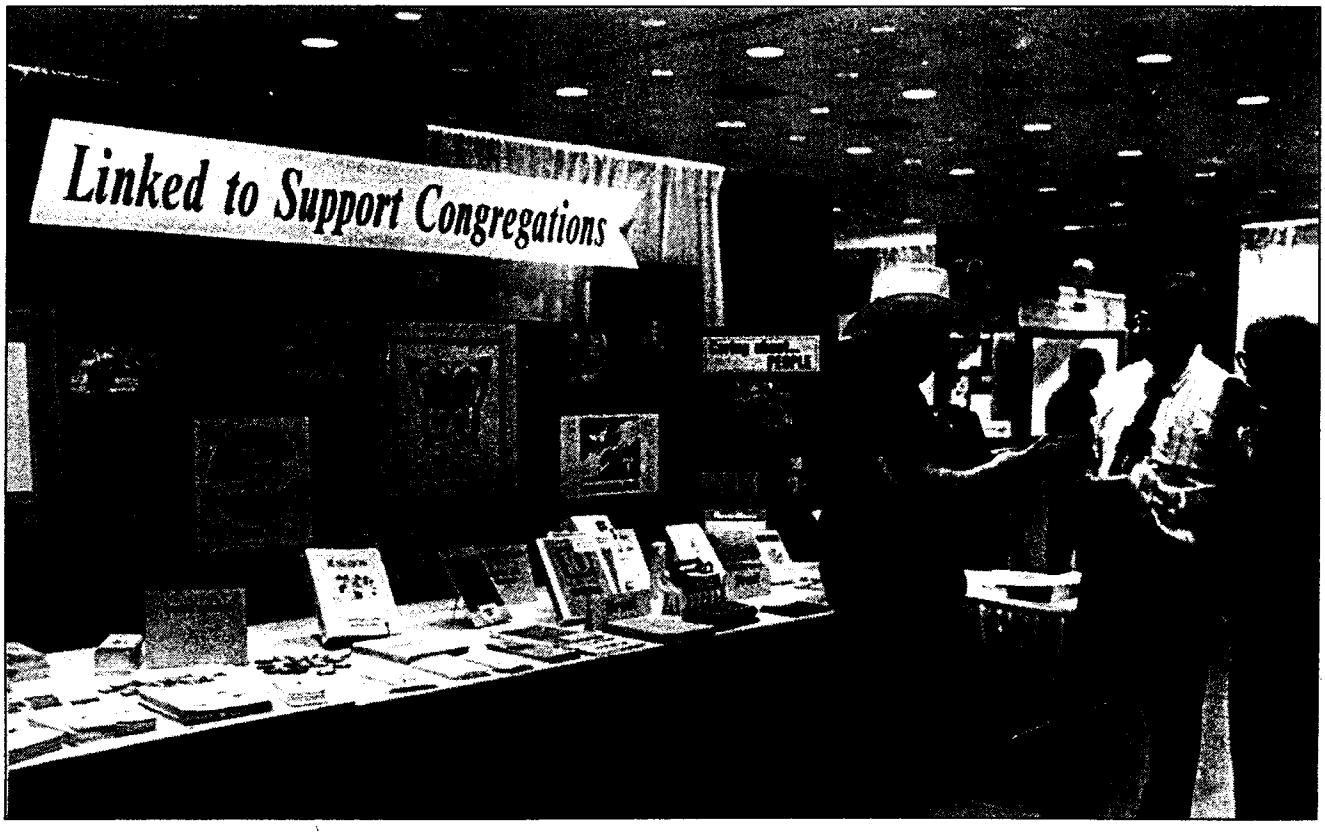
C: R. Krause (RM)
O: H. Block (RM); W. Britton (OH); D. Buegler (OH); R. Guehna (MNN); B. Heineke (WY); D. Krueger (EA); A. Scheblein (ND); H. Patten (KS); D. Theimer (AT)
CM: M. Boersma (NI)
L: J. Fritz (NOW); B. Garbe (PSW); C. Gornowicz (MNN); F. Howard (FG); W. Jacobson (NE); M. Zastrow (NW)

Committee 9

COMMITTEE FOR CONVENTION NOMINATIONS (Elected by Districts)

C: G. Mohr (SW)
O: D. Belasic (EA); T. Groth (SI); M. Harrison (IE); J. Heins (MI); H. Reiss (RM); G. Rueter (SE); E. Rutter (ND); D. Schmiege (MNN)
CM: J. Waters (NE)
L: P. Andres (TX); B. Crago (MT); P. Goehring (PSW); P. Hessler (OH); M. Lietz (KS); D. Pegosh (NJ); L. Scheer (EN); O. Wolf (MS)




Linked to Support Congregations

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

(Note: Floor committee meetings were held July 14–15.)

Friday, July 14, 1995

1:30–
9:00 Floor Committee Meetings

Saturday, July 15, 1995

9:00 Open Hearings
12:00 Lunch
1:30 Open Hearings
3:00 Orientation
4:00 Orientation (Repeat)
7:30 Divine Service (with the Sacrament of the Altar), Immanuel Lutheran Church, St. Charles, MO, host congregation, President A. L. Barry, preacher

Sunday, July 16, 1995

Devotional Theme of the Day:
Sent Forth by God's Blessing

8:00 Mission Service
9:00 Preparation for Opening Business Session
9:30 Registration, Credentials, and Elections (#8)
9:40 Convention Opening and Presentation of Gavel
9:45 Theme Video
9:50 Welcome and Response
Dr. James Kalthoff, President, Missouri Dist.
Rev. Richard Thompson, Chairman, Board of Directors
10:00 Convention Schedule
10:10 Standing Rules
10:25 President's Report (Last Part)
10:55 Electronic Response System—Getting Acquainted
11:15 Adoption of Slate for President
11:20 Balloting for President
11:40 Adoption of Slate for First Vice-President
11:50 Balloting for First Vice-President
12:10 Omnibus Resolutions
12:30 Recess
2:00 Devotion
2:10 Missions (#1)
2:55 Congregational Services (#2)
3:40 Nominating Ballot for Other Vice-Presidents
4:00 Theology and Church Relations (#3)
4:45 Program and Finance (#4)
5:30 Devotion
5:35 Recess
Evening Alumni Gatherings

Monday, July 17, 1995

Devotional Theme of the Day:
Sent Forth by God's Blessing ... to Be in the Word

8:00 Devotion
8:12 Theme Video
8:15 Convention Essay: "Grow in the Word"
Dr. Richard J. Shuta, Concordia College, Ann Arbor
9:00 Higher Education (#5)
9:45 Human Care (#6)
10:30 Balloting for Other Vice-Presidents
11:00 Nominations (#9)
12:00 Greetings
Mayor's Office
LWML
LLL
12:30 Recess
2:00 Devotion
2:10 Minutes
2:15 Structure, Planning, and Administration (#7)
3:00 Missions (#1)
3:45 Congregational Services (#2)
5:15 Theology and Church Relations (#3)
6:00 Devotion
6:05 Recess

Tuesday, July 18, 1995

Devotional Theme of the Day:
Sent Forth by God's Blessing ... to Care for One Another

8:00 Devotion
8:12 Theme Video
8:15 150th Anniversary Bible Study
9:00 Program and Finance (#4)
10:30 Higher Education (#5)
11:00 Registration, Credentials, and Elections (#8)
12:00 Greetings
Representatives of Partner Churches
12:30 Recess
2:00 Devotion
2:10 Minutes
2:15 Structure, Planning, and Administration (#7)
3:45 150th Anniversary Kickoff
4:30 Completion of Balloting
5:00 Missions (#1)
5:30 Devotion
5:35 Recess

Evening President's Q & A Forum (7:30 Convention Center)
Trip to Missouri Botanical Gardens
Trip to St. Louis Zoo

Wednesday, July 19, 1995

Devotional Theme of the Day:
Sent Forth by God's Blessing ... to Tell the Good News

8:00 Devotion
8:12 Theme Video
8:15 Convention Essay: "Grow in Outreach"
Dr. Paul Heerboth, Board for Mission Services
9:00 Registration, Credentials, and Elections (#8)
9:45 Theology and Church Relations (#3)
11:15 Congregational Services (#2)
12:00 Greetings—U. S. Church Leaders
Tribute to Dr. J. A. O. Preus by Dr. Robert Sauer
Dr. Ralph A. Bohlmann
Dr. William Rusch
12:30 Recess
2:00 Devotion
2:10 Minutes
2:15 Higher Education (#5)
3:45 Human Care (#6)
4:45 Structure, Planning, and Administration (#7)
5:30 Devotion
5:35 Recess
7:30 President's Reception (Ballroom)

Thursday, July 20, 1995

Devotional Theme of the Day:
Sent Forth by God's Blessing ... to Remain Faithful to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions

8:00 Devotion
8:12 Theme Video
8:15 150th Anniversary Bible Study
9:00 Missions (#1)
9:45 Congregational Services (#2)
10:30 Theology and Church Relations (#3)
11:15 Higher Education (#5)
12:00 Recognition of Honorees
12:30 Recess
2:00 Memorial Devotion
2:20 Minutes
2:25 Program and Finance (#4)
2:55 Human Care (#6)
3:40 Structure, Planning, and Administration (#7)
4:25 Missions (#5)
4:55 Theology and Church Relations (#3)
5:40 Higher Education (#5)
6:25 Devotion
6:30 Recess

Friday, July 21, 1995

Devotional Theme of the Day:
Sent Forth by God's Blessing ... to Live in Peace

8:00 Devotion
8:12 Theme Video
8:15 Convention Essay: "Grow in Giving"
Reverend Charles O. Smith,
LCMS Foundation
9:00 Structure, Planning, and Administration (#7)
9:20 Registration, Credentials, and Elections (#8)
9:30 Theology and Church Relations (#3)
10:15 Human Care (#6)
10:45 Congregational Services (#2)
11:30 Recess
1:00 Prayer
1:00 Minutes
1:05 Structure, Planning, and Administration (#7)
1:50 Higher Education (#5)
2:05 Program and Finance (#4)
2:30 Registration, Credentials, and Elections (#8)
2:35 Closing Video
2:45 Closing Devotion
3:00 Adjournment

MINUTES OF THE CONVENTION

Opening Worship

The opening worship service for the 59th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod was held in the America's Center of St. Louis, Missouri. The Rev. Dr. A. L. Barry preached the sermon, with the Rev. Allen W. Schade, pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church of St. Charles, serving as the presiding minister.

Delivering a message based on 2 Kings 7:3–9 to the delegates, guests, and visitors, Dr. Barry asked the question, "What shall we do with the Good News?" After pondering the forgiveness we share and the salvation we have in Christ Jesus Dr. Barry answered his question: *"Let us go now and tell the King's people the Good News!"*

Session 1

July 16, Morning

Sunday Morning Worship

The Sunday morning worship service was led by the Rev. Jerold Munz, pastor of Peace Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Indianapolis. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Douglas Rutt, missionary from Guatemala.

Committee 8: Registration, Credentials, and Elections

The Rev. Roger Krause, President of the Rocky Mountain District and Chairman of Committee 8, Registration, Credentials, and Elections, reported on the number of vot ing delegates registered to this point in the convention. As of 9:00 a.m., July 16, there were 585 voting pastors and 579 voting laypersons registered. The total number of voting delegates present was 1164, constituting a quorum. Registered pastoral advisory delegates, 45; teacher delegates, 113; representatives from Synod's boards, commissions, and faculties, 193; youth representatives, 34; others, 20. The total registrations: 1569. In addition 220 guests registered their attendance for a total of 1789 in attendance.

Convention Gavel

The Rev. Dr. August Suelflow, Director of the Concordia Historical Institute for 45 years prior to his retirement earlier this year, together with his successor, the Rev. Daniel Preus, presented a celebrated gavel to Dr. Barry for use in the opening and closing of the convention. The gavel was first utilized in 1911 by Dr. F. Photenhauer, fifth President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The gavel had been prepared a year earlier by a layman from a piece of wood taken from a beam of the log cabin in Perry County which served as the first seminary. President Barry is the sixth synodical President to use it.

Video Presentation

The delegates had the opportunity to see the theme of the convention, *"Sent Forth to Be God's Blessing,"* depicted in action throughout our Synod via a video prepared by the Communications Department of the LCMS.

Welcome Message

President James Kalthoff, President of the Missouri District, welcomed the delegates, representatives, and guests. Rev. Richard Thompson, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Synod, responded.

Convention Schedule

The delegates voted to adopt the schedule for the convention as printed on pages 27–28 of *Today's Business,* with the following modification: The business originally scheduled for Tuesday, July 18, at 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon, respectively, will be reversed.

Standing Rules

The delegates voted to adopt the standing rules with the following addition: A member who has spoken on an issue may not at the close of the speech move the previous question.

President's Address

President Alvin L. Barry opened his remarks by expressing thanks for the privilege of being able to serve our beloved Synod as President during the past triennium. Dr. Barry likened our being together in convention to a family reunion, and he welcomed all of the delegates, advisors, and friends. Dr. Barry declared that *faithfulness* and *outreach* must guide convention business during the coming days.

President Barry offered observations regarding several important resolutions to come before the house and harkened back to his acceptance speech three years ago in which he urged, "Keep the message straight, Missouri! Get the message out, Missouri!"

Electronic Voting

President Roger Krause introduced the delegates to the electronic voting system to be utilized during the course of the convention.

Election of a President

Dr. Walter Rosin, Secretary of the Synod, presented the slate of nominees for the office of President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The nominees included, in order of nominations received: The Rev. Dr. Alvin Barry, the Rev. Dr. John Johnson, the Rev. Dr. Richard Kapfer, the Rev. Dr. Robert Kuhn, and the Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer. The slate was adopted by common consent. Rev. Roger Krause led the delegates in casting the first ballot.

The result of the first ballot of voting is as follows:

Alvin Barry	754	64 percent
Richard Kapfer	290	25 percent
John Johnson	60	5 percent
Dale Meyer	46	4 percent
Robert Kuhn	12	1 percent

Dr. Alvin Barry was declared elected.

Omnibus Resolution A

The delegates considered Resolution A, the omnibus resolution which refers specified overtures to appropriate committees or commissions. An amendment was offered to refer Overture 3-113, *Convention Workbook* p. 185, to the Board for Youth Services, and to refer Overture 3-08, *Convention Workbook* p. 155, to the Task Force on Ministry to Homosexuals. The amendment was adopted. An amendment was made to refer Overture 7-87 to the Blue Ribbon Committee. The amendment was adopted. An amendment was made to delete Overture 7-95. The amendment carried. An amendment was offered that Overture 3-68 be removed from A and referred to the appropriate floor committee for later presentation back to the convention. The motion failed. An amendment was offered to refer Overture 3-18 to the Council of Presidents instead of the CTCR. The amendment failed. Resolution A was adopted as amended.

Election of the First Vice-President

Dr. Rosin presented the slate of nominees. These include Rev. Raymond Hartwig, Rev. Dr. John Heins, Rev. Dr. Robert King, Rev. Dr. Robert Kuhn, and Rev. Dr. August Mennicke. The list of nominees was adopted.

The result of the first ballot is as follows:

Raymond Hartwig	67	6 percent
John Heins	30	3 percent
Robert King	84	7 percent
Robert Kuhn	547	47 percent
August Mennicke	435	37 percent

The result of the second ballot is as follows:

Raymond Hartwig	36	3 percent
Robert King	55	4 percent
Robert Kuhn	604	52 percent
August Mennicke	468	40 percent

The Rev. Dr. Robert Kuhn was declared elected.

Omnibus Resolution B

Omnibus Resolution B, which calls for recognition that the matter in question has been adequately address by previous convention, was placed before the delegates. An amendment was offered to add Res. 5-08, which references Overture 5-06, to Resolution B. The amendment carried. An amendment was made that Overtures 6-29, 6-30, and 6-36 be deleted from Resolution B and referred to the appropriate floor committees. The amendment was adopted. An amendment was offered to delete Overtures 7-05 and 7-06 from B. The question was called and sustained. The amendment failed. An amendment was offered to refer Overture 7-09 back to floor committee. The amendment failed. The question on B was moved and sustained. Resolution B was adopted as amended.

Omnibus Resolution D

Omnibus Resolution D, which offers thanks to a variety of individuals and organizations, was placed before the convention. An amendment was made to include Overture 6-09 in Resolution D. The question was called and sustained. The amendment carried. Amendment was offered to remove Overtures 2-42, 2-43, and 2-47 from Resolution D. The amendment failed. The question on the main motion was called and sustained. Resolution D was adopted as amended.

Closing Prayer

Rev. Douglas Rutt led the convention in prayer at the close of the session.

Session 2

July 16, Afternoon

Opening Devotions

Missionary Rutt led the delegates and visitors in a consideration of Luke 10:1–24.

Committee 8: Registration, Credentials, and Elections

The Rev. Roger Krause, President of the Rocky Mountain District and Chairman of Committee 8, Registration, Credentials, and Elections, updated the convention on registrations. The number of voting pastors registered is 586. The number of lay voting delegates is 581, for a total of 1167 voting delegates. The number of advisory delegates is 413. The number of guests is 319. The total number in attendance is 1899.

Committee 1: Missions

The Rev. Dr. Osmar O. Lehenbauer, President of the New England District and Chairman of Committee 1, Missions, introduced the work of his floor committee by sharing a video of mission focus with the convention.

Res. 1-01A, which called for thanksgiving in recognition of 100 years of world missions, 100 years of ministry to the deaf, and 75 years of ministry to America's university campuses, was presented for consideration. The resolution was adopted.

Res. 1-06A, which focused upon increased support for campus ministry, was placed before the delegates. The resolution was adopted.

Committee 2: Congregational Services

The Rev. Dr. Theodore Laesch, President of the Northern Illinois District and Chairman of Committee 2, Congregational Services, introduced the work of his committee with reference to the writings of St. Paul.

The committee placed Res. 2-01A, which called for President Barry's five statements of vision to be placed into common practice, before the convention. By common consent reference to John 8:31 was enlarged to include also 8:32. Also by common consent the wording of the second whereas was modified to alter the phrase *people centered* to *Christ centered*. The question was called and was sustained. The motion was adopted as modified by common consent.

Committee 2 moved Res. 2-02, which called for the change of the Commission on Black Ministry into a Board for Black Ministry Services and to grant seats to such a new board on the Council on Mission and Ministry and on the Council of Administrators. The resolution was defeated.

Res. 2-05A was placed before the delegates. The title was modified to read, "To Commend for Study the CTCR Document 'Racism and the Church.' " The resolution was adopted.

The committee introduced for consideration Res. 2-08A, which encouraged every-Sunday Communion. An amendment was offered to include reference to every service on every Lord's Day (line 45). The chairman called for the orders of the day. The matter was therefore postponed until the next opportunity for Committee 2 to present its resolutions.

Committee 8: Registration, Credentials, and Elections

The Rev. Roger Krause, President of the Rocky Mountain District and Chairman of Committee 8, Registration, Credentials, and Elections, led the delegates in establishing a slate for the offices of Vice-Presidents two through five of the Synod.

Standing Rules

Motion was made to cease reading whereases on resolutions presented by the floor committees. The motion failed.

Committee 3: Theology and Church Relations

The Rev. Dr. George Wollenburg, President of the Montana District and Chairman of Committee 3, Theology and Church Relations, made comments introducing the first three resolutions of the committee.

The committee set Res. 3-01 before the convention. The resolution called for the formalizing of altar and pulpit fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Paraguay. The motion was adopted. Dr. A. L. Barry introduced to the convention Rev. Eugenio Wentzel, President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Paraguay. Protocol documents were signed by President Barry and President Wentzel. Rev. Wentzel spoke words of encouragement for the newly formed fellowship.

Motion was made by the floor committee to formalize altar and pulpit fellowship with the Free Evangelical—Lutheran Synod in South Africa. Res. 3-02 was adopted. President Barry introduced the Rev. Peter Ahlers, President of the Free Evangelical—Lutheran Synod in South Africa. Protocol documents were signed. President Ahlers addressed the assembly. Bishop David Tswaedi of the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa was also introduced to the delegates, and he likewise spoke.

The assembly sang praise to God and joined in prayer led by President Barry for the gift of fellowship.

The committee then presented to the convention Res. 3-03A, which called for the LCMS to join the International Lutheran Council. The chairman of the convention called for the orders of the day, thus postponing 3-03A until the next opportunity for Committee 3 to present business before the convention.

Concordia Historical Institute

The Rev. Daniel Preus engaged the delegates in a brief quiz regarding the founding convention of the Synod.

Call for Reconsideration

A delegate who had voted on the prevailing side of the vote for Res. 2-02 called for its reconsideration. The call of reconsideration was sustained.

Committee 4: Program and Finance

The Rev. Raymond Hartwig, President of the South Dakota District and Chairman of Committee 4, Program and Finance, introduced the scope of the work of the committee.

Res. 4-01 was placed before the convention. The motion called for promotion of walking together in biblical stewardship. A motion for referral back to committee was made and was adopted.

Res. 4-03 was moved by the committee. An amendment was offered to modify the wording of the resolution in the first line of the first resolve, to wit: *That the Synod in convention require that the Synod, its entities, and all its Districts to comply. ...* The amendment failed. Another amendment was offered to modify the second resolve to the effect that the Districts be required to have triennial audits rather than annual audits. The motion to so amend 4-03 failed. The chairman called for the orders of the day.

Closing Devotions

The delegates were led in song and prayer by Rev. David Brondos, missionary to Mexico.

Session 3

July 17, Morning

Opening Devotions

The assembly was led in opening devotions by the Rev. Herbert C. Mueller, Jr., President of the Southern Illinois District. The homily, based upon John 15:5, acknowledged that if we are to go into the world with the message of reconciliation, we must go enlivened with the faithfulness and righteousness of Christ Jesus—He the vine, we the branches.

Convention Essay

The Rev. Dr. Richard Shuta from the faculty of Concordia College, Ann Arbor, delivered an essay to the convention entitled "Grow in the Word."

Committee 8: Registration, Credentials, and Elections

The Rev. Roger Krause, President of the Rocky Mountain District and Chairman of Committee 8, Registration, Credentials, and Elections, updated the delegates regarding registrations. Eleven hundred seventy voting delegates are registered. The total in attendance is 1918.

Committee 5: Higher Education

The Rev. Dr. Roger Pittelko, President of the English District and Chairman of Committee 5, Higher Education, introduced the Rev. Dr. William Meyer, President of the Concordia University System. Dr. Meyer described the higher education configuration of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Dr. Charles Schlimpert, President of Concordia, Portland, addressed the delegates on behalf of the 10 Concordia college and university presidents. He acquainted the convention attenders with the strategic educational initiatives being undertaken by the campuses.

A resolution of thanksgiving (5-01) for the blessing of God upon our Concordia Theological Seminary at Fort Wayne, Indiana, was presented by the chairman of Committee 5. The motion was adopted.

Res. 5-02A was placed before the body. The motion called for a renewal of financial support to seminary education. A substitute motion was introduced. The delegates determined not to consider the substitute motion. An amendment was offered to delete the words *to cover the cost of all tuition*, and substitute the words *to alleviate undue financial burden.* The question was called and sustained. The amendment was defeated. The chairman called for the orders of the day, thus postponing further discussion and vote on 5-02A until a later time in the convention schedule.

Committee 6: Human Care

The Rev. William Diekelman, President of the Oklahoma District and Chairman of Committee 6, Human Care, led the delegates into the business of the committee by describing The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod response to human need by means of a video.

The committee placed Res. 6-01A before the convention. The resolution speaks to affirming the sanctity of life. A motion to refer 6-01A back to committee was offered. The question was called and sustained. The motion to refer was adopted.

Res. 6-02, objecting to assisted suicide, was brought before the house. An amendment was offered to include the fifth whereas from Overture 6-08, to wit: "We respect the individual's right to refuse treatment or to forbid life-support systems by a prior directive and to be allowed to die." The amendment was adopted. The title was edited to exchange the word *legalization* for *legislation.* By common consent the words *gift of* in line 50 were changed to *Lord who gives.* An amendment was offered to modify the last resolve of the resolution, to wit: "That the Synod in convention encourage its pastors and people to speak out against any attempt to legalize physician-assisted suicide as citizens of this nation." The question on the amendment was called and was sustained. The amendment was defeated. The chairman called for the orders of the day.



LWML President Gloria Edwards

Committee 8: Registration, Credentials, and Elections

The Rev. Roger Krause, President of the Rocky Mountain District and Chairman of Committee 8, Registration, Credentials, and Elections, reported to the delegates the list of names nominated for a vice-presidential position within The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The names to be included on the ballot are David Buegler, Eugene Bunkowski, Robert King, Walter A. Maier II, Dale Meyer, Norbert Oesch, J. A. O. Preus III, Robert Preus, Wallace Schulz, Edwin Suelflow, William Weinrich, and Laurence White.

Committee 9: Nominations

Dr. George Mohr, Chairman of Committee 9, Nominations, asked for nominations from the floor for the remaining positions to be filled. The following nominations were made from the floor and were sustained by the delegates. Dr. Jack Gerber for the office of Vice President–Finance/Treasurer; Rev. Dr. Harlan Harnapp for the Board of Directors; Rev. Laurence White for the Board of Directors; Dr. Jean Garton for the Board of Directors; Thomas Kuchta for the Board of Directors; Edsel Tieman for the Board of Directors; Rev. John Fiene for the Board of Mission Services; Rev. John Pless and Rev. Martin Noland for the Commission on Theology and Church Relations; Dr. Stevin Gehrke for the CTCR; Rev. Thomas Ahlersmeyer for the Board of Regents, Ann Arbor; Rev. John Schildwachter for the Board of Regents, Fort Wayne; Walter Dissen for the Board of Regents, Fort Wayne; Al Wipperman for the Board of Regents, River Forest; Rev. Paul Pfotenhauer for the Board of Regents, St. Paul; and Doris Gangelhoff for the Board of Regents, St. Paul. Those names which had not been previously submitted were approved as names which will be included in the slate of nominees.

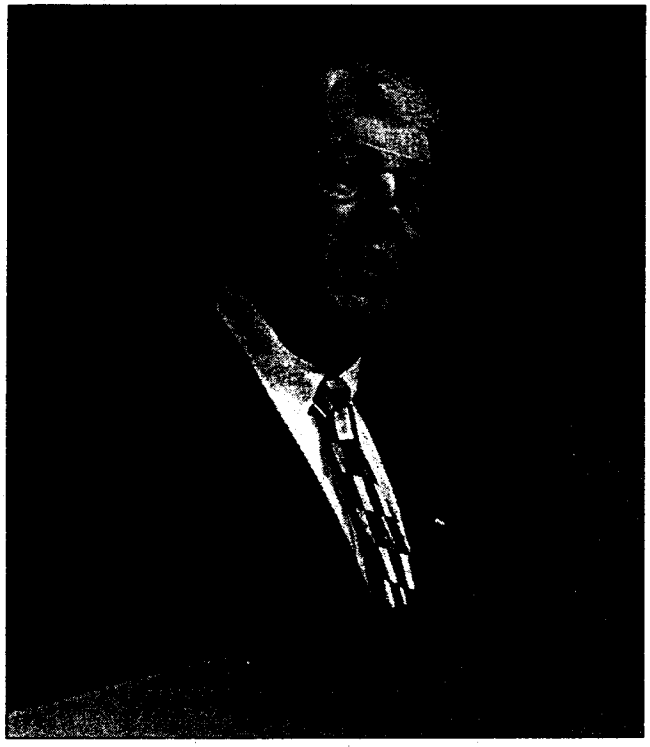
Special Greetings

Gloria Edwards, president of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, brought encouraging words to the delegates of the 59th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Don Bennett addressed the delegates on behalf of the more-than-one-hundred-thousand members of the Lutheran Laymen's League.

Closing of the Session

Delegates were led in prayer by President Herbert C. Mueller, Jr.



LLL president Don Bennett

Session 4

July 17, Afternoon

Opening Devotions

The assembly was led in opening devotions by the Rev. David Dissen, Second Vice-President, Missouri District.

Minutes

The minutes for the opening session and for session 2 were adopted as drafted.

Committee 7: Structure, Planning, and Administration

The Rev. Dr. Robert Kuhn, President of the Central Illinois District and Chairman of Committee 7, Structure, Planning, and Administration, introduced the business of the committee.

Res. 7-05, to amend Bylaw re 14.03, was placed before the convention. A motion was made to dispense with the reading of Bylaws in their entirety. The delegates voted not to read the Bylaws. The motion was adopted.

Res. 7-06, to finalize Bylaws re auxiliaries, was presented to the delegates. The motion was adopted.

Res. 7-07, to commend and support the President of the Synod for his leadership, was brought before the convention. The motion was adopted and the delegates rose in response, singing praise to God.

Res. 7-08, to reaffirm the pastoral role of District Presidents, was moved by the committee. The question was called and was sustained. The resolution was adopted.

A motion to reconsider Res. 7-07 was made. The question was called and sustained. The motion was defeated.

A motion was made to consider 7-10, to transfer congregations between the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and The Lutheran Church—Canada and between Districts of these two church bodies. The motion was adopted.

Committee 8: Registration, Credentials, and Elections

A resolution was offered from the floor to recast the ballots for the vice-presidencies. Question was called and was sustained. The motion failed.

The Rev. Roger Krause, President of the Rocky Mountain District and Chairman of Committee 8, Registration, Credentials, and Elections, presented the result of the first ballot of voting for Vice-Presidents of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, positions two through five:

David Buegler	350
Eugene Bunkowski	432
Robert King	932
Walter A Maier II	210
Dale Meyer	355
Norbert Oesch	304
J. A. O. Preus III	286
Robert Preus	397
Wallace Schulz	389
Edwin Suelflow	237
William Weinrich	287
Laurence White	241

Robert King was declared elected. A second ballot for positions three through five was cast, with all but the lowest vote receiver placed on the ballot.

Committee 1: Missions

The Rev. Dr. Osmar O. Lehenbauer, President of the New England District and Chairman of Committee 1, Missions, resumed the business of his committee.

Res. 1-02A, to promote involvement through mission partnerships, was placed before the delegates. The resolution was adopted.

Res. 1-03A, to reaffirm commitment to urban and cross-cultural ministry, was moved by the committee. The resolution was nonsubstantively edited by common consent. An amendment was offered to add a resolve that both seminaries be urged to train ministers for urban and cross-cultural work. The amendment was adopted. Another amendment was made to add the words *and developing new ministries* at the end of line 51. The amendment was adopted. The main motion as amended was adopted.

Res. 1-04A, to further evangelistic outreach among immigrants, was placed before the convention by the committee. The motion was adopted.

Res. 1-05A, to encourage international student outreach, was moved. By common consent the words *high schools* were added to the second whereas. The motion was adopted.

Committee 2: Congregational Services

The Rev. Dr. Theodore Laesch, President of the Northern Illinois District and Chairman of Committee 2, Congregational Services, led the assembly into the work of his committee for a second time.

The committee brought Res. 2-08A back before the delegates. The resolution and an amendment had not been completed in the time allotted in an earlier session. The amendment called for the celebration of the Lord's Supper in every service on each Lord's Day. Question was called on the amendment and was sustained. The amendment was defeated. An amendment was offered to add a final resolve, to wit: that those who would commune would be examined and absolved. The question was called and was sustained. The amendment was not adopted. A substitute motion was offered to leave decisions regarding the frequency of offering the Lord's Supper with each congregation. The assembly determined not to consider the substitute motion. An amendment was offered which requested the Commission on Worship to bring to the congregations materials which would be instructive with regard to the frequency of the offering of the Lord's Supper. Question was called on the amendment and the main motion. The calling of the question was sustained. The amendment was defeated. The main motion was adopted.

Res. 2-03A was presented. The resolution is entitled "To Retain the Free-Standing Commission on Worship and to Build an Integrated and Coordinated Relationship between the Staffs of Commission on Worship and Board of Congregational Services." By common consent the hyphenated word *free-standing* was deleted. Again by common consent use of the word *consist* was agreed upon in line 15, p. 130. Again by common consent the words *of grace* were added to the end of line 37, p. 129. The committee announced the deletion of the words *and recognized service organizations* from lines 31–32, p. 130. The question was called and was sustained. The motion was adopted.

Res. 2-04A, "To Establish Composition of Board for and Conference of Congregational Services," was moved by the committee. Extensive background information was shared. An amendment was offered which was ruled to be a substitute motion. The delegates declined to consider the substitute motion. The chairman called for the orders of the day.

Committee 8: Registration, Credentials, and Elections

The Rev. Roger Krause, President of the Rocky Mountain District and Chairman of Committee 8, Registration, Credentials, and Elections, reported that the previous ballot for the remaining vice-presidential offices was invalid, as declared by the Commission on Constitutional Matters. The revised list of candidates for vice-presidential positions three through five is as follows: David Buegler, Eugene Bunkowske, Dale Meyer, Norbert Oesch, Robert Preus, and Wallace Schulz.

Committee 3: Theology and Church Relations

The Rev. Dr. George Wollenburg, President of the Montana District and Chairman of Committee 3, Theology and Church Relations, introduced Res. 3-03A. Debate of this resolution was begun during a previous session. The title of the resolution is "To Join the International Lutheran Council." Question was called and sustained. The resolution was adopted.

Res. 3-04A, calling for the continuation of the CTCR and a review of its procedures, was moved by the committee. Question was called and was sustained. The resolution was adopted.

Res. 3-05, regarding suffrage, was placed before the convention. An amendment was offered which was ruled to be a substitute motion. The delegates declined to consider the substitute motion. An amendment was offered to substitute the words *doctrinal difference* for *Christian conscience* in line 54, p. 50, and *can be divisive* for *is not divisive* in line 55, p. 50. Question on the amendment and the main motion was called and was sustained. The amendment was defeated. The resolution was adopted.

Committee 8: Registration, Credentials, and Elections

The Rev. Roger Krause, President of the Rocky Mountain District and Chairman of Committee 8, Registration, Credentials, and Elections, announced the results of balloting for vice-presidential offices three through five, to wit:

David Buegler	521
Eugene Bunkowske	598
Dale Meyer	648
Norbert Oesch	463
Robert Preus	538
Wallace Schulz	569

Dale Meyer, Eugene Bunkowske, and Wallace Schulz were declared elected to vice-presidential offices three through five respectively.

Closing Devotions

The delegates were led in closing devotion by the Rev. Richard Nelson, missionary to Japan.

Session 5

July 18, Morning

Opening Devotions

The delegates were led in devotions by the Rev. Dr. Orville Walz, President of Concordia College, Seward, Nebraska. With focus on Galatians 5:13, Dr. Walz addressed the subject of freedom in the Gospel.

Theme Video

The Communications Department of the Synod featured a brief video to establish the focus of the day.

The 150th Anniversary

The Rev. Dr. Karl Barth, former president of the South Wisconsin District and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, guided the assembly in a study of justification, utilizing the newly published booklet *Sent Forth by God's Blessing into God's Word,* authored by Thomas J. Doyle and Roger Sonnenberg.

Nominations

Several additional nominations were made. The full slate of nominees will be attached to these minutes and distributed with the official *Proceedings.* The slate was declared closed.

The full listing of all nominations for vice-presidential positions two through five is as follows:

Robert H. King	803
Robert D. Preus	273
*August Mennicke	264
Eugene W. Bunkowske	247
Wallace R. Schulz	214
*Richard Kapfer	186
David D. Buegler	177
Dale A. Meyer	161
Jacob A. O. Preus III	156
Laurence L. White	154
William C. Weinrich	153
Edwin S. Suelflow	147
Norbert C. Oesch	146
*Raymond L. Hartwig	142
*John Heins	108
Walter A. Maier	95
Robert Sauer	94
Harold Senkbeil	79
John Johnson	65
*George Wollenberg	53
Charles Mueller	50
Kurt Marquart	41
Theodore Laesch	36
Roger Pittelko	32
Loren Kramer	23
Paul Maier	22
Gerald Kieschnick	21
Thomas Zehnder	18
Glenn O'Shoney	18
Ronald Feuerhahn	17
Ralph Bohlmann	13
James Kalthoff	12
Dean Nadasdy	12
Arleigh Lutz	11
Jack Baumgarn	10
David Benke	10
Karl Barth	10
David Belasic	9
Arnold Kuntz	9
Guido Merkens	9
Dean Wenthe	9
Walter Schoedel	7
Bryant Clancy	6
Tim Sims	6
Warren Davis	5
Roy Maack	5
David Scaer	5
George Black	4
Eugene Gierke	4
Vernon Gundermann	4
Richard Koehneke	4
Ulmer Marshall	4
Eugene Schmidt	4
Walter Tietjen	4

*declined

Three votes each: Victor Belton, William Diekelman, D. Ray Halm, Erwin Kostizen, Ray Mirly, Robert Newton, Wilbert Sohns, Steven Wagner.

Two votes each: Erhart Bauer, Steven Briel, Martin Doering, Ronald Fink, Charles W. Froehlich, Ronald Goodsman, Stephen Hower, Henry Koepchen, Osmar Lehenbauer, Albert Marcis, Dale Sattgast, Lane Seitz, Norman Sincebaugh, Charles M. Snow, David Stein, William Thompson, Howard Whitecotton.

One votes each: Steven Albers, Rich Bader, Jerry Bagwell, Edward Balfour, Andrew Bartelt, Richard Benken, Richard Blemaster, Arnold Brammeier, Wayne Braun, Dan Bremer, Michael Burdick, Paul Burow, Philip Campbell, Stephen Carter, Richard Dickinson, David Dissen, David Dittmar, Allen Doering, John Duerr, Philip Esala, John Fehrman, C. R. Fiege, Rolland Fritz, Ron Garwood, Oscar Gerken, Robert Gonzalez, David Goodine, Marvin Griffin, Norman Groteluschen, Mark Grunst, George Gude, Richard Guehna, Alan Harre, Eugene Heckman, Peter Heckman, L. Dean Hempelmann, Robert Herring, James Herbolsheimer, C. Oswald Hoffman, Ronald Holling, Robert Holst, C. William Hoseman, James Johnson, Arthur Just, Darwin Karsten, John Kieschnick, Robert Kriete, Joel Lehenbauer, Dale Leland, Harlan Limmer, Lawrence Lineberger, Dennis Lorenz, Charles Manske, Timothy Maschke, Dwayne Mau, Donald May, Daniel McKeehan, John Meyer, Ronald Meyer, Curtis Moermond, Richard Moore, Michael Moreno, Norbert Mueller, Orval Mueller, John Nunes, Eugene Oesch, Dennis Perryman, Robert Piller, Wayne Pohl, Donald Pritchard, Arthur Puls, Scott Quinn, Rick Rickert, David Ritt, Robert Roberts, Walter Rosin, Stephen Rynearson, Timothy Schepman, Luke Schnake, Larry Schmidt, Larry Schneekloth, Joe Schruhl, Robert Scudieri, Gerald Seaman, John Sellmeyer, Howard Shane, K. Michael Simminger, Charles Spomer, Donald Stier, David Strohschein, Micheal Strong, August Suelflow, Mark Teike, David Thiele, J. R. Trapp, Robert Utecht, James Voelz, Gary Vogel, Orville Walz, Steven Washington, Robert Weise, Robert Welk, Wayne Wentzel, Theodore Zimmerman.

Motion to Amend Standing Rules

A motion was made to amend the standing rules to the effect that no delegate would be able to call the question on both an amendment and the main motion simultaneously. The amendment failed for lack of a two-thirds vote.

Committee 4: Program and Finance

The Rev. Raymond Hartwig, President of the South Dakota District and Chairman of Committee 4, Program and Finance, reintroduced the business of his committee.

Res. 4-02A, "To Support Full Financial Disclosure," was moved by the committee with the following editorial modification in line 31, p. 194: *its board of directors* was changed to *the respective governing board*. An amendment was made to substitute *would* in line 43, p. 194 for the words *is with the specific intent to* and to substitute in line 44, p. 194 *would significantly disrupt* for *with the sole intent of deliberately and significantly disrupting*. The question on the amendment and the main motion was called and sustained. The amendment was defeated. The main motion was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 4-05A, "To Replace Present Bylaws on Conflict of Interest," with the following editorial modification to line 26, p. 162: the words *participate in* were deleted and the words *vote on* were substituted. An amend-

ment was made to change the wording on line 37, p. 162, to wit: the words *also* and *annually* to be deleted; the words *upon accepting a position* to be added. Question was called on both the amendment and the main motion and was sustained. The amendment was defeated. The main motion was adopted.

Schedule Change

The delegates agreed to modify the originally printed orders of the day.

Committee 5: Higher Education

The Rev. Dr. Roger Pittelko, President of the English District and Chairman of Committee 5, Higher Education, reintroduced Res. 5-02A, which had been postponed from a previous session. An amendment was made to alter the wording on line 30, p. 163. Question was called on the amendment and on the main motion and was sustained. The amendment was defeated. The main motion was adopted.

Res. 5-03A, "To Respectfully Decline to Act upon Overture 5-25," was moved by the committee. The question was called and was sustained. The main motion was adopted.

Res. 5-04A, "To Encourage Prior Full-Time Church Service of All College and Seminary Presidents," was moved by the committee. An amendment was made to the effect that *encouraged* within the resolution be changed to *required* (line 12). The amendment was defeated. The main motion was adopted.

Greetings from Partner Churches

The presidents of the partner churches of Korea, Taiwan, India, and Germany addressed words of encouragement to the delegates of the convention and the members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Committee 1: Missions

The Rev. Dr. Osmar O. Lehenbauer, President of the New England District and Chairman of Committee 1, Missions, brought the delegates back to the business of the floor committee on missions.

The committee moved Res. 1-07, "To Revise Procedure for Selecting Foreign Missionary Advisory Delegates." The motion was adopted.

The committee introduced Res. 1-08, to affirm that the mission of the church is urgent and to raise mission awareness. An amendment was made to add a whereas, to wit: "Whereas, The U.S.A. is increasingly a post-Christian society" and to add the words *in their communities and* to line 17, p. 127. The question on the amendment was divided. The first part of the amendment was defeated. The second part of the amendment was adopted. The main motion was adopted as amended.

Closing Devotions

The delegates were led in closing devotions by Dr. Walz.

SESSION 6

July 18, Afternoon

Opening Devotions

The assembly was led in opening devotions by the Rev. Marvin Kuhlman, pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Grandview, MO, and Third Vice-President of the Missouri District.

Minutes

The minutes for sessions 3 and 4 were adopted as edited by common consent.

Committee 8: Registration, Credentials, and Elections

The Rev. Roger Krause, President of the Rocky Mountain District and Chairman of Committee 8, Registration, Credentials, and Elections, updated the convention on the numbers of registrations. The number of voting delegates totals 1174, and the total convention attendance numbers 1992.

The committee distributed a paper ballot for elections to the various offices, boards, and commissions of the Synod. The names which appeared on the ballot are listed below.

SECRETARY (Vote for 1)

Hartwig, Raymond L.	SD
Rosin, Walter L.	MO

TREASURER (Vote for 1)

Gerber, John W.	MO
Sell, Norman D.	MO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 2)

Baumgarn, Jack R.	MNS
Fritz, John D.	TX
Harnapp, Harlan	RM
Kuntz, Arnold	PSW
Marshall, Ulmer	SO
White, Laurence	TX

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)

Kaiser, Roy	MC
Dietrich, Clifford	IN
Tieman, Edsel	CI

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 4)

Bell, Dean	MNN
Daman, Walter	EN
Garton, Jean	MDS
Hirsch, Robert	SD
Kober, Ted	MT
Kuchta, Thomas	NI
LaHaine, Gilbert E.	MC
Preus, Christian	MNS
Trapp, Edwin A. Jr.	TX
Welk, Robert	EA

BOARD FOR HIGHER EDUCATION SERVICES

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 2)

Briel, Steven C.	MNS
Johnston, Paul	KS
Maier, Paul L.	MC
Noack, Richard	TX

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)

Ludwig, William	MT
Rohmaller, Duane	PSW

BOARD FOR MISSION SERVICES

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 2)

Fiene, John	IN
Greenthaner, Edward	TX
Greinke, Kenneth	SD
Johnson, James P.	PSW
Kayser, Lowell	ND

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)

D'Ambrosio, Robert	MC
Meissner, Laurence	TX

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 2)

Almstedt, Kermit	SE
Brand, Apryl C.	NW
Jensen, Herman W.	IW
Moore, Emily	NI

COMMISSION ON THEOLOGY AND CHURCH RELATIONS

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)

Dolak, George	SELC
McCants, Elder	TX
Noland, Martin	NI
Pless, John	MNS
Saleska, Timothy	OH

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 1)

Gehrke, Stevin H.	OH
Krehmeyer, Robert	MO
Moldenhauer, Raymond	MNN

BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 1)

Brighton, Ruth	EA
Buth, Lenore	NOW
Dauer, Mark	SO
Dorsey, Charles Robert	FG

BUSINESS PERSONS (Vote for 3)

Fleischli, Jack	PSW
Huning, Allan	MO
Kleinschmidt, Norman	CI
Mohr, George	SW
Parsons, William A. Jr.	MDS
Rodefeld, Robert	RM
Wagner, Gordon	RM

BOARD OF REGENTS—ANN ARBOR

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)

Ahlersmeyer, Thomas R.	OH
Christian, Douglas M.	IN
Pies, Frank J. Jr.	EN

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)

Kuerschner, Edwin F.	MC
Sheldon, David	MC

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)

Gibbs, Nona	MC
Kayser, Walter W.	MC
Kluck, Gerald	MC
Krueger, Richard	MC
Mueller, Karl W.	MC
Selle, Karol	EN
Strand, Forrest	EN

BOARD OF REGENTS—AUSTIN

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)

Blazek, Scott R.	RM
Wagner, Steve	TX

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)

Fowls, Robert	TX
Kramer, Wayne Charles	TX

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)

Albers, Charlotte	TX
Biar, Pearl	TX
Bulls, Derrell W.	TX
Burghard, Jim	TX
Knippa, Melissa	TX
Krueger, Puddin'	TX
Sweet, Vera V.	TX

BOARD OF REGENTS—BRONXVILLE

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)

Fitzpatrick, Robert L.	EN
Knapp, Timothy D.	NE

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)

Endorf, Weldon W.	AT
Steege, Susan	EA

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)

Bergman, William I.	NE
Bruening, Alice	SE
Israel, Herbert	EA
McDaniels, Janis	SE
Muller, Gary	AT
Praetzel, Gary	EA

BOARD OF REGENTS—CONCORDIA, MO

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)

Brondos, Joel	IN
Theiss, Steven	MC
Truog, Brian	NI

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)

Bader, Joanne	MO
Schumacher, Ben	MO

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)

Beerman, James	MO
Bierwagen, Max	MO
Decker, Elizabeth	WY
Dittmer, George E.	MO
Grefe, Vernon	MO
Krueger, Wayne E.	CI

BOARD OF REGENTS—FORT WAYNE

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 2)

Anderson, David L.	MNN
Balfour, Edward J.	NE
Davis, Warren	SO

Grunst, Mark	MT
Schildwachter, John	MNS
Welmer, Michael F.	SO

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)

Herring, Louis B.	IN
Tietz, Stuart	NEB

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 1)

Dissen, Walter	SED
Ralls, James	MO
Roetman, Orvil M.	NOW
Wilkening, Rolland M.	MC

BOARD OF REGENTS—IRVINE

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)

Allsing, Richard	PSW
Frank, Arnold W.	EN

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)

Hillmann, Paul	CNH
Stuewe, Isabel J.	PSW

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)

Barnes, Ronald E.	PSW
Grimm, Bob	CNH
Krueger, Daniel	RM
Kruse, Eleanor	CNH
Olsen, Melvin	CNH
Schutte, Patricia Beach	PSW

BOARD OF REGENTS—MEQUON

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)

Fricke, Gary H.	RM
Grime, Paul	SW
Herbolsheimer, James	SW

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)

Schmidt, Terry L.	SW
Wegner, Frank L.	NW

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)

Feilbach, Donald A.	EN
Gehrt, Robert L.	NW
Jaeger, John G.	SW
Schmidt, Richard L.	EN
Streufert, Donna J.	IN
Theurich, Miles	EN

BOARD OF REGENTS—PORTLAND

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)

Krieger, Tim	NOW
Scansen, Jerry	NOW
Scherer, Henry	CNH
Streufert, Phil	NOW

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)

Gable, Gary	NOW
Gerken, Charles	PSW

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)

Brondos, Charles	NOW
Crawford, Matt	MT
Hyde, Richard	CNH
Kratzke, Paul	NOW
Kroemer, Char	NOW

BOARD OF REGENTS—RIVER FOREST

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)

Steuernagel, David	NI
Thoelke, H. Lothar	IN

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)

Krause, David	MC
Milz, Norman W. Jr.	CI

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)

Hildebrandt, Dorothy	NI
Klaas, Alan C.	NW
Novack, Gene	IN
Rath, Gerald	NI
Strand, Connie	NI
Wipperman, Al	KS

BOARD OF REGENTS—ST. LOUIS

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 2)

Krueger, Willard	PSW
Malone, Robert	MO
Schlecht, Richard	MC
Westcott, Edward A. Jr.	PSW

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)

Loesel, Allen	MO
Pickelmann, Henry M.	MC

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 1)

Goldman, Jack	MO
Kercher, Conrad	WY

BOARD OF REGENTS—ST. PAUL

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)

Decker, Daniel J.	WY
Jording, Howard	ND
Pfotenhauer, Paul J.	MNS

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)

Dirks, Dennis	MNS
Wenz, Richard	IE

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)

Biesenthal, Marie	MO
Czanderna, Alvin	RM
Gangelhoff, Doris	FG
Reinke, Gary C.	ND
Rickbeil, Blake	MNN
Schiebe, Donald	SD
Uran, Michael	MNN

BOARD OF REGENTS—SELMA

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)

McCants, Jimmy	SO
Ruckman, Gary L.	CI

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)

Behnken, Donna	SO
Griffin, Shirley	AT

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)

Acors, Joseph	EN
Foster, Alvin	MC
Jackson, Mary	MO
Jordan, Stanley	MO
King, Jean	MO
Session, Ethel	MC

BOARD OF REGENTS—SEWARD

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)

MacLachlan, Neal F.	RM
Schroeder, Wayne C.	IE

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)

Bassett, Leonard	MO
Hintz, Dennis L.	KS

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)

Brashear, Kermit	NEB
Bussmann, Robert L.	NEB
Culbertson, Ken	KS
Dumke, Susan	RM
Hartman, William	NEB
Kolterman, Mark	NEB

The balloting was declared closed by President Barry.

Committee 7: Structure, Planning,and Administration

The Rev. Dr. Robert Kuhn, President of the Central Illinois District and Chairman of Committee 7, Structure, Planning,and Administration, reintroduced the business of the committee.

Res. 7-02A, "To Approve Bylaw Changes Involving Dispute Resolution Process," was moved by the committee with the following editorial change in line 39, p. 173: one set of the duplicate words *and one advisor* was deleted. An amendment was made to remove lines 16–20 on page 174, beginning with the phrase *but may follow* ... and to delete from line 15, p. 175, the words "or Review Panel" and to remove the same words from line 35, p. 175. Question was called on both the amendment and the main motion and was sustained. The amendment lost. The main motion was adopted as presented by the committee.

A motion was made to reconsider. A motion was made to table. The motion to table was defeated. Question on the motion to reconsider was called and sustained. The motion to reconsider lost.

The committee placed Res. 7-03A before the delegates. The resolution is entitled "To Appoint a Special Committee to Develop Guidelines for Dispute Resolution and Review Panels."

A substitute motion was made, to wit: Change the title to read: "To Develop Guidelines for Dispute Resolution and Review Panels."

Change the first resolve to read: "*Resolved,* That the Task Force on Dispute Resolution develop guidelines for Dispute Resolution Panels and Review Panels to ensure consistency and uniformity in the process of the hearing; and be it further."

Change the second resolve to read: "*Resolved,* That the Task Force complete its work by April 1, 1996, and report its recommendations to the synodical President and synodical Board of Directors for approval and implementation; and be it finally."

Delete the third resolve.

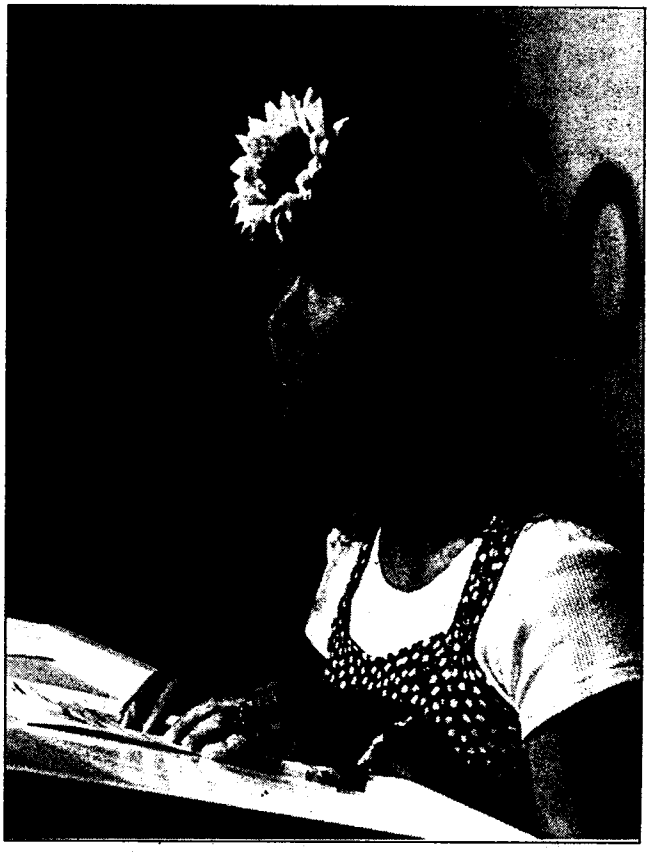
Change the fourth resolve to read: "*Resolved,* That until the Task Force completes its work, the 'Guidelines for Implementation of Bylaws on Dispute Resolution' already developed by the Task Force be used as applicable by Dispute Resolution Panels and Review Panels."

The delegates voted to consider the substitute motion.

Question was called on the consideration of the substitute motion and was sustained. The substitute motion was adopted.

The 150th Anniversary Committee

The Rev. Dr. Karl Barth spoke to the convention regarding the plans being prepared for the anniversary celebration. Oanh Heiser, who created the logo for the 150th anniversary, was introduced to the convention. She spoke words of encouragement to the assembly. The Rev. President Barry read an official proclamation, calling for all congregations to join in the celebration of God's gifts to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.



Oanh Heiser

Committee 7: Structure, Planning, and Administration

The Rev. Dr. Robert Kuhn, President of the Central Illinois District and Chairman of Committee 7, Structure, Planning, and Administration, introduced Res. 7-01, calling for a 150th anniversary celebration under the logo "Sent Forth by God's Blessing." The assembly voted to adopt the resolution by standing and singing the doxology.

Special Greetings

The Rev. Dr. Ed Lehman, President of the Lutheran Church—Canada, brought greetings and words of encouragement to the assembly.

Closing Devotions

The delegates were led in closing devotions by the Rev. Robert Selle, missionary to Venezuela.

Session 7

July 19, Morning

Opening Devotions

The assembly was led in opening devotions by the Rev. Ellis Rottmann, Director of Evangelism and Stewardship, Missouri District. The homily was based on Mark 16:15.

Theme Video

The Communications Department of the Synod led the delegates into the theme of today's work by means of a brief video, emphasizing our care for one another.

Convention Essay

The Rev. Dr. Paul Heerboth, former missionary to Japan and member of Synod's Mission Services staff, addressed the delegates, encouraging The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to "Grow in Outreach."

Committee 8: Registration, Credentials, and Elections

The Rev. Roger Krause, President of the Rocky Mountain District and Chairman of Committee 8, Registration, Credentials, and Elections, reported the result of balloting for Secretary, Treasurer, and the various boards and commissions of the Synod. Those elected are noted with an asterisk.

			Needed to Elect
SECRETARY (Vote for 1)			*562*
Hartwig, Raymond L.	SD	547	
Rosin, Walter L.	MO	575 *	
TREASURER (Vote for 1)			*567*
Gerber, John W.	MO	519	
Sell, Norman D.	MO	613 *	
BOARD OF DIRECTORS			
CLERGYMEN (Vote for 2)			556
Baumgarn, Jack R.	MNS	539	
Fritz, John D.	TX	203	
Harnapp, Harlan	RM	195	
Kuntz, Arnold	PSW	494	
Marshall, Ulmer	SO	496	
White, Laurence	TX	295	
COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)			542
Kaiser, Roy	MC	283	
Dietrich, Clifford	IN	554 *	
Tieman, Edsel	CI	246	
LAYPERSONS (Vote for 4)			539
Bell, Dean	MNN	492	
Daman, Walter	EN	295	
Garton, Jean	MDS	502	
Hirsch, Robert	SD	438	
Kober, Ted	MT	483	
Kuchta, Thomas	NI	210	
LaHaine, Gilbert E.	MC	364	
Preus, Christian	MNS	622 *	
Trapp, Edwin A. Jr.	TX	497	
Welk, Robert	EA	410	
BOARD FOR HIGHER EDUCATION SERVICES			
CLERGYMEN (Vote for 2)			553
Briel, Steven C.	MNS	564 *	
Johnston, Paul	KS	461	
Maier, Paul L.	MC	682 *	
Noack, Richard	TX	504	
COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)			549
Ludwig, William	MT	581 *	
Rohmaller, Duane	PSW	516	
BOARD FOR MISSION SERVICES			
CLERGYMEN (Vote for 2)			542
Fiene, John	IN	231	
Greenthaner, Edward	TX	255	
Greinke, Kenneth	SD	756 *	
Johnson, James P.	PSW	565 *	
Kayser, Lowell	ND	360	
COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)			551
D'Ambrosio, Robert	MC	540	
Meissner, Laurence	TX	561 *	
LAYPERSONS (Vote for 2)			531
Almstedt, Kermit	SE	485	
Brand, Apryl C.	NW	290	
Jensen, Herman W.	IW	533 *	
Moore, Emily	NI	816 *	
COMMISSION ON THEOLOGY AND CHURCH RELATIONS			
CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)			517
Dolak, George	SELC	477	
McCants, Elder	TX	63	
Noland, Martin	NI	148	
Pless, John	MNS	182	
Saleska, Timothy	OH	163	
LAYPERSONS (Vote for 1)			557
Gehrke, Stevin H.	OH	199	
Krehmeyer, Robert	MO	347	
Moldenhauer, Raymond	MNN	567 *	

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 1)			467
Brighton, Ruth	EA	538*	
Buth, Lenore	NOW	175	
Dauer, Mark	SO	179	
Dorsey, Charles Robert	FG	41	

BUSINESS PERSONS (Vote for 3)			454
Fleischli, Jack	PSW	486*	
Huning, Allan	MO	220	
Kleinschmidt, Norman	CI	554*	
Mohr, George	SW	291	
Parsons, William A. Jr.	MDS	434	
Rodefeld, Robert	RM	551*	
Wagner, Gordon	RM	187	

BOARD OF REGENTS—ANN ARBOR

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)			510
Ahlersmeyer, Thomas R.	OH	309	
Christian, Douglas M.	IN	544*	
Pies, Frank J. Jr.	EN	165	

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)			482
Kuerschner, Edwin F.	MC	491*	
Sheldon, David	MC	472	

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)			488
Gibbs, Nona	MC	475	
Kayser, Walter W.	MC	580*	
Kluck, Gerald	MC	627*	
Krueger, Richard	MC	498*	
Mueller, Karl W.	MC	203	
Selle, Karol	EN	389	
Strand, Forrest	EN	150	

BOARD OF REGENTS—AUSTIN

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)			513
Blazek, Scott R.	RM	447	
Wagner, Steve	TX	577*	

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)			450
Fowls, Robert	TX	191	
Kramer, Wayne Charles	TX	707*	

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)			491
Albers, Charlotte	TX	323	
Biar, Pearl	TX	383	
Bulls, Derrell W.	TX	682*	
Burghard, Jim	TX	485	
Knippa, Melissa	TX	319	
Krueger, Puddin'	TX	500*	
Sweet, Vera V.	TX	251	

BOARD OF REGENTS—BRONXVILLE

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)			502
Fitzpatrick, Robert L.	EN	395	
Knapp, Timothy D.	NE	607*	

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)			497
Endorf, Weldon W.	AT	673*	
Steege, Susan	EA	319	

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)			464
Bergman, William I.	NE	178	
Bruening, Alice	SE	720*	
Israel, Herbert	EA	635*	
McDaniels, Janis	SE	365	
Muller, Gary	AT	326	
Praetzel, Gary	EA	703*	

BOARD OF REGENTS—CONCORDIA, MO

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)			538
Brondos, Joel	IN	437	
Theiss, Steven	MC	452	
Truog, Brian	NI	185	

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)			530
Bader, Joanne	MO	350	
Schumacher, Ben	MO	709*	

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)			505
Beerman, James	MO	413	
Bierwagen, Max	MO	407	
Decker, Elizabeth	WY	567*	
Dittmer, George E.	MO	485	
Grefe, Vernon	MO	574*	
Krueger, Wayne E.	CI	581*	

BOARD OF REGENTS—FORT WAYNE

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 2)			524
Anderson, David L.	MNN	575*	
Balfour, Edward J.	NE	188	
Davis, Warren	SO	453	
Grunst, Mark	MT	492	
Schildwachter, John	MNS	239	
Welmer, Michael F.	SO	148	

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)			550
Herring, Louis B.	IN	598*	
Tietz, Stuart	NEB	500	

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 1)			531
Dissen, Walter	SED	453	
Ralls, James	MO	77	
Roetman, Orvil M.	NOW	368	
Wilkening, Rolland M.	MC	163	

BOARD OF REGENTS—IRVINE

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)			538
Allsing, Richard	PSW	870*	
Frank, Arnold W.	EN	204	

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)			539
Hillmann, Paul	CNH	645*	
Stuewe, Isabel J.	PSW	431	

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)			520
Barnes, Ronald E.	PSW	353	
Grimm, Bob	CNH	218	
Krueger, Daniel	RM	767*	
Kruse, Eleanor	CNH	629*	
Olsen, Melvin	CNH	587*	
Schutte, Patricia Beach	PSW	564	

BOARD OF REGENTS—MEQUON

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)			531
Fricke, Gary H.	RM	316	
Grime, Paul	SW	653 *	
Herbolsheimer, James	SW	91	
COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)			526
Schmidt, Terry L.	SW	377	
Wegner, Frank L.	NW	674 *	
LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)			503
Feilbach, Donald A.	EN	414	
Gehrt, Robert L.	NW	634 *	
Jaeger, John G.	SW	762 *	
Schmidt, Richard L.	EN	400	
Streufert, Donna J.	IN	649 *	
Theurich, Miles	EN	154	

BOARD OF REGENTS—PORTLAND

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)			508
Krieger, Tim	NOW	204	
Scansen, Jerry	NOW	232	
Scherer, Henry	CNH	123	
Streufert, Phil	NOW	455	
COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)			531
Gable, Gary	NOW	624 *	
Gerken, Charles	PSW	436	
LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)			517
Brondos, Charles	NOW	746 *	
Crawford, Matt	MT	333	
Hyde, Richard	CNH	743 *	
Kratzke, Paul	NOW	438	
Kroemer, Char	NOW	836 *	

BOARD OF REGENTS—RIVER FOREST

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)			518
Steuernagel, David	NI	539 *	
Thoelke, H. Lothar	IN	495	
COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)			505
Krause, David	MC	535 *	
Milz, Norman W. Jr.	CI	473	
LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)			503
Hildebrandt, Dorothy	NI	551 *	
Klaas, Alan C.	NW	571 *	
Novack, Gene	IN	486	
Rath, Gerald	NI	359	
Strand, Connie	NI	701 *	
Wipperman, Al	KS	344	

BOARD OF REGENTS—ST. LOUIS

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 2)			495
Krueger, Willard	PSW	381	
Malone, Robert	MO	302	
Schlecht, Richard	MC	704 *	
Westcott, Edward A. Jr.	PSW	592 *	
COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)			510
Loesel, Allen	MO	839 *	
Pickelmann, Henry M.	MC	179	
LAYPERSONS (Vote for 1)			516
Goldman, Jack	MO	329	
Kercher, Conrad	WY	701 *	

BOARD OF REGENTS—ST. PAUL

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)			509
Decker, Daniel J.	WY	512 *	
Jording, Howard	ND	302	
Pfotenhauer, Paul J.	MNS	203	
COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)			482
Dirks, Dennis	MNS	697 *	
Wenz, Richard	IE	266	
LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)			499
Biesenthal, Marie	MO	522 *	
Czanderna, Alvin	RM	442	
Gangelhoff, Doris	FG	167	
Reinke, Gary C.	ND	550 *	
Rickbeil, Blake	MNN	178	
Schiebe, Donald	SD	640 *	
Uran, Michael	MNN	491	

BOARD OF REGENTS—SELMA

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)			512
McCants, Jimmy	SO	676 *	
Ruckman, Gary L.	CI	347	
COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)			495
Behnken, Donna	SO	623 *	
Griffin, Shirley	AT	365	
LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)			496
Acors, Joseph	EN	194	
Foster, Alvin	MC	754 *	
Jackson, Mary	MO	434	
Jordan, Stanley	MO	648 *	
King, Jean	MO	708 *	
Session, Ethel	MC	237	

BOARD OF REGENTS—SEWARD

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)			515
MacLachlan, Neal F.	RM	457	
Schroeder, Wayne C.	IE	571 *	
COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)			506
Bassett, Leonard	MO	187	
Hintz, Dennis L.	KS	823 *	
LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)			503
Brashear, Kermit	NEB	470	
Bussmann, Robert L.	NEB	263	
Culbertson, Ken	KS	221	
Dumke, Susan	RM	751 *	
Hartman, William	NEB	566 *	
Kolterman, Mark	NEB	745 *	

A second, and in some instances a third, ballot was cast with the following result:

COMMISSION ON THEOLOGY AND CHURCH RELATIONS

CLERGYMEN

Dolak	624 *	
Pless	326	
Saleska	199	

BOARD OF REGENTS—AUSTIN

LAYPERSONS

Albers	178	192
Biar	289	326
Burghard	478	627 *
Knippa	172	

BOARD OF REGENTS—CONCORDIA, MO

CLERGYMEN

Brondos	523	
Theiss	621 *	

BOARD OF REGENTS—FORT WAYNE

CLERGYMEN

Balfour	92	
Davis	407	508
Grunst	565	648 *
Schildwachter	85	

LAYPERSONS

Dissen	593 *	
Roetman	393	
Wilkening	152	

President Barry declared those persons as indicated elected.

Standing Rules

A motion was made to modify the standing rules, to wit:

WHEREAS, Portable telephones, computers, or other electronic * devices have been present in the voting delegate section; and

WHEREAS, Communication by portable telephones, computers, or other electronic devices violates in spirit the policy that only voting delegates are allowed in the voting delegate section during voting; and

WHEREAS, The use of such electronic devices is disruptive to proper delegate function; therefore be it

Resolved, That all portable telephones, computers, or other electronic devices be banned from the delegate section.

An amendment was made and adopted by common consent to modify the resolution to read * "electronic communication devices." The question was called and sustained. The motion was adopted.

Committee 3: Theology and Church Relations

The Rev. Dr. George Wollenburg, President of the Montana District and Chairman of Committee 3, Theology and Church Relations, led the delegates back into the business of his committee.

Res. 3-07A was moved by the committee. The resolution is entitled "To Establish the Procedure by Which Laymen Licensed to Perform Functions of the Pastoral Office Be Called and Ordained into the Ministerium of the LCMS." The question was called and was sustained. The motion was adopted.

Committee 2: Congregational Services

The Rev. Dr. Theodore Laesch, President of the Northern Illinois District and Chairman of Committee 2, Congregational Services, reintroduced Res. 2-04A, "To Establish Composition of Board for and Conference of Congregational Services," which had been postponed from an earlier session.

An amendment was made to add the words *singles ministry* to line 41, p. 133. The amendment was adopted.

An amendment was offered for line 46, p. 132, to wit: Four laypeople, elected by random draw, from the lay delegates to synodical convention for a three-year term. The question was called on the amendment and on the main motion and was sustained. The amendment was defeated. The main motion as amended was adopted.

Res. 2-02 was brought back before the assembly, having been defeated in a previous session of convention business and later requested for reconsideration. An amendment was offered by the committee, to wit: lines 23–29, p. 191. By consensus, reference to Hawaii was added to the amendment. An amendment was made to the amendment to delete the words, *such as ... deaf ministries*, lines 23–24. Question was called on the amendment to the amendment and on the amendment. A request was made to divide the previous question. The call for division of the house was not sustained. The question on the amendment to the amendment and on the amendment was sustained. The amendment to the amendment was adopted. The amendment as amended was adopted. The main motion as amended was then debated once again. The chair called for the orders of the day. A motion was made to change the orders of the day until the matter was resolved or until 12:30 p.m. The motion failed for lack of a two-thirds vote. Question was called for 2-02 as amended and was sustained. The main motion as amended was adopted.

Special Recognition

Dr. Robert Sauer paid tribute to the Rev. Dr. J. A. O. Preus, former president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, who was called home by the Lord during the past triennium.

Special Greetings

The Rev. Dr. Ralph A. Bohlmann, immediate past president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, addressed the convention.

Dr. William Rusch brought greetings on behalf of Bishop Herbert Chilstrom and the other members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Special Introductions

The Rev. President A. L. Barry introduced Dr. Milton Carpenter, former Treasurer of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Closing Devotions

The delegates were led in closing devotions by the chaplain of the convention.

Session 8

July 19, Afternoon

Opening Devotions

The Rev. Dr. Alan H. Bachert, Pastor, King of Kings Lutheran Church, Chesterfield, MO, Fourth Vice-President, Missouri District, led the assembly in devotions.

Minutes

The minutes for sessions 5 and 6 were adopted as corrected.

Committee 9: Nominations

Dr. George Mohr, Chairman of Committee 9, called for additional nominations for the Board for Congregational Services to add to those already submitted. A motion was made to close nominations for the pastoral candidates for the Board for Congregational Services. The question was called and sustained. The motion to close nominations was defeated. Following the receipt of additional names, a second motion was made to close the nomination for clergymen. The motion was adopted. Following the receipt of additional nominations in the categories other than clergy, a motion was made to close all nominations. The motion was adopted. The complete list of names includes the following:

BOARD FOR CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES

PARISH PASTORS (Vote for 3)
Belton, Victor
Brege, William
Breitbarth, Steven E.
Fehrmann, John
Fiege, Calvin
Gallup, Roger
Gimbel, James
Herbolsheimer, James
Karsten, Dar
Kinne, Timothy
Koehneke, Richard
Ott, Gene
Perling, R. John
Pless, John
Pohl, Wayne
Storrud, Donald
Washington, Steven
Weinrich, William
Westergren, Kevin
Zehnder, Jon
Zimmerman, Thomas

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 3)
DeMeyere, Roger
Haas, Walter D.
Held, David
Herman, Debra
Hoffman, Patricia A.
Johnston, Julie
Pichan, Daryl
Rinas, Jody
Waters, Jennie J.
Weidler, Jean
Wenz, Richard

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)
Driessnack, Anne
Elliott, Robert
Haynes, Brenda
Hegg, Daniel R.
Keyne, Arleen
Lanning, Lori
Little, Willie Jr.
Lusthoff, Craig
McCreery, Kay
Otten, Ruth
Pegosh, Donald J.
Roos, Marlin
Roth, Donald
Seabaugh, Darrell
Wegele, Paul
Wilkening, Harvey

MEMBERS AT LARGE (Vote for 2)
Amendt, Mark
Bloomquist, Barry
Bowes, Brian
Cook, Kevin
Davis, Dorothy
Doris, Ed
Just, Arthur
Little, Tiffany
Masaki, Naomichi
McGhen, Shawn
Pickelmann, Henry
Schwan, Tim
Shaw, Jonathan
Souza, Jaime
Steinberg, Charles

Committee 5: Higher Education

The Rev. Dr. Roger Pittelko, President of the English District and Chairman of Committee 5, Higher Education, introduced Rev. John Meyer, Chairman of the Board for Higher Education. Rev. Meyer, in turn, introduced a video which depicted the activity of the Synod's system of higher education.

Res. 5-05, "To Request Report from the Board for Higher Education," was moved by the committee. An amendment was made to delete the second resolve, lines 5–7, p. 80. An amendment to the amendment was offered and ruled to be a substitute motion. The assembly determined not to consider the substitute motion. Motion was made to close debate on the amendment. The motion to close debate was adopted. The amendment was defeated. An amendment

was offered to change the words *better reflect* in line 6 to *in light of.* Question was called and sustained. The amendment was adopted. The main motion as amended was adopted.

Res. 5-06A, "To Revise Bylaws Pertaining to Admission to Pastoral Ministry by Colloquy," was editorially modified and moved by the committee. Consideration of the motion was postponed as a result of the chair calling for the orders of the day.

Committee 6: Human Care

The Rev. William Diekelman, President of the Oklahoma District and Chairman of Committee 6, Human Care, led the assembly into the business of the committee.

Kathryn Wolford, Executive Director of Lutheran World Relief, addressed the delegates depicting the work of LWR.

Mr. Dan Leeman, Executive Director of the Worker Benefit Plans, presented an informative address to the convention.

Res. 6-04A, "To Commend Board of Managers of Worker Benefit Plans," was moved by the committee. An amendment was made to modify the title to read, "To Commend, Instruct, and Encourage the Board of Managers of the Worker Benefit Plans." The change was adopted by common consent. An amendment was made for line 39, p. 196, to delete the word *control* and to replace the deletion with the word *reduce.* The question was called on both the amendment and the main motion and was sustained. The amendment was defeated. The main motion was adopted as amended.

Committee 8: Registration, Credentials, and Elections

The Rev. Roger Krause, President of the Rocky Mountain District and Chairman of Committee 8, Registration, Credentials, and Elections, led the delegates in the casting of votes for the unfilled positions on the Board of Regents, Portland, and the Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Phil Struefert (clergyman) was declared elected to the Board of Regents, Portland.

Committee 7: Structure, Planning, and Administration

The Rev. Dr. Robert Kuhn, President of the Central Illinois District and Chairman of Committee 7, Structure, Planning, and Administration, led the delegates back into the business of his committee.

Res. 7-23, "To Withdraw Certain Bylaws Adopted in 1992 and Affirm Synodwide Corporate Bodies," was moved by the committee. A motion to refer to committee was made. Question was called and sustained. The motion to refer was defeated. An amendment was made to strike several of the resolves and add new wording. The chair ruled the amendment a substitute motion. The delegates determined not to consider the substitute motion. The question was called and was sustained. The main motion was adopted.

Closing Devotions

The delegates were led in closing devotions by the Rev. David Talsma, missionary to Nigeria.

Session 9

July 20, Morning

Opening Devotions

The assembly was led in opening devotions by the Rev. Dr. David Schmiel, President of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Preaching on 1 Timothy 4:6, Dr. Schmiel called on the Synod to remain faithful to the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.

150th Anniversary Bible Study

Once again the Rev. Dr. Karl Barth, Director of the 150th anniversary celebration, led the assembly in a study of the Holy Scriptures.

Committee 9: Nominations

Dr. George Mohr, Chairman of Committee 9, Nominations, informed the convention regarding those nominated for the Board for Congregational Services. The names and categories are printed below:

PARISH PASTORS (Vote for 3)
Belton, Victor
Brege, William
Breitbarth, Steven E.
Fehrmann, John
Fiege, Calvin
Gallup, Roger
Gimbel, James
Herbolsheimer, James
Karsten, Dar
Kinne, Timothy
Koehneke, Richard
Ott, Gene
Perling, R. John
Pless, John
Pohl, Wayne
Storrud, Donald
Washington, Steven
Weinrich, William
Westergren, Kevin
Zehnder, Jon
Zimmerman, Thomas

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 3)
DeMeyere, Roger
Haas, Walter D.
Held, David
Herman, Debra
Hoffman, Patricia A.
Johnston, Julie
Pichan, Daryl
Rinas, Jody
Waters, Jennie J.
Weidler, Jean
Wenz, Richard

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)
Driessnack, Anne
Elliott, Robert
Haynes, Brenda

Hegg, Daniel R.
Keyne, Arleen
Lanning, Lori
Little, Willie Jr.
Lusthoff, Craig
McCreery, Kay
Otten, Ruth
Pegosh, Donald J.
Roos, Marlin
Roth, Donald
Seabaugh, Darrell
Wegele, Paul
Wilkening, Harvey

MEMBERS AT LARGE (Vote for 2)
Amendt, Mark
Bloomquist, Barry
Bowes, Brian
Cook, Kevin
Davis, Dorothy
Doris, Ed
Just, Arthur
Little, Tiffany
Masaki, Naomichi
McGhen, Shawn
Pickelmann, Henry
Schwan, Tim
Shaw, Jonathan
Souza, Jaime
Steinberg, Charles

Committee 8: Registration, Credentials, and Elections

The Rev. Roger Krause, President of the Rocky Mountain District and Chairman of Committee 8, Registration, Credentials, and Elections, updated the convention on the final count of registrations:

Voting Pastors	591	
Voting Laypersons	583	Total Voting Delegates: 1174
Advisory Pastors	56	
Advisory Teachers	115	
Other Advisory	206	Total Advisory Delegates: 377
Youth Representatives	20	
Others	41	
Guests	441	Total in attendance: 2053

Committee 8 then reported the results of yesterday's balloting for positions on Synod's Board of Directors. Those declared elected include the following:

LAYPERSONS

Garton, Jean	530 *
Bell, Dean	526 *

The committee subsequently asked the delegates to vote for the unfilled positions of lay and clergy representation on the Board of Directors. The nominees, the votes cast, and acknowledgment of those declared elected are listed below:

LAYPERSONS

Daman, Walter	125		
Hirsch, Robert	305	437	517
Kober, Ted	238	241	
LaHaine, Gilbert	131		
Trapp, Edwin	336	461	625 *

CLERGYMEN

Fritz, John	171	314	
Kuntz, Arnold	483	736 *	
Marshall, Ulmer	508	692 *	
White, Laurence	340	468	

Committee 2: Congregational Services

The Rev. Dr. Theodore Laesch, President of the Northern Illinois District and Chairman of Committee 2, Congregational Services, reintroduced the business of his committee.

Res. 2-16, calling for the giving of thanks for the 1995 River of Light Youth Gathering, was moved by the committee. Question was called and was sustained. The motion was adopted.

The youth representatives to the convention were introduced. Two youth addressed the assembly.

A proposed resolution found on page 291 dealing with the presentation of amendments, substitute motions, and proposed resolutions will be routed as a recommendation to the planning committee for the next convention.

Res. 2-11B, "To Address National/District Youth Gatherings," was placed before the body. An amendment was proposed for line 30, p. 155, that after the word *officiants* the following words be added: *other than those whose names are on the official rosters of the Synod,* and for line 34, the word *approve* be struck and the words *review and give advice regarding* be substituted. Question was called. A call for dividing the previous question was called and sustained. The calling of the question on the amendment was sustained. The amendment lost. The question calling for close of debate on the main motion was sustained. The main motion was adopted.

Later in the morning, a motion to reconsider 2-11B was made. Question was called on the debate for reconsideration and was sustained. The motion to reconsider lost.

Res. 2-06, "To Address Concerns Relating to Congregational Worship," was moved by the committee. By common consent line 26, p. 41, was modified to change the phrase *heart of Lutheran faith* to *heart of the Lutheran faith, tradition.* The question was called and was sustained. The motion as amended by common consent was adopted.

Res. 2-07, "To Provide Synodically Developed Worship Resources," was moved by the committee. The question was called and sustained. The motion was adopted.

Committee 3: Theology and Church Relations

The Rev. Dr. George Wollenburg, President of the Montana District and Chairman of Committee 3, Theology and Church Relations, reintroduced the assembly to the work of his committee.

Res. 3-08, calling for the convention to reaffirm our Synod's practice of close[d] Communion, was placed before the delegates for their consideration.

An amendment was offered, to wit:

Resolved, That the Synod affirm the "pure, correct, and final restatement" of the Augsburg Confession, stated in the Epitome of the Formula of Concord (FC, Epitome, VII 8–9, Tappert, p. 484) that,

"We believe, teach, and confess that there is only one kind of unworthy guest, namely, those who do not believe. Of such it is written, 'He who does not believe is condemned already' (John 3:18). The unworthy use of the holy sacrament increases, magnifies, and aggravates this condemnation (1 Cor. 11:27, 29).

"We believe, teach, and confess that no genuine believer, no matter how weak he may be, as long as he retains a living faith, will receive the Holy Supper to his condemnation, for Christ instituted this Supper particularly for Christians who are weak in faith but repentant, to comfort them and to strengthen their weak faith."

Question was called on the amendment and on the main motion. A call for a division of the question was made and sustained. The delegates voted to close debate on the amendment. The amendment lost. The delegates voted to close debate on the main motion. The main motion without amendment was adopted.

Res. 3-06A, "To Continue to Study [the document] *The Service of Women in Congregational and Synodical Offices* in Light of 'Dissenting Report' and Other Ongoing Studies by the CTCR on the Role of Women in the Church," was moved by the committee. An amendment was offered to modify the penultimate resolve, to wit: That the CTCR give this topic of the service of women in congregational and synodical offices ~~one of~~ the highest ~~priorities~~ priority. The amendment was adopted by common consent. An amendment was offered to delete the final resolve. Question to close debate was called on the amendment and sustained. The amendment lost. An amendment was offered to modify the wording of the second resolve, to wit: to strike *urge that* and insert *commend,* and to strike in line 4, p. 143, *"together with the "Dissenting Opinion."* Question was called on the amendment and on the main motion and was sustained. The amendment lost. The main motion as amended was adopted.

Committee 5: Higher Education

The Rev. Dr. Roger Pittelko, President of the English District and Chairman of Committee 5, Higher Education, reintroduced the business of Committee 5.

Res. 5-06A, which had been read in an earlier session, was brought back before the delegates. The committee inserted paragraph b, lines 32–36, which it had previously deleted. Also, in line 46, b was relettered c.

An amendment was offered to add the following words to line 40, p. 166, to wit: *unless the applicant requests such notice be delayed until after his interview,* and again to line 41, p. 166: *If the applicant was interviewed first, notice shall then be published and upon publication 30 days given for valid objections to be received.* This amendment was adopted by common consent. An amendment was offered to add the following words to line 23, p. 165: *Ministers of other Lutheran church bodies who have graduated from a Lutheran seminary and served at least one year.* The amendment lost. An amendment was offered regarding line 55, p. 165. Discussion ensued, but no substantive action was taken. The main motion as amended was adopted.

Special Recognition

Several individuals were recognized with awards for outstanding service. The names of the recipients and the specific awards presented will be listed in the official *Proceedings.*

Closing Devotions

Dr. Schmiel led the delegates in a closing meditation.

Session 10

July 20, Afternoon

Opening Devotions

The assembly was led in opening devotions by the Rev. Dr. James Kalthoff, President, Missouri District. The delegates remembered before our heavenly Father those who died in Christ during the past triennium.

Minutes

The minutes for sessions 7 and 8 were declared approved.

Committee 4: Program and Finance

The Rev. Raymond Hartwig, President of the South Dakota District and Chairman of Committee 4, Program and Finance, reintroduced the business of his committee.

A resolution, 4-03, read in a prior session, was again placed before the delegates. The committee deleted the word *new* from line 8, p. 68. An amendment was proposed which was ruled to be a substitute motion. The assembly voted not to consider the substitute motion. An amendment was made for line 16, p. 68, to wit: after the word *audits* insert the words *to their respective congregations and.* The amendment lost. The question was called and sustained. The main motion as edited by the committee was adopted.

Res. 4-04A, "To Communicate Indebtedness," was moved by the committee. The committee edited their own resolution with the addition of the words *accounting department of the* before the word *Synod* in line 12, p. 235. The question was called and sustained. The motion was adopted as edited by committee.

Committee 8: Registration, Credentials, and Elections

The Rev. Roger Krause, President of the Rocky Mountain District and Chairman of Committee 8, Registration, Credentials, and Elections, reported the result of the first ballot for members of the Board for Congregational Services:

		Needed to elect
PARISH PASTORS (Vote for 3)		556
Belton, Victor	408	
Brege, William	216	
Breitbarth, Steven E.	50	
Fiege, Calvin	62	
Fehrmann, John	89	
Gallup, Roger	43	

Gimbel, James	181
Herbolsheimer, James	45
Karsten, Dar	416
Kinne, Timothy	67
Koehneke, Richard	334
Ott, Gene	27
Perling, R. John	81
Pless, John	404
Pohl, Wayne	279
Storrud, Donald	38
Washington, Steven	49
Weinrich, William	165
Westergren, Kevin	39
Zimmerman, Thomas	211
Zehnder, Jon	126

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 3)	542
DeMeyere, Roger	253
Haas, Walter D.	154
Held, David	399
Herman, Debra	511
Hoffman, Patricia A.	460
Johnston, Julie	141
Pichan, Daryl	137
Rinas, Jody	138
Waters, Jennie J.	291
Weidler, Jean	408
Wenz, Richard	357

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)	543
Driessnack, Anne	114
Elliott, Robert	130
Haynes, Brenda	95
Hegg, Daniel R.	311
Keyne, Arleen	366
Lanning, Lori	119
Little, Willie Jr.	83
Lusthoff, Craig	52
McCreery, Kay	405
Otten, Ruth	327
Pegosh, Donald J.	498
Roos, Marlin	245
Roth, Donald	72
Seabaugh, Darrell	50
Wegele, Paul	232
Wilkening, Harvey	153

MEMBERS AT LARGE (Vote for 2)	509
Amendt, Mark	58
Bloomquist, Barry	63
Bowes, Brian	45
Cook, Kevin	95
Davis, Dorothy	195
Doris, Ed	62
Just, Arthur	181
Little, Tiffany	98
Masaki, Naomichi	505
McGhen, Shawn	58
Pickelmann, Henry	42
Schwan, Tim	210
Shaw, Jonathan	344
Souza, Jaime	37
Steinberg, Charles	41

The committee then led the delegates into a second ballot. The nominees are listed below together with the votes received and a notation of those elected:

		Needed to Elect
CLERGYMEN (Vote for 3)		537
Belton, Victor	551 *	6-year term
Brege, William	307	
Gimbel, James	188	
Karsten, Dar	587 *	6-year term
Koehneke, Richard	430	
Pless, John	547 *	3-year term
Pohl, Wayne	311	
Zimmerman, Thomas	295	

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 3)	543	
DeMeyere, Roger	277	
Held, David	491	
Herman, Debra	610 *	6-year term
Hoffman, Patricia A.	599 *	6-year term
Waters, Jennie J.	318	
Weidler, Jean	526	
Wenz, Richard	435	

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)	538	
Hegg, Daniel R.	422	
Keyne, Arleen	493	
McCreery, Kay	560 *	6-year term
Otten, Ruth	393	
Pegosh, Donald J.	742 *	6-year term
Roos, Marlin	305	
Wegele, Paul	307	

MEMBERS AT LARGE (Vote for 2)	549	
Davis, Dorothy	311	
Just, Arthur	271	
Masaki, Naomichi	788 *	3-year term
Schwan, Tim	304	
Shaw, Jonathan	520	

The committee then presented a subsequent ballot. The nominees, the votes received, and the persons declared elected are listed below:

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS	
Held, David	365
Waters, Jennie J.	113
Wenz, Richard	150
Weidler, Jean	449

LAYPERSONS	
Hegg, Daniel R.	269
Keyne, Arleen	368
Otten, Ruth	362
Wegele, Paul	127

MEMBERS AT LARGE		
Davis, Dorothy	236	
Schwan, Tim	260	
Shaw, Jonathan	587 *	3-year term

Committee 6: Human Care

The Rev. William Diekelman, President of the Oklahoma District and Chairman of Committee 6, Human Care, reintroduced the business of his committee.

A motion was made from the floor, to wit: "To Establish a 'Rural Ministry Fund' "

WHEREAS, Rural churches have provided time, money, and people to churches and missions throughout the United States and the world; and

WHEREAS, According to demographics many rural communities have decreased in population significantly and are suffering financially; and

WHEREAS, Many rural congregations have suffered financially because of man-made and natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, There is no established fund or organization specifically designed to help rural congregations suffering financially, and many people have the desire to help but do not know how they can; therefore be it

Resolved, That a special ad hoc committee be established to organize a "Rural Ministry Fund" to raise and seek funds to provide grants to encourage and to support rural congregations because of a man-made or natural disaster. And that the proposed "Rural Ministry Fund" and all its structure be brought to the next convention for approval.

A motion was made to refer the motion from the floor to the Rural Task Force, via Omnibus Resolution A, was made and was adopted.

The committee brought back to the floor from a previous session Res. 6-02. An amendment was offered to add to line 2, p. 90, the words *or at the request of the family.* The amendment was adopted by common consent. The motion as amended was adopted by voice vote. [Note: Under previous consideration, a new whereas had been added to the resolution. The new whereas was listed as the fifth whereas.]

Res. 6-01B (regarding the value of human life), which replaced 6-01A, which was referred back to the committee, was moved by the committee. A request was made to insert the word *human* in line 27, p. 195 and adopted by common consent. An amendment was made to add words, to wit: beginning at the end of line 23, following ... *of life* add , *deploring abortion, euthanasia, and the newest threat, physician-assisted suicide; therefore be it.* Question was called on the amendment and on the main motion. A call for a division of the previous question was called. The vote to divide lost. The question to end debate both on the amendment and on the main motion was sustained. The amendment lost. The main motion was adopted as amended by common consent.

Res. 6-05 was moved by the committee. Question was called immediately and was sustained. The motion was adopted.

Committee 7: Structure, Planning, and Administration

The Rev. Dr. Robert Kuhn, President of the Central Illinois District and Chairman of Committee 7, Structure, Planning, and Administration, brought the business of his committee back before the delegates.

Res. 7-09A, "To Approve Miscellaneous Changes in Handbook Documents," was moved by the committee. This resolution contained amendments to the constitution requiring a two-thirds majority vote and necessitated consideration one paragraph at a time. The motion to adopt paragraph A was adopted. Paragraph B was moved and adopted. Paragraph C was moved and adopted. Paragraph D was moved and adopted. Paragraph E through to the end of the resolution was moved by the committee. The wording was edited by common consent.

A motion was made to amend by addition to line 44, p. 240, present Bylaw 8.01, to wit: Add last sentence to 8.01: *No person or entity shall receive or be obligated to pay a monetary award as a result of the Synod's conflict resolution procedure.* Question was called for both the amendment and the main motion and was sustained. The amendment lost. The main motion as edited by common consent was adopted.

Res. 7-20A, referring to the declination of a series of overtures, was moved by the committee. The question was called and was sustained. The motion was adopted.

Res. 7-21A, "To Designate Certified Lay Ministers as Ministers of Religion—Commissioned," was moved by the committee. The committee divided the question by moving lines 17–34, p. 241, first. The question was moved and sustained. The first part of the main motion was adopted. The committee then moved lines 39–54. The question was called and sustained. The motion was adopted by a two-thirds vote. The committee then moved lines 1–14, p. 242. By common consent the words *ordained or commissioned minister* were substituted for *the ministry or that of a teacher* in line 10. An amendment was offered for lines 6–7, to wit: substitute the words *and also, with the help of God, living a Christian life.* Question was called on the amendment and the main motion and was sustained. The amendment lost. The main motion was adopted by a two-thirds vote.

A motion for reconsideration of 7-20A was made. Question was called on the motion to reconsider and was sustained. The motion to reconsider 7-20A lost.

Committee 3: Theology and Church Relations

The Rev. Dr. George Wollenburg, President of the Montana District and Chairman of Committee 3, Theology and Church Relations, reintroduced the business of his committee.

Res. 3-09, "To Address the Church Growth Movement," was placed before the delegates. An amendment was made to add wording to line 1, page 56, to wit: *represented by a cross section of informed persons which would also include Church Growth practitioners.* The question was called on both the amendment and the main motion. A call was made to divide the question of closing debate. The delegates voted to divide the question. The assembly voted to close debate on the amendment. The amendment lost. The motion to close debate on the main motion failed. Following full debate allotted by time, the main motion was adopted.

Res. 3-10, calling for a comprehensive study of the relationship of man and woman, was moved by the committee. An amendment was offered to commend this matter to the next convention with specific time recommendations set forth. The question was called on the amendment and on the main motion. A call for a division of the question was made and sustained. The call for closure of debate on the amendment was sustained. The amendment lost. The call for closure of debate on the main motion was not sustained. An amendment was made to delete line 23, p. 56, through

line 1, p. 57. Question was called on the amendment and on the main motion and was sustained. The amendment lost. The main motion was adopted.

Standing Rules

A motion was made to add Standing Rule 15, to wit:

WHEREAS, The delegates were sent to the 59th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to discuss and vote on the resolutions presented to the convention; and

WHEREAS, On several occasions the question has been called prior to the opportunity for any discussion; therefore be it

Resolved, That the convention add special Standing Rule 15 as follows: The previous question may not be called unless there has been an opportunity for at least one delegate to speak for and one delegate to speak against the resolution.

By common consent it was agreed that the proposed standing rule would be number 17. The question was called and was sustained. The motion to add a new standing rule lost.

A Point of Privilege

A pastoral delegate asked that his "no" vote be recorded on Res. 3-10. A lay delegate made a similar request. The chair invited any who wish to have dissenting votes recorded to approach the secretary in writing.

Committee 5: Higher Education

The Rev. Dr. Roger Pittelko, President of the English District and Chairman of Committee 5, Higher Education, reintroduced the business of his committee.



Dr. Walter A. Maier, II

Res. 5-07A, regarding the seminary at Fort Wayne and calling for the President of the Synod to visit the campus, was moved. The motion was adopted.

Res. 5-09A, "To Prepare and Promote Continuing Education Program for Pastors," was moved by the committee. Question was called and sustained. The main motion was adopted.

Res. 5-10A, "To Further Professional Church Worker Continuing Education," was moved by the committee. The motion was adopted.

Motion from the Floor

A motion was made to disallow previously adopted motions to be reconsidered. The motion was called and sustained. The motion was defeated.

Closing Devotions

The delegates were led in closing devotions by Mr. Michael Murphy, lay missionary to Russia.

Session 11

July 21, Morning

Opening Devotion

The assembly was led in opening devotions by the Rev. Dr. John F. Johnson, President of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri. Proclaiming Hebrews 12:14, Dr. Johnson encouraged the people of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to live in peace with one another.

Theme Video

Once again the Communications Department of Synod engaged the delegates in the theme of the day by means of a brief video.

Bible Study

The Rev. Chuck Smith led the assembly in a 150th anniversary Bible study. He informed the delegates regarding the many opportunities with which God is challenging The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Point of Privilege

A delegate asked the assembly to consider a special resolution, to wit:

WHEREAS, A wife of noble character is "worth more than rubies"; and

WHEREAS, Our Synod has been blessed with a President's wife who has given her support of the President, even in the midst of her trials; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate for us to express our appreciation; therefore be it

Resolved, That the 59th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod thank Mrs. Barry for her faithfulness; and be it further

Resolved, That we send two dozen long-stem roses to Mrs. Barry with a message of our love; and be it finally

Resolved, That we keep the Barrys in our prayers as we return to our homes and congregations.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Special Recognition

The delegates expressed appreciation for the many years of faithful service from the Rev. Dr. August Mennicke, the Rev. Dr. Robert Sauer, and the Rev. Dr. Walter A. Maier, II. Each of the three outgoing Vice-Presidents addressed the delegates with words of prayer for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Committee 8: Registration, Credentials, and Elections

The Rev. Roger Krause, President of the Rocky Mountain District and Chairman of Committee 8, Registration, Credentials, and Elections, reported the final day's delegate registration:

Voting pastors	591		
Voting laypersons	583	Total voting delegates	1174
Advisory pastors	56		
Advisory teachers	115		
Advisory other	206		
Youth	20		
Others	41		
Guests	449	Total attendance	2061

The final positions on the Board for Congregational Services to be filled by election were placed before the delegates for voting. The results of the voting were as follows:

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS			
Held, David	513 *		3-year term
Weidler, Jean	509		
LAYPERSONS			
Hegg, Daniel R.	304		
Keyne, Arleen	404	628*	3-year term
Otten, Ruth	325	404	

The President declared those indicated as elected. Upon motion, all ballots, both paper and electronic, were destroyed.

Point of Privilege

WHEREAS, Many pastors are graduating from our seminaries with debts related to their schooling cost that are extremely burdensome and difficult to repay on a pastor's salary; and

WHEREAS, This 59th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has resolved in Res. 5-02A to set a goal for the ingathering of money to fund a full-time ministry student aid endowment sufficient to cover the cost of all seminary tuition; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Managers—Worker Benefit Plans in its report to the convention floor indicated an approximate "Experience Rebate" value of about $6 million of Concordia Health Plan premiums which in 1995 has and is being realized as amounts left in the budgets of the congregations and other entities of Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That the President of the Synod write each congregation receiving such a rebate a letter explaining the need for funding the above-referenced endowment and *encourage* these congregations to invest all of or a major portion of their rebate in said endowment.

Question was called and was sustained. The motion was adopted.

Committee 3: Theology and Church Relations

The Rev. Dr. George Wollenburg, President of the Montana District and Chairman of Committee 3, Theology and Church Relations, reintroduced the business of his committee.

Res. 3-13A, "To Use the Name *Lutheran,*" was moved. The question was called and sustained. The motion was adopted.

Res. 3-14A, "To Encourage Faithfulness to Our Synod's Doctrine and Practice on Unionism," was moved. The question was called and sustained. The motion was adopted.

A call to reconsider 3-13A was made. Question was called on ending debate on reconsideration. The delegates voted not to reconsider.

Res. 3-11, "To Continue COO/CTCR 'Operating Agreement' for 1995–98 Triennium," was moved. The motion was adopted.

Res. 3-12, "To Regularize Communion Practices at Synodical Colleges and Seminaries," was moved. An amendment was offered to substitute the word *confessional* for the word *orthodox* in the last resolve. Question was called on the amendment and on the resolution. A call was made to divide the question. The delegates voted not to divide the question. The call to end debate was supported. The amendment lost. The main motion was adopted.

Res. 3-15, "To Encourage Support of OGI," was moved. The question was called and sustained. The motion was adopted.

A request to reconsider Res. 3-12 was made. The question was called and sustained. The motion to reconsider lost.

A motion to extend the work of Committee 3 by 30 minutes and to take the time from the lunch hour was made and lost.

Res. 3-20, "To Commend CTCR Report *Spiritual Gifts* for Study and Guidance," was moved. Question was called and sustained. The motion was adopted.

Special Motion to Adjourn

The motion to adjourn failed.

Special Resolution

A resolution was adopted to thank God for those who responded to the Oklahoma City bombing, to wit:

WHEREAS, There are many tragedies in the present world because of sin; and

WHEREAS, The bombing in Oklahoma City was a manifestation of sinful man's sin against man; and

WHEREAS, It affected many of our brothers and sisters in Christ directly and indirectly, locally and nationally; and

WHEREAS, God was faithful to His promise to give the gifts to share with those in need; and

WHEREAS, He used Lutheran Social Services, Inter-Lutheran Disaster Response, LCMS World Relief, the LLL, AAL, Lutheran Brotherhood, many congregations,

and individuals in a mighty, positive witness; therefore be it

Resolved, That this assembly give thanks to God in prayer for the quick effective responses of Bernice Karstensen, Director of ILDR and Elaine Richter, Director of LCMS World Relief, and to other individuals directly involved in the relief effort; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Synod write a letter of thanks and commendation to Lutheran Social Services, ILDR, LCMS World Relief, LLL, AAL, and Lutheran Brotherhood; and be it finally

Resolved, That the letter of Paul Hartman in the July 1995 *Reporter,* page 11, be entered into the *Proceedings* of this convention as a witness of God sending us forth by His blessing to be a blessing.

Committee 6: Human Care

The Rev. William Diekelman, President of the Oklahoma District and Chairman of Committee 6, Human Care, reintroduced the business of his committee.

Res. 6-06A, "To Encourage Fair and Adequate Compensation for Workers in the Church," was moved and adopted.

Res. 6-07A, "To Strengthen Synod's Ministry among Mentally Ill," was moved. Question was called and sustained. The motion was adopted.

Res. 6-10, "To Emphasize Importance of Prison Ministry," was moved. Question was called and sustained. The motion was adopted.

Res. 6-08, "To Encourage Congregations to Minister to Persons with Alzheimer's and Their Caregivers," was moved and adopted.

Res. 6-09, "To Expand Housing Ministries" was moved and adopted.

Res. 6-12, "To Support Efforts to Deal with Child Abuse," was moved. A motion was made to include 6-13, which addressed addiction, and 6-14, which addressed domestic abuse, into the vote on 6-12, with each resolution retaining its own whereases and resolves. Question was called and sustained. The motions were adopted.

Res. 6-11, which calls for the updating of Bylaw language, was moved and adopted.

Committee 6 was thanked for their work on behalf of the Synod in convention.

Committee 2: Congregational Services

The Rev. Dr. Theodore Laesch, President of the Northern Illinois District and Chairman of Committee 2, Congregational Services, reintroduced the business of his committee.

Res. 2-13, "To Commend Support for Concordia Historical Institute," was moved. By common consent the motion was edited to read *Circuit congregations* rather than *Circuits* in line 36, and to substitute the words *encourage endowment gifts* for the words *grant endowments* in line 39. The motion as edited was adopted.

Res. 2-14, regarding the transfer of records, was moved and adopted.

Res. 2-09A, "To Reaffirm Lutheran Catechetical Instruction," was moved. By common consent it was agreed to add the words *an approved* before the word *hymnal* (line 19, p. 135). The chair subsequently called for a vote on whether or not to include the word *approved.* The delegates determined not to include the word *approved.* An amendment was made to substitute words in line 19. Question was called on the amendment and on the main motion and was sustained. The amendment was defeated. The main motion was adopted without amendment.

Res. 2-10A was moved. An amendment was offered to change the resolve to read (lines 43 and 47, p. 135) "*Resolved,* That the Synod, its Districts and congregations be reminded," thus deleting the word(s) *individuals.* Question was called on the amendment and was sustained. The amendment was adopted. The main motion was adopted as amended.

Closing Devotions

The delegates were led in closing devotions by the convention chaplain.

Session 12

July 21, Afternoon

Opening Devotions

The assembly was led in opening devotions by the Rev. Ray Mirly, chaplain to the convention.

Minutes

The minutes for sessions 9 and 10 were adopted as corrected.

Motion from the Floor

A motion was made to consider Res. 7-18A out of sequence. The convention determined not to adopt the motion to consider the matter out of sequence.

Res. 7-15A, "To Make the Secretary of the Synod a Nonvoting Member of the Commission on Constitutional Matters," was moved. The question was called and sustained. The motion was adopted.

Res. 7-16A, "To Publish Opinions Rendered by the CCM," was moved. A change was made on p. 241, line 4, where the spelling of *opinion* was corrected. The motion as corrected was adopted.

Res. 7-11, "To Change Bylaw 5.11 re Nomination and Elections of Circuit Counselors," was moved. The committee asked that a correction be made on line 18: to insert "cast" between the words *votes* and *on.* The motion was adopted.

Res. 7-17A, "To Establish Requirement re Synodical Vice-Presidents," was moved. Question was called and was sustained. The motion was defeated.

Res. 7-12A, "To Change Bylaw 5.13 re Responsibilities of Circuit Counselors in Relation to Member Congregations," was moved. Question was called and was sustained. The motion was declined.

Res. 7-19A, "To Encourage Study Groups," was moved. Question was called and was sustained. The motion was adopted.

Res. 7-18A, "To Form a Special Committee," was moved. The chair called for the orders of the day. A motion was

made to extend the time of Committee 7. The motion was defeated.

Committee 5: Higher Education

The Rev. Dr. Roger Pittelko, President of the English District and Chairman of Committee 5, Higher Education, brought the business of his committee back before the assembly.

Res. 5-11A, "To Amend Bylaw 2.09," was moved.

A motion was made to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was defeated.

Res. 5-11A was adopted.

Res. 5-12, an omnibus resolution to decline certain overtures, was moved. The motion was adopted.

Committee 4: Program and Finance

The Rev. Raymond Hartwig, President of the South Dakota District and Chairman of Committee 4, Program and Finance, reintroduced the business of his committee.

Res. 4-07A, regarding stewardship, was moved. The committee offered several editorial modifications which were accepted by common consent. The motion was adopted.

Res. 4-06, "To Clarify Position of Vice-President—Finance/Treasurer," was moved by the committee. An amendment was offered to place this assignment into the hands of the Council of Presidents rather than the Blue Ribbon Committee. Question was called on the amendment and on the main motion and was sustained. The amendment lost. The main motion without amendment was adopted.

Res. 4-01B, "To Promote Our Walking Together in Biblical Stewardship," was moved. The motion was adopted.

Res. 4-08, which called for the declination of an overture, was moved and adopted.

Committee 4 was thanked for their efforts on behalf of the Synod in convention.

Committee 7: Structure, Planning, and Administration

The Rev. Dr. Robert Kuhn, President of the Central Illinois District and Chairman of Committee 7, Structure, Planning, and Administration, brought back before the delegates those resolutions not yet voted upon.

Res. 7-18A was brought back to the floor from a previous time in this session when time had run out. A motion was offered to substitute 7-18 in place of 7-18A. The assembly voted not to consider the substitute motion. A motion was made to place 7-18A within Omnibus Resolution B. Question was called on the motion to refer and on the main motion and was sustained. The motion to refer was defeated. The main motion was adopted.

Motion from the Floor

A motion was made to encourage congregations "to apply themselves to the study of Christology." The motion was adopted.

Committee 8: Registration, Credentials, and Elections

The Rev. Roger Krause, President of the Rocky Mountain District and Chairman of Committee 8, Registration, Credentials, and Elections, gave the final registration tally, to wit:

Voting pastors	591	
Voting laypersons	583	Total voting delegates 1174
Advisory pastors	56	
Advisory teachers	115	
Advisory other	206	
Youth	20	
Others	41	
Guests	474	Total in attendance 2086

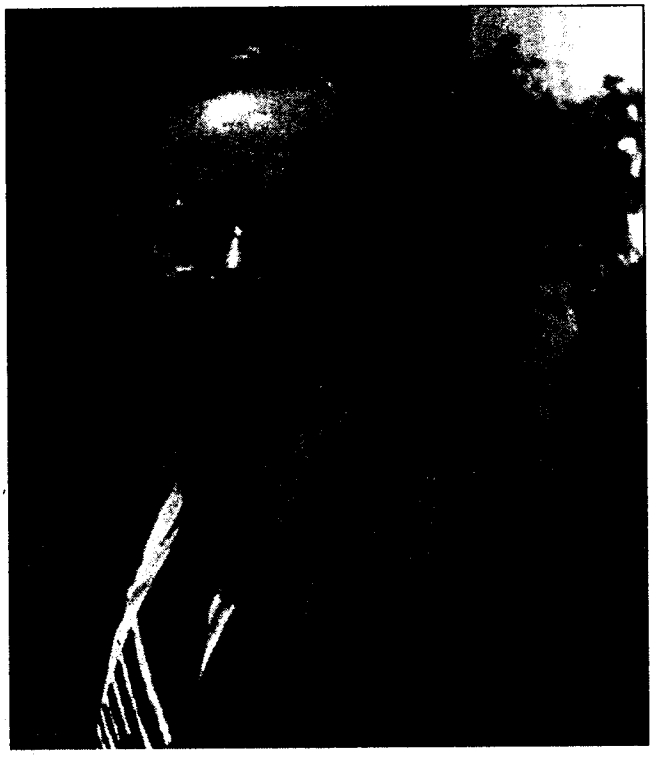
The committee was dismissed with thanks.

Closing of the Convention

The Department of Communications presented the delegates with video snapshots of the convention days.

The 59th Regular Convention was closed with devotions and prayer led by the Rev. President, Dr. A. L. Barry.

D. Ray Halm, *Assistant Secretary*



D. Ray Halm

ELECTION RESULTS

President	Nominating Ballots	Election Ballot (1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
* Alvin Barry	2,111	754				
Robert Kuhn	253	12				
Dale Meyer	114	46				
Ralph Bohlmann	109	(D)				
John Johnson	99	60				
August Mennicke	95	(D)				
Richard Kapfer	66	290				
John Heins	44					
Gerald Kieschnick	28					
David Buegler	26					
Charles Mueller	26					
Glenn O'Shoney	26					
Robert King	24					
Loren Kramer	22					
Roger Pittelko	20					
Thomas Zehnder	20					
Harold Senkbeil	19					
Eugene Bunkowske	18					

* Elected

\+ Persons receiving 15 or fewer nominating votes are listed in *Biographical Synopsis.*

First Vice-President	Nominating Ballots	Election Ballot (1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
August Mennicke	777	435	468			
* Robert Kuhn	752	547	604			
Robert King	192	84	55			
Alvin Barry	122	(D)				
Raymond Hartwig	102	67	36			
John Heins	89	30				
Walter Maier	75					
Eugene Bunkowske	70					
Harold Senkbeil	67					
George Wollenburg	67					
Edwin Suelflow	65					
Kurt Marquart	63					
Richard Kapfer	58					
Robert Sauer	56					
Dale Meyer	53					
Roger Pittelko	47					
William Weinrich	44					
Robert Preus	34					
David Buegler	32					
J. A. O. Preus III	32					

* Elected

\+ Persons receiving 30 or fewer nominating votes are listed in *Biographical Synopsis.*

Other Vice-President	Nominating Ballots	Election Ballot (1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
* Robert King	803	932				
Robert Preus	273	397	538			
August Mennicke	264	(D)				
* Eugene Bunkowske	247	432	598			
* Wallace R. Schulz	214	389	569			
Richard Kapfer	186	(D)				
David Buegler	177	350	521			
* Dale Meyer	161	355	648			
J. A. O. Preus III	156	286				
Laurence L. White	154	241				
William Weinrich	153	287				
Edwin Suelflow	147	237				
Norbert C. Oesch	146	304	46			
Raymond Hartwig	142	(D)				
John Heins	108	(D)				
Walter Maier	95	210				

* Elected

	Election Ballot (1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
SECRETARY (VOTE FOR 1)					
Hartwig, Raymond	547				
* Rosin, Walter L.	575				
TREASURER (VOTE FOR 1)					
Gerber, John W.	519				
* Sell, Norman D.	613				

Board of Directors

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 2)					
+ Baumgarn, Jack R.	539				
Fritz, John D.	203	171	314		
Harnapp, Harlan	195				
* Kuntz, Arnold	494	483	736		
* Marshall, Ulmer	496	508	692		
White, Laurence	295	340	468		
COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)					
Kaiser, Roy	283				
* Dietrich, Clifford	554				
Tieman, Edsel	246				
LAYPERSONS (Vote for 4)					
* Bell, Dean	492	526			
Daman, Walter	295	246	125		
* Garton, Jean	502	530			
Hirsch, Robert	438	428	305	437	517
Kober, Ted	483	415	238	241	
Kuchta, Thomas	210				
LaHaine, Gilbert E.	364	315	131		
* Preus, Christian	622				
* Trapp, Edwin A. Jr.	497	465	336	461	625
Welk, Robert	410	218			

\+ The election of Christian Preus on the first ballot made Jack Baumgarn ineligible since Bylaw 3.190 states "No more than one of the ordained ministers or laypersons may be elected from any one District."

Board for Higher Education Services

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 2)					
* Briel, Steven C.	564				
Johnston, Paul	461				
* Maier, Paul L.	682				
Noack, Richard	504				
COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)					
* Ludwig, William	581				
Rohmaller, Duane	516				

Board for Mission Services

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 2)					
Fiene, John	231				
Greenthaner, Edward	255				
* Greinke, Kenneth	756				
* Johnson, James P.	565				
Kayser, Lowell	360				

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)

D'Ambrosio, Robert 540
* Meissner, Laurence 561

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 2)

Almstedt, Kermit 485
Brand, Apryl C. 290
* Jensen, Herman W. 533
* Moore, Emily 816

Board for Congregational Services

PARISH PASTORS (Vote for 3)

* Belton, Victor	.408	551			
Brege, William	.216	307			
Breitbarth, Steven E.	.50				
Fiege, Calvin	.62				
Fehrmann, John	.89				
Gallup, Roger	.43				
Gimbel, James	.181	188			
Herbolsheimer, James	.45				
* Karsten, Dar	.416	587			
Kinne, Timothy	.67				
Koehneke, Richard	.334	430			
Ott, Gene	.27				
Perling, R. John	.81				
* Pless, John	.404	547	(3 yrs.)		
Pohl, Wayne	.279	311			
Storrud, Donald	.38				
Washington, Steven	.49				
Weinrich, William	.165				
Westergren, Kevin	.39				
Zimmerman, Thomas	.211	295			
Zehnder, Jon	.126				

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 3)

DeMeyere, Roger	.253	277			
Haas, Walter D.	.154				
* Held, David	.399	491	365	513	(3 yrs.)
* Herman, Debra	.511	610			
* Hoffman, Patricia A.	.460	599			
Johnston, Julie	.141				
Pichan, Daryl	.137				
Rinas, Jody	.138				
Waters, Jennie J.	.291	318	113		
Wenz, Richard	.357	435	150		
Weidler, Jean	.408	526	449	509	

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)

Driessnack, Anne	.114				
Elliott, Robert	.130				
Haynes, Brenda	.95				
Hegg, Daniel R.	.311	422	269	304	
* Keyne, Arleen	.366	493	368	404	628 (3 yrs.)
Lanning, Lori	.119				
Little, Willie Jr.	.83				
Lusthoff, Craig	.52				
* McCreery, Kay	.405	560			
Otten, Ruth	.327	393	362	325	404
* Pegosh, Donald J.	.498	742			
Roos, Marlin	.245	305			
Roth, Donald	.72				



The Praesidium

Seabaugh, Darrell 50
Wegele, Paul 232 307 127
Wilkening, Harvey 153

MEMBERS AT LARGE (Vote for 2)
Amendt, Mark 58
Bloomquist, Barry 63
Bowes, Brian 45
Cook, Kevin 95
Davis, Dorothy 195 311 236
Doris, Ed 62
Just, Arthur 181 271
Little, Tiffany 98
* Masaki, Naomichi .....505 788 (3 yrs.)
McGhen, Shawn 58
Pickelmann, Henry 42
Schwan, Tim 210 304 260
* Shaw, Jonathan .....344 520 587 (3 yrs.)
Souza, Jaime 37
Steinberg, Charles 41

Commission on Theology and Church Relations
CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)
* Dolak, George 477 624
McCants, Elder 63
Noland, Martin 148
Pless, John 182 326
Saleska, Timothy 163 199

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 1)
Gehrke, Stevin H. 199
Krehmeyer, Robert 347
* Moldenhauer, Raymond ..567

Board of Directors—Concordia Publishing House
LAYPERSONS (Vote for 1)
* Brighton, Ruth 538
Buth, Lenore 175
Dauer, Mark 179
Dorsey, Charles Robert 41

BUSINESS PERSONS (Vote for 3)
* Fleischli, Jack 486
Huning, Allan 220
* Kleinschmidt, Norman ...554
Mohr, George 291
Parsons, William A. Jr. ...434
* Rodefeld, Robert 551
Wagner, Gordon 187

Board of Regents—Ann Arbor
CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)
Ahlersmeyer, Thomas R. ..309
* Christian, Douglas M. 544
Pies, Frank J. Jr. 165

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)
* Kuerschner, Edwin F. 491
Sheldon, David 472

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)
Gibbs, Nona 475
* Kayser, Walter W. 580
* Kluck, Gerald 627
* Krueger, Richard 498
Mueller, Karl W. 203
Selle, Karol 389
Strand, Forrest 150

Board of Regents —Austin
CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)
Blazek, Scott R. 447
* Wagner, Steve 577

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)
Fowls, Robert 191
* Kramer, Wayne Charles ..707

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)
Albers, Charlotte 323 178 192
Biar, Pearl 383 289 326
* Bulls, Derrell W. 682
* Burghard, Jim 485 478 627
Knippa, Melissa 319 172
* Krueger, Puddin' 500
Sweet, Vera V. 251

Board of Regents—Bronxville
CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)
Fitzpatrick, Robert L. 395
* Knapp, Timothy D. 607

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)
* Endorf, Weldon W. 673
Steege, Susan 319

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)
Bergman, William I. 178
* Bruening, Alice 720
* Israel, Herbert 635
McDaniels, Janis 365
Muller, Gary 326
* Praetzel, Gary 703

Board of Regents—Concordia, MO
CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)
Brondos, Joel 437 523
* Theiss, Steven 452 621
Truog, Brian 185

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)
Bader, Joanne 350
* Schumacher, Ben 709

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)
Beerman, James 413
Bierwagen, Max 407
* Decker, Elizabeth 567
Dittmer, George E. 485
* Grefe, Vernon 574
* Krueger, Wayne E. 581

Board of Regents—Fort Wayne
CLERGYMEN (Vote for 2)
* Anderson, David L. 575
Balfour, Edward J. 188 92
Davis, Warren 453 407 508
* Grunst, Mark 492 565 648
Schildwachter, John 239 85
Welmer, Michael F. 148

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)
* Herring, Louis B. 598
Tietz, Stuart 500

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 1)
* Dissen, Walter 453 593
Ralls, James 77
Roetman, Orvil M. 368 393
Wilkening, Rolland M. ...163 152

Board of Regents —Irvine

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)

* Allsing, Richard 870
Frank, Arnold W. 204

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)

* Hillmann, Paul 645
Stuewe, Isabel J. 431

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)

Barnes, Ronald E. 353
Grimm, Bob 218
* Krueger, Daniel 767
* Kruse, Eleanor 629
* Olsen, Melvin 587
Schutte, Patricia Beach .564

Board of Regents —Mequon

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)

Fricke, Gary H. 316
* Grime, Paul 653
Herbolsheimer, James 91

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)

Schmidt, Terry L. 377
* Wegner, Frank L. 674

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)

Feilbach, Donald A. 414
* Gehrt, Robert L. 634
* Jaeger, John G. 762
Schmidt, Richard L. 400
* Streufert, Donna J. 649
Theurich, Miles 154

Board of Regents—Portland

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)

Krieger, Tim 204 176
Scansen, Jerry 232 238
Scherer, Henry 123
* Streufert, Phil 455 615

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)

* Gable, Gary 624
Gerken, Charles 436

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)

* Brondos, Charles 746
Crawford, Matt 333
* Hyde, Richard 743
Kratzke, Paul 438
* Kroemer, Char 836

Board of Regents—River Forest

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)

* Steuernagel, David 539
Thoelke, H. Lothar 495

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)

* Krause, David 535
Milz, Norman W. Jr. 473

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)

* Hildebrandt, Dorothy 551
* Klaas, Alan C. 571
Novack, Gene 486
Rath, Gerald 359
* Strand, Connie 701
Wipperman, Al 344

Board of Regents —St. Louis

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 2)

Krueger, Willard 381
Malone, Robert 302
* Schlecht, Richard 704
* Westcott, Edward A. Jr. ..592

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)

* Loesel, Allen 839
Pickelmann, Henry M. ...179

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 1)

Goldman, Jack 329
* Kercher, Conrad 701

Board of Regents—St. Paul

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)

* Decker, Daniel J. 512
Jording, Howard 302
Pfotenhauer, Paul J. 203

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)

* Dirks, Dennis 697
Wenz, Richard 266

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)

* Biesenthal, Marie 522
Czanderna, Alvin 442
Gangelhoff, Doris 167
* Reinke, Gary C. 550
Rickbeil, Blake 178
* Schiebe, Donald 640
Uran, Michael 491

Board of Regents—Selma

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)

* McCants, Jimmy 676
Ruckman, Gary L. 347

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)

* Behnken, Donna 623
Griffin, Shirley 365

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)

Acors, Joseph 194
* Foster, Alvin 754
Jackson, Mary 434
* Jordan, Stanley 648
* King, Jean 708
Session, Ethel 237

Board of Regents—Seward

CLERGYMEN (Vote for 1)

MacLachlan, Neal F. 457
* Schroeder, Wayne C. 571

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (Vote for 1)

Bassett, Leonard 187
* Hintz, Dennis L. 823

LAYPERSONS (Vote for 3)

Brashear, Kermit 470
Bussmann, Robert L. 263
Culbertson, Ken 221
* Dumke, Susan 751
* Hartman, William 566
* Kolterman, Mark 745

SPECIAL STANDING RULES

1. The chair shall see that the 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. When recognized by the chair, members of the convention shall state their name. They shall also state the name of the District or of the administrative unit (board, faculty) they represent.
4. The two-minute rule shall apply for all who speak from the floor and for the committee during debate.
5. While any voting delegate may call the question at any time, after every 30 minutes of debate on any one motion (except those specified in Standing Rule 13), there shall be an automatic call of the question by the chair. The chair may also call for a vote on the close of debate (⅔ majority required) when in his judgment the assembly has heard sufficient speaking on both sides of the issue.
6. Voting shall ordinarily be carried out by use of an electronic response system which requires delegates to be present at the beginning of the business portion of each session. When not used, 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 and seconded, the presenter shall be offered two minutes to provide the rationale for presenting it. The convention shall then first decide by majority vote without debate whether or not to consider the substitute. If the decision is in the affirmative and the substitute motion is subsequently adopted, the original motion fails; if the substitute motion does not receive favorable action either to consider or to adopt, the original motion is again 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 committees 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 veri-fication.
12. The preface, preamble, rationale, and whereas sections shall be considered an integral part of the resolution or overture and, as such, subject to the same serious consideration and adoption in all its parts as the main motion itself.
13. The convention chairman, in consultation with the floor committee chairmen, may identify any issue to which a maximum of 1½ hours of continuous consideration may be allotted. The following schedule will be employed for these issues:

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

During the first 45 minutes, no motion may be made to table or to cease debate, although the chairman shall have the right to inquire of the assembly at any point during the entire 90 minutes regarding its readiness to vote. Alternate pro and con speaking will be followed during the debate. If not concluded earlier, at the end of 90 minutes debate shall cease and the motion shall be called.

14. A member who has spoken on an issue may not at the close of the speech move the previous question.
15. Unless covered by these standing rules of the convention, parliamentary procedure shall be governed by the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order.*

Adopted as amended (1).

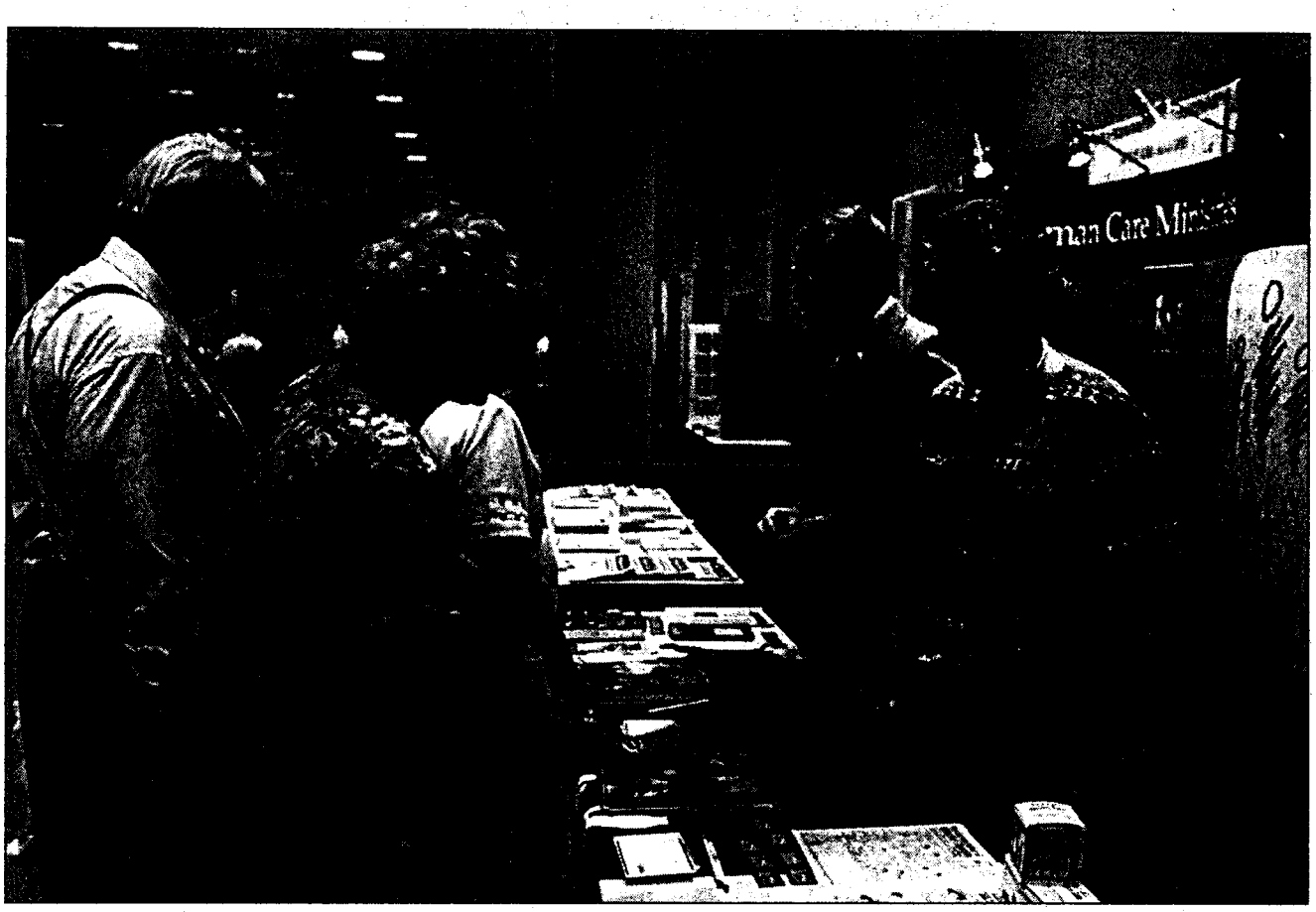
16. All portable telephones, computers, or other electronic communication devices are banned from the delegate section.

Adopted (7).

(Standing Rule 14 was proposed by the Secretary and adopted in the initial adoption of standing rules. In session 7, the convention by a two-thirds majority added standing rule 16.

With the exception of Standing Rule 13, all proposed standing rules are identical to those followed in 1992. This new rule was proposed to assist the convention in carrying out its important legislative function. Its intention is not to control but to free the delegates to give sufficient attention to issues which are considered to be of special importance. It does the following:

1. Provides time for the discussion of an issue without interruption.
2. Prevents the temptation to spend time on amendments at the expense of consideration of the main motion.
3. Prevents the closure of debate by calling for the question on the amendment and the main motion.
4. Allows for calling of the motion by the chair if it is clear from lack of discussion that delegates are ready to vote.
5. Brings closure to the consideration of an issue within a specific time.)





MISCELLANEOUS RESOLUTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THANKS

To Thank God for Those Responding to Oklahoma City Bombing

WHEREAS, There are many tragedies in the present world because of sin; and

WHEREAS, The bombing in Oklahoma City was a manifestation of sinful man's sin against man; and

WHEREAS, It affected many of our brothers and sisters in Christ directly and indirectly, locally and nationally; and

WHEREAS, God was faithful to His promise to give the gifts to share with those in need; and

WHEREAS, He used Lutheran Social Services, Inter-Lutheran Disaster Response, LCMS World Relief, the LLL, AAL, Lutheran Brotherhood, many congregations, and individuals in a mighty, positive witness; therefore be it

Resolved, That this assembly give thanks to God in prayer for the quick effective responses of Bernice Karstensen, Director of ILDR and Elaine Richter, Director of LCMS World Relief, and to other individuals directly involved in the relief effort; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Synod write a letter of thanks and commendation to Lutheran Social Services, ILDR, LCMS World Relief, LLL, AAL, and Lutheran Brotherhood; and be it finally

Resolved, That the letter of Paul Hartman in the July 1995 *Reporter,* page 11, be entered into the *Proceedings* of this convention as a witness of God sending us forth by His blessing to be a blessing.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

(I was so disappointed in the article about the Oklahoma City disaster in the May *Reporter.* The article failed to give an accurate picture of the response of Oklahoma LCMS pastors and churches. It did not reflect the efforts made by these people in the name of Christ and the church to those affected by the bombing, nor did it reflect the tremendous help provided by agencies such as Lutheran Social Services (LSS), Inter-Lutheran Disaster Response (ILDR), LCMS World Relief, the International Lutheran Laymen's League, Aid Association for Lutherans, and Lutheran Brotherhood.

The *very day* of the bombing, LSS Director and ILDR Chairperson Bernice Karstensen was coordinating with Pastor Tim Steenbock of Immanuel, Oklahoma City, arranging a meeting with area LCMS pastors to discuss plans and approaches for offering assistance. The very next morning, and again for the next two Mondays, area Lutheran pastors met with LSS and ILDR representatives to help organize our response and to offer guidance and support.

Within 48 hours, local LLL leaders had arranged for five phone lines and the Living 4 Tomorrow Center staffed with volunteers from area churches. Two Lutheran Hour Ministry booklets were available April 21 for mailing to callers seeking answers and comfort from God's Word. LSS also provided a trained volunteer therapist each day at the crisis phone center.

Aid Association for Lutherans and Lutheran Brotherhood arranged to match funds collected for the victims. LCMS World Relief provided funding to local agencies and victims, and Director Elaine Richter was in Oklahoma City the *day following* the bombing to direct and support the local efforts.

Many congregations throughout our Synod telephoned Oklahoma congregations, seeking ways to show Christian concern for the victims and survivors, as well as for the pastors and congregations who were having to deal with the wide variety of emotions and reactions to this tragedy. Several OKC congregations arranged for all members to be phoned to remind them of the assurance and comfort of their caring Savior and His family.

I was so proud to be a part of such a devoted, caring church body. LCMS members can be thankful that our Synod has had the foresight to support agencies and trained professionals who can provide assistance to the church in its desire to respond to people in crisis with the caring love of Christ.

Rev. Paul A. Hartman, Moore, OK)

To Express Gratitude for Support of Mrs. Barry

WHEREAS, A wife of noble character is "worth more than rubies"; and

WHEREAS, Our Synod has been blessed with a President's wife who has given her support of the President, even in the midst of her trials; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate for us to express our appreciation; therefore be it

Resolved, That the 59th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod thank Mrs. Barry for her faithfulness; and be it further

Resolved, That we send two dozen long-stem roses to Mrs. Barry with a message of our love; and be it finally

Resolved, That we keep the Barrys in our prayers as we return to our homes and congregations.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

To Encourage Congregations to Invest Worker Benefit Plan Rebate in Full-Time Ministry Student Aid Endowment

WHEREAS, Many pastors are graduating from our seminaries with debts related to their schooling cost that are extremely burdensome and difficult to repay on a pastor's salary; and

WHEREAS, This 59th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has resolved in Res. 5-02A to set a goal for the ingathering of money to fund a full-time ministry student aid endowment sufficient to cover the cost of all seminary tuition; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Managers—Worker Benefit Plans in its report to the convention floor indicated an approximate "Experience Rebate" value of about $6 million of Concordia Health Plan premiums which in 1995 has and is being realized as amounts left in the budgets of the congregations and other entities of Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That the President of the Synod write each congregation receiving such a rebate a letter explaining the need for funding the above-referenced endowment and *encourage* these congregations to invest all of or a major portion of their rebate in said endowment.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

To Encourage Congregations to Apply Themselves to Study of Christology

WHEREAS, The Gospel is first and foremost the Gospel of Jesus Christ the Lord; and

WHEREAS, True doctrine in all its articles centers in the person and work of Christ; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS appears to be troubled by confusion and controversy about many matters of doctrine and practice; therefore be it

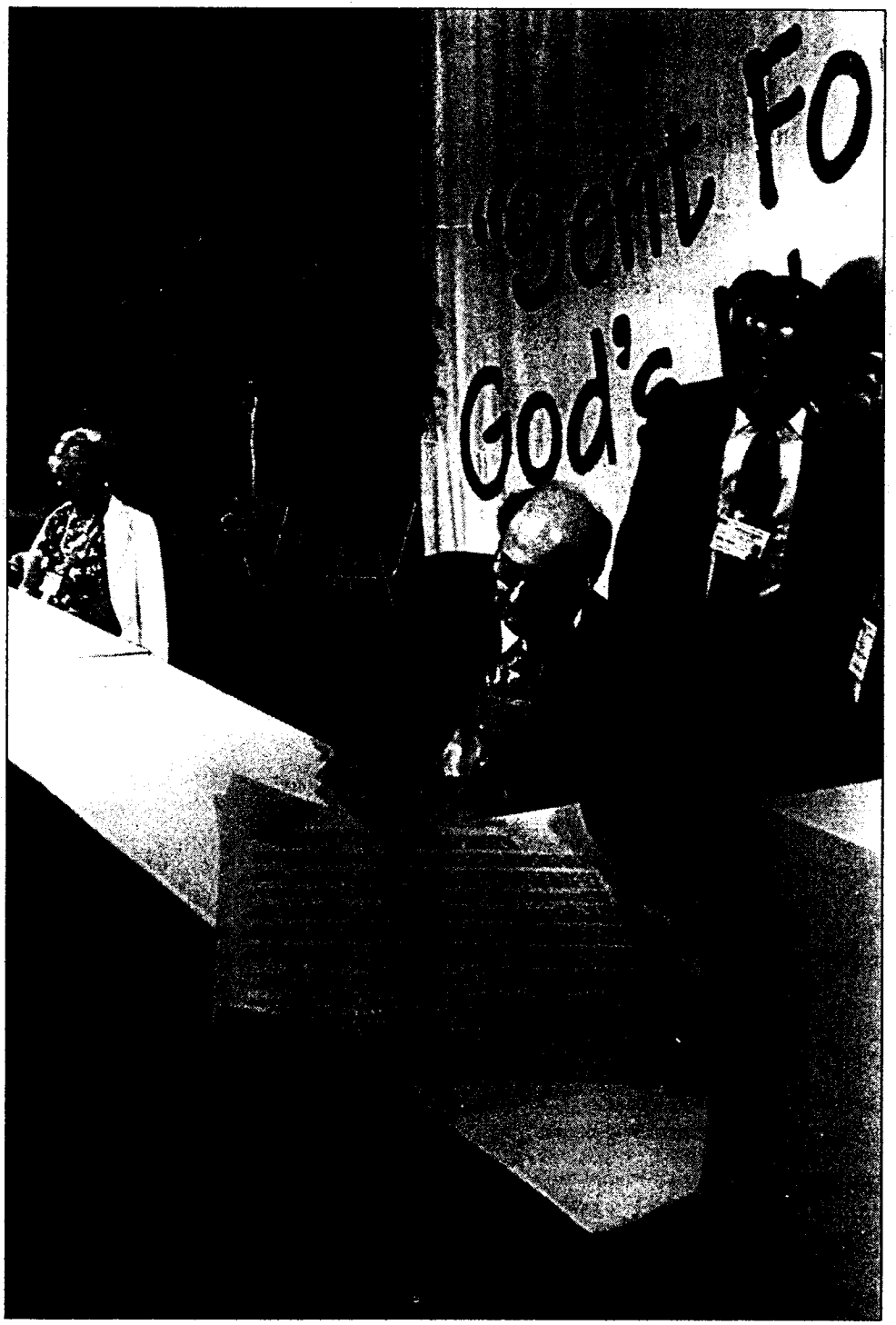
Resolved, That the congregations and pastors apply themselves to the study of Christology, in order that they might better understand the implications and relative importance of other issues; and be it further

Resolved, That all of the members of our church body seek to become mature in Christ, find their unity in Him, and do everything for the glory of His name.

Action: *Adopted (12)*

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Name	*Award*	*Presenter*	*Service*
Dr. Leah Serck	Christus Magister Award	Lutheran Education Association	Outstanding Educator—Early Childhood Education
Board for Mission Services	John of Beverly Award	The Mill Neck Foundation	Mission Service to the Deaf
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod	Plaque—100 years of Deaf Ministry	International Lutheran Deaf Association	Mission Service to the Deaf
Delpha Holleque Preus	Aquila Award	Concordia Publishing House	Translating books of theological importance
Fred L. Kuhlmann	Aquila Award	Concordia Publishing House	Service on various boards of the Synod, especially 20 years on Board of Directors of Concordia Publishing House
Olga Kaiser	Aquila Award	Concordia Publishing House	One of original founders of LWML
Marvin Schwan	Aquila Award	Concordia Publishing House	Outstanding dedication and assistance to major Christian projects in substantial ways
Lavern Schmidt	Aquila Award	Concordia Publishing House	Partnership in the LifeLight series
Denise Muhly	Aquila Award	Concordia Publishing House	Partnership in the LifeLight series
Dr. Jean Garton	Special Recognition	The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod	Leadership of Lutherans for Life through writing and speaking
Dr. John Meyer	Special Recognition	The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod	Leadership in the Church, especially in the area of stewardship
Dr. and Mrs. Harold Ottemoeller	Mission Pioneers—Faithful Workers	The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod	Missionary service in Africa
Dr. and Mrs. Paul Heerboth	Mission Pioneers—Faithful Workers	The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod	Missionary service in Japan
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Gussick	Mission Pioneers—Faithful Workers	The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod	Missionary service in Guatemala, Latin America
Dr. Herman Mayer	Mission Pioneers—Faithful Workers	The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod	Leader in mission related positions for 20 plus years
Dr. Reuben Hahn	Mission Pioneers—Faithful Workers	The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod	First Executive Secretary of Campus Ministry
Dr. Erwin Meinzen	Mission Pioneers—Faithful Workers	The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod	Missionary service in India


God's

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION FOR JUBILEE YEARS OF CONGREGATIONAL CELEBRATION

WHEREAS, 14 congregations, united by a common confession of faith and witness, and in accordance with "the example of the apostolic church" (Acts 15:1–31) and "our Lord's will that the diversities of gifts should be for the common profit" (1 Cor. 12:4–31), did join together on April 26, 1847 to form what is today known as THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD; and

WHEREAS, Today, under the blessing of Almighty God, we are able to count moe than 6,000 congregations who have elected to be part of this union of faith and fellowship; and

WHEREAS, The Lord of the church, by the power of His Spirit through Word and Sacrament, has placed His benediction upon our congregations in their joint work so that they have, also through the agency of the Synod, provided leadership to the whole Christian church in the areas of Christian education, missions, and human care; and

WHEREAS, The same Lord of the church has, above all, maintained among our congregations His blessed Word, so that we accept even today "without reservation: the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament as the written Word of God and the only rule and norm of faith and practice" and "all the Symbolic Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as a true and unadulterated statement and exposition of the Word of God"; and

WHEREAS, We have been privileged to observe during this convention the 100th anniversary of foreign mission work as well as the centennial of outreach to the hearing impaired, and many of our congregations and other institutions will observe similar important anniversaries during the next three years, including Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, celebrating 150 years next year; and

WHEREAS, We, like those who have gone before us, are SENT FORTH BY GOD'S BLESSING to bring His message of salvation by grace through faith in the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior to all the world, and thus to fulfill the Great Commission of our Lord, who has swung wide the doors of opportunity for dynamic outreach; and

WHEREAS, Because of our sin, we have many times failed to do God's will and failed fully to appreciate the many blessings God has so mercifully bestowed upon us and upon our beloved Synod,

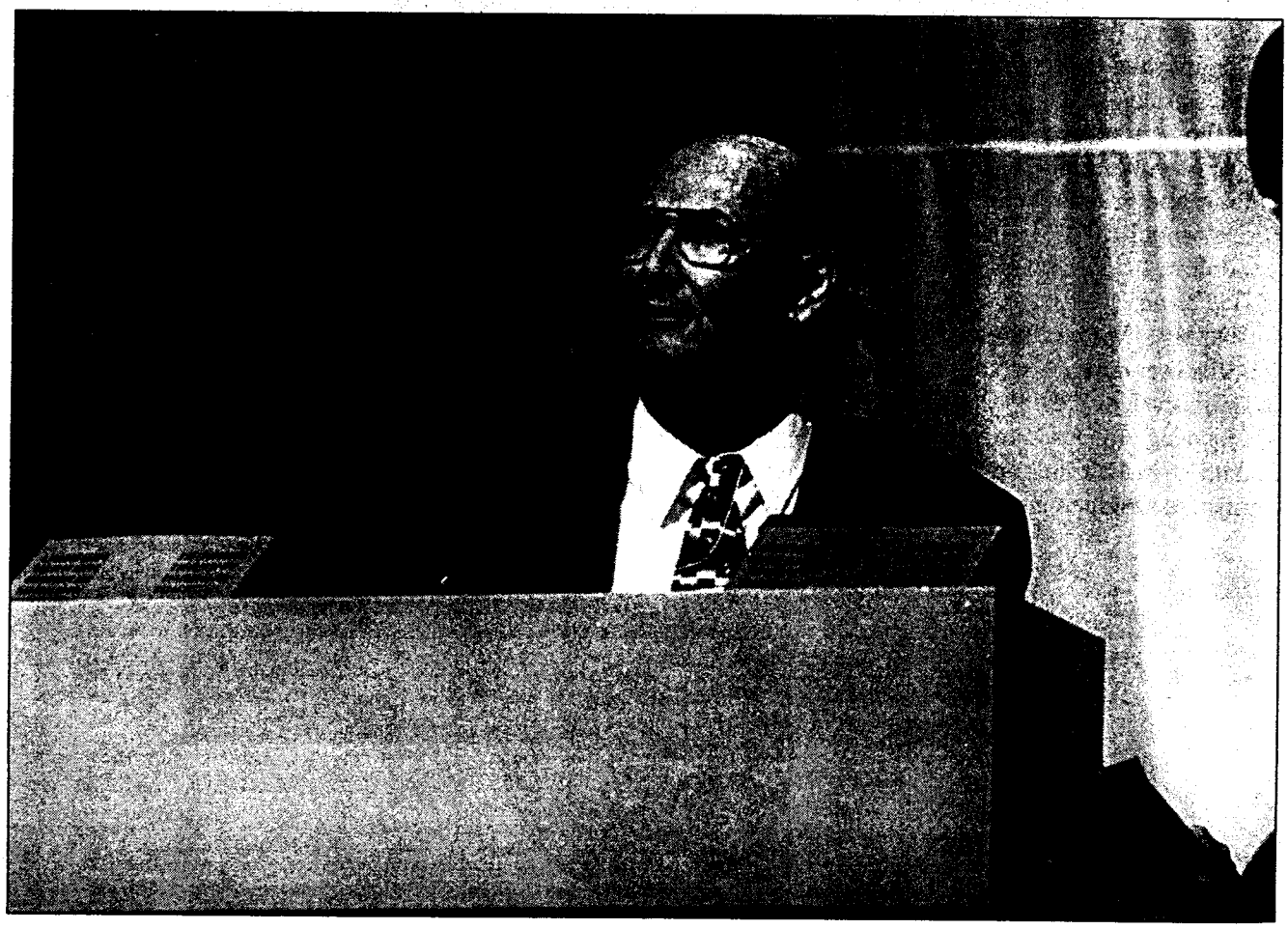
NOW THEREFORE, I, ALVIN L. BARRY, as President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod do hereby proclaim the coming triennium, 1995–1998, to be JUBILEE YEARS OF CONGREGATIONAL CELEBRATION and do commend the observance of this anniversary to all our people, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and furthermore

I hereby declare Sunday, May 19, 1996, as a day of repentance, prayer, and commitment in all our congregations, so that under God's continuing blessing we may grow in His Word, grow in aggressive outreach, and grow in the stewardship of His bounty, to the glory of His name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to be affixed this 18th day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred ninety-five, and of the Synod the one hundred and forty-ninth.

Alvin L. Barry
President





REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Part I

Introduction

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from Him who is, who was, and who is to come, even Jesus Christ our righteousness.

I consider it a great privilege to present the first part of my report to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The second part of my report will be shared with the Synod as it gathers in convention this summer in St. Louis. I encourage you to join me in a prayer to our good and gracious God that He would bless our Synod richly as we once more find ourselves gathering together to make important decisions that will guide the work of our Synod over the next three years.

In the first part of my report, I want to accomplish two things. First, I want to set before our Synod what I believe to be a very important understanding of ourselves as we move into the future. Simply put, it is this: We are a family. I will comment on various aspects of this important reality. Second, I want to share with you my activities within this family of believers we know as The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

I. We Are a Family

The Holy Scriptures use many word pictures to describe the people of God. The image I want to use as I present this first part of my report is that of the family. We need to understand very clearly that we are a family, a very special family.

As we take a look at our culture, we notice more and more often a tendency toward individualism, putting "me, myself, and I" before anything else. The self-centeredness of our culture cannot help but impact the church. We need more than ever to recover the scriptural vision of the church as the family of God. We are family in three very special ways.

First, and most important, we are members of the family which we confess in the Creed when we say, "I believe in one holy Christian, and apostolic church." In Galatians, St. Paul writes about the "household of faith" (Gal. 6:10). This is a beautiful truth revealed in God's Word. We are members of God's family—the holy Christian church. Martin Luther wrote in his Large Catechism, "The Holy Spirit effects our sanctification through the following: the communion of saints or Christian church, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. In other words, He first leads us into His holy community, placing us into the bosom of the church, where He preaches to us and brings us to Christ" (Tappert, p. 415). Luther describes our spiritual household, the church, in this way, "It is the mother that begets and bears every Christian through the Word of God" (Tappert, p. 416).

Second, we are members of the family of Christian believers called Lutherans. Why is it that we should count it a special blessing from the Lord to be called Lutheran? We call ourselves Lutheran and consider it a special blessing to be in the Lutheran family because, as C. F. W. Walther once wrote, "We allow ourselves to be called Lutherans not because we want this name to separate us from other orthodox believers ... using the name Lutheran indicates nothing else than that we are Christians who believe that the doctrine which was brought to light in these last times from God's Word through Luther, is the true doctrine." And so we count it a special blessing to be numbered among the family of believers called Lutheran. But there is another aspect of our family that we need to recognize.

Third, we are members of the family called The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. And it is as members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod that we gather in convention this summer. It is as members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod that we say before the world, "This we believe, teach, confess, and practice." With love and great concern for all, we wish as a synodical family to witness to what we believe about God's Word and about our commitment to that pure Word of God explained correctly in the Lutheran Confessions, the Book of Concord. And so, we are members of this special family called The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Our synodical family can trace its origin back to the immigration of Germans from the territory of Saxony, Germany, in the mid-1800s. But it was not for ethnic reasons that these Germans came to America. Far from it. These German Lutherans came to America in order to confess the Christian faith in accord with the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. They desired to maintain and preserve a strong confessional Lutheran theology and practice, not watered down by rationalism or pietism or any other "ism" of their time. They were a family of Lutherans that joined together to preserve a strong confessional Lutheran theology and to share the Gospel with those around them who had not yet come to know the Lord Jesus Christ.

These are the two great strengths of our synodical family: a commitment to the pure teachings of the Word of God and an equal commitment to reaching out with the Word of God. These two factors, pure confession and strong outreach, are what will keep our Synod strong, vibrant, and healthy in the years ahead. Let us take a closer look at this twofold commitment of our synodical family.

Down through the years our Synod has been known as a church body strongly committed to confessing the truth of God's Word. We are known for a strong commitment to pure doctrine and proper teaching of God's Word. We have been known for an insistence on agreement in the teachings of the Bible before we can practice church fellowship with others. I do not believe we fully realize the tremendous blessing it is for us to remain solidly committed to the truth of God's Word as that truth is explained in the

Lutheran Confessions. I am aware that there will be those who want to play down this confessional heritage of our synodical family.

In many Christian denominations, there is a great struggle going on simply to retain even the most basic truths of God's Word. We need to be warned by this. Let us commit ourselves, as a synodical family, to confessing the entire truth of God's Word. Let us, more than ever before in our history, commit ourselves to a pure confession of the Word of God in accordance with the Lutheran Confessions. I need to underscore with you what a tremendous blessing this has been for our church body down through the years. That is why at the Pittsburgh convention I could say, "Keep the message straight, Missouri." And that is also why, without any hesitation, I included in the fivefold vision point 4—that we need to remain faithful to the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. If our LCMS is to continue to be a genuine blessing to our own people as well as to others, one of the two major strengths that we will need to hold high and which will continue to distinguish us will ever be the retention of a strong, confessional Lutheran theology within our LCMS family.

But there is yet another major emphasis that always needs to remain as an equally high priority among us. This priority I also summarized at the Pittsburgh convention when I said, "Get the message out, Missouri." Another priority that must mark our Synod as we move into the future is to remain absolutely committed to reaching out and sharing with everyone we can possibly reach the Good News of that salvation which is ours, yes, and theirs, in Jesus Christ our Lord. So, when I said at Pittsburgh, "Keep the message straight, Missouri. Get the message out, Missouri," I meant that we as a church body must retain our strong confessional Lutheran commitments, but then also aggressively, energetically, and positively reach out with this message. We need to do this on a personal, congregational, and synodical level.

First, we need to reach out strongly and boldly on a very personal level. We are tempted to take too much for granted. We work with people all day long. We live next to people in our neighborhoods. We enjoy family relationships. But do we really ask ourselves whether or not these people have a saving trust in Jesus their Savior? Do we ever take the time to speak to them about the faith? On a very personal level, here is where our commitment to outreach must start as we seek opportunities to reach out with the Gospel.

Second, we need to reach out on a congregational level. As our personal level of commitment to outreach grows, so will our congregational commitment. Our congregation's outreach efforts are no stronger than the commitment on the part of our individual members. A forward-looking and aggressive vision for outreach is part of a congregation's attitude when it is healthy and strong. At times we Missouri Synod Lutherans are tempted to be fearful of outreach or are somehow intimidated by other groups which seem, at least on the surface, to be doing a better job than we are. We have no reason to feel intimidated. And we certainly do not need to imitate them! No, not at all. Rather, we need to recapture the missionary zeal of our synodical founders who were very committed to outreach. We need again to recognize in the Lutheran Confessions the strong dimension on confessing the faith, teaching the faith, reaching out with this bold confession of the faith. Our synodical forefathers clearly recognized the great challenge that faces a genuine confessional Lutheran church in this country of ours where the prevailing ecclesiastical culture is shaped and influenced by a generic sort of Christianity which deemphasizes doctrine and overemphasizes emotions and a rather subjective approach to the faith.

Each of our Synod's congregations needs to view itself as a mission outpost. For where the congregation is, there is the Gospel. Where the Gospel is preached and taught and the Sacraments administered according to Christ's institution, there is the church. And where the church is, there is Christ Himself who reaches out with His love and mercy. And so our congregations need to view themselves as being on the front lines of mission.

And then finally, as congregations we unite as a Synod to reach out nationally and internationally through our cooperative efforts. Here is where the reason for our Synod comes in. Our Synod was formed to facilitate work that individual congregations could not do by themselves. Our Synod was formed to present a united front for the sake of confession of the faith and the resulting mission outreach with the faith. This summer we celebrate the 100th anniversary of our world mission program. In 1895, our Synod resolved to send missionaries across the seas for the very first time. Since then, we have continued to work to spread the Gospel among people around the globe, sharing the saving message of Jesus Christ.

These then I would see as the two great strengths that need to mark our LCMS family as we move into the future: one, a strong, bold commitment to the confessional Lutheran theology which has marked us as a synodical family down through the years, and two, a strong, bold commitment to reach out with the Gospel.

Sometimes when I encourage this twofold emphasis, I sense that people are trying to play what I guess you could call a "priority game." They try to move one of these two emphases into first place and put the other one in second place. They try to make it seem as though one is better than the other, of more value or importance. But as a Synod we need to recognize that they are of equal value. A Lutheran church that does not do everything it can to retain among it a strong, bold confessional Lutheran theology will soon cease to be a Lutheran church and even risks losing the very Gospel itself. A Lutheran church that does not do everything it can to reach out strongly and boldly with the Gospel will cease to exist and will become only a museum piece to be studied by church historians.

And so, we as a synodical family need to hold very high these two priorities: keep the message straight and get the message out. This is what will continue to make our synodical family strong, vibrant, and forward-looking as we move into the years ahead. It is what will also make for a good synodical convention

Now I would like to share some of the key activities I have been privileged to be a part of during the past three years. Needless to say, given the space constraints here, it

is not possible to make a detailed presentation of all the activities of the President's office, but I do want to paint a picture for you in broad brushstrokes of some of the important highlights. I am sure I will have an opportunity to comment in more detail on various items when I address the floor committees as they meet in St. Louis in May and when I am able to address the convention this July.

II. Activities within the Family over the Past Three Years

I believe one of the most important things I did early in my administration was to establish a clear vision for our Synod as we move into the years ahead. The fivefold vision statement, which you have heard about at District conventions and other such gatherings, has an interesting history. Even before the Pittsburgh convention, as I was thinking about the possibility that I might be elected to serve the Synod as president, I began to think about the hopes and dreams I had for our beloved Synod.

After the election, and during my first Board of Directors meeting, I shared my desire to present to the Synod a vision of where we as a Synod needed to focus our attention. During that meeting the board then asked me to prepare a statement of my vision for the Synod. Thus it was that I presented what we now know as the fivefold vision statement. I am not going to review each point of the vision statement in great detail, but I will repeat them here for you.

Before I do, I need to say that this vision statement is not a "program." It is not something that one day may work and the next day may not. It is not something that can be discarded or set aside when something new comes along. No, it is a vision. It is a set of priorities for our Synod, priorities that we as a Synod need to emphasize as we move into the future. Therefore, I listed as my vision for our Synod:

A church body which is
a. strongly in the Word;
b. people sensitive and people centered;
c. reaching out boldly with the Gospel;
d. faithful to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions;
e. marked by peace and unity in the Lord.

A high priority I set for myself during the past several years has been my desire to be out among the Synod in as many different locations as possible. I have attempted to meet with as many members of our Synod as I could during these years. I cannot even begin to tell you what a blessing this has been for me.

Needless to say, after serving congregations for some 15 years, my heart is still very much in tune with the local congregation. I have enjoyed many opportunities to be with individual congregations, both large and small, rural and urban, to celebrate special events or commemorate significant milestones. Being with the people of God in this way, listening to their hopes, their dreams, and yes, hearing their worries and concerns, has been extremely valuable to me as I serve our Synod.

I was able to attend 17 of our 35 District conventions. During this time with the Districts, I shared a report on the fivefold vision statement as well as expressed some very heartfelt concerns about our synodical financial situation and the need for us to seriously address the decline in support to the Synod through the Districts and the increase in individualized giving.

And of course, over the past few years there have been numerous synodwide events and activities. Conventions, convocations, seminars, symposia, pastoral conferences, regional meetings, meetings of special organizations and entities, all these have been a valuable part of my getting to know our beloved Synod even better. I continue to be very impressed by the tremendous blessing God gives our beloved Synod in the form of dedicated and talented church workers and lay people. Truly this is the strength of our Synod.

Often an important aspect of my meetings with various groups is an opportunity to share papers and make presentations. We have attempted to make these papers available to the church. Some of these key presentations have dealt with church fellowship, the concept of peace in the church, the office of the ministry and the priesthood of all believers, the work of the ministry, the whole subject of worship and liturgy and so forth. These papers remain available upon request from my office.

I would like to mention some specific activities of my administration over the past three years:

150th Anniversary

Shortly after I came to St. Louis, I had an initial meeting with officials to discuss our Synod's 150th anniversary celebration. Our synodical family began in 1847 and in 1997 we will be privileged to praise and thank God for our 150th anniversary. It is a time for us as a Synod to look back on our history and with great thanksgiving see the mercies and blessings of God. It is a time to look forward to the future, trusting in the same all-powerful leadership of God's Holy Spirit.

As part of the planning process for this 150th anniversary celebration, I appointed a committee, chaired by President Robert Kuhn (CI). This committee has been meeting over the past two and a half years to make plans for the celebration. I am especially pleased with the excellent work being performed by Dr. Karl Barth, who was appointed to serve as the director of the 150th anniversary celebration. His co-worker, Dr. James Boldt, has also been of tremendous help in this effort.

Opportunities in World Lutheranism

Our Synod has marvelous opportunities opening up around the world to share our confession of faith with a wide variety of Lutheran church bodies. In the spring of 1993 I was privileged to travel to parts of Eastern Europe, making contacts with a whole host of Lutheran church body leaders, including our partner churches, as well as newer friends in various parts of what was once the Soviet empire. Many of these contacts were the first time the Missouri Synod has made contact with church bodies which formerly were behind the Iron Curtain. For me, a special part of the trip was meeting with synodical workers who serve faithfully in conditions which oftentimes are less than ideal.

Time and again as I met with our synodical workers in

this part of the world the request was made of me and of our Synod, "Pray for us." Many of these emerging Lutheran churches struggled from years of persecution at the hands of the Communists. As our Synod pursues cooperative efforts in this part of the world, we are grateful to God that we can help and be of assistance to these churches.

Only very recently, a delegation from our Synod went to St. Petersburg, Russia, to meet with the leaders of the Ingrian Lutheran Church. We have been working closely with this church in the St. Petersburg area and have responded to their request for church fellowship. Our discussions on this issue are underway and will continue with a meeting in St. Louis in the coming months.

As I make contact with various Lutheran leaders around the world, what strikes me as particularly important for us as a synodical family to hear is that our Synod's emphasis on strong, sound teaching is what attracts so many overseas church bodies to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. As we notice the World Council of Churches and the Lutheran World Federation slipping further and further away from the historic truths of biblical Christianity and confessional Lutheranism, it becomes even more important for us as a synodical family, strongly and boldly, to say without hesitation, "This we believe, teach, confess, and practice." We need to thank God for the opportunities He is providing to our Synod to bear witness to our scriptural and confessional theology.

I am particularly pleased that at our convention this summer we will have the opportunity to declare that a state of church fellowship exists between us and the Lutheran Church of Paraguay and the Free Evangelical Lutheran Synod in South Africa. How good it is to be able to enter into these new relationships with fellow Lutherans! May God bless richly our new partnership in the Gospel with these two church bodies.

One of the most significant opportunities and challenges our Synod faces when it comes to fellowship with other Lutherans is the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). We have strong ties of both friendship and family with the ELCA. Predecessor bodies of the ELCA once were in fellowship with us and we with them. However, because of serious doctrinal differences which continue to divide us, it is not possible for us to enjoy the blessings of church fellowship with the ELCA. This poses difficult pastoral problems for our congregations that must deal with this situation on the local level.

Our goal is to continue to work with the ELCA where possible without compromising our theological commitments. Twice a year we meet with the leaders of the ELCA in what is called the Committee for Lutheran Cooperation. Under my administration, these meetings have devoted considerable time to discussion about our differences, not simply reports on activities within our two church bodies. And we will continue to do so. We need to continue to share our observations and concerns with the ELCA, just as they should feel free to do the same with us. The issues involved are very important, and we need as a synodical family to recognize that now is not the time for timidity about our confessional commitments.

Office of Government Information

Our office in Washington, D.C., continues to serve as an important resource for our Synod in monitoring legislative activity that impacts our church directly, particularly in the area of our schools, as well as on other vital issues of our day. The purpose of this office is not to lobby the federal government, but rather to share information with various governmental agencies and entities, when requested. The most important function of our Office of Government Information (OGI) is to provide additional information to the congregations and church workers of our Synod. The OGI report appears as an appendix to this report.

Funding Our Work Together

An important aspect of our synodical family's life together is how best to fund our work. At the District conventions, I or my representative made a presentation on this issue. There are trends that point toward an interest in direct support of various aspects of the Synod's work. This type of direct support is a very vital part of funding our work together. However, it cannot become the only way we, as a Synod of congregations, support efforts like world missions, higher education, parish services, human care, and necessary administrative costs. We must continue to hold high before our Synod the goal of support from our congregations, through our Districts, to the Synod.

Viewing support of synodical programs as "foreign aid" is not a healthy trend. Rather we need to recapture the sense of ownership and family involvement that has so strongly characterized our congregations' support of the work of the Synod through the years. Thus, while we must say a clear yes to direct funding of synodical work, we must also speak an equally clear yes to a unified approach. I call this the yes/yes approach to funding our work together. We must continue to emphasize this twofold approach.

President's Commission on the Sanctity of Life

At the beginning of March a special think tank meeting was called involving representatives of a variety of disciplines—theological, medical, ethical, and legal—to discuss how best our Synod can renew its commitment to human-life concerns. This effort was the start of the President's Commission on the Sanctity of Life. A generous benefactor made funds available to launch a major effort in this regard. In addition to a focus on the unborn, this commission will also deal with the broad range of sanctity-of-life issues which impact our culture and consequently influence the church.

The goal of this group is to provide adequate information and resources to the congregations of our Synod so they in turn might equip our lay members to speak out as Christian citizens on these important issues. This commission is being chaired by President Raymond Hartwig (SD).

President's Commission on Women

During this triennium the President's Commission on Women focused on issues that impact the women of our church by virtue of the fact that they are members of a so-

ciety which continues to experience very serious problems in the area of sexual abuse, domestic violence, and other such issues. Under the leadership of Dr. Jean Garton and then Mrs. Tuni Miller, the commission completed an informal survey on the issue of sexual abuse. Their report follows as an appendix.

Here I need to speak a very strong and clear word of affirmation for the women of our church body. As our Synod struggles through issues concerning the service of women, what is absolutely certain is that our synodical family has been and will continue to be blessed richly by the service of women who serve in a wide variety of ways. As a Synod we need to be especially thankful for this important service rendered by the women of our synodical family.

Resources for the Church

During the past triennium, the President's office has been involved in assisting to make some very significant resources available to the church.

A book, titled *Lutheran Worship: History and Practice,* is an incredibly important publication. For years, our synodical family has needed a volume that explores worship issues in a scholarly and faithful manner. This volume is a marvelous tool for helping us understand worship issues in a distinct confessionally Lutheran manner. The President worked with a generous donor to secure the funding necessary to make this volume available at a reasonable price.

Along the lines of encouraging a thorough exploration of worship issues, the President's office secured funds for a series of "Real Life Worship Seminars" sponsored by our Synod's Commission on Worship. These seminars have been held in various regions of our Synod and continue to attract a great deal of interest and attention. Hopefully, more of these seminars can be held.

Our Commission on Worship sponsored these seminars and is to be commended and thanked by our Synod for doing so. The Commission on Worship continues to provide important leadership in this area.

The President's office has been approached by interested parties to sponsor a major new collection of essays by Hermann Sasse, one of the most influential confessional Lutheran theologians in the last century. These essays, most of which have never before appeared in English, will be of great help to our Synod as we continue to explore important theological issues which impact our work on a local, national, and international level. The volume is expected to appear sometime in 1996. I appreciate Concordia Publishing House's commitment to making this volume available to our Synod.

The President's office sponsored a new series of Bible Studies titled, "Touchpoint." These studies were written by four of our district presidents: James Kalthoff (MO), Herb Mueller (SI), Roger Pittelko (EN), and Raymond Hartwig (SD). These studies are designed for use at the parish level to discuss four topics: the priesthood of all believers and the office of the holy ministry; the service of women in the church; worship and liturgy; and close(d) Communion. Hopefully, many congregations in our Synod will use these studies. By God's blessing, our synodical family will benefit from a careful, biblical discussion of these issues.

Shortly after arriving to serve as President, I recognized the need to communicate directly with the church workers of our synodical family. Thus, I began sending out the "President's Newsletter." I was asked if I wanted to make this newsletter available in the *Reporter* and thus reach not only church workers, but also lay leaders of our Synod.

Thus, in April 1993 the "President's Newsletter" was placed within the *Reporter.* In November of that same year we were able to send the "President's Newsletter" to the 40,000 congregation leaders who receive the *Reporter.* I have found the "President's Newsletter" to be a good way for me to share news, information, and observations with the leaders of our Synod in a timely and attractive format.

The Circuit Rider Video Report was a concept developed by Rev. James Likens, our Senior Video Producer of the Board for Communication Services. The video was sent to every Circuit Counselor of our Synod in March. The purpose of this video was to offer a format in which I could communicate directly with the pastors of our Synod and offer observations and news which is of particular interest to our pastors. I plan on continuing the practice of including other synodical officials on the video. Another important feature of this video series is the inclusion of a segment from the District president. A generous benefactor made the production of these videos possible. We will continue to send them out at least twice a year.

Nomenclature Study Committee

At our last synodical convention, the Synod asked the President to form a special task force to study the whole area of "nomenclature." That is, the way in which we as a synodical family describe the various categories of church workers among us. I am pleased with the progress the Nomenclature Study Committee has made. Their progress report is included as an appendix to this report.

Task Force on Finances

When I was elected at Pittsburgh, I stated that one of my priorities was to make sure that our Synod practices full financial openness and disclosure. This remains very much of a high priority. At the beginning of 1993, I appointed a special task force to look into various questions that had arisen in regard to our Synod's management of its financial affairs.

This committee, chaired by President Raymond Hartwig (SD), spent a lot of time and effort meeting with various people at the International Center. In August 1993 the Task Force delivered its report to me. The report indicated the strengths of our Synod's financial management. The report also indicated some weaknesses that we as a Synod need to deal with as we move into the years ahead. The Task Force's report is included as an appendix to this report.

Other materials will be shared with the floor committee working on this issue. I assume that our Board of Directors will wish to make its response to the Task Force on Finances report available at this time.

Conclusion

Finally, by way of conclusion, let me repeat my opening

assertion: We are a family! First and foremost, we are members of that special family we confess to be: one, holy, Christian and apostolic. We are members of the holy Christian church, by virtue of the fact that God has called us in Christ to be His very own sons and daughters. We are also members of the special family of Christian believers we know as Lutherans, and we are members within this Lutheran family of the beloved Synod we call The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

As a family, our two equally important priorities are: strongly and boldly confessing the faith of the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions and reaching out, strongly and boldly, with this magnificent confession of the full truth of the Word of God.

As a synodical family we face many important issues as we approach the convention in St. Louis. Let us pray that God would bless our synodical family richly as we move into the weeks ahead. Please study this convention workbook very carefully, particularly if you are a delegate. God bless and keep us all in His mercy and grace through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Part II: Speech to the Floor Committees
Opportunities and Challenges for Our Synodical Family

Introduction

Let me begin my presentation this evening with the words of the apostle Paul, "Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God the Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ."

First of all, I want to thank you for agreeing to serve our Synod as a member of a convention floor committee. I want you to know how deeply appreciated your service is and particularly your willingness to give up your Memorial Day weekend to serve in this way. So again, thank you.

Our synodical family over these past three years has heard repeatedly the five-fold vision statement which I have been holding high before our Synod. My heartfelt desire for our Synod is that it be strongly in the Word, people-sensitive and people-centered, reaching out boldly with the Gospel, faithful to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, and then, finally, united in peace and unity in the Lord. This five-fold vision statement summarizes the key opportunities and challenges for our synodical family. These five points must remain our Synod's highest priorities as we move into the years ahead. The vision statement is not a program, it is a vision—a vision of where we as a Synod must be if we are to remain a genuinely Lutheran Synod, a family of Lutheran Christians united in a common confession, agreeing to walk together in both word and deed. And so tonight we gather to begin the work of formulating resolutions for the consideration of the delegates elected to serve as the representatives of our Synod as it gathers in convention.

There is one key thought that I want to share with you as you begin your work. It is this: Ours is a time of unprecedented opportunity and challenge in the Lord. I genuinely believe that I cannot underscore this fact enough with you or with the nearly 1,000 other delegates who will be attending our Synod's convention in July.

In my presentation tonight, I want to point out to each floor committee what I perceive to be some of the key issues which your committee faces. I do not want to tell you what to do, but instead to offer you some observations which you may find helpful as you go about your work. I have shared some of these thoughts with your committee chairmen in a letter I sent to each of them. I do this in the tradition of my predecessors in this office, Dr. J. A. O. Preus and Dr. Ralph Bohlmann. Obviously the final decision in all these matters rests in your hands, and ultimately the delegates to our convention will make the final decision in all of these matters. So, let me begin my walk through the *Workbook,* pointing out important issues as I would view them.

Committee 1: Missions

Members of Committee 1, ours is a time of unprecedented opportunity and challenge in the Lord! The fact that there are not many overtures in the area of missions should not cause you even for a moment to think that the congregations of our Synod are not committed to missions. This is not at all the case. When you consider that at this convention we will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of our Synod's world mission program, and when you stop to consider that the world's population as of 1995 is 5.3 billion people, of whom only 1.8 billion claim some association with a Christian church, you cannot help but recognize the truth of the statement that indeed ours is a time of unprecedented opportunity and challenge in the Lord.

There are at least 3.5 billion people living today who do not have a saving relationship with our Savior Jesus Christ. At the present time our Synod's mission program has 155 career missionaries and 92 volunteer missionaries serving in 51 different countries in the world. But we can, and we must, be doing more, much more, for the sake of world mission outreach. And directing our attention to those who live within our own borders we see the masses of people who here also are like "sheep without a shepherd." We hear the words of the Master who said, "The fields are white, ready for the harvest; therefore pray to the Lord of the harvest that He send out workers into the harvest fields."

Committee 2: Congregational Services

To the members of Committee 2 I say: Ours is a time of unprecedented opportunity and challenge in the Lord. The matter of the proposed formation of the new Board for Congregational Services and the concern as to whether or not the Commission on Worship should be a part of this new board or should be permitted to remain a free-standing

commission are perhaps two of the most important issues your committee will consider.

A large number of overtures support the continued existence of the Commission on Worship as a free-standing commission. Over the past several years I have met on numerous occasions with our Commission on Worship and with the Conference of Congregational Services. Both groups raise very valid concerns in regard to this issue. After listening carefully to all the concerns which have been raised, it would be my strong feeling that our Synod absolutely does need a free-standing Commission on Worship.

There are many throughout our Synod who notice that in the area of worship practices our Synod has an undue diversity, which in many ways is not a healthy trend. We as a synodical family want to walk together in the matter of our worship practices as our Synod's Constitution clearly indicates (Art. III 7; Art. VI 4). More and more I am hearing from concerned church workers and laypeople who truly desire guidance and leadership from the Synod in regard to worship issues.

We Lutherans understand that in the Divine Service, God is giving us His forgiveness through the Word and Sacraments. Now is the time for us to emphasize the majesty and dignity of Lutheran liturgical worship in response to the sectarian "entertainment" styles of worship we see around us in other church bodies. Thus, I am convinced that our Synod needs a free-standing Commission on Worship, with a full-time executive director. This independent commission needs to work closely with the program boards of our Synod. Your committee also has any number of overtures before it requesting some precise clarification in regard to our Lutheran worship practices and our Synod's commitment to the same. I believe these overtures deserve your careful consideration.

But I also need to share some concerns I have with the idea of a combined Board for Congregational Services. I have heard concerns from staff members as well as from persons throughout the Synod. There seems to be a concern about losing the specialized skills and services of each board if the CCS simply blends them all together into one large board. Parish education, evangelism, stewardship, and youth ministry all require specialized skill and expertise. Before we approve the merger of these boards, it may be wise to study how, by merging these functions under the same board, we will impact this sort of specialization. I have high regard for the coordination which has gone into the development and work of the Conference of Congregational Services. We should continue to encourage this sort of coordination. Many have been asking throughout the Synod if it would not be wiser simply to continue the Conference of Congregational Services without merging our existing boards of youth, stewardship, parish education, and evangelism. I believe that this option deserves your committee's study.

Committee 3: Theology and Church Relations

Committee 3, I need to say to you also: Ours is the time of unprecedented opportunity and challenge in the Lord. Your committee has a very large number of overtures which discuss quite a diverse number of issues. Permit me to suggest what some of the key overtures facing you are as you work through your chapter.

The item which received the most attention from those who submitted overtures is the CTCR statement on the service of women. The CTCR itself recommends that this document, as well as the other documents which accompany it, continue to receive the Synod's careful study, but that the document on the service of women not be the subject of any particular action by this convention. This counsel seems very appropriate, particularly in light of the many valid concerns raised by the CTCR minority as well as many, many others across our church body. Perhaps your committee will suggest a particular action in regard to this document, or it may choose instead to defer the document for further study. But in either case, it would be good to note that during a period of continued study the Synod's position remains that of the 1970 CCM ruling, reproduced in the *Workbook*.

The future of the CTCR also received considerable attention in the overtures. The CTCR came into existence in 1962. As several of the overtures indicate, this may be a good opportunity for our Synod to study the best way to address theological issues facing our Synod. As we move into the future, we need to avoid any rash action. Overtures such as 3-87, 3-102, and 3-103 suggest a responsible process for evaluating the future of the CTCR.

Your committee will also have the joy of working with overtures calling for the Synod to recognize that altar and pulpit fellowship exists between our church body and the Free Evangelical—Lutheran Synod in South Africa and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Paraguay. What a joy it truly is to be able, as a Synod, to formalize the blessing of church fellowship in this way.

Your committee also has a number of overtures which call on our Synod to reaffirm clearly our position on important matters such as the nature and function of the office of the holy ministry, the ordination of women, homosexuality, altar fellowship, unionism, the use of the name *Lutheran* and so forth. I think that it would be wise for your committee to consider seriously those overtures calling for our Synod to reaffirm its position on altar fellowship (Overtures 3-14, 3-16 to 3-23, 3-31, 3-32). Also, it may be good for the committee to give attention to the overtures concerning lay ministry (Overtures 3-24, 3-27, 3-28, 3-117, 3-118). Perhaps we as a Synod need to revisit our approach toward lay ministry. Another important area for study and consideration would be the issue of unionism (Overtures 3-24 to 3-26). The issue of the name *Lutheran* is also a very challenging one (Overtures 3-120 to 3-130). And there are other important theological issues before you.

I recognize that some would feel that because our Synod has already spoken on these issues, or because a CTCR document in the past has discussed a particular issue, our Synod does not need yet another resolution on these issues. While I understand this feeling, I feel strongly that there is great wisdom in reaffirming our Synod's position on key issues. Just as our congregations, week after week, repeat the words of the ancient creeds by way of reaffirmation and confession, so it is good for our Synod boldly to testify before

the world, "This is what we believe, teach, and confess—and also practice."

Committee 4: Program and Finance

To the members of Committee 4: Ours is the time of unprecedented opportunity and challenge in the Lord! Looking through the overtures before your committee, one of the most significant issues you face has to do with full financial openness and disclosure. It is totally appropriate for the members of our Synod to expect full financial openness and disclosure at every level of our synodical structure. Wherever I go, people in the Synod ask me whether we as a Synod are practicing full disclosure. My response is that we are working toward that goal but have not yet fully achieved it. It is clear that our people do desire full financial openness and disclosure, and rightly so.

I would like to draw the attention of Committee 4 to the Task Force on Finances Report and my own letter to the Synod regarding this report. These materials are printed in the *Workbook* (Reports R1-8-04 and R1-8-05). The Task Force on Finances did some very careful work and arrived at very perceptive conclusions. While our Synod's Board of Directors approved many of the task force's recommendations, there were also some that were declined due to a difference of opinion between the task force and the Board of Directors. I believe your committee also has a copy of the Board of Directors' response to the task force on Finances. Your committee would be well advised to take a close look at the task force report and also look closely at the Board of Directors' Overture 4-06 concerning full disclosure. The other overtures concerning full disclosure will no doubt prove helpful as you make decisions in this regard (Overtures 4-01 to 4-09).

Also significant for your committee's consideration is the call for the establishment of a Chief Financial Officer (Overture 4-13). The Task Force on Finances report (R1-8-04) has significant observations in this regard. The matter of Vice-President—Finance/Treasurer is another issue to which your committee will want to give prime attention. Perhaps a clarifying word on this issue is in order to give guidance to our Synod as we consider the duties and responsibilities of this elected position.

Committee 5: Higher Education

Committee 5, ours is the time of unprecedented opportunity and challenge in the Lord! Your committee has many overtures to consider, but the most lengthy is the overture submitted by the Board for Higher Education calling for significant revisions in the Bylaws of our Synod governing our system of Higher Education (Overture 5-25). This is a very important issue. It is not possible for me to go into great detail in this presentation, but what is clear is that your committee will need to scrutinize these proposed changes very carefully. I have offered my more detailed observations in my letter to your floor committee chairman.

I believe the Board for Higher Education needs to be asked by your committee to provide clear rationale for the many and numerous overtures suggesting changes to the Bylaws. In some cases, changes are suggested which do not seem at all necessary to serve the desired outcome of the Bylaw changes. I have a genuine concern that some of the proposed Bylaw changes would seem to move our schools, especially our colleges, further away from the Synod. I would also question the wisdom of the proposed change to Bylaw 6.03 h and the proposed deletion of Bylaw 6.03 j. To me, these changes would remove the Synod's Board of Directors from the picture in its role as custodian of the Synod's property and turn the matter of property decisions over to the Concordia University System. I am not sure how wise it would be to remove this supervisory function for CUS properties from our Synod's elected Board of Directors.

I also have some concerns regarding the changes suggested for our colloquy system. I wonder how wise it would be to remove our seminary faculties from involvement in establishing standards for the colloquy process (proposed Bylaw 6.89 b) or in approving those who meet the established standards (Bylaw 6.89 c). I notice also that several colloquy categories are eliminated all together (current Bylaws 6.91 3, 4, and 5). There are no detailed proposals to replace them. It would be my feeling that it is ill-advised for your floor committee to approve the removal of several key Bylaws governing the colloquy process without knowing precisely what is supposed to replace them, and without having an adequate opportunity to evaluate and possibly recommend alternative routes to the ministry for the convention's approval.

If your committee should feel that the proposed Bylaw changes are of such an extensive nature that they require further study, it may be worth considering whether or not to return the overture to the Board for Higher Education for elaboration, clarification, and/or modification during the next triennium. This may be particularly appropriate in light of the CCM ruling and the work of the Independent Blue-Ribbon Committee on Structure which I have recently appointed.

It may also be worth your committee's consideration as to whether or not we need at this time to evaluate our entire system of higher education (Overtures 5-15, 5-16, 5-18, 5-20, 5-21). Many private colleges in this country started out as church-owned institutions, created for the purpose of providing church workers. However, many of these private colleges have lost the primary mission for which they were created. This certainly is not the direction we as a church body want to head in the future.

It may be wise to create a committee independent of the Concordia University System which could take a very close look at our system of higher education. Overture 5-18 suggests a number of helpful points which your committee may wish to consider in this regard. Our Synod has a great opportunity and challenge to train church workers for the years to come. Nobody can do this better than we, if we keep our standards high and our institutions strong and healthy.

Committee 6: Human Care

Again, ours is the time of unprecedented opportunity and challenge in the Lord. Committee 6, while you may not have as many overtures as some of the other committees, nonetheless, your committee is all about the second point

of our Synod's vision statement, namely, that we as a Synod be a very caring church, people-sensitive and people-centered, not merely for the sake of social work nor to advocate a social gospel of sorts, but instead as an extension of the Master's loving and caring ministry to hurting people.

In that regard, I would commend to your committee Overtures 6-01 to 6-07, calling for a positive reaffirmation of our Synod's commitment to the sanctity of life and related concerns. You may wish to note the new President's Commission on the sanctity of life (*Workbook,* p. 3) and express a word of thanks to the anonymous donor who has now made possible this bold new initiative and has reinvigorated commitment to the sanctity of life among us.

There are many other people-needs expressed in the variety of overtures which your committee will be working with (Overtures 6-31 to 6-34, 6-36, 6-37). These overtures call for a growing sensitivity on the part of the Synod to a variety of human-care issues and concerns. In many cases, these concerns need first to be dealt with at the level of our congregations. It is at the parish level that the needs are the most evident and the people of God are the most aware of them.

Committee 7: Structure, Planning and Administration

Committee 7, last but certainly not least, to you also I say: Ours is a time of unprecedented opportunity and challenge in the Lord! As I page through the *Workbook* pages devoted to structure, planning, and administration, I notice some key issues here as well. I suppose the most obvious issue which faces your committee is the whole matter of the Commission on Constitutional Matters opinion and its aftermath. I need to tell you that I and the Board of Directors have been working hard on these issues over the past two days. I would encourage your committee to be cautious in formulating any sort of a quick-fix solution to structural issues which have developed over the years. The CCM opinion pointed out certain deficiencies in our Bylaw arrangements. To me there is a great need to study carefully our Synod's structural arrangements, recognizing the good points of creating corporate entities and the less-than-good aspects of these types of arrangements. I trust that whatever decisions need to be made in this regard are decisions which will help us clarify issues, not merely avoid potential problems in regard to our corporate structural arrangements.

An equally important issue before your committee is the whole matter of the Synod's Dispute Resolution system, adopted at our Synod's last convention. The new process has in many respects worked well for us during these first few years. But having said that, it also needs to be said that important revision and modification is necessary. There is no doubt in the minds of those responsible for initiating and leading this new process that this is the case.

The overtures received on this matter cover quite a range of concerns. Overture 7-59 wisely suggests that the new synodical Dispute Resolution system really does need a provision for an appeal of a Dispute Resolution Panel decision. It is clear to me that this is absolutely necessary. It must be kept in mind that a Dispute Resolution Panel serves as an adjudication panel in this process. Overture 7-50 points out the need for adequate, standard procedures which should be followed by each Dispute Resolution Panel. Overture 7-58 suggests a far-reaching reevaluation of the new process. I am not convinced that at this time this would be a wise decision. This convention could however establish a process for systematic evaluation to take place in the future, after the 1995 modifications have had a chance to work for a while.

But there are other important matters for your consideration as well. There are a number of overtures expressing concern in regard to how our District Presidents handle the whole area of call lists. Perhaps a word of cautious concern is in order as suggested, but it also needs to be said that our present system of calling pastors makes good sense. A vacant congregation must consult with its District President, who may suggest names for its consideration. But a calling congregation does have the right to call any pastor who is a member of the Missouri Synod in good standing. There are other matters before your committee which you may have time to consider, but it seems the items mentioned here will require your utmost study and consideration for the good of our beloved Synod.

Concluding Observations

I told you as I began this presentation that you would hear from me, over and over, the phrase, "Ours is a time of unprecedented opportunity and challenge in the Lord." I have a suspicion that by now some of you may be saying, "This is just a pious platitude, a truism. After all, haven't we all heard this kind of claim before?" My response is, "Of course, each generation which has gone before us was able to make this assertion. But there is one important difference." The big difference is that you are here now, not they. You are the delegates to this synodical convention. This is your time. This is your day. Therefore let us recognize that this is so. Let us accept the opportunity and challenge which lie before us. Let us rise to the occasion, for ours is the time of unprecedented opportunity and challenge in the Lord! May God grant each of you a double measure of His Holy Spirit that you may receive the wisdom necessary to make good decisions, according to His good and gracious will and for the good of our Synod. God bless as you do. Yes, God bless as you do!

Part III

Introduction

Grace, mercy, and peace to each of you from God the Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

It is both an honor and a privilege for me to present to you this morning the third and final part of my President's report. Before I begin, I first want to express a genuine word of thanks to the Synod for the honor and privilege of serving as your President during these past three years. It has truly been a wonderful experience with many challenges, and also with many blessings as well. So, again, thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you in this way.

In the first part of my report, printed in the *Convention Workbook,* I made the point that we as a Synod are a family, a very special family. We are members of the family called the holy Christian church. We are members of the family of Christian believers called Lutheran, and finally, we are members of that particular Lutheran family of Christians called The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. As I think a bit more about the picture of our Synod as a family, I cannot help but also think of this synodical convention as being sort of a family reunion. So, first of all, I want to say, "Welcome to the family reunion."

How clearly I can recall when I was yet a boy growing up in western Iowa, the family reunions I attended with my parents and brother each summer. The first part of August we would always go to the Maaske family reunion, then later in August to the Barry family reunion. Both reunions were always fun events. I remember that there was always plenty of food. There was also always lots of family conversation, catching up on the latest news with one another, and plenty of fun. My aunts would sit around and talk about the children. My uncles would generally go off and play horseshoes and talk about business matters. The younger people would play softball and the children, well, they would just sort of run wild, generally getting into everything and exhausting themselves by day's end. Driving home at the end of the day, my dad would usually say, "It would be sort of fun to be in so and so's car right now to hear what they are talking about." Mom would say things like, "What did you think of Susy's new boyfriend?" or "What did you think of Aunt Em's new cherry cobbler recipe? It gets better every time we have it." My brother and I would sit in the backseat of the car and listen or perhaps fall asleep, for family reunions can really wear a person out, especially if as a child you romp around all afternoon.

Next, as I thought about my family reunions, I started to think about our Synod's convention. In a way, I believe that our synodical conventions are like family reunions. It is a family reunion of the Synod, which is represented by you, the delegates, chosen by each Circuit of our Synod. You come here representing the congregations in your Circuit. I have a suspicion that you will grow tired and weary by the end of our reunion time together. But already I have noticed that friends are catching up with one another and becoming reacquainted. So, in this way and in many others, our convention is like a family reunion.

The Two Most Important Words for Our Synod's Family Reunion

Our synodical family has its work cut out for it at this family reunion. You have all received the first issue of *Today's Business,* which sets before you the various proposed resolutions which we as a family will discuss and debate. There are so many different issues it may become easy to lose sight of the key goals we need to keep in mind as we do our work over the next several days. I would like to suggest to you this morning that the two most important words we need to keep in mind as we do our work over the next six days are these: faithfulness and outreach. All our decisions need to be made with these two key words in mind. Our synodical family needs to be absolutely committed to making faithfulness and outreach our two highest priorities. Let me explain why.

We, as a family of believers, have committed ourselves to a very distinct and unique confession of the Christian faith. We are Lutherans. We are confessional Lutherans. That is, we are totally committed to remaining faithful to the doctrines and teachings of our Lutheran church contained in the Book of Concord. As such, we Missouri Synod Lutherans have been known as orthodox, conservative, confessional Lutherans since our very earliest days. We are committed to remaining faithful, absolutely faithful, to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, and thus we say boldly before the world, "This we believe, teach, confess, *and practice.*" We include the word *practice* because if all we do is give lip service to our confession, then we are not being the kind of church body our Lord would have us be.

But then we turn immediately to the second important word for our Synod's family reunion: outreach. Here also we as a synodical family need to recognize the fact that we have much to do—much to do. We need to seek every possible opportunity to reach out and share the Gospel. This means that we actually *do* speak of our faith to our family, to our husbands and wives, children and grandchildren and, yes, also to those persons whom God places in our daily lives. This means that we actually *do* invite our friends, neighbors, relatives, and co-workers to church with us. This means that we do give *prime* attention—*prime* attention—to expanding our world-mission program and our outreach efforts across the Districts of our Synod.

That key word, *outreach,* is particularly appropriate at this convention. We are privileged at this convention to celebrate the 100th anniversary of our Synod's world-mission program. What a special blessing this is for us! We are able to thank God for His many blessings for these past 100 years as our Synod has grown increasingly active in the area of world missions. You will continue to hear during our time together about the work our Synod is doing in many parts of the world. As I said in my speech to the floor committees, "Now is the time of unprecedented opportunity

and challenge in the Lord." We have been sent forth by God's blessing to be a blessing to many all around the world. This is what outreach is all about.

Therefore, as we move into the next six days, and into the months and years ahead, approaching the turn of the century, our Synod needs to remain *equally* committed to faithfulness and outreach. We have nothing to fear as we boldly testify about our faith before the world. We do not need to imitate others. We can both do our mission work and at the same time remain faithful, confessional Lutherans. In fact, we must do this. We have a very unique and special message for the world. It is the pure teaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and all its articles. Therefore, our Synod's family reunion for these next six days must ever keep these two words in the forefront: faithfulness and outreach. Faithfulness and outreach.

Observations on Specific Issues for Our Synod's Family Reunion

I would now like to offer some specific observations as your synodical president in regard to a number of the resolutions which will come before you over these next several days.

I am sure that when you first received the *Convention Workbook* you may have been a bit overwhelmed by the many and various overtures which it contained. Here is where the work of our floor committees comes in. They gathered together over the Memorial Day weekend and did an outstanding job of preparing the resolutions which you have now in *Today's Business.* They met again last Friday and Saturday to finalize these resolutions and to hear from anyone who wished to share observations with them. I commend the floor committees' work to you and encourage you to support the resolutions which they have prepared for your consideration.

As I looked through the first issue of *Today's Business,* I was struck by a number of key resolutions which we will be considering. First, the whole matter of a modification to our Synod's system of resolving disputes and conflict among us will come before you in Resolution 7-02. The floor committee, in conjunction with representatives of the Dispute Resolution Task Force, really labored over these modifications. The goal was to build on the strengths of the new process as it now stands and to provide modifications which will make doubly sure that the process is fair and just to all the parties involved. Thus Resolution 7-02 includes a process for appealing decisions made by Dispute Resolution Panels. As it now stands, the process does not provide for this. Resolution 7-03 calls for the preparation of guidelines for this process. At the present time we also lack these very necessary guidelines. This too will be an important factor in strengthening and improving our Synod's process for resolving conflict, adjudicating disputes, and, hopefully, bringing reconciliation to situations of conflict among us. The main goal in all these changes is to make absolutely sure that we, out of love for our neighbor, go the extra mile to ensure justice and fairness for all parties to a dispute.

Another key issue which has rightly attracted a lot of attention is the whole matter of the CTCR's study document on the service of women in the church. Resolution 3-15 calls for further study and work on the CTCR's document. I would encourage you to support this resolution. It is obvious that the document needs more work. The entire CTCR recognizes this fact and has expressed its desire and willingness to continue this work.

Another key issue facing the Synod is the matter of the creation of the Board for Congregational Services. I would encourage you to support Resolution 2-04. There are some who feel strongly that the new board is not really the best idea for our Synod. I too must confess that I have some very genuine concerns about the merger of the various program boards, but I feel that if our Synod does decide that a merger is the wisest course of action, then we need to make sure that the synodical convention elects all or at least the majority of the members of the Board for Congregational Services.

I would also like to draw your attention especially to Resolution 2-03 which calls for the Commission on Worship to remain an independent entity. I am absolutely convinced that our Synod needs to have a free-standing Commission on Worship. Resolution 2-03 calls for the Commission on Worship to remain free standing but also calls on it to work closely with the Congregational Services area. This too is crucial. So, I would strongly encourage you to support Resolution 2-03 and join many congregations and Districts of our Synod which feel that a free-standing Commission on Worship would be of great value to our Synod as we move into the future.

Another big decision which faces our synodical family is Resolution 5-03. This resolution declines the Board for Higher Education's extensive revision to the Bylaws of our Synod governing our Synod's system of higher education. I am very concerned about these proposed changes. In some key respects, they move the colleges and universities further away from the input of our synodical convention. We as a Synod need to retain a strong sense of ownership over our institutions of higher education. The proposed Bylaws would give the Synod less of an opportunity to elect the Boards of Regents at our various institutions. The property of the institutions would also no longer be controlled by our elected Board of Directors. Instead they would be turned over to the appointed staff and members of the Concordia University System. These and other aspects of the Bylaw changes trouble me and many others who have carefully studied them. Therefore, I would like to encourage you to support the floor committee on this issue and refer these Bylaw changes back to the Board for Higher Education for further work and study. We cannot afford to make changes which we may later deeply regret.

I would now like to draw your attention to the resolutions in *Today's Business* concerning full financial disclosure and openness. Resolutions 4-02 through 4-05 all address aspects of this important issue. As I travel back and forth across our Synod, I have found that this issue is a very genuine concern among our people. It is not enough for us as synodical and District officials simply to say, "Trust us." We need to demonstrate a genuine willingness to answer questions which are asked and to supply as much information as possible, and not merely only that information required by state laws. We have made progress in

achieving full financial openness and disclosure, but we are not yet there. The resolutions which you will consider in this regard will help us move ahead on this issue and reach a point where we do indeed practice full financial openness and disclosure, and therefore, put to rest lingering concerns and questions in this regard. I urge you to support the floor committee resolutions concerning this issue as they are found in *Today's Business.*

There are many other important decisions you will make. For instance, you will have the opportunity to reaffirm our Synod's scriptural and confessional position on such issues as unionism (Resolution 3-18) and altar fellowship (Resolution 3-19). Our Synod's position on these issues is the teaching of Holy Scripture and our Lutheran Confessions and deserves our affirmation and reaffirmation. The same would also hold true concerning the need to reaffirm our Synod's confessional practice relative to close Communion. All three of these positions are great strengths of our church body, not weaknesses. Therefore, I encourage you to support these resolutions.

Another resolution which comes before you concerns the whole area of the Church Growth Movement. Resolution 3-17 calls for a special study of this whole area. I believe we all recognize that over the past several years our Synod has experienced a considerable level of concern about certain aspects of the Church Growth Movement. While we definitely must recognize a number of important and positive contributions this movement has made among us, we can also recognize some very genuine dangers this movement poses for our continuing faithfulness to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions. Therefore, I would encourage you to support Resolution 3-17.

These then are some thoughts on some of the issues which will come before you, but in general, I would conclude by again urging you to support the work of the floor committees.

Concluding Thoughts about Our Synod's Family Reunion

We are sent forth by God's blessing to be faithful and to reach out boldly with the Gospel. It is for this reason that when I was first elected to serve as your President I sounded the theme "Keep the message straight, Missouri. Get the message out, Missouri." I am convinced, now more than ever, that these two items must be our most fundamental goal as a synodical family.

Over the past two-and-a-half years, our Synod has responded very favorably to the five-fold vision statement, summarizing our work together. It is a vision of a Synod which is strongly in the Word, people-sensitive and people-centered, reaching out boldly with the Gospel, faithful to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, and, finally, committed to peace and unity in the Lord. Under the blessing of Almighty God, I am convinced that we as a synodical family can move forward boldly and courageously as we are sent forth by God's blessing. During the next six days, this vision for our Synod will be summarized with two words: faithfulness and outreach.

So, again I say, "Welcome to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's family reunion. It is good to see you all here." And as we move ahead during these next six days, may the rich blessings of our gracious God in Christ clearly rest upon each of you. For this we pray, and, confident of His blessing, we now move into the business of our Synod's convention, our family reunion together.

A. L. Barry, *President*

CONVENTION SERMON

Grace and peace to each of you personally from Him who is, who was, and who is truly to come again, even Jesus Christ our righteousness.

The passage of God's Word to which we would direct your attention in this opening service is found recorded in the Old Testament book of 2 Kings, the seventh chapter, beginning with the third verse:

> And now there were four men with leprosy at the entrance of the city gate. And they said to each other, "Why do we sit here until we die? If we say, 'We will go into the city,' the famine is there, and we will certainly die there. And if we stay here, we will also die; so let us go over to the camp of the Arameans and surrender, and if they will spare us, we live; and if they kill us, then we are dead."
>
> At dusk they got up and went to the camp of the Arameans. And when they reached the edge of the camp, no man was there; for the Lord had caused the Arameans to hear the sound of chariots and of horses and of a great army, so that they said one to another, "Look, the king of the Israelites has hired the Hittites and the Egyptian kings to come and attack us!" So they had gotten up, and they had fled in the dusk. And they had abandoned their tents and their horses and their donkeys, and they left their camp just as it was, and they ran for their lives.
>
> The men who had leprosy reached the edge of the camp, and they entered into the tents, and they ate and they drank and they carried away the silver and the gold and the clothes, and they went off and they hid them, and they returned and they entered other tents and they took some things from them, and they went and they hid them also.
>
> And then they said to each other, "What we are doing is not right. This is a day of good news, and if we keep it to ourselves and wait until the daylight, surely punishment will overtake us; so let us go even now and report to the king's people the good news.

This is the Word of our Almighty God.

Fellow members of the family of our Lord Jesus Christ and the family of our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Let me begin by once again extending to those of you whom I have not had the opportunity of greeting a word of welcome and greeting in Jesus Christ. We thank God that you are here and that God has brought you safely to this convention. We pray God's every blessing upon you as we meet here these days.

But let me also extend a word of greeting to the many guests that we have with us this evening from the greater St. Louis community and far beyond, especially the families of delegates assembled here. To you also we want to say greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. God bless.

Let me begin by asking you a question. What do you do with good news once you've heard it? How do you personally handle good news once you have become a possessor of it? I think the natural reaction for most of us once we have heard good news is to tell other people.

There are a lot of grandparents here this evening, and I surely do not have to tell you what you as grandparents did when you became a grandpa and grandma for the first time. I know what I did. I got on the phone and I called everyone under the sun and said, "Hey, guess what! Beth had a little boy last night. I'm a grandpa." It's good news! You have to share it with the world.



A lot of you are salaried people. There comes that point during the year when you find yourself being brought in to be told what has happened to your salary. I suppose you begin to think, "Well, maybe if I just get a cost-of-living increase, everything is going to be pretty nice, or maybe a cost-of-living increase plus a little bit more." So you go in to the boss, and the boss sits down and says, "Well, I've got your salary figure for next year." You take a deep breath. He turns and hands you the sheet, and lo and behold, you not only received a cost-of-living increase and a little bit more, but you received a tremendous raise. Your boss says, "I appreciate the work that you are doing, and I wanted to show it to you in your salary." What do you do? You go out and call your wife and say, "Honey, guess what! I got a raise the likes of which I would never have dreamed." It's good news. You want to share it with others.

It's rather interesting in our text for this evening that we find four men who became possessors of some fantastically good news. But instead of instantly wanting to share it with others who were around them, the first thought they had was that they were just going to keep that good news to themselves. Until all at once, God, through the power of His Spirit, pricked their conscience and asked them the question, "What are you going to do with this good news? Keep it to yourself or share it with the world?" So it is on this theme that I would like to speak to you this evening: "What are you going to do with this good news?"

You know, as you look back into the Old Testament Scriptures, perhaps you will recognize that this particular event took place about 800 B.C. As you think of the children of Israel, you realize that they were a theocracy. That means that God ruled them. They did not have an earthly king. But they desired an earthly king very much, like the other nations they saw around them. And so it was that God allowed them to have an earthly king. At first it was Saul, and then there was David, and then there was Solomon. And then all at once they decided that instead of having one kingdom and one earthly king there would be two kingdoms with 2 tribes in one and 10 tribes in the other. And there was some friction there. Militarily it was a lousy decision. But what was even worse is that they began to pick kings for themselves who were not God-fearing men who would lead them along the paths of righteousness. Rather, they were kings who introduced Baal worship and who led the people away from God, rather than to God. God sent to them one prophet after another, Elijah, Elisha, and so on, who called the people of God to repentance. But the people of God paid no attention to this until finally God decided there was only one thing left to do. And that was that He would allow both the Northern Kingdom and the Southern Kingdom to be carried away into captivity, the Northern Kingdom about 100 years prior to the Southern Kingdom.

Our text concerns one of the cities of the Northern Kingdom. And it is under siege. The city is Samaria. We are told it was a walled city. They had built a wall with gates around their city, and they felt that any time they were attacked, they would simply close the gates, and those who would attack would have a tough time defeating them. So when they saw the Arameans coming, they simply closed the gates, and they thought, "They'll go on somewhere else." But the Arameans were in no hurry, and so they completely surrounded the city and said, "We'll just sit them out! And when the water and food runs short, they will have to come out, and when they do, we will destroy the city." It's at that point that our text begins. It tells us that there were four men who found themselves caught in this standoff. Those four men were lepers. They had that dreadful disease that was feared so viciously. The hands, the ears, and the chin would begin to turn white. It became very obvious that they were lepers. Lepers would have to separate themselves from others. When they saw people coming, they had to cry out, "Leper, leper." Now these men find themselves at the gate of the city, and they can't go inside because they are lepers and the gate is closed. They cannot go to the Arameans because they are dead sure that they will be killed. At first the people had quite a bit of pity for them, and they dropped food and bags of water over to them. But when the water and the food began to get a little scarce, they stopped feeding these lepers on the other side of the gate. So the lepers said to themselves, "You know, if we stay out here we're going to starve. Even if we tried to get into the city, it isn't any better there because they are short of food. So I'll tell you what let's do. Let's just walk right straight out into the camp of the Arameans. And if they see that we are lepers, and they have pity on us and let us go through their lines, then we'll live, and if they kill us, then we are dead. But we've got to decide now."

It's rather interesting that it says that about that time God caused the Arameans to hear the sound of a mighty army approaching from someplace else. And you know how rumors run around. Rumors ran through the camp of the Arameans, and you know what happened? They started saying, "I bet you one of those Israelites got through our lines at night and went over and made a truce with the Hittites or the Egyptians, and they're going to come and destroy us rather than we destroy the people of Samaria." And as this rumor spread through the camp, they began to run for their lives. They left their food and their clothing and their gold and their silver, and they ran for their lives—because life is always more valuable than possessions.

And now we find these four lepers walking into the camp of the Arameans, and nobody is there. They go into the tents, and there is food and water, so they eat and drink. There are new clothes that they put on, and they dress themselves well. They find silver and gold, and they take it out and dig holes away from the camp and bury it. And they go back and find other possessions, and they take those out and bury those also. And if they think of the people back at Samaria, I know what they must have thought, "Well, they stopped feeding us, we don't have to remember them."

Until all at once we are told God pricked their conscience with the question, "What are you going to do with the good news?" And then they said, "What we are doing is not right. Let us go to the king's people right now and tell them the good news. The Arameans are gone."

Now my dear brothers and sisters in Christ, is it really all that difficult for you and for me in this opening service to see what God is trying to say to us through His almighty Spirit-filled Word? You and I have become possessors of

some fantastically good news. It is the Good News of our salvation in Jesus Christ. Do I need to tell you, or Al Barry, what we really deserve from God? All you have to do is take your life and compare it to the Ten Commandments: Thou shalt have no other Gods before me. Thou shall not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Thou shalt honor thy father and thy mother that it may be well with thee and thou mayest live long on the earth. Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness against one another. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbors house, nor his manservant nor his maidservant, nor his cattle, nor anything that belongs to thy neighbor. And then to really cap it off, God says, "And the soul that sinneth it shall die," and "Cursed is everyone who continues not in all things written in the book of law to do them." And that is not very good news for us. The Good News of all good news is that I have the joy of announcing to you from God's Almighty Word that God loved you and me so very much, and He loved the world so much that He sent His only-begotten Son into this world to take upon Him flesh of our flesh and to keep the Law perfectly in our stead—and finally to go to the cross to suffer for the sins of all mankind and to rise victorious on the third day. And that through faith in Him we have forgiveness with God, life, and salvation. Now that's Good News!

Down through the years, as often as I have visited with my brother pastors, I have used this illustration—there may be some of them here tonight. Let's say you go to the doctor for your annual physical, and the doctor tells you that he found a lump that was not there a year ago. He says, "I've always been very honest with you, and I need to tell you that I'm certain it is cancer. We'd better get you into the hospital as quickly as possible. I've lined up a surgeon, and we'll do the surgery, and we'll see how it goes." It's a shock, but you schedule yourself into the hospital for the surgery, go through the surgery, and now you are coming out of the anesthetic, and you are lying in your bed. Your doctor comes into your room. He walks by your bed, and he looks out the window and says, "It's been terribly hot these last several days. But you know there is going to be a break in the temperature. That's good news, isn't it?" He tells you all about his flowers and how they have lived through this heat. That's good news. He says, "Our grandchildren are coming this weekend, and I'm going to be able to spend a couple of days with the grandkids. How I look forward to that." That's good news.

But what are you really waiting to hear from your doctor? You are waiting for him to come over and take you by the hand and squeeze it and say, "Yes, it was cancer, but we got it all. You're going to live!" Now that's good news.

And that is the message of the Gospel. That our Lord Jesus Christ came into this world and He got it all. He got all the curse, all of the damnation, all of the hate, all of the punishment that you and I deserved. He got it all. And through faith in Him you are forgiven. Yes, He got forgiveness, not just for some of your sins, not just for many of your sins, not just most of your sins, but for all of your sins! You are forgiven and at peace with God in Jesus Christ. Now that's good news!

So I guess that takes us back to the question, doesn't it? What are you going to do with it? What are we in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod going to do with it during the next triennium? What are we going to do with this Good News, Missouri? Well, I would hope that first of all we would be a church that recognizes it, rejoices in it, and thanks God for it. In our daily prayers we should thank God for the forgiveness of sins and the life and salvation that we have in Jesus Christ as our Savior. It is very easy not to thank God enough for our forgiveness. But you know—it can't just stop there. It can't just stop with a 150th anniversary celebration. It can't just stop with other things like that. It must be a matter of sharing it with the world that is around us. Even as we have for the past 100 years in world mission, across our entire nation—share it with the world, so that they may also know the salvation that is theirs in Jesus Christ. And hopefully also be saved.

During this convention we will talk about 150 years of God's fantastic blessings upon us. We will talk about 100 years of mission activities overseas, not to speak of all those within our United States. We will talk about 100 years of deaf ministry and 75 years of campus ministry and the list will go on and on. All of it should be a cause for us to give our thanks to God, and also a call to reach out and share the Good News even more in the years ahead.

I get a lot of letters through the mail. Every now and then they come to the house, too. There was one that came to the house from a woman whose grandfather had been an LCMS pastor. She knew that this convention was coming, and she wrote, and while I don't remember the exact words, this is sort of how her letter went. She said, "We have been so blessed as a church body. We have been so blessed with the truth of God's words down through the years—how my grandpa taught it to us! God forbid we ever become ashamed of or deny the truth of the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions." She went on to say, "I hope that God will stir us within the Synod. That He will genuinely stir us so that as we move into the future we will share as we never have in the past with others the saving Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Nearly 2,800 years ago four men walked into an Aramean camp and they found some fantastically good news. And they had to face the question, "What are we going to do with it?" Tonight a bundle of delegates and friends and guests from all across St. Louis and beyond find themselves assembling in an opening worship service. We've heard again the tremendous Good News of God's forgiveness to us in Jesus Christ. But the question is the same, "What are we now going to do with that Good News? What are we going to do with it?"

It would be my hope and prayer that it will be a growing crescendo in the years ahead, that we as a church body would say, and say it again with great clarity, "Let us go now and tell the king's people the good news. Let us go now and tell the king's people the good news!"

O God, make us more and more that kind of a people and that kind of a church. For Jesus sake, In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

A. L. Barry, *President*

150TH ANNIVERSARY BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study 1

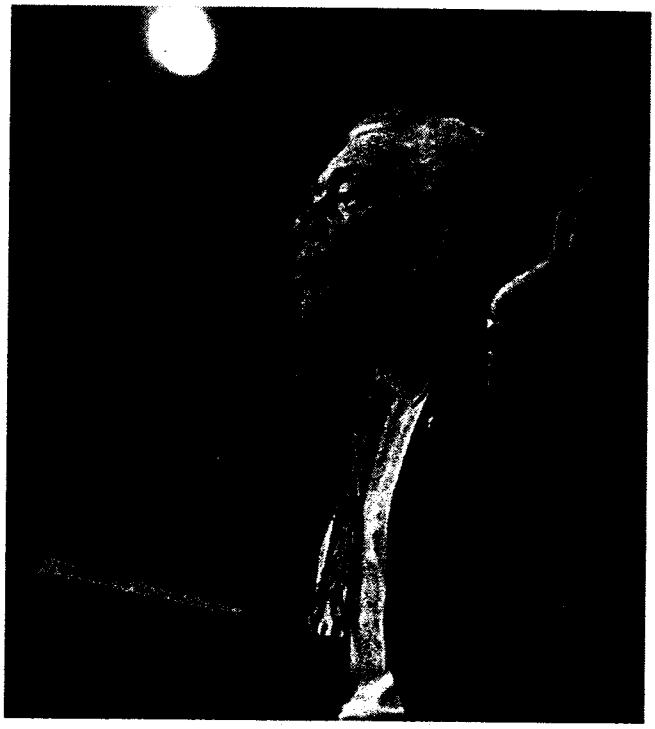
In the 126th psalm, the holy writer says thus: "The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy." The Lord has done great things for us. Each of us has our own list. Certainly, we as members of the Synod have a list of God's blessings, and Dr. Walz has so beautifully presented to us today the greatest blessing that we have; namely, that God has washed us from our sins, that He has forgiven us, in the blood of Christ granted us an open heaven, empowered us by His Holy Spirit, nurtured, preserved, maintained faith and trust in Him, and granted us new life in Jesus Christ.

Is your heart filled with joy? Would you let me know by waving at me or smiling this morning. Great. Now just hold that pose, and I'll be back Friday afternoon.

Dr. Sauer mentioned the Bible study, and most of you, I hope all of you, have a copy of the first of three Bible studies, with six lessons each, that are being prepared particularly for the 150th anniversary. This first one is called *Sent Forth by God's Blessing into God's Word.* We are going to look at one of those lessons today. On Thursday morning, God willing, we will look at the second one in the hope that many of our congregations will use this wonderful material. And our special thanks, not only to the authors, Tom Doyle and Roger Sonnenberg, but also to Dr. Earl Gaulke, who has been such a wonderful help to both Jim Boldt and myself, and to all the people of CPH, particularly for making these copies available to us *gratis* today. If some of you in the Advisory section do not have a copy, maybe you can share. We won't be following it page by page, but I will be making some references to it in a few moments. I would like to begin, in fact, with the responsive prayer that is found on page 8 of this Bible study. Let us use this as a beginning.

Leader: Lord God, like the rich young man, we have wondered and, yes, some of us have asked this question:
Participants: "What good thing must I do to get eternal life?"
Leader: "Obey the commandments."
Participants: "Which ones?"
Leader: "Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother. And love your neighbor as yourself."
Participants: I have followed the commandments, every ...
Leader: Every what?
Participants: Every ... once in a while!
Leader: You must "be perfect ... as your heavenly Father is perfect."
Participants: Impossible!
Leader: Exactly! "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."
Participants: But "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
Leader: But "are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."
All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Before we look at two texts from Holy Scripture, a word about that other word: *justification.* Tough word, huh? Five syllables, jus-ti-fi-ca-tion. Oh, we use a lot of other big words—*reconciliation, propitiation, atonement,* and the like. *Justification*—not a word to be bandied about in the



pulpit without explaining exactly what it means. And it's a tough word because we use it so much differently today in everyday parlance than we do when we speak theologically or spiritually. We say he was "justified" in doing what he did. He was "justified" in saying what he said. And we mean something entirely different from what we mean when we say that God has justified us.

But even though it is a difficult word, we shouldn't be afraid of it. If the Bible uses it, and it is so important, then certainly we also want to know particularly what it is and what it means. The verb that is translated *justify,* or *to be justified* is used more than three dozen times in the New Testament alone. So what is it? Our father in Christ, Dr. Walther, expressed it both in very concrete, down-to-earth terms and also in more theological terms. In theological language he said (in Thesis 2 of 8 that he gave on the subject prepared for the Nebraska District convention in 1883): "In the Holy Scriptures, when the justification of sinners before God is referred to, the word *justification* means a judicial act of God by virtue of which the sinner is viewed and declared by God as righteous." A judicial act, God acting as judge and now declaring the sinner by virtue of work of Jesus Christ as righteous.

Elsewhere he speaks in more down-to-earth terms, concrete terms, and says, "Everything has already been done. You are already redeemed. You have already been made righteous before God. You have already been saved. You therefore do not have to do anything to redeem yourself. You do not have to reconcile God to yourself. You do not have to earn your salvation. Only believe that Christ, the Son of God, has done all this in your stead."

Now on page 7 of the little manual, our authors indicate three objectives for the study of justification, and I am going to talk to them at the very end, but I want to read them now. "By the power of the Holy Spirit working through God's Word, we will

1. affirm justification by God's grace through faith in Christ Jesus as the key teaching of the Christian church;
2. affirm the need for a proper understanding and teaching of justification; and
3. rejoice in the church's past, present, and future proclamation of this chief teaching of God's Word."

Yesterday afternoon we wanted to announce or ask that you bring your Bibles along today, but as good Lutherans I know all of you have them with you anyway. The first text that we are going to look at is from Matthew 19, verses 16–26: "Behold one came and said unto Him, 'Good Master, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?' And He said unto him, 'Why do you call Me good? There is none good but one, that is God: but if you will enter into life, keep the commandments.' He said to Him, 'Which?' Jesus said, 'You shall do no murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not bear false witness, honor your father and mother, and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.' The young man said to Him, 'All these things I have kept from my youth up. What do I lack yet?' Jesus said to him, 'If you want to be perfect, go and sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven, and come and follow Me.' When the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. Jesus said to His disciples, 'Verily, I say to you, a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of God. Again, I say to you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.' When His disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, 'Who then can be saved?' Jesus looked at them and said, 'With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'"

And here is the big question. What happens when I die? How can I get on good terms with God? What must I do to be saved? The rich man said it this way, "What good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" No mention of the "j" word, justification, here or anywhere in this text. Simply asking the question. It's a question that crosses the mind of everyone who believes in an afterlife. And even those who deny the existence of God, even the agnostic who is not sure whether there is a God, whether there is an afterlife still thinks to himself, "But what if there is a God? What if there is an afterlife? What if there is a judgment?"

Some don't know. I recall many years ago, during the days when I had a parish, visiting in the home of one of my members one evening. The man of the house was there. He didn't belong to the church, and I asked him about his spiritual life. He said, "You don't want me in your church." I thought I knew what he was getting at, but I said, "What do you mean?" "Well," he said, "I am member of ..." and then he mentioned the lodge—a secret society. I said, "Let's forget the lodge for a minute. But just let me ask you the question: What are your views about God, and how you get on good terms with God? How do you think you are saved?" He was smoking a cigarette, and he started walking back and forth, pacing the living room three or four times. Finally, he said, "I don't know." And, of course, it gave me a wonderful opportunity to talk to him about Law and Gospel. He didn't know. He was not living out somewhere in the wilds of some far-off island, but right in the middle of metropolitan Milwaukee.

About that same time our mission director and I were going to canvass around a neighboring town in the hopes of establishing a mission, a mission which, by the way, is today a flourishing congregation. We wanted to see what the prospects were like, and right near that town was a lake. On a very warm day, morning and afternoon, he and I tramped all around that lake to ask people—I think it was customary in those days to say something like—"If you were to die tonight, why should God let you into His heaven?" or something like that. I don't know how many hours we tramped around that lake, asking people that question. And during all those hours we had three people who talked about Jesus. All the rest gave the answers that you and I have heard too often: "Try to do what's right." "Live according to the Golden Rule." "Be a good person," and so forth.

The big question! Now who was this man in the text who asked the question. He was young, we are told later. He had great possessions, the story says. And Luke says (both Mark and Luke have this story as well) he was a ruler, an officer in the synagogue.

His intention seemed honorable. Unlike the lawyer who in Luke 10 came to Jesus, and the Bible says, stood up and tempted Him and asked almost the same question, "What good thing shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" Not this young man. He's a serious fellow. Mark, in fact, says that he came running and kneeled before Jesus. So, in summary, he came in good faith. He was a pious person. Obvious is the fact that at a very young age already he had become a ruler in the synagogue. He wasn't a scoundrel. And perhaps he thought, as many did in those days, that in order to really find favor with God one had to be able to recite most of the psalms by heart, or had to particularly show a kindness to the aged. If we were to put it in modern terms, we would say that he drove home in his Lexus every night and got in the driveway right at 5:30. All the children in the street waved at him. He was a respected member of the community. Belonged to the Rotarians and the country club. He was in church every Sunday. And of course, he rooted for the Green Bay Packers.

Jesus' answer? "Why do you call Me good. Obviously you don't believe that I am God. There is only one who is really good. That is God. Keep the commandments."

Is that the way you would answer? That's strange. Jesus said, "Keep the commandments." Why didn't he answer like St. Paul did when that jailer fell down before him, trembling and terrified at the earthquake, and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" Paul said, "believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." But no, Jesus said, "Keep the commandments." Why the difference? Yes, this man saw no need for forgiveness. Saw no need for the Messiah. And so he says, "Which ones? Obviously, you don't mean the Decalog of Moses. How many points do I get for being a ruler of the synagogue? Would it help if I offered to be a delegate to the synodical convention? Give me something hard to do." Like Naaman, when

he wanted to be cured of his leprosy and came and Elisha told him go wash in the River Jordan. If you have ever been there and seen it in the springtime, muddy old thing, and Naaman says, "Aren't the rivers of Damascus a whole lot better? Why should I do such a simple, stupid thing as that?" "Which ones?"

Well, Jesus runs down a lot of them, doesn't He? The fifth, the sixth, the seventh, the eighth, and sums up the Second Table of the Law and says, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." "Oh, those? All those I have kept from when I was a little boy. I never shot anybody, put cyanide in their ice tea, took anything from anybody, always tried to love my neighbor as much as I love myself."

And Jesus' directive after the young man answered that way? He didn't scorn him. He didn't say, "What's the matter with you, you lummox? Have you forgotten everything you learned in confirmation class?" Mark says Jesus loved him. He didn't scorn him. But He says, "Go sell everything you have, give it to the poor, and come follow Me." Mark says, "Take up your cross, also suffer with Me. Be like the birds of the air that don't have where to lay their head. Follow Me."

And the man leaves sorrowful. He had great possessions.

"And now," as Luther says, "We smell the roast," don't we? Now we know what is going on. And so they leave today, many who don't have nearly the commitment that this young man had, those who simply want a little bit of religion, but don't want to get too much involved. As one writer puts it, they say, "I would like to buy three dollars worth of God, please, not enough to explode my soul or disturb my sleep, but just enough to equal a cup of warm milk, or a snooze in the sunshine. I don't want enough of Him to make me love a black man or gather beets with a migrant. I want ecstasy, not transformation. I want the warmth of the womb, not a new birth. I want a pound of the eternal in a paper sack. I would like to buy three dollars worth of God, please." And Jesus' conclusion? He didn't run after him and say, "Well, would you consider half of your possessions, or a third? We would love to have you in the church. What if we cut the instruction from 13 hours to 3 hours?" Instead He said, "How hard it is for a rich man," and we say, "Yes, rich man, poor man, beggar man, thief." "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle," and whether you interpret that to be a real needle or whether that needle in the entrance to the city, regardless of what kind of needle, it is impossible. "By the works of the Law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight." "Whosoever keeps the whole law and yet offends in one point is guilty of all." "Not of works lest any man should boast." "Not by works of righteousness which we have done." With man it is impossible.

"But with God all things are possible." And how our wonderful, wonderful, incredible God does this is found in the second passage that is referred to in your book, Romans 3:23–24. "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." All have sinned. Who can say, "I have made my heart pure, I am free from sin?" "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

But whether it is at a synodical convention or whether it's in the life of our individual parishes or whether it is in our home in our relations with husband, wife, or children, we like to put the blame on someone else. Your study document talks about that on page 13, if you look there for a moment, in what the writers call the blame game. It's always somebody else's fault. "I did it, but it wasn't my fault. He verbally abused me for years." Haven't we heard a lot about that in recent times? "I know it's wrong, but the government gives me no choice. We have to live together without marriage or our benefits are cut in half." Haven't we heard a lot about that? It's not our fault. It's not really sin.

Many years ago Bishop Fulton Sheen, at a national prayer breakfast, talked about this and said, "Now we come to the fact that we are sinners. We Americans do not like to hear about sin. We Catholics believe in the Immaculate Conception of the blessed Virgin Mary. We used to be the only ones who did. Now all Americans believe they are immaculately conceived.

"There is no sin," he said. "We just make mistakes. We were fed on grade B milk. We had insufficient playgrounds, or our mother loved us too much. Or our father loved us too little."

We are justified freely by His grace. Justified! Justified! Forgiven! Declared just! Holy! Pure! Without a spot or stain of sin! Little Jacob on page 9 of your booklet talks about this. He and Quinlin were both little nix-noxes, going around calling everybody wimps and geeks, making a nuisance of themselves in the classroom. Very frustrating to the teacher. At the end of the class, she wanted to check to see how well she had done in explaining this difficult word, *justified*. And she asked, "What does the word *justified* mean?" There was complete silence, for what seemed like an eternity. Finally, Jacob raised his hand and with a joyous smile on his face said, "Justified means no matter what I've done wrong today in class, God is willing to look at me just-if-I'd never done it." Freely! By His undeserved love. By grace.

Doesn't make sense, does it? Way beyond reason. Incredible! Unfathomable! The riches and the mercy of God, that freely by His grace He forgives not just the things that we have done wrong, but all the good that we have neglected in terms of human care and compassion and kindness. No wonder the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing. The foolishness of the cross, the wisdom of God, the power of God that freely by His grace He justifies.

But God is not like some kindly old grandpa who simply says, "Well, you know, kids will be kids, and so I'll forget about it." He is also a holy and righteous God, so we are told. We are justified freely by His grace through the redemption, the buying back, that took place through the shedding of the blood of Jesus Christ. The pangs of hell, the agony of soul—as though He had committed all of those sins. Yes, "without the shedding of blood there is no remission." What a price! "Not with gold or silver but with His holy precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death."

And verse 22 tells us that this becomes ours through faith, this trust, this conviction, worked by God the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament, that God truly has

done this for the sake of the merits of Jesus Christ, my Savior.

And even that faith is "not of ourselves, it is the gift of God." "For no man can say that Jesus is the Lord but by the Holy Ghost." Hear Walther again, who says, "Faith is the confident appropriation of what has happened in Christ and through Christ. It does not make reconciliation," mark it, "It does not make reconciliation faith, but seizes it. Therefore the apostle does not say 'Let God be reconciled to you,' but says, 'Be reconciled to God,' that is, believe that through the merit of Christ, death is swallowed up, the fire of hell has been quenched, and heaven has been opened." Luther reminds us that even Judas and all the rest who lost their souls had their sins forgiven though they did not know it. But it is through faith that this becomes our precious possession.

Now let me turn back again to the objectives that are mentioned on page 7 as we summarize. "By the power of the Holy Spirit working through God's Word, we will

1. *affirm justification by God's grace through faith in Christ Jesus as the key teaching of the Christian church.*

What is more important today in your life than this? Indeed, all the Scriptures have been given "to make us wise unto salvation." Whether that is the story of the Fall and with it the promise of the Seed of the woman, who would crush the head of the serpent, the story of Abraham, who was blessed to be a blessing; all those lovely, magnificent Psalms which speak of the Messiah; the prophecies of Isaiah that He was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities. This is the focus from Adam and Eve until finally it comes to the manger and then spreads out again from the cross and the open tomb to Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth. What is more important?

2. Second, *affirm the need for a proper understanding and teaching of justification.* The other teacher, on page 9, Mrs. Thompson, had Quinlin in her class. He was making such a nuisance of himself, that finally out of frustration the teacher yelled "Quinlin, Jesus does not love people who constantly sin. There is only so much Jesus will forgive."

And how often, even though we know the story, we mixed these two up, namely, Law and Gospel. About two miles from our house in Elm Grove, there is a big, big billboard that was put up a couple of months ago by some nondenominational church. I'm sure that Sunday after Sunday in that church you will hear about Jesus and the blood of Christ and that they believe in an inerrant Scripture and the resurrection of the dead. Let me read to you what the billboard says. If you want to get to heaven, (1) turn away from sin {good idea}, (2) believe in Jesus, (3) accept Him as Lord, (4) be born again, and then (5) obey Him in this life. Obey Him if you want to get to heaven. You see how this thing gets mixed up. People take away with the left hand what they give with the right hand. And so I am a searcher. I am an inquirer. I am the rich young ruler, and I am looking to see how I can be saved. I go through those first four, and that sounds pretty good, but then I "obey Him." Well, I know I don't always do that. I rolled my window down just yesterday and gave that guy "what for" for cutting me off.

How wonderful to know objective 3 of this lesson, *Rejoice in our church's, past, present, and future proclamation of this chief teaching of God's Word.* And for that we take no credit. It's not because of us but in spite of us. God has been so gracious and good in preserving in our beloved Synod this article on which the church stands or falls. So often we talk about the heroes of our church in the past. We don't often mention the heroines. Heroines like Rosa Young, that black woman who was really, under God, responsible for the Lutheran church coming to Alabama and for the founding of dozen of churches and schools. There are few books that have touched me personally more than her autobiography, *Light in the Dark Belt.* Rosa Young knew what justification is all about. She knew the difference between Lutheran preaching and sectarian preaching. And although she had been a very pious young lady long before she joined the Lutheran church, it was in her dear Lutheran church, she confessed, that she first learned about the seriousness of sin and what her Savior meant to her. That's why she spoke about "my dear Lutheran church, my precious Lutheran teachings," and even mentioned "those sweet German hymns."

She wrote, "God knew the Lutheran church from of old. He knew her works, the preaching of the pure Gospel, the true administration of the Holy Sacraments, the Christian day schools where His lambs are fed daily, the hymns of praise and adoration to Jesus which are sung by millions of Lutherans throughout the world today and willed to bring me and my race in touch with the Lutheran church in order that we might have the light of the Gospel."

And, dear people, what she suffered because of that conviction, actually put out of a home one night, the home of people who had been her friends but who threw her out on the street because she refused to go to communion in their sectarian church. Other preachers in other denominations called her a she-devil who had come to "upset Alabama with her Lutheranism." Now hear a voice from the more recent past, that of my sainted professor Martin Franzman, who tells us what this Gospel that Rosa Young so loved is all about when he says, "There are no conditions, only believe. We demand no performance. We ask no one to climb laborious ladders to a probable heaven. We ask men to believe and to let God work. We place no bars, racial, political, or social. The Lutheran church is not a German church, an English church, or a Chinese church. It is neither a white man's church nor a black man's church; neither a rich man's church nor a poor man's church. The Gospel we preach is a universal gospel and the grace it offers is universal grace. So we preach. We cannot do otherwise ... In so preaching lies the only hope of our future." And note this. He says, "There is no conflict between conserving this our life and going forward; for unless we conserve this, our life, we shall not go forward at all." And because your heart is filled with joy, we are going to close this Bible study singing the hymn "By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless."

Bible Study 2

The Lord be with you. I would ask that you again take the Bible study guide that was so graciously given to all of us by CPH. And again this morning I should like to begin

by joining with you in the prayer that is found on page 17, which introduces the study on Holy Baptism. While you're finding your little booklet, may I remind you again that this is the first of three series of lessons, this one titled "Into God's Word." Two more booklets will be available to our congregations in connection with the 150th anniversary, one on outreach and one on our management, our caretaking of God's bountiful gifts, Christian stewardship. So we're looking at our second study in series 1 on Holy Baptism, and at the middle of page 17 you'll see the responsive prayer based on one of the two passages of Holy Scripture that we will be looking at.

Participants: "What good thing must I do to get eternal life?"
Leader: Our thanks to You, O Lord, for a death to sin, for a death to death.
Participants: Not through anything we did,
Leader: But through the working of the Holy Spirit in our Baptism.
Participants: "Baptized into Christ Jesus ... into His death."
Leader: A death that brought life.
Participants: "Buried with Him through Baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."
Leader: Splashed with water and new possibilities!
Participants: "Our old self was crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be done away with."
Leader: Splashed with water and with forgiveness!
Participants: "No longer ... slaves to sin ... freed from sin ... if we died with Christ, we ... will also live with Him."
Leader: Splashed with the water of life—a more abundant life here on earth!
Participants: "For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, He cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over Him."
Leader: Or over us! For we have been splashed with the water of life—life eternal—life without end.
All: Our thanks, O Lord, for our Baptism in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

A few years ago I was guest-preaching at one of our congregations in the Milwaukee area, and I noticed that about halfway through my sermon there was a young woman in church who appeared to be weeping. And I thought, This may not be my best effort, but I don't think the sermon is bad enough to cause one to come to tears.

After the service, she sought me out and talked to me about her tears, what kind of tears they were and what brought them about. Toward the close ... I'll give you the rest of the story.

Luther says in the Large Catechism, "The blessings of Baptism are so boundless that if timid nature considers them, it may well doubt whether they could all be true. Suppose there were a physician who had such skill that people would not die, or even though they died would afterward live forever. Just think how the world would snow and rain money upon him. Because of the pressing crowd of rich men, no one else could get near him. Now here in Baptism there is brought free to every man's door just such a priceless medicine which swallows up death and saves the lives of all men" (LC IV 42, 43).

So as we look at Baptism today, we also look at the objectives which our authors have suggested to us on page 16 of the study guide. Again, there are three of them. In connection with "On Your Mark!" we read,

"By the power of the Holy Spirit working through God's Word, we will

1. affirm the forgiveness, life, and salvation God provides through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism;
2. explain God's teaching on Holy Baptism, including infant Baptism;
3. celebrate the gifts God has provided to you through Holy Baptism."

How can we exhaust such a glorious subject? Nevertheless, we hope to touch briefly on each of those three objectives. To do that, we look at Holy Scripture and the first of two Bible passages. If you have your Bible with you, turn it please to John 3, a very familiar story, and I'll read the first eight verses.

"There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. The same came to Jesus by night and said to Him, 'Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God, because no man can do the miracles that You do unless God is with him.' Jesus answered and said unto him, 'Verily, verily, I say to you, except a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.' Nicodemus said to Him, 'How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Verily, verily, I say to you, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, You must be born again. The wind blows where it wants and you hear the sound thereof, but you cannot tell from where it comes and where it goes. So is everyone that is born of the Spirit.'"

Here's Nicodemus. The cautious inquirer, he has been called. St. John tells us that he came to Jesus by night. If the reason for coming to Jesus by night was really the fact that he was afraid that someone would see him in the presence of this controversial rabbi, it appears that his shyness and his fear were later erased. Indeed, in the seventh chapter, just four chapters later, we're told that he defended Jesus before the leaders of the Jews. And when they condemned Him, castigated Him, Nicodemus said to them, "Does our law judge any man before it hears him and knows what he does?" Then you will recall that toward the close of our Lord's ministry, indeed after His death on the cross, Nicodemus is the one who comes to give belated service with Joseph of Arimathea. He brings myrrh and aloes, and the two lovingly wrap the body of the Lord and place it in the garden tomb.

But hear his statement again: "Rabbi, we know You are a teacher come from God. Nobody can do the miracles that You do unless God is with you." Sounds a little like the rich young ruler that we heard about the other day, doesn't it, where he says, "Good Master." Nicodemus does not call him Savior, God, but here, "Rabbi, You must be a teacher sent from God. God must be with You." And indeed, we know He was, as St. Peter explained to Cornelius in the tenth chapter of the book of Acts, where he says that God "anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and laying healing hands on those who were oppressed of the devil."

And how does Jesus respond? Our Lord so often does the unexpected or says the unexpected. When they dropped the paralytic down in front of Him, for example, and they were expecting that perhaps He would lay healing hands upon him, our Lord at first ignored completely the physical problem and said, "Son, be of good cheer. Your sins are forgiven you." And when the rich young ruler comes to Him and says, "What good thing should I do that I may inherit eternal life?" Jesus at first ignores that question and says, "Why do you call Me good?" And when the leaders of the Jews see the woman taken in adultery and ask Jesus what should be done with her, that Moses says she should be stoned, Jesus continues to write as though He does not even hear them. And then He remarks, "He who is without sin, let him be the first to cast a stone." So here Jesus brushes aside this commendation, this word, "You must be a teacher sent from God." And He responds by saying, "I'm telling you, unless a person is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." And Nicodemus, of course, does not understand. "What do you mean by that? Born again? Go into the mother's womb for a second time?"

Some months ago I was coming home from the airport and talking to the taxi driver. I remember a good hint from Jim Boldt. He says that when we talk to people or want to witness to them, better than to say, "What church do you belong to?" or "What church do you attend?" (which may embarrass people and kind of shut off the conversation before it gets started), why not ask instead, "What church were you *brought up in?*" After all, everybody or, at least, most people have been brought up in some kind of church. So I said to the taxi driver, "What church were you brought up in?" He mentioned another Christian denomination and then began to talk about his involvement. And he said, "Reverend, I read so much in the paper and I hear people talking about this being born again. What do they mean when they say born again?" That was Nicodemus' question. And, of course, it gave me a wonderful opportunity to present to him both the message of the Law and the message of the Gospel.

"Except a man ...," and now Jesus expands on it, "be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of heaven." Not just born of water, but born of water and of the Spirit. To say that is to say "to be born of water and the Word." For where do we look for the Spirit of God save in the Word, and where the Spirit is, there is the Word of God.

Why is it that a person must be born again? "That which is born of the flesh is flesh." And Jesus does not mean what is born of a human being is a human being. Nor when He is talking about flesh does He mean this stuff that hangs on our bones, as though to say, "Well, the body is bad, but the soul is good." No, in the devotion this morning in *Portals of Prayer,* if you read it, you know that the text was Genesis 1:31: "God saw everything that He had made and, behold, it was very good." But when Adam and Eve fell into sin and listened to the voice of the devil, then not simply was death brought upon all people, physical death, but body, soul—all was defiled, all was polluted. That which is born of the flesh is flesh. And so, a thousand years before David had said, "Behold, I was shaped in iniquity and in sin did my mother conceive me." Not that the act of procreation itself is sinful, although that, too, has been polluted by reason of the sin of our first father. Rather, because from father to son, from son to grandson, from grandson to great grandson, death is passed along, because sin is passed along.

And St. Paul reminds us in detail of how all of this happened and where it all happened when he says in Romans 5, "Through one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin." And a couple of verses later, he says: "Death reigned from Adam to Moses." Even though through those thousands of years there was no Decalog, there was no Word of God saying, "Thou shalt honor thy father and thy mother. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not bear false witness," even though there was no written Decalog, death reigned. Why did death reign between Adam and Moses? Because, by one man's disobedience, many, yes, *all* were made sinners. Death reigned. So man is not just sick; he's not just critically ill, but as Paul said in Ephesians 2, "You were *dead* in trespasses and sins."

And Father Luther says this in such a clear way in the Smalcald Articles, where we are told: "Here we must confess what St. Paul says in Romans 5:12, namely, that sin had its origin in one man, Adam, through whose disobedience all men were made sinners and became subject to death and the devil. This is called original sin or the root sin."

Many people deny that. And they say, "How can that little baby really be sinful ... that sweet little thing?" At this convention I have had the privilege of getting to see so many former students, and if they aren't wheeling some of their little ones about, they pull out their wallets and show pictures. And we say, "Oh, isn't that a sweet little thing?" And that's true, but sweet is not a synonym of holy. If you want to have some proof of that, think about this little baby—it may only be a few days old. It cannot communicate in any other way except to cry when it wants food. And so the baby cries. And we know perhaps the baby wants milk. But suppose you wait 15 minutes. Suppose you wait 30 minutes. Suppose you wait an hour, and you don't feed that crying baby. What kind of a cry do you get then? They clench their fists and they get red and they scream. And what is that? Temper? How did that little baby just a few weeks old get temper? It got it from Father Adam.

When Pastor Arthur Kramer began working with the Chippewa Indians in the Saginaw Valley of Michigan (if you go to our booth, you'll see one of those immigration strands), one of the most difficult tasks he had was to convince a little boy of his sinfulness. Finally the boy did acknowledge that he was a sinner and had need of forgiveness, and the Baptism of this lad and that of his two sisters took place on Christmas 1846. They took the names, these Indian children, of Abraham, Magdalena, and Anna. And 14 days later Magdalena died. In the Feb. 7, 1847, issue of *Der Luteraner* Pastor Kramer wrote, "How happy was the brother as he heard that his sister was with Jesus Christ in heaven, who through Baptism received her into His eternal glory." "Here," he said, "the church rules over children of strange tongues, not through human force but only by the means of grace through Word and Sacrament." Born of water and of the Spirit! That is to say, Baptism saves!

And Peter uses those very words in his first letter, the third chapter. And Paul says in Titus: "Not by works of

righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration," the washing which *is* regeneration, "and renewing of the Holy Spirit." So Luther says in the Large Catechism that Baptism is that through which we are first received into the Christian community. And it is one of our great privileges, my great privilege each Sunday when we are home, to worship in the church in which I was baptized and to see that font into which I was received and was brought into communion with the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. That's why we say, "How shall the child be named?" We haven't really named the child until the Baptism, because the name signifies that this one with *this* name, Karl Luther, is now brought into communion with the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Baptism saves? Don't we say Christ saves? How can we say Baptism saves and then turn around and say Christ saves? Which is it? Well, this Baptism is not separated from the work of Christ. If we were to use our logo in a different way and think of the heart now as being *our* heart, from the cross there is this channel, perhaps that's even a better word than *means*. There is this *channel* that leads to human hearts, this means by which God brings us the benefits of the cross of Jesus Christ, and one of those is Holy Baptism. Indeed, it's not that Baptism gives us a third of forgiveness and the Word gives a third of forgiveness and the Lord's Supper gives us another third of the forgiveness. But all of them, because they are tied together, as we shall see, with the Word of God, bring us God's free, gracious mercy, forgiveness, life, and justification, as we heard the other day.

Baptism saves. What does it do? "It works forgiveness of sins, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare."

So Peter laid out to those Jews in chapter 2 of Acts, reminding them that they had killed the Prince of life and that God had raised Him from the dead. His hearers were shaking in their boots and said, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Peter said, "Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ." Why? "For the forgiveness of sins!" And when Ananias came to visit Paul after his conversion, he told him, "Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins."

Water does this? "It's not the water indeed that does this," Luther reminds us, "but the Word of God which is in and with the water, and faith which trusts such Word of God in the water." St. Paul reminds us in that beautiful section of Ephesians 5 about the love of Jesus for the church, that Jesus gave Himself for the church "that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word."

So again Luther says, "It is sheer wickedness and devilish blasphemy when our new spirits, in order to slander Baptism, ignore God's Word and ordinance, consider nothing but the water drawn from the well, and then babble, 'How can a handful of water help the soul?' " Of course, my friend, he says, "who does not know that water is water, if such separation is proper? But how dare you tamper thus with God's ordinance and tear from it the precious jeweled clasp with which God has fastened and enclosed it and from which He does not want His ordinance to be separated? For the nucleus in the water is God's Word or commandment and God's name, and this is a treasure greater and nobler than heaven and earth" (LC IV 15–16).

How does Peter put it? "Being born again by the *Word of God* which lives and abides forever," to which God has added this outward symbol and sign of water.

But there is more than forgiveness in the Sacrament. With it comes new life, and Paul speaks of that so beautifully in our second lesson, and that is from the sixth chapter of Romans, beginning at the third verse: "Don't you know that as many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore, we are buried with Him by Baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."

We are baptized into His death. By His Baptism we become partakers of His death and the benefits of His death. Oh, no, Baptism is not separated from that glorious message of justification, forgiveness, being declared free through the merits of Christ.

There is more. "We are buried with Him by Baptism into death." What does that mean? Yes, it means that our sins were buried with Jesus in His tomb, but it means more than that. Verse 6 reminds us that our old man is crucified with Him. For "how shall we who are dead to sin live any longer therein?" And verse 11, "dead indeed into sin." So Paul reminds us that those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. "Buried with Him by Baptism into death that just as He was raised again by the glory of the Father, so we should walk in newness of life." "If anybody is in Christ, he is a new creature." He's different. Paul says in Ephesians 4, "Put on the new man which was created according to God in righteousness and true holiness."

Therefore, we do not look on our Baptism as something that just automatically now saves us, regardless of what we do or how we live. Luther speaks of that (quoted on page 22 of the manual) when he says, "You have been absolved from sin and come to grace ... in order to live a different life now and to abstain from sins. To be baptized and yet to remain in sin makes no sense. For Baptism is administered for the very purpose of taking away sin that a man may now become pious and increase in good works; that, where he formerly was disobedient, angry, envious, faithless, and unchaste, he may now lay aside these vices, pray a Lord's Prayer instead, and henceforth earnestly strive to be obedient, patient, and kind. If you fail to do this, then do not think that all is well with you, and do not glory greatly in the grace of Christ and excuse your sin with it."

Death in Baptism. Life in Baptism. It is said that the early converts in the church symbolized that in a beautiful way in that they were often baptized in a dugout underneath the ground. They went into this dugout, went "into the tomb," where they were in a sense buried, baptized, then changed their clothes, went up on the other side to come out to a new life—symbolizing death with Christ, life

with Christ. For them, of course, Baptism is not that by which they were brought to Christ but that by which they were strengthened in Christ, desiring only to do His will and knowing that also in Baptism they have the assurance of being children of God.

I had in my congregation a man in his '70s who had served his Lord faithfully all his life—chairman of the Board of Elders, had been on the Board of Trustees, Board of Education, used his summertime to paint around the church free of charge, raised a pious family. He came to me one day and said, "My parents are dead, and I have no record of my Baptism. Will you baptize me? I want to be sure." And what a day of joy that was! What tears of joy went down our cheeks that this Christian man, already one of Jesus Christ's own, now also received this assurance that he was God's, and God was his.

And that leads us to the place of faith in Baptism. We are reminded by our Savior: "He who *believes* and is baptized is to be saved." And that is crucial. That's why we do not simply get a big water hose and go down the street, line the children up on the curb and hose them down.

Luther says: "Just by allowing the water to be poured over you, you do not receive Baptism in such a manner that it does you any good. But it becomes beneficial to you if you accept it as God's command and ordinance, so that, baptized in the name of God, you may receive in the water the promised salvation. This the hand cannot do, nor the body, but the heart must believe it. "Thus, ..." he says, "you see plainly that Baptism is not a work which we do but is a treasure which God gives and faith grasps" (LC IV 36–37). We do nothing in Baptism, as though we're doing God a favor now by committing ourselves to Him, but it is that which God does first, by virtue of which we then commit our lives to Him.

Do you doubt that little children, even babies, can believe this? Do you doubt that He who created heaven and earth, who said "Let there be" and there was, who "spoke and it was done," who took on flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary, who caused the crippled to walk, the deaf to hear, the blind to see, the dead to be raised, do you doubt that He can place into the heart of the little child, even though it may not be conscious of it, a true living faith and trust in the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior? Dr. Schmiel in his devotion this morning mentioned mystery, and it reminded me of a story of a pastor in a confirmation class who asked one of his children one day to explain the doctrine of the Trinity. The boy he questioned was just recovering from a cold and had laryngitis, but he said, "The Trinity is three distinct persons in one divine essence." And the pastor, who was getting a little older and was hard of hearing, said, "I didn't understand that." And the boy said, "You're not supposed to, it's a mystery."

Well, what a mystery, what a mystery we have in Holy Baptism. What a *glorious* mystery that God can take this little bag of flesh, born in sin from Father Adam, and transform it into one alive through faith in Jesus Christ, alive to live for Him.

How often should we do this? Only once! As Christ died only once, so we are baptized only once into His one death, and yet we daily return to Baptism. We return to it for comfort. We return to it for power. For Luther says, "What does such baptizing with water signify? It signifies that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all evil lusts, and again a new man daily come forth and rise to serve God" because that Christian life is never complete. The good that we want to do we so often don't do. The evil that we don't want to do, that we so often do. "The flesh lusts against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh, and these are contrary the one to the other so that you cannot do the things that you would." It's like trying to keep 32 Ping-Pong balls under water at the same time. You push this one down, oops, and then anger comes up, and then lust comes up, and then greed comes up, and then pride comes up, and we're trying to hold down this sinful flesh, each and every day returning to our Baptism.

There is one thing I like to include in my daily prayers, twofold prayer really, about Baptism: "Lord, let every good word and work flow forth today from the waters of my Baptism, gush forth from my Baptism, and drown in those same waters all that is evil." For Luther says again in the Large Catechism (LC IV 84), "Therefore let everybody regard his Baptism as the daily garment which he is to wear all the time. Every day he should be found in faith and amid its fruits, every day he should be suppressing the old man and growing up in the new."

And now, in closing, I'd like to talk again about that young woman I mentioned in the beginning. Why was she crying in church? Those were tears of joy. And what did it have to do with her Baptism? I wasn't preaching on Baptism, but I had mentioned Baptism and its importance in the sermon. And she told me she had gotten in with the wrong crowd and had been involved in all kinds of occult practices, even devil worship with a coven of witches, and she was trying hard to extricate herself from this web of death. And one of our good pastors faithfully ministered to her, day after day, week after week. "And," she said, "after six months the thing that finally brought me back was to remember my Baptism, that God had put His stamp of ownership upon me, that I do not belong to the devil, but God in Baptism claimed me as His own." A remembrance of that deliverance, not only from spiritual death, but possibly from physical death (and in her state at that time, eternal death), she had returned to her Baptism.

So Luther says, "When our sins or conscience oppress us, we must retort, 'But I am baptized! And if I am baptized, I have the promise that I shall be saved and have eternal life, both in soul and in body'" (LC IV 44). In an assembly this large, so many of us have burdens and cares on our hearts, burdens and cares that have perhaps little to do with the business of this convention. It may be past sins. It may be present temptations. It may be future decisions. It may be all kinds of problems that weigh us down. Let us be buoyed up on the waters of our Baptism. In closing, let me give you two sentences and then ask you, the second time, to say those sentences with me. "I am baptized. God has His stamp of ownership on me." Put your hand on your breast and say with me, "I am baptized. God has His stamp of ownership on me." "Amen, amen, that is, yea, yea, it shall be so."

SOLI DEO GLORIA

Karl L. Barth

CONVENTION ESSAYS

1. Grow in the Word

Introduction

The theme for this day, "Grow in the Word," is a serious theme because it is an important one. But as we quickly proceed through it, I hope I will be able to bring a little smile to your faces now and then. After all, we are God's people to whom He has given the Gospel!

There is an old saying, "A person who refuses to risk change fails to grow."

Change, whether for good or ill, is a reality we all face, whether ready or not. I, for one, have a tendency to fear it, and thus to resist it. How many of you felt uneasy the first time you sat down at a personal computer? I sure did! For the longest time I would say, "The only place where I want to see a mouse is in a trap, and if I want an 'apple' I'll go to the grocery, not the computer store."

But I finally moved a computer into my little "monastery."

One place where some people think there is no change or development going on, indeed, don't want it to be going on, is in the area of religion, of spiritual experience and theological expression.

Maybe you have heard the story that has been making its rounds in Lutheran church circles. It involved a problem a few churches in a small Minnesota town were supposedly having with an invasion of bats. One church (I won't mention its denominational affiliation), being strongly into ecology, came up with the idea of capturing the bats and then taking them out of town and releasing them. But that didn't solve their problem, for the bats soon found their way back into the church. Another church in the town decided they would take more drastic measures, they would fumigate. But when they found out how expensive that would be and how long its aftereffects, they said, "It's better to live with old problems than take the risk in new solutions." So they did nothing. But soon it was discovered that the Lutheran churches in town found the solution. Those still troubled with bats in their belfry went and asked the local Lutheran pastor what his solution was. His response. "Ah, it's not a big deal. We just caught them, confirmed them, and we've never seen them since!"

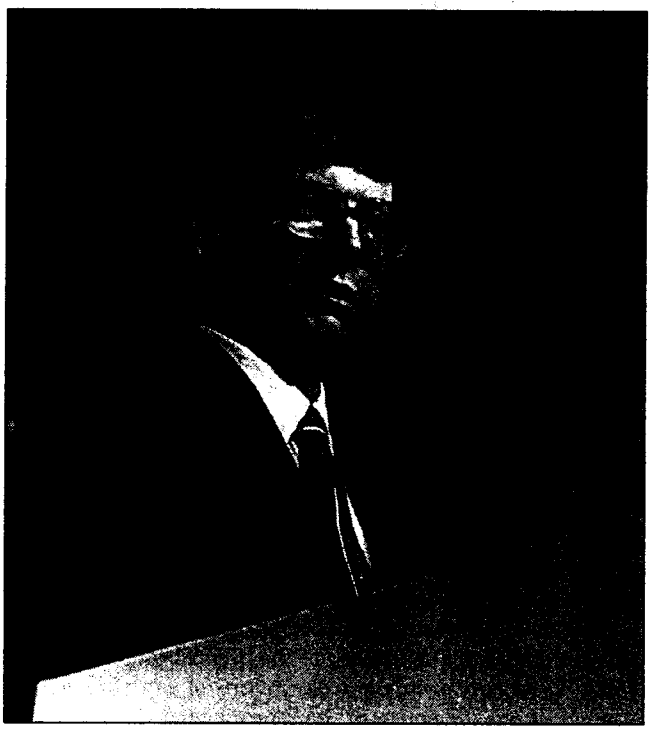
Joke? Or a description of a terrible problem we know we all face.

There are some Christians, yes, Lutheran Christians, who mistakenly think that after a time of intensive training in the Word (be it confirmation or seminary training), they can "graduate," fly free of the need of being grounded in a lifelong study of God's Word. But we are here this morning to motivate each other to grow in the Word, not graduate from it.

Part 1

The Needs That Encourage Growth

Since I don't know most of you, I don't know what would motivate you to grow in the Word. I do know what is motivating me; it's certain wants, rather certain needs, that can only be met through the Word of God.



(A) I gladly accept the Scriptures' description of me as God's child. I acknowledge that I need His guidance, the power that comes from His presence, and I need the comfort of His voice.

God speaks into my ear and enters my heart through the Scriptures. Through them He brings me His presence, and with His presence comes His power.

Wherever the Word of God is, there God is in action.

We read in Genesis, "And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light" (1:3). The psalmist says of God, "He spoke, and it came to be. He commanded, and it stood firm" (33:9).

I'm no fool, I want to be in the presence of that kind of power. I want to experience in my life the reality of Jesus' promise, "The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life" (John 6:63). And besides that, I have been told that when I internalize God's Word it will empower me in my continuing struggle with sin. Remember the words of the psalmist, "I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You" (119:11).

(B) Another reason why I want to grow in the Word is because I need confidence—confidence that what that Word says still has something extremely valuable to say to my time and place.

Certainly there is a cultural and social distance from the types of societies described in the Bible, and that of my own. But there is not a distance in what is important and universal.

Think for example of Abraham. He is presented in the Bible as the father and type of all the faithful who must journey many many days trusting solely in the promises of God that are not yet seen as fulfilled (cf. Heb. 11). I think we can relate to that.

When I read the Genesis 25 story of Esau, I recognize so much of modern man there. Esau is described as a man who has to have everything now. For a fleeting satisfaction on demand, he sold away his birthright to Jacob. Why Esau could appear on a modern TV beer commercial saying: "Grab all the gusto you can, right now."

And when I read such biblical prophets as Ezekiel and Jeremiah, I note how often they dipped their pens in the inkwell of human anguish.

So the 20th-century person who steps out of a Boeing 777 with his laptop computer and cellular phone is really no different spiritually in his rebelliousness, self-centeredness, but also spiritual hunger and need of divine redemption, than the Adam and Eve who were cast out of Eden.

I can be confident that the stories in the Bible are relevant because they describe the continuing human condition in which the only hope is divine rescue. What is described in the Bible is still also my condition, my need, and that of all around me. Because the Bible is God's Word, it is eternal. And what is eternal is also always contemporary.

(C) I want to grow in the Word because I want courage. I need the theological backbone of the biblical prophets. Only God's Word can prevent a curvature of my theological spine. Without the power of the Word, I can't challenge the many idols in my culture.

The Scriptures remind me that as a Christian I am a stranger, an alien as far as the world's value systems are concerned.

Hebrews describes spiritually mature believers as those who "have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil" (5:14). I, therefore, need to learn to see what the correlation is between what I read in the Bible, what I read in today's newspaper, and what I see on my daily calendar of events, including my planned leisure-time activities.

Tom Landry, former head coach of the Dallas Cowboys, said, "If you're not one step ahead of the crowd, you'll soon be a step behind everyone else" (quoted in John Maxwell, *Developing the Leader's Around You, p. 60).*

Long before Tom Landry, God's spokesman the apostle Paul said, "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world" (Rom. 12:1–2).

Do you know that the fastest growing city in the United States and the one that competes with Orlando, Florida, for tourist dollars is Las Vegas? If you have visited that city recently you've noticed how it has geared up to entertain families. Now it prefers to speak of gambling as simply "gaming."

Gambling, pun fully intended, is on a roll. How are we to evaluate the growing acceptance, even among many Christians, of this age-old way of spending, excuse me, giving away one's money?

Lutherans have always spoken of the Bible as the sole source and *norm* for how we evaluate life and what we do in the church. The English word *norm* originated from a Latin word that referred to a carpenter's square. This was his major tool for objectively determining if something was properly aligned.

The Bible, God's Word, is our only square, our fundamental reference for separating divine truth from the many errors that pervade our culture. Because our society has been characterized as one of "hard pornography and soft morals," we have a valid reason to ask if the growing acceptance of this so-called "gaming industry" is simply another sign of a spiritually sick society?

The issue you and I face is, when does our "having a little fun" become simply another way of bowing down to a golden calf. Genesis records that such bowing brought God's judgment of death upon a whole generation, and they never reached the Promised Land.

To grow in the Word is to grow in an understanding not only of the way to eternal life, but also how we are to live while on that way.

Throughout the Bible, work and diligence are emphasized as keys to financial success and stability. Proverbs says that "he who gathers by labor will increase." On the other hand, Proverbs says, "he who hastens to be rich will not go unpunished" (13:11; 28:20).

Those who become infected with the gambling fever soon find that they are irrationally trusting in chance and luck, which, however, can never be a replacement for hard work. The more people get into "gaming" so-called, the more they feel the spiritually deadly virus of covetousness, a sin clearly condemned by God in His Word (Luke 12:15; 1 Tim. 6:10).

But we're here not to talk about "other people." Only by our own "growth in the Word" will we have firmly in our hands the "sword of the Spirit," that can slay these sins as they attempt to take up residence in our hearts.

(D) For a moment now I want to speak with just you pastors. You know why I want to grow in the Word? I want a truly authoritative ministry, and to be an effective preacher too!

People respond to all kinds of authority: a person's position on an organizational chart, professional competence, a charismatic personality.

Now let me clue you in on a secret. These three types of authority are not the type of authority that the laity, who themselves are growing in the Word, are looking for in you. They have correctly uncovered that there is a higher kind of authority than the three I have just mentioned.

It is not accidental in the *Book of Concord,* the office of the public ministry is considered in connection to its service to the church in the administration of the Gospel and the Sacraments. What the Lutheran confessors acknowledged is that the highest authority is that recognized as coming from God Himself. It is exercised publicly by the one who has himself stood in the presence of God and is recognized by His people as a person who now reflects both the thoughts of God's mind and the attitude of His heart.

That's the type of authority I want. And it comes only from personally, continually standing in the presence of God and under the power of His Word. This type of authority is most often reflected in the action of preaching.

(E) Preaching is the interfacing of God's Word with the preacher and his parishioners. When I preach, I want my

listeners to see me not as one standing above them, nor, God forbid, standing above the Word, rather that they see in me, and hear in me, a fellow pilgrim, a fellow learner. And one who is trying to be like the Old Testament patriarch Jacob, a wrestler with God.

The wrestling occurs during the sermon's writing. With patience and persistence and determination. I will not let God, who is present in the biblical text go until He blesses me. That is, I want the victory of having received some morsel of understanding from His Word for my spiritual growth.

Then my congregation will hear in my voice my having been admonished by some word from God in the biblical text. And they will also see by the smile on my face and the lilt in my voice that God through His Word has gifted me again with forgiveness, comforted me, and thereby raised me up to better serve them with some nourishment from God's banquet table of salvation.

One of the greatest compliments I feel I ever got from a young parishioner is when he said to me after a service, "It sounds like you really believe that stuff." I *do*!

Well, these are just some of the things I want to receive personally and professionally through growth in the Word: Power emanating from God's presence in the Word, Confidence! Courage! Spiritual authority! In summary, I want to be an effective instrument of the Word.

Part 2
How It All Comes About

How does this all happen? To use some bad grammar, "It ain't easy." Yet when I am faced with the choice of either taking the stairs or taking an escalator, I think you know which one I prefer. But, as many of you business people out there already know on the road to success, the first sign you will see is "be prepared to stop and pay the toll!"

Christ tells us to be prepared "to bring forth fruit with perseverance" (Luke 8:15). Perseverance is a form of patience. We need to pray often for the gift of patience. We need to be patient with the way God is working in our life, and we need to be patient with ourselves and others as well! Growth takes time. (When God wants to make an oak tree, He takes a hundred years. When He wants to make a mere squash, He requires only two months.) We all are still work in progress.

Sometimes I'm asked, "Is there one best way to grow in the Word?" Meaning. "Is there one best way to study the Scriptures?"

Realtors tell us that there are three things that help to quickly close a sale on a property: location, location, location.

(A) There are also three things that we always need to do to successfully grow in the Word: *read, read, read.*

But with this continual reading there must always be a certain *attitude.*

We need the attitude that we have not uncovered all the nuggets of truth that God has in the text, for there is always something new that we can learn!

Our purpose in reading is not to "master" the biblical text, but that God, through the biblical text, would "master" us. We come, therefore, to the Scriptures, always with a prayer to God that He would open our ears to hear and hearts to receive whatever new thing we need to be taught. Only then will we have come to any section of the Scriptures with the necessary "teachable spirit."

You remember that Jesus said to His disciples, "You must become like little children" (Matt. 18:3). Those with the most teachable spirit are young children. They have no difficulty with putting themselves into a Bible story. They come to a text with such innocence of eye that by their questions they get us to look at the text from an entirely new perspective.

I'll never forget the time a child asked me, during a lesson regarding the priest Zechariah in the temple, "Where did all the smoke from His incense go?"

Since then, I, too have attempted to adopt the child's involved attitude toward a Bible story. I've thought, for example, about the little boy whose lunch Jesus used for the feeding of the five thousand. When he went home and his mother asked him if he had eaten all the lunch she packed, what did he say? "Mom, I think you better sit down—I got a whopper of a story to tell ya!"

And there are other questions you might come up with, such as, "How did the wisemen feel kneeling in worship before a crib? And whenever Joseph was praying to God, did he ever look up and wonder why Jesus was listening so intently?"

The more you meditate upon the Word, the more you savor it like a good wine, the more its richness will unfold upon your palate. After all, we are invited to "taste the Lord and see that He is good!" (Ps. 34:8).

(B) Doesn't He want to be good to us?

The answer will be given to you through knowing what the Bible's primary purpose is. It is like the setting for a great diamond. When for some reason that "diamond" is not seen in its center, as for example, when the Bible is treated merely as a book that encircles us with moral laws, then the most precious purpose for its existence is missing from our sight.

One way or another, all that is recorded in the Scriptures is related to God's redemptive plans, centered in, seen most fully and accomplished forever in Jesus Christ. For this reason Jesus says, "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life, and it is these that bear witness to me" (John 5:39).

There can be no growth in the written Word without a continuous focus on the incarnate Word. For this reason the apostle Peter tells us, "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18).

Through the Bible the Holy Spirit brings Christ to us. So, whatever Christ would say to us today, He says through the Bible.

Do you know that of the 99 names of God in Islam, not one of them says, "God is love"? That God has an intense, personal, self-giving, totally involved love for us is the unique revelation of the Bible and the focus of Jesus' self-communication. Because "God so loved the world He sent His only begotten Son." In so doing, our heavenly Father has delivered to us the most precious jewel in heaven's crown. The only diamond that is forever.

Diamonds, especially diamond rings are given by those who are seriously in love.

We are members of the community of the redeemed, the church. In the Scriptures, the church is described as the "bride of Christ" (cf. Rev. 21:2, 9; Eph. 5:25). Thus when we pick up our Bibles, we need to remind ourselves to view it first and foremost as the words from the one who truly loves us in the way no one else can, unconditionally and sacrificially. Therefore, if there is something in the Bible that you read which scares you or challenges you or chastises you, remember this—those who truly love at times must say no, but always for the sake of a future greater yes.

(C) When you approach the Bible with the view that it brings you into the presence of the lover of your soul, then you will react to it in the proper way.

A dear elderly woman told me the other day that the most wonderful gift that she remembers her dead husband had given her over their 40 years of marriage was his listening to her as she unburdened her heart.

Jesus says to us, "Everything I have learned from My Father I have made known to you" (John 15:15). Jesus is the one speaking in Proverbs 8 this promise, "Happy is the man who listens to Me, watching daily at My gates, waiting beside My doors. For he who finds Me finds life" (34–35).

Listening is a valuable art for every child of God to learn. It helps to cope with life and to avoid many a sorrow.

My nephew, when he was little, had been duly instructed by his mother, "Now don't you attempt to cross the street by yourself!" One day when they were driving up to my house, he saw an animal by the roadside which had been struck by a car. The little boy was visibly moved. Shaking his head sadly, he observed, "He didn't listen to his mommy." In our growth toward spiritual maturity, we never outgrow our need to listen to God, our heavenly parent, and then go on to obey.

(D) *Pastors!* In the little maroon book you carry around everywhere with you, be sure to pencil in private time for God to converse with you through His Word. Carve out time each day to open your Bible and to pray, "Speak Lord, your servant is listening." For after all, those who love, listen!

Guard this private time with God as you would any crucial appointment. Guard this time with your life—because your spiritual life is at stake. Only the Word can replenish your spirit and keep you focused on what is really important in your busy days.

Part 3
The Blessings

Every time you take the time to listen carefully to God's Word, He will bring His saving purpose to fuller expression in your life. You will have the Word that will be the lamp for your feet and a light for your path. And through which you will experience "miracle" growth.

In less than five years we will be entering a new millennium. What's ahead only God knows. We do know on the basis of His Word that what He desires for us, both as individuals and as a Synod, is that we not be merely survivors in our Christian life.

God desires not only to maintain our faith but to help it flourish. He promises, "to him who has [or her who has] more will be given" (Matt. 13:12).

We need not fear, therefore, the challenges of the future. As Paul says, "God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline" (2 Tim. 1:7).

As we move into the 21st century, all our churches may have satellite dishes on their roofs. Yet they will also still need to have the Word of God proclaimed from their pulpits and received by those in the pews.

I know some of you are asking, "What's ahead for our Synod? What's the prognosis for its survival?" The word *synod* means "walking together on the same road." But with whom are we meant to be "walking together"? When we are in contact with the Word of God, we are in direct contact with Jesus Himself and in His powerful but loving, guiding hands. When we grow in His Word, we will know without doubt, and we will firmly defend God's primary principle for His church's growth, "The church is built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ Himself as the chief cornerstone" (Eph. 2:20). Jesus is Lord! Thank God we don't have to attempt to be.

God is still on the move building His kingdom and He wants us to know that He invites us to move ahead to Him. It will be challenging, but it sure will help us grow!

We continue this day, as God's people, His church in this place, because He has already placed us on the path that leads to His home. Certainly this journey is long and will be quite bumpy at times. But we do have His provisions for it.

Christ is still delivering to us His great gifts that expand and strengthen His church on earth. God's Word in visible actions, the Sacraments—praise be to Christ!—are still being celebrated in our midst.

Conclusion

Like a diamond with too many facets to count, what can I say in these closing minutes to sum up the importance of growth in the Word, especially growth in *the* Word, Jesus Christ.

In all that we do we continue to live under the sign of Jesus' cross, the symbol of divine suffering, but also God's great plus sign of victory—though it is a victory still hidden from human sight. We are yet the "church militant." We must fight against the sin within and spiritual enemies without. Yes, we will have to walk through the enemy's stronghold, death itself.

Yet in the midst of that, and even when we have to face the death of a loved one, we can be comforted by the knowledge that in our greatest grief, and on our many tears, the light of Jesus' resurrection victory will still glisten.

Because of Jesus Christ, the central diamond in our crown, we now know that our individual lives are worth eternally more than a mere hyphen between two dates on a tombstone.

There is but one life, and it soon will be past. But all that is done for Christ will last.

Can there be any better reason than this to grow in the Word?

Richard J. Shuta, *Professor Emeritus*
Concordia College, Ann Arbor, MI

2. Grow in Outreach

Introduction

Esteemed President, honorable delegates, advisory representatives, and visiting guests—dear brothers and sisters in Christ!

Convention time is, among other things, reunion time. Here is a great gathering: friends, relatives, classmates, acquaintances who got to know each other through serving on boards, commissions, and committees. Even first time attenders will not be strangers for long. I see it all around: vigorous handshakes, warm embraces, glad smiles, punctuated with animated conversation and happy laughter. These great halls are filled with sounds of joy—a special kind of joy—the joy of being together as brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. But you know—each one of us who lays claim to that oneness in Him should do so with a thankful heart. With St. Paul we confess, "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace to me was not without effect" (1 Cor. 15:10).

Let's stop to think about that. Who was it in your life who served as God's instrument to bring you to Christ? Someone somewhere at some time reached out to you in a caring way with God's Word of power, the Good News of Jesus Christ in whom alone is the forgiveness of sins and the free gift of eternal life, a new life to live here in His kingdom and when He calls, forever in the mansions above.

Who was it in your life who reached out to you? Your parents? Later friends? A spouse? A Christian in the work place? A teacher? A pastor? Were it not for that outreach, where would you and I be today?

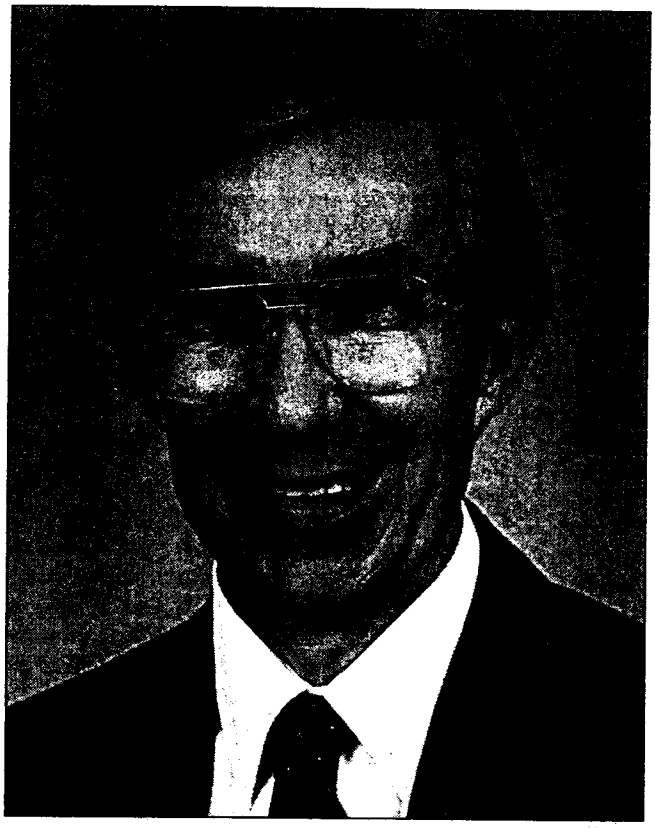
At the end of this presentation you will have an opportunity to share with those seated near you in response to these questions:

1. How were you brought to Christ?
2. How has God used you to lead someone else to Christ?
3. How can you help your congregation to become more effective in reaching out to others?

"Sent forth by God's blessing ... to tell the Good News." What does this mean? That's simple, just three short words: *Grow in Outreach.*

This is a timely emphasis for each one of us individually and for all of us together as God's people in this sector of Christendom which we know and love as The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. For a moment let's call it symbolically the beautiful "Mansion of Missouri," a well-built house with many rooms.

Located right on the "1995 Freeway" the "Mansion of Missouri" is not only historic. (Its cornerstone says 1847.) It's well kept, often remodeled, and filled with a growing number of occupants, many of whom are leadership oriented and quite well traveled in today's world, and many who prefer to stay within its familiar rooms. It's up to date in every way with the latest technologies, but for the world it still has a well-formulated, evangelically confessional message from above intended by God for all mankind, the Good News of Jesus Christ. Because of time limitation we



will for now skip the imaginary house tour to take a quick look in the attic of this "Missouri Mansion of many rooms."

Attics can be too hot in summer, too cold in winter; a bit dark, dusty, and musty, but exciting nonetheless—especially when there are several old trunks and boxes of hidden treasures to explore.

It's in the attic of history that we can begin to realize that the times into which the Lord of the church has placed us comprise a world which our first synodical President, Dr. C. F. W. Walther, in his day would not have been able to foresee. We live in a world totally different from what F. C. D. Wyneken could ever have dreamed of. Today's world in the mid-1800s was beyond the ken of a devoted ambassador of Christ like Ferdinand Sievers. Yet these three pioneers Walther, Wyneken, and Sievers with their stout-hearted coworkers, plus a strong supporter in Germany, Wilhelm Loehe, displayed with their exemplary lives and work a deep commitment to God's mission to the unreached, a commitment we would want to continue to emulate today, and that is, to grow in outreach. Let's take another quick look.

Dr. Walther. Walther was endowed with unusual leadership qualities. He put these to good use as a devout Christian within the context of his keen understanding of Law and Gospel, that is, in the light of God's ultimate purpose and plan for the salvation of fallen man through the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This happy combination of leadership qualities and understanding of the Gospel in his dealings with

people enabled him to exert a strong initiative for implementing his deep commitment to God's mission. This he did in his preaching, teaching, publishing, and personally pursuing the placement of pastors in strategic locations. He had a high regard for the local congregation and the priesthood of believers.

In a sermon Dr. Walther once commented on a new era for mission outreach following a period of Rationalism in Germany.

In part he said,

> Now what was it, beloved, by which the change for the better made itself known?—Among other things especially by a newly awakened zeal for missions to the heathen. ...
>
> But, beloved, the mission societies that had arisen as a sign of the newly awakened Christian life were also a sign that the whole church was not what it should be. For where things are as they should be, there is no need for small mission societies to be organized within the church, for the whole church must itself be a great mission society. ...
>
> The Christian Church itself is the proper mission society founded by God Himself.[1]

"The Christian Church itself is the proper mission society founded by God Himself." Now, when we think about growing in outreach, there is something to discuss. How is it with our congregations? We thank God for today's mission societies and partnerships. May God bless each of them to stimulate the whole church into greater outreach.

F. C. D. Wyneken (1810–1876). Wyneken became known as "The Father of Home Missions" in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. During the course of his ministry in America he accepted a call as pastor of the congregations at Friedheim and Fort Wayne, Indiana. In addition he also did itinerant mission work, traveling on foot, on horseback, by wagon, and by any other available means.

In his travels he was deeply pained by not being able to meet the crying spiritual needs of the many early settlers in that area. Wyneken therefore made many personal appeals for help. He produced a famous tract, published in 1844, titled "The Distress of the German Lutherans in North America." His appeal came to the attention of *Wilhelm Loehe* (1808–1872).

Loehe was pastor in Neuendettelsau, Bavaria, 1832–1872. He became well known because of his interest in missions and charities. Between 1842 and 1854, when the connection between him and the Missouri Synod ended, he undertook the task of finding, training, and supporting men for the work in America. The majority of the men who became charter voting and advisory members of the Synod in 1847 were Loehe missionaries.

Wilhelm Loehe must also be remembered for his initiative in starting work among American Indians. He found August Friedrich Craemer, who had heard about Loehe's appeal. Craemer together with one couple, six men, and four women, who were fiancées of four of the men, came from Germany into the primitive area of Michigan in 1845 and established a colony at Frankenmuth.

The success of that colony gave Loehe the determination to establish other colonies in Michigan: Frankentrost, Frankenlust, and Frankenhilf. He also founded the seminary in Fort Wayne (later located in Springfield, Illinois, and since 1976 again in Fort Wayne, Indiana).

To summarize, within the space of 10 years Loehe sent more than 80 workers: pastors, candidates of theology, "emergency men" *(Nothelfer),* students of theology, and teachers to America.

We thank and praise God for the influence of Wilhelm Loehe and the *Sendlinge* who were sent by him to America. They contributed much to the mission zeal of the Missouri Synod.

Ferdinand Sievers. Sievers, born in 1816 in Hanover, heard about Wyneken's appeal and offered himself to Wilhelm Loehe. Sievers was sent by Loehe to the United States in 1847 at age 31. He headed the Lutherans who founded Frankenlust, Michigan, and served as their pastor till his death in 1893. This unusual man was more than a pastor. He was also a restless, energetic missionary. He traveled in Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, and in Minnesota in 1856, two years before it became a state.

After only three years in the U.S. Sievers was named chairman of the Synod's Mission Board, which had at the time only three members. As its chairman he frequently visited the stations of the (American) Indian Mission.

But Sievers had another outreach burden on his heart—foreign missions. During the first 47 years of the Synod's existence when the major attention had to be given to the overwhelming numbers of German immigrants, it was the incessant appeals of Sievers, like "the voice of one crying in the wilderness," that helped the early Missouri Synod to become outreach minded not only to their own kind but also to peoples in other lands. For example, of 53 articles in *Der Lutheraner* (the German-language *Lutheran Witness*) between 1849 and 1868 pertaining to missions, most were authored by Sievers. Finally in 1893, the Synod reorganized and expanded the original board of three to a new board of 10 members, the Board for Foreign Missions, of which Sievers was to be a member, but the Lord in His mercy called Sievers home to Himself on September 9, 1893. From his deathbed in the circle of his family he breathed his last audible prayer: "Lord have mercy also upon the dear heathen, and help them that they may come to know Thee their Savior and be saved. ..."

Sievers is remembered as the chief architect of the Synod's first board for foreign work. This is the board that called and commissioned Theodore Naether and Franz Mohn to begin LCMS work in India. This year marks the 100th anniversary of that beginning, which God has so richly blessed by bringing into being the India Evangelical Lutheran Church and over the decades, the worldwide mission endeavors of the Synod and a Lutheran family of partner churches.

In remembering the early as well as all our modern-day pioneers of our church these fine attributes stand out: (1) deep commitment to Christ; (2) faithfulness to the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions; (3) devotion to prayer; and (4) active pursuit of mission opportunities.

In a very real sense they were movers and shakers who practiced patience, persistence, promotion for outreach and were progressive, though limited by the primitive circumstances in which they lived. In the early years they had to

contend with poverty, disease, lack of Christian materials, shortage of workers, and slow communication. And, lest we forget, we thank God for the too often unmentioned heroines and little heroes of the faith: their wives and their children! Praise God for these faithful families, many of whom died young, but who had full confidence that their labor in the Lord was not in vain (1 Cor. 15:58). If they were with us today, they would understand and concur with our theme: *Grow in Outreach.*

While the early history of our church is interesting and instructive, we cannot dwell there. As the news commentator Charles Osgood said recently, "Yesterday's future is different from today's future. Yesterday's is past; today's is tomorrow."

That brings our theme, *Grow in Outreach,* closer to home, closer to today—on the edge of tomorrow. And it confronts each one of us. And so it is, back to the "1995 Freeway" which speeds on to destination 2000 and beyond into eternity.

Grow in Outreach. That's easier said than done. Never before in the history of the world have changes been so swift and dramatic, invading every area of home, society, government, and the church. Even the vocabulary continues to change: global village, Inter-Net, information superhighway, cyberspace, paradigms, electronic culture, PC's, incubator industry, optronics, and the like.

A special report in *Time* magazine, January 30, 1995, titled "The State of the Union," presented a 21-page overview, complete with startling statistics and colorful graphs, covering population shifts, distribution of wealth, crime, education, health, faith, and a new category, the electronic culture.

Our world has become a global village. Distant nations and peoples are nearby neighbors, brought into proximity by satellite communication, FAX messages, E-mail, direct-dial phone, international business, electronic banking, jet travel, foreign-student exchange, guided tours. Major events, yes, even terrorist tragedies are relayed live over global television networks right into our living rooms—and the terror can happen in our own cities! Add to this the poor and hungry of the world and the alarming number of refugees—one in every 115 of the world population. That's 123 million international refugees and 24 million more displaced inside their own countries.[2]

The internationalization of our world has brought with it a new mix of cultural and social sharing, confrontation, conflict, and concern. This is true also in the realm of religion. J. Gordon Melton, who is editing a new edition of *Encyclopedia of American Religions,* observes that though Christianity still dominates by sheer numbers, the U.S. "now has a greater diversity of religious groups than any country in recorded history."[3] Dr. Melton will be listing 1,600 denominations, 44% of them non-Christian. "Half of these have come into being since 1960; some are homegrown, others imported by immigrants. Some experts say ethnic Jews will be outnumbered by ethnic Muslims early in the twenty-first century. Judging only by the best seller lists, one might imagine that the spiritual focus in the U.S. had shifted to New Age phenomena and various patented forms of self-improvement."[4]

As much as ever before we still see all around us the tragic results of the fall of Adam and Eve into the sin of disobedience to God's commands and the consequent separation from God's plan that mankind was to be a reflection of God's perfect holiness, righteousness, and love. In this inherited spiritual predicament, it is the natural inclination of the human being to become his or her own measure of all things. Motivated by Satan's temptations and the attractions of the fallen world, man is driven by a lust for pleasure, power, success, chiefly for selfish ends—and can become quite sophisticated in the art of living apart from the one true God. To satisfy inner longings people may settle for substitute religions, philosophy, or secular humanism or outright materialism without sure answers to the problems of pain, suffering, death, and eternity.

But none of this should be surprising to the Christian who is firmly anchored in God's Word. Our Lord has graphically described the signs of the times for these latter days of the New Testament age. One need only read Matthew 24 and 25 or Mark 13 or Luke 21 and other references throughout the New Testament. Jesus is coming again. He will return for the final judgment.

Rather than becoming alarmed or dismayed, we should be startled by the swiftness of all the changes that are taking place, and by the fact that these changes are global. We should rather be aroused to a new heightened awareness of the great urgency of our unfinished mission task. We need to rise to the great challenge of communicating the Gospel (the whole counsel of God) to post-modern man in language he can understand within the context of his cultural setting.

Through the prophet Jeremiah in the Old Testament God has a message that is as relevant today as when it was first given to him by inspiration of the Holy Spirit. It contains an admonition and an appeal. It has good news for all those who put their trust in Him.

> This is what the Lord says: "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the Lord (Jer. 9:23–24).

How can we as God's people bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to the people of the secular world in a loving, meaningful way? With the whole world on the move, with immigration of foreign peoples into the United States at an all-time high so that we now speak of the United Sates as a world-mission field, the question of how to share the Good News has become one of major importance for every Christian, whether pastor, teacher, DCE, deaconess, lay evangelist, or a regular church member. Yes, it is important for every Christian—whether that be in the nuclear family, blended family, children in the neighborhood, integrated schools, or adults in the work place or in public places of amusement and recreation, or wherever. This calls for cultivation and practice of greater love, a healthy curiosity, and sincere interest in the well-being of our fellowman; a willingness to be open, hospitable, ready to reach out with the extended hand of welcome.

This means becoming well informed and cross-culturally sensitive, creative and assertive in a kindly way. For the Christian congregation this means careful planning to help every member to grow in a two-pronged activity: one is *in-reach;* the other is *outreach.* Actually these two should be united with a purpose word, f - o - r (for). That is, *inreach* for *outreach;* that is, edification for advance; preparation for mission.

As one of my seminary professors once put it some years ago:

> The task of the Church involves the world. The business of the Church is to strengthen its members in their unity with each other and with their Head, in view of the fact that the world threatens this unity and tends to break off members of Christ to become members of the world. The task of the Church lies furthermore in this, that the Church is commissioned to invade the world and capture members of the world for membership in the body of Christ.[5]

In all the world what word is so powerful that it can turn people away from themselves to God; bring them together into a bond of fellowship; inspire them to plan and work together for doing the work God has given; and encourage and support each other so they don't fall apart? Let's face it—it has to be the Word of God and that Word in the sacraments is the means through which the Holy Spirit creates and sustains faith and empowers God's people for witness and service.

This is the Word God has entrusted to us. As St. Paul assured the Christians at Corinth,

> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us (2 Cor. 5:17–20).

St. Paul regarded himself and his co-workers as called ambassadors. Here we see what the Lutheran confessors regarded as a picture of the office of the holy ministry and the divinity of the call by which God still provides pastors and teachers through the local calling congregation. Under the Great Commission however, not only ordained pastors, but every baptized Christian has a responsible share in serving our Lord as His sent ones—ambassadors, if you will, each according to his/her spiritual gifts and station in life.

In Christ we have a privilege inherent in our Lord's Great Commission: "*Go* and make disciples of all nations."[6] That is a command, but it is a command graced with a promise: "Surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age."[7]

What a privileged obligation. What a precious promise. It has stood the test of time, trial, tribulation, not only in the early New Testament church, but also down through the centuries even into the life and times of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

All this because of Him who died and rose again in victory. As the Lord of life and Head of the whole Christian church He can rightfully declare: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me."[8] Christ's power enables and prevails even in times of tyranny, terrorism, tragedy, for there is another "T" word to remember, and that is *triumph.* We have this sure confidence that God will always have the last word—and it will be good! St. Paul became convinced of that in his own outreach ministry. To the Christians at Rome he wrote:

> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. ...
>
> What, then, shall we say in reponse to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all—how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things? ... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us (Rom. 8:28, 31, 37).

Through Christ's resurrection victory the genuine new age has begun, that is, the New Testament age of proclaiming and demonstrating God's redemptive act through His Son by which the forgiveness of sin and its guilt and punishment have been fully paid for, and in its place God invites one and all to accept His free gift of a new life in the here and now and beyond the grave eternally.

As pilgrim ambassadors our time to get this message out to the world is short. We live on the edge of three time zones: (1) Always moving out of the past (for which the gift of memory can teach us), (2) into the present (for which we can exercise a measure of planning and stewardship of changing strategies for fluid times) and, (3) always into the future (for which God gives us through His Word and means of grace the strength to grow in outreach and unshakable trust in His promises that never fail!). Boldly we pray, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

With complete confidence in the boundless grace of God in Christ, the congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod have banded together all these years, still committed to a carefully developed Constitution and Bylaws. In the footsteps of those who have gone before us we do this to follow the example of the apostolic church and to share the diversities of gifts for the common good. All this is for the purpose of His body, the church, and the world which so desparately stands in need of the Word of Christ and the impact of His redeeming love.[9]

God has blessed this unity of purpose richly in every area of the Synod's work. One need only to look again at the many evidences of God's abundant blessings as shown throughout the reports and memorials in the 1995 *Convention Workbook* and in the presentations that will be heard during the convention sessions.

But the unfinished task worldwide still looms large before us. Especially now every congregation of the Synod is urged to seek, to find, and reach out to the world that has come into its very neighborhoods. Opportunities in North America alone are overwhelming. There's hardly time to do more than to mention some of them: American Indian, African American, campus/international student ministries, Chinese, deaf and blind, Hispanic, Jewish, Korean, Muslim, Russian, etc.

It is not the intent of this paper to be a 30-minute crash course in mission methodology, but it is the intent to stir one and all to a renewed commitment in sanctification, that is, growing in the knowledge of Christ and His Word which

nurtures and stimulates faith life by which God gives His people the capacity to love, to care for those in need, and to devise and implement the necessary strategies for doing so. This is a lifelong process. With St. Paul we confess,

> Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:12–14).

With St. Paul let each of us press on, and let the Synod say, *"Press on!"* Press on for example toward the full implementation of the Congregational Services arm of the Synod.

The Synod as congregations, working together through their respective Districts, has under the blessing of God accomplished many fine things in terms of mission outreach at home and abroad. But never before have so many communities, towns, and cities been invaded (in the good sense) by peoples of other languages and cultures. Consequently foreign mission work is no longer only giving money to make possible the sending and support of missionaries to far away places. We are living in a time when new peoples are in our neighborhoods and not far from the front doors of our congregations.

In a sense a variation of history is repeating itself. Just as Loehe once sent missioners with varying degrees of training to this country, so now congregation members need to be trained to reach out to the unreached within the parish area of the local congregation. The unification of a strong Congregational Services department will help make this possible just as the merger of the various LCMS mission boards in 1965–67 helped to make a more effective worldwide mission outreach possible.

Press on with more short-term and long-term volunteer workers—not only in foreign lands but also here in the U.S. Volunteers often return home filled with mission zeal and do much to inspire home congregations with a renewed vision for mission—and this includes the youth of our church.

Press on with a continued team spirit between congregation, District, and departments of the Synod, and with our church's colleges, seminaries, and special training programs for preparing workers.

Press on to maturity in understanding that the whole church (all of its boards, departments, agencies, committees, commissions, etc.) is not in competition with itself, but is united in Christ, *Sent forth by God's blessing ... to tell the Good News.*

Press on with St. Paul's good advice in Ephesians 4. May we each be determined to "make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3).

In our desire to grow personally as outreach people let's look back one more time. Recall in our early leaders:

1. their deep commitment to Christ;
2. their faithfulness to the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions;
3. their devotion to prayer;
4. their passion for the lost which led to their vigorous pursuit of mission opportunities.

These same qualities are seen throughout our beloved church today, but to press onward as did St. Paul, we all need to grow.

Recall today's emphasis: *Sent forth by God's blessing ... to tell the Good News.* Now take a few minutes to share with the person on either side of you.

1. Tell through whose outreach you were brought to Christ.
2. How can you personally reach out to others with the Good News of Jesus Christ—individually and with the congregation to which you belong?

Concluding Remarks

In this 50th anniversary year of the conclusion of World War II, I recall a memorable experience at a war-bond rally in Soldier Field, Chicago, summer of 1944. Part of the program included a demonstration blackout. In the total darkness of that night, at a given signal, one man on the stage lit a single match. Its glow was plainly visible to everyone in that hushed audience.

That reminded me of a word from St. Paul, "For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ" (2 Cor. 4:6).

The lit match in the darkness of night also reminded me of a popular song from that period: "I don't want to set the world on fire. I just want to start a flame in your heart."

What Jesus, the light of the world (John 8:12) has done for each of us He would have us do more and more: "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" (Matt. 5:16).

We pray:

> Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen!
>
> —Morning Prayer, *LW,* page 243

To God be all glory!

Notes

1. C. F. W. Walther, *Brosamen,* St. Louis, M. C. Barthel, 1876, pp. 283–84.
2. *Pulse,* April 7, 1995, page 6.
3. *Time,* January 30, 1995, "The State of the Union," quoted by Richard N. Ostling, pp. 73–74.
4. Ibid., pp. 73–74.
5. Richard R. Caemmerer, *The Church in the World,* St. Louis, CPH, 1949, p. 8.
6. Matthew 28:19; see also Mark 16:15–16.
7. Matthew 28:20.
8. Matthew 28:18.
9. Cf. 1992 *Handbook,* The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Paul M. Heerboth, *Assistant Executive Director*
Board for Mission Services

3. Growth in Giving

Our topic is "Growth in Giving." A topic, interestingly enough, assigned to a pastor of the ministerium with background, experience, and responsibility for gift planning throughout the Synod. I promise you I will not conclude my remarks as I pass out pledge cards! Nor will I distribute additional offering envelopes!

That "Growth in Giving" topic was assigned by the President of Synod who has strongly and clearly stated a "yes, yes" approach to giving. Yes to strong, ongoing, and growing support to and through the local church. Yes to direct gifts for particular ministries. Dr. Barry's "yes, yes" approach is an acknowledgement of a major change in the way Christians do their financial stewarding today. What once came entirely to a local congregation and through that congregation to a District and through that District to Synod and through that Synod to all the world has now changed. For example, today over 55% of the dollars used by Synod's Board for Mission Services come via direct gifts—a startling change from a few years ago.

The "Growth in Giving" topic is also significant to Synod's 150th anniversary celebration. That celebration will be built on a tripod: growth in the Word; growth in outreach; growth in giving. Three strong legs—not two weak ones and one strong one—not two strong ones and one weak one.

"Growth in Giving" speaks of the joyful response of Christians to opportunities. Yet the 150th anniversary celebration will not be a mammoth financial campaign masked by lip service to the inspired Word and mission opportunities. Nor will the opportunity for giving growth be overshadowed by our commitment to growth in the Word or outreach.

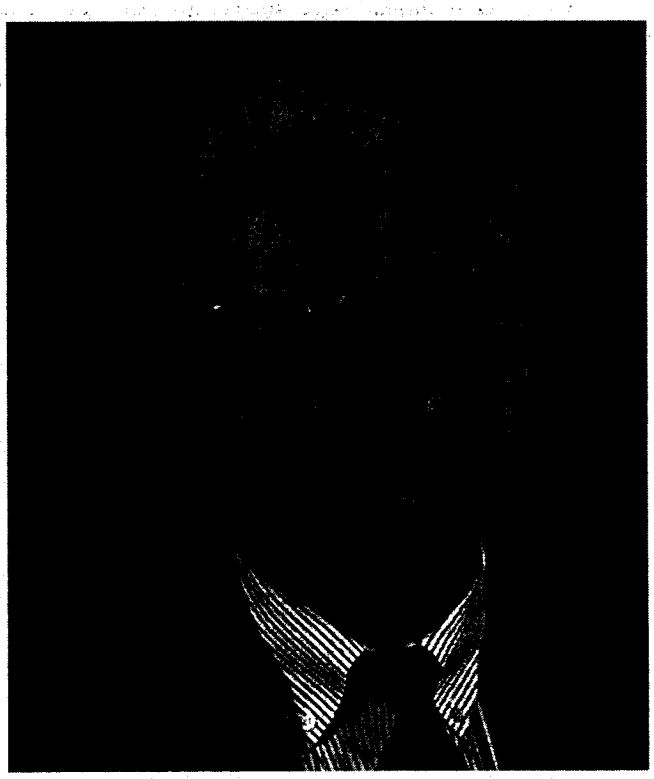
Three strong legs: the Word; outreach; giving. So, in introduction to a most significant topic, let it be said that a pastor who is a senior vice-president of the LCMS Foundation, in a Synod whose President strongly states a "yes, yes" approach to giving, as together we embrace the wisdom of a tripod growth in the Word, outreach, and giving for the 150th anniversary celebration, speaks to you now.

Three Assumptions for This Essay

There are three assumptions behind this presentation. The first is seen in that this is not an essay on stewardship. To be sure we are stewards—managers, caretakers, trustees, custodians—for the resources owned by another. That owner is God. We stewards are called upon to manage life and all of life's resources so that we fulfill God's purposes of loving one another and spreading the precious Gospel.

Psalm 24 puts it this way: "The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof." Stewardship principles began at creation when God placed man in life with the divine imperative "have dominion."

The Old Testament concept of stewarding included the tithe—the first and the best for God. But it also included the manner in which the Israelites, helped their neighbors,



cared for their cattle, and practiced crop rotation. Still today Christian stewards know that God has plans for us, "plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jer. 29:11)

In Christ we believe those divine plans were best laid, best given, best seen. We believe that now, prompted by grace, we manage all the Lord has given: time, talents, and treasure.

Other essayists, other writers, and certainly better scholars than I have gone down deep and stayed down long on the subject of Christian stewardship. For our purposes we assume that we are brothers and sisters in Christ, motivated by the Spirit of God, and prompted by grace to see growth in giving. For the moment, we're more concerned in the "doing" of giving than about the "why" of giving. Because we stand at the foot of the cross, knowing He died for us and gave not only forgiveness of sins but life and every blessing, we want to speak of the manner in which to give. That's my first assumption.

Our second assumption is that you agree with Dr. Barry's "yes, yes" approach to giving. I certainly do. It reflects the realities of today and today's necessities as well. It also acknowledges the manner in which we do financial stewardship: some to the local congregation and some for specific ministries beyond the congregation.

Mine is not an impassioned plea to return to giving *only* through offering envelopes which go *only* to the local congregation. We must always support that congregation of which we are a part. Yet, the manner in which we Christians give today goes far beyond the local church. My sec-

ond assumption is that you and I together agree with the President of the Synod who says yes to congregational offerings and yes also to direct gifts.

My final assumption is that you see growth in giving as something uniquely spiritual, godly. Money is not a dirty word. Christ wasn't timid about the subject of money.

Read the gospel of Matthew and note all the teaching Jesus does about money, wealth, priorities—all the examples—all the analogies:

Matthew 6:2—When you give a gift, sound no trumpet.
6:19—Don't lay up treasures on earth but lay up treasures in heaven.
6:24—You can not serve God and wealth.
6:34—Don't worry about tomorrow.
7:11—Your Father knows how to give good gifts.
10:10—The laborer deserves his food.
10:31—Sparrows are cheap—you are precious.
13:44—The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field—like a pearl of great value.
16:24—Let a man deny himself and follow Christ.
17:24—Pay your taxes.
18:10—Seek the lost.
18:23—The king will settle accounts with servants.
19:16—Love God, not wealth.
20:1—The master decides the wages.
21:12—Keep holy things holy.
21:33—Strive to be a good manager.
22:15—Do all things legally.
23:11—The servant is the greatest.
24:45—Be faithful in your servanthood.
25:14—Use all your talents wisely.
26:6—Jesus deserves the best.
28:16—Live to fulfill the Great Commission.

"Make disciples; baptize; teach all I have commanded you." Much of what Christ had to say was couched in financial terms or used financial examples. He gave us the divine prescription for growth in giving:

- Serve God alone; not God and wealth.
- Lay up treasures in heaven.
- Pay your taxes/do all things legally.
- Give to the poor.
- Keep holy things holy.
- Use all your talents.
- Give the best to the Lord.

What Has Changed in Christian Giving?

Significantly, the manner in which Christians give their best to the Lord has changed dramatically over the last years. It used to be that all of our financial offerings were given to and through the congregation. Today the norm is quite different.

National studies tell us today the average church member gives 50% of his or her offering to the local congregation. Additionally that same steward supports 10 or more charitable causes—some of them are church related; some are not.

There are over 1.25 million not-for-profit organizations in the U.S. today. All of them have work to do. All of them do it on a basis of charitable contributions. It's no wonder our mail boxes are stuffed with requests.

These organizations cover the gamut of concerns. Some of them are the 6000+ congregations which make up our Synod. Then there are 35 Districts, each with opportunities. We must also take into account our two seminaries and ten colleges; the numerous high schools and grade schools which express in large measure our commitment to Christian education. Missions, World Relief, Human Care, Evangelism, Black Ministry, and KFUO (to name but a few) round out one side of the "synodical recipient pie." The other side is composed of auxiliaries such as LWML, LLL, and recognized services organizations such as Bethesda, Good Shepherd Home, Mill Neck Manor, Lutheran Child and Family Services, and the like.

There are other Christian ministries and organizations which seek (and gain) the support of our people. To name only a few: the Salvation Army, Billy Graham, Robert Schuler, and Focus on the Family. Members of the LCMS are major, major contributors to these and other Christian causes.

Then let's add a few more opportunities for giving growth to the roster: museums, hospitals, the American Cancer Society, the National Cystic Fibrosis Society, the Nature Conservancy, the Science Club, the National Rifle Association, and Pheasants Forever.

You can check a box on your tax return to support political campaigning. Frankly that's too easy. If you really want to understand the direct-mail aspect of charitable giving, make a contribution to the Republican National Committee. Then take a bushel basket to your mailbox each day; make an extra pot of coffee; sit back and read your appeals from every candidate and for every cause you can imagine.

Suffice it to say, in terms of where and how Christians give their dollars, it's a new day. For church people to bemoan the fact that other ministries and other organizations beyond the local church have needs and seek funding really misses the point. We *are* them. We are the hospital supporter, museum volunteer, the soup kitchen cook, the radio and television listener, and the Democratic or Republican party member.

Also for us to assume that we hold out to our people only a congregational budget and a packet of envelopes for them to consider misses the point. Trying just to hunker down, get focused, and relate only to the congregational budget doesn't come to grips with the vast variety of opportunities and ways in which Christians give today.

These changes cause some people both fear and anger. In its worst form anger is evidenced in statements which ascribe ownership of a donor (or a donor's wallet) to a par-

ticular pastor, congregation, District, or program board of Synod. "Those are my donors," seems to be the statement heard from many quarters today.

Not so surprisingly, the church has changed as well. Not many years ago the LCMS had two very important, highly successful capital campaigns: "Forward in Remembrance" and "Alive in Christ." At the time they were conducted, they were the largest, most successful campaigns ever done by a mainline church. Their efforts funded missions and programs of the church for years.

If you look closely at those campaigns, you find that only about one third of LCMS member congregations took an active part in them. Now as we look toward the 150th anniversary celebration of Synod, "Sent Forth by God's Blessing," the clear, consistent word from the Districts is this: "Don't have a capital campaign."

It's a good word; in my estimation the right word. Christian stewards are closely connected to their local church, closely connected with particular area, national, and international ministries with which they identify. It's not a time for capital campaigns. And, frankly, there isn't the association, affiliation, or confidence in national organizations that there once was. This holds just as true for a mainline denomination as any other major organization.

What surprises me is not that the "noncampaign word" came to Synod from the Districts. (That's the right word, the expected one.) What's surprising is that, even as we speak, that word came at a time many Districts are running their own capital campaigns or planning to do so!

In the best understanding of this most unusual situation, many Districts are providing magnetic opportunities for Christians to grow in giving through these campaigns. In the worst scenario there are some who still believe Synod's 150th will be a money-driven campaign disguised under outreach discussions, and Districts want to "get the money" before someone else does.

What Hasn't Changed in Christian Giving?

But, we don't own donors. We don't own Christians or their contributions. The Lord owns them. In fact, He owns us twice over: once through creation; once through redemption. So when we sing, "The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof," we see ourselves redeemed, restored, forgiven to live our lives to the glory of God. We want to make a difference. We want to use our God-given gifts in ways He will bless. And let it be noted that *we want* to do this. We've gone beyond the point where we wish to allow even well-meaning leaders to decide for us how our dollars will be spent.

Basic to all of this discussion is how we view wealth or assets. If anyone assumes there is one large pool of wealth and every institution of need dips a cup into the pool until all the wealth is gone, that's not surprising. It's only unfortunate. It's a concept based on limited knowledge—perhaps an even more limited belief in Christian stewardship.

We are not stagnant-pool people. We are streams-of-living, water people. The joyful task of the steward is to connect with godly opportunities as God gives direction. The task of all those hundreds of thousands of potential recipients out there is to clearly focus on what's important, where the opportunities lie, and how your gift or mine can make a difference.

This pool will not be emptied. The wealth with which God has blessed us in this country is beyond belief. The Environmental Protection Agency tells us the United States leads the world in waste production! We generate some 200 million tons a year, enough to fill a convoy of garbage trucks stretching eight times around the globe. We are, says Noel Grove, "the Saudi Arabia of trash."

The issue is not whether or not there are enough resources to carry out the Great Commission. The issue is how we Christian stewards connect to God given opportunities to make a difference for Him. To understand that concern we will be helped by looking at the early church.

How Can Christian Stewards Connect with Opportunities?

Let's briefly examine the congregation at Antioch to see how the early Christians operated. (In fact it was in Antioch that disciples were first called Christians.)

- They were courageous and forgiving.
- They were growing in the Word.
- They were growing in outreach.
- They grew in giving.

This was the congregation that fetched the converted Saul to their faith community. That, in itself, was an act of faith. For over a year they engaged in teaching (and, I'm certain, planning and financing). They listened to the prophets and took their words seriously. They looked outside themselves in two very focused and positive ways: (1) They were the sending congregation and the support structure for Paul's missionary journeys. In other words, they lived *for* outreach. (2) It was from this place that the special offering for the poor began.

The offering for the poor was designated giving. And, it was most significant. It was pervasive in those areas of Paul's ministry and second only to the Gospel itself in Paul's mind. In Galatians, Paul says he was very eager to do it. Not only is it mentioned in Acts and Galatians but throughout the New Testament. It also was a uniquely structured offering: From the Gentile Christians for the Jewish Christians. At a time when history, pride, and the emotions of lineage ran high, the Antioch congregation and Paul were employed in three important aspects of ministry: (1) they were preaching the Word; (2) they were encouraging Christians to support a major relief effort; (3) through efforts 1 and 2 they were tying former Jews and former Gentiles together in the body of Christ as brothers and sisters.

Remarkably, the New Testament tells us more about designated giving than it does of the "routine" financing of a congregation or a national church body. On the "routine" side we know, for example, that salaries were paid ("the workman is worthy of his hire"), that Christians mutually supported the church ("they held all things in common"), and that tentmaker Paul assisted the work with his own skills. But we don't have a lot of details on these items. On the other hand, many books of the New Testament mention

the offering for the poor. 2 Corinthians 8 and 9 are almost direct mail letters. Paul even tells people how to get involved ("on the first day of the week set something aside").

From that marvelous activity we learned some growth-in-giving lessons:

- First we give ourselves to the Lord, then to one another.
- We live in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, who was rich and for our sakes became poor, so that by His poverty we might become rich.
- We don't give by command but out of thankfulness.
- The special needs for designated gifts form the *occasion* but not the *reason* for our giving.
- We give according to our means.
- We must not give due to coercion but willingly.
- God loves a cheerful giver.
- Christian givers are "enriched in every way for great generosity."
- True stewardship "overflows in many thanksgivings to God."
- We are only managers of the resources of the Lord: He scatters abroad; He gives to the poor; His righteousness endures forever. (Psalm 112)

Today our thankful giving may take forms other than those known to the apostle Paul and the congregation in Antioch. Generally speaking, the Christian donor is able to do most of his or her giving at the time of death. We give regularly and thankfully all our lives, but at the end of life many assets the Lord gave us to manage become available in new and powerful ways.

The home we own, the pension plan we hold, the stocks and bonds, the IRA's, the life insurance, the antiques and collectibles as well as the '48 Buick stored in the barn—all will transfer ownership at the time of our death. As caring parents and grandparents we'll want to provide for our family. But, as members of the family of God, recognizing all this stuff is really the Lord's, we'll want to extend the ministry through our estate plan. That may take the form of a major and special gift during our lifetime; a gift annuity which increases our income and goes for ministry at death; a simple bequest of certain assets or a certain percentage of our estate; an irrevocable instrument in the form of a trust. There are a variety of ways in which to give: a variety of people who can assist you to consider what gifting you wish to do. That's why the LCMS Foundation exists. Not to store up enormous assets—but to assure that your gifts will be managed and used as God has prompted.

Have you included the Lord in your final plans? Is He in your will? Have you considered a gift annuity, pooled fund, or trust? Is this the manner you will firmly, finally, and thankfully give a gift of Christian ministry?

The opportunities abound. Your local congregation comes first to mind. It's where you've been fed on the bread of life, and you want it to remain strong and vibrant. What about your District? Campus ministry, new mission starts, evangelism and stewardship education—all are first and foremost a ministry of Districts. The national Synod with its global outreach, relief efforts, communications, youth ministry, Black ministry, evangelism, stewardship, and a host of other opportunities. There are our two seminaries preparing men for ministry and ten colleges and universities in the Concordia University System. The many elementary and high schools of the church provide other opportunities for giving.

Conclusion

The question is not whether or not there are needs. The question is only this: How will God prompt us to connect to ministry opportunities?

The opportunities are tremendous—so great that they will require our committed faith and our generous contributions. For example: the open doors to ministry in the formerly closed Soviet Union could take absolutely all we have to offer. That one field is so great, the opportunities so numerous that we could send every pastor, every teacher, every DCE, and all the revenue of the Synod to just that one mission field—and it would still be a mere drop in the bucket.

Another example: technology exists which could place Christian radio, KFUO, in your neighborhood—for a remarkably reasonable sum. Through low wattage translator stations, the presence of the Gospel through the LCMS could be immense, reaching community after community in the United States! It will take approximately $50,000 per translator station. Five such translators would cover Metro-Milwaukee. A lot of money? Not really. When you think of the power of the Gospel coupled with the power of the airwaves and supported by the presence of Lutheran congregations and Lutheran Christians—when you think of all that—it's a pittance.

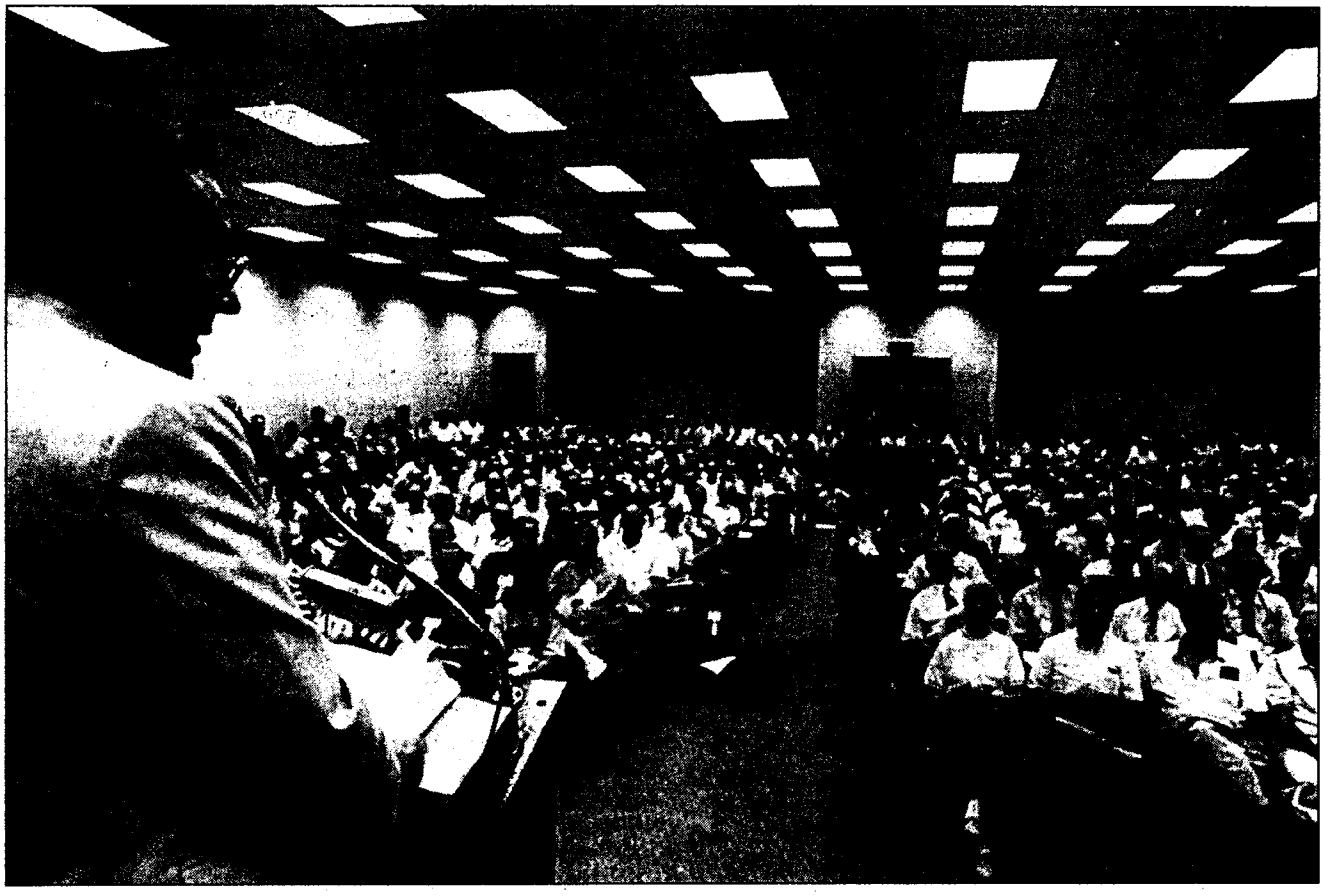
Distance learning presents another wonderful opportunity. We can link our colleges together in powerful ways. The East Coast professor teaching students in Selma, Alabama; Austin, Texas; Portland, Oregon; Seward, Nebraska; Mequon, Wisconsin; River Forest, Illinois; Ann Arbor, Michigan—that's what Christian reality looks like when Christian stewards connect with this opportunity.

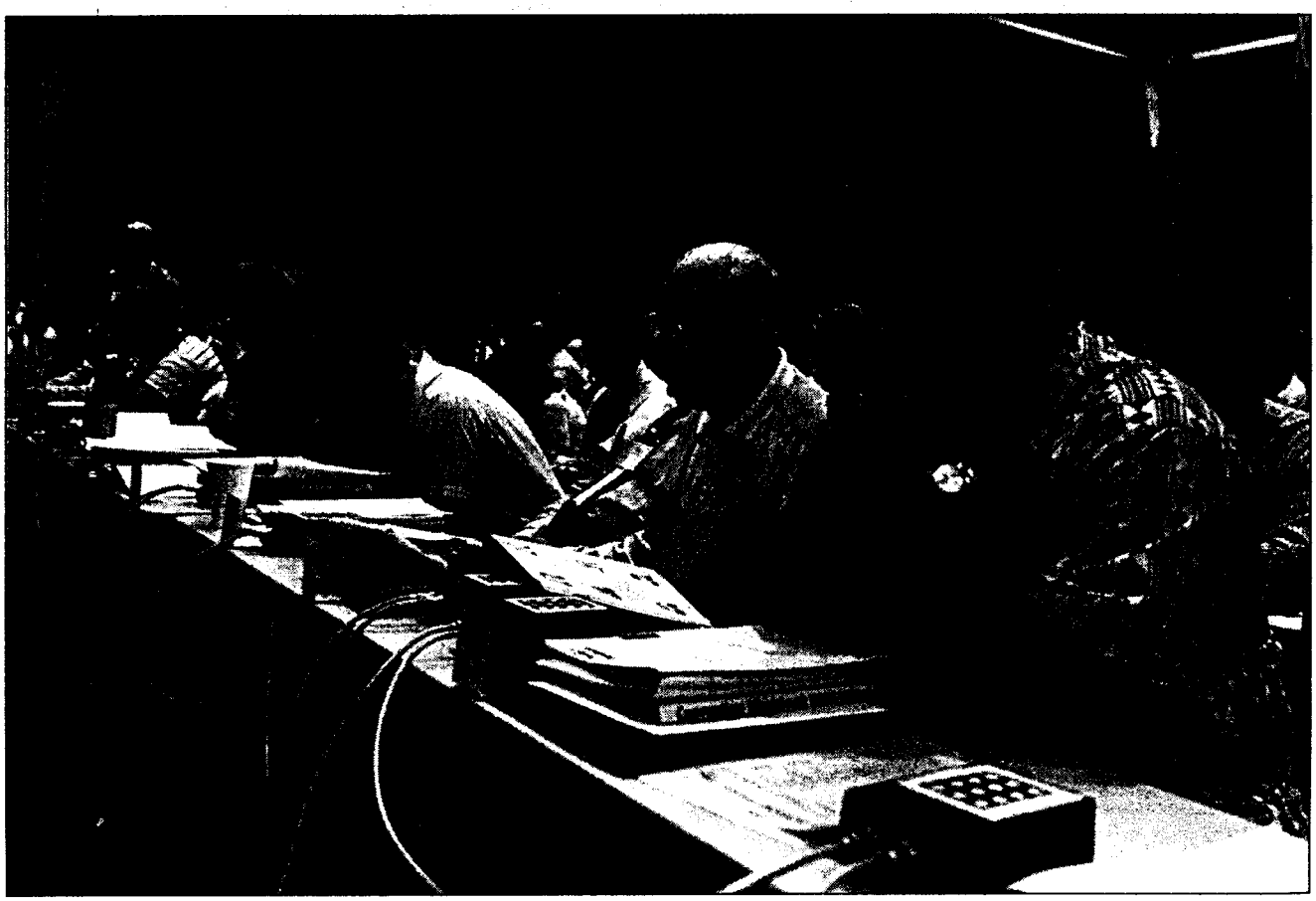
We share a concern for the high cost of higher and seminary education and want to address that concern. Already three people have pledged $1 million each to endow a chair at our seminaries. That's three of a proposed seventy such endowments. In my way of thinking the professorships at all of our colleges and our seminaries should be endowed.

The opportunities go on and on: cross-cultural ministries; low-income housing; urban ministry; rural ministry; worship; early-childhood and elementary education; new mission starts; ministerial health and healing; family initiative; and evangelism outreach.

The opportunities are there! The blessings of God are given. The only question remaining for us who call ourselves by the name of Christ is, Will we connect God-given blessings with God-given opportunities?

Charles O. Smith, *Senior Vice-President*
LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Services





CONVENTION SURVEYS

Delegate Survey

1. Did you have a good trip to St. Louis?
   Yes (956—88.11%)
   No (129—11.89%)
2. Please indicate your gender:
   1. Male (1089 —94.20%)
   2. Female (67—5.80%)
3. How did you become Lutheran?
   1. Reared Lutheran (932—80.48%)
   2. Through a Lutheran school (17—1.47%)
   3. Through marriage (66—5.70%)
   4. Converted as an adult (143—12.35%)
4. Is anyone in your immediate family (parent, spouse, child, sibling) a member of another Lutheran church body?
   1. Yes (332—29.12%)
   2. No (808—70.88%)
5. Please indicate your age:
   1. Under 30 (17—1.46%)
   2. 30-49 (540—46.47%)
   3. 50-64 (438—37.69%)
   4. 65+ (167—14.37%)
6. What is your race?
   1. American Indian, Aleut, or Eskimo (7—0.60%)
   2. Asian, Pacific Islander (7—0.60%)
   3. Black (30—2.59%)
   4. White (1090—94.13%)
   5. Other (24—2.07%)
7. Are you of Hispanic origin?
   1. Yes (18—1.56%)
   2. No (1138—98.44%)
8. My congregation is located in a:
   1. Urban community (298—26.23%)
   2. Suburban community (381—33.54%)
   3. Rural community (457—40.23%)
9. How did you arrive in St. Louis?
   1. By plane (531—45.78%)
   2. By train (6—0.52%)
   3. By auto (454—39.14%)
   4. By bus/van (29—2.50%)
   5. By luck (140—12.07%)
10. My hotel room was:
    1. Fit for royalty (45—3.87%)
    2. Fit for near-royalty (328—28.20%)
    3. Fit for a commoner (645—55.46%)
    4. Not fit for habitation (33—2.84%)
    5. What hotel room? (112—9.63%)
11. Are you currently employed outside the home?
    1. Yes, full time (over 35 hrs/wk, or 45 weeks/yr) (893—77.25%)
    2. Yes, part-time (71—6.14%)
    3. No, not employed but able to work (15—1.30%)
    4. No, unable to work (6—0.52%)
    5. No, retired (149—12.89%)
    6. No, going to school (5—0.43%)
    7. No, full-time homemaker (17—1.47%)
12. Which of the following best describes your current occupation:
    1. Managerial (114—10.33%)
    2. Professional (644—58.33%)
    3. Technical (35—3.17%)
    4. Sales (60—5.43%)
    5. Administrative Support (43—3.89%)
    6. Service (85—7.70%)
    7. Farming, Forestry, Fishing (68—6.16%)
    8. Craft and Repair (28—2.54%)
    9. Operator, Fabricator, Laborer (27—2.45%)

Charles Smith Survey

1. My congregation plans to build or expand its facilities in the next three years:
   1. Yes (43%)
   2. No (57%)
2. My congregation has an endowment fund:
   1. Yes (32.39%)
   2. No (67.61%)
3. My congregation has a strategy to meet future ministry goals:
   1. Yes (43.48%)
   2. No (56.52%)
4. The members of our congregation generally need to grow in the joy of giving:
   1. Yes (89.61%)
   2. No (10.39%)
5. Our congregation needs to reduce a burdensome debt:
   1. Yes (36.86%)
   2. No (63.14%)
6. In addition to my congregation I contribute directly to:
   1. 0–3 Ministries (38.76%)
   2. 4–6 Ministries (38.99%)
   3. 7–9 Ministries (10.21%)
   4. 10 or more Ministries (12.04%)
7. I have a will:
   1. Yes (74.91%)
   2. No (25.09%)
8. At my death my Christian giving:
   1. Ends (46.02%)
   2. Increases (31.81%)
   3. Decreases (22.17%)
9. How well do you understand Pooled Income Funds?
   1. Very well (08.61%)
   2. Somewhat (27.29%)
   3. Not at all (64.10%)

10. How well do you understand Gift Annuities?
    1. Very well (16.88%)
    2. Somewhat (56.83%)
    3. Not at all (26.29%)

11. How well do you understand Charitable Remainder Trusts?
    1. Very well (12.49%)
    2. Somewhat (33.14%)
    3. Not at all (54.37%)

12. How well do you understand Unitrusts?
    1. Very well (06.78%)
    2. Somewhat (21.03%)
    3. Not at all (72.18%)

13. At my death a portion of my estate will continue to support Christian ministry:
    1. Yes (57.73%)
    2. No (42.27%)

14. I am aware that through proper planning I can support the ministry of my choice, receive a current tax deduction and income for life:
    1. Yes (80.55%)
    2. No (19.45%)

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

1. Greetings of President Emeritus

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

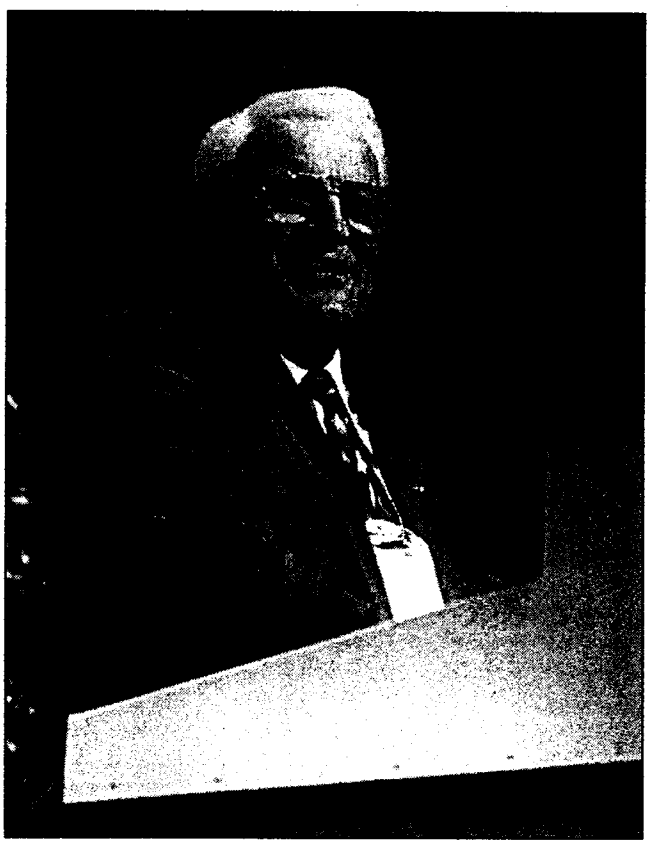
Thanks for the warm greeting ... and thanks for staying to listen rather than hurrying out to lunch! After standing before the last four conventions of the Synod as chairman and an active participant in the life and work of the Synod, I must say that it feels a great deal different (and not necessarily worse!) for me to stand before you today as a greeter and a spectator. But I speak especially as a friend and brother in Christ. For one thing remains constant—and that is my deep love and commitment to this great church body, even with all its faults. There are many personal reasons for this bond, to be sure, but none more important than the partnership in the Gospel of Jesus Christ that we have enjoyed and continue to enjoy together. It's in His name, and the name of our precious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, that I would express both a word of gratitude and a word of encouragement.

A Word of Gratitude

On this 100th anniversary of our mission work abroad, I am especially grateful for the missionaries and their families who have served so faithfully over the years; to the mission board and staff which continues to give us such outstanding leadership; to Missouri's partner churches around the world; and to the many pastors and congregations who send, support, pray for, and actively engage in the work of bringing the Good News of Christ to the nations, beginning in our own communities. For all of you, on this great anniversary occasion, celebrating what it truly means to be the church carrying out the mission of Jesus Christ, one can only exclaim: Thanks be to God!

I am deeply grateful, as well, to those officers and staff persons who have served us so well again during these past three years, and especially to those with whom I worked so closely for so long: to Augie Mennicke, Walt Rosin, and Norm Sell who have served quietly and faithfully during a very difficult time and all too often under criticism that was neither truthful nor fair; special thanks also to two fine Vice-Presidents, Walter Maier and Bob Sauer, with whom I was privileged to work for many years and who now leave office. To all of you and the many others who served with us, may I say that you were always a team that worked collegially and well to do what you were elected to do, namely, to uphold and apply the *Synod's* doctrine as well as the *Synod's* visions and goals; and I sincerely thank you for that.

Special thanks, too, to our District Presidents, who serve our congregations and pastors so well as those who truly represent the will of the people, and to the Board of Directors (especially those who now leave the board) for your wise and patient leadership; to all of you who serve us in financial support and management positions for your continuing competence and integrity; to all those associated with the Concordia University System for your quiet effectiveness in a difficult transition period; to the board and



staff people who have worked so well to coordinate and improve our Synod's congregational services; to our youth ministry leaders, in St. Louis and throughout the Synod, for the wonderful warmth and promise of the recently concluded Youth Gathering in San Antonio where 28,000 people celebrated the Gospel in such a unique and powerful manner (what an inspiration!); for the continued confessional faithfulness of our Commission on Theology and Church Relations, often under trying circumstances; for our two seminaries, not only for their solid theology, but also for timely curriculum revision, as well as new mission and ministry ventures, and especially to Fort Wayne, for maintaining a strong sense of mission while achieving a large measure of peace and stability after years of difficulty; and to the staffs and boards in the large, complex, and often under-appreciated areas of human care and social ministry, for helping all of us show love and compassion to the many in our world who are weary and heavy laden.

Most of all, I am deeply grateful for, and I strongly commend, the parish pastors, lay leaders, and congregations who continue to be so faithfully involved in proclaiming and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and for the many who pray and work toward the growth of the church, often in bold and innovative ways.

As I think of these and many other examples of excellence and Gospel-motivated service among us, I am re-

minded of St. Paul's words to the Philippians: "I thank my God every time I remember you, in all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now" (Phil. 1:3–5).

A Word of Encouragement

But let me add a word of encouragement, too, in keeping with the frequent exhortation of God's Word. In a great "therefore" passage, St. Paul writes to the Thessalonians: "He [our Lord Jesus Christ] died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing" (1 Thess. 5:10–11). And the writer of Hebrews reminds us: "Let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the day approaching" (Heb. 10:25).

We indeed need to encourage one another, for we are living in a time of unprecedented challenge to the church of Jesus Christ, including our own Synod. Let me cite particularly three areas of challenge and need: (1) the great evil we are experiencing in our generation; (2) the many, many people in our world of five and a half billion people who do not know and believe the love of God in Jesus Christ; (3) and the world of Lutheranism which is undergoing somewhat of an identity crisis in terms of both witness and relationships. More than ever before, for the sake of others, and for ourselves, we need to be bold in our proclamation and confession of the Gospel and faithful in our use of the Gospel and sacraments. God's means of grace are also His means of power, for through them, He gives His Holy Spirit, when and where He pleases, together with His gifts, in rich abundance. This is no time to trust simply in political power, convention resolutions, or vaunted traditions. This is no time to substitute narrowness for conservatism, control for freedom, pastoral authority for pastoral care, self-preservation for mission outreach, institutional isolation from other Christians for responsible ecumenical involvement, or Law for Gospel.

But it is time to have the Gospel of God's love in Christ hold sway among us! How pointedly last Sunday's epistle addresses us at this time in our history: St. Paul writes to the Galatians: "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand fast, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened with a yoke of slavery" (Gal. 5:1). What a powerful, strong word of encouragement that is for each of us, and for our congregations, too! Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us encourage one another with that word—especially now, as we see the day approaching!

As we confess our many sins, individual and corporate, and look again to the cross and empty tomb of our Lord, the most amazing word of encouragement is simply this: God still loves and forgives all our sins for Christ's sake! And He empowers us again and again in Jesus Christ. He makes all things new, including *us!* What great and Good News that is, particularly now as we prepare to celebrate 150 years of His grace and blessing among us. That Good News remains His powerful, life-giving word of encouragement and hope to all of us as we return to our homes and congregations, ready to answer His call and be sent forth again by His blessing.

What a wonderful God He is! May His grace, mercy, and peace, as well as the freedom with which He has made us free, abound among us, now and forever!

Ralph A. Bohlmann, *President Emeritus*

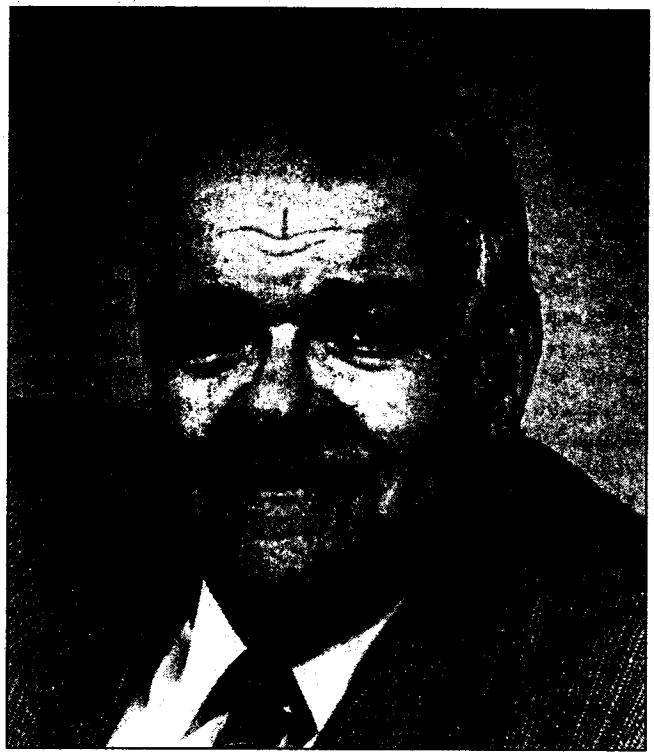
3. First Vice-President's Address to the Convention

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My sisters and brothers in Christ: I deeply appreciate the opportunity to share a few words with this assembly at the time when my service as an officer of the Synod is coming to a close. First of all, I extend to you, Dr. Barry, and also to Drs. Kuhn, King, Bunkowske, Meyer, and Schulz, sincere congratulations and best wishes on your elections to your ministries of leadership in the church. I pray that God gives you the wisdom which comes from above and especially the mind and heart of Christ, so that the church and the world might be blessed through your servant leadership. I pray the same blessing for Dr. Rosin and Dr. Sell and for all others entrusted with special privileges and responsibilities of servanthood. May God bless you from on high and make you a blessing unto many, that you might bring forth much fruit and that your fruit might remain unto eternal life.

I personally want to thank my God and this part of His church which we know as The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for the opportunity to serve in His kingdom for these 40 years in the various places and ministries to which He has called. I thank my God for the joy of being able to observe and even be a part of the miracles of God in so many ways. I thank Him for the many people with whom I have been privileged to work and who have become such an important part of my life. I'm thinking particularly of the Council of Presidents, with whom I have been privileged to serve for 25 years. What a great group of Christian men and dedicated servant leaders in the church! I'm thinking of the executives, officers, and staff who serve our Synod so capably in the various ministries of the Synod. I'm thinking of my own secretary and assistant who has worked with me so faithfully through these many years and also for that great group of staff and workers at the International Center and throughout the Synod whose names usually are not listed in reports or resolutions, but who are so important in the ministry of our Lord. I'm thinking of the many pastors and teachers, lay men and women throughout the Synod and for their kindness and friendship through many years and in so many ways. Joyce and I have been so richly blessed by all of them and, more importantly, the church has been blessed through them.

In spite of some heavy moments, I would much rather think of the many exciting times—some of them also at this convention—which show the real heart of Missouri. How good it was to witness this convention's warm and enthusiastic response to the reports of the recent Youth Gathering in San Antonio. How good to observe the large majority approval of the Congregational Services and board designed to help the Synod be of even greater service to the congregations. And how wonderful to see our enthusiastic joy over the many reports of mission work going on in so many places throughout The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

This, my sisters and brothers in Christ, is the Synod at its best. And my word of encouragement to you at this time is simply this: Let's move ahead with joy in doing what we do best. To borrow the title from an article by Rich Bimler



some time ago, "The Main Thing Is to Keep the Main Thing the Main Thing." And by the grace of God, you and I know what that is. God's main thing is to forgive and love and redeem all of His creation. The church's main thing is to grow in the grace of God and the love of Jesus Christ and to have a heart's desire to share in word and in deed that love and that message which has been entrusted to us. We need to do that at all levels of the church, from the conventions of the Synod and the national and District Synod boards and officers, all the way up to the congregations of this church.

With that in mind, let me tell you just a few things that will continue to be in my heart and my prayers for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. I pray that we will always see ourselves, unworthy as we are individually, as the specially favored and blessed saints of God. I pray that we will always see ourselves with joy as a part of the communion of saints, the holy Christian church, and that we will seek every way that we possibly can to express the oneness that we have in Christ with the whole church on earth. I pray that we will always see the Synod as the creation of our congregations, not to control congregations, but to support and encourage and strengthen the ministries of God's people wherever they are being carried out. I pray that we will always guard against putting up barriers between ourselves and the world, but rather seek ways to open doors just as wide as we possibly can. And I pray that we will always keep our priorities straight and clear, and that our real excitement will always be in those things that truly make a difference in the long and eternal plans of God.

Some of you have heard the old story of the thief who broke into a supermarket one night. Actually, he wasn't really a thief—he didn't steal anything. His only crime was that he went up and down the aisles of that supermarket simply switching price tags, so that the next morning when the shoppers arrived they found T-bone steaks selling for 49¢ and a can of beans for $3.98. And I submit to you, dear brothers and sisters, that that is exactly the way Satan does his most devilish work in the church still today. He is always attempting to focus our time and our energies on those matters which will not really make a difference on that great day when the Lord comes again to judge the living and the dead. And he tempts us so often to let those goals which really do make the difference between life and death and between heaven and hell slip into matters of second priority. From this, good Lord, preserve us.

We speak a lot, and well we should, of the grace and blessing that is ours through the precious Gospel of Jesus Christ. May that truth and gift always be the crown and the most precious jewel and the power for all that we do and say in this church body. But the point is not only that we possess this wonderful truth and gift. The point is that the Gospel so possesses us that it leaves us no choice but to walk in the light as children of God.

So, in all things, my dear sisters and brothers, let this part of the church of Jesus Christ which we know as The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod continue to grow up into Him in all things. Let that happen as our consuming passion is always and only that which is His consuming passion, namely, to seek and save those who are lost and to share in our words and in our deeds the love of Jesus Christ and the grace of God. Let it happen in the way we speak to one another and about one another and the way we speak and witness to the world around us. Let it happen even when it means casting our nets out on the other side of the boat and daring to do some things in a different way so that by all means we may save some. And let it always be done with the mind of Christ and the love of Christ. Above all, in our every word and deed, may Jesus Christ be praised. Thank you, and may God bless you abundantly.

August T. Mennicke, *First Vice-President*

4. Greetings of the President of Lutheran Church—Canada

President Barry, convention delegates, brothers and sisters in Christ:

To visit with family is always a joy to be treasured. Thank you for giving me that privilege, and through me, allowing Lutheran Church—Canada to come onto your agenda. I will try to honor your time constraints, and stay within the three minutes allotted to me.

First of all, let me congratulate you, Dr. Barry, upon your reelection as President of the Synod. I look forward to continuing the excellent cooperation that has existed between our respective offices and between our two Synods. I pray that God will grant you good health, a strong faith, and a pastoral heart as you continue to serve God and His people.

Seven years have now passed since the Canadian Districts of the LCMS became an autonomous church: a daughter church, a sister church, a partner church. Autonomy has challenged us to accept new responsibilities for God's mission, and God's grace has never failed to meet our needs. But the older we get, the more we appreciate the LCMS for the legacy it has left us.

I am often asked what kind of church I want Lutheran Church—Canada to be. I find the answer in those characteristics which have marked the LCMS in its best moments. You have been marked by your confession, with a burning desire to share the Gospel at every opportunity, and you have been marked by compassion, dealing with difficulty or dissent according to the Gospel. Those three characteristics are like a three-legged stool. When any one of them is missing, it is difficult to sit safely on the other two. I pray for your Synod, and for ours, that such conviction, confession, and compassion will never cease.

I also want to use this opportunity on behalf of the International Lutheran Council, a global association of some 25 confessional Lutheran churches around the world, to thank you for your unfailing support. You have demonstrated this not only in the resolution you have adopted to join the ILC, but also in your strong financial support, and in providing the ILC with executive staff services in the person of Dr. Nafzger. With this support, the ILC has been able to help its member churches, big and small, old and new, to receive encouragement and theological strength from one another.



Brothers and sisters, you have been sent forth with God's blessings. Even as you guard the Gospel jealously, so also give it away generously. Keep the truth secure, but don't keep it a secret. Confront error with truth, but speak that truth in love. It is my own prayer and that of your many friends in Lutheran Church—Canada that God will continue to bless you and make you a blessing to many.

E. Lehman, *President*

RESOLUTIONS

1. Missions

To Thank God and Celebrate 100 Years of World Missions, 100 Years of Ministry to Deaf People, and 75 Years of Campus Ministry

RESOLUTION 1-01A

Report R1-01 (*CW*, pp. 23–30); Overture 1-02 (*CW*, p. 129)

WHEREAS, The first LCMS World Mission effort in foreign lands began 100 years ago on Oct. 14, 1894, with the commissioning at Immanuel Lutheran Church, St. Charles, Mo., of Rev. Franz Mohn and Rev. Theodore Naether as foreign missionaries of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, These two LCMS missionaries helped to begin the work that led to the founding of the India Evangelical Lutheran Church; and

WHEREAS, For 100 years the LCMS has been sending men and women to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ and His blessings of life and salvation to unreached peoples of the world; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS began ministry to the deaf at First Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Chicago, Ill., in 1894; and

WHEREAS, 8,000 members of the LCMS presently are hearing impaired but through ministry to the deaf have been brought to a saving knowledge of Christ, their Savior; and

WHEREAS, For 75 years the basic philosophy for campus ministry in the Synod has been to provide a Word and Sacrament ministry for our college and university students; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of college and university students have consequently been nurtured and fed through Word and Sacrament during their years on campus; and

WHEREAS, Hundreds of pastors, teachers, and laypersons have served faithfully during these 75 years, supporting our young people with spiritual encouragement and leadership; therefore be it

Resolved, That in gratitude and thanksgiving to God the Synod recognize the anniversaries of these ministries with prayer; and be it further

Resolved, That we thank God for the generous offering in the worship service which will be used to support the missions of our church; and be it finally

Resolved, That this body stand and sing the doxology in praise to God.

Action: *Adopted (2).*

To Promote Involvement through Mission Partnerships

RESOLUTION 1-02A

Overtures 1-11, 1-13, 1-17 (*CW*, pp. 131–32)

WHEREAS, It is the will of the Lord that His people bear witness to Him to the ends of the earth beginning in the areas where they reside (Acts 1:8); and



Committee 1 Chairman Osmar O. Lehenbauer

WHEREAS, The overwhelming majority of people in all parts of the world, including North America, live without faith in Christ and hence without the forgiveness of sins acquired by His saving work; and

WHEREAS, The work of mission outreach requires the prayers and efforts of all God's people; and

WHEREAS, LCMS World Mission has responded to this desire for involvement through programs such as the Lutherans in Medical Missions (LIMM), the Volunteer Missionary Service (VMS), and the Volunteer Youth Ministry (VYM) programs, which have placed more than 300 mission volunteers in 22 countries; and

WHEREAS, LCMS World Mission has entered into special partnerships with several Districts, mission societies, and other agencies to strengthen mission work in particular areas of the world; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, assembled in convention, give thanks to God for mission partnerships involving LCMS World Mission, Districts, mission societies, and other mission organizations, as well as other volunteer ministry programs; and be it further

Resolved, That LCMS World Mission be encouraged to expand its volunteer programs to involve more congregational members in personal missionary service and support; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod urge all its congregations to seek ways for all members to become more involved in the

mission work of the Synod, beginning with outreach from the local parish.

Action: *Adopted (4).*

To Reaffirm Commitment to Urban and Cross-Cultural Ministry

RESOLUTION 1-03A

Report R1-01 (*CW*, pp. 23–30); Overtures 1-16, 1-18 (*CW*, pp. 132–33)

WHEREAS, The Christian church, beginning with our Lord's ministry in the village life of Palestine, quickly became a religion that impacted an entire Mediterranean world primarily through the establishment of congregations in the great urban centers of the Roman Empire; and

WHEREAS, The apostle Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, used as his mission strategy the movement from city to city (Rom. 15:19, 23); and

WHEREAS, The urban setting is now in the process of being abandoned by many mainline churches, where new opportunities for ministry are increasing; and

WHEREAS, We have many congregations placed within the urban setting, with 67 percent of all LCMS Lutherans living in cities with populations of 50,000 or more; and

WHEREAS, LCMS World Mission has placed a high priority on urban evangelistic outreach; and

WHEREAS, In 1992 the Synod in convention recognized the United States as a cross-cultural mission field; and

WHEREAS, The cities of our nation and world are among the fields that "are ripe for harvesting" (John 4:35); therefore be it

***Resolved,* That national and District staffs continue to offer resources and training for supporting present congregations and for planting new congregations in the urban setting and developing new ministries; and be it further**

***Resolved,* That the seminaries be urged to train ministers for urban and cross-cultural work; and be it further**

***Resolved,* That congregations be encouraged to plant cross-cultural missions as parallel ministries to their own, targeted to serve the needs of specific ethnic communities; and be it finally**

***Resolved,* That the Synod in convention recommit itself to the proclamation of the Gospel in urban centers, as well as in every community of our nation and world.**

Action: *Adopted as amended (4).*

(The second resolve was added by amendment as well as the words *and developing new ministries* at the end of the first resolve.)

To Further Evangelistic Outreach among Immigrants

RESOLUTION 1-04A

Overtures 1-14–15, 1-17 (*CW*, p. 132)

WHEREAS, It is the will of the Lord that all should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:4); and

WHEREAS, More than nine million people have come to the United States as immigrants in the last decade, many of them as refugees without resources from their home countries; and

WHEREAS, Many of these immigrants possess only a nominal or no faith in Christ; and

WHEREAS, Many arrive with little or no knowledge of the English language but recognize the importance of English and wish to learn it; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod reaffirm its conviction that it is the will of the Lord that His people reach out with love and faith to the immigrants that He has placed in their midst and seek ways to serve them in their time of need (Lev. 19:33–34); and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS continue to uphold cross-cultural evangelistic outreach as one of its highest mission priorities; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS urge all of its congregations to seek ways of becoming actively involved in outreach to new immigrants; and be it further

Resolved, That, as LCMS World Mission works with the Districts to further evangelistic outreach among immigrants (whether in English or another language), it be encouraged to continue its policy and practice of receiving the advice and direction of immigrants; and be it finally

Resolved, That LCMS congregations be encouraged to expand the use of the English as a Second Language (ESL) instructional program as a way of entering and enriching the lives of new immigrants.

Action: *Adopted (4).*

(A motion to insert the word *legal* before *immigrants* in the third, fourth, and fifth resolves failed to gain a second.)

To Encourage International Student Outreach

RESOLUTION 1-05A

Overtures 1-06–07; (*CW*, p. 130)

WHEREAS, The Lord of the harvest has commissioned His church to "go and make disciples of all nations by baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and by teaching them to keep everything I have commanded you" (Matt. 28:19–20); and

WHEREAS, Many international students who do not know Christ as their Savior are attending our nation's high schools, colleges, and universities, many of whom come from countries closed to Christian missionaries; and

WHEREAS, College and university campuses provide ideal opportunities for bringing the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ to international students, their spouses, and children; and

WHEREAS, These students, when brought to faith by the power of the Holy Spirit, make natural and effective Christian missionaries upon their return home; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod support the mission effort of bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to international students with prayer, personnel, and financial resources; and be it further

Resolved, That where appropriate, congregations/campus ministries be encouraged to share the Good News with the international campus community, to continue to expand

their focus intentionally to reach international students, and to facilitate the gathering of internationals into Word and Sacrament communities.

Action: *Adopted (4).*

(The words *high schools* were added by common consent in the second whereas.)

To Increase Support and Encouragement for Campus Ministries

RESOLUTION 1-06A

Overtures 1-03–05, 1-08 (*CW*, pp. 129–31)

WHEREAS, The leaders of our church and world are being formed at the colleges and universities of our nation and, therefore, the ministry of our church on these campuses is critical for the future; and

WHEREAS, Nearly three-fourths of the 14.5 million students attending our colleges and universities are unchurched and do not know or follow the one true God and Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; and

WHEREAS, Our campus ministries are positioned to spread the Good News of saving faith and to disciple the saints for a close personal relationship with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod students generally receive a solid background in biblical knowledge and theology in their home congregations and hence are in an excellent position to let their light shine among the unchurched and the non-Christian at the university; and

WHEREAS, The National Council of the Lutheran Student Fellowship has adopted goals for personal mission outreach and leadership development and a goal to identify 75 student graduates during the next triennium to serve as short- or long-term volunteers in missionary service; therefore be it

Resolved, That in recognition of the crucial importance of campus ministry, the Synod in convention encourage the initiation of, where appropriate, the establishment of new campus ministries, set as a goal for the next triennium 15 new Lutheran Student Fellowship chapters, and attempt to strengthen all existing campus ministries in their mission outreach; and be it further

Resolved, That the congregations of the LCMS be urged to incorporate an annual "Service of Sending" in an August worship service during which their college and university students are formally sent as their representatives to work with the campus pastor or with other local pastors to reach the unchurched and the non-Christian, and that they regularly pray publicly for the students; and be it finally

Resolved, That the LCMS, national and District, and campus ministries develop avenues by which individuals and congregations can identify with campus ministries and can contribute gifts to undergird and enable our church to move forward aggressively in bringing the message of God's love in Jesus Christ to the many students on our campuses.

Action: *Adopted (2).*

To Revise Procedure for Selecting Foreign Missionary Advisory Delegates

RESOLUTION 1-07

Overture 1-01 (*CW*, p. 129)

Current Procedure

Bylaw 3.13 Other Advisory Representatives

d. Each foreign mission area, as defined and established from time to time by the Board for Mission Services, but not to exceed 10 in number, may be represented at a synodical convention by one advisory representative from within the mission area who is on furlough at the time of convention and will return to the mission area represented. These representatives shall be elected by the missionaries in a given mission area in a manner prescribed by the Board for Mission Services and shared with the missionaries at least 15 months in advance of a synodical convention—provided, however, that each said mission area shall be entitled to a representative, even though there may be no other than terminating missionaries on furlough at convention time.

Recommendation

WHEREAS, Bylaw 3.13 d provides for selection of missionary representatives as advisory delegates to each synodical convention; and

WHEREAS, The present procedure, which requires that a missionary representative for a given area be elected by the missionaries in that area, is not feasible; and

WHEREAS, The stipulation that requires determination of such missionary representatives "at least 15 months in advance of a synodical convention" is not usually possible because of rapidly changing circumstances in most fields; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.13 d be amended to read as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/*PROPOSED* WORDING

d. Each foreign mission area, as defined and established from time to time by the Board for Mission Services, but not to exceed 10 in number, may be represented at a synodical convention by one advisory representative from within the mission area who is on ~~furlough~~ *home leave* at the time of convention and will return to the mission area represented. These representatives shall be elected by ~~the missionaries in a given mission area in a manner prescribed by~~ the Board for Mission Services *in consultation with the field authority (Missionary Advisory Council) for each field* and shared with the missionaries at least ~~15~~ *nine* months in advance of a synodical convention—provided, however, that each said mission area shall be entitled to a representative, even though there may be no other than terminating missionaries on ~~furlough~~ *home leave* at convention time.

Action: *Adopted (5).*

To Affirm That the Mission of the Church Is Urgent and to Raise Mission Awareness

RESOLUTION 1-08

WHEREAS, Our task of spreading the Gospel is urgent for there is no hope apart from Christ and we have no guarantee we will always be allowed to continue preaching the Good News of life in Christ; and

WHEREAS, At this unique time in history, disruptive upheavals of peoples and nations open unprecedented worldwide opportunities and accord us the privilege of serving as partners in mission; therefore be it

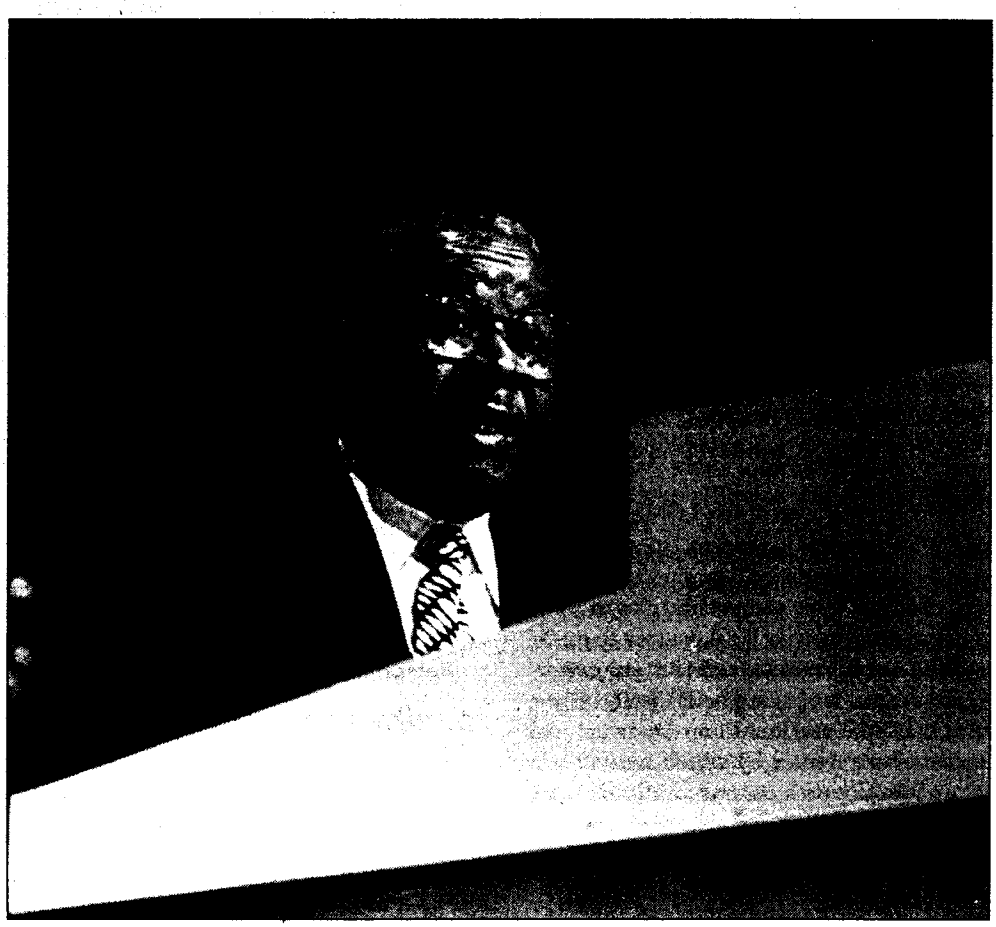
Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, assembled in convention, declare the imperative challenge of lifting our people's vision to this world of mission opportunities and of securing adequate financial resources for a fitting response to God's Great Commission mandate; and be it further

Resolved, That the local congregations infuse world mission commitment into every level of their message and their programs, helping people to see their joy-filled part in touching the lives of people in their communities and around the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ whenever possible, wherever possible; and be it finally

Resolved, That each local congregation be encouraged to establish a mission advocacy program to encourage mission awareness and support.

Action: *Adopted as amended (5).*

(The word *and* was added to the title by the committee. An amendment to add a third whereas which would read *Whereas, The U.S.A. is increasingly a post-Christian society* was declined. The second part of the same amendment was adopted adding the words *in their communities and* in the second resolve.)



Dr. Bryant E. Clancy Jr., Commission on Black Ministry

2. Congregational Services

To Put Five Vision Statements into Practice

RESOLUTION 2-01A

Overtures 2-44–45 (*CW*, p. 148)

WHEREAS, It is the will of our gracious God that we be and remain in His Word (John 8:31–32), that we continue to serve one another in love (Gal. 5:13), that we keep on telling the Good News of Jesus Christ our Savior (Acts 5:42), that we faithfully cling to the sound teaching of the Word (1 Tim. 4:6), and that we live in peace with one another (2 Cor. 13:14); and

WHEREAS, President A. L. Barry presented his five-fold vision statement that The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be (1) strong in the Word, (2) Christ centered and people sensitive, (3) reaching out boldly with the Gospel, (4) faithful to the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions, (5) marked by peace and unity; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, assembled in convention, urge all the members in our congregations to continue to strive, with God's help, both individually, as well as in our congregations, Circuits, and Districts, to put the five-fold vision statement into practice.

Action: *Adopted as amended (2).*

(By common consent verse 32 was added in the first line of the resolution, and in the second vision statement the word *Christ* was substituted for *people.*)

To Change Commission on Black Ministry to Board for Black Ministry Services and to Grant Seat on Council on Mission and Ministry and on Council of Administrators

RESOLUTION 2-02

Report R1-03 (*CW*, pp. 32–34); Overtures 2-34, 2-37 (*CW*, pp. 145–46)

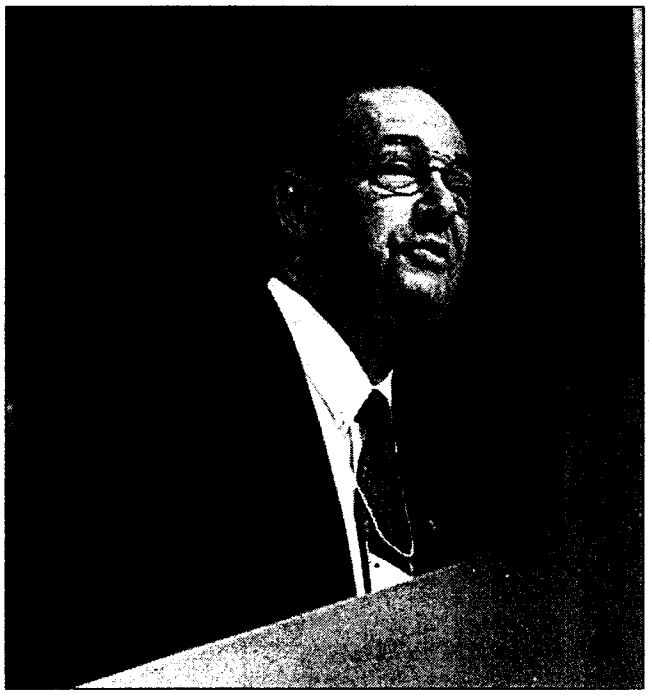
WHEREAS, The 1977 Dallas convention created a Commission on Black Ministry; and

WHEREAS, The commission, with the approval of the Board of Directors on March 1–3, 1991, and the Board for Mission Services on June 30, 1991, was given additional responsibilities which resulted in its operating like other boards; and

WHEREAS, It is desirable for the board to have voting representation on the Council on Mission and Ministry and on the Council of Administrators; and

WHEREAS, Under Res. 4-02A of the 1992 Pittsburgh convention, a board has voting representation on the Mission and Ministry Council and the Council of Administrators; and

WHEREAS, As the rich gifts of additional ethnic and cultural ministries are emerging with growing numbers or emphasis; therefore be it



Committee 2 Chairman Theodore L. Laesch

Resolved, That during the next triennium the Board for Congregational Services and the Board for Mission Services continue to develop ways for all minorities to have an appropriate voice and representation in the church; and be it further

Resolved, That the Commission on Black Ministry be named the Board for Black Ministry Services and be represented by vote on the Council on Mission and Ministry and on the Council of Administrators; and be it further

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.900 be amended to replace the reference to the "executive secretary of the Board for Mission Services" with the "executive director of the Board for Black Ministry Services"; and be it further

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.901 be amended to reflect the following policy-making, evaluative, and programmatic responsibilities of the Board for Black Ministry Services:

a. Develop policies that will assist congregations in reaching out more effectively with the Gospel of Jesus Christ among African Americans.

b. Evaluate the effectiveness and administration of plans and programs designed to coordinate and expand Black ministry in the Synod in cooperation with the Convocation of Black Lutheran congregations, appropriate boards, and the President of the Synod.

c. Represent the concerns of Black ministry before the boards, commissions, committees, and judicatories of the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.55 be amended to provide that a Board for Black Ministry Services be appointed as prescribed in current Bylaw 3.900; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Commission on Constitutional Matters make any other Bylaw changes necessary to implement this action.

Action: *Adopted as amended (7).*

(Resolution 2-02 was first considered in session 2 and was defeated. In that same session delegates agreed to reconsider the resolution. Floor committee 2 brought to session 7 a revised resolution which had amended the original resolution by an additional whereas which stated *Whereas, As the rich gifts of additional ethnic and cultural ministries such as Hispanic, Korean, Chinese, Hmong, Vietnamese, Native American, Jewish, and Deaf Ministries are emerging with growing numbers or emphasis.* The word *Hawaiian* was first added by common consent. An amendment was then proposed to delete the words *such as ... Deaf Ministries* from the amendment proposed by the floor committee. After agreeing to cease debate on both the amendment to the amendment and the amendment, declining to divide the previous question, the amendment to the amendment, the amendment, and the motion as amended were adopted.)

To Retain the Commission on Worship and to Build an Integrated and Coordinated Relationship between the Staffs of Commission on Worship and Board of Congregational Services

RESOLUTION 2-03A

Reports R-2-01, 2-04 (*CW*, pp. 41–43, 49–51); Overtures 2-01–07, 2-10 (*CW*, pp. 135–38); L2-63 (*TB*, p. 19)

Rationale:

The Word of God and the Sacraments are the very lifeblood of the church, in which God offers and gives forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. The Divine Service is the corporate setting in which the means of grace are given for the faith and life of the church, as has been confessed in the past, is confessed now, and will be transmitted to future generations. It is therefore incumbent upon our LCMS to be able to address the great variety of questions that arise across the Synod concerning various customs, practices, and cultures which affect the life of the church.

Worship is therefore not an isolated practice and activity of the church. A Commission on Worship cannot effectively serve the Synod without integrating and coordinating its work with the work of other important areas of ministry. Our Synod holds a vision: one which is strongly in the Word, people sensitive and people centered, reaching out boldly with the Gospel, faithful to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, and marked by peace and unity in the Lord. In leading, teaching, and assisting our people in worship, our synodical leaders and staff need to work together to reflect our common vision.

Resolved, That the Synod retain the Commission on Worship as a commission under the President of the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That, in addition to consulting with the President of the Synod, the Commission on Worship shall seek advice from the executive director of the Board for Congregational Services in appointing the executive director of the Commission on Worship; and be it further

Resolved, That the executive director of the Commission on Worship shall work closely with the executive director and staff of the Board for Congregational Services. He shall also serve as an advisory member to the Board for Congregational Services. In addition, the executive director shall advise and interrelate with the staff of the Board for Congregational Services, assisting in the development and coordination of worship materials for each congregational service area, while addressing their unique issues and concerns; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Bylaws for this commission read as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/*PROPOSED* WORDING

3.927 Personnel and Appointment

a. A Commission on Worship shall be appointed by the President of the Synod after consultation with the Vice-Presidents. It shall ~~be composed~~ *consist* of seven members and include ordained and commissioned ministers, and laypersons. ~~The Board for Parish Services shall appoint one of its members to serve as liaison.~~

b. The commission may solicit the assistance of other persons who are well qualified to render valuable and necessary service to the church through the commission. Such persons ~~shall~~ *may* serve as advisory members.

3.928 Functions and Duties

The commission shall

a. make literature available to ~~members~~ *congregations* of the Synod, to develop and deepen an understanding and love for the Lutheran heritage in Christian worship and for the various media of expression needed for our worship;

b. clear all literature related to corporate Christian worship in ~~liturgies~~ *liturgy* and ~~hymnnology~~ *hymnody* made available through the Synod's *various* boards, *commissions, auxiliaries,* ~~and recognized service organizations~~ *and* ~~or~~ through Concordia Publishing House;

c. recommend worship materials to the church and advise and warn against the use of worship materials ~~which~~ *that* are unworthy of use in the ~~Christian~~ *corporate* worship of the Lutheran Church;

d. represent the Synod in the preparation of service books and hymnals in which the Synod may engage in cooperation with other synods;

e. consult with the practical and the music departments of synodical schools to establish *and affirm* principles and practices in ~~liturgies~~ *liturgy,* ~~hymnology~~, church music, and church art which best express the true ~~spirit~~ *confessional theology* of worship *in Word and Sacrament* of the Lutheran Church.

3.929 Official Service Books and Hymnals

a. All service books and hymnals ~~which~~ *that* are to be accepted as official service books and hymnals of the Synod shall be given such status only by a convention of the Synod after a process of exposure and testing decided upon by the Synod in convention.

b. Revisions in such books shall be made only by a convention of the Synod after requesting the Commission on Worship for an evaluation and recommendations.

Action: *Adopted as amended (4).*

(Before presenting the resolution, the committee deleted the reference to recognized service organizations in Bylaw 3.928 b. By common consent the word *free-standing* was removed from the title and throughout the resolution, the word *consist* was substituted for *be comprised* in Bylaw 3.927 a, and the words *of grace* were added after *means* in the second sentence of the rationale.)

To Establish Composition of Board for and Conference of Congregational Services

RESOLUTION 2-04A

Report 2-01 (*CW*, pp. 41–43); Overtures 2-08–09, 2-11–13 (*CW*, pp. 137–40)

Rationale:

The Synod has traditionally recognized various functions of the church. In the past, these have often been categorized as witness, worship, nurture, service, stewardship, and fellowship. Congregations, Districts and the national offices have worked together in support of these functions. Research in recent years involving hundreds of congregations and District and national leaders has shown that District and national programs are perceived to be used by all congregations rather than reflecting the uniqueness of each congregation. In the midst of a diverse church body with unique characteristics in each congregation, the challenge remains to bring usable, relevant service and support to the local level.

Recognizing the desire to meet better the needs of congregations, the 1992 synodical convention adopted Res. 4-02A by a 72% vote, which established the Mission and Ministry Council and Conference of Congregational Services. Res. 4-02A also authorized combining the Board for Evangelism Services, Board for Parish Services, Board for Youth Services, Council on Stewardship, and Commission on Worship into a single congregational services board effective with the 1995 synodical convention. The essential purpose of this action was to integrate, coordinate, and expand the Synod's method for mission and ministry planning and implementation.

The Conference of Congregational Services (CCS), which includes a representative from each District, from various ethnic ministries, four District staff and related national ministries representatives is to

1. provide future-oriented, shared program vision in the Congregational Services service areas;
2. provide input to the Mission and Ministry Council toward the development of a shared synodwide vision and its implications for congregational services;
3. help integrate the operations of the Congregational Services service areas to meet the expressed needs of the congregation, helping to keep the national Synod in touch with local ministries;
4. receive communications from the Districts regarding their needs and those of their congregations. Communicate synodical needs and plans with Districts and congregations.

What Has Transpired:

The CCS has met five times during the current triennium. In addition to the items listed above, the CCS has called a full-time executive director for Congregational Services, identified service areas under the Board for Congregational Services, proposed a recommendation to the 1994 District conventions regarding common congregational services alignments, provided budget and staffing directions, and participated in the National/District Staff Functions Project.

Continuous Improvement:

The Board for and Conference of Congregational Services will continually assess their respective responsibilities and structures in order to better respond to the changing needs of Districts and congregations.

Resolved, That the following Bylaws be adopted for immediate implementation of the plan for the Board for and Conference of Congregational Services:

~~PRESENT~~/*PROPOSED* WORDING

1. Board for Congregational Services

Membership

The board for Congregational Services shall consist of 11 members to be elected by the Synod in convention [3 pastors, 3 commissioned ministers, 3 laypersons, and 2 at large].

Functions

The board shall organize itself to enable vision and outcome development, to prepare and revise policies responsive to both current and anticipated situations, and to initiate action in order to meet the changing needs of Districts and congregations. Service areas will be evaluated and changed as appropriate, prior to each convention of the Synod. The board will focus its energies on helping Districts help congregations in building up disciples for service in the church and to all people in today's world.

The Board for Congregational Services, through its staff and in partnership with Districts, supports and serves congregations of the Synod in their varied range of diverse and unique ministries with

1. future-oriented, shared program vision for the Congregational Services service areas;

2. meaningful, objective research and active listening;

3. identification and communication of a diversity of models and resources (networking), supplementing such resources as necessary;

4. support of ministry to a multicultural society;

5. consulting services, visitations, workshops, and leadership training;

6. an integrated, long-range plan (shared with the Council on Mission and Ministry) with operating goals for congregational services, striking a balance between a listening and responding role in developing a common synodwide vision;

7. appropriate staffing in accordance with established personnel policies. Responsibilities will be consistent with identified vision.

2. Conference of Congregational Services

Membership

- *35 a representative from a congregational services related board in each District selected by the District Board of Directors following the District convention (an alternate representative should also be selected)*
- *4 youth of the Synod elected by their peers at a LutheranYouth Fellowship Delegate Assembly, who shall not be younger than 15 years of age nor older than 18 years of age at the time of their election*
- *4 District staff persons, chosen by their peers through their representative groups, one each from the Council of Presidents (COP), Conference of District Education Executives (CONFEDEX), and conferences for District Stewardship Executives and District Evangelism Executives*

2 a representative from the practical department of each seminary appointed by the seminary president

2 faculty representatives from the colleges/universities appointed by the Concordia University System Board of Directors

11 synodically elected Board for Congregational Services members

6 one national staff representative (or designee) from the Board for Black Ministry Services; two from the Asian ministry area (rotating between Asian communities); one Hispanic and two at-large ethnic ministry areas to be identified by each group in cooperation with the Congregational Services service area director assigned to the area of ethnic ministries

10 executive director of Board for Congregational Services and director (or designee) for each service area and the executive director of the Commission on Worship

74

Term of office for District representatives, youth representatives, District staff, seminary and college/university representatives, and ethnic representatives shall be three years. All representatives may be appointed to no more than three successive three-year terms except for youth representatives. Youth representatives serve one term of three years.

Functions

The Conference of Congregational Services meets at least annually to provide future-oriented, shared vision in congregational services and communicates the same to its respective constituencies.

The conference will

1. gather information and feedback from Districts and congregations on needs, expectations, and trends;

2. review board activities and submit appropriate recommendations to the board;

3. help integrate the operations of the Congregational Services service areas to meet the expressed needs of Districts and congregations;

4. receive communications from the Districts regarding their plans and those of their congregations and share synodical plans with them.

Resolved, That during the next and future triennia the Board for and Conference of Congregational Services continue to determine whether further refinements need to be made in view of continuing structural revisions at the District and national levels.

Resolved, That the functions and duties of all areas (child ministry, youth ministry, adult ministry, family ministry, singles ministry, school ministry, outreach ministry, leadership ministry, and stewardship ministry) that have been identified with Congregational Services be referred to the Board for Congregational Services for review and integration which are consistent with its responsibilities.

Resolved, That election to the Board for Congregational Services take place as follows:

1995—eleven (11) at large members elected by the convention with two persons elected in each category (ordained, commissioned, and lay) receiving the highest number of votes serving a six-year term and the remaining five serving a three-year term; and

1998—five (5) members elected for a six-year term.

Resolved, That the CCM make any other changes in the Bylaws required to conform with this resolution.

Action: *Adopted as amended (7).*

(The motion was amended by the addition of *singles ministry* in the third resolve. An amendment to add *Four laypeople, elected by random draw, from the lay delegates to the convention for a three-year term* to the membership of the Conference of Congregational Services was declined.)

To Commend for Study the CTCR Document *Racism and the Church*

RESOLUTION 2-05A

Overture 2-39 (*CW*, p. 147)

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations has prepared a study document on *Racism and the Church;* and

WHEREAS, There is great good when in the unity of the Spirit in the body of Christ we discuss issues which divide us and use the power of the Gospel which reconciles us; therefore be it

Resolved, That the CTCR majority and minority reports on *Racism and the Church* (*CW*, pp. 272–91 and pp. 62–64 respectively) be commended for study and conversation among our brothers and sisters in Christ, and be it further

Resolved, That we utilize the rich gifts of our ethnic diversity through representation on boards and commissions of the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That we use the means of grace, applying the proper distinction between Law and Gospel to expose, condemn, remove, and heal divisions caused by sin; and be it finally

Resolved, That the President of the Synod and the CTCR receive the responses from the church's study and conversation on the majority and minority reports on *Racism and the Church* that they may integrate such responses into future discussion and action.

Action: *Adopted (2).*

(The title was changed by the committee, substituting the words *Commend for* for *Receive and.*)

To Address Concerns Relating to Congregational Worship

RESOLUTION 2-06

Overtures 2-15–23 (*CW*, pp. 140–43)

Rationale:

The worship life of the congregation stands at the heart of the Lutheran faith, tradition, and hope and expresses publicly our theology of the cross. Article III of Synod's Constitution states: "The Synod, under Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, shall—7 Encourage congregations to strive for uniformity in church practice, but also to develop an appreciation of a variety of responsible practices and customs which are in harmony with our common profession of faith."

In 1992 the Pittsburgh convention in Res. 2-02 and 3-16 addressed worship needs in the Synod. Worship matters continue to be a matter of increasing urgency. Concern has been raised in a number of overtures regarding the divergency of services and music used throughout the Synod. In an effort to supply theological guidelines for responsible practices in worship in our midst, be it

Resolved, That the Commission on Worship, in consultation with the Commission on Theology and Church Relations and the seminary faculties, study the theology of worship and develop guidelines to give congregations practical assistance to foster worship consistent with Lutheran theology and practice. Such guidelines should encourage liturgies, sermons, hymns, songs, prayers, etc., which

1. are Christ centered and not human centered;
2. distinguish properly between Law and Gospel;
3. emphasize the Gospel of Christ's forgiveness;
4. are faithful to the Word of God and in harmony with our Lutheran Confessions;

and be it further

Resolved, That the Commission on Worship provide these guidelines in a form that will be available for use in the fall of 1997 in District conferences, circuit conferences, forums, and the like.

Action: *Adopted as amended (9).*

(It was proposed that the words *for the purpose of hymnal revision* be added after *etc.* in the first resolve. The convention was informed that this matter is already in process. By common consent the word *the* was added before *Lutheran* and *tradition* after *faith* in the first sentence of the rationale.)

To Provide Synodically Developed Worship Resources

RESOLUTION 2-07

Report R2-04 (*CW*, pp. 49–51); Overtures 2-24, 2-26–28, 2-36 (*CW*, pp. 143–44, 146)

Rationale:

There has been a proliferation of new orders of service among the congregations of the Synod. Many of these orders fail to include the basic elements of evangelical Lutheran worship. The Synod's Constitution calls for "exclusive use of doctrinally pure agenda, hymnbooks, and catechisms in church and school" (Art. VI 4). While there is room for diversity in worship practice in our midst, such diversity must be based upon our common confession of the faith. The Synod's Commission on Worship has provided helpful resources such as "What Is Basic in Lutheran Worship?" In order to further encourage thoroughly Lutheran worship, be it

Resolved, That congregations be encouraged to use the synodically approved hymnals: *The Lutheran Hymnal* or *Lutheran Worship;* and be it further

Resolved, That pastors, musicians, and laity of our church be encouraged to attend Real Life Worship Conferences which emphasize sound biblical and confessional Lutheran worship, theology, and practice; and be it further

Resolved, That the Commission on Worship provide evaluation of other worship resources being used or considered throughout the Synod through publication in *Lutheran Worship Notes;* and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod in convention encourage the Commission on Worship in its plans to issue a supplement to *Lutheran Worship,* also giving consideration to hymns of various ethnic origins; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Commission on Worship develop new musical and textual materials to augment present worship resources of the Synod.

Action: *Adopted (9).*

To Encourage Every Sunday Communion

RESOLUTION 2-08A

Overture 2-51 (*CW*, pp. 149–50)

WHEREAS, The opportunity to receive the Lord's Supper each Lord's Day was a reality cherished by Luther and set forth clearly with high esteem by our Lutheran Confessions (Article XXIV of the Augsburg Confession and of the Apology); and

WHEREAS, Our Synod's 1983 CTCR document on the Lord's Supper (p. 28) and our Synod's 1986 translation of Luther's Catechism both remind us that the Scriptures place the Lord's Supper at the center of worship (Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:20, 33), and not as an appendage or an occasional extra; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention encourage its pastors and congregations to study the scriptural, confessional, and historical witness to every Sunday communion with a view to recovering the opportunity for receiving the Lord's Supper each Lord's Day.

Action: *Adopted (4).*

(An amendment to add *in every service* before *each Lord's Day* in the resolve was declined as was an amendment to add a final resolve stating that those who would commune would be examined and absolved. Delegates declined to consider a substitute motion which would leave the decision regarding the frequency of offering the Lord's Supper with each congregation, and an amendment which would have requested the Commission on Worship to bring to the congregations materials which would be instructive with regard to the frequency of offering the Lord's Supper was declined.)

To Reaffirm Lutheran Catechetical Instruction

RESOLUTION 2-09A

Overture 2-59 (*CW*, p. 151)

WHEREAS, The Word of God is the only rule and norm of Christian faith and life; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Confessions, which include Luther's Small Catechism, are a faithful exposition of the truth of God's Word; and

WHEREAS, The historic hymns and liturgy of the Lutheran church are also faithful expositions of God's Word; and

WHEREAS, Some catechetical instruction, especially for adults, does not stress the use of Luther's Small Catechism and a Lutheran hymnal; therefore be it

Resolved, That pastors and congregations of the Synod provide thorough Lutheran catechetical instruction that uses the Holy Scriptures, Luther's Catechisms, and a Lutheran hymnal with all who desire communicant membership.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

(By common consent the word *approved* was first inserted before *Lutheran hymnal* in the resolve. However, by vote of the delegates it was deleted. An amendment to state *is in agreement with the Holy Scriptures as properly expressed in Luther's Catechisms and other confessional writings* following the word *that* in the resolve and deleting the rest of the resolve as proposed was declined.)

To Avoid Overemphasis on Numbers and Encourage Thorough Instruction of New Members

RESOLUTION 2-10A

Overture 2-60 (*CW*, p. 151)

WHEREAS, Increase in numbers is regarded as a mark of success in temporal businesses; and

WHEREAS, Some have equated growth in numbers with spiritual success in evangelism and church work; and

WHEREAS, Every congregation and every Christian has the obligation both to keep the message straight and to get the message out; and

WHEREAS, Scripture indicates that God wishes His church to grow but points quite clearly to the fact that this growth must come through the working of the Holy Spirit in Word and Sacrament; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod, its Districts and congregations, be reminded that the gaining of converts must be accomplished by the Holy Spirit, who works through Word and Sacrament rather than through a variety of human techniques; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod, its Districts and congregations, be reminded of the importance of thorough instruction in the Word before individuals are accepted into church membership.

Action: *Adopted as amended (11).*

(The resolution was amended by inserting the words *the Synod, its Districts and* before the word *congregations* in both resolves and deleting the words *and individuals* from the first resolve.)

To Address National/District Youth Gatherings

RESOLUTION 2-11B

Overture 2-31 (*CW*, p. 145)

WHEREAS, The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation, of which we are not ashamed; and

WHEREAS, National and District youth gatherings are tremendous opportunities to promote the development of the Christian faith of young people as they boldly confess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior; and

WHEREAS, Such development is founded upon Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions; and

WHEREAS, Such gatherings are to promote unity of the Spirit through the proper use of Word and Sacrament; and

WHEREAS, Such gatherings are to promote Christian service and leadership for youth; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention give thanks to God for the many blessings these significant events have been in the lives of young people; and be it further

Resolved, That sound biblical and doctrinal theology and practice in harmony with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be evident in plenary sessions, worship, workshops, and other planned activities; and be it further

Resolved, That all plenary and workshop speakers, preachers, and officiants be approved by the synodical/District President; and be it finally

Resolved, That the synodical Commission on Worship/corresponding District worship equivalent approve all service materials and procedures.

Action: *Adopted (9).*

(An amendment calling for the addition of the words *other than those whose names are on the official roster of the Synod* after the word *officiants* in the third resolve and for deleting the word *approve* in the final resolve and substituting the words *review and give advice regarding* was declined. A motion to reconsider adoption of the resolution was lost.)

To Support Rural Church Ministry

RESOLUTION 2-12A

Overture 2-57 (*CW*, p. 151)

WHEREAS, Our Lord has provided faithful and caring people in rural congregations who seek to reach out to people who are not in their current membership; and

WHEREAS, According to demographics, 10 Districts have 50 percent or more of their congregations located geographically in rural settings; and

WHEREAS, 2,200 LCMS congregations (35 percent) are located in open-country settings up to 2,500 people, making their living in retirement or recreation, agribusiness, manufacturing, timbering, and fishing communities; and

WHEREAS, Our Gospel message does not change, but the situation in which we share it does; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board for Congregational Services and the District staffs be encouraged to work together to assist rural congregations at their request; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Congregational Services through a recently formed Rural Ministry Task Force (1) network with the Districts the related resources in rural ministry; (2) establish leadership training for rural ministry leaders on understanding rural culture, rural community change, staffing and planning for growth, conflict management, and congregational relationships in the community; and (3) work with our colleges and seminaries to provide opportunities to train pastors and ministers of religion—commissioned assigned to rural congregations, especially complementing the Rural Ministry Program, Concordia College, Seward; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board of Directors be encouraged to provide funding to the Board for Congregational Services to support ministry in rural congregations through the Districts.

Action: *No action.*

(A motion was proposed from the floor stating the following:

WHEREAS, Rural churches have provided time, money, and people to churches and missions throughout the United States and the world; and

WHEREAS, According to demographics many rural communities have decreased in population significantly and are suffering financially; and

WHEREAS, Many rural congregations have suffered financially because of man-made and natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, There is no established fund or organization specifically designed to help rural congregations suffering financially, and many people have the desire to help but do not know how they can; therefore be it

Resolved, That a special ad hoc committee be established to organize a "Rural Ministry Fund" to raise and seek funds to provide grants to encourage and to support rural congregations because of a man-made or natural disaster. And that the proposed "Rural Ministry Fund" and all its structure be brought to the next convention for approval.

The resolution was referred to the Rural Task Force in Resolution A.)

To Commend Support for Concordia Historical Institute

RESOLUTION 2-13

Overture 2-48 (*CW*, p. 149)

WHEREAS, A sense of church history is invaluable in order to maintain a proper perspective and one's confessional identity; and

WHEREAS, The historical message of our great Gospel heritage must move from our institutional archives to the highways and byways in order to make a powerful positive impact upon future generations; and

WHEREAS, Concordia Historical Institute (CHI) plays a critical role in keeping members of our Missouri Synod aware of its rich Gospel roots, so that we might continue to bear great Gospel fruits; and

WHEREAS, The CHI has for years been operating with a shrinking synodical subsidy, a staff far too small to propagate more of its vital message, and a need for fiscal support to make its gold mine of information more accessible to the public; and

WHEREAS, The occasion of the Synod's 150th anniversary provides an opportunity for increased awareness and appreciation of our history; therefore be it

Resolved, That convention delegates make known to their respective Circuit congregations the crucial role of CHI; and be it further

Resolved, That convention delegates encourage their respective Circuits to encourage endowment gifts to CHI; and be it finally

Resolved, That CHI be commended to the Synod's Board of Directors for increased synodical subsidy in future budget consideration.

Action: *Adopted as amended (11).*

(By common consent the word *congregations* was added after *Circuit* in the first resolve and the words *encourage endowment gifts* were substituted for *grant endowments* in the second resolve.)

To Require Transfer of Records of Retiring Synodical Officers

RESOLUTION 2-14

Overture 2-49 (*CW*, p. 149)

WHEREAS, Bylaw 3.705 of the *Handbook* provides for the regular transfer of the records of synodical officers, boards, commissions, committees, and other entities to the Concordia Historical Institute for preservation; and

WHEREAS, Such regular transfer of records is essential for the proper preservation of the Synod's life and work and to enable the Institute, as the synodical Department of Archives and History, to serve the interests of the Synod by providing essential information when needed in the future; and

WHEREAS, The records created by synodical officers, boards, commissions, committees, and other entities are the property of the Synod and should only be disposed of under procedures and guidelines established by the Department of Archives and History; and

WHEREAS, Records of retiring synodical officers have not always been transferred to the Institute in a timely manner, resulting in the loss of valuable and essential information to the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.705 "Transfer of Records" be amended to read as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/*PROPOSED* WORDING

3.705 Transfer of Records

a. All records created by officers of the Synod, boards, commissions, committees, task forces, and other entities owned or controlled by the Synod are the property of the Synod and may be disposed of only under procedures and guidelines established by the Department of Archives and History and supervised by it.

b. [Present paragraph a.]

c. The records of retiring officers (President, First Vice-President, Secretary) not needed by their successors shall be transferred to the Department of Archives and History within six months after they leave office. Such transfer shall be done under the auspices of the Department of Archives and History's staff and in consultation with the successor in the office.

d–j. [Present paragraphs b–h.]

Action: *Adopted (11).*

To Reaffirm Concordia Publishing House's Purpose and Direction

RESOLUTION 2-15A

Overture 2-61 (*CW*, p. 152)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod was even before its organization concerned with good Lutheran (scriptural) printed materials; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran church was blessed by the publication *Der Lutheraner* before its inception as The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, C. F. W. Walther begins in the first issue of *Der Lutheraner* with a statement of purpose that not only sets forth his aims, but even today eloquently summarizes the purpose of Lutheran publishing, stating:

It is our duty to testify to our local fellow citizens what is believed and taught in our church and hence according to what principles we are acting ... It shall serve particularly:

1. To acquaint (the reader) with the doctrine, the treasures, and the history of the Lutheran Church;

2. To offer proof that this church does not belong in the category of the Christian sects, and that it is not a new, but rather the old, true church of Jesus Christ on earth, and that it by no means died off, indeed cannot

> die, according to Christ's promise: "Behold, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Our paper will further
>
> 3. Serve to show how a person as a true Lutheran can have the right faith, life, suffer patiently, and die blissfully; and finally
>
> 4. To expose prevalent false and misleading doctrines, to refute and warn against them, and in particular, to unmask those who falsely call themselves Lutheran and who in this name spread false faith, unbelief, and "enthusiasm," and thereby arouse in members of other parties the worst prejudices against our church.
>
> Conscious of this ... we also will not conduct ourselves as those who alone are true Lutherans and alone possess the truth, but rather testify that God has done great things also for us and has brought us to the lively knowledge of the only saving faith. (*Der Lutheraner,* vol. 1, no. 1, p. 1, Sept. 7, 1844);

and

WHEREAS, During this time there has been no change in the basic purpose of Concordia Publishing House; and

WHEREAS, The Barna Research Group in a study entitled "Never on a Sunday: The Challenge of the Unchurched" reported that the unchurched *want* (emphasis added) to know in a clear and unambiguous fashion what a church body stands for and what its denominational affiliation is; and

WHEREAS, Even today our Lutheran heritage, doctrine, and name remain a great treasure and identify us as those who teach the Word in its truth and purity and rightly administer the Sacraments according to Christ's institution; and

WHEREAS, Concordia Publishing House is the official publishing arm of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, 1994 was the 125th anniversary of the founding of Concordia Publishing House; therefore be it

Resolved, That we thank God for the years of service that Concordia Publishing House has provided the church; and be it further

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.290 b be amended to read as follows: "The purpose of Concordia Publishing House is to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ *as it bears witness to the treasure of our Lutheran heritage, doctrine, and name*"; and be it finally

Resolved, That this revised purpose be kept at the forefront of all decisions henceforth made in the operation of the Synod's publishing house.

Action: *No action.*

To Give Thanks for the River of Light Youth Gathering

RESOLUTION 2-16

Report R2-02 (*CW,* p. 44–46)

WHEREAS, The 1995 synodical Youth Gathering in San Antonio, Texas, brought together 28,000 youth and adults from across the United States and around the world (the largest gathering ever in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for an extended event); and

WHEREAS, Under the theme "River of Light," the participants rejoiced in God's grace in Baptism, discovered anew the truth of God's Word and its application to their lives, reverently received our Savior's body and blood in the Lord's Supper, shared the joy of the light of Christ's redemption, and were commissioned to be points of light by witnessing in their homes, churches, schools, and communities; and

WHEREAS, The River of Light Youth Gathering utilized the ideas, talents, and gifts of many ordained and commissioned ministers, youth and laypeople of our church body working with synodical leaders and staff; and

WHEREAS, The River of Light Youth Gathering positively impacted the City of San Antonio by corporate witness and by the involvement of thousands of participants in servant events meeting human and practical needs; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod assembled in convention give thanks to our Lord for the youth of our Synod and for His blessings upon and through the 1995 River of Light Youth Gathering; and be it further

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod assembled in convention pledge to support, encourage, and guide the planning of the 1998 Youth Gathering in Atlanta, Georgia, that it, too, may honor our Lord and contribute to the edification of Christ's body.

Action: *Adopted (9).*

3. Theology and Church Relations

To Formalize Altar and Pulpit Fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Paraguay (Iglesia Evangélica Luterana del Paraguay)

RESOLUTION 3-01

Report R3-01, II, A, 1, b (*CW*, pp. 60–61); Overture 3-01 (*CW*, p. 153)

WHEREAS, The Iglesia Evangélica Luterana del Paraguay (IELPA) has its origin in 1938 through the missionary efforts of the Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Argentina (IELA), a sister church of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, The IELPA has existed as an independent church since 1983 through the assistance of the Igreja Evangélica Luterana do Brasil (IELB), also a sister church of the LCMS; and

WHEREAS, The IELPA has requested the formalization of altar and pulpit fellowship between our two church bodies; and

WHEREAS, Representatives of the IELPA and the LCMS have prepared a protocol document that outlines a partnership agreement between our two church bodies; and

WHEREAS, Doctrinal discussions between our two church bodies have revealed that complete agreement between our two church bodies in doctrine and practice exists; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations has reviewed the appropriate governing documents of the IELPA and has recommended the formal recognition of altar and pulpit fellowship with the IELPA; therefore be it

Resolved, That we acknowledge with gratitude to God the unity of confession that has been given to our church bodies under the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions; and be it further

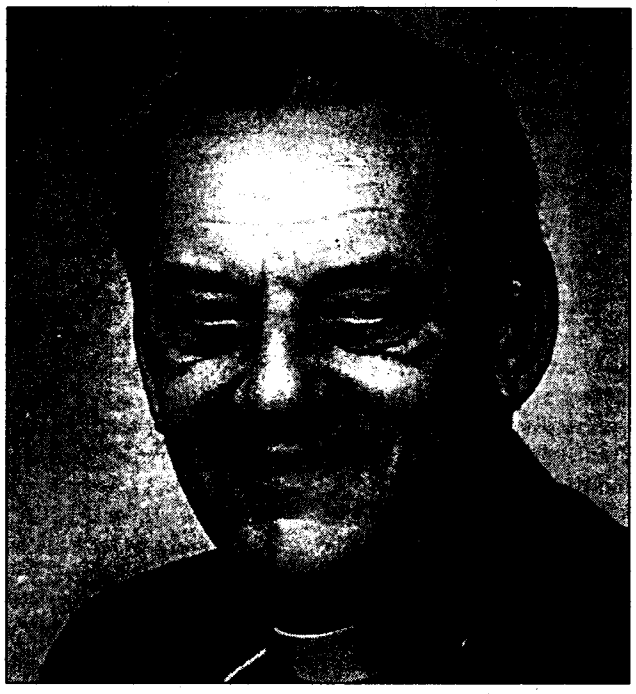
Resolved, That we gratefully thank God for the missionary efforts and the assistance given to the IELPA by the IELA and the IELB over all these years; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS formally recognize the existence of altar and pulpit fellowship with the IELPA; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod officially recognize the Iglesia Evangélica Luterana del Paraguay as a partner church and that the President of the Synod be responsible for implementing this relationship as soon as possible; and be it finally

Resolved, That we pray for God's blessings in the coming years on the agreement in the confession of the Gospel that we enjoy.

Action: *Adopted (2).*



Committee 3 Chairman George F. Wollenburg

To Formalize Altar and Pulpit Fellowship with the Free Evangelical—Lutheran Synod in South Africa (Freie Evangelisch—Lutherische Synode Südafrika)

RESOLUTION 3-02

Report R3-01, II, A, 1, d (*CW*, p. 61); Overture 3-02 (*CW*, p. 153)

WHEREAS, The Free Evangelical—Lutheran Synod in South Africa (FELSISA) and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) have, under God's blessings, enjoyed a long history of fraternal ties and relationships; and

WHEREAS, Our two church bodies have for many years experienced an informal fellowship relationship growing out of our common ties with our sister churches in Germany; and

WHEREAS, Both of our church bodies enjoy altar and pulpit fellowship with the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (LCSA); and

WHEREAS, The FELSISA and the LCSA are both committed to improving the practical implementation of this fellowship between their churches in order to bear witness to their unity in Christ; and

WHEREAS, The FELSISA has expressed its desire to discuss "possible church-relationship between our two churches"; and

WHEREAS, Doctrinal discussion between representatives of our two church bodies took place in South Africa in Feb-

ruary 1994 which revealed that our two church bodies have complete agreement in doctrine and in practice; and

WHEREAS, A protocol document outlining a partnership agreement between the LCMS and the FELSISA has been jointly drawn up; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations, following a careful review of the FELSISA constitution, has recommended that the LCMS declare "formal recognition of altar and pulpit fellowship" with this church body (cf. Bylaw 13.03); therefore be it

Resolved, That the LCMS express its thanksgiving and praise to God for our brothers and sisters in Christ in the FELSISA; and be it further

Resolved, That we gratefully recognize the unity of confession that has been given to our church bodies under the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS formally acknowledge the existence of altar and pulpit fellowship with the FELSISA; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS officially recognize the FELSISA as a partner church and that the President of the Synod be responsible for implementing this relationship as soon as possible; and be it finally

Resolved, That we pray for God's continued blessings in the years ahead on our two churches and the fellowship we have come to enjoy.

Action: *Adopted (2).*

To Join the International Lutheran Council

RESOLUTION 3-03A

Report R3-01, II, A, 1, a (*CW*, p. 60)

WHEREAS, The International Lutheran Conference, an association of approximately 25 confessional Lutheran churches, among them The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), in its 1991 meeting in Hong Kong expressed the need to have stronger structures and to reinforce the ties that unite its member churches, in order to strengthen their witness in the world; and

WHEREAS, At its 1993 meeting in Antigua, Guatemala, the organization made the following decisions:

- To change its name to "International Lutheran Council" (ILC);
- To adopt a new constitution with a solid declaration of doctrine; and
- To ask the churches involved to support the ILC by joining it through an official declaration;

and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod rejoices over everything which advances unity among Lutheran churches which are committed to the authority of Holy Scripture and to the Lutheran Confessions; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod express its happiness that such mutual support has become strengthened; and be it further

Resolved, That we state our sincere hope that the International Lutheran Council may carry on the task it has assigned to itself, and to that end asks the Lord to grant His greatest blessings so that the witness of the ILC churches may glorify Him and be heard throughout the world; and be it finally

Resolved, That, since membership in the ILC does not involve pulpit and altar fellowship where it has not been established, the LCMS declare that it is a member of the ILC.

Action: *Adopted (4).*

(Upon request of a delegate, a list of members of the International Lutheran Council was provided. It consists of the following:

AFRICA	
Ghana	*Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana* President: The Rt. Rev. Paul Kofi Fynn
Nigeria	*The Lutheran Church of Nigeria* President: The Rev. Samuel J. Udofia
South Africa	*Lutheran Church in Southern Africa* Bishop: The Rev. David P. Tswaedi
EAST ASIA	
Hong Kong	*The Lutheran Church—Hong Kong Synod* President: The Rev. Dante Yeung
Japan	*Japan Lutheran Church* President: Dr. Tohru Shiba
Korea	*Lutheran Church in Korea* President: Dr. Hae Chul Kim
Republic of China	*China Evangelical Lutheran Church* President: The Rev. Chao-Chien
EUROPE	
Denmark	*The Evangelical Lutheran Free Church of Denmark* President: The Rev. Leif G. Jensen
England	*Evangelical Lutheran Church of England* Chairman: The Rev. Marvin Brammier
Finland	*The Confessional Lutheran Church of Finland* President: The Rev. Markku Särelä
France	*Evangelical Lutheran Church—Synod of France and Belgium* President: Dr. Wilbert Kreiss
Germany	*Selbstandige Evangelisch—Lutherische Kirche* Bishop: Dr. Jobst Schöne
LATIN AMERICA	
Argentina	*Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina* President: The Rev. Waldomiro Maili
Brazil	*Igreja Evangélica Luterana do Brasil* President: The Rev. Leopoldo Heimann

Chile	*Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Republic of Chile* President: The Rev. Juan Jose Mueller
Guatemala	*Lutheran Church of Guatemala* President: The Rev. David Rodriquez
Mexico	*Lutheran Synod of Mexico* President: The Rev. Jaziel E. Lopez Fajardo
Paraguay	*The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Paraguay* President: The Rev. Eugenio Wentzel
Venezuela	*Sociedad Luterana de Evangelizacion en Venezuela* President: The Rev. Gilberto Alcides Franco

NORTH AMERICA

Canada	*Lutheran Church—Canada* President: Dr. Edwin Lehman
U.S.A.	*The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod* President: Dr. Alvin L. Barry

SOUTHEAST ASIA AND AUSTRALIA

Australia	*Lutheran Church of Australia* President: Dr. Lance G. Steicke
India	*India Evangelical Lutheran Church* President: The Rev. Isaac Moon
New Guinea	*Gutnius Lutheran Church* Head Bishop: The Rev. David Piso
Philippines	*The Lutheran Church in the Philippines* President: The Rev. Eduardo C. Ladlad)

To Continue the CTCR and Ask It to Review Its Procedures

RESOLUTION 3-04A

Report R3-01 (*CW*, p. 56); Overtures 3-80–103, 7-90 (*CW*, pp. 176–82, 252)

Preamble:

The Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) was established by the Synod in 1962 (Res. 6-03) to "assist the President at his request in discharging his constitutional responsibilities" and to "provide guidance to the Synod in matters of theology and church relations" (Bylaw 3.925 a, b). It was designed to have broad representation, and this representation has been changed twice in response to changing needs [1981 Res. 2-18B, 1986 Res. 3-16]. Today its membership includes seminary faculty members, parish pastors, a parish teacher, a District president and laypersons. This representative body is elected or appointed by the Synod in convention, the seminary faculties, the President of the Synod and the Council of Presidents (Bylaw 3.921). It has served the Synod well in providing guidance to the Synod on a wide variety of theological issues.

The CTCR plays a vital role in church relations, communicating the Synod's doctrinal position to other church bodies and groups through theological dialogs and responding to dialog statements. It supports relationships with other confessional Lutherans throughout the world by providing staff service for the International Lutheran Council. It is apparent these church relation activities will continue to increase.

Because of the work load, the complex nature of the issues before the CTCR, and the mandate often given by the Synod's conventions to consult with other groups on certain issues, theological studies and opinions of the CTCR are not always issued in a timely fashion. It is apparent that thought needs to be given to which issues are most appropriate for the CTCR to discuss and which issues might be given to seminary faculties for an opinion.

Resolved, That the staff and members of the CTCR be commended for their faithful service to the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That the CTCR as a body representative of the Synod, and working in concert with the President of the Synod, continue to provide theological guidance and leadership by carrying out the responsibilities assigned to it by the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That the CTCR, under the oversight of the President of the Synod, initiate an internal review of its procedures and the topics it can most appropriately address for the purpose of streamlining its operation in order to issue its opinions in as timely a fashion as possible, inviting appropriate groups or individuals to participate in this review; and be it finally

Resolved, That the CTCR report to the 1998 convention of the Synod concerning results of this review, including any necessary changes in procedure and structure.

Action: *Adopted (4).*

To Address Concerns Regarding Woman Suffrage

RESOLUTION 3-05

Overtures 3-76–78; (*CW*, pp. 175–76)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod declared in 1969, and has subsequently reaffirmed, the position that "Scripture does not prohibit women from exercising the franchise in congregational ... assemblies" (1969 Res. 2-17), thereby placing the matter of woman suffrage into the realm of Christian liberty; and

WHEREAS, Some members of the Synod continue to believe that woman's suffrage is not in the realm of Christian freedom, but is contrary to the Scriptures and that the Synod was in error when in 1969 it changed its position regarding the permissibility of women exercising the franchise in voters' assemblies; and

WHEREAS, Other members of the Synod agree with the position of the Synod that woman's suffrage does indeed lie in the area of Christian liberty, but for various reasons, including the sensitivity of consciences of individuals, believe woman's suffrage is not advisable in their midst; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod reaffirm the 1969 Res. 2-17; and be it further

Resolved, That members of the Synod who are convinced that woman's suffrage does not lie in the area of Christian

freedom but is contrary to the Word of God, be urged to make use of the established procedures for expressing dissent (Bylaw 2.39 c); and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod declare that honest Christian conscience can and does exist on both sides of this issue, but such difference of opinion is not divisive of Christian fellowship; and be it further

Resolved, That the members of the Synod, with due sensitivity to those for whom change in this area is a matter of conscience, continue to exercise Christian love and patience in all discussions and deliberations on this subject; and be it finally

Resolved, That we beseech the members of the Synod, by the mercies of God to honor and uphold its resolutions "until such time as the Synod amends or repeals them" (Bylaw 1.09 b).

Action: *Adopted (4).*

(During discussion delegates declined to consider an amendment which was ruled a substitute motion as well as an amendment to substitute the words *doctrinal difference* for *Christian conscience* and the words *can be divisive* for *is not divisive* in the third resolve.)

To Continue to Study *The Service of Women in Congregational and Synodical Offices* in Light of "Dissenting Report" and Other Ongoing Studies by the CTCR on the Role of Women in the Church

RESOLUTION 3-06A

Report R3-01, I, A, 4 and 13 (*CW*, pp. 57–58); Overtures 3-40, 3-42–67, 3-72 (*CW*, pp. 164–74)

WHEREAS, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR), in response to a request from the 1989 synodical convention, has prepared its report, *The Service of Women in Congregational and Synodical Offices;* and

WHEREAS, Five members of the CTCR have prepared a "Dissenting Opinion" in which they have expressed concerns about various aspects of this report; and

WHEREAS, This report was not completed until December of 1994 and has not had suitable time for widespread study and discussion; and

WHEREAS, The CTCR has unanimously recommended that its report, together with the dissenting opinion and its previous documents such as *Women in the Church,* be studied throughout the Synod during the coming triennium; and

WHEREAS, The CTCR presently has on its agenda a number of studies on the role of women in the church, including the June 1994 request of the Atlantic District convention to address concerns regarding the priesthood of all believers, the order of creation, and the Greek word *authentein* ("have authority," NKJV, 1 Tim. 2:12) (Report R3-01, 13, *CW* p. 58); therefore be it

Resolved, That the CTCR be commended for its work; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod in convention urge that the report of the CTCR on *The Service of Women in Congregational and Synodical Offices* together with the "Dissenting Opinion," be studied by the members of the Synod, asking them to respond to the CTCR during the coming triennium; and be it further

Resolved, That the CTCR take into account the comments, concerns, and responses received; and be it further

Resolved, That the CTCR, in consultation with the faculties of the seminaries, continue to study the issues contained in *The Service of Women in Congregational and Synodical Offices* and the "Dissenting Opinion;" and be it further

Resolved, That the CTCR give this topic of the service of women in congregational and synodical offices the highest priority; and be it finally

Resolved, That the members of the Synod continue to uphold its position on women serving in congregational offices and to abide by the position as stated in the 1970 opinion of the Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) that congregations may allow women to hold all congregational offices except those of chairman, vice-chairman, elder, and any other board or policy-making committee "whose chairmanship the congregation might wish to restrict to men." (See 1995 *Convention Workbook,* p. 317, "1970 Opinion of Commission on Constitutional Matters, 'Suggestions for Congregational Constitutions or Bylaws regarding the Privileges of Women [Voting and Holding Offices]'.")

Action: *Adopted as amended (9).*

(By common consent the fifth resolve was amended by deletion of the words *one of* and changing *priorities* to *priority.* An amendment to delete the final resolve was declined, as was an amendment to delete the words *urge that* and substitute *commend* and to delete *together with the "Dissenting Opinion"* in the second resolve.)

To Establish the Procedure by Which Laymen Licensed to Perform Functions of the Pastoral Office Be Called and Ordained into the Ministerium of the LCMS

RESOLUTION 3-07A

Report R1-8-02 (*CW*, p. 8); Overtures 3-24, 3-27–28, 3-30, 3-116–18 (*CW*, pp. 159–62, 186–87)

WHEREAS, Res. 3-05B of the 57th Regular Convention of the Synod authorized District Presidents to license certain laymen to perform functions belonging to the pastoral office—preaching, leading in public worship, and administering the Sacraments—under the supervision of an ordained minister in exceptional circumstances where no local pastor is available; and

WHEREAS, Any man performing the functions of the pastoral ministry as a licensed layman should be called by the congregation which he is serving and ordained into the pastoral office (or, as in the case of fieldworkers, vicars, or special colloquy students, he should be preparing to receive such call and ordination); and

WHEREAS, Laymen licensed to perform functions belonging to the pastoral office desire and should receive the theological education necessary to carry out these duties; and

WHEREAS, The seminaries of the Synod are prepared and desirous to provide these men with such theological education and so to prepare and certify them to be called and ordained into the pastoral ministry of the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That any layman who is licensed to perform pastoral functions under the guidelines of said Res. 3-05B be required (if he wishes to continue preaching and leading in public worship) to apply for admission into the pastoral ministry of the Synod in accordance with the following process:

1. The applicant follows the following procedure: (a) that he receive endorsement from the congregation which he is serving and (b) that he and his District President or supervising pastor work with a committee (specifically designated for the oversight of the training and theological examination of such applicants) of the seminary to which he applies to determine his present theological and pastoral ability and his further educational needs;

2. The seminary committee establishes a specific course of study (tailored to the needs in theological education of the applicant) to be completed through ministerial experience, academic training (the majority of which should be conducted through extension classes), and a student-mentor relationship with the supervising pastor;

3. The applicant continues to serve (where appropriate) the congregation or mission station concurrently with and for the duration of his educational program;

4. Upon completion of the prescribed program of theological education (or in some cases at an earlier time deemed appropriate by the seminary committee and the supervising pastor), the seminary committee interviews the licensed layman, focusing on theological orthodoxy and ministerial competence; after passing the interview, the licensed layman is certified for admission to the pastoral ministry by the seminary faculty and so becomes eligible to receive a call and be ordained;

5. It is recommended that the new pastor continue taking courses offered by the seminary in a program of continuing education;

and be it further

Resolved, That the seminaries together establish a common program of theological education that would enable a layman licensed to perform functions of the pastoral office to be trained and certified for a pastoral call and ordination without unnecessary interruption of his ministerial responsibilities; and be it further

Resolved, That the District President shall grant a grace period of no longer than two years (24 months), during which time the licensed layman may delay his application for admission to this program; however, in extreme and unusual circumstances, theDistrict President, with the consent of the Council of Presidents, may extend this grace period beyond two years; and be it further

Resolved, That any layman licensed to perform pastoral functions who declines to apply for admission into the pastoral ministry be commended for his dedication by his District President, that his decision be honored, and that accordingly his license be allowed to lapse; and be it finally

Resolved, That the following be added to Bylaw 2.09, "Eligibility for Individual Membership,"

Candidates who have satisfactorily completed an approved synodical educational program for the pastoral ministry involving extensive use of distance learning and/or a mentoring system must be declared qualified for a first call and recommended by the faculty of one of the seminaries before the effective date of the first call to service in the church, as assigned by the Board of Assignments as provided in Bylaw 2.11.

Action: *Adopted (7).*

To Reaffirm the Practice of Close[d] Communion

RESOLUTION 3-08

Report R3-01, I, A, 1 (*CW*, p. 56); Overtures 3-14; 3-16–17; 3-22–23; 3-31–32 (*CW*, pp. 157–59, 162)

Preamble:

Our teaching and practice of the Lord's Supper begin with the clear words of our Lord Jesus Christ Himself regarding His gift in the Supper: "This is My body, given for you." "This cup is My blood of the new testament, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." (Matt. 26:26–29; Mark 14:22–25; Luke 22:14–20; 1 Cor. 11:17–29). Therefore we believe, teach and confess that the Lord Himself gives to each communicant His very body and His true blood in, with and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins (Real Presence—AC X, XXIV; Ap XIII, XXIV; SC VI; LC V; FC VII, Ep and SD). This "Real Presence" is not simply a general presence of Christ in the Supper, but refers to the fact that Christ's true body and blood are truly present in the consecrated bread and wine and received in the mouths of the communicants (1 Cor. 10:16). The presence of Christ's true body and blood does not depend on the faith of the recipient nor on the character of the one administering the Sacrament, but on the Word of Christ Himself, whose last will and testament the Supper is. By the power of His own Word He gives His body and blood (FC VII, Ep and SD). Though all communicants receive the body and blood in the bread and wine, only those who believe Christ's Word of promise regarding the Supper receive its benefits, namely, the forgiveness of sins. "He who believes these words has what they say and declare, namely, the forgiveness of sins." (SC VI, Tappert, p. 352; See also AC XIII). In other words, the Lord has provided His Supper for sinners who believe His promise: "This is my body. This cup is my blood of the new testament shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." Accordingly, the Sacrament is more than a simple assurance of grace. Rather, the body and blood of our Lord in the bread and wine are gifts by which our Lord Himself offers, gives and seals to us the forgiveness of sins.

A responsible Lutheran practice surrounding the Lord's Supper will take into account the fact that the Supper is also an expression of the oneness of the congregation in Christ and in His Gospel. "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes" (1 Cor. 11:26 RSV). One who eats and drinks at an altar confesses what is taught from that altar (1 Cor. 10:21). Each communicant is called on to examine himself before God (1 Cor. 11:28), to avoid creating divisions within the assembly (1 Cor. 11:17ff), and to hold no malice toward fellow communicants (Matt. 5:23–24). In addition, those who commune without discerning the body of

the Lord or faith in Christ's promise eat and drink judgment on themselves (1 Cor. 11:29). They are guilty of profaning, not bread and wine, but the body and blood of the Lord (1 Cor. 11:27). This is why the Confessions of our church assume a careful pastoral practice in connection with the Lord's Supper: "The custom has been retained among us of not administering the sacrament to those who have not previously been examined and absolved" (AC XXV, Tappert, p. 61).

Our desire to honor and obey the Word of Christ leads us in our pastoral practice to reserve the Sacrament for those who share this desire and confession. Since fellowship at the Lord's Table is a confession of faith in the Lord's promises professed at our altar, it would not be truthful for those who affirm Christ's gift of His body and blood in the bread and wine and those who deny it to join one another at the table. The last will and testament of Christ cannot be interpreted in contradictory ways. Pastors are called by God through the congregation to be faithful "stewards of the mysteries" (1 Cor. 4:1–2), that is, faithfully to administer the Sacrament according to the Lord's institution. Love also requires that pastors and congregations keep from the Lord's Table those who by their profession (or lack of it) show that they could be eating and drinking judgment upon themselves (1 Cor. 11:27). As part of this practice the pastor will seek to prevent a profession of confessional unity in the faith where there is, in fact, disunity and disagreement.

In 1983 the CTCR reminded the Synod that "In keeping with the principle that the celebration and reception of the Lord's Supper is a confession of the unity of faith, while at the same time recognizing that there will be instances when sensitive pastoral care needs to be exercised, the Synod has established an official practice requiring that 'pastors and congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, except in situations of emergency and in special cases of pastoral care, commune individuals of only those synods which are now in fellowship with us'" (CTCR, "Theology and Practice of the Lord's Supper," p. 22; 1967 Res. 2-19; 1969 Res. 3-18; 1981 Res. 3-01); therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod reaffirm 1967 Res. 2-19 that "pastors and congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, except in situations of emergency and in special cases of pastoral care, commune individuals of only those synods which are now in fellowship with us;" and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod reaffirm 1986 Res. 3-08, "that the pastors and congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod continue to abide by the practice of close communion, which includes the necessity of exercising responsible pastoral care in extraordinary situations and circumstances," and beseech one another in love to remember that "situations of emergency and special cases of pastoral care" or "extraordinary situations and circumstances" are, by their nature, relatively rare; and be it further

Resolved, That the Communion Card statement of the CTCR be recommended to the member congregations of Synod for guidance:

> The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.
>
> Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the Pastor or an usher. For further study, see Matt. 5:23ff; 10:32ff; 18:15–35; 26:26–29; 1 Cor. 11:17–34;

and be it finally

Resolved, That because we are "eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:3), any members of the Synod who advocate a different practice of Holy Communion be fraternally reminded of the commitment all the members of the Synod make to one another by subscribing to the Constitution of the Synod to honor and uphold its doctrine and practice and, where there is disagreement, to follow the proper channels of dissent as outlined in synodical Bylaw 2.39 c.

Action: *Adopted (9).*

(The following amendment was offered but was declined. It consisted of an additional resolve which stated,

Resolved, That the Synod affirm the "pure, correct, and final restatement" of the Augsburg Confession, stated in the Epitome of the Formula of Concord, (FC, Epitome, VII, Tappert, p. 484) that,

"We believe, teach, and confess that there is only one kind of unworthy guest, namely, those who do not believe. Of such it is written, 'He who does not believe is condemned already' (John 3:18). The unworthy use of the holy sacrament increases, magnifies, and aggravates this condemnation (1 Cor. 11:27, 29).

"We believe, teach, and confess that no genuine believer, no matter how weak he may be, as long as he retains a living faith, will receive the Holy Supper to his condemnation, for Christ instituted this Supper particularly for Christians who are weak in faith but repentant, to comfort them and to strengthen their weak faith.")

To Address the Church Growth Movement

RESOLUTION 3-09

Overtures 3-104–106 (*CW,* pp. 182–83)

WHEREAS, Holy Scripture teaches, "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Rom. 10:17). And again, our God says: "As rain and snow come down from heaven ... so will My word be that I speak. It will not return to Me empty but it will accomplish what I want and achieve what I had in mind" (Is. 55:10–11). And again, "He saved us, not because of any righteous works which we have done, but because of His mercy. He saved us by the washing in which the Holy Spirit gives us a new birth and a new life" (Titus 3:5). And of the Holy Supper our Lord Jesus says concerning His own body and blood, "Take, eat,

... My body given for you ... Drink ... My blood, poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins" (Matt. 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Cor. 11:23–25); and

WHEREAS, Martin Luther, therefore, taught us that there is only one way in which people are both brought to faith in Christ and caused to grow in this faith, namely: "the Holy Spirit has called me *by the Gospel,* enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth" (SC II 6). And, also in the Augsburg Confession we confess: "In order to obtain such faith God instituted the office of the ministry [German: *das Predigtamt*], that is, provided the Gospel and the Sacraments. Through these, as through means, He gives the Holy Spirit, who works faith, *when and where He pleases,* in those who hear the Gospel" (V 1, emphasis added); and

WHEREAS, Some Church Growth materials and practices are a denial of the efficacy of the Means of Grace, e.g., reliance upon principles, programs, processes, and contemporary social and behavioral sciences to produce numerical growth in the church *(Evangelism and Church Growth,* CTCR 1987; pp. 40–42); and

WHEREAS, Some Church Growth materials and practices suggest that numerical growth in the church depends upon the proper discovery, development, and employment of "spiritual gifts" *(Evangelism and Church Growth,* CTCR 1987; pp. 43–44); and

WHEREAS, In much of Church Growth materials, as well as in actual practice, there is a confusion of the priesthood of all believers with the office of the holy ministry, e.g., the pastor as manager and organizer, a misunderstanding of the call, and a misunderstanding of Christian vocation (*Evangelism and Church Growth,* CTCR 1987; pp. 42–43); and

WHEREAS, The Church Growth Movement often promotes worship forms and practices which focus the worshiper on his feelings and experiences as evidence of God's grace rather than on the objective and gracious work of God delivering His forgiveness of sins for Christ's sake through Word and Sacrament, as found, for example, in the historic liturgy of the Lutheran church *(Evangelism and Church Growth,* CTCR 1987; pp. 41–42); therefore be it

Resolved, That Circuit and District pastoral conferences, District staffs, and congregations of Synod be urged to study the CTCR report *Evangelism and Church Growth,* the report from The Standing Committee for Pastoral Ministry titled "Toward a Theological Basis, Understanding and Use of Church Growth Principles in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod," as well as other resources which critically examine the Church Growth Movement, e.g., *"Church Growth" As Mission Paradigm: A Lutheran Assessment* by Kurt Marquart, and *Dining with the Devil: The Megachurch Movement Flirts with Modernity* by Os Guiness; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations, Districts and entities of the Synod which are using Church Growth materials and practices examine them carefully and use them with proper discernment; and be it further

Resolved, That the *Lutheran Witness, Reporter* and other publications of the Synod report on the errors in some Church Growth materials and practices and also in fairness show how some materials and practices may be used in the service of the Gospel and the advancement of the Kingdom; and be it further

Resolved, That the President of the Synod consider appointing a committee to study and address how the truth of the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions might be clearly proclaimed in light of the Church Growth Movement and the influences of American culture and pluralism; and be it finally

Resolved, That the findings of this committee, if appointed, be shared with all of the Synod as soon as possible.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

(An amendment to add the words *represented by a cross section of informed persons which would also include Church Growth practitioners* after the word *committee* in the fourth resolve was declined.)

To Prepare a Comprehensive Study of the Scriptural Relationship of Man and Woman

RESOLUTION 3-10

Overtures 3-70–71 (*CW,* p. 174)

WHEREAS, It is apparent that confusion exists in the Synod, as well as in our culture regarding the relationship of male and female. This is evident from the overtures received by the convention. These overtures deal with a diversity of subjects: ordination of women, woman suffrage in our congregations, use of female assistants in the public worship. Additional overtures ask for a definition of the orders of creation as they relate to the priesthood of believers in the service of women in the church.

The committee therefore recommends a comprehensive study and offers the following resolution. Among the questions which might be included in such a study are:

1. Creation, Gen. 1:26–30: Does the image of God here apply to each individual person, or to the race? Are male and female together in their relationship to each other the image of God?

2. Is subordination inherent in the very nature of a creation done by the Triune God, or is subordination a consequence of sin?

3. Is the dominion given in Gen. 1:26, 29 given to both male and female, and what is the significance of this for their relationship to each other?

4. Does Gen. 3:16 imply that the male is to have dominion over the female in the race?

5. Does the subordination of the Son to the Father (1 Cor. 15:27–28) speak of some sort of subordination in the Trinity and what are the implications of this for the unity of the Trinity? What implications does this have for the distinction of persons within the Trinity?

6. Does the image of God (Gen. 1:26, 29) in some way reflect the unity of the Trinity and the distinction of persons within the Trinity, and what implications does this have for the relationship of male and female?

7. In the light of the above, must a distinction be made between the way in which the Adamic cultures understand the relationship of male and female, and the way in which the distinction between male and female is to be understood and expressed within the chosen race (1 Peter 2:9)?

8. What is the meaning and implication of "head" in Eph. 5:20–33, and in what way is this illuminated by Eph. 1:22 and Eph. 5:20?

9. May the words *submit* or *subordinate* in Eph. 5:21–22 be interpreted as meaning obedience as this word is understood by the Adamic cultures?

10. In what way are the findings of this study to be applied to the church, as she orders her life and worship?

11. In what way are the findings of this study to be applied to marriage and the life of the family?

Resolved, That the CTCR coordinate a comprehensive study of the scriptural relationship of man and woman, together with the faculties of both seminaries, making use of other persons who are competent in the area of theology, including women.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

(During discussion an amendment, *Resolved, That this issue be commended to the next convention of the Synod with the recommendation that an early session be scheduled for that purpose and that an entire session be set aside for the debate,* was declined. This occurred after the delegates agreed to cease debate on the amendment but not on the main motion. A further amendment calling for deletion of the entire paragraph containing a list of possible questions for consideration was declined. A number of delegates asked that their negative votes be recorded. These are attached to the official copy of the minutes.)

To Continue COO/CTCR "Operating Agreement" for 1995–98 Triennium

RESOLUTION 3-11

Report 3-03 (*CW*, pp. 69–70); Overture 3-112 (*CW*, p. 185)

WHEREAS, The members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod are being confronted and sometimes affected by an ever-increasing number of cult, occult, and New Age philosophies and activities in our pluralistic society which are destructive of faith and therefore extremely dangerous; and

WHEREAS, Affiliation or association with fraternal organizations whose tenets and practices are "inimical to the Gospel of Jesus Christ or the faith and life of the Christian church" (Bylaw 10.03 a) continues to be a matter of serious pastoral concern; and

WHEREAS, Since its founding in 1926 the Commission on Organizations and its staff and resource persons have provided and continue to provide valuable resources to the members of the Synod in dealing with these ideologies and practices, as well as to other individual Christians and groups outside of our church body; and

WHEREAS, Because of budgetary restraints it became necessary as of June 30, 1993, to eliminate the Commission on Organizations' full-time executive position; and

WHEREAS, An "operating agreement" was developed, and adopted by the Commission on Organizations and the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, which calls for the Commission on Theology and Church Relations to provide staff services to the Commission on Organizations; and

WHEREAS, This arrangement, given the present circumstances, has worked out satisfactorily for both commissions; therefore be it

Resolved, That in view of the ongoing and increasing need for guidance in the areas of cults, occult, lodges, and similar groups and organizations, the Synod commend the Commission on Organizations, as a self-standing commission of the Synod, for its continued service to the Synod and beyond; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod in convention express its appreciation for the operating agreement according to which the Commission on Theology and Church Relations provides staff services for the Commission on Organizations; and be it finally

Resolved, That because of the growing urgency for guidance in this area, sufficient funding be made available as soon as possible for permanent staffing of the Commission on Organizations.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

To Regularize Communion Practices at Synodical Colleges and Seminaries

RESOLUTION 3-12

Overture 3-19 (*CW*, p. 158)

WHEREAS, The Synod in convention has on numerous occasions reaffirmed its commitment to close(d) Communion: 1967 Res. 2-19, 1981 Res. 3-01, 1983 Res. 3-12, and 1986 Res. 3-08; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has a longstanding understanding and practice that the Lord's Supper is celebrated at a synodical college, university or seminary under the Word and Sacrament ministry of a local congregation (CTCR document, *Theology and Practice of the Lord's Supper,* p. 26); and

WHEREAS, our synodical institutions of higher learning should be good examples of orthodox practice and doctrine for those they instruct and for the whole church; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board for Higher Education in consultation with the synodical President, the CTCR, and the presidents of all of the institutions of higher education of our Synod develop guidelines consistent with the doctrine and practice of the Synod for celebrating the Lord's Supper at those institutions; and be it further

Resolved, That such guidelines shall include the following:

1. Congregations that serve as host shall faithfully follow the doctrine and practice of the Synod for the celebration of the Lord's Supper;

2. The celebration of the Lord's Supper shall ordinarily be conducted by the pastor(s) of the host congregation.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

(An amendment to substitute confessional for orthodox in the third whereas was defeated.)

To Use the Name *Lutheran*

RESOLUTION 3-13A

Overtures 3-120–130 (*CW*, pp. 187–91)

WHEREAS, We have been called Lutheran since the formation of our Synod (and since Reformation times) and are thankful for our doctrinal background and heritage; and

WHEREAS, The name *Lutheran* clearly identifies what the member congregations and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod believe, teach and confess; and

WHEREAS, Basic Christian honesty and integrity require that no deception of any sort be used in declaring the truth of the Gospel before all the world, as St. Paul declares: "Rather we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the Word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God" (2 Cor. 4:2); therefore be it

Resolved, That all congregations and mission stations in our Synod boldly profess in their official title and/or name that they are "Lutheran"; and be it further

Resolved, That all congregations and mission stations of our Synod state in their materials (bulletins, newsletters, etc.) that they belong to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and be it finally

Resolved, That all LCMS congregations gladly proclaim our great doctrinal heritage to a world that needs the clear proclamation of the truth.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

(A request to restore words relating to "encouragement" to congregations to use the name *Lutheran* was not received. An immediate request for reconsideration following adoption was not accepted because there had been no intervening business. A later request for reconsideration was also declined. It would have stated at the end of the first resolve, *except in special circumstances with the approval of the District President.* The reason for the request was possible conflict with laws in foreign countries.)

To Encourage Faithfulness to Our Synod's Doctrine and Practice on Unionism

RESOLUTION 3-14A

Overture 3-32 (*CW*, p. 162)

WHEREAS, All congregations and pastors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod have agreed to follow the Constitution of the LCMS; and

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the LCMS states in

> **Article VI Conditions of Membership**
>
> Conditions for acquiring and holding membership in the Synod are [the following]: ...
>
> 2. Renunciation of unionism and syncretism of every description such as: ...
>
> b. Taking part in the services and sacramental rites of heterodox congregations or of congregations of mixed confession;

and

WHEREAS, the "Brief Statement of the Doctrinal Position of the Missouri Synod," adopted in 1931 by the Synod as its official position, states (p.13, #28):

> "We repudiate *unionism,* that is, church-fellowship with the adherents of false doctrine, as disobedience to God's command, as causing divisions in the Church, Rom. 16:17; 2 John 9, 10, and as involving the constant danger of losing the Word of God entirely, 2 Tim. 2:17–21.

therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention beseech its congregations and pastors to be faithful to the promises and pledges we have made to one another (Eph. 4:1–2) and uphold the practice of the LCMS regarding unionism and syncretism.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

To Encourage Support of OGI

RESOLUTION 3-15

Report R1-8-01 (*CW*, p. 7); Overture 3-05 (*CW*, p. 154)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (1992 Res. 7-07A) encouraged congregations of the Synod to establish public affairs committees; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS has a Washington, D.C., presence in the Office of Government Information, which provides timely information on legislative issues affecting religious freedom, family life, and education, establishes contacts with government officials, and promotes effective communications between government and church; and

WHEREAS, Our LCMS President, Dr. A. L. Barry, has stated clearly that the task of the church is to inform, to educate, to encourage, and to hold before her individual members the challenges of speaking out on many issues in conformity with our confession of faith; therefore be it

Resolved, That the LCMS continue to encourage its Districts and congregations to establish public affairs committees and to promote awareness of the issues and a response to legislative issues in conformity with our confessions of faith; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage the expansion of the Office of Government Information so that information can be distributed quickly to the congregations; and be it further

Resolved, That we continue to support organizations addressing legislative issues in conformity with our confessions of faith; and be it finally

Resolved, That we encourage the Office of Government Information and the Board for Human Care Ministries to work closely together to address legislative issues in the new "Speak Up" newsletter, as published by the Board for Human Care Ministries.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

To Continue Fraternal Pleas to ELCA against Proposed "Full Communion" with the Reformed

RESOLUTION 3-16

Overture 3-13 (*CW*, pp. 156–57)

WHEREAS, The writers of "A Common Calling" (ACC), as official representatives of their respective churches, offer the "unanimous recommendation" that "full communion" be

established between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., the Reformed Church in America, and the United Church of Christ; and

WHEREAS, The ELCA is seriously considering "full communion" with these Reformed denominations; and

WHEREAS, The ACC itself testifies that it "has so far not been possible to reconcile fully the confessional formulas inherited from the late 16th century and their underlying differences in the mode of doing theology" (ACC, p. 39); and

WHEREAS, Both systematic faculties of our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod seminaries have jointly noted this lack of confessional unity and have raised serious concerns about the ACC's understanding of the church, the means of grace, and the status of the Lutheran Confessions (*CTQ* 57 [1993], pp. 192–93, 193–213; *CJ* 20 [1994], pp. 292–314); therefore be it

Resolved, That the LCMS in convention express its serious concern that Lutheran witness of the Gospel will be significantly eroded should the ELCA enter full communion with the Reformed; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS in convention express its fraternal concern about the confessional integrity of a "full communion" with the Reformed in view of the explicit admission that unity in fundamental doctrines has yet to be achieved; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS in convention indicate its deep apprehension about the ramifications for ELCA/LCMS relations in the event of a decision by the ELCA to enter into "full communion" with the Reformed; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod urge the President of the Synod, the District Presidents, and other leaders of the LCMS to use every appropriate opportunity to express the concerns of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and its hope and desire that the ELCA not proceed toward full communion with the Reformed; and be it finally

Resolved, That clergy and laity of the LCMS be urged to express similar concern and hope to their ELCA counterparts, friends, and acquaintances.

Action: *No action.*

To Reaffirm That Only Men May Hold the Pastoral Office

RESOLUTION 3-17

Overtures 3-41, 3-79 (*CW*, pp. 164, 176)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has consistently stated and reaffirmed on the basis of Scripture (1 Cor. 11:1–14; 1 Cor. 14:33–35; 1 Tim. 2:11–14) that the pastoral office is to be entrusted only to men; (see 1969 Res. 2-17; 1971 Res. 2-04; 1977 Res. 3-15; 1986 Res. 3-10; 1989 Res. 3-14); and

WHEREAS, Several congregations within the Synod in recent years have submitted overtures asking the Synod to change its scriptural position and allow the ordination of women to the holy ministry; therefore be it

Resolved, That the 1995 convention of the LCMS strongly reaffirm its previous resolutions on this issue and unequivocally declare once again that Scripture clearly teaches that only men may hold the pastoral office and/or carry out any of its distinctive functions; and be it further

Resolved, That the pastors, teachers, professional church workers, and congregations of the Synod honor and uphold this clear scriptural teaching.

Action: *No action.*

To Continue "Nomenclature Study Committee"

RESOLUTION 3-18

Reports R1-8, R1-8-02 (*CW*, pp. 4, 8)

WHEREAS, "The Nomenclature Study Committee" appointed by the President of the Synod, as directed by the Synod in 1992 Res. 5-21, has asked that it be authorized "to proceed with its plans to prepare materials for study and discussion ..."; therefore be it

Resolved, That "The Nomenclature Study Committee" be authorized to continue its work and to report to the 1998 convention of the Synod.

Action: *No action.*

To Reaffirm the Synod's Position Concerning Homosexual Behavior

RESOLUTION 3-19

Appendix R3-01B (*CW*, pp. 64–67); Overture 3-09 (*CW*, p. 155)

Preamble:

We live in a society and culture where past moral values are rapidly changing and disregarded. Homosexual behavior is condoned by many in our society and even approved as an acceptable alternative lifestyle. Some Christian denominations have by their actions and statements condoned homosexual behavior as being morally permissible for Christians and permit practicing homosexuals to fill the pastoral office.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has condemned "homophile behavior as intrinsically sinful" in New Orleans (1973 Res. 2-04) and in the St. Louis convention of 1983 "commended to the Synod for study and guidance" (1983 Res. 3-15) the document prepared by the CTCR, *Human Sexuality: A Theological Perspective.* In response to the 1992 Res. 3-12A, "To Develop Plan for Ministry To Homosexuals and Their Families," the President of the Synod has appointed a Task Force for Ministry to Homosexuals.

WHEREAS, The Holy Scriptures clearly teach that homosexual behavior is intrinsically sinful and contrary to the will of God, Rom. 1:22–32; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod once more declare that homosexual behavior is sinful and should be avoided and that the CTCR document, *Human Sexuality: A Theological Perspective,* continue to be commended for reference and guidance; and be it further

Resolved, That the CTCR continue to study the entire subject of human sexuality and behavior as it gives guidance to the Synod based on Holy Scripture and not on changing cultural values; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage the members of the Synod to pray for God's blessing on the work of the task force as it assists us in ministering to homosexuals and their families; and be it finally

Resolved, That the members of the Synod deal with sexual sins with the same love and concern as all other sins, calling for repentance and offering the forgiveness in the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Action: *No action.*

To Commend CTCR Report *Spiritual Gifts* for Study and Guidance

RESOLUTION 3-20

Overture 3-115 (*CW*, p. 186); App. I (*CW*, pp. 292–309)

WHEREAS, The September 1994 CTCR report *Spiritual Gifts* describes the use of spiritual gifts inventories and analyzes this methodology in light of the biblical and confessional approach to spiritual gifts; and

WHEREAS, many spiritual gifts inventories direct members of Christian congregations to determine what their spiritual gifts are in such a way as to depreciate the role of the Means of Grace in the Christian life, as well as the biblical doctrine of vocation; therefore be it

Resolved, That the CTCR report *Spiritual Gifts* be commended for study and guidance throughout the Synod, especially in pastoral conferences and congregations; and be it further

Resolved, That the congregations, pastors, and District leadership of the Synod commit themselves to a thorough reassessment of the propriety and validity of the use of spiritual gifts inventories.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

To Commend CTCR Document *The Ministry: Offices, Procedures and Nomenclature* for Study by Synod

RESOLUTION 3-21

Overture 3-26 (*CW*, p. 160)

WHEREAS, A number of overtures to this convention have addressed issues involving the doctrine of the ministry; and

WHEREAS, The CTCR in 1981 published the document *The Ministry: Offices, Procedures and Nomenclature;* and

WHEREAS, This document addresses many of the current issues and concerns involving the doctrine of the ministry and its offices; therefore be it

Resolved, That we commend this document for study throughout Synod in pastoral conferences, our colleges and seminaries, and among the congregations.

Action: *No action.*

To Affirm the Use of Wine in the Sacrament of the Altar

RESOLUTION 3-22

Overtures 3-11–12 (*CW*, p. 156)

WHEREAS, In the institution of the Sacrament of the Altar the Lord Jesus Christ gave His body and blood for us to eat and drink under the form of bread and wine (Matt. 26:26–29; Mark 14:22–25; Luke 22:15–20; 1 Cor. 11:23–26; cf. AC X); and

WHEREAS, In accordance with Christ's institution, the Lutheran Confessions define the Sacrament of the Altar to be "the true body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ in, and under the bread and wine which we Christians are commanded by Christ's Word to eat and drink" (LC V 8; cf. AC X; Apology X); and

WHEREAS, The blessings and benefits proffered in the Sacrament of the Altar are not given and received apart from the elements used by Christ in His institution of this most venerable Sacrament, as Christ said of the bread, "Take eat, this is My body which is given for you" and of the wine, "This is My blood of the new covenant which is shed for you for the remission of sins" (Matt. 26:28; Mark 14:24; Luke 22:20; also in the Lutheran Confessions AC X; LC V 21–22; FC SD VII 43–53); therefore be it

Resolved, That the congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod affirm the use of bread and wine in the administration of the Sacrament of the Altar; and be it further

Resolved, That pastors, who are stewards of the mysteries of God (1 Cor. 4:1) and are entrusted with the pastoral care of souls, remain faithful in their practice of Christ's institution of the Sacrament of the Altar through the use of bread and wine; and be it finally

Resolved, That in cases where pastoral concern arises concerning the reception of wine by certain persons, the institution of Christ not be overthrown but that the pastor stress the Gospel's power and total effectiveness in the individual's life and patiently seek a practical solution which is faithful to the Word of Christ and sensitive to the desire to partake in the Supper of the Lord.

Action: *No action.*

To Respectfully Decline Overtures

RESOLUTION 3-23

Overtures 3-33, 3-79, 3-108 (*CW*, pp. 162–63, 176, 183–84)

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

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

Overture	*Subject*	*Reason*
3-33	Fellowship with Independent Congregations	Fellowship with individual congregations is not consistent with our traditional concept of fellowship. Meeting the needs of independent congregations is already taken care of by Synod's Constitution.
3-79	To Authorize Ordination of Women to Pastoral Office	Contrary to Scripture
3-108	Inter-Christian Relationships Document	The CTCR has taken into account responses to this document and has before it a draft of the modified report, but has not completed deliberation of the same at the present time.

Action: *No action.*

4. Program and Finance

To Promote Our Walking Together in Biblical Stewardship

RESOLUTION 4-01B

Report R4-01 (*CW*, pp. 70–72); Overtures 4-20, 4-23 (*CW*, pp. 198–99)

Background:

During the past triennium an Expanding the Circle (ETC) working team, in response to Res. 4-04A of the 1992 synodical convention, continued to pilot-test the ETC model as a means to provide organized opportunity for designated funding of synodical and District projects while also allowing for traditional funding methods. This pilot effort has been completed.

Synodical president A. L. Barry has advocated a yes/yes concept of funding the Synod's work, a concept which says not only yes to traditional methods of funding such as unified giving, but also yes to such methods as designated giving, also underscoring the need to bring order to these varied efforts.

WHEREAS, Many individuals and congregations advocate a unified budget approach to funding the work of the church, and others advocate a designated-giving approach; and

WHEREAS, Our synodical administration advocates a yes/yes concept of funding which affirms both unified and designated giving; therefore be it

Resolved, That Synod's Board of Directors continue to develop a clear and simple system which facilitates an orderly yes/yes concept of funding throughout the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Directors report on progress made in its report to the 1998 synodical convention.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

To Support Full Financial Disclosure

RESOLUTION 4-02A

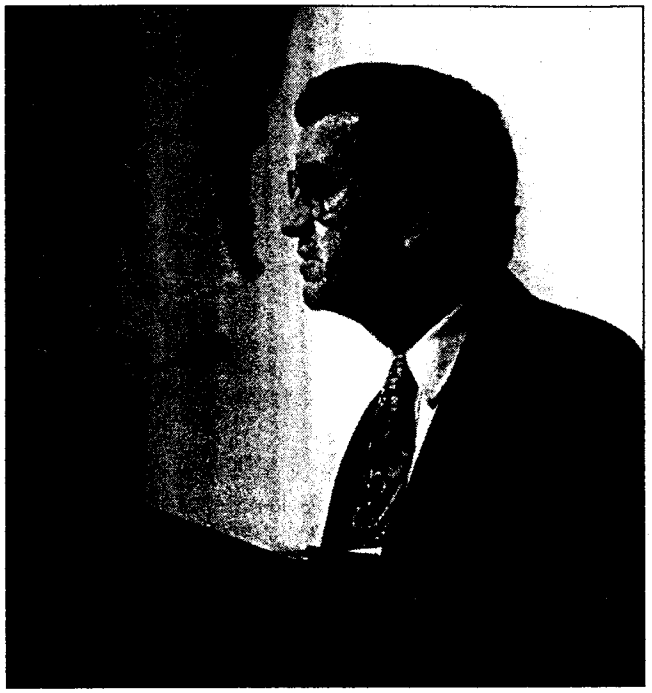
Report R7-04-A (*TB*, pp. 11–18); Overtures 4-01–08, 7-78 (*CW*, pp. 193–96, 248)

Rationale:

The President's Task Force on Finances recommended "that the Synod in convention ... adopt a practice of full disclosure." In considering this recommendation the synodical Board of Directors concurred that the 1995 convention should clarify, preferably through Bylaws, what is considered as "full financial disclosure."

Having reviewed the recommendations of the Board of Directors of the Synod, the Missouri Nonprofit Corporation Act, and overtures submitted to the convention; therefore be it

Resolved, That the following addition be made to the Synod's Bylaws regarding general provisions for officers, boards and commissions:



Committee 4 Chairman Raymond L. Hartwig

~~PRESENT~~/*PROPOSED* WORDING

3.72 Full Financial Disclosure

a. The Synod and all of its entities and agencies shall fully disclose their financial books and records to any member congregation of the Synod. Full disclosure includes all information (including, but not limited to, information required to be made available under state law) recorded in any fashion, except the following:

1. Information which would violate the expected confidentiality of donors.

2. Personnel files or other information that would violate the expected confidentiality of officers and employees. (Salaries of elected officers of the Synod shall be published annually in an official periodical.)

3. Information which relates to in-process negotiations of financial matters.

4. Information the disclosure of which would breach a legal obligation of the Synod or its entities or agencies or affect pending litigation or claims against the Synod or its entities or agencies.

5. Information which is preliminary in nature or otherwise has not been finalized in its form and content.

b. The Accounting Department of the Synod shall publish annually in an official periodical an invitation to request full audited financial statements and summary operating budgets of the Synod or its entities or agencies.

c. The Synod and its entities and agencies shall share, upon request, the quarterly financial statements as reported to the respective governing board.

d. Requests for detailed financial information or the inspection of financial records shall be made in writing to the respective corporate boards by a member congregation and shall state the records desired and the time period to be covered. Any inspection of financial records shall be done by a member(s) of the congregation or its stated authorized agent at a mutually agreeable time and place.

e. All information produced for normal publication or distribution shall be provided free of charge. All requests for information involving research or compilation shall be billed to the member on the basis of actual costs.

f. The board may decline to provide the information requested if the board can demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence that the member's request is with the specific intent to cause harm to the Synod or one of its entities or agencies or with the sole intent of deliberately and significantly disrupting the operations and affairs of the Synod or one of its entities or agencies.

g. Any declination to provide information or limit inspection shall be explained in writing.

h. Challenges to any board decisions declining to provide information or to limit inspection may be reviewed under the synodical dispute resolution process.

and be it further

Resolved, That each corporate agency of the Synod be instructed to make appropriate provisions in its Bylaws to reflect this action.

Action: *Adopted (5).*

(In Bylaw 3.72, c, the committee substituted the words *the respective governing board* for *its board of directors.* An amendment to substitute the word *would* for the words *is with the specific intent to* and *would significantly disrupt* for *with the sole intent of deliberately and significantly disrupting* in Bylaw 3.72, f, was defeated.)

To Improve Financial Reporting

RESOLUTION 4-03

Reports R4-05–06, R7-03 (*CW*, pp. 78, 97–99); Overture 4-09 (*CW*, p. 196)

WHEREAS, The Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) has issued Statement No. 116, *Accounting for Contributions Received and Contributions Made* (the Contribution Statement), and Statement No. 117, *Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Organizations* (the Display Statement); and

WHEREAS, The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) has issued guidelines, rules, and regulations with which an organization must comply in order to be eligible for an audit with a "clean opinion"; and

WHEREAS, The standards and rules were established to ensure consistent and comparative accounting and reporting practices by not-for-profit organizations and will increase the knowledge and understanding of the work of Districts and the Synod; and

WHEREAS, It is essential in preparing consolidating financial statements for the accounting and reporting of all District and synodical corporations to be consistent and comparative; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention require all Districts to comply with the generally accepted accounting principles prescribed by the AICPA, utilizing the common District accounting manual developed by the Committee of District Business Managers in consultation with the Synod's Accounting and Internal Audit Departments; and be it further

Resolved, That all Districts be required to have annual audits by independent certified public accountants or the Synod's Internal Audit Department; and be it finally

Resolved, That all Districts forward such audits to the Synod on a timely basis for preparation of a synodical consolidating financial statement.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

(Discussion of the resolution was begun in session 2. An amendment to insert the words *that the Synod, its entities, and* after the word *require* in its first resolve was declined as was an amendment in the second resolve calling for the Districts to have a triennial audit. When the resolution was returned for consideration in session 10, the committee first deleted the word *new* before *generally* in the first resolve. An amendment to insert the words, *to their respective congregations and* after the word *audits* in the final resolve was declined.)

To Communicate Indebtedness

RESOLUTION 4-04A

Overture 4-11 (*CW*, p. 196)

WHEREAS, The Synod and its entities and agencies incur indebtedness; and

WHEREAS, It is important for the Synod and all of its entities and agencies to communicate their indebtedness and plans for repaying that indebtedness; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod and all of its entities and agencies annually report to the Accounting Department of the Synod their total indebtedness and plans for repaying that indebtedness, and that this information also be a part of their report to be included in the *Convention Workbook;* and be it further

Resolved, That the Accounting Department of the Synod compile and report annually the total indebtedness of the Synod and all of its entities and agencies through an official periodical of the Synod and also, in convention years, in the *Convention Workbook.*

Action: *Adopted as amended (10).*

(The resolution was amended by the committee with the addition of the words *Accounting Department of the* before *Synod* in the first resolve.)

To Replace Present Bylaws on Conflict of Interest

RESOLUTION 4-05A

Overture 4-15 (*CW*, p. 197)

Rationale:

The President's Task Force on Finances recommended "that appropriate conflict of interest and disclosure statements be implemented, accompanied by a policy requiring all employees, board members, and staff of all synodical entities to read and sign them on a regular basis." The synodical Board of Directors in its response to the Task Force stated that it "will amend its policy ... to include board members and will request members of all other boards, commissions, and committees to adopt a similar policy." As the Board considered both the present Bylaw 3.71, "Prohibition of Conflict of Interest," and the present policy statements of the Board as well as the other corporate boards, it concluded it would be preferable to include in Bylaw 3.71 the common basic policy which would apply to all entities. Individual corporate boards could then expand them to meet their unique situations in publishing, investments,

etc. As the board considered the Conflict of Interest Bylaw, it concluded that Bylaw 3.69, "General Regulations" regarding members, should be expanded to address the matter of orderly dissent to decisions made by a board.

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.71, "Prohibition of Conflict of Interest," be replaced with the following:

~~PRESENT~~/*PROPOSED* WORDING

3.71 ~~Prohibition~~ *Disclosure* of Conflict of Interest

~~a. No officer, director, board, or commission member of the Synod or of an agency of the Synod shall use his position or theknowledge acquired from his service in such a manner that a conflict between his personal or business interests and the interest and general welfare of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod arises.~~

~~b. Officers or members of synodical boards or commissions shall not enter into gainful business transactions, directly or indirectly, with any board or commission on which they serve.~~

Every board, commission, officer, and staff member of the Synod and every agency or entity of the Synod shall avoid conflicts of interest as described in this Bylaw.

Each governing board shall maintain and monitor a conflict-of- interest policy which shall be applicable to the boards, commissions, officers, and executive staff operating under the respective entity. Each policy shall include the following provisions:

a. Each board or commission member shall disclose to the chairman of the entity and each staff person shall disclose to the executive officer of the entity any potential conflicts of interest. Each chairman or executive officer shall disclose personal potential conflicts of interest to the governing board. All such disclosures shall be reported to the respective board or commission or its designated representative(s), who shall determine whether an inappropriate interest exists. Such disclosures shall include board membership on, a substantial interest in, or employment of the individual or a relative by any organization doing business with the Synod or any of its entities or agencies.

b. Board members or staff persons who receive honoraria or payments for any sales or services rendered to the Synod or its entities or agencies shall disclose such information.

c. Activities shall not be entered into which may be detrimental to the interests of the Synod and its entities or agencies.

d. Information acquired in the course of carrying out synodical duties shall not knowingly be used in any way which would be detrimental to the welfare of the Synod and its entities or agencies.

e. No board or commission member, and/or staff or executive officer of the Synod or its entities and agencies shall vote on any transaction in which the individual shall receive a direct or indirect financial gain.

f. Gifts, entertainment, or favors in excess of $100 per person per year from any individual or outside concern which does or is seeking to do business with the Synod or its entities or agencies shall not be accepted.

g. Any inappropriate activity shall cease or the position will be vacated.

h. Each individual, prior to accepting an elected or appointed office or staff position, shall sign a statement that he has received, understands, and agrees to abide by this Bylaw and the conflict-of-interest policy of the respective corporation. Each shall also sign annually a "Statement of Compliance" with the Bylaw and policy.

i. Responsibilities shall be conducted in a manner reflecting the highest degree of integrity and honesty consistent with the Scriptures, the Lutheran Confessions, the synodical Handbook, *board policies, and civil laws;* and be it further

Resolved, That the following addition be made to Bylaw 3.69, "General Regulations":

m. Members of boards and commissions and officers and executive staff of the Synod and its entities and agencies shall be sensitive in their activities to taking or giving offense, causing confusion in the Synod, or creating potential liability. Dissent to decisions made by the entity shall ordinarily be expressed within the structure of the respective entity;

and be it finally

Resolved, That since this Bylaw covers all synodical entities, Bylaw 4.131 be deleted.

Action: *Adopted (5).*

(The committee substituted the words *vote on* for *participate in* in Bylaw 3.71, e. An amendment to delete *also* and *annually* and to add the words *upon accepting a position* in Bylaw 3.71, h, was declined.)

To Clarify Position of Vice-President–Finance/Treasurer

RESOLUTION 4-06

Reports R1-8-04–05, R7-03–04 (*CW*, pp. 10–16, 97–102); Overtures 4-12–14 (*CW*, p. 196)

WHEREAS, The President's Task Force on Finances has recommended changes to the office of the Vice President—Finance/Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, The Vice-President–Finance/Treasurer has expressed the need to clarify the responsibilities of his office; and

WHEREAS, The President of the Synod has appointed a Blue Ribbon Committee on Structure to consider among other things organizational structure; and

WHEREAS, It would be premature to make significant changes to the position of the Vice-President—Finance/Treasurer at this time; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Blue Ribbon Committee on Structure study and consider the need for changes in the responsibilities to the office of the Vice-President–Finance/Treasurer; and be it further

Resolved, That any recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Structure regarding significant changes to the office of the Vice-President–Finance/Treasurer be submitted to the 1998 convention of the Synod for action.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

(An amendment to substitute the Council of Presidents for the Blue Ribbon Committee was declined.)

To Address Direct Fundraising Appeals

RESOLUTION 4-07A

Overtures 4-16–18 (*CW*, pp. 197–98)

WHEREAS, The matter of direct fundraising has been considered by previous conventions (1986 Res. 4-05; 1989 Res. 4-01; 1992 Res. 4-12A); and

WHEREAS, Fundraising appeals which are too frequent and use inappropriate solicitation methods can rob God's people of the joy of Christian giving (2 Cor. 9:7) and result in a weariness in well-doing (Gal. 6:6–10); therefore be it

Resolved, That the Department of Stewardship articulate the biblical principles of financial stewardship (Bylaw 9.01) which should guide all of our stewardship and appeal efforts, and disseminate these to all synodical entities, agencies, and auxiliaries prior to the 1998 convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the convention instruct the Synod's entities, agencies, and auxiliaries to approach any solicitation on the basis of these biblical principles of financial stewardship, instead of a worldly, legalistic approach; and be it finally

Resolved, That the duties previously assigned to the Council on Stewardship in Bylaw 3.933 be assigned to the Department of Stewardship.

Action: *Adopted as amended (12).*

(The resolution was amended by the committee, deleting *recognized service organizations* in the first and second resolve and by common consent with the addition of the word *financial* before stewardship in both resolves.)

To Respectfully Decline Overtures

RESOLUTION 4-08

Overture 4-26 (*CW*, p. 200)

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

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

Overture	*Subject*	*Reason*
4-26	LCEF Credit Union	LCEF has determined not to pursue

Action: *Adopted (12).*

5. Higher Education

To Give Thanks for Concordia Theological Seminary As It Celebrates Its 150th Anniversary in 1996

RESOLUTION 5-01

Overture 5-14 (*CW*, p. 204)

WHEREAS, God willing, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., will in 1996 celebrate 150 years of its existence and service in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, During this period the seminary has been the Lord's instrument in training more than 4,000 pastors for ministry in the Synod and has also furthered the theological education of many pastors through its graduate and extension programs; and

WHEREAS, Throughout its history the seminary has, under God, maintained without interruption a steadfastness in the teaching of the doctrine set forth in the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions; and

WHEREAS, In recent years, as in its early history, the seminary with characteristic missionary zeal has shown a flexibility in the mode of delivery of theological training in order to meet the needs of, and challenges to, the church; and

WHEREAS, The seminary has through the years and under the blessing of the Lord enjoyed the presence on its campus of enthusiastic, consecrated students and the service of dedicated, capable presidents, professors, administrators, and staff persons who furthered the seminary's mission of preparing pastors to "Preach the Word" (the seminary's motto); and

WHEREAS, The seminary by God's goodness has through the years received the faithful prayers and financial support of the members of the Synod's congregations and has educated many students from their families; and

WHEREAS, The seminary will celebrate its sesquicentennial during the months of the year 1996 and will at that time seek to complete an ingathering of funds and pledges for student aid in a 150th Anniversary "Preach the Word" Thank Offering (the reception of gifts is already underway); therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod assembled in its 59th convention in St. Louis thank the Lord of the church for His grace in

- giving Concordia Theological Seminary to the Synod for 150 years;
- providing more than 4,000 graduates from this seminary to serve as pastors in the Synod since the time of the seminary's founding in 1846;
- enabling the seminary to maintain scriptural and confessional orthodoxy in its theological programs, while pioneering in the delivery of alternate route theological education to certain groups in the field;
- providing the seminary with faithful, dedicated, capable leadership, faculties, and service personnel for the achievement of its mission of preparing pastors to "Preach the Word"; and
- opening the hearts of the people of the church to furnish substantial prayer and financial support of the seminary and its programs, and to encourage likely men to study for the ministry;

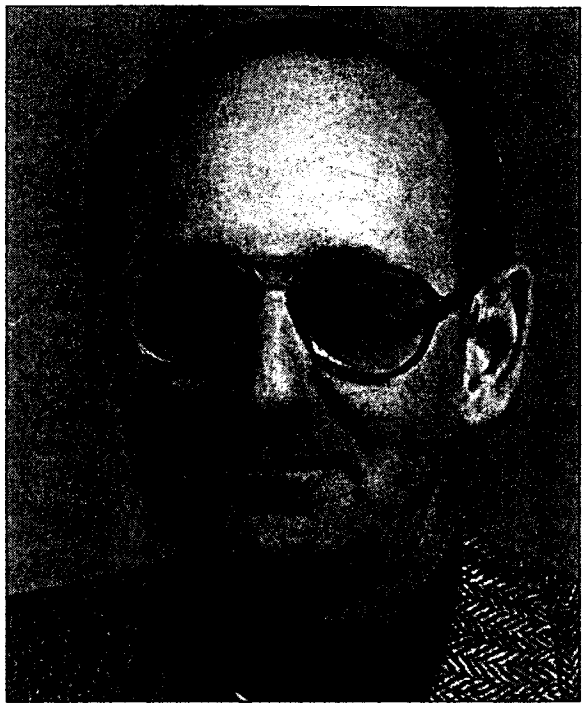
and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod encourage its congregations to take note of the seminary's 150th anniversary celebration during a worship service on Reformation Sunday, 1996, at which thanks is given to God for His grace in establishing Concordia Theological Seminary, maintaining it for 150 years, and blessing the church through the students it has prepared for pastoral service in the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That congregational members also be invited on this day to contribute a gift to the seminary for a student-aid endowment, as a part of a second $1,500,000 phase of its 150th Anniversary Thank Offering; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod urge all in the church to pray the rich and abiding blessing of Almighty God upon Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., its faculty, administration, staff, students, and programs of instruction, that the seminary may continue to provide the church with many able ministers of the New Testament for service in this country and in mission fields overseas through the years to come.

Action: *Adopted (3).*



Committee 5 Chairman Roger D. Pittelko

2. A Tribute to J. A. O. Preus

Like many of you, I have viewed the rather lengthy documentary titled "Warrior of God: Man of Peace." Parts of it depict former President J. A. O. Preus as various individuals saw him. My impressions were somewhat different. Working with him on a day-to-day basis—including many weekends—for eight years left me with the image of a man who took his position seriously but never took himself seriously, and that during a time of crisis unequalled in the history of the Missouri Synod.

Those who knew him will recall his strong—and often pungent—sense of humor. Once he said to me, "I just made ten decisions, and half of them were wrong," followed with a roar of laughter.

He knew the secret of delegation. I remember his dropping a stack of letters and reports on my desk, announcing with a note of finality: "You handle this; I don't want to hear any more about it."

To some, President Preus was an uncaring politician, plotting courses of action which ignored the well-being of Missouri's basic units, the congregations. Wrong. When at one point it looked like the Synod would break apart, he surprised all of us with a sudden call for a theological convocation, where both sides would be given a chance to present their cases. Some of us questioned this: "We know what the issues are; why bother?" He answered, "*We* know, but those folks out in the 'boonies' do not. We need time."

It was this style of leadership that kept his opponents off balance. They would zig; he would zag. They would zag; he would zig. He was totally unpredictable. Nobody knew what he would do next. He would saunter from office to office at the headquarters—then in downtown St. Louis—cross his feet on the desk and ask, "What do you think about this?" After several visits, he would return and, you guessed it, follow none of the advice he was given.

He cared. Shortly after the Synod's Anaheim convention, congregations were being told to "make a decision" regarding synodical affiliation. When I was about to leave for such a debate, many of which lasted long into the night, Dr. Preus said, "Phone me when it's over." "That may be after midnight," I replied. He insisted, "Call me anyway." That one turned out to be in the Synod's favor. The phone call was made at 1:00 a.m.

It goes without saying that he cared about the Word of God. I won't rehearse for you the battle for the Bible that raged during the '70s and '80s. But I must say that a lesser



man would have cracked under the stress in those stormy days. Surely the passage from the book of Esther applied: "Perhaps you have come to this position for just such a time as this" (Esther 4:14).

A few months before his death, I received a little note from Dr. Preus. He wrote, "Thanks for the thousand things you did for me." I'm sure that many of you have a similar letter from a man who was grateful for the support he was given.

"Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:7–8).

Robert C. Sauer, *Fourth Vice-President*

To Renew Commitment to Seminary Education

RESOLUTION 5-02A

Overture 5-01 (*CW*, p. 201)

WHEREAS, Our Synod, since its formation, has had as one of its main objectives the education of men for the pastoral office; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod needs an increasing number of seminary graduates for the primary work of the church, that of spreading the Gospel; and

WHEREAS, Many pastors are graduating from seminary with debts that are extremely difficult to repay on starting pastors' salaries; and

WHEREAS, This debt puts undue pressure not only on a new pastor's family, but on his ministry; and

WHEREAS, Many men, who have been prompted by the Holy Spirit to study for the pastoral ministry, are apprehensive of the impending financial burden and the negative impact it may have on their families and their studies; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod renew its commitment to the education of pastors and direct the Board for Higher Education and the seminaries to increase the student-aid endowment fund for seminarians; and be it further

Resolved, That, in doing so, it also set as a goal the ingathering of funds sufficient to cover the cost of all tuition for every student enrolled in the seminaries for the purpose of entering the LCMS pastoral ministry.

Action: *Adopted (5).*

(In session 3 an amendment to substitute the words *to alleviate undue financial burden* for *to cover the cost of all tuition* in the final resolve was declined. A substitute motion was offered which the delegates declined to consider. An amendment to insert the words *that no student be denied theological education for financial consideration* after the word *sufficient* and to delete the remainder of the words in the final resolve was declined.)

To Respectfully Decline to Act upon Overture 5-25

RESOLUTION 5-03A

Overture 5-25 (*CW*, pp. 207–16)

Resolved, That the Synod in convention respectfully decline to act on Overture 5-25, with the exception of those sections pertaining to Bylaws 6.87–6.103 ("Admission to the Pastoral Ministry by Colloquy"), which is covered in Res. 5-06; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Higher Education/Concordia University System, during the upcoming triennium, study the concerns raised by various overtures in the 1995 *Convention Workbook* and additional concerns raised during the floor committee hearings; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board for Higher Education/Concordia University System bring appropriate reports and recommendations to the 1998 convention.

Action: *Adopted (5).*

To Encourage Prior Full-Time Church Service of All College and Seminary Presidents

RESOLUTION 5-04A

Overture 5-03 (*CW*, p. 201)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has recognized the desirability of parish experience for those who serve as presidents of our colleges, universities, and seminaries (1981 Res. 6-23 and 1983 Res. 6-13); therefore be it

Resolved, That the electors, when calling a college, university, or seminary president, be encouraged to give consideration to candidates who have had a minimum of three years called service within The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod prior to their election.

Action: *Adopted (5).*

(An amendment to substitute the word *required* for *encouraged* in the resolve was declined.)

To Request Report from the Board for Higher Education

RESOLUTION 5-05

Overtures 5-15–21 (*CW*, pp. 204–6)

WHEREAS, The historic purpose for maintaining educational institutions in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is to "recruit and train pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers" (Article III); and

WHEREAS, The Synod in convention has resolved that "campus facilities of the Synod also [to] be utilized more effectively wherever possible for the Christian higher education of the laity of the church and for their preparation for service as Christians in a secular world as well as for their development as lay leaders in local congregations" (1986 Res. 6-01A); and

WHEREAS, The Lord of the church has richly blessed The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod through its educational ministries included in the Concordia University System (see BHE report, *Workbook,* pp. 79–85); therefore be it

Resolved, That we give thanks to God for the creative and visionary leadership the Board for Higher Education/ConcordiaUniversity System has given in response to earlier convention resolutions (1983 Res. 6-03; 1986 Res. 6-01A; 1992 Res. 6-04); and be it further

Resolved, That we ask the Board for Higher Education/Concordia University System to review its goals and strategic initiatives (1995 *Convention Workbook,* p. 80) in light of the original purpose for these church-sponsored colleges and universities; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Higher Education/Concordia University System respond to concerns reflected in some of the overtures, such as purpose, capital indebtedness, percentage of non-Lutheran students enrolled, and costs of education for future church workers; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board for Higher Education/Con-

cordia University System include a response to these questions in its report to the 1998 convention.

Action: *Adopted as amended (8).*

(A motion to amend by deleting the second resolve was declined after the convention had also determined not to consider an amendment to the amendment which was ruled a substitute motion. It would have had the second resolve contain the words *to explore whether and how they may better reflect appropriate purposes* as a substitute for the words *in light of.* The motion had been amended by substituting the words *in light of* for *to better reflect* in the second resolve.)

To Revise Bylaws Pertaining to Admission to Pastoral Ministry by Colloquy

RESOLUTION 5-06A

Overture 5-25 (*CW*, pp. 207–16)

Rationale:

The responsibilities of the Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry have gone far beyond the original intention and understanding of colloquy. Over the years, colloquy has come to include many things other than the traditional M.Div. program. The proposed revisions to the colloquy program would limit the colloquy to two categories: (1) ministers trained in other Christian church bodies and (2) laymen who have carried out the full responsibilities of the pastoral ministry for at least 10 years. Other applicants for the ministry, such as commissioned ministers of religion, laymen of a special ethnic or linguistic group, and laymen who have fulfilled at least 10 years of significant service in a congregation, will participate in special theological education (alternate routes) under the direction of the seminaries.

Resolved, That the following Bylaws (6.87 through 6.103) be approved.

~~PRESENT~~/*PROPOSED* WORDING

F. ADMISSION TO THE PASTORAL MINISTRY BY COLLOQUY

6.87 Colloquy Committee

a. The Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry shall consist of ~~a~~ *the First* Vice-President of the Synod ~~(appointed by the President of the Synod)~~, *a District President appointed by the Council of Presidents,* the presidents of the ~~theological~~ seminaries ~~at St. Louis and Fort Wayne~~, and the executive director of the Board for Higher Education *or his representative* in an advisory capacity. The *First* Vice-President shall be chairman of the committee.

~~b. Each seminary shall have a colloquy examining committee, selected by its faculty.~~

~~c. The Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry and each seminary colloquy examining committee shall have the authority and responsibilities described in Bylaws 6.89–6.90.~~

b. The Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry functions as a standing committee of the Board for Higher Education.

6.89 Functions of the Committee

a. The Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry shall direct the synodical activity in matters of colloquies for the pastoral ministry.

b. The Colloquy Committee shall also establish and monitor academic, ~~and~~ theological, *and personal* standards for admission to the office of the pastoral ministry by colloquy and in the establishment of these standards, the committee shall consult the faculties of the ~~theological~~ seminaries ~~at St. Louis and Fort Wayne~~.

c. The Colloquy Committee ~~shall~~ *may consider and* approve ~~for admission to the colloquy program for the pastoral ministry~~ those applicants who ~~have been recommended for admission by a seminary colloquy examining committee and to which no valid objection is made pursuant to Bylaw 6.95.~~ *meet the requirements for eligibility as specified in Bylaws 6.91 and 6.93 and concerning whom no valid objection is made pursuant to Bylaw 6.93 d.*

6.91 Eligibility ~~for Admission to the Program~~

1. Only such male applicants shall be considered eligible *to apply for colloquy who are* ~~for admission to the pastoral colloquy program as are~~

~~1.~~ *a.* ministers~~, or candidates for the ministry,~~ who are in good standing in other Christian church bodies, ~~and~~ are graduates of established ~~theological~~ seminaries, *and have served at least three years in a recognized ministry of their church body;*

~~2. graduates of the Synod's colleges, whose names appear on the roster of the Synod as commissioned ministers of the Synod, and who have had at least 10 years of successful experience as commissioned ministers of the Synod and are communicant members in good standing of a congregation of the Synod;~~

~~3. communicant members in good standing of synodical congregations who are graduates of an established nonsynodical seminary;~~

b. in exceptional cases, laymen who have carried out the full responsibilities of the pastoral ministry for at least 10 years, who are currently licensed for such ministry by a District President, and who have been recommended by a congregation holding membership in the Synod on the basis of that congregation's observation and experience, and with the stated assurance that such congregation will extend a divine call asking the recommended individual to serve as their pastor.

~~4. communicant members in good standing of a synodical congregation who belong to a special ethnic or linguistic group, who have had a college level education and who have had considerable experience in church work;~~

~~5. communicant members in good standing of a synodical congregation who are mature, have at least 10 years of significant service at the congregational, District, or synodical levels, and have ordinarily graduated from an accredited college.~~

2. Other applicants for the ministry, such as commissioned ministers of religion, laymen of a special ethnic or linguistic group, and laymen who have fulfilled at least 10 years of significant service in a congregation, will participate in special theological education (alternate routes) under the direction of the seminaries.

6.93 Applications ~~for Admission to the Program~~

a. ~~Applications~~ *Applicants* for ~~admission to the pastoral~~ colloquy ~~program~~ shall be directed to the President of the District where the applicant resides.

~~b. The District President on receipt of an application shall transmit the application to the director of colloquy of the seminary chosen by the applicant. The application shall be accompanied by the following documents:~~

~~1. An autobiographical statement by the applicant, setting forth clearly his background and his reason for~~

~~wishing to qualify for the pastoral ministry in the Synod~~

~~2. Official transcripts of the applicant's secondary, collegiate, and seminary training, and a full description of noncredit work done by the applicant~~

~~3. Testimonials as to Christian character and life, personality, ability, and religious service from no fewer than three competent references who have known and observed the applicant for at least two recent years~~

~~4. Where applicable, testimonials witnessing to past service in the denomination where the applicant previously served as pastor, together with evidence of good standing in the ecclesiastical body from which he severed connection or is in the process of severing connection~~

~~5. If the applicant is a member of a synodical congregation, a testimonial from his parish pastor in regard to Christian character, life, personality, abilities, and parish experience~~

~~c. A man who is a commissioned minister of the Synod shall in addition to the above testimonials present a recommendation from the education executive of the District in which he last served as a commissioned minister.~~

~~d. The seminary colloquy examining committee shall determine whether an applicant meets the requirements for admission and shall forward the application together with all required documents and its recommendation for disposition to the President of the District in which the applicant resides and to the chairman of the Colloquy Committee. The District President shall assure the Colloquy Committee of his sponsorship of the applicant before the committee can act favorably on the application.~~

b. The District President shall refer the applicant to the District Interview Committee (for seminary applicants), who shall give a report and recommendation to the District President.

c. The District President shall recommend qualified applicants to the chairman of the Colloquy Committee. Such recommendation shall be processed according to the policies and procedures adopted by the Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry.

d. The Colloquy Committee shall publish notice of its intent to interview an applicant in an official periodical of the Synod unless the applicant requests such notice be delayed until after his interview. If no valid objection is received by the committee within 30 days after the publication of such notice, the applicant may be interviewed. If the applicant was interviewed first, notice shall then be published and upon publication 30 days given for valid objections to be received. The committee, in its sole discretion, shall decide whether an objection is valid. Its decision shall not be the subject of any appeal.

e. The Colloquy Committee shall arrange for a personal colloquy, or discussion, with qualified applicants. The decision on each applicant shall be made on the basis of such colloquy examination and shall be the sole prerogative of the Colloquy Committee.

~~**6.05 Publication of Notice**~~

~~After the Colloquy Committee has received an application as provided in Bylaw 6.03, the committee shall publish notice of the application in an official periodical of the Synod. If no valid objection is received by the colloquy committee within four weeks after the publication of such notice, the applicant shall be accepted into the program. The committee, in its sole discretion, shall decide whether an objection is valid. Its decision shall not be the subject of any appeal.~~

6.97 ~~Program of Instruction~~ *Criteria for Certification*

~~a. After admission to the pastoral colloquy program, a full final academic year of resident training in one of the Synod's seminaries, as well as a vicarage under the seminary's auspices, ordinarily shall be required of~~

~~1. ministers, or candidates for the ministry, in good standing in other Lutheran church bodies;~~

~~2. members in good standing of synodical congregations who are graduates of an established nonsynodical Lutheran seminary.~~

~~b. After admission to the pastoral colloquy program, not less than two full and up to three full academic years of instruction at one of the Synod's theological seminaries, including not less than one full year in residence, as well as a vicarage under the seminary's auspices, ordinarily shall be required of~~

~~1. ministers, or candidates for the ministry, in good standing in non-Lutheran Christian church bodies;~~

~~2. graduates of a non-Lutheran seminary in good standing in a synodical congregation;~~

~~3. graduates certified by the Synod's colleges and universities in teacher education who have at least 10 years of successful experience as commissioned ministers of the Synod.~~

~~c. After admission to the pastoral colloquy program, a minimum of two full academic years of instruction at one of the Synod's theological seminaries, at least one and one-half of which shall be in residence, as well as a vicarage under the seminary's auspices, ordinarily shall be required of all other colloquy candidates.~~

~~d. The seminary colloquy examining committee shall determine the course of study and length of vicarage for each colloquy student on the basis of his needs and ecclesiastical background. In general, the course of study should include courses in the major areas of theology. In exceptional cases the colloquy examining committee may regard special educational attainments or church work experience as meeting a portion of the aforementioned requirements, provided that the Synod's high professional standards for the ministry are maintained.~~

~~e. The criteria by which the seminary colloquy examining committee shall judge a colloquy student's progress are to be based on his readiness for admission to the pastoral office, according to standards established by the Colloquy Committee, as demonstrated by~~

~~1. an acceptable level of achievement in the area of general education;~~

~~2. satisfactory completion of a well-rounded and comprehensive training in all major fields of theology;~~

~~3. satisfactory completion of a supervised vicarage.~~

~~f. In the case of men who have been educated in foreign lands with differing educational and ecclesiastical requirements who are expected to serve ethnic and special linguistic groups in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the seminary colloquy examining committee is authorized to waive or modify certain of the above-mentioned requirements in accord with the committee's good judgment. The seminary colloquy examining committee, after consultation with the Colloquy Committee for Pastoral Ministry, is authorized to license such men for special Word and Sacrament ministry, under the supervision of ordained pastors, for renewable terms of two years until completion of in-service and academic requirements.~~

~~g. In the case of men who have served at least 10 years in Word and Sacrament ministry and are currently licensed for preaching and administering the Sacrament by a District President, the synodical Colloquy Committee may itself carry out the entire colloquy process. This may be done only at the request of a con-~~

~~gregation holding membership in the Synod and with the support of the appropriate District President. In such cases, the synodical Colloquy Committee may approve the ordination of such laymen who are found to be well qualified, or may assign a program of study at its own discretion and may waive the requirement of a college degree;~~

~~h. All colloquy students shall give evidence that they fully understand and accept the doctrinal standards of the Synod, are acquainted with its practice, and have the ability and intention to teach, preach, and practice in conformity with these standards.~~

~~i. Annual reports supplying information requested by the ColloquyCommittee for the Pastoral Ministry shall be made by each seminary colloquy examining committee.~~

a. The criteria by which the Colloquy Committee shall determine an applicant's readiness for certification are to be based on adopted standards, including, but not limited to

1. areas of general education;

2. understanding of and agreement with the scriptural and doctrinal positions of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod;

3. studies in theology assuring a well-rounded education in the major fields of theological discipline; and

4. positive experience in the work of the pastoral ministry.

b. The Colloquy Committee, at its sole discretion, shall determine the content and amount of academic work, personal study programs, or supervised ministry which may be required prior to certification. To this end, the committee may request the assistance of the seminary faculties, or of qualified pastors or teachers in other locations, to serve as instructors or mentors.

c. The committee, at its discretion, may require a second colloquy interview following the completion of such study and/or supervised ministry programs.

6.99 ~~Certificate of Eligibility~~ *Certification*

The Colloquy Committee shall

~~a. The seminary's colloquy examining committee shall recommend to the faculty for endorsement those colloquy students who have satisfactorily completed the program and passed written and oral examinations.~~

~~b. The seminary whose faculty determines that a colloquy student for the pastoral ministry has satisfactorily completed the colloquy program shall~~

~~1. issue a certificate of eligibility to the colloquy student;~~

~~2. report its action to the chairman of the Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry and the appropriate District President.~~

a. certify for placement those applicants who have satisfactorily completed the colloquy interview and any other requirements as assigned by the Colloquy Committee;

b. report this action to the chairman of the Council of Presidents Placement Committee for the Pastoral Ministry, to the office of the Board for Higher Education of the Synod, and to the appropriate District President;

~~3.~~ *c.* publish a report of its favorable action in an official periodical of the Synod.

6.101 Placement

Every ~~colloquy student~~ *applicant* whom the ~~respective faculty~~ *Colloquy Committee* declares qualified for the pastoral ministry shall be assigned his first call by the Council of Presidents acting as the Board of Assignments.

6.103 Report to the Convention

The Colloquy Committee shall ~~render a full~~ report *to* ~~on pastoral colloquy activities to each convention of~~ the Synod *in convention.*

Action: *Adopted as amended (9).*

(In earlier presentation Bylaw 6.91 had been deleted by the committee but was restored in session 9 because it was necessary to retain it as a transitional paragraph until Res. 3-07A can be implemented. In Bylaw 6.93 d, the words *unless the applicant requests such notice be delayed until after his interview* were added by common consent after the word *Synod.* Also by common consent the sentence *"If the applicant was interviewed first, notice shall then be published and upon publication 30 days given for valid objections to be received"* was added after the second sentence. An amendment to add to Bylaw 6.91 a the words *Ministers of other Lutheran church bodies who have graduated from a Lutheran seminary and served at least one year* was declined. A suggestion to change Bylaw 6.93 a to refer to the congregation in which the applicant holds membership rather than the District where he resides was rejected since many applicants do not belong to congregations of the Synod.)

To Bring Harmony to Concordia Theological Seminary

RESOLUTION 5-07A

Overtures 5-08–13 (*CW*, pp. 202–3)

WHEREAS, It is "good and pleasant when brothers live together in unity" (Ps. 133:1); and

WHEREAS, There are persons and groups who have expressed deep concerns to this synodical convention in the areas of theology, administration, and morale at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind.; and

WHEREAS, The Bylaws of the Synod specifically grant the President of the Synod "supervision over the doctrine taught in the Synod" and bid him "at regular intervals officially visit or cause to be visited all the educational institutions of the Synod" (3.101 b); therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod assembled in convention encourage the President of our Synod to make a formal visitation of the Fort Wayne seminary for the purpose of quieting concerns, restoring peace in the church, and strengthening bonds of harmony; and be it further

Resolved, That the convention be led in prayer, asking our gracious Lord for His blessing in this matter.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

To Require Full-Time Experience of Professors

RESOLUTION 5-08

Overture 5-06 (*CW*, p. 202)

WHEREAS, In 1981 the Synod "ordinarily" required "some years of service" as a parish pastor of those called to teach in its seminaries (Res. 6-23); and

WHEREAS, Similarly in 1983, the Synod directed that calls to teach in synodical colleges be issued to those persons who, "as a general rule," have completed some years of parish service (Res. 6-13); and

WHEREAS, It continues to be desirable for members of college, university, and seminary faculties to have congregational experience; therefore be it

Resolved, That those who are called to teach at our seminaries and those at our colleges and universities whose primary responsibility relates to preparing future church workers ordinarily will have a minimum of three years experience as a full-time called worker in a congregation prior to their initial call.

Action: *Referred to Resolution B.*

To Prepare and Promote Continuing Education Program for Pastors

RESOLUTION 5-09A

Overtures 5-23–24 (*CW*, p. 207)

WHEREAS, The circumstances and needs of people in our congregations and parish communities are far more diverse and subject to rapid change than ever before, requiring pastors who can communicate the Gospel and care for souls under many conditions, while developing and employing all their God-given gifts; and

WHEREAS, A good deal of pastoral understanding and skill is acquired through a combination of formal instruction and experience in the parish (course work, field work, and vicarage already being integral parts of seminary education); and

WHEREAS, Our pastors, nevertheless, frequently encounter new circumstances and perceive the need to build on the foundation laid in their seminary education; and

WHEREAS, Our pastors can, therefore, profit from continuing education employing various methods of formal instruction and mentorship contacts with fellow pastors, synodical and District staff, and others, in order to deepen their faith, sharpen their skills, and adapt to new cultures and circumstances; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support, in consultation with our seminaries, has undertaken pastoral need surveys; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Standing Committee for Pastoral Ministry and the Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support jointly intensify their study of the matter of continuing post-seminary education; and be it further

Resolved, That a model be presented to the seminary faculties by July 1, 1996, designed to bring together pastors with relevant resources, e.g., other local pastors, District and synodical personnel, and seminary faculties, in a post-seminary continuing education program; and be it finally

Resolved, That the program model be developed in detail by the committee and the seminary faculties for approval by the Board for Higher Education by July 1998.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

To Further Professional Church Worker Continuing Education

RESOLUTION 5-10A

Overture 5-22 (*CW*, p. 206)

WHEREAS, Paul encouraged Timothy, "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15), and our Lord and His church are best served when the professional church worker is equipped to engage in faithful, competent, and joyful ministry; and

WHEREAS, Professional church workers desire and need to grow and be renewed both personally and professionally in order to remain so equipped; and

WHEREAS, Growth and renewal are enhanced when the professional church worker is guided by an annual growth plan; therefore be it

Resolved, That each District of the Synod be encouraged to promote continuing education fostered by an annual growth plan for each of its professional church workers, with a suggested minimum of 2.0 continuing education units (20 contact hours) or its equivalent; and be it further

Resolved, That the resources of our colleges, universities, and seminaries be included among the options considered in the continuing education programs of our Districts; and be it further

Resolved, That District Presidents be encouraged to implement a uniform system for the reporting, recording, and communicating of continuing education credits; and be it further

Resolved, That the District Presidents and others in leadership positions in the Synod be encouraged to set the example for continuing education expectations for professional church workers; and be it finally

Resolved, That each District of the Synod encourage each of its congregations to foster the continuing education of its professional church workers by providing nonvacation time and monetary support.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

To Amend Bylaw 2.09

RESOLUTION 5-11A

Overture 5-27 (*CW*, p. 217)

WHEREAS, The responsibility to certify candidates for full-time church work is a very important one; and

WHEREAS, The Synod has assigned this responsibility to the faculties of its terminal schools; and

WHEREAS, The faculties of Synod's colleges and universities may include members who are not themselves members of the Synod and in some cases are not members of any congregation of the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That the following be added to Bylaw 2.09:

~~PRESENT~~/*PROPOSED* WORDING

> *e. For purposes of declaring candidates qualified for placement and recommending them for synodical membership, the Synod considers the "faculty" of a terminal school to be defined as follows:*
>
> *1. Seminaries: all full-time faculty members who are in good standing on the Synod's roster of "ministers of religion—ordained."*
>
> *2. Colleges and universities: all full-time faculty members who are in good standing as individual members of the Synod (i.e., as pastors, teachers, directors of Christian education, directors of Christian outreach, deaconesses, or certified lay ministers) or are members*

in good standing of a member congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

To Respectfully Decline Overtures

RESOLUTION 5-12

Overtures 5-04, 5-28, 5-30–31 (*CW*, pp. 201, 217–18)

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

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

Overture	*Subject*	*Reason*
5-04	Duties of College, University and Seminary Presidents	Bylaw already exists; was inadvertently omitted in the printing of the 1992 *Handbook*
5-28	Appeals of District Interview Committees	Seminary still holds final word on admission of students
5-31	Retain Dr. Sell on Board of Directors—Concordia University System	Treasurer already an ex-officio member

Action: *Adopted (12).*

6. Human Care

To Affirm Sanctity of Life Position

RESOLUTION 6-01B

Overtures 6-01–06 (*CW*, pp. 219–20)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod by synodical and District convention actions has repeatedly expressed its concerns and its position regarding developments in our society which have resulted in the disregard and denial of the clear teaching of the Holy Scriptures regarding the sanctity of all human life beginning at conception; and

WHEREAS, These developments have led to equally tragic actions by others whose use of violence resulted in physical harm and the destruction of human life; and

WHEREAS, Lutherans for Life has represented very ably the interests of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod by providing encouragement and education regarding the principle of the sanctity of human life; and

WHEREAS, A Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Task Force on the Sanctity of Life has existed for over a decade and a President's Commission on the Sanctity of Life has been appointed, both of which exist to promote a distinct and vigorous LCMS effort to honor and uphold the sanctity of all human life; therefore be it

Resolved, That in the face of new societal threats and assaults upon this clear teaching of the Holy Scriptures, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod again go on record reiterating and underscoring its unwavering position regarding the sanctity of human life; and be it further

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod also go on record as deploring, renouncing, and repudiating in the strongest terms any use of violence as a means of protest; and be it further

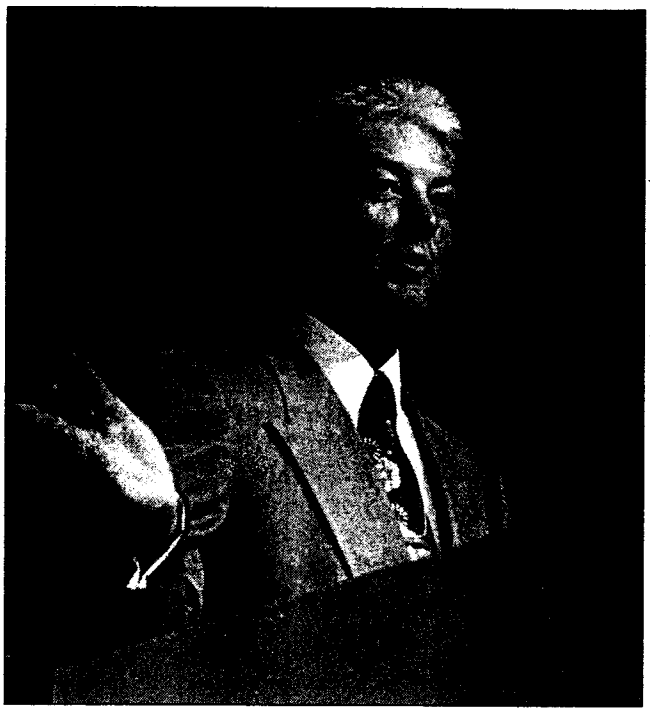
Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod enthusiastically support the efforts of the Board for Human Care Ministries, the LCMS Task Force on the Sanctity of Life, the CTCR, the President's Commission on the Sanctity of Life, Lutherans for Life, and all other proper efforts to educate church and society regarding the important considerations associated with life issues; and be it further

Resolved, That Districts, congregations, pastors, teachers, and lay leaders be encouraged to use every opportunity to affirm the Synod's pro-life stand to their members and encourage the use of appropriate pro-life materials; and be it further

Resolved, That the members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be encouraged to boldly exercise their responsibility as Christian citizens to influence legislation for the protection of all human life; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod encourage its congregations to commit themselves to active, nonviolent promotion and defense of the sanctity of all human life; and be it finally

Resolved, That pastors and congregations be encouraged to minister evangelically, through Law and Gospel, to those who support a position contrary to the teaching of the Holy Scriptures regarding the sanctity of human life.



Committee 6 Chairman William R. Diekelman

Action: *Adopted (10).*

(Res. 6-01A was introduced for consideration in session 3. After some discussion it was referred back to the committee. In session 10 Res. 6-01B was brought forward. By common consent the word *human* was inserted before *life* in the first resolve. An amendment to add the words *deploring abortion, euthanasia, and the newest threat, physician-assisted suicide* at the end of the last whereas was declined.)

To Speak Out against Legalization of Assisted Suicide

RESOLUTION 6-02

Overture 6-08 (*CW*, p. 221)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod affirms the sanctity of human life and recognizes the reality of human suffering; and

WHEREAS, Any attempt to legalize assisted suicide is an affront to the Lord, who gives life, and opens the door for abuse and future legislation that would deny the freedom of many; and

WHEREAS, Suffering and depression are also opportunities for helping, healing, encouragement, and hope through the Gospel; and

WHEREAS, Physicians in particular have a responsibility to sustain and promote life; and

WHEREAS, We respect the individual's right to refuse treatment or to forbid life-support systems by a prior directive and to be allowed to die; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention express its objection to medical personnel having any part in actively inducing death, even at the patient's request or at the request of the family; and be it further

Resolved, That the Gospel be applied to situations of suffering and depression as opportunities to help, heal, encourage, and provide hope; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod speak out against any attempt to legalize physician-assisted suicide and encourage its pastors and people to do the same.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

(The floor committee changed the word *Legislation* to *Legalization* in the title. By common consent the words *Lord who gives* were substituted for *gift of* in the first whereas. The fifth whereas was added by amendment. An amendment to modify the last resolve to read, *"Resolved, That the Synod in convention encourage its pastors and people to speak out against any attempt to legalize physician-assisted suicide as citizens of this nation"* was declined. The words *or at the request of the family* were added by common consent to the first resolve.)

To Give Thanks to God for Ministry of Dr. Jean Garton

RESOLUTION 6-03

Overture 6-09 (*CW*, p. 221)

WHEREAS, The Lord has blessed His church with the gifts and service of Dr. Jean Garton for many years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Garton, through her written and spoken words, has touched the lives of millions of people around the world with a prophetic message about the sanctity of all human life from conception until natural death; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Garton, especially in her public work as chairwoman of the President's Commission on Women and as founder and president of Lutherans for Life, has exemplified the indispensable contributions and unique competencies that Christian women offer the church; and

WHEREAS, Her efforts in the pro-life movement have resulted in lives saved for time and for eternity, to the eternal credit of our gracious God to whom is due all glory and honor forever and ever; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention give thanks with Dr. Garton to our gracious God for her many years of active, volunteer service to her church in a variety of capacities; and be it further

Resolved, That we express our thanks to Dr. Jean Garton for her dedication to life; for speaking in defense of those who have no voice, especially the unborn child; and for awakening thousands of clergy and laity across this nation to their responsibility for defending the littlest of Christ's brothers and sisters; and be it finally

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod honor Dr. Garton with a lasting legacy by faithfully maintaining in its witness and work the divine principle that all life is precious and must not be willfully destroyed by human hands because all life is God's gift.

Action: *This resolution was referred to Resolution D.*

To Commend, Instruct, and Encourage Board of Managers of Worker Benefit Plans

RESOLUTION 6-04A

Report R6-02 (*CW*, pp. 93–96); Overtures 6-12–18, 6-20–25 (*CW*, pp. 221–24); L5-32 (*TB*, p. 19)

Rationale:

Thirty years ago, our Synod wisely created the support system known as the Worker Benefit Plans, with the express purpose of "serving those in His service." Currently, more than 50,000 pastors, teachers, lay workers, retirees, and dependents are enrolled in the Concordia Plans. Areas of support include Concordia Health Plan, Concordia Retirement Plan, All-Cause Accident Insurance Program, Concordia Disability and Survivor Plan, the Pension Plan for Pastors and Teachers. In addition, to ensure minimal levels of support for eligible members and their dependents, the Board of Managers of the Concordia Plans has provided supervision of the Supplemental Benefits Program and the Special Assistance Program for needy retired pastors and teachers and widows of such workers.

During the 30-year period of the Concordia Plans' existence, enormous changes have occurred, brought about by many factors, including legislation, health-care costs, and other economic factors. In the face of these changing circumstances, the Board of Managers has sought to continually maintain and improve the level of support and service to those who are enrolled in the Concordia Plans. The days and years ahead will bring additional changes and challenges that will require the creative and wise response of the Board of Managers of the Concordia Plans. The management of the Worker Benefit program rightly belongs to the elected Board of Managers empowered for this task.

Resolved, That this convention heartily commend the Board of Managers of the Concordia Plans for faithful and effective stewardship of the responsibilities entrusted to it; and be it further

Resolved, That we instruct the Board of Managers to continue to explore all options in providing the best possible and most cost-effective health-care coverage for our workers, including the possibility of out-sourcing the health-plan coverage with reliable insurance carriers and administrators, and by continuing to emphasize the importance of preventive health care; and be it further

Resolved, That we instruct the Board of Managers to continue to seek ways of increasing benefits for our retired workers, including health care, dental care, and annual cost-of-living adjustments; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage the Board of Managers, while seeking adequate benefits for the workers, to do its utmost to continue to control costs to our congregations, institutions, and active and retired workers; and be it further

Resolved, That we ask the Board of Managers to specifically review and respond to the issues addressed in Overtures 6-23–25; and be it finally

Resolved, That we ask the Board of Managers to continue to be responsive to the special needs of survivors and dependents and members facing unique circumstances as

they seek to fulfill the mission of the Concordia Plans to provide service to those in His service.

Action: *Adopted as amended (8).*

(By common consent the words *instruct and encourage* were added to the title. A motion to substitute the word *reduce* for *control* in the fourth resolve was declined.)

To Address Health Care Coverage for Full-Time Church-Work Students, Vicars, and Interns

RESOLUTION 6-05

Overtures 6-26–28 (*CW*, p. 225)

Rationale:

As God's people we are called upon to "do good to all people, especially to those who are of the household of faith" (Gal. 6:10). The years of preparation for full-time ministry often involve economic sacrifice and financial hardship for students and their families. The continuing concern for our seminaries and other schools is to provide adequate health-care coverage for full-time church-work students and their dependents, both while in school and while on internship or vicarage. Many of the students find that the cost of providing adequate health-care coverage is prohibitive, leaving them in extremely vulnerable positions in the event of major medical problems. This is an issue that we need to address together.

Resolved, That the convention instruct the chairman of the Board of Directors of the Synod to convene a task force immediately following this convention consisting of representatives of the Board of Managers of the Concordia Plans, the Board of Regents of our seminaries, the Board for Higher Education, and the Board of Directors of the Synod to immediately address the issue of providing adequate and affordable insurance coverage for our full-time church-work students and their dependents, while in college/seminary and on vicarage/internship.

Action: *Adopted (10).*

To Encourage Fair and Adequate Compensation for Workers in the Church

RESOLUTION 6-06A

Overture 6-19 (*CW*, p. 223)

WHEREAS, Our Lord in sending out the 70 disciples provided for their care and compensation stating the laborer deserves his wages (Luke 10:7); and

WHEREAS, The Synod today sends forth many laborers, both men and women, to carry on the work of the kingdom; therefore be it

Resolved, That congregations and institutions of the Synod be encouraged to ensure that all workers are fairly and adequately compensated on the principle of equal pay for equal work regardless of gender; and be it further

Resolved, That all congregations and institutions of the Synod be encouraged to review and appropriately adjust the worker's compensation on an annual basis.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

To Strengthen Synod's Ministry among Mentally Ill

RESOLUTION 6-07A

Overture 6-34 (*CW*, p. 227)

WHEREAS, Approximately 40 million adult Americans suffer from one or more mental disorders, and of these as many as 10 million are afflicted with chronic or prolonged mental illness; and

WHEREAS, As many as 12 million children suffer from some form of mental disorder, approximately 3 million of whom have a serious mental illness; and

WHEREAS, Persons with severe mental illness account for between 49 and 50 percent of the nation's homeless and occupy 25 percent of all the hospital beds in the country; and

WHEREAS, Because of ignorance, fear, and the perpetuation of myths, mentally ill persons are often stigmatized and discriminated against in housing, medical insurance, and employment opportunities and are denied adequately funded community treatment and support services; and

WHEREAS, The families of mentally ill persons are frequently burdened by these illnesses and often serve as the primary caretakers of their loved ones, needing the support and love of friends and church and yet often feeling abandoned and shunned; and

WHEREAS, The church is called to engage in Christ's ministry of healing and intercession for those who are ill in body, mind, and spirit and those who are discriminated against, lonely, unaccepted, and neglected; therefore be it

Resolved, That congregations and professional church workers recognize that serious mental illness exists within the family of faith; and be it further

Resolved, That the Districts of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod identify individuals and/or establish a Task Force on Mental Illness within each District to address the concerns/needs of persons with serious mental illness and the concerns/needs of families; and be it further

Resolved, That individuals or task forces within each District be recognized as resources for training and equipping congregations and professional church workers to minister effectively to persons with mental illness and their families; and be it further

Resolved, That the individuals or task forces within each District be supported with prayers, publicity, and appropriate funding; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations and professional church workers encourage and enable persons with mental illness to participate fully in the life and the ministry of the congregation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board for Human Care Ministries be encouraged to identify and/or develop resource materials which would be helpful in ministering to the mentally ill; and be it finally

Resolved, That congregations recognize and support Mental Illness Awareness Week (first week of October) by utilizing materials approved by the Districts/Synod and publicly praying for persons with serious mental illness.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

To Encourage Congregations to Minister to Persons with Alzheimer's and Their Caregivers

RESOLUTION 6-08

Report R6-01 (*CW*, pp. 88–93)

Rationale:

The increasing frequency of Alzheimer's disease in society is reflected also among the members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and their immediate and extended families. Consequently there is a need among us for deeper and more compassionate understanding for the special burdens which Alzheimer's imposes on those who suffer from it as well as their families.

Resolved, That the Board for Human Care Ministries provide direction and encouragement to the congregations of the LCMS to recognize and respond to the unique needs of those who suffer from Alzheimer's, as well as the needs and concerns of their families and caregivers.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

To Expand Housing Ministries

RESOLUTION 6-09

Overture 6-37 (*CW*, p. 228)

WHEREAS, Concern for the well-being of our neighbor is part of God's command to His people; and

WHEREAS, Many in our communities live in substandard housing, others are in danger of losing their homes, and some are homeless; and

WHEREAS, The Board for Human Care Ministries continues to encourage and support local housing projects which involve congregations in mission and ministry; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Districts, and congregations continue to

1. raise awareness of church members to the short- and long-term plight of the homeless, low-income families, and older adults living on very limited incomes;

2. utilize church and other resources to provide temporary and permanent housing;

3. involve congregations in mission and ministry activities which reach out to unchurched residents of low-income housing to include them in the body of Christ;

4. inform congregations of government legislation and regulations which will affect the supply of affordable housing for those most in need, so that an appropriate response can be made; and

5. through the Board for Human Care Ministries identify, support, and publicize strategies and programs which meet the housing needs of the poor and the homeless.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

To Emphasize Importance of Prison Ministry

RESOLUTION 6-10

Overtures 6-31–32 (*CW*, p. 226)

WHEREAS, Tens of thousands of men and women behind prison walls are looking for hope, and their families are looking for strength and sustenance; and

WHEREAS, Both victims and criminals need Jesus Christ as the ultimate Healer in whom they can be made eternally whole again; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod proclaims that the Gospel of Jesus Christ alone offers forgiveness and the power to change (Rom. 1:16); therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, through its Board for Human Care Ministries and other entities, deliberately and intentionally make its Law and Gospel ministry to inmates, victims, and their families a critical priority; and be it further

Resolved, That we commit ourselves to support our correctional workers, including our chaplains, clergy, and lay volunteers, with our prayers and financial support, as feasible; and be it finally

Resolved, That each District be encouraged to sponsor conferences, seminars, and/or retreats for the purpose of training and equipping chaplains, clergy, and lay volunteers in ministry with prisoners, ex-prisoners, families of prisoners, and victims of crime.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

To Revise Bylaws of Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support

RESOLUTION 6-11

Overture 6-38 (*CW*, p. 228)

Rationale:

Changes in the organization of Congregational Services suggest a change in the composition of the commission; evolvement in the expansion of commission activities suggests changes in its functions. Those changes in functions include the recognition that there is not a "synodical definition in measurable terms of effective ministry," that well-being issues figure prominently in the commission's work, that the commission does not actually carry responsibility for remedial care (rather, Worker Benefit Plans does), that encouragements need to be placed at District and congregational levels regarding professional growth and well-being, and that funding mandates need to be broadened.

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.913 be amended as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/*PROPOSED* WORDING

3.913 Membership

The Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support shall consist of nine members, who shall be appointed by and responsible to the President of the Synod: three ordained ministers, two commissioned ministers, one layperson, one college representative, and one representative from each of the two seminaries. At least two of the above shall be parish pastors, one of the above a District President or executive, and one of the above shall have professional expertise in clinical psychology and/or pastoral counseling. The executive director of the Board for Higher Education (or his designee), the executive director of the ~~Board for Parish Services~~ Conference of Congregational Services (or his designee), the President of the Synod (or his designee), the director of Human Resources of the Synod, and Director of Ministerial Health/Health and Healing Ministries shall be advisory members.

and be it further

Resolved, That Bylaw 3.915 be amended as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/*PROPOSED* WORDING

3.915 Functions

~~c. communicating to the Synod ministerial growth expectations to achieve more effective ministry, based on a synodical definition in measurable terms of effective ministry for pastors and other professional workers;~~

~~j.~~ *i.* developing programs of ministerial growth *and well being* through the Districts;

~~e.~~ *n.* seeking grants ~~and approving grant requests for funding from sources outside the synodical budget, including~~ *from outside sources for continuing education funding and* the Continuing Education Endowment Fund. ~~, and authorizing budget development from synodical resources;~~

~~p.~~ *o.* encouraging Districts ~~in their responsibility to provide Christian~~ *and congregations to make full use of available preventive and* therapeutic ~~and remedial~~ care for professional church workers and their families;

and be it further

Resolved, That the letter ordering of each section be appropriately changed, and be it finally

Resolved, That these changes take effect at the conclusion of the 1995 convention.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

To Support Efforts to Deal with Child Abuse

RESOLUTION 6-12

Overture 6-29 (*CW,* p. 225)

WHEREAS, The Synod's Task Force on Child Abuse has served well in providing valuable resources for congregations; and

WHEREAS, The incidence of child abuse, within the context of the escalation of violence in society and the decline of spiritual motivation and moral behavior, continues to increase; and

WHEREAS, The church has been entrusted by God with the Word and the Sacraments both for revealing God's image and will for male and female, for families, and for life in community, and for enabling persons to be rescued from the power of sin and empowered for living in newness of life; and

WHEREAS, Local congregations are the body of Christ in their place for personally dealing with and ministering to child abusers, the victims, and other involved family members; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod's Board for Human Care Ministries, in coordination with the Board for Congregational Services, continue to provide support, guidance, and resources for congregations in behalf of this ministry.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

(The convention agreed to include Res. 6-13 and 6-14 in Res. 6-12, with each resolution retaining its own whereases and resolves.)

To Encourage Congregational Concern for Those Affected by Chemical Addictions

RESOLUTION 6-13

Overture 6-36 (*CW,* p. 227)

WHEREAS, Alcohol and substance abuse remains one of the major health problems in our country; and

WHEREAS, Substance abuse also touches the life of the church, directly and adversely affecting the lives of laypeople and the ministry of professional church workers; and

WHEREAS, Symptoms of an addiction to alcohol or other drugs, unlike other health problems, are less likely to invoke an empathetic or caring response among family and fellow members, causing this serious and potentially fatal affliction to be both hidden and neglected; and

WHEREAS, Christ has given a mandate (John 13:34 and Gal. 6:2) to His church to love and care for all people, including the addicted; and

WHEREAS, The prayers of God's people, the effective use of the tools of treatment, and a commitment to recovery have demonstrated that the destructive tide of an addiction can be halted and that an addicted person can be restored to a healthy and productive life; therefore be it

Resolved, That all congregations of the Synod be encouraged to show compassion, Christian love, acceptance, and support to individuals and families affected by an addiction; and be it further

Resolved, That professional workers and laypeople of the church be encouraged to obtain a better understanding of the nature of addictions; and be it further

Resolved, That each congregation be encouraged to consider establishing a team of trained volunteers as a "support team" to undertake a ministry of education within the congregation concerning addictions and care for the addicted and their families and to provide an appropriate ministry to individuals and family members affected by an addiction; and be it finally

Resolved, That congregations of the Synod be encouraged to make use of the "Support Team Ministry" packet prepared by Synod's Task Force on Alcohol and Substance Abuse and to call upon the task force for assistance as needed.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

To Care for Victims of Domestic Violence and Abuse

RESOLUTION 6-14

Overture 6-30 (*CW,* p. 225–26)

WHEREAS, Domestic violence and abuse is an escalating problem in our society; and

WHEREAS, Domestic violence and abuse degrades the family, increases human suffering, prevents healthy growth and development, and perpetuates unchristian lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, Ministry to those affected by domestic violence and abuse follows from the strong commitment of the

Synod to the sanctity of life and the Christian family; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board for Human Care Ministries continue to

1. sensitize congregations to the problem of domestic abuses so that they might more easily recognize and acknowledge signs of domestic violence and abuse in their midst;

2. provide resources and recommend models for ministry to assist families in dealing with domestic abuse, including material concerning appropriate ways to provide physical safety to those caught in violent and abusive relationships;

3. encourage the Board for Higher Education Services to develop programs in synodical institutions that train professional workers to provide appropriate Christ-focused care to individuals and families caught in violent and abusive relationships including appropriate ways to encourage both the victims of violence and abuse and those inflicting it to seek competent Christian counseling.

Action: *Adopted (11).*



7. Structure, Planning, and Administration

To Observe 150th Anniversary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

RESOLUTION 7-01

Report R1-8-06 (*CW*, pp. 16–17); Overture L7-99 (*TB*, p. 20)

WHEREAS, The congregations of the Synod will observe in 1997, God willing, the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, We are privileged to observe during this convention the 100th anniversary of foreign mission work as well as the centennial of outreach to the hearing impaired; and

WHEREAS, Many of our congregations and other institutions will observe significant anniversaries during the next three years; and

WHEREAS, We, like those who have gone before us, are "Sent Forth by God's Blessing" to bring His message of salvation by grace through faith in the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior to all the world; and

WHEREAS, The doors of opportunity have been opened wide by our gracious God for dynamic outreach as we approach the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, President A. L. Barry has proclaimed the coming triennium, 1995–1998, to be Jubilee Years of Congregational Celebration and has designated Sunday, May 19, 1996, as a day of repentance, prayer, and commitment in our congregations; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention also commend the observance of this anniversary to all our people, so that under God's continuing blessing we may grow in His Word, in aggressive outreach, and in the stewardship of His bountiful gifts—all to the glory of His name; and be it further

Resolved, That we, in convention assembled, adopt this resolution by a standing vote and join in singing the Common Doxology.

Action: *Adopted (6).*

To Approve Bylaw Changes Involving Dispute Resolution Process

RESOLUTION 7-02A

Overtures 7-44–56, 7-58–60 (*CW*, pp. 238–43)

Rationale:

As a result of action taken at the 1992 synodical convention, the Synod initiated a new process for resolution of disputes that arise from time to time. In implementing the process during the past three years, it is apparent that some fine-tuning is necessary in order to provide clarification or to deal with factors that were not anticipated.

Resolved, That the following additions and changes be made to Bylaws relating to the Dispute Resolution Process:

~~PRESENT~~/*PROPOSED* WORDING

a. Change 2.27 a 2 to read, "~~require compliance with~~ *follow guidelines of* Matt. 18:15–16 and may appoint a small committee to assist in reconciliation efforts."



Committee 7 Chairman Robert T. Kuhn

b. Add to 2.27 f the words *If the matter involves individual membership, the calling or contracting body is encouraged to continue financial support, existing housing, and insurance of individual members until the final decision is rendered.*

c. Add to the glossary in Bylaw 8.03, ***Witness****—a person called to give testimony regarding facts to a dispute before a Dispute Resolution Panel. A reconciler appointed to assist parties in dispute resolution shall not testify as a witness before a Dispute Resolution Panel in the same dispute.*

d. Add Bylaw 8.13 e, *If a reconciler moves from the District where appointed, such reconciler shall remain as a member of the synodical roster of reconcilers until the term of service of the reconciler expires.*

e. Add to Bylaw 8.17 c, *An individual who has served as a reconciler in a matter shall not be a member of the Dispute Resolution Panel in the same matter.*

8.09 c 1

It shall be private, attended only by the parties *and one advisor of each party's choice, should any party desire one. This advisor shall not address the panel or participate in the discussion at the hearing.* ~~and the witnesses~~ *Witnesses* who can substantiate the facts relevant to the matter in dispute *may be called before, and address, the panel.* The panel shall establish the procedure to be followed in the hearing and the relevancy of evidence so that each party shall be given an opportunity fully to present its respective position. In performing its duty, the panel shall continue efforts to reconcile the parties on the basis of Christian love and forgiveness.

8.09 c 4

The final decision of a Dispute Resolution Panel shall

a. be binding upon the parties to that dispute subject to request for review;

b. have no precedential value;

c. be carried out by the appropriate person, group, or member of the Synod;

d. be publicized as deemed appropriate under the circumstances by the District or synodical President.

8.09

d. Within 30 days after receiving the decision of the Dispute Resolution Panel, any party to the dispute, or the President of the Synod if a question of doctrine or practice is involved (Art. XI B 1–3), may request *a decision regarding* a reconsideration. The President may also request that an opinion of the CCM or CTCR be obtained. Such request for a reconsideration shall be mailed to *the Secretary of the Synod,* each member of the Dispute Resolution Panel, and the other parties to the dispute, and shall be accompanied by a written memorandum stating the basis for the request, identifying the doctrine or practice with which the decision is in conflict. Within 30 days after receipt, *an Appeal Panel shall be selected in the prescribed manner, and the Secretary of the Synod shall send the request for reconsideration to each panel member. The Appeal Panel shall issue in writing its decision as to the request for reconsideration. If a reconsideration is granted, the Secretary of the Synod shall within 10 days select a Review Panel in the prescribed manner. The Review Panel shall generally decide the issue on the record without further formal hearing but may follow the procedure used by a Dispute Resolution Panel if deemed necessary.* ~~the panel shall issue in writing its decision as to the request. If a reconsideration is granted, the procedure shall be the same as that followed in the prior hearing before the panel, except that the panel may decide to issue its decision on reconsideration without a further formal hearing.~~

e. The final decision of ~~a Dispute Resolution~~ *the Review* Panel shall

1) be binding upon the parties to that dispute and not be subject to further appeal;

2) have no precedential value;

3) be carried out by the appropriate person, group, or member of the Synod;

4) be publicized as deemed appropriate under the circumstances by the District or synodical President.

8.16 Appeal Panels and Review Panels

a. The Appeal Panel shall be made up of three District Presidents, one selected by the complainant, one selected by the respondent, and the third selected by the two Appeal Panel members so selected. If the two Appeal Panel members cannot agree on a third, the synodical Secretary shall select the third member by blind draw from the remaining District Presidents.

b. The synodical roster of reconcilers shall comprise the list from which Review Panel members will be selected.

c. Each Review Panel shall consist of five persons, at least two of whom shall be pastors, and at least two laymen, selected as follows:

1. Fifteen names shall be selected by a blind draw from the synodical roster of reconcilers.

2. No member shall be from the District in which the dispute arose, or, if it is a synodical question, from any District in which a party holds membership.

3. The list shall be mailed simultaneously to each party who shall be entitled to strike five names and return the list to the Secretary of the Synod within one week.

4. The Secretary of the Synod will correct any problem in panel membership by a further blind draw for removals or additions until the panel is constituted.

5. The panel shall elect a chairman and secretary.

8.19 Decisions

b. **Majority vote:** ~~If the parties cannot settle their dispute and be reconciled, the~~ *The* Dispute Resolution Panel, *or Review Panel,* shall issue a decision based on a majority vote of the panel. In the event that a majority decision cannot be reached, a new panel shall be formed immediately in accordance with the Bylaws and the matter be reheard.

8.21 Rules of Procedure

a. Reconcilers, ~~and~~ Dispute Resolution Panels, *and Review Panels* shall be governed in all their actions by Holy Scripture, the Lutheran Confessions, and the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.

b. In the interest of promoting the reconciliation process, any member of the Synod, officer of a congregation, or officer of any organization owned or controlled by the Synod shall, when called upon by the Dispute Resolution Panel *or Review Panel* to do so, testify or produce records related to the dispute.

c. Each party to a dispute shall assume its own expenses. The expenses of reconcilers, ~~and~~ Dispute Resolution Panels, *and Review Panels* shall be borne by the Synod except for those which arise under Bylaw 8.13 b, which shall be borne by the District.

d. No party to a dispute nor anyone on the party's behalf, shall either directly or indirectly communicate with the reconciler or any member of the Dispute Resolution Panel, *Appeal Panel, or Review Panel* without the full knowledge of the other party to the dispute.

e. While a matter in dispute is still undecided or while an appeal is contemplated or pending, publicity shall not be given to the issues in the matter by any of the parties involved.

f. Any party may seek, at its own personal expense, the assistance of individuals familiar with the issues involved in the dispute. They may actively participate in research and the preparation of necessary documents. At the hearing, ~~however,~~ each party *may have an advisor present but must represent itself, with no public participation by the advisor.* ~~shall represent itself without the presence of any advisers.~~ If a party is a board or commission of the Synod or its Districts, it shall be represented by its chairman or designated member.

g. ~~The~~ *A* Dispute Resolution Panel *or Review Panel* shall determine the number of witnesses necessary for a full and complete understanding of the facts involved in the dispute. It shall question parties and witnesses directly and may also permit the parties to do so.

h. All *Dispute Resolution Panel or Review Panel* records of disputes in which a final decision has been rendered by the Dispute Resolution Panel *or Review Panel* shall be placed in the custody of Concordia Historical Institute. All such records shall be sealed and shall be opened only for good cause shown and only after permission has been granted by a Dispute Resolution Panel, selected by blind draw for that purpose.

i. If any part of the dispute involves a specific question of doctrine or doctrinal application, each party shall have the right to an opinion from the Commission on Theology and Church Relations. If it involves questions of Constitution or Bylaw interpretation, each party shall have a right to an interpretation from the Commission on Constitutional Matters. The request for an opinion must be made through the Dispute Resolution Panel *or Review Panel,* which shall determine the wording of the question(s). The request for an opinion must be made within four weeks of the final formation of the Dispute Resolution Panel *or Review Panel.* If a party does not request such an opinion within the des-

ignated time, such a request may still be made to the Dispute Resolution Panel *or Review Panel,* which shall, at its discretion, determine whether the request shall be forwarded. The Dispute Resolution Panel *or Review Panel* shall also have the right, at any time, to request an opinion from the Commission on Theology and Church Relations or the Commission on Constitutional Matters. Any opinion so requested shall be rendered within 30 days or such greater time as the Dispute Resolution Panel may allow. When an opinion has been requested, the time limitations will not apply until the opinion has been received by the parties. Any opinion received *from the Commission on Constitutional Matters* must be followed by the Dispute Resolution Panel *or Review Panel (Bylaw 3.905 d).*

Action: *Adopted (6).*

(An amendment to remove the words *but may follow the procedure used by a Dispute Resolution Panel if deemed necessary* from Bylaw 8.09 d and the words *or Review Panel* from Bylaw 8.21 b and g was declined. Delegates also declined resolutions to table the resolution and to reconsider it after its passage.)

To Develop Guidelines for Dispute Resolution and Review Panels

RESOLUTION 7-03B

Overtures 7-58–59 (*CW,* pp. 242–43)

WHEREAS, The current resolution procedures leave the selection of guidelines for any specific individual hearing up to the reconcilers selected to participate on a Dispute Resolution Panel or a Review Panel (Bylaw 8.09 c 1); and

WHEREAS, The parties in dispute have no prior knowledge of what the guidelines will be until meeting with the Dispute Resolution Panel, placing them in a position of being "blind" as to guidelines; and

WHEREAS, The Dispute Resolution Panel has sole prerogative to determine what evidence will be admissible in the meeting with disputants (Bylaw 8.09 c 1); therefore be it

Resolved, That the Task Force on Dispute Resolution develop guidelines for Dispute Resolution Panels and Review Panels to ensure consistency and uniformity in the process of the hearing; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force complete its work by April 1, 1996, and report its recommendations to the synodical President and synodical Board of Directors for approval and implementation; and be it finally

Resolved, That until the Task Force completes its work, the "Guidelines for Implementation of Bylaws on Dispute Resolution" already developed by the Task Force be used as applicable by Dispute Resolution Panels and Review Panels.

Action: *Adopted (6).*

(When the floor committee presented Resolution 7-03A for consideration a motion was made calling for a major amendment by substitution and deletion. In view of this, the amendment was ruled a substitute motion which the convention agreed to consider. A motion to have the substitute motion printed, distributed, and then considered at a later time was declined. The substitute motion was adopted as printed above.

In the first resolve the words *Task Force on Dispute Resolution* were substituted for the words *President of the Synod, in consultation with the Board of Directors, appoint a special committee of five (5), at least two of whom shall be members of the current Task Force on Dispute Resolution to.* In the second resolve the words *Task Force* were substituted for *special committee* and *by April 1, 1996* for *within eight (8) months of its first meeting.* A third resolve which read *"Resolved, That the recommended 'Guidelines for Implementation of Bylaws on Dispute Resolution,' developed by the Task Force on Dispute Resolution be considered by the special committee"* was deleted. In the final resolve the words *Task Force completes its work the* were substituted for *special committee reports, these recommended* and the words *already developed by the Task Force* were added after *Bylaws on Dispute Resolution.* The guidelines referred to are the following:

Guidelines for Implementation of Bylaws on Dispute Resolution

1. It is important to remember that the duties of a reconciler are very different when engaging in the mediation process as opposed to being a member of the dispute resolution panel. When acting as mediator, the reconciler assists the parties to voluntarily reach an accord on a mutually satisfactory resolution of the dispute. Here the reconciler does not take sides but remains neutral in acting as a facilitator of the mediation process. However, as a member of a dispute resolution panel, the reconciler assumes the role of a final arbiter and is called upon to hear all the evidence and then reach a just and fair decision. It should be remembered, and the parties should be reminded, that the ultimate goal in every case is reconciliation.

2. At the first formal reconciliation meeting, the reconciler, with the input of the parties, must clearly define the issues and reduce them to writing. A panel may review these and revise them if necessary.

3. If a reconciler or a dispute resolution panel has a question on proper procedure, such question should be promptly communicated by telephone or fax to the Secretary of the Synod.

4. The hearing before the panel should be held in pleasant surroundings. It is suggested that the members of the panel, the parties to the dispute, and the witness be seated in a circle or similar arrangement. At least ten (10) days' written notice of the time and place of the hearing shall be given unless the parties waive such notice. It shall be the parties' responsibility to notify their witnesses of the time and place of the hearing.

5. The panel should remind the parties that each of them must pay their own costs related to the dispute resolution process.

6. The chairman of the dispute resolution panel shall review with the parties the rules of procedure as outlined in Bylaw 8.21 prior to the hearing. Since the parties to the dispute may be ill at ease when appearing before the panel, the panel should fully explain the procedure to be followed in the hearing and respond to any questions the parties may have relative to it.

7. Witnesses should appear before the panel one at a time so that when the testimony of a witness is concluded, the witness is excused and leaves the hearing room.

8. Members of the panel must be cognizant of the fact that they will be required to make a decision which will affect all parties to the dispute. Therefore, panel members should make every effort to reflect their impartiality to the parties and the issues involved.

9. The panel may proceed with its hearing if a party fails to be present or to secure a postponement. The party who is present shall submit the evidence which is necessary for the panel to arrive at a decision. The panel may, but need not, allow the absent party to appear at a subsequent hearing attended by all parties.

10. At its discretion an electronic recording may be made only by the panel for its use and for responding to specific questions.

11. The panel must issue its written decision in the matter within 60 days after conclusion of the hearing. The decision shall not be publicized in any manner before the written decision is issued.

12. Sample format of a panel decision.

13. If a panel in its decision makes a monetary award to a party, the decision should clearly set forth the party that is obligated to pay such monetary award.

14. The panel should advise the parties at the conclusion of the hearing that any party may request in writing reconsideration of the panel decision within 30 days after receiving the written decision. A request for reconsideration which merely asks the panel to reconsider its decision will not be considered. A request for reconsideration is appropriate only when a matter of doctrine or practice is involved.

Inherent in the motion for reconsideration is the possibility that the panel

a. has obviously misunderstood a party or evidence,

b. has made a decision beyond the issues presented and agreed upon, or

c. has made a miscalculation or mistake of identification.

The request shall state in writing the specific reason(s) reconsideration is being requested and shall be sent to the panel and the other party. If the request is granted, the issues being considered shall be defined and each party may submit appropriate supplementary information. The decision as to whether to grant reconsideration is made by the panel and cannot be appealed.

Any request for reconsideration by the President or the parties involved shall be honored when it includes specific reasons for reconsideration and the panel shall respond in writing to those specific reasons for reconsideration identified in the request.)

To Dismiss the Task Force on Dispute Resolution

RESOLUTION 7-04

Report R7-08 (*CW*, pp. 127–28)

WHEREAS, The Task Force on Dispute Resolution has completed its work; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Task Force be dismissed with thanks for its service; and be it further

Resolved, That future questions in regard to Dispute Resolution be directed to the office of the synodical President.

Action: *No action.*

(No action was taken on Res. 7-04 since by adoption of Res. 7-03B the Task Force on Dispute Resolution was continued until April 1, 1996, for purposes of completing the preparation of Guidelines for Implementation of Bylaws on Dispute Resolution.)

To Amend Bylaw 14.03

RESOLUTION 7-05

Overture 7-70 (*CW*, pp. 245–46)

Background:

An increasing number of organizations have been applying for the status of Recognized Service Organization (RSO). The present Bylaws do not cover all circumstances and, in addition, include items which would be better covered in policy statements. TheBoard of Directors Policy Statement on Recognized Service Organizations is appended to the resolution but is not a part of it.

Resolved, That Bylaw 14.03 be amended as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/*PROPOSED* WORDING

14.03 Recognized Service Organizations

a. Recognized Service Organization status may be granted to a service organization (other than an auxiliary) that extends the mission and ministry of the Synod but is not part of the Synod as defined by its Constitution and Bylaws. The granting of recognition by the Synod signifies that a service organization, while independent of the Synod, fosters the mission and ministry of the church, engages in program activity that is in harmony with the programs of the boards of the Synod, and respects and does not act contrary to the doctrine and practice of the Synod.

b. Under the governance and policies of its own board, a Recognized Service Organization operates with freedom and self-determination as a ministry organization independent of the Synod or Districts or congregations of the Synod in the establishment and evaluation of its own objectives, activities, and programs, in organization and administration, and in financial matters.

c. Requests for Recognized Service Organization status shall be made to the board of the Synod to which the organization desires to relate. Within the area of its responsibility, each board of the Synod may determine those organizations to which Recognized Service Organization status will be granted.

d. The Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Inc., shall adopt common policies for granting Recognized Service Organization status. Each operating board of the Synod may also adopt policies and criteria to assure that its unique needs are met and shall report these to the Board of Directors.

e. Each board of the Synod shall adopt policies requiring each Recognized Service Organization to give its assurance in its governing documents that recognition as a service organization is not an endorsement by the Synod or a guarantee of financial responsibility for the debts and obligations of the organization or for services provided or offered.

Policy Statement—Board of Directors
Subject: Recognized Service Organization Status

Recognition of a service organization signifies that the ministry of the RSO is integral to the ministry of the church. Through recognition, the Synod affirms that an RSO meets criteria established by the operating boards of the Synod that are in compliance with the policies for common criteria adopted by the Board of Directors.

As a service to its Districts, congregations, and people, the Synod's recognition of a service organization witnesses to the public accountability of the RSO and commends the RSO as an independent, responsible corporate ministry that is not a part of the Synod's constitutional structure. At the same time, recognition seeks to protect the Synod by disavowal of any part in the governance or policies or programs of a service organization. The granting of RSO status by an operating board of the Synod does not imply accreditation or certification of an RSO or its programs. The LCMS makes no representations or guarantees about the fiscal solvency or financial responsibility of any recognized organization or for any services expressly or implicitly offered by it.

In order that Synod's recognition of service organizations can be of maximum benefit to the church, the Board of Directors, in conformity with Bylaw 14.03, adopts these common policies.

A. Boards shall assure that service organizations considered for Recognized Service Organization status shall do the following:

1. Foster the mission and ministry of the church and engage in program activity that is in harmony with the program of the board.

2. Identify with the mission and ministry of the Synod but not be a part of the Synod's constitutional structure.

3. Respect and not act contrary to the doctrine and practice of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) as set forth in the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions and the applicable resolutions of the Synod.

4. Provide assurance of Internal Revenue Code Section 501 (c) (3) tax exemption.

5. Have a reasonable ratio of fund-raising costs to related receipts.

6. Operate under the governance and policies of their own boards with freedom and self-determination as ministry organizations independent of the Synod or Districts or congregations of the Synod in the establishment and evaluation of their own objectives, activities, and programs, in organization and administration, and in financial matters.

7. Provide for appropriate LCMS representation on their governing boards, especially with respect to inter-Lutheran and/or interfaith organizations.

8. Provide that, in the event of a dissolution of the corporation, the residual assets shall be distributed to another not-for-profit organization with 501 (c) (3) status. (Previous covenants and agreements made with other organizations or communities will be honored as part of the commitment of the organization.)

9. Provide an annual, independent audit, preferably by a certified public accountant.

10. Include in the organization's governing documents provisions that recognition by the Synod (i) is not an endorsement of the fiscal solvency of the organization, nor of services or programs offered by the organization and (ii) does not express or imply endorsement of the fiscal solvency of the organization, or synodical responsibility for the debts or other financial obligations of the organization. Each board granting Recognized Service Organization status shall, by policy, establish the wording and content of such provisions subject to approval by Synod's legal counsel.

11. Sign a mutual letter of agreement by which the organization agrees to comply with the requirement stated in Bylaw 14.03, this policy, and of applicable policies of the board granting Recognized Service Organization status. The agreement shall permit termination of Recognized Service Organization status upon 90 days notice by the board and shall require the organization to include a disclaimer of financial responsibility for the obligations of the organization in all agreements or other documents creating financial obligations in excess of $100,000. Each board granting Recognized Service Organization status shall, by policy, establish the wording and content of the disclaimer and indemnification provisions, subject to approval by Synod's legal counsel.

12. Include in a letter of agreement a provision by which the organization agrees to indemnify and defend the Synod against losses of and claims against the Synod resulting solely from the Synod's recognition of the organization.

B. Decisions to grant, deny, or terminate recognition shall be reported for information purposes in the regular activity report to the Board of Directors of LCMS, Inc. Reports on Recognized Service Organizations to the conventions of Synod will be made through the appropriate board.

C. Boards shall adopt policies to inform service organizations that the Synod grants to Recognized Service Organizations the following privileges:

1. Eligibility of ordained and commissioned ministers of the Synod serving Recognized Service Organizations to remain on the membership rosters of the Synod as "active members," if otherwise eligible under Bylaw 2.15 j.

2. Eligibility for obtaining church extension loans from the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod, unless the policies of LCEF preclude the organization as an eligible borrower.

3. Eligibility to be an "employer" under the various Worker Benefit Plans of the Synod unless the policies of such a plan preclude the organization as an eligible employer.

D. Boards shall list Recognized Service Organizations in *The Lutheran Annual.* The listing shall be prefaced by a statement that recognition is not a guarantee on the part of the Synod for the fiscal solvency of the Recognized Service Organization and the Synod has no financial responsibility for a recognized organization or for services expressed or implied.

E. Boards shall report to the Board of Directors their policies and criteria which shall be in compliance with the above common policies and also any policies and criteria adopted by the boards to assure that their unique needs are met.

Action: *Adopted (4).*

To Finalize Bylaws re Auxiliaries

RESOLUTION 7-06

Overture 7-71 (*CW*, p. 246)

Background:

The 1986 synodical convention in Res. 5-21 revised Bylaw 14.01 to expand auxiliary membership eligibility to allow for all of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) auxiliaries to also be auxiliaries of the Lutheran Church—Canada (LCC). At the request of the LCC, the 1989 LCMS convention in Res. 5-10 further amended Bylaw 14.01 a 6 to incorporate on an interim basis the words *It's [auxiliary] membership is made up of persons who are baptized members of congregations that are members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod or Lutheran Church—Canada.* This interim Bylaw was extended by the 1992 convention in Res. 8-02 to accommodate the LCC and the International Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL). In 1993 the Canadian Lutheran Women's Missionary League became a separate organization from the International Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML). The LLL in Canada is moving to be somewhat autonomous, but at this time wants to retain membership in the International LLL. A separate Canadian corporation has been established with a board controlled by Canadians. The long-term plan is for the Canadians to determine how they will relate to the LLL.

Since January 1992, the synodical administration has held discussions with representatives of the LCC, the LLL, and the LWML as to future relationships and concluded that the interim Bylaw should continue as long as the LCC recognizes the LLL as an auxiliary. In the course of the discussions, the group concluded that some minor refinements in the Bylaws should be made to reflect how the leagues are coordinating their work with that of the Synod. It also concluded that auxiliary status should be limited to the LLL and LWML and that smaller, single-purpose organi-

zations better lend themselves to "Recognized Service Organization" status provided for in Bylaw 14.03.

Resolved, That the interim status of Bylaw 14.01 be continued as long as the Lutheran Church—Canada recognizes the International Lutheran Laymen's League as an auxiliary; and be it further

Resolved, That the following Bylaws under 14.01 (Auxiliaries) be amended to read as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/*PROPOSED* WORDING

a-4. It operates with freedom and self-determination as a ministry and is independent of the Synod in its organization and administration, in the establishment and evaluation of its own objectives, activities, and programs, and in financial matters, while complying with the responsibilities outlined in section 14.01 c of these Bylaws.

a-5. *It coordinates its plans and programs with those of the Synod through regular sharing and contact with representatives of those boards to which the Synod has assigned specific responsibilities (synodical boards will share with the auxiliaries in a similar manner).*

Reletter present a-5 and a-6 to a-6 and a-7.

b—replace with

b. ~~*Process for recognition.* An organization is given auxiliary status only through synodical 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 Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Inc., based on consultation with the organization in question.~~

Recognition—auxiliary status is granted only by a synodical convention and is presently limited to the International Lutheran Laymen's League and International Lutheran Women's Missionary League. The auxiliaries shall continue to meet the above requirements for continued recognition.

c-2. ~~Provide the Synod with an annual program report.~~

c-2. *Provide the Synod, through its President, with an annual program report for sharing with the appropriate boards.*

and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod ask the continued blessings of the Lord on the work of its auxiliaries and the Lutheran Church—Canada as they work together in bringing Christ to the nations.

Action: *Adopted (4).*

To Commend and Support the President of Synod for His Leadership

RESOLUTION 7-07

Overture 7-80 (*CW*, p. 248)

WHEREAS, Dr. A. L. Barry has provided commendable and Spirit-filled leadership and guidance to the Synod over the past triennium as our chief spiritual, theological, and administrative leader; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod, in convention assembled, support President Barry in his role as chief executive officer and supervisor for the doctrine of our church body; and be it further

Resolved, That the convention assembled acknowledge President Barry's leadership with a standing vote of appreciation and thanksgiving to God with the singing of the Common Doxology.

Action: *Adopted (4).*

(A motion to reconsider Res. 7-07 was defeated.)

To Reaffirm the Pastoral Role of District Presidents

RESOLUTION 7-08

Overtures 7-73, 7-82 (*CW*, pp. 247, 249)

WHEREAS, District Presidents are charged not only with the responsibility to supervise the doctrine, the life, and the official administration on the part of the ordained or commissioned ministers who are members through their District, but also the concern for the spiritual conditions of the congregations of their District (Bylaw 4.73); and

WHEREAS, There are many other duties and responsibilities in the office of District President which require their time and attention; therefore be it

Resolved, That the 1995 convention reaffirm the pastoral relationship of the District Presidents with all members of the Synod in their Districts; and be it further

Resolved, That the members of Synod encourage and support their District Presidents in their ministry.

Action: *Adopted (4).*

To Approve Miscellaneous Changes in *Handbook* Documents

RESOLUTION 7-09A

Overture 7-86 (*CW*, pp. 250–51)

Rationale:

At the last synodical convention, a number of changes were made in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod. In that process certain other necessary changes were not considered. In addition, certain conditions which have arisen since that time, including revised Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) requirements, necessitate some changes for purposes of clarification.

Resolved, That the following miscellaneous changes be made in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod:

~~PROPOSED~~/*PRESENT* WORDING

A. Article VI 6—Substitute "or candidates for these offices" for the present wording, "or candidates for the office of the ministry or that of teacher."

B. Article X A—Restore the words, "6. Other officers, as specified in the Bylaws." These words appeared prior to 1992 and should not have been removed. Unless restored, Bylaw 3.77 is in conflict when it states, "The Board of Directors, subject to the approval of the President of the Synod, shall appoint such assistant officers and such staff as may be required from time to time to carry out the business and legal affairs of the Synod.

C. Article XII B—Change the list of District advisory members to conform to the list of synodical advisory members found in Article V B.

D. Article XII 7, 8 and Bylaw 2.21—Change "pastors and teachers" to "ordained and commissioned ministers."

E. Bylaw 3.503 e—Change to read, "provide copies of all ~~actuarial,~~ audit ~~and investment analysis~~ reports to the Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod~~, Inc.~~, for information, advice, and counsel."

F. In order to provide clarity and proper classification, amend Bylaw 3.940 c 2 to read:

2. provide a forum for ~~the~~ integration of the plans of the respective *corporate and trust boards (The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Concordia Publishing House, Lutheran Church Extension Fund, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation, Worker Benefit Plans, Concordia University System, Concordia Historical Institute),* operating boards (Missions, Higher Education, Conference of Congregational Services, Human Care Ministries, Black Ministry ~~Concordia Publishing House, LutheranChurch Extension Fund, The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Foundation, Worker Benefit Plans,~~ Communications) and commissions *(Commission on Constitutional Matters, Commission on Doctrinal Review, Commission on Theology and Church Relations, Commission on Organizations, Commission on Worship).*

G. Amend Bylaw 3.940 a to read, "There shall be a Council on Mission and Ministry chaired by the President of the Synod which shall *ordinarily* meet semiannually comprised of 30 voting and 17 nonvoting members. A meeting between the Council on Mission and Ministry and the Council of Presidents is encouraged at least triennially." Further, amend Bylaw 3.940 c 3 to read, "support the operating boards *and commissions* in the implementation of convention and/or council-approved plans."

H. In 1992 the convention adopted an amendment to the Bylaws which called for the induction of officers and board members elected and present at the convention to be inducted during the convention. This procedure has not been found to be satisfactory since it causes confusion, especially as this relates to the induction or installation of those not present at a different time and requires additional special arrangements. It is therefore proposed that Bylaw 3.65 be amended as follows:

3.65 Induction

a. All those elected at *the* convention ~~and present shall be inducted into office at the convention. Those not present~~ or ~~those~~ appointed by the President or Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod~~, Inc.~~ shall be inducted into office ~~at the determination of the synodical President~~ *on a date on or subsequent to Sept. 1 following the convention.*

b. The initial meeting of ~~these~~ boards and commissions shall *ordinarily* be held ~~following~~ *in association with* the induction and shall begin with a combined orientation program conducted under the direction of the President.

I. In order to deal with certain issues relating to dissolution of corporations established by Districts, it is proposed that Bylaw 4.07 d be amended by the following addition:

d. Upon dissolution of a District, all property and assets to which the District holds title or over which it has control shall be transferred forthwith to the Synod or to the Synod's nominee. *Upon dissolution of a corporation controlled by a District (through its Board of Directors or its member congregations), the assets of such corporation shall be distributed to the District, or, if the District is not in existence, to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.*

J. In order to provide for closing out of their work, preparing records for forwarding to Concordia Historical Institute, and similar matters, a period of three months does not appear to be sufficient. It is therefore recommended that Bylaw 3.61 be amended as follows:

3.61 Successive Terms

e. If the President, the First Vice-President, the Secretary, or the Vice-President—Finance/Treasurer of the Synod are not reelected to their office before they reach the official retirement age or do not stand for reelection, they shall continue to receive their full salary ~~to the end of the calendar year~~ *for a period of six (6) months* while rendering transitional service, *with the understanding that such service and salary will cease at the time such persons accept another full-time position or secure retirement income under the Synod's Worker Benefit Plans.* During ~~this period~~ *the period of transition* the Department of Human Resources shall assist them, if requested, in their efforts at finding another opportunity for service in the church. In the event of a resignation the officer shall be continued at full salary for a minimum of three months. Any extension beyond this *three-month* period shall be at the discretion of the Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod~~, Inc.~~

Action: *Adopted (10).*

(Sections A–D, constitutional amendments requiring a two-thirds majority vote were adopted individually. In section F the Commission on Black Ministry was deleted and Black Ministry was included as an operating board. An amendment to insert at the end of the resolution a statement that *No person or entity shall receive or be obligated to pay a monetary award as a result of the Synod's conflict resolution procedure* was declined.)

To Transfer Congregations between LCMS and LCC and between Districts

RESOLUTION 7-10

Overtures 7-74–76, L7-98 (*CW*, p. 247; *TB*, p. 20)

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Canada has recommended that the transfer of congregations from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the Lutheran Church—Canada be approved by their Boards of Directors, or by their District boards, rather than by convention action; and

WHEREAS, It has been suggested that a similar process be approved for transfer of congregations between LCMS Districts, thereby saving convention time; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS Board of Directors has agreed with the proposed Bylaw modification and has taken the following action; therefore be it

Resolved, That in order to provide direction for transfer of congregations, the following Bylaw provision be added:

4.03 d

Transfer of congregations between Districts is completed upon approval of the respective District Boards of Directors at the request of the congregations. Transfer of congregations between partner churches requires the additional approval of the governing boards of church bodies.

and be it further

Resolved, That such actions be reported by the District President of the transferring District in the official periodicals of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Action: *Adopted (4).*

To Change Bylaw 5.11 re Nomination and Elections of Circuit Counselors

RESOLUTION 7-11

Overtures 7-01, 7-03–04 (*CW*, pp. 229–30)

Rationale:

Circuit congregations value the privilege and opportunity to be as involved as possible in the selection process of their Circuit Counselor; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 5.11 a be changed to read as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/*PROPOSED* WORDING

a. Every voting congregation of each Circuit shall *be entitled to* nominate as ~~e~~ candidates for the office of Circuit Counselor *either one, or* two *individual* pastors of the member congregations of the Circuit or from among the emeriti who hold membership in one of the member congregations of that Circuit. The nominations shall be made at least four months prior to the elections and shall be submitted to the Nominating Committee through the Secretary of the District. *The pastor who receives a majority of votes cast on the nominating ballot shall be the nominee.* If no candidate has received a majority, the District Secretary shall forward to each congregation in that Circuit *an additional ballot with* the names of the two men, or more in case of a tie, receiving the highest number of votes *in the initial balloting. The congregations shall then mark their ballot with one name and return it to the District Secretary by the date specified by him. The pastor who receives the majority of votes cast shall be the nominee. If no pastor has received a majority in the voting,* a Circuit caucus shall be held during an early session of the convention at a specified time on the agenda. Balloting shall take place by the pastors and lay delegates of the Circuit until one pastor receives the majority of votes. Should the candidate(s) no longer be available for this office, the Circuit caucus shall have the right to act on behalf of the congregations to nominate a replacement. The convention shall have the right to alter the slate by amendment. The convention shall then ratify the slate of Circuit Counselors, which ratification shall constitute election.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

To Change Bylaw 5.13 re Responsibilities of Circuit Counselors in Relation to Member Congregations

RESOLUTION 7-12A

Overture 7-02 (*CW*, p. 229)

WHEREAS, Circuit Counselors and congregations can benefit from knowing specific ways in which the Circuit Counselor is expected to carry out his charge to assist the District President "in doctrinal and spiritual supervision" (Bylaw 5.13 a); and

WHEREAS, Congregations and pastors continue to be tempted by false doctrines and sinful practices which are suggested by the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh; therefore be it

Resolved, That Bylaw 5.13 b be changed to read as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/*PROPOSED* WORDING

b. He shall serve in a servant role and seek to remind and encourage members of the Circuit of their responsibilities as God's people and the privilege they have in being about His mission. *He shall also inquire whether the congregations are zealously guarding the purity of doctrine and also inquire what means are being used to guard against the evil influence of sects and organizations which endanger the spiritual life of the congregation.* ~~In doing so,~~ He should keep in mind the glory and responsibility of the universal priesthood of all believers as it applies to the congregations. He shall remind them that they are "a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people to show forth the praises of Him who has called them out of darkness into His marvelous light." He shall meet with the entire congregation, if possible, rather than with the voting members only.

Action: *Declined (12).*

To Encourage Congregations, Circuits and Districts to Study and Implement within Their District Appropriate Structural Changes in Order to More Effectively Serve Congregations

RESOLUTION 7-13

Report R1-8-07 (*CW*, pp. 17–22); Overtures 2-14, 7-26–27, 7-29 (*CW*, pp. 140, 234–35)

WHEREAS, The 1992 synodical convention in Res. 8-09 asked the Mission and Ministry Council to appoint a task force to study and evaluate, in consultation with the Districts, the following issues:

1. The configuration of Districts,
2. The regionalization of District staffs,
3. The regionalization of national staff, and
4. The development of new categories or positions for staffing based on the changing needs of our congregations; and

WHEREAS, The Res. 8-09 Task Force was asked to complete the initial study and propose a strategic plan for review by the Mission and Ministry Council, which plan, if accepted by the Mission and Ministry Council, was to be brought to the 1995 synodical convention for approval and recommendation to congregations, Circuits, and Districts for study during the next triennium and was to be followed by a final strategic plan from the Res. 8-09 Task Force for action by the Mission and Ministry Council and the 1998 synodical convention; and

WHEREAS, The Res. 8-09 Task Force has completed its initial study and presented its findings to the Mission and Ministry Council but has determined, as a result of its study, that it will decline at this time to propose any one strategic plan for adoption by the synodical convention for the reasons stated in the report of the Res. 8-09 Task Force; therefore be it

Resolved, That congregations, Circuits, and especially Districts of the Synod, through the Board of Directors, be encouraged to study the report and recommendations of the Res. 8-09 Task Force in the areas of structuring to best provide mission and ministry services to and on behalf of congregations and in the areas of business services and ecclesial services, and to study the report and recommendations of the Conference of Congregational Services regarding the functions and staffing of national and District offices in the areas of adult, child, evangelism, family, leadership,

schools, stewardship, worship, and youth ministries; and be it further

Resolved, That following such study, as the congregations, Circuits, and Districts shall consider appropriate during the next triennium:

1. Each District report the findings of such study and recommendations to its own District convention, and any District wishing to change its structure be encouraged to adopt such changes as may be appropriate for itself through amendments to its own bylaws, if required, and any such District report such changes to the Mission and Ministry Council for publication in a follow-up report to the 1998 synodical convention; and

2. Any District wishing to alter its geographical boundaries submit a request to the Mission and Ministry Council for review and development of an appropriate resolution to be recommended to the national Board of Directors and the 1998 synodical convention for action;

and be it further

Resolved, That the Mission and Ministry Council review the reports on changes in District structures and networking efforts developed by the Districts and national staff during the next triennium and, if appropriate, report its findings to the 1998 synodical convention in order to permit the entire Synod to benefit from the sharing of ideas for better serving congregations; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Task Force be dismissed with thanks for its service.

Action: *No action.*

(The resolution, though not officially referred is being called to the attention of the Council on Mission and Ministry.)

To Elect Members of the Commission on Constitutional Matters

RESOLUTION 7-14

Overtures 7-20–23 (*CW*, p. 233)

WHEREAS, The Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters renders opinions and interpretations on matters and questions concerning the Constitution and Bylaws of our church; and

WHEREAS, Such interpretations are rendered upon the written request of a member of a board, commission, or agency of our Synod and have force until a convention has an opportunity to overrule them; and

WHEREAS, There have been many requests over the years to make this commission elective rather than appointive; therefore be it

Resolved, That beginning in 1998 the Commission on Constitutional Matters be hereafter elected in convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Directors make recommendations of appropriate changes to the Bylaws for adoption by the 1998 convention.

Action: *No action.*

(Overtures 7-20–23 were included in Resolution 7-20A, respectfully declined.)

To Make the Secretary of the Synod a Nonvoting Member of the Commission on Constitutional Matters

RESOLUTION 7-15A

Overtures 7-22–23 (*CW*, p. 233)

WHEREAS, The Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters renders opinions and interpretations on matters and questions concerning the Constitution and the Bylaws of our church; and

WHEREAS, Such interpretations are rendered upon the written request of a member (congregation, ordained or commissioned minister), official, board, commission, or entity of our Synod and have force until a convention has an opportunity to overrule them; and

WHEREAS, To avoid the possibility of the conflict of interest involving the Secretary of the Synod, he should be a nonvoting member of the commission; therefore be it

Resolved, That beginning in 1995 the Commission on Constitutional Matters consist of five voting members (three ordained ministers and two lawyers); and be it further

Resolved, That effective with this convention the Secretary of the Synod become a nonvoting member of the commission; and be it finally

Resolved, That Bylaws 3.141 and 3.903 be amended to read:

~~PRESENT~~/*PROPOSED* WORDING

3.141 Duties

k. serve as a *nonvoting* member and secretary of the Commission on Constitutional Matters;

3.903 Membership

a. The Commission on Constitutional Matters shall consist of five voting members, ~~four of whom shall be appointed~~ (whose terms shall be for six years, renewable once). ~~Two~~ *Three* of the appointed members shall be ordained ministers and two shall be lawyers.

b. The Secretary of the Synod shall serve as ~~the fifth~~ *a nonvoting*

member of the commission and its secretary.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

To Publish Opinions Rendered by the CCM

RESOLUTION 7-16A

Overture 7-23 (*CW*, p. 233)

WHEREAS, It is important for the Synod to be informed of significant rulings and opinions of the Commission on Constitutional Matters; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Synod shall publish in an official periodical at least the title of and one or two summarizing sentences for all opinions rendered by the CCM, as well as an invitation to request from the Secretary's office a copy of any full CCM opinion so summarized. Publication of such notice shall be within ninety (90) days of rendering of any opinion of the CCM; and be it further

Resolved, That the CCM may ask for publication of any opinion in its entirety in an "official publication" as an "official notice."

Action: *Adopted (12).*

To Establish Requirement re Synodical Vice-Presidents

RESOLUTION 7-17A

Overture 7-14 (*CW*, p. 232)

WHEREAS, It is desirable to have some input from active parish pastors in decision-making and discussions within the Praesidium; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention establish the requirement that at least two of the four Vice-Presidents (numbers 2, 3, 4, and 5) be actively involved as parish pastors when elected as Vice-President of the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That this change take place with the election at the 1998 synodical convention; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board of Directors make the appropriate Bylaw changes.

Action: *Declined (12).*

To Form a Special Committee

RESOLUTION 7-18A

Overtures 7-84–85 (*CW*, pp. 249–50)

Rationale:

Overtures 7-84 and 7-85 request the Synod in convention to take action in the matter of Herman Otten's certification. As the legislative assembly of Synod (Bylaw 1-07 a) we recognize that the Synod in convention is not an adjudicatory body and therefore is not designed to render a decision concerning Rev. Otten's request for certification. We also recognize that the Synod in convention is not a certifying body. It is further noted that the many unique elements involved in this issue make it difficult to apply normal Bylaw procedures; therefore be it

Resolved, That a committee of five be formed, three members to be synodical reconcilers chosen by the synodical Secretary in a blind draw, one member to be a synodical Vice-President appointed by the President of the Synod, and the final member to be the President of the Missouri District, who shall be the chairman; and be it further

Resolved, That this committee study the materials and issues pertinent to the Herman Otten case; and be it further

Resolved, That this committee attempt by God's grace to reach a solution which will promote peace and harmony in the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That this committee report its findings and recommendations to the President of the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That the President of the Synod be respectfully directed to take appropriate action to conclude this matter in accordance with the Bylaws of the Synod; and be it finally

Resolved, That any solution achieved be viewed as unique to this case without any precedential value.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

(During discussion of the resolution a motion to substitute Resolution 7-18 was declined, as was a motion to place the matter into Omnibus Resolution B. A motion to refer the matter was also defeated.)

To Encourage Study Groups

RESOLUTION 7-19A

Overtures 7-72–73 (*CW*, pp. 246–47)

WHEREAS, The apostle Paul commended the Bereans on account of the fact that "they received the Word with all eagerness" and because "they were examining the Scriptures daily"; and

WHEREAS, One of President A. L. Barry's "Five Visions for Missouri" is that she be and remain a truly confessional church; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is a confessional church espousing the Holy Scripture as the sole source and norm of doctrine; and

WHEREAS, The study of the Lutheran Confessions, which are drawn from and express the truths of that Scripture, is desirable on an individual and group basis; and

WHEREAS, The synodical *Handbook* recognizes the above by encouraging the formation of study groups as it states in Bylaw 5.67 b and c: "Ordained and commissioned ministers are also encouraged to organize smaller conferences in addition to their official conferences" and "Intersynodical conferences for the study of theology are desirable and are encouraged on a regular basis"; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention assembled encourage its ordained and commissioned ministers to form groups for the study of Scripture and the Confessions; and be it further

Resolved, That we recognize that the use of the term *confessional* by a group does not in any way imply that nonmembers of the group are disloyal or in any way wanting in their approach to the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.

Action: *Adopted (12).*

To Respectfully Decline Overtures

RESOLUTION 7-20A

Overtures 7-07, 7-11–13, 7-15, 7-20–23, 7-30–35, 7-37, 7-42–43, 7-63, 7-79, 7-83, 7-96 (*CW*, pp. 230–33, 235–38, 243–44, 248–49, 253–54)

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

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

Overture	*Subject*	*Reason*
7-07	Voting Eligibility of Vacancy Pastor	Creates confusion
7-11, 7-13	Synodical Officers' Terms	Current procedures provide limitations in voting process
7-12	Eligibility of District Presidents to be Synodical Vice-President	Contradicts synodical policy
7-15	Requirements for Holding Synodical Office	Not clear in intended result
7-20–23	Election of CCM	Present system works well
7-30	Advisory Responsibility of District Presidents	Bylaws 2.45 a and 4.73
7-31	Involvement of District President in Pastoral Calls	Inconsistent with synodical policy
7-32	Congregation's Right to Call	Bylaw 2.45
7-33	Congregational Calling Process	Bylaw 2.45
7-34	Responsibilities and Limitations of District Presidents	Bylaw 2.45
7-35	District President and Restricted Status	Present system contains checks and balances
7-37	Synodical President as Chairman of Council of Presidents	Present system works well
7-42–43	Equal Time for Candidates	Impractical from standpoint of time and logistics
7-63	Synodical Constitution Amendment	Bylaw 2.39 explains the word well
7-79	Change of Church-Body Affiliation	Process in place to deal with this
7-83	Elimination of Council of Presidents	Present system works well
7-96	Doctrinal Discipline	Present Bylaws cover situation

Action: *Adopted (10).*

To Designate Certified Lay Ministers as Ministers of Religion—Commissioned

RESOLUTION 7-21A

Overture 7-95 (*CW*, p. 253)

WHEREAS, The auxiliary office of certified lay minister is a longstanding ministry begun already in 1959 by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, Certified lay ministers continue to carry out extensive ministry responsibilities that include visitation, education, social ministry, youth ministry, administration, and evangelism; and

WHEREAS, Certified lay ministry entrants have definite education requirements that include completion of a BA degree; and

WHEREAS, All certified lay ministers must earn at least 47 credit hours of theology and complete a semester of internship; their certification can only be obtained through Concordia University Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, We thank God for the 500-plus men and women who have faithfully served, and the approximately 175 currently serving in this position of certified lay minister; all who have demonstrated their professionalism as church workers; therefore be it

Resolved, That all Bylaw references to lay ministers in the *Handbook* of the Synod be changed to "certified lay minister"; and be it further

Resolved, That Art. V and VI of the Constitution be amended to read in their entirety as follows:

~~PRESENT~~/*PROPOSED* WORDING

Article V Membership

Membership in the Synod is held and may be acquired by congregations, ministers of religion—ordained and ministers of religion—commissioned, such as teachers, directors of Christian education, directors of Christian outreach, ~~and~~ deaconesses *and certified lay ministers* of the Evangelical Lutheran Church who confess and accept the confessional basis of Article II.

B. Advisory Members

Advisory members only are the following:

9. *Certified Lay Ministers;*

10. Candidates for the office of the ministry, or for that of a teacher of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, for director of Christian education, for director of Christian outreach, for deaconess, or for *certified lay minister.*

Article VI Conditions of Membership

Conditions for acquiring and holding membership in the Synod are the following:

3. Regular call of pastors, teachers, directors of Christian education, directors of Christian outreach, ~~and~~ deaconesses, *and certified lay ministers,* and regular election of lay delegates by the congregations, as also the blamelessness of the life of such.

6. Pastors, teachers, directors of Christian education, directors of Christian outreach, deaconesses, *certified lay ministers,* or candidates for the office of ~~the ministry or that of a teacher~~ *ordained or commissioned minister* not coming from recognized orthodox church bodies must submit to a colloquium before being received.

and be it finally

Resolved, That the foregoing amendments concerning certified lay ministers be submitted to the congregations of the Synod for ratification in conformity with Art. XIV of the Constitution.

Action: *Adopted as amended (10).*

(The resolution was adopted by sections with those sections involving constitutional amendments being adopted by a two-thirds majority vote. An amendment to substitute the words *and also, with the help of God, living a Christian life* for *the blamelessness of the life of such* in Art. VI 3 was declined. The words *ordained or commissioned minister* were substituted by common consent for *the ministry or that of a teacher* in Art. VI 6. Although the resolution states that Art. V and VI are amended *in their entirety,* it was intended that only those portions referred to in the resolution are to read *in their entirety* as revised. Other portions of these articles are to be retained.)

To Express Appreciation for Ministry of Vice-Presidents Mennicke, Sauer, and Maier

RESOLUTION 7-22

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. August Mennicke, Reverend Dr. Walter A. Maier, and Reverend Dr. Robert Sauer have faithfully and honorably served our Lord's kingdom and our Synod as Vice-Presidents for many years; and

WHEREAS, Our Lord has blessed our Synod through their service and ministry; therefore be it

Resolved, That our convention on behalf of the entire LCMS join in echoing our Lord Jesus' own words spoken to them, "Well done, good and faithful servant"; and be it further

Resolved, That we at convention give praise and thanks to our Lord for the blessings He has given to our Synod through them as we sing the Common Doxology.

Action: *Adopted (11).*

To Withdraw Certain Bylaws Adopted in 1992 and Affirm Synodwide Corporate Bodies

RESOLUTION 7-23

Overture L7-100 (*TB*, p. 205)

WHEREAS, 1992 convention Res. 8-01A submitted by the synodical Board of Directors adopted Bylaw changes to clarify the roles of the other synodwide corporate boards and their relationship to the synodical Board of Directors and to bring the Bylaws into compliance with the Missouri "General Not-for-Profit Corporation Act." (This act has been replaced, effective July 1, 1995, by the new "Missouri Non-Profit Corporation Act" which has similar provisions); and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Constitutional Matters has issued an opinion related to Res. 8-01A, dated March 6, 1995, which declared invalid certain Bylaws adopted in such resolution; and

WHEREAS, Synod's general legal counsel and special legal counsel on securities and corporate matters advise that the CCM opinions have raised significant legal questions concerning the operations of Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation, and other synodwide corporate entities and other matters; and

WHEREAS, The commission clarified by an opinion dated July 5, 1995, that the March 1995 opinion was not intended to invalidate the corporate existence of any of the synodwide corporate bodies, nor any action by the Boards of Directors of the synodwide corporate bodies nor any Bylaw provision existing before 1992; and

WHEREAS, The issues raised by these opinions require lengthy and detailed study which cannot be completed prior to the end of this convention; and

WHEREAS, The President of the Synod has appointed a Blue Ribbon Committee to study the structure of the Synod and has directed the committee to issue its final report and recommendations in the spring of 1997 so that it can be studied by the members of the Synod prior to the 1998 convention; and

WHEREAS, While the CCM issued an opinion that certain of the Bylaws adopted in Res. 8-01A are invalid and of no effect, it did not identify the specific 1989 Bylaws to be restored to the current Bylaws of the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That those Bylaw provisions of 1992 convention Res. 8-01A that were declared invalid in the March 6, 1995, CCM opinion are withdrawn from the Bylaws; and be it further

Resolved, That the Bylaws hereby withdrawn shall be replaced by the appropriate 1989 bylaws as determined and updated pursuant to the procedure set forth in Bylaw 15.01 2; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod recognizes and affirms the separate corporate existence of each of the synodwide corporate or legal entities, the ownership of their respective assets as authorized under the 1989 Bylaws, and the authority of their separate boards of directors to have taken action in the past and to take action in the future consonant with the governing documents of the synodwide corporate bodies and the Synod's Constitution and Bylaws, and be it finally

Resolved, That the questions raised by the Commission on Constitutional Matters regarding 1992 Res. 8-01A and the concerns of legal counsel shall be referred to the President's Blue Ribbon Committee on Structure for appropriate recommendations to the 1998 convention.

Action: *Adopted (8).*

(Delegates declined a motion to refer the resolution back to the committee, as well as to consider a substitute motion.)



Board of Directors

OMNIBUS RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION A

Rationale:

More than 400 memorials and numerous reports have been presented to this convention of the Synod for consideration, discussion, and possible action. It is obviously not possible, within the time constraints of the convention, to thoroughly discuss every issue, nor is it economically feasible to conduct a convention of unlimited time.

Furthermore, many memorials request action which is the responsibility of various boards, commissions, or individuals to study and to implement.

Resolved, That the following overtures be placed in Resolution A and be referred to the designated board, commission, or individual:

Number	*Subject*	*Board, Commission, Individual*
Ov. 1-10	Materials in Language of the Deaf	Board for Mission Services
Ov. 1-12	Mission Outreach in England	Board for Mission Services
Ov. 1-19	Approach New Millennium as International Lutheran Church	Board of Directors
Ov. 1-20	Witness to Muslims	Board for Mission Services
Ov. 2-20	Liturgical Orders	President of Synod
Ov. 2-25	Worship Service Material of Auxiliaries	President of Synod
Ov. 2-29–30, 2-32	Youth Gatherings	Congregational Services & Board for Youth Services
Ov. 2-35	Afrocentric Curriculum	Congregational Services & Board for Parish Services
Ov. 2-38	African-American Christian Literature	CPH Board of Directors
Ov. 2-41	Team Ministry	Concordia University System & Fort Wayne and St. Louis seminaries & Synodical Districts
Ov. 2-46	Christian Family Relationships	Family Initiative Council
Ov. 2-50	Membership Referral	Congregational Services & Board for Evangelism Services
Ov. 2-54	Domestic Voluntary Evangelism Peace Corps	Congregational Services & Board for Evangelism Services
Ov. 2-56	Congregational Resources	Congregational Services & Board for Evangelism Services
Ov. 2-57	Rural Ministry Fund	Rural Task Force
Ov. 2-62	New Broadcasting Company for Synod	Board of Directors
R3-01,	Women as Presidents of LCMS	CTCR
Ov. 3-74–75	Colleges and Universities	
Ov. 3-03	Development of Public Policy	CTCR
Ov. 3-04	Respond to Timely Issues	Council of Presidents & CPH
Ov. 3-06	Experimentation with Human Life	CTCR
Ov. 3-07	ELCA Statement on Capital Punishment	President of Synod
Ov. 3-08	To Address Homosexuality	Task Force on Ministry to Homosexuals
Ov. 3-10	ELCA Human Sexuality Statement	President of Synod
Ov. 3-18, 3-20–21	Communion Practice	CTCR
Ov. 3-25	Doctrine of Ministry	CTCR
Ov. 3-29	Clergy—Gender	Nomenclature Study Committee
Ov. 3-37	Doctrinal Discipline	President of Synod
Ov. 3-39	Public Correction of Public Error	President of Synod
Ov. 3-68	Women Reading Scripture Lessons in Public Worship	CTCR
Ov. 3-69	Clarify Right of Entire Congregation to Elect and Call Pastors	CTCR
Ov. 3-73	Mandate That College Theology Professors Teaching Males Be Male	CTCR
Ov. 3-107	Remove Designation "Ministers of Religion —Commissioned" from Synodical Literature	Nomenclature Study Committee
Ov. 3-110	CTCR Report re Service of Women	CTCR
Ov. 3-111	Lutheran Symbols	President of Synod
Ov. 3-113	Endorse Program Like "True Love Waits"	Board for Youth Services



Secretary Walter L. Rosin

Ov. 3-114	Gambling	CTCR
Ov. 3-119	Reject Temporary Calls of Pastors	CTCR
Ov. 4-24	Local Missions	Board for Mission Services (North American Missions)
Ov. 5-02	Additional Assistance to Seminary Students	Board of Regents & Worker Benefit Plans
Ov. 5-05	Selection of Presidents, Theology Professors	CTCR
Ov. 5-07	Recruit Ethnic Minority Faculty Members	Board for Higher Education
Ov. 5-26	DCE Placement	CTCR & Nomenclature Study Committee
Ov. 6-07	Medical Ethics	CTCR
Ov. 6-11	Position of Director	Board for Human Care
Ov. 6-33	Disabled Closed Captioning	Board for Communication Services
Ov. 7-08, 7-66–67	Emeritus Pastors	Council of Presidents
Ov. 7-18	District Convention Delegates	Council of Presidents
Ov. 7-28	Restructuring Goals	Board of Directors
Ov. 7-36	Placement Process	Council of Presidents
Ov. 7-38	Administrative and Financial Responsibilities of President	Board of Directors
Ov. 7-39	Presidential Priorities	Board of Directors
Ov. 7-40	Spiritual and Theological Leadership	Board of Directors
Ov. 7-41	Responsibilities of Congregations	Com. on Constitutional Matters
Ov. 7-57	Bylaw Amendment (8.21, i)	President of Synod
Ov. 7-61	Concord	Council of Presidents
Ov. 7-68	Nomination Process	President of Synod & Secretary of Synod
Ov. 7-69	Nomination Process	Board of Directors
Ov. 7-77	Constitution Review	Secretary of Synod
Ov. 7-78	Membership of Congregations and Pastors	Com. on Constitutional Matters
Ov. 7-87	CHI Voting Membership	Blue Ribbon Committee
Ov. 7-88	Bylaw 3.19, a & d	Board for Higher Education
Ov. 7-89	Commission on Structure	Council on Mission & Ministry
Ov. 7-91	Erring Congregational Teachings & Practice	Council of Presidents
Ov. 7-93	Doctrinal Essays	Council of Presidents
Ov. 7-94	Ministers of the Gospel	Nomenclature Study Committee

Action: *Adopted as amended (1).*

(During consideration of the resolution, Ov. 3-08 and Ov. 3-113 were added by amendment. While it was suggested that Ov. 7-87, which was originally referred to the President of Synod, be brought before the convention it was, by amendment, referred to the Blue Ribbon Committee. A motion to delete Ov. 3-68 was declined and Ov. 7-95 was deleted.)

RESOLUTION B

Rationale:

Over the years the Synod in convention has spoken to many issues. At times it has found it necessary to restate its position because of misunderstanding or because there was an expressed desire to change the stated position of the Synod.

It is clearly not physically possible to debate and discuss, in detail, every issue which has been decided in one or more previous conventions of the Synod. Again at this convention a number of issues have been presented through overtures to which the Synod, in convention, has previously spoken. After careful consideration of these matters, there appears to be no valid reason to change or alter the stated position of the Synod.

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

Number	*Subject*	*Previous Action*
Ov. 3-15	Communion at Accidental Assemblies	Indianapolis, 1986, Res. 3-08
Ov. 3-34–36, 3-38	Unionism, Union and Fellowship, Rom. 16:17–18	Article VI, 2 1932 Brief Statement Detroit, 1965, Res. 2-16 New York, 1967, Res. 2-18 Denver, 1969, Res. 3-18
Ov. 3-109	Doctrine and Moral Issues	New Orleans, 1973, Res. 3-01
Ov. 4-10	Balanced Budget/Synodical Debt	St. Louis, 1983, Res. 4-05 Indianapolis, 1986, Res. 4-08A
Ov. 4-19, 4-21–22	Stewardship	Wichita, 1989, Res. 4-03 Pittsburgh, 1992, Res. 4-11
Ov. 5-06	Full-Time Pastoral Experience Theology and Seminary Professors	St. Louis, 1983, Res. 6-13
Ov. 5-29	Faculty Electors for College/University Presidents	Wichita, 1989, 6-09A
Ov. 6-10	To Train and Identify Lutheran Counselors	Pittsburgh, 1992, Res. 7-08
Ov. 6-33	Disabled Persons	St. Louis, 1981, Res. 8-08 Pittsburgh, 1992, Res. 7-04A
Ov. 7-05	Lay Voting Rights	St. Louis, 1983, Res. 5-23
Ov. 7-06	Congregational Franchise	St. Louis, 1983, Res. 5-23
Ov. 7-09	Voting Membership	St. Louis, 1983, Res. 5-23
Ov. 7-10	Convention Representation	St. Louis, 1983, Res. 5-23
Ov. 7-16	District President Terms	Bylaw 4.125, 3, b
Ov. 7-17	Delegate Name and Address	Bylaw 3.19, d
Ov. 7-19	Addresses of Members of Boards and Commissions	Wichita, 1989, Res. 5-20
Ov. 7-24–25	Robert Preus Case	President of Synod
Ov. 7-81	Presidential Power	Bylaw 3.103, c

Action: *Adopted as amended (1).*

(During consideration of the motion an amendment was adopted adding Ov. 5-06. The motion was further amended by deleting Ov. 6-29, 6-30, and 6-36 and referring them back to the floor committee. Amendments calling for the removal of Ov. 7-05, 7-06, and 7-09 were declined.)

RESOLUTION D

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

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

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

Number	*Subject*	*Encouragement/Thanks*
R1-8	President	Thanks
R1-8-01	Office of Government Information	Thanks
R1-8-06	150th Anniversary Celebration	Thanks
Ov. 1-09	Schools	Encourage establishment of new Lutheran schools for planting new congregations
Ov. 2-33	Celebrative Events	Encourage support for celebrative events
Ov. 2-40	President's Commission on Women	Express thanks to the President's Commission on Women and all the women of the Synod who serve church, family, and society
Ov. 2-42	Adult Ministry	Encourage adults to live the sanctified life
Ov. 2-43	Child Ministry	Encourage every congregation to be spiritual nurturers of children
Ov. 2-47	Christian Families	Encourage the strengthening of families throughout Synod
Ov. 2-52	Teachers	Encourage a growing respect and support for Lutheran school teachers
Ov. 2-53	Teachers' Salaries	Encourage congregations to put forth special efforts to increase teacher salaries
Ov. 2-55	Goals in Jewish Evangelism	Thank God for results in Jewish evangelism and encourage workers
Ov. 2-58	Unofficial Press	Encourage a responsible truthful salutary use and evaluation of unofficial publications
Ov. 4-25	John Meyer	Thanks for 50 years of service
Ov. 6-09	Christian Witness of Jean Garton	Thanks
Ov. 6-35	Good Shepherd Lutheran Home of the West	Recognize 40th anniversary
Ov. L6-39	Ministry of LCMS World Relief	Give thanks to God
R7-01	First Vice-President	Thanks
R7-02	Secretary	Thanks
R7-03	Vice-President—Finance/Treasurer	Thanks
R7-04	Board of Directors	Thanks
R7-04-01	General Services Department	Thanks
R7-04-02	Increased Funding for Church-Work Students	Thanks
R7-04-03	Council on Mission & Ministry	Thanks
R7-04-04	Office of Information Systems	Thanks
R7-05	Reports of Districts	Thanks
R7-06	Commission on Appeals	Thanks
R7-07	Com. on Constitutional Matters	Thanks
R7-08	Dispute Resolution	Thanks
Ov. 7-62	Procedures in Dealing with Confidential Documents	Encourage all to be ethical
Ov. 7-64	Wrongful Exercise of Pastoral Authority	Deal with one another in love
Ov. 7-65	Unjustified Reproaches against Pastors	Deal with one another in love
Ov. 7-92	Confirmation Vow	Encourage to keep Confirmation vow

Action: *Adopted as amended (1).*

(The motion was amended by the addition of Ov. 6-09.)

LATE REPORTS AND OVERTURES

Bylaw 3.19, 2, b provides that reports and overtures must be submitted not later than 18 weeks prior to the opening day of the convention. March 11, 1995, was therefore the deadline date for this information.

The same Bylaw goes on to state: "No report or overture received subsequent to that date shall be accepted for convention consideration unless a committee consisting of the President, the First Vice-President, and the Secretary adjudge it to be a matter of overriding importance and urgency which is not adequately covered by documents already before the convention."

After a careful evaluation of these documents the committee referred to in the Bylaw decided to approve the following for consideration by the convention (the text of each of these is printed on these pages):

R7-04-A

Synodical Board of Directors Response to the Recommendations of the President's Task Force on Finances

Adopted Dec. 2, 1993

President Barry at the August 1993 meeting of the synodical Board of Directors shared the *Report and Recommendations of the President's Task Force on Finances* and suggested in his transmittal letter the "Board of Directors carefully study through the same in order that we might, at some future date, discuss the various thoughts contained in the report." The Board has considered this report and concurs with some recommendations, many of which were implemented or in process before the Task Force report. The Board, however, declines to implement other recommendations, since in some cases the report's narrative does not support the recommendations and in other cases there are valid business reasons for not implementing them.

The Board is pleased that the Task Force concluded "proper accounting and audit policies, procedures, and controls have been established and implemented by the Synod and that they are adhered to by the various entities of the Synod." This is certainly consistent with and supports the Pittsburgh Convention Res. 4-07, which by a vote of 95% resolved "That the Synod in convention affirm the integrity of our Synod's accounting procedures and fiscal operations and therefore encourage this church to move on in Christian fellowship and trust." That same resolution stated "That the Synod in convention recognize the possibility of honest disagreement in our church with the decisions of elected and appointed boards and committees." Certain recommendations of the Task Force and the response of the Board, as well as other boards, may be considered "honest disagreement." It is hoped these matters can be put to rest and that divisive accusations and responses can be set aside in the interest of getting on with the critical business of the church. Following are the responses of the synodical Board of Directors to the Task Force recommendations as they appear on pages 13–16 of its report:

It is important in considering the finances and operations of the Synod to understand the nature of the Synod and the role of the synodical Board of Directors. The Synod is a federation of 6,000 congregations meeting triennially through elected Circuit representatives in a delegate convention. A committee of these delegates meets prior to the convention to review the finances of the Synod and provide appropriate reports and recommendations. A number of the concerns referred to the Task Force were considered in recent conventions. The Synod, primarily through the conventions, has created about 60 separate corporations and a number of other boards and commissions to provide services in support of, and in behalf of, congregations. Each of these units, including Districts, colleges, universities, seminaries, the Lutheran Church Extension Fund, the Worker Benefit Plans, the Foundation and Concordia Publishing House has a governing board which is primarily responsible and accountable to the convention and each, under the Synod's Constitution and Bylaws, operates with a high degree of autonomy. One of these entities is also known as The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Inc. This synodical Board of Directors is primarily responsible for that entity, but has little or no responsibility regarding the other corporate entities, some of which are referred to in the Task Force report. Thus the Board of Directors is not a "parent company" Board in the secular corporate sense.

Task Force Recommendation 1

That appropriate conflict of interest and disclosure statements be implemented, accompanied by a policy requiring all employees, board members, and staff of all Synod's entities to read and sign them on a regular basis (ETHICS, p. 3)

The Board concurs with the need for appropriate conflict of interest and disclosure statements and in September 1990 updated its conflict of interest policy appearing in the *Employee Handbook*. It asked all members of boards, commissions and committees, unit executives, and key employees to sign a statement acknowledging that they understand and endorse the conflict of interest policy and file it with the Synod's Director of Human Resources. In response to objections from some members of certain boards, including the Board of Directors who had initially supported the policy, the Board in May of 1992 refined the policy (attached Exhibit 1), limiting it to staff, and asked the Secretary of the Synod to inform and advise persons elected or appointed to boards, commissions, and committees regarding the Employee Conflict of Interest Policy and how it relates to Bylaw 3.71 and Bylaw 4.131 of the *Synodical Handbook*. This was done at the orientation meeting of each board at the beginning of the triennium. The Boards of the Foundation, Church Extension, Worker Benefit Plans, and CPH have, however, asked their Board members to sign a statement advising they understand and endorse this conflict of interest policy or a similar policy reflecting their unique situations. The Board will amend its policy with respect to LCMS, Inc., to include board mem-

bers and will request members of all other boards, commissions, and committees to adopt a similar policy.

Task Force Recommendation 2

That a change of external audit firm be made by the Synod (FINANCIAL AUDITS, p. 3)

The Board does not concur with this recommendation. The Task Force concluded "that proper accounting and audit policies, procedures, and controls have been established and implemented by the Synod" and "that audits are conducted in accordance with accepted auditing standards and appear to reflect a true representation of the financial condition of the entities which comprise the Synod." The Task Force further states that its recommendation "in no way reflects upon the work and reputation of the current auditing firm, nor does it suggest that problems exist." The Board believes that while a change in auditors may have a settling effect with some in Synod, it would raise concerns in the minds of many others. Experience in the commercial world shows that changing auditors suggests there is something wrong and the entity is "opinion shopping" for an auditor who will support its position or is dissatisfied with the services rendered by the external auditor. The Board believes, and the Task Force concluded, neither in this case. Furthermore, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants in its *Statement of Position Regarding Mandatory Rotation of Audit Firms of Publicly Held Companies* concludes "that there is no credible evidence that a requirement (to rotate auditors) would improve the quality of audits. To the contrary, the institute believes mandatory audit firm rotating would not be in the public interest. For one thing, it would dramatically increase costs for firms, clients and the public. In addition, it would increase the likelihood of poor audits by depriving auditors of a most valued tool: experience with a client and the comprehensive knowledge of its business and operations." The AICPA further states that "audits are strengthened by institutional continuity. It is a significant benefit to be well acquainted with a client's business, operations and controls. Experience has shown that allegations of audit failure occur much more frequently when a firm is in its first couple of years as a company's auditors" and that "audit committees are in the best position to evaluate the desirability of changing auditors." The Board believes these comments from the AICPA on rotating auditors support a decision not to change auditors. The Board also questions to what degree financial concerns and questions have "disturbed the Synod" in view of the convention delegates affirming in Res. 4-07 the Synod's accounting procedures and fiscal operations by a 95% vote.

Task Force Recommendation 3

That current areas of concern or sensitivity be addressed with the new audit firm (FINANCIAL AUDITS, p. 4)

The Task Force Report has been shared with the Synod's present auditors, Ernst & Young. The Board encourages the Task Force to clearly identify other areas of concern or sensitivity and share them with the Board of Directors Audit Committee and Ernst & Young.

Task Force Recommendation 4

That consistent fiscal year-ends and reporting formats for the synodical entities be accomplished (FINANCIAL AUDITS, p. 4)

The Board concurs with consistent year-ends and reporting formats where practical. The Board has considered consistent fiscal years in the past and concluded that it was practical for LCMS, Inc., LCEF and the Foundation to change to a June 30 fiscal year, the same as that of the colleges, universities, and seminaries. The Board would also support CPH changing fiscal years, if the CPH board deems it appropriate. The Board concluded that it is best for the Worker Benefit Plans to remain on a calendar year basis, since that is when its cost/benefit structure is set and since it primarily relates to congregations, most of whom are on a calendar year basis. It is not desirable for Districts to have a June 30 fiscal year because most congregations operate on a calendar year and Districts generally have adopted fiscal years ending in January or February to reflect the flow of funds from congregations. The Board would support a common date for Districts agreed to by the District business managers. However, the Board can only encourage uniformity, since under Bylaw 4.91 each District Board of Directors is vested with the general management and supervision of the District's business and legal affairs and with adopting appropriate policies and procedures related thereto.

The Board took the leadership several years ago in developing a common format for District financial statements and another common format for colleges, universities, and seminaries. While the schools follow the format, not all Districts do. Annually the Internal Audit Department updates the District business managers on the accounting requirements of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Financial Accounting Standards Board, provides the CPA firms and business managers with a sample audit report and encourages the use of a common format. Presently only one District does not have an annual audit. Several others have reviews or compilations which are substantially less in scope than an audit performed in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Some Districts also are not complying with accounting and reporting requirements as outlined in the AICPA *Statement of Position 78-10 and the Audit Guide for Not-for-Profit Organizations.* The Board through the Internal Auditing and Accounting Departments and the synodical Vice-President–Finance/Treasurer continues to urge and recommend compliance.

Common formats are not practical for entities other than schools and Districts due to their diverse activities and the laws governing the respective entities. For example, the format required for LCEF registration with state securities agencies is different than that required for the Foundation or Worker Benefit Plans which are governed by "trust" laws. However, since 1983 combined financial statements have been prepared annually and reflect as much commonality as possible.

Task Force Recommendation 5

That fee estimates obtained from outside auditors include the cost of having the internal audit function performed by the outside auditor (FINANCIAL AUDITS, p. 4)

The Board is pleased the Task Force reported "the Internal Audit Department of the Synod appears to also function well, both in terms of audit control and coordination with the external auditors." The Board believes outsourcing the work done by the Internal Audit Department would materially increase costs without a commensurate increase in the quality of audits. The Board in adopting the budget for the 1992/93 fiscal year of LCMS, Inc., considered 10 options for external and internal audit services, including the outsourcing of the Internal Audit function to the external auditors. Quotes from Ernst & Young were obtained for each of the 10 options. While the elimination of the department would have reduced the budget of LCMS, Inc., it would have increased the budgets for higher education, the LCEF, Worker Benefit Plans, and Foundation and increased costs for management services and special reviews presently conducted by Internal Audit, thus resulting in an overall increase in costs to the combined operations of Synod. The Board also notes the Internal Audit Department annually audits 13 Districts. The Board believes the Internal Audit Department has a better understanding of the Synod and is in a better position than the outside auditors to detect fraud or breakdowns in internal controls and to share with the various units and the Board operating methods of one unit that might help in the operations of another, thus adding value to the audit function. Due to the above and the desire to provide some oversight and networking of District and higher education accounting and auditing functions, the Board concluded Synod is best served by retaining the department, but reducing its staffing to some degree. This conclusion was implemented in June 1992.

Task Force Recommendation 6

That the Synod, in convention, rescind those resolutions which restrict financial disclosure and adopt a practice of full disclosure (FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE, p. 5)

The Board concurs that the next convention should clarify, preferably through Bylaws, what is considered as "full financial disclosure" and to what degree a congregation's rights under Missouri not-for-profit corporate law to inspect financial records is delegated to the synodical convention process. The Board will provide leadership in considering this issue. The Board, however, questions the relevance of this issue to most congregations, since 92% of the Pittsburgh Convention delegates voting on Resolution 4-06A affirmed the Board of Directors' policy on the release of financial disclosure, namely:

1. that it honor all requests for audited financial statements;
2. that it honor all requests for officer salaries and other salary scales (Res. 4-07A, 1989 Proceedings);
3. that it honor all requests for the Program Budget Summary, using discretion in releasing budget detail;
4. that it refrain from releasing information concerning payments made to specific vendors, individuals, or where prohibited by legal action or advice of counsel;
5. that requests ordinarily be made in writing through members of the Synod.

Task Force Recommendation 7

That in addition to the usual functional classification, natural classification be included whenever possible in published budgets and in financial statements (BUDGET AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT DISCLOSURES, p. 5)

The Board concurs with this recommendation and LCMS, Inc., will implement it effective with the 1992/93 fiscal year financial statements and the 1994/95 fiscal year budget summary. While the general ledger system in the past provided this detail by program, it did not summarize information necessary for financial statement presentation. With refinements to the new general ledger system, it is now possible to summarize this information for financial statement reporting.

Task Force Recommendation 8

That everything possible be done to identify and explain changes in budget category allocations and to disclose the impact of reallocations on affected programs (BUDGET AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT DISCLOSURES, p. 5)

The Board concurs with this recommendation. Major reclassifications have long been disclosed in published financial statements and are now being disclosed in published comparative composite budgets. However, the Board believes it is neither practical nor necessary to restate earlier prior year budgets and internal management reports into comparative format.

Task Force Recommendation 9

That consolidating financial statements be prepared to include the financial activities of the LCMS, the LCEF, the LCMS Foundation, Concordia Publishing House, and synodical schools (CONSOLIDATING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, p. 6)

The Board concurs with the need for combined (consolidating) financial statements, *including Districts.* They have been prepared annually since 1983, have been shared with Board of Directors, Council of Administrators, Districts and colleges, universities, and seminaries, and floor committees and have been available to others upon request. A copy of the 1991 combined Financial Statements was shared with the Task Force.

Task Force Recommendation 10

That consolidating financial statements be included in an annual report (CONSOLIDATING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, p. 6)

The Board concurs that summary consolidated information should be reported annually. The Board has asked the synodical Vice-President–Finance/Treasurer to work with the Communications staff to include this summary information, *including Districts,* in *The Lutheran Witness* or *Reporter* as early as possible in each calendar year. Since surveys of readers of the Synod's official periodicals do not indicate significant interest in this type of financial information, the Board believes it would not be good stewardship to publish a lengthy and expensive consolidated annual report similar to those published by many secular corporations. The Board notes that annual reports for the Lutheran Church Extension Fund, the Foundation, and the Worker Benefit Plans are already provided to their participants and that the audited statements of other entities continue to be available upon request.

Task Force Recommendation 11

That an investment policy be adopted which directs that a significantly higher percentage of both the fixed income and growth asset funds be managed by outside money managers (INVESTMENT PRACTICES, p. 6)

The Board is pleased the Task Force reported "The review of the Foundation's current investment practices by the task force has revealed no apparent abuses, specifically with regard to inappropriate commissions or to the 'churning' of accounts. Audit and reporting procedures are in place to provide a regular assessment of the performance of the account managers and the individual funds." The Board receives quarterly reports from the Foundation and concurs with its decisions over the last several years to follow the example of the Concordia Retirement Plan and engage outside money managers to manage certain distinct portions of the portfolios. The Foundation has reported that presently six outside money managers manage investments under Foundation policies and the trustees are moving toward an overall goal of 25% of all funds being managed by outside managers. It is noted that an outside investment consultant, J. H. Ellwood & Associates, reviews the portfolio structure and performance of both the internal and outside money managers and makes appropriate recommendations to the Foundation Board, which is responsible for its structure and operations. While the Board encourages the Foundation to continue to review, and refine as appropriate, its operating policies regarding the use of outside money managers, it does not advocate outsourcing for the sake of outsourcing. If in-house investment services are generating comparable returns at lower costs than outside services and there is appropriate review by the Foundation Board and outside investment consultants, it may be preferable to continue the use of inside services.

Task Force Recommendation 12

That an additional review of the communications department of the LCMS be assigned to an independent task force (COMMUNICATIONS, p. 7)

Prior to receipt of the Task Force report, the retired Director of Synod's Internal Audit Department, was asked to assist Communications in developing an operating plan. Based on his review of financial statements, budgets, internal memoranda, and prior communication studies, he concluded and the Board concurs that no additional review of the department is needed and adequate information is available for the boards and BCS management to carry out their responsibilities. With the rapid changes in technology and the opportunities the Lord is placing before the church, the Board will continue to monitor the organization and activities of the BCS to assure effectiveness, efficiency, and good stewardship of available resources. The Board notes that the BCS, including radio station KFUO, is included in the annual audit and when appropriate the management letters of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Inc. The Board believes there may have been some confusion between the broad communications efforts of all boards and the narrower communication function of the BCS. In 1991 the Board requested an outside review (audit) of the communication efforts of all boards. Since the review's findings were much broader than the BCS, the Board asked the Council of Administrators to take leadership in implementing the recommendations contained therein.

Task Force Recommendation 13

That further differentiation and explanation of employee versus nonemployee expenses be included when budget and financial reports are prepared (COMPENSATION AND TRAVEL COSTS, p. 8)

The Board appreciates the conclusion of the Task Force that "the salary ranges and annual travel expenses for the top-level employees are considered to be reasonable" and "where questionable practices and abuses (honoraria and expense reimbursement) have been detected, actions have been taken to rectify these situations and measures have been developed to improve overall control procedures in order to reduce the likelihood of similar problems in the future." The Board concurs with the recommendation as to the reporting of nonemployee travel expenses, and has for many years segregated these expenses in the Synod's uniform chart of accounts and reported them on each entity's monthly budget status report. Copies of such reports were provided to the Task Force. The Board is asking that nonemployee expenses be included in the "natural classification" reports in published budgets and financial statements (see recommendation 7).

Task Force Recommendation 14

That distortion in travel cost totals be eliminated by a change in the manner in which some monies are accounted for, by treating reimbursable expenses as an account receivable, or by showing reimbursements as a reduction in travel expense (COMPENSATION AND TRAVEL COSTS, p. 9)

The Board does not concur with this recommendation. These funds are not "agency funds" but belong to the Synod. Under generally accepted accounting principles they must be budgeted and recorded as income and expense. They are not receivables nor should they be hidden by netting them against travel expense. A better option would be to include them along with board travel as a separate line item in the "natural classification" reports in published budgets and audited financial statements (see recommendation 7). Part of the perceived problem will be rectified by a change in policy for the Youth Gathering and certain other gatherings where hereafter participants will be directly responsible to hotels, rather than Synod, for costs of lodging. Thus these travel costs will no longer be run through the Synod's accounting records. In other cases, however, the Synod will continue to account for these costs in order to qualify for exemption of some taxes.

Task Force Recommendation 15

That a change in legal counsel be made at this time (LEGAL COSTS AND COUNSEL, p. 9);

A majority of the Board does not concur with this recommendation. Each of the corporations requires different specialized counsel in such areas as trademarks and copyrights, employee benefits, securities registration, trusts, and religious not-for-profit law. Each counsel has built up a body of knowledge which is beneficial to the Synod. It

would take time and money to change counsel and bring new counsel up to speed. Each corporation is satisfied with its counsel. Counsel for LCMS, Inc., also has a coordinating role regarding legal matters of Districts, colleges, universities, and seminaries. Any change in LCMS, Inc., counsel could be upsetting to them as well as the LCEF and LCMS Foundation, who utilize the same general counsel. The Board recognizes that certain past legal actions have been controversial. These actions were taken under board policies applicable at those times. The Board subsequently has changed its policies to be more directly involved in certain legal matters and does not anticipate further problems. It has reappointed legal counsel for the triennium.

Task Force Recommendation 16

That an independent consulting firm be engaged to evaluate the efficiency of day-to-day synodical operations (SYNODICAL OPERATIONS, p. 10)

The Board does not concur with this recommendation. The Board, as well as its staff, has taken a leadership role over the years in developing more effective synodical operations. In doing this the Board has from time to time utilized or requested special "blue ribbon" committees of knowledgeable people in the Synod to define improvements in missions, higher education, and other areas. The Board believes this is a better and less costly way to review the effectiveness and efficiency of operations. Experience has shown their independent recommendations are generally more practical than those received by the Board from consulting firms. The Board and staff have also reviewed, on a regular basis, the work done through the synodical budget and have been responsible for changing priorities and improving operations. This has resulted in increasing the percent of the unrestricted budget allocated to mission and outreach and preparing church workers, while reducing staff charged primarily to the unrestricted budget of Synod funded from Sunday morning offerings. Such staff was reduced from 169 in 1972 to 121 in 1992, a total reduction of 48 persons or 28.4%. Most of these reductions came in the area of program services to Districts and congregations in evangelism, parish services, youth, stewardship, and worship, where only 23 total executive and support staff were employed by LCMS, Inc., at Dec. 31, 1992, compared to 61 in 1972. In addition, the Board in the prior triennium worked with the Synod's Commission on Structure in developing proposed reductions in the number of boards and other refinements in structure and procedures to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of synodical operations. The 1992 Convention, when it passed Res. 4-02A by a 72% vote, supported these recommendations, including the establishment of the new Council on Mission and Ministry to provide for the integration of plans for the respective operating boards. The Board will continue to provide leadership in improving the effectiveness and efficiency of operations, using special task forces from time to time, as appropriate.

Task Force Recommendation 17

That the Treasurer of the LCMS no longer hold the position of Treasurer of the LCEF (STRUCTURAL MATTERS, p. 10)

The Vice-President–Finance/Treasurer advised the Task Force early in its process that he had shared with both the synodical Board of Directors and the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund the need to consider his future relationship to LCEF, including the possibility of LCEF having its own treasurer, while continuing to include the synodical Vice-President–Finance/Treasurer as a LCEF board member. The synodical Board is considering this matter as it addresses the clarification of the responsibilities of all full-time synodical officers (see response to recommendation 18).

Task Force Recommendation 18

That consideration be given to enhancing the office of synodical President, specifically providing for greater leadership authority and responsibility in administration and financial management (STRUCTURAL MATTERS, p. 11)

The Synod throughout its history has "decentralized" power by having the President be responsible for doctrine and administration and the Board for general management and supervision of all business affairs. Confusion has existed, however, since the adoption of Bylaw 3.101, a, which alone states "the President shall be the chief executive officer of the Synod." The Board already in the last triennium started addressing the matter of the executive responsibilities of the President, the Vice-President–Finance/Treasurer and the Board's executive director, their relations with one another and their relationships with other boards. The Board's discussions to date have centered around three parallel tracks that must be in regular communication with one another—(1) a pastoral/ecclesial track, (2) an operating/administrative track, and (3) a business/financial track. The Board is also in the process of updating its several-hundred-page policy manual as it and other boards move into "Policy Based Leadership." Both the current policies shared with the Task Force, as well as the emerging new policies, focus on adequate financial controls, checks and balances, and accountability.

Task Force Recommendation 19

That the position of Chief Financial Officer of the LCMS be established (STRUCTURAL MATTERS, p. 11)

The Board concurs with the need for a Chief Financial Officer. Upon recommendation of the Board, the 1992 Convention in Res. 8-03 reclassified the position of synodical Treasurer to synodical Vice-President–Finance/Treasurer and added to Bylaw 3.53 the words "who shall also be designated as Chief Financial Officer." This became effective on Feb. 15, 1993, upon congregations agreeing in a referendum vote on the required amendment to the Constitution. Bylaw 3.163 was amended in 1989 to achieve a similar result. As noted in the responses to recommendations 17 and 18, the Board is further considering the responsibilities of this position and its relationship to the various boards on which it serves.

Task Force Recommendation 20

That the LCEF implement a suitable conflict of interest and disclosure policy (LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND, p. 12)

The synodical Board of Directors was advised that in 1991 the LCEF Board resolved to utilize the conflict of interest policy adopted by the synodical Board of Directors (see response to recommendation 1 and exhibit 1 attached). Unlike some other boards, LCEF Board members themselves sign a statement acknowledging they understand and endorse this conflict of interest policy. The synodical Board initially created the LCEF corporate entity and notes that LCEF is a board of the Synod in the same manner as the synodical Board of Directors and over the years has been very cooperative in the development and implementation of common policy and in enhancing the ministry of the Synod at all levels. The Board is pleased the Task Force concluded that "it appears to the task force that the financial condition of LCEF is sound and that adequate financial and investment controls exist." The Board, however, encourages the LCEF to broadly share how it has kept costs down through the use of outside consultants and brokers.

Task Force Recommendation 21

That a cost/benefit analysis be conducted to determine the benefit of further outsourcing of Worker Benefit Plans operations (WORKER BENEFIT PLANS, p. 13)

The Board appoints the Board of Managers of the Worker Benefit Plans and is pleased "the Task Force favorably acknowledges the financial reporting and overall management of the Worker Benefit Plans" and concluded "Determined efforts are being made to address cost containment while maintaining a level of service which is generally superior to insurance plans outside the church." The Board concurs with outsourcing Worker Benefit Plan operations where practical. In 1991 the Board of Managers, with the approval of the synodical Board of Directors, began outsourcing certain operations of the Concordia Health Plan. Effective Jan. 1, 1992, all prescription claims were outsourced to Caremark and all mental-health or substance-abuse treatment was outsourced to Preferred Health Care. In March 1993 the Board approved outsourcing all other medical treatment to the Prudential Plus/PruCare Plus Networks for managed care in those areas where the Prudential network is available. This network, effective July 1, 1993, in St. Louis and Jan. 1, 1994, in other areas, covers about half of the active workers covered in the Concordia Health Plan. The Board of Managers is continuing to explore outsourcing options in those areas where Prudential does not operate. The Board believes there would not be an economic or service benefit from outsourcing the Concordia Retirement Plan, the Concordia Disability Plan, and the Pension Plan for Pastors and Teachers.

Task Force Recommendation 22

That the Board of Directors of Concordia Retirement Plan investigate the potential for reduced premiums in light of overfunding (WORKER BENEFIT PLANS, p. 13)

The Board concurs with the reduction in premiums as of Jan. 1, 1994, in light of overfunding. Earlier this year, the Board of Managers, after several years of study, advised the synodical Board of Directors of its intent to both lower premiums and increase benefits under the Concordia Retirement Plan. The executive director of the Worker Benefit Plans advised the Task Force of the intent to take this action.

Board of Directors
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

L2-63

To Continue the Synodical Commission on Worship

WHEREAS, The 1992 Pittsburgh Convention of the Synod (Res. 2-02) resolved that the Commission on Worship be retained as a self-standing commission and urged the Board of Directors to provide funding for full-time staff; and

WHEREAS, Pittsburgh 4-02A placed the Commission on Worship in the Congregational Services Conference, ignoring the mandate of 2-02; and

WHEREAS, Worship is not a program of the Synod, but the very core of the Christian faith since the Confessions of our church identify true worship as faith; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Worship is not a program commission but is concerned with the life and teaching of our church (Bylaw 3.928); therefore be it

Resolved, That the Commission on Worship be attached directly to the Office of the President of Synod in his capacity as supervisor of doctrine; and be it further

Resolved, That the 1995 convention of the Synod mandate immediate full staffing for the Commission on Worship.

English District
Board of Directors
Mid-South District

L5-32

To Require Concordia Retirement Plan to Provide Annual Cost-of-Living Increases

WHEREAS, The purpose and intention of the Concordia Retirement Plan (CRP) is to provide a retirement of security and dignity for the Synod's workers at a level at least commensurate with their concluding full-service years; and

WHEREAS, Prudent financial retirement planning advises provision to age 85 years; and

WHEREAS, The life expectancy of the Plan's participants is likely 20–25 years beyond retirement; and

WHEREAS, Even a modest annual inflation rate over a 20–25 year span of retirement will gravely erode the purchasing power of the retiree; and

WHEREAS, The Concordia Retirement Plan is profoundly funded with superior performing assets; therefore be it

Resolved, That the English District memorializes the Synod at its next convention in 1995 to require the Concordia Retirement Plan to provide an annual cost-of-living increase that will at least equal the national rate of inflation.

English District
Board of Directors

L6-39

To Give Thanks to God for Ministry of LCMS World Relief

WHEREAS, The faithful support of the membership of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod through support of LCMS World Relief has provided

- response to the major natural disasters of the recent years (Hurricane Andrew, flood of 1993, California earthquake, Oklahoma City bombing);
- funding for human care projects to promote self-sufficiency to people in need in the United States;
- partnership for mission efforts by funding human care projects in/with missionaries and partner churches;
- resources for LCMS participation in the ministry of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services;
- participates and funds emergency assistance through Inter-Lutheran Disaster Response;
- support for international relief and self-help projects of Lutheran World Relief; and

WHEREAS, Human suffering has been diminished through these areas of service ; and

WHEREAS, There continues to be opportunities for ministry for disaster response and self-help ministries both in the United States and around the world; and

WHEREAS, It is a proper expression of our love for Christ to assist in the well-being of our neighbors at home and abroad; therefore be it

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, meeting in convention, express its thanks to God for the ongoing ministry of LCMS World Relief; and be it further

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, give thanks to God for the many expressions of love and care provided these past 50 years through the effective ministry of Lutheran World Relief, New York; and be it further

Resolved, That the congregations of the Synod be encouraged to sponsor those who have come to our land of blessing and promise through the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services; and be it further

Resolved, That the membership of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, as congregations, groups and individuals, continue to support with prayers and gifts this important expression of our faith; and be it finally

Resolved, That we entreat God to continue to bless this ministry of hope and care to the glory of His name and to the saving of countless souls.

Floor Committee 6

L7-98

To Transfer Congregations between LCMS and LCC

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Canada has recommended that the transfer of congregations from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and The Lutheran Church—Canada be approved by their Boards of Directors, or by their District boards, rather than by convention action; and

WHEREAS, It has been suggested that a similar process be approved for transfer of congregations between U.S. Districts, thereby saving convention time; and

WHEREAS, The Board agreed with the proposed Bylaw modification and took the following action; therefore be it

Resolved, That in order to provide direction for transfer of congregations, the following Bylaw provision be added:

> *4.03, d, Transfer of congregations between Districts is completed upon approval of the respective District Boards of Directors at the request of the congregations. Transfer of congregations between partner churches requires the additional approval of the governing boards of church bodies.*

Board of Directors
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

L7-99

To Observe 150th Anniversary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

WHEREAS, The congregations of the Synod will observe in 1997, God willing, the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, We are privileged to observe during this convention the 100th anniversary of foreign mission work as well as the centennial of outreach to the hearing impaired; and

WHEREAS, Many of our congregations and other institutions will observe significant anniversaries during the next three years; and

WHEREAS, We, like those who have gone before us, are "Sent Forth by God's Blessing" to bring His message of salvation by grace through faith in the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior to all the world; and

WHEREAS, The doors of opportunity have been opened wide by our gracious God for dynamic outreach as we approach the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, President A. L. Barry has proclaimed the coming triennium, 1995–1998, to be Jubilee Years of Congregational Celebration, and has designated Sunday, May 19, 1996, as a day of repentance, prayer, and commitment in our congregations; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod in convention also commend the observance of this anniversary to all our people, so that under God's continuing blessing we may grow in His Word, in aggressive outreach, and in the stewardship of His bountiful gifts—all to the glory of His name; and be it further

Resolved, That we, in convention assembled, adopt this resolution by a standing vote and join in singing the Common Doxology.

150th Anniversary Committee

L7-100

To Withdraw Certain Bylaws Adopted in 1992 and Affirm Synodwide Corporate Bodies

WHEREAS, The 1992 convention Res. 8-01A submitted by the synodical Board of Directors adopted Bylaw changes to clarify the roles of the other synodwide corporate boards

and their relationship to the synodical Board of Directors and to bring the Bylaws into compliance with the Missouri "General Not-for-Profit Corporation Act" (This act has been replaced, effective July 1, 1995, by the new "Missouri Nonprofit Corporation Act" which has similar provisions); and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Constitutional Matters has issued an opinion related to Res. 8-01A, dated March 6, 1995, which declared invalid certain Bylaws adopted in such resolution; and

WHEREAS, Synod's general legal counsel and special legal counsel on securities and corporate matters advise that the CCM opinions have raised significant legal questions concerning the operations of Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation, and other synodwide corporate entities, and other matters; and

WHEREAS, The Commission clarified by an opinion dated July 5, 1995, that the March 1995 opinion was not intended to invalidate the corporate existence of any of the synodwide corporate bodies, nor any action by the Boards of Directors of the synodwide corporate bodies nor any Bylaw provision existing before 1992; and

WHEREAS, The issues raised by these opinions require lengthy and detailed study which cannot be completed prior to the end of this convention; and

WHEREAS, The President of the Synod has appointed a Blue Ribbon Committee to study the structure of the Synod and has directed the Committee to issue its final report and recommendations in the spring of 1997 so that it can be studied by the members of the Synod prior to the 1998 convention; and

WHEREAS, While the CCM issued an opinion that certain of the Bylaws adopted in Res. 8-01A are invalid and of no effect, it did not identify the specific 1989 Bylaws to be restored to the current Bylaws of the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, Those Bylaw provisions of 1992 convention Res. 8-01A that were declared invalid in the March 6, 1995, CCM opinion are withdrawn from the Bylaws; and be it further

Resolved, The bylaws hereby withdrawn shall be replaced by the appropriate 1989 Bylaws as determined and updated pursuant to the procedure set forth in Bylaw 15.01(2); and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod recognizes and affirms the separate corporate existence of each of the synodwide corporate or legal entities, the ownership of their respective assets as authorized under the 1989 Bylaws and the authority of their separate boards of directors to have taken action in the past and to take action in the future consonant with the governing documents of the synodwide corporate bodies and the Synod's Constitution and Bylaws, and be it finally

Resolved, The questions raised by the Commission on Constitutional Matters regarding 1992 Res. 8-01A and the concerns of legal counsel shall be referred to the President's Blue Ribbon Committee on Structure for appropriate recommendations to the 1998 convention.

Board of Directors
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



REPORTS AND OVERTURES CORRELATED WITH RESOLUTIONS

Rep. or Ov.	Res.
R1-8	3-18, Res. D
R1-8-01	3-15, Res. D
R1-8-02	3-07A, 3-18
R1-8-03	
R1-8-04	4-06
R1-8-05	4-06
R1-8-06	7-01, Res. D
R1-8-07	7-13
R1-01	1-01A, 1-03A
R1-02	
R1-03	2-02
R1-04	
R1-05	
R1-06	
1-01	1-07
1-02	1-01A
1-03	1-06A
1-04	1-06A
1-05	1-06A
1-06	1-05A
1-07	1-05A
1-08	1-06A
1-09	Res. D
1-10	Res. A
1-11	1-02A
1-12	Res. A
1-13	1-02A
1-14	1-04A
1-15	1-04A
1-16	1-03A
1-17	1-02A, 1-04A
1-18	1-03A
1-19	Res. A
1-20	Res. A
R2-01	2-03A, 2-04A
R2-01-01	
R2-02	2-16
R2-03	
R2-04	2-03A, 2-07
R2-05	
R2-06	
2-01	2-03A
2-02	2-03A
2-03	2-03A
2-04	2-03A
2-05	2-03A
2-06	2-03A
2-07	2-03A
2-08	2-04A
2-09	2-04A
2-10	2-03A
2-11	2-04A

Rep. or Ov.	Res.
2-12	2-04A
2-13	2-04A
2-14	7-13
2-15	2-06
2-16	2-06
2-17	2-06
2-18	2-06
2-19	2-06
2-20	2-06, Res. A
2-21	2-06
2-22	2-06
2-23	2-06
2-24	2-07
2-25	Res. A
2-26	2-07
2-27	2-07
2-28	2-07
2-29	Res. A
2-30	Res. A
2-31	2-11B
2-32	Res. A
2-33	Res. D
2-34	2-02
2-35	Res. A
2-36	2-07
2-37	2-02
2-38	Res. A
2-39	2-05A
2-40	Res. D
2-41	Res. A
2-42	Res. D
2-43	Res. D
2-44	2-01A
2-45	2-01A
2-46	Res. A
2-47	Res. D
2-48	2-13
2-49	2-14
2-50	Res. A
2-51	2-08A
2-52	Res. D
2-53	Res. D
2-54	Res. A
2-55	Res. D
2-56	Res. A
2-57	2-12A, Res. A
2-58	Res. D
2-59	2-09A
2-60	2-10A
2-61	2-15A
2-62	Res. A
L2-63	2-03A
R3-01	3-01, 3-02, 3-03A, 3-04A, 3-06A, 3-08, Res. A

Rep. or Ov.	Res.
Ap. R3-01A	
Ap. R3-01B	3-19
Ap. R3-01C	
Ap. R3-01D	
R3-02	
R3-03	3-11
3-01	3-01
3-02	3-02
3-03	Res. A
3-04	Res. A
3-05	3-15
3-06	Res. A
3-07	Res. A
3-08	Res. A
3-09	3-19
3-10	Res. A
3-11	3-22
3-12	3-22
3-13	3-16
3-14	3-08
3-15	Res. B
3-16	3-08
3-17	3-08
3-18	Res. A
3-19	3-12
3-20	Res. A
3-21	Res. A
3-22	3-08
3-23	3-08
3-24	3-07A
3-25	Res. A
3-26	3-21
3-27	3-07A
3-28	3-07A
3-29	Res. A
3-30	3-07A
3-31	3-08
3-32	3-08, 3-14A
3-33	3-23
3-34	Res. B
3-35	Res. B
3-36	Res. B
3-37	Res. A
3-38	Res. B
3-39	Res. A
3-40	3-06A
3-41	3-17
3-42	3-06A
3-43	3-06A
3-44	3-06A
3-45	3-06A
3-46	3-06A
3-47	3-06A

Rep. or Ov.	Res.
3-48	3-06A
3-49	3-06A
3-50	3-06A
3-51	3-06A
3-52	3-06A
3-53	3-06A
3-54	3-06A
3-55	3-06A
3-56	3-06A
3-57	3-06A
3-58	3-06A
3-59	3-06A
3-60	3-06A
3-61	3-06A
3-62	3-06A
3-63	3-06A
3-64	3-06A
3-65	3-06A
3-66	3-06A
3-67	3-06A
3-68	Res. A.
3-69	Res. A
3-70	3-10
3-71	3-10
3-72	3-06A
3-73	Res. A
3-74	Res. A
3-75	Res. A
3-76	3-05
3-77	3-05
3-78	3-05
3-79	3-17, 3-23
3-80	3-04A
3-81	3-04A
3-82	3-04A
3-83	3-04A
3-84	3-04A
3-85	3-04A
3-86	3-04A
3-87	3-04A
3-88	3-04A
3-89	3-04A
3-90	3-04A
3-91	3-04A
3-92	3-04A
3-93	3-04A
3-94	3-04A
3-95	3-04A
3-96	3-04A
3-97	3-04A
3-98	3-04A
3-99	3-04A
3-100	3-04A
3-101	3-04A
3-102	3-04A
3-103	3-04A
3-104	3-09
3-105	3-09
3-106	3-09
3-107	Res. A
3-108	3-23
3-109	Res. B
3-110	Res. A
3-111	Res. A
3-112	3-11
3-113	Res. A
3-114	Res. A
3-115	3-20
3-116	3-07A
3-117	3-07A
3-118	3-07A
3-119	Res. A
3-120	3-13A
3-121	3-13A
3-122	3-13A
3-123	3-13A
3-124	3-13A
3-125	3-13A
3-126	3-13A
3-127	3-13A
3-128	3-13A
3-129	3-13A
3-130	3-13A
App. I.	3-20
R4-01	4-01B
R4-02	
R4-03	
R4-04	
R4-05	4-03
R4-06	4-03
4-01	4-02A
4-02	4-02A
4-03	4-02A
4-04	4-02A
4-05	4-02A
4-06	4-02A
4-07	4-02A
4-08	4-02A
4-09	4-03
4-10	Res. B
4-11	4-04A
4-12	4-06
4-13	4-06
4-14	4-06
4-15	4-05A
4-16	4-07A
4-17	4-07A
4-18	4-07A
4-19	Res. B
4-20	4-01B
4-21	Res. B
4-22	Res. B
4-23	4-01B
4-24	Res. A
4-25	Res. D
4-26	4-08
R5-01	
R5-02	
5-01	5-02A
5-02	Res. A
5-03	5-04A
5-04	5-12
5-05	Res. A
5-06	5-08, Res. B
5-07	Res. A
5-08	5-07A
5-09	5-07A
5-10	5-07A
5-11	5-07A
5-12	5-07A
5-13	5-07A
5-14	5-01
5-15	5-05
5-16	5-05
5-17	5-05
5-18	5-05
5-19	5-05
5-20	5-05
5-21	5-05
5-22	5-10A
5-23	5-09A
5-24	5-09A
5-25	5-03A, 5-06A
5-26	Res. A
5-27	5-11A
5-28	5-12
5-29	Res. B
5-30	5-12
5-31	5-12
L5-32	6-04A
R6-01	6-08
R6-02	6-04A
6-01	6-01B
6-02	6-01B
6-03	6-01B
6-04	6-01B
6-05	6-01B
6-06	6-01B
6-07	Res. A
6-08	6-02
6-09	6-03, Res. D
6-10	Res. B
6-11	Res. A
6-12	6-04A
6-13	6-04A

Rep. or Ov.	Res.
6-14	6-04A
6-15	6-04A
6-16	6-04A, Res. A
6-17	6-04A
6-18	6-04A
6-19	6-06A
6-20	6-04A
6-21	6-04A
6-22	6-04A
6-23	6-04A
6-24	6-04A
6-25	6-04A
6-26	6-05
6-27	6-05
6-28	6-05
6-29	6-12
6-30	6-14
6-31	6-10
6-32	6-10
6-33	Res. A, Res. B
6-34	6-07A
6-35	Res. D
6-36	6-13
6-37	6-09
6-38	6-11
L6-39	Res. D
R7-01	Res. D
R7-02	Res. D
R7-03	4-03, 4-06, Res. D
R7-04	4-06, Res. D
R7-04-A	4-02A
R7-04-01	Res. D
R7-04-02	Res. D
R7-04-03	Res. D
R7-04-04	Res. D
R7-05	Res. D
R7-06	Res. D
R7-07	Res. D
R7-08	7-04, Res. D
7-01	7-11
7-02	7-12A
7-03	7-11
7-04	7-11
7-05	Res. B
7-06	Res. B
7-07	7-20A
7-08	Res. A
7-09	Res. B
7-10	Res. B
7-11	7-20A
7-12	7-20A
7-13	7-20A
7-14	7-17A
7-15	7-20A
7-16	Res. B
7-17	Res. B
7-18	Res. A
7-19	Res. B
7-20	7-14, 7-20A
7-21	7-14, 7-20A
7-22	7-14, 7-15A, 7-20A
7-23	7-14, 7-15A, 7-16A, 7-20A
7-24	Res. B
7-25	Res. B
7-26	7-13
7-27	7-13
7-28	Res. A
7-29	7-13
7-30	7-20A
7-31	7-20A
7-32	7-20A
7-33	7-20A
7-34	7-20A
7-35	7-20A
7-36	Res. A
7-37	7-20A
7-38	Res. A
7-39	Res. A
7-40	Res. A
7-41	Res. A
7-42	7-20A
7-43	7-20A
7-44	7-02A
7-45	7-02A
7-46	7-02A
7-47	7-02A
7-48	7-02A
7-49	7-02A
7-50	7-02A
7-51	7-02A
7-52	7-02A
7-53	7-02A
7-54	7-02A
7-55	7-02A
7-56	7-02A
7-57	Res. A
7-58	7-02A, 7-03B
7-59	7-02A, 7-03B
7-60	7-02A
7-61	Res. A
7-62	Res. D
7-63	7-20A
7-64	Res. D
7-65	Res. D
7-66	Res. A
7-67	Res. A
7-68	Res. A
7-69	Res. A
7-70	7-05
7-71	7-06
7-72	7-19A
7-73	7-08, 7-19A
7-74	7-10
7-75	7-10
7-76	7-10
7-77	Res. A
7-78	4-02A, Res. A
7-79	7-20A
7-80	7-07
7-81	Res. B
7-82	7-08
7-83	7-20A
7-84	7-18A
7-85	7-18A
7-86	7-09A
7-87	Res. A
7-88	Res. A
7-89	Res. A
7-90	3-04A
7-91	Res. A
7-92	Res. D
7-93	Res. A
7-94	Res. A
7-95	7-21A
7-96	7-20A
L7-98	7-10
L7-99	7-01
L7-100	7-23

ENTERED INTO REST

Ordained Ministers

Adam, Christian
Aho, Raymond J. L.
Albrecht, Herbert C. W.*
Allwardt, Erich B.
Amen, Jack D.
Amt, Paul G.
Ansorage, Max J.
Avotins, Kornelijs
Bakalyar, Timothy
Barthel, Gerhard F.
Baumann, Barney R.
Baumann, Martin A.
Beaudean, John W.
Becker, Philip G.
Behrens, Donald W.
Berg, Ronald L.
Bertermann, Delvin C.
Beyer, Erwin C.
Bichsel, Marcel A.
Boettcher, Frederick W. O.
Bohn, Gustav O.
Borchelt, Otto A.
Braem, Theodore A.
Brandes, Louis F.
Brandt, Lawrence W.
Brase, Arnold J.
Braunersreuther, Donald
Brockelman, John A.
Brose, Lambert F.
Brueggmann, George R.
Brunn, August F.
Buerger, Edgar J.
Buettner, Ernest H.
Bunn, Lewis F.
Burgdorf, Herbert A.*
Buuck, Lorenz A.
Cattau, Holger G.
Christian, William R.
Coiner, Harry G.*
Dallmann, William H.
Darnauer, Lyle R.
De Block, Daniel Jr.
Dey, Norbert E.
Dicke, Martin H.
Dorn, Theodore
Dorow, Robert L.
Drews, Martin F.
Duchow, Martin C.
Duerr, William L.
Eickelberg, Theodore J.
Eickstaedt, Paul J.
Eifert, Erhard D.
Ellermann, Norman C.
Erdman, Jerald W.
Faasch, Lawrence E.
Falkenroth, Frederick S.
Fehl, William H. Jr.
Fenning, Robert C.
Fenske, Leo J.
Ferber, Alvin E.
Fickenscher, George W.
Fink, Otto J.
Fischer, Frederick O.
Flachbarth, Rudolph
Florip, Philip
Frank, Walmar W.
Frankenstein, Kenneth F.
Frerking, Roland F.
Frisch, Paul J.
Galambos, Joseph
Gehrs, Walter E.
Geihsler, Walter F.
Gerken, Joseph F.
Gienapp, Walter L.
Gierke, Arnold E.
Gietz, Ervin W.
Goerss, Herbert W.
Goetsch, Ronald W.
Goetz, Hugo O.
Going, Kletus R.
Going, Louis I.
Goltermann, Erwin H.
Griebel, Paul K.
Gutknecht, Richard J.
Haase, Roland E.
Hannemann, Walter E.
Harnack, Russell W.
Hartmann, Paul F.
Hattendorf, Gerhard C.
Haupt, Arthur A.
Heidenreich, Herbert M.
Heil, Thomas L.
Heinemeier, George W. F.
Heino, Jacob D.
Hellbusch, Herbert H.
Helmstetter, Louie
Hendrickson, Harvey D.
Henline, William P.
Hiller, Carl O. A.
Hillmer, William H.
Hilpert, Willard C.
Hoffman, Herman F.
Hoffmann, Ben G.
Hoffmann, Walter J. Sr.
Holtzen, Emil G.
Horn, August P.
Horn, Clifford W.
Howland, Gerald
Huchthausen, Paul A.
Huebner, Gerhard P.
Huth, Walter A.
Imme, Edward H.
Jehn, Ernest J.
Jenne, Edward A.
Johnson, Albert G.
Jones, Oscar F.
Kangas, Gene R.
Kath, Gerald L.
Kauth, Frank W.
Kennell, William G.
Key, Robert T.
Keyne, Michael A.
Kimpel, Julius V.
Kiviranna, Rudolf
Klein, Richard L.
Kleinhans, Lothar E.
Kleps, Arthur R.
Kniffel, William D.
Koch, Clinton W.
Koepke, Theodore V.
Korcok, John
Krause, Arthur E.
Krause, Elmer W.
Krueckeberg, Grant A.
Krueger, Arthur C.
Kruger, Floyd H.
Krugler, Arnold F.
Kuechle, Ernest G.
Kuechle, Eugene E.
Kuehnert, Richard E. Sr.*
Kuerschner, Edwin M.
Kunze, James H.
Landeck, Robert L.
Langhans, Reuben W.
Lassanske, Paul A.
Leckband, Emerson T.
Lehman, Harvey J.
Lemke, Paul F.
Leonard, L. Granville
Lesslie, Arthur W.
Lessmann, Paul G.
Lindeman, Dennis W.
Lohrmann, Herold G.
Lorenz, Walter A.
Losser, Carl V.
Lotz, Walter J.
Lucht, Norbert J.
Ludwig, Paul W. Sr.
Luecht, Norman M.
Luecke, Edgar M.
Luecke, Oscar W. Jr.
Luedtke, Walter A.
Maas, Walter C.
Mack, Gottlieb C.
Martens, Paul R.
Marxhausen, Victor H.
Mass, La Vern M.
Mc Ree, Oswald T.
Meier, Everette W.
Meitler, August H. F.
Meyer, Herman J.
Meyer, Hobart
Miller, John H. III
Moose, Walter A.
Mueckler, Edwin A.
Mueller, Martin H. E. Sr.
Mueller, Martin W.
Mueller, Philip H. A.
Mueller, Renatus T.
Muhl, A. Herbert
Muhly, Lester E.
Munderloh, Herbert T.
Mundinger, Edgar J.
Mutschink, Carl H.
Naatz, William C.
Nagel, Clarence R.
Naumann, Gottfried H.
Neeb, Victor H.
Nerger, Robert P.
Nitz, Carl F.
Nommensen, Herbert W.
Oaksford, William B.
Oelschlaeger, Erich V.
Oldsen, Armin C.
Oppliger, John R.
Oswald, David R.
Panning, Paul H.
Patanella, Joseph R.
Peterson, Erich C.
Peterson, Gordon A.
Pfotenhauer, A. F. C.
Polley, Victor M.
Porath, Martin A.
Preus, Jacob A. O.
Pullmann, Albert G.
Raedeke, Theodore A.
Rakow, Edgar C.
Rantala, Clarence
Ranzau, Arthur
Recks, Ewald R.
Reddel, William F.
Redeker, Norman M.

Rehmus, Walter E.
Reiner, Albert F.
Reinker, Edward H.
Reiss, William J.
Reschke, Gustav H.
Reule, George
Riedel, Ernest G.
Riedel, Fred
Rische, Henry N.
Rist, Waldo H.
Rittamel, W. J.
Robisch, Silvester J.
Rode, George
Roe, Walter V. Jr.
Roeder, Paul J.
Roth, William H.
Runge, Ernest L.
Runge, Kenneth E.
Rutz, Carl L.
Sasman, Merlin R.
Schaan, Herbert W.
Schade, Edward W.
Schaefer, Gerhard H.
Schick, Edward J.
Schlecht, Hilton M. *
Schleicher, Curtis J.
Schmidt, Bert L.
Schmidt, Reinhold
Schmidt, Walter G.
Schnedler, Erwin W.
Schoessow, Theodore C.
Schrader, George
Schroeder, Albert C.
Schroeder, Alfred E.
Schubkegel, Alfred L.
Schuette, Carl A.
Schulenburg, Louis W.
Schultz, Frank J.
Schultz, Wilmer A.
Schulz, Henry A.
Schumacher, Otto J.
Schuster, George
Schutz, Ernest A.
Schwernman, Earl O.
Sengele, Martin F.
Sodowsky, Lee C.
Sorrell, Henry W.
Spaude, Carl F.
Spilman, Carl J.
Spitz, Paul P.
Stahlke, Otto F.
Stahnke, Herbert H.
Starck, Alvin P.
Steging, Joel E.
Steinbeck, George L.*
Stengel, Paul H. Jr.
Stohs, Leonard
Storm, Erich A.
Strelow, Julius L.*
Streufert, Berthold O.
Studtmann, Arnold D.
Stuebe, John L.
Temme, Ralph P.
Thies, Delbert I.
Tonn, James C.
Torres, Carlos A.
Trinklein, Alfred W.
Trinklein, Michael C.
Ude, Elmer F.
Uetzmann, Clarence D.
Uffelman, Rupert F.
Vavra, Andrew Jr.*
Vetter, Donald R.
Wagenknecht, Franklin P.
Wagner, Armin H.
Wahl, Martin W.
Waldo, Donald E.
Waller, Robert O.
Walter, Paul W.
Watkins, Morris G.
Weber, Frederick H.
Weber, Raymond E.
Weinrich, Karl C.
Weiss, Theodore A.
Welp, Harry C.*
Wente, Walter H.
Westmeyer, H. Paul
Wians, Herbert T.
Wiedenmann, Hans F.
Wind, Charles R.
Witt, Raymond H.
Witte, Edgar F.
Wolf, Carl H.
Wolfram, Marcus W.
Worthmann, Frederick H.
Wuerdemann, Robert H.
Wuggazer, Martin A.
Wunderlich, Lorenz
Young, Douglas C.
Zetzer, Theodore
Ziegler, Donald C.
Zinter, Herman R.
Zuberbier, Gerhardt W.

Commissioned Ministers

Beccue, Otto G.
Behnke, Frank R.
Beyer, George H.
Block, Rudolph C.
Borcherding, Adella K.
Brandvold, Kerry L.
Breckel, Michael C.
Brickman, Jeffrey K.
Brockmann, Ernest H.
Brueggemann, Wallace
Buelow, John F.
Buuck, Douglas D.
Christian, Arthur E.
Dopson, Earl J.
Dunk, Carl Sr.
Eggers, Bernard W.
Fechner, Walter L.
Fremder, Marilyn S.
Galen, William R.
Gehrke, Hugo*
Glawe, Herman R.
Grass, Paul J.
Graudin, Richard E.
Grimm, Erwin M.
Grotelueschen, Richard E.
Grube, Edwin C.*
Gutzwiller, Albert G.
Harmeyer, Cherilyn A.
Heideman, Donald W.
Heinitz, Elmer A.
Heisler, Philip J.
Helming, Warren H.
Herreilers, John H.
Howard, Gary J.
Hutfilz, Clarence M.
Jacob, Theodore
Junghans, Norman R.
Kaemming, Luther W.
Kirch, Martin B.
Klein, Elfrida
Kollmorgen, Theodore
Kolzow, Roy A.
Kosche, Norman F.
Krentz, Erich H.
Laubenstein, David G.
Laubenstein, Mary L.
Lobitz, Walter A.
Lohman, Waldo F.
Loppnow, Frederick E.
Manske, Alfred R.
Mehl, Norbert V.
Meichsner, Hubert E.*
Meyer, Herbert A.
Miller, Arthur L.
Moore, Thomas T.
Mueller, Hans C.
Nicol, Carl J.
Nordbrock, Richard F.
Oelschlaeger, Roy H.
Peters, Karl W.
Peters, Robert T.
Pingel, Edwin T.
Rebsch, Paul E.
Reese, Frederic E.
Reiss, Norman E.
Richter, Carolyn
Roegge, Marilyn
Ruehs, Reinhold P.
Rueter, Arlon W.
Ruprecht, Emil H.
Rusch, Wilbert H. Sr.
Sagehorn, Erwin F.
Schamber, Herold P.
Scheiwe, Alfred E.
Schlichting, George T.
Schmidt, Armin C.
Schmidt, Donald E.
Schmohe, Roger R.
Segelhorst, Gustave W.
Seidler, Clarence C.
Sidlik, Steven R.
Smith, Dale R.
Steffens, Paul F.
Stepniak, Beverly K.
Sternberg, Myron E.
Strehlow, Mark A.
Stuenkel, Herbert E.
Sturm, Wilbert H.
Sudbrock, Edward H.
Swithers, Hobert F. Jr.
Tassler, Edgar V.
Teske, Herman W.
Thomas, Hollis P.
Tudor, Janet L.
Uffelman, Donald W.
Vahl, Walter A.
Von Behren, Werner
Voss, Donald W.
Wacker, Theodore A.
Walkmaster, Bruce A.
Weber, Shirley J.
Wehmueller, Wilbert W.
Weiser, Herbert E.
Wirth, Edward P.
Wulff, Oscar H.
Zoellmer, Val Jean E.
Zwintscher, Herman G.

March 19, 1992–March 19, 1995

* Deceased prior to March 19, 1992, but information received too late to be included in prior list.

INDEX

References to the *Convention Workbook* (*CW*) are found at the related resolutions. Materials can be traced to the minutes, pages 21–45, through the session numbers in parentheses at the end of the individual resolutions (pp. 105–58). References to *Today's Business* (*TB*) are in the minutes. For additional reference see the contents page (3) and the correlation of reports and overtures with resolutions (pp. 169–71).

addiction, chemical 44, 145
Administrators, Council of 22
Ahlers, Peter 23
Alzheimer's disease, ministry to persons with 44, 144
anniversary celebration, 150th 5, 21–45 passim, 147
anniversary Bible study 26, 37, 42, 75–82
anniversary logo 5, 31
auxiliaries 25, 151–52
awards 55

Barry, Alvin L 6, 13, 21–45 passim, 57, 59–73, 152
Barry, Jean 42, 53
Barth, Karl 5, 26, 37, 75–82
Bennett, Don 24
Black Ministry, Board for *See* Black Ministry, Commission on
Black Ministry, Commission on 22, 23, 109
Blue Ribbon Committee 22
Board of Directors, synodical 13, 21–45 passim, 161–66
Bohlmann, Ralph 35, 99–100
Bunkowske, Eugene 6, 13
Bylaw revisions adopted
- 2.09 121, 138–39
- 2.21 152
- 2.27a2 147
- 2.27f 147
- 3.13 107
- 3.61 153
- 3.65 153
- 3.71 131
- 3.72 129
- 3.141 155
- 3.503 153
- 3.705 115
- 3.900 109
- 3.901 109
- 3.913 144–45
- 3.915 145
- 3.927 110
- 3.928 110
- 3.929 110
- 4.03 153
- 4.07 153
- 5.11 154
- 6.87 135
- 6.89 135
- 6.91 135
- 6.93 135
- 6.95 136
- 6.97 136
- 6.99 137
- 6.101 137
- 6.103 137
- 8.03 147
- 8.09 147
- 8.13e 147
- 8.17c 147
- 8.16 147
- 8.19 147
- 8.21 148
- 14.01 151–52
- 14.03 150

Bylaw revision declined
- 5.13 154

Bylaws withdrawn 37, 158, 167–68

campus ministry 22, 105, 107
Carpenter, Milton 35
catechetical instruction 44, 113–14
Charles Smith Survey *See* convention surveys
child abuse 44, 145
Christology, study of 45, 54
Church Growth Movement 41, 122–23
church service, full-time, for college and seminary presidents 28, 134
church workers, compensation for 44, 143
Circuit Counselors
- election of 44, 154
- responsibilities of 44, 154

close[d] Communion *See* Holy Communion
Communion practices at colleges and seminaries 43, 124
- *See* also Holy Communion

Concordia College, Portland 37
Concordia Historical Institute 23, 44, 115
Concordia Publishing House 115–16
Concordia Retirement Plan 166
Concordia Theological Seminary 5, 24, 42, 133, 137
Concordia University System 133–39 passim
conflict of interest 27, 130–31
conflict resolution *See* dispute resolution
Congregational Services, Board for 26, 110
- *See also* Congregational Services, Conference of

Congregational Services, Conference of 26, 35, 111–12
Congregational Services, Board for 26, 35, 36
congregational worship *See* worship
- *See also* Worship, Commission on

congregations, transfers of 25, 153, 167
Constitution, amendments to 41, 157
Constitutional Matters, Commission on 26, 44, 155–56
continuing education 42, 138
Convention
- advisory representatives *See* synodical representatives

convention, synodical
- arrangements staff 6
- ballots 28–31, 36, 37–38
- boards of regents and faculties *See* synodical representatives
- dissenting votes 42
- election results 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 32–35, 37, 38, 39–40, 43, 47–50
- electronic communication devices 35
- essay 23, 32, 83–95
- floor committees 17
- foreign mission advisory delegates 15, 28, 107
- gavel 21
- minutes 21–45
- registered delegates and representatives 7–16, 21–45 passim
- schedule 19–20
- sermon 21, 71–74
- special representatives 15
- standing rules 21, 27, 35, 42, 51
- surveys 97–98
- Synodical representatives 13–15
- video presentation 21–45 passim

deaf, ministry to 22, 105
delegate survey *See* convention, surveys
dispute resolution 31, 41, 147–50
District presidents 13, 25, 152
domestic abuse 44, 145–46

Edwards, Gloria 24
election results *See* convention, election results
electronic communication devices
- *See* convention, electronic communication devices in delegate section

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America 35, 125–26
evangelism
- among immigrants 25, 106
- among international students 25, 106–7

every Sunday Communion *See* Holy Communion

financial disclosure 27, 129–30
financial reporting 23, 39, 130
first vice-president 6, 13, 21–45 passim
- address of 102–3
- election of 22

full-time church work, certification of candidates 45, 138
fundraising appeals 45, 131–32

Garton, Jean 142
Government Information, Office of 43, 125

Halm, D. Ray 5, 21–45 passim
Handbook revision 41, 152–53
health care for church-work students, vicars, interns 41, 143
Heerboth, Paul 5, 32, 87–91
Heiser, Onah 31
Higher Education, Board for 36, 133–39 passim
Holy Communion 26, 38–39, 43, 113, 121–22, 127
homosexual behavior, Synod's position on 126–27
Homosexuals, Ministry to, Task Force on 22
housing ministries 44, 144

indebtedness 39, 130
India 5, 105
International Lutheran Council *See* Lutheran Council, International

King, Robert 6, 13
Kuhn, Robert 22–45 passim

late reports and overtures 161–68
laymen licensed to perform functions of the pastoral office 35, 120–21
lay ministers 41, 157
Leeman, Dan 37
Lehman, Ed 32, 104
Lutheran, as part of church name 43, 125
Lutheran church—Canada 25, 32, 104, 167
Lutheran Council, International 23, 26, 118–19
Lutheran Laymen's League 24
Lutheran Women's Missionary League 24
Lutheran World Relief 37

Maier, Walter 6, 13, 43, 157
man and woman, study of scriptural relationship of 41–42, 123–24
Medical Missions, Lutherans in 105
Mennicke, August T. 6, 13, 43, 102–3, 157
mentally ill, ministry to 44, 143
Ministerial Growth and Support, Commission on 144–45
Ministry: Offices, Procedures, and Nomenclature, The 127
ministry
  urban and cross-cultural 25, 106
  rural 41, 114–15
minutes of the convention *See* convention, minutes
Mission and Ministry, Council on 22
mission awareness 28, 107–8
mission partnerships 25, 105–6
missions, world 22, 105

necrology, ordained and commissioned ministers 173–74
Neuman, Lynne 5, 6
Nomenclature Study Committee 126

officers of the Synod 6, 13, 21–45 passim *See also* transfer of records
Oklahoma City 43–44, 53
omnibus resolutions 22, 41, 159–60
"Operating Agreement" between Commission on Organizations and Committee of Theology and Church Relations 43, 124
Otten, Herman *See* special committee re Herman Otten

Paraguay, Evangelical Lutheran Church of 23, 117
partner churches 28
pastoral ministry, admission by colloquy 37, 39, 134, 135–37
pastoral office, only men may hold 126
president emeritus 35, 99–100
president of synod 6, 13, 21–45 passim, 152
  election of 21
  proclamation of 5, 31
  report of 57–73
  sermon of 71–73
  vision statements of 22, 109
Presidents, Council of 22
Preus, J. A. O. 35, 101
prison ministry 44, 144
Proceedings 26, 39, 44
proclamation, presidential 5, 31, 57
professors, full-time experience for 137–38

Racism and the Church 23, 112
Recognized Service Organizations 150–51
reports and overtures correlated with resolutions 169–71
River of Light Youth Gathering 38, 116
Rosin, Walter 6, 13, 21–45 passim
Rural Ministry Fund *See* ministry, rural
Rusch, William 35

sanctity of life 24, 41, 141
Sauer, Robert 6, 35, 43, 101, 157
Schuta, Richard 5, 23, 83–86
secretary of the Synod 6, 13, 44, 155
Sell, Norman D. 6, 13
seminary education, commitment to 28, 134
Service of Women in Congregational and Synodical Offices, The 39, 120
Smith, Charles 5, 92–95
South Africa, Free Evangelical—Lutheran Synod in 23, 117–18
Southern Africa, Lutheran Church in 23
special committee re Herman Otten 44, 45, 156
special recognition *See* awards
Spiritual Gifts 43, 127
standing rules *See* convention, standing rules
stewardship, biblical 45, 129
structural changes 154–55
student aid 43, 53
study groups 44, 156
suicide, assisted 24, 41, 141–42

Theology and Church Relations, Commission on 21–45 passim, 119
Today's Business 6
transfer of records 44, 115
treasurer of Synod *See* vice-president–finance/treasurer
Tswaedi, David 23

unionism 43

vice-president–finance/treasurer 6, 13, 45, 131
vice-presidents of the Synod
  election of 22, 23, 24, 26–27
  requirements re 44, 156
  thanks for service 43
vision statements 22, 109
  See also president of Synod
Volunteer Mission Service 105
Volunteer Youth Ministry 105

Wentzel, Eugenio 23
wine as part of Sacrament of the Altar *See* Holy Communion
Wolford, Kathryn 37
woman suffrage 26, 119–20
Worker Benefit Plans 37, 43, 53, 142–43
world missions *See* missions, world
World Relief, LCMC 167
worship
  in congregations 38, 112–13
  resources 38, 113
Worship, Commission on 26, 110, 166

youth gatherings 38, 114
  See also River of Light Youth Gathering
Youth Services, Board for 22

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
1333 SOUTH KIRKWOOD ROAD
ST. LOUIS, MO 63122

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ST. LOUIS, MO.
Permit No. 146

FORWARDING AND RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

09-2598